



The Role of Western Powers In Israel- Palestine Conflict: A Third World Perspective

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The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-term military and political dispute in the Levant region. It began in the middle of the 20th century and is considered one of the longest-lasting conflicts in the world. The current Israel-Palestine status quo began when Israel occupied the West Bank (also known as the "Palestinian Territories") and the West Bank in 1967 during the Six-Day War. Various attempts to settle the conflict have been made in the framework of the Israel-Palestine peace process, as well as in the context of other efforts to settle the broader Arab and Israeli conflict. What is the history of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians? In 1947, the United Nations passed Resolution 181, commonly referred to as the "Partition Plan," which divided the "Arab" Mandate into a "Jewish" state and a "Palestinian" state. The state of Israel was established in 1948. The following years saw a surge in tensions, especially between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria, and the first Arab-Israeli war.

Following the 1956 Suez crisis and Israel's occupation of the Sinai peninsula, the three countries signed a "mutual defense agreement" that allowed for the possibility of Israeli forces to be mobilized. On June 1967, after a series of military manoeuvres by the Egyptian president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sadat, the Israeli air force attacked the Egyptian air force and the Syrian air force, triggering the Six-Day War, in which Israel captured the Sinai peninsula and the Gaza strip from Egypt. From Jordan, the occupied West Bank and eastern Jerusalem could be seen from the border with Jordan, and from Syria, the occupied Golan Heights could be viewed from Jordan. Six years after the Six-Day war, the Egyptians and Syrians launched a "double attack" against Israel to reclaim the territories they had lost in the war of 1967. Relations between Israel and the three countries improved after the Camp David accords of July 1978, but the issue of the self-determination of the Palestinians remained unresolved. In 1987, the first intifada, a popular movement against the

government of Israel, was launched by hundreds of thousands Palestinians living in what is now known as the "First Intifada"

In 2014, clashes between the two sides erupted in the summer, leading to a military confrontation in which the Israeli army fired nearly 3,000 rockets at the Palestinian territories. In response, the Israeli government launched a large-scale offensive in Gaza, which ended in August 2014 in a peace deal mediated by Egypt. In 2015, following a surge in Israeli-Palestinian violence, Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas declared that Palestinians would not adhere to the territorial divisions established by the Oslo peace accords. In March 2018, hundreds of Palestinians attacked the Gaza Strip's border fence with Israel, resulting in the death of 183 Palestinians and the wounding of 6,000 more during a peaceful demonstration. The following month, Hamas rocketed over 100 missiles at Israel, prompting the Israeli government to strike more than 50 targets in Gaza in a 24-hour period. The escalating political tensions led to a return to Fatah-Hamas unity, with Abbas's party controlling the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority and the Gaza Strip-controlled by Hamas.

The human and fabric toll is as of now overpowering. By May 10, around 250 Palestinians had been harmed in police operations against what started as tranquil dissents in East Jerusalem. Since Hamas, the Palestinian Islamist development that rules Gaza, started terminating rockets at Israel and Israel propelled retaliatory airstrikes, the battling has gotten to be much bloodier. The Gaza Wellbeing Service recorded 830 injured and 119 dead Palestinians, counting 31 children, as a result of Israeli airborne and gunnery assault. Amid the same period, nine Israelis, counting a child, were murdered and more than 400 harmed in Hamas rocket assaults.

Handfuls of individuals have been harmed in Israel's blended towns and neighborhoods in a phenomenal wave of savagery. . On 10th of May, Palestinians set fire to a synagogue and police cars, and a Jewish shooter was shot and slaughtered



amid the quarrel, after which the government forced a night-time time limit within the entirety town, which damaged the patriot Jews along these lines.

Specialists quickly pronounced a state of crisis — since Israel lifted its military run the show over its Palestinian citizens in 1966 — and moved border police units into the city from their primary region of operations within the possessed West Bank. On 12 May, Israeli ultra-nationalists assaulted the Al-Lid Al-Omari mosque some time recently time limitation, inciting Chairman Yair Revivo to announce a state of respectful war. Organized through cell phones and social media, Jewish swarms from Israel and Israeli settlements within the West Bank have looked for out and assaulted Palestinians in different cities, now and then beneath the observe of adjacent Israeli security strengths. In Section of land, Palestinians assaulted a Jewish man and cleared out him in genuine condition. In Bat Yam, handfals of patriot Jews carrying an Israeli hail assaulted a Palestinian citizen who was hospitalized.

The Israeli strikes in the Gaza Strip resulted in widespread destruction of civilian structures and infrastructure, including the toppling of several residential and commercial towers, as well as the destruction of government buildings, public service facilities, schools, banks, homes, and security facilities, including a number of police stations. According to the May 13 records, Hamas fired more than 3000 missiles and mortars toward Israel (many of which fell short, with most of them being intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome air defense system) and Israel launched hundreds of strikes. The sheer volume and range of rocket fire from Hamas far surpasses any previous escalation, and the Israeli response was swift and destructive, making this episode more destructive than any previous flare-up in the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Most notably, this is the first time Palestinians have responded at the same time, on such a large scale, across a large portion of the combined Israeli-Palestinian territory, to the cumulative effects of military oppression, oppression, dispossession, and systematic discrimination. Taken together, the current confrontations are likely to rank as one of the gravest crises in recent Israeli-Palestinian history.

HOW WAS IT TRIGGERED

The events began on April 13th, when Israeli forces blocked the entrance to the Old City at Damascus Gate, a social hub for many East Jerusalem residents. These events were not connected to any political factions or wider agenda. Instead, they were the result of a series of unrelated but interconnected incidents that escalated, militarized and metastasized a conflict that has simmered for years and is now rapidly gaining new life. On April 13th, at the beginning of the Ramadan holy month, East Jerusalem residents were barred from congregating at Damascus Gate and the area was barricaded. In response, ultra-naked Israeli Jews marched through central Jerusalem, chanting “Death to the Arabs” and attacking Arabs. This sparked outrage among Palestinians, which spread to the West Bank and neighboring Jordan, as well as dozens of rockets fired by militant groups in the Gaza Strip. In response to the attacks, Palestinians filmed themselves attacking Jews and posted it on social media in an effort to garner sympathy and support.

Then came the second trigger: mounting public outrage over a decision by Israel’s Supreme Court, which was later overturned, to evict four families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem, which links the Old City and West Bank. The case had been in the hands of the Israeli courts for years before it reached the highest court in the country. The eviction of the four families was accompanied by a sit-in by local Palestinians on the first day of Iftar, the holy month of Ramadan. The sit-in was in solidarity with the families who were being evicted, as part of a larger effort to clear at least 27 homes that have yet to be cleared.

The history of the first intifada began with the establishment of the two-state solution through the Oslo Accords. After the Ottoman Empire fell, both Jewish and Arab peoples claimed the right to a state in historic Palestine. The first partition of the country in 1948 led to the creation of an Israeli state but not a Palestinian state. The West Bank and Gaza were administered by Jordan and Egypt respectively. In 1967, Israel invaded and occupied the Arab territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, leading to the idea that it would trade the conquered land for peace with its neighbors, including the Palestinians. The first intifada riots in the occupied territory of the state of Israel began on the day after an Israeli lorry crashed into a station wagon full of Palestinian workers in the Gazan



refugee area of Jabalia, leaving four people dead and 10 injured.

The incident was seen by Palestinians in Gaza as a deliberate attempt to avenge the death of a Jew a few days earlier. On December 9, protesters burned tires and hurled Molotov cocktails at Israeli police and army personnel. An Israeli army patrol car shot at Palestinian attackers in Jabalia, killing one and injuring 16 others. The following day, Israeli troops were sent to Gaza to quell the violence. On December 9, 1987, the first day of the formal intifada, the series of demonstrations, smaller riots and violence that followed, marked the 20th anniversary of Israel's conquest of the Gazan Strip and West Bank, territories that the Palestinians had called home since 1967. Israel had established a military government in the occupied territories, and had permanently occupied East Jerusalem in the occupied West Bank. The intifada began in December 1987, when despair over the situation of the Palestinians became the focus of a grass-roots rebellion. Led by leaders who had ties to the PLO, the United Nation Insurgency Coordination was formed.

Television coverage of the first intifada focused mostly on footage of young Palestinians in refugee camps throwing rocks at Israeli soldiers, but the movement was widely known in Palestinian colonies. King Hussein of Jordan gave up all authority over the West Bank in July 1988, further consolidating Palestinian control there. The PLO voted in November 1988 to establish an independent state. The intifada continued to rage, with over 300 Palestinians killed, over 11,000 injured, and tens of thousands arrested by the first anniversary. Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, shocked the world by repudiating terrorism, acknowledging the right to exist of the state of Israel, and authorizing "land for peace" negotiations with Israel in September 1988. Rabin, leader of the Labor Party, became Israel's prime minister in 1992, promising to advance the peace process quickly. In 1993, secret talks between Israel and the PLO took place at Oslo, Norway. On September 13, 1993, the first-ever Declaration of Principles for Interim and Self-Government Arrangements was signed.

The agreement stipulated that Israeli troops would leave the West Bank and return to the Gaza Strip. In May 1994, the Israeli army completed its withdrawal from the West Bank, and in July, Arafat entered the city of Jericho to great

Palestinian joy. The following year, Arafat was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his efforts to achieve peace with the Palestinians. In 1995, Arafat was murdered by a Jewish fanatic at a peace conference in Tel Aviv. The peace process between Israel and the Palestinians did not resume under Arafat's successors, including his son Yitzhak (Binyamin) and his son Benjamin (Benedict) and grandson Ehud (Ehud Barak). In September 2000, violence erupted on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, a site of great importance to both the Jewish and Muslim faiths, after Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, a member of the ruling Likud, visited the site. In a bid to stem the flow of violence, Sharon was elected by the Israelis.

The Oslo Accords (also known as the Oslo I Accords) were a series of agreements between the People's Republic of Israel and the People's National Organization of the PLO that sought to settle the Israel-Palestine conflict through a mutually agreed two-state solution. These agreements provided for limited self-rule for Palestinians living on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, and led to the establishment of the People's Authority (PA). Despite the Oslo Accords' goal of ending the decades of hostilities between the two countries by May 1999, they eventually failed to do so, leaving the most difficult issues to continue to be discussed in the twenty-first century.

The Oslo peace process is based on UN Resolution 242, which calls for an end to the occupation of the pre-1967 territories. UN Resolution 242 was supported by UN Resolution 332 between the wars of 1967 and 1973. This decision and its formulation of the "Ground for Peace" have been incorporated into the Camp David Accord (1978). The Oslo peace process is the foundation of the wider Arab and Israeli peace process. In September 1993, President Arafat and Prime Minister Rabin exchanged letters in Washington, declaring that Israel had the "right to exist" and that the PLO was the "representative of the people of the State of Israel". On September 13, Rabin and President Arafat attended a ceremony in Washington to sign the Declaration of Principles, which focused on the establishment of a "Palestinian self-government" in the territories. The terms of this phase are as follows: Withdrawal of Israel's security forces from the immediate Palestinian Authority on education, health, taxation and tourism beginning of a 5-year transition to a period



The negotiations included the status of Jerusalem refugees, Israeli settlements, fixed border security measures, and foreign relations, as well as the establishment of a strong Palestinian police force in the Gaza Strip for the purpose of holding democratic elections and coordinating for Palestinians living in the West Bank. The Cairo Agreement of May 4, 1994, between Israel and the Palestinians stipulated that the security forces of Israel would be withdrawn and the new Palestinian Authority would be established. The withdrawal of the security forces from the Gaza and Jericho areas was completed in a matter of weeks, and the PA quickly began to exercise civilian authority in these areas. The Oslo II Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement of 1995 on Israeli and Palestinian settlements in the West Bank and Israeli and Palestinian cities in the West Bank (1995) was based on the 1993 Oslo Accords. Negotiations continued despite attempts by religious parties on both sides to frustrate the process laid out in the Zolak (Oslo I) agreement, which outlined the expansion of the PA to include population centers other than those in Gaza and Jericho.

This new agreement is more detailed and comprehensive than Oslo I, and includes the election of the Palestinian Authority's head and governing bodies, as well as the participation of Palestinians in the electoral process in Jerusalem. Before the election, the Israeli security forces were withdrawn from the city of Jenin, as well as from about 440 villages. The agreement also includes provisions for the prevention of terrorist acts and crimes against each other, which were included in the Oslo II agreement. The first major setback in the Oslo process came when Rabin was killed by Jewish extremists after attending a peaceful march. In 1996, the Israeli elections, which reflected the worries of the Israeli people over national security, saw the election of Benjamin Netanyahu, who had been a vocal opponent of the Oslo accords.

The situation of Israel and the territories of the West Bank, particularly the Gaza Strip, has been the subject of long-term conflict and international debate. It is a complex issue that has its roots in history, politics, and religion. The state of Israel was established in 1948 and faced a number of conflicts with its neighbors in the Arab world. After the Six-Day War in 1967, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza Strip were taken over by Israel. Since then, they have been at the heart of the Israel-Palestine conflict. A large part of the international community, such as

the United Nations, regards the West Bank and eastern Jerusalem as occupied territories. Establishing Israeli settlements in the territories is seen as an infringement of international law. UN Security Council resolutions such as 242 and 338 have called for the withdrawal of Israel from the territories it took over in 1967 and for the establishment of a lasting peace in the region. Israel disputes the notion of its presence as an occupation and its government argues that the status of these territories should be determined through negotiations between Israel and Palestinians.

The situation continues to be a major geopolitical challenge, and while numerous peace initiatives and talks have taken place throughout the years, a comprehensive solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict has yet to be reached. Negotiations and the status of the territories and the broader peace process are still under way. Israel is pursuing a massive and devastating military campaign against the Palestinians, with over 23,000 people killed, including more than 2,500 women and children, and civilian infrastructure in Gaza destroyed or damaged in a number of ways. Homes, hospitals and schools have been destroyed, as have bakeries, religious places, water systems and even the UN's own facilities. As UN Human Rights Commissioner for the former Soviet Union, Kofi Annan, has repeatedly called for an immediate cease-fire – for both humanitarian and human rights reasons – in order to put an end to the horrendous suffering and death and enable the swift and effective provision of humanitarian assistance to a population suffering from unprecedented levels of malnutrition and disease. The need for such a cease-fire is more pressing than ever.

In the context of the ongoing hostilities, the High Commissioner stressed that Israel has repeatedly failed to live up to its obligations under international humanitarian law, including distinction, proportionality, and preventive measures when conducting attacks. He warned that failure to live up to these commitments carries the risk of being held accountable for war crimes, as well as other serious crimes. The heavy Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip continues, particularly in Deir al and Khan Yunis governorates, which are home to tens of thousands of people who have fled to seek safety in the past. The High Commissioner said that the Israel Defense Forces must take urgent action to protect civilians, in full compliance with its obligations



under international law. He added that ordering civilians to move does not absolve the IDF of its obligation to protect those who are left behind, regardless of the reasons for their stay. According to reports, hundreds of Palestinians have been arbitrarily detained in various unknown locations inside and outside Gaza, many of whom have been subjected to enforced disappearances, and some of those who have been released have been ill-treated and tortured by the IDF.

The UN Human Rights Office verified the deaths of 330 Palestinians (including 84 children) in the West Bank and East Jerusalem between October 7, 2022 and January 10, 2024, of which 321 were killed by Israel's security forces, eight were killed by settlers, and one was killed by either Israeli forces or settlers. Israel must urgently put an end to the practice of arbitrary detention, torturing, ill-treatment, and enforced disappearance of Palestinians in Gaza, investigate and punish those responsible, and stop it from happening again. In northern Gaza, people are facing acute food, water, and other basic needs, and access to humanitarian aid is becoming increasingly difficult despite repeated pleas from the United Nations to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to allow humanitarian aid convoys to move. In southern Gaza, more than 1.3 million people are living in Rafah, which was once a 300,000 population before the current escalation of hostilities, and entire pastoral communities are being forced to move. In the West Bank, Palestinian armed groups continue to fire rockets against Israel, some of which have been intercepted. In the East Bank, approximately 136 people are still held by the Palestinian armed groups.

As we highlighted in our West Bank report, the continued use of military arms and methods in enforcement operations, the continuation of arbitrary detentions and mistreatment of Palestinians, as well as the lifting of restrictive restrictions on movement, must all be urgently addressed. The impunity for unlawful killings continues to exist, as does the impunity for settlers' violence, a breach of Israel's obligation as an occupying power to guarantee the security of Palestinians in West Bank. The UN OHR continues to track and report on human rights violations in both Gaza and West Bank. At its next session (beginning late February), we will submit two reports to the UN HRC on accountability and the settlement of human rights violations. We reiterate our request that UN Human Rights experts be allowed to visit Israel and all Occupied Palestinian

Territories to conduct human rights investigations of all parties to human rights violations.

The United Nations Special Representative for Human Rights (UNSCR) to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared that Israel's unlawful occupation of the territories of the Palestinian Authority (PA) is a form of "immigrant-colonialism" that must end in order for Palestinians to be able to exercise their rights of self-determination. According to the report, the occupation of the PA by the Israeli military is a violation of the PA's sovereignty, as it involves the occupation, annexation, division and displacement of civilians. According to the UNSCR, the occupation has been in place for over 55 years, and has violated every aspect of the PA's right of self-determination and deliberately referred to the occupied territories as "Palestine".

The occupation "poses a threat to the cultural life of the people of the Palestinian tribe," according to the report's brief, and "destroys or uses symbols of the Palestinian identity and undermines the Palestinians' capacity to govern themselves, free from foreign control and influence." It also "suppresses the Palestinian political activity, advocacy, and activism." The report's strategic section "demonstrates the intent of the occupation of the territories and reflects the strategic division of the territories by Israel." The report argues that the political, humanitarian, and economic strategies of the international community have failed to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict. It argues that this approach links the root causes of the problem to the symptoms and legitimizes the illegal occupation of the territories. It also argues that this approach is immoral and that there is no need for international law to regulate and remediate the situation. The report also calls for a paradigm shift, which would be to move away from the "story of conflict" between the Palestinians and recognize the "deliberate, isolating, and repressive occupation" of the settlers and colonies by Israel.

Bierman also called for the immediate cessation of the illegal occupation, urging Israel to recall its troops from the territories and to provide assistance to Israeli citizens living in the settlements. Bierman urged all countries to avoid attempting to turn the Israeli withdrawal into a negotiation process with the Palestinians, stressing that a political settlement for Palestine could only be possible once the occupation was ended.

The UN Commission of Inquiry, appointed by the Council, has issued its first report, concluding that Israel's occupation of the territories is unlawful under international law because of its



policy of permanent de facto annexation. The three-member panel wants to take the matter to the ICJ, the highest court of the UN. The panel noted that, according to International Humanitarian Law, the occupation of territories during war is only temporary and does not strip an occupied power of its sovereignty or state. The Council has requested the UN General Assembly to consult the ICJ regarding the legal implications of the occupation. Recent statements by the Secretary General and numerous member states have demonstrated that the attempt to unify a country's territory unilaterally is a violation of international law and is null and void. Last week, 143 member states supported and ratified the Resolution of the General Assembly, including Israel. The fundamental principles of the UN Charter will become meaningless if they are not universally applied, as is the case in the occupied territories.

A Roadmap for the Future of Palestine As the war in Gaza drags on, various leaders of the Palestinian people have gathered to appoint various experts. At a crucial moment in the struggle for the liberation of the Palestinian people from the "genocide," it is clear that the importance of this moment cannot be overstated. Hamas and Fatah, however, have not been able to come together to articulate a clear and realistic vision of the future of the state of Palestine. They must put their differences aside, recognize their moral obligation to the people, and unite to come up with a clear strategy to unify the people of the state. Such a strategy will not only undermine Israel's clearly and openly stated plans for ethnically cleansing Gaza and removing it from the state of Palestine, but it will also retaliate against Israeli efforts to occupy the West Bank as well as the state of Israel. As a Gazan, I believe there are ample opportunities in the current conflict to bring the war in Gaza to an end, unify the groups of the state of the state, and open a political path to the end of the occupation. I will share with you 10 concrete steps that can be taken by the leaders of the state

The first order of business should be for all Palestinian groups to implement and broaden the Qatar-mediated agreement to swap in-country Israeli prisoners for those in Israeli jails in Gaza. The second order of business is for Hamas to declare that it accepts and adheres to the peace agreement signed by Fatah in Cairo. Finally, the Palestinian Authority should take responsibility for the situation in Gaza and make sure that resistance

groups in the Strip abide by any agreements signed by Palestinians. The third order of business would be for the leadership of the Strip to establish an Interim Governing Council for the Strip, which would include regional technocrats, in order to counter the destructive plans of Israel for the post-war reconstruction. The plan should also involve the arrest of any Hamas civilian officials in the Strip, including those in charge of the police. Finally, the integration of the fighters and weapons of Hamas into the forces of the Palestinian government after the war should be considered.

Hamas must recognize the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO as the cornerstone of the peace process and agree to hold general elections for the entire Palestinian population within a year. It should push Israel to recognize a new, reformed Hamas as the leading Palestinian political party and a part of future negotiations. The PLO should be rebuilt and reform to include all political parties and voters. It should emphasize empowering young Palestinians, both men and women, to take the next step in the organization and play a role in the future of the state of Palestine. A new PLO should include representatives of the entire Palestinian diaspora, as well as independent representatives from across the country. The PLO's members should be re-elected on a free and fair basis every four years, and the organization should agree that it will have final authority over all important matters concerning the state of Palestine until an independent state is established. The rebuilding of Gaza should begin immediately under the auspices of the international and Arab community.

The PA is a political movement that seeks to reclaim the land of Palestine from the occupying power, Israel. It was founded in the late 1800s and early 1900s in reaction to the influx of Jewish immigrants and the expansion of Zionist settlements in the area. The PA is funded by the international community, but Israel is responsible for the financial burden of the project. The PA seeks to bring the people of Palestine together in order to achieve their rights, autonomy, and sovereignty.

The Palestinian National movement is a political movement that seeks to reunite the Palestinian people with their ancestral homeland of Palestine. It was founded in the late 1800s and early 1900s in reaction to the influx of Jewish immigrants and the growth of Zionist settlements in



the area. The movement is funded by the international community, but Israel is responsible for the financial burden due to its role in the destruction of the state of Israel. The goal of the movement is to ensure that the people of Palestine are able to regain their autonomy, sovereignty, and self-determination. The movement traces its roots back to the end of the 19th century, when the Arab population of the country began to mobilize in order to resist the Ottoman and British Mandates.

Leadership and Organization: Leadership and organization: The Palestinian national movement has been shaped by a number of political and militant organizations. The PLO, established in 1964, emerged as the main umbrella organization representing the interests of the Palestinians. Fatah, under Yasser Arafat, became the dominant political party within the PLO. Other influential groups include the Hamas and the Islamic Jihad.

Armed Struggle and Diplomacy: The PLO combines armed resistance, diplomacy, and nonviolence to achieve its objectives. This includes armed resistance against the occupation, but also diplomatic efforts to secure recognition of the state of Palestine and peace negotiations with Israel.

Territorial claims: The movement calls for the establishment of an independent state for Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, as well as in the Gaza Strip. The state should be based on the pre-1967 borders. The main questions raised by the movement are:

The PLO has received support from a variety of countries and international groups, particularly from the Arab world and non-Aligned countries. However, the level of support for PA aspirations varied greatly, and efforts to promote PA statehood faced numerous challenges, including resistance from Israel and its partners.

British Mandate Period: During the British Mandates for Palestine (1922-48), the national movement of the Palestinians became more defined. The Palestinian Arab leaders, including Haj Amin Al-Husseini, fought British and Zionist attempts to colonize Palestine.

Nakba and Refugee Crisis: Nakba, or “catastrophe,” is the name given to the events that led to the creation of the state of Israel on the ashes of what had been an Arab-Israeli war in 1948. Hundreds of thousands of people were driven from

their homes and thousands more were displaced by the state of Israel. The resulting refugee crisis fueled the PNMM’s call for a “right of return.”

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO): The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLO) was established in 1964 as the main umbrella organization for the national movement of the Palestinians. The PLO’s mission is to coordinate resistance efforts against the occupation and to promote Palestinian interests internationally.

Armed Struggle and Diplomacy: Throughout its history, the PLO has used both armed struggle and diplomacy to advance its objectives. This includes guerilla tactics, carried out by groups like Fatah and PFLP, as well as diplomacy through the UN and other international fora.

The Oslo Accords and the Palestinian Authority: When the Oslo Accords were signed in 1993, it was a momentous occasion for the Palestinian national movement. It marked the creation of the Palestinian Authority (PA) and offered hope for a settlement with Israel. However, the subsequent attempts at peace and the continued occupation of the country led to disappointment and frustration among many Palestinians.

Divisions and Challenges: The PLO has been subject to internal struggles, such as political struggles between factions, and external pressures, such as Israeli military occupation, settlement growth, and travel and entry restrictions. All in all, the PLO remains a multifaceted and dynamic movement, fueled by a strong sense of self-determination and a desire for justice and the recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian National Movement : The Palestinian National Movement (PNM) is a political and socio-political movement that seeks self-determination, statehood and state sovereignty for the Palestinian people in their homeland, which they refer to as “Palestine.” The movement was born in response to the state of Israel that was established in 1948, which saw hundreds of thousands of people displaced from their homes and the loss of land. The PLO was founded in the early 1920s in response to the rise of the Zionist movement and Britain's Mandate for Palestine.

The armed struggle

The Armed Struggle The 1967 Six-Day War was not only a devastating defeat for the Arab



state, but it also signaled the end of pan-Arab Socialism, which was epitomized by the charismatic leader Gamal Abdel-Nasser of Egypt. The 1967 war resulted in the loss of the territories of Gazan, West Bank and Syrian Golan to Israel. All in all, the PLO is a complex and multi-faceted movement that seeks justice, autonomy and human rights within the framework of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The origins of the PLO can be traced back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when Arab Nationalism and the Zionist Movement were on the rise. The arrival of Jewish immigrants in Palestine, spurred on by the Zionist Movement, caused friction with the native Arab population.

The 1967 Six-Day War was not only a devastating defeat for the Arab state, but it also spelled the end of Pan-Arab Socialism as it was known in Egypt under the leadership of Gamal Abdel-Nasser. The 1967 war resulted in the loss of the territory of the state of Israel, including the Gaza Strip, the western part of the state of Judea and Samaria, and the Golan Heights. All in all, the national movement of the Palestinians is a complex and multi-faceted battle for justice, autonomy and human rights within the framework of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Its origins can be traced back to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, when Arab Nationalism and the Zionist Movement were flourishing in the region. Jewish immigration to Palestine, led by the Zionist Movement, caused friction with the native Arab population.

British Mandate Period: During the period of the British Mandate for Palestine (1920-1948), the Palestinian national movement began to take shape more concretely. Palestinian Arab leaders such as Haj Amin al- Husseini sought to resist British and Zionist colonization efforts.

Nakba and Refugee Crisis: The Nakba (pronounced "catastrophe") is the name given to the events that led to the creation of the state of Israel on the ruins of what was then the Ottoman Empire in 1948. It was the result of the war between the Arab and the Jewish states following the Nakba. Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to leave their homes in what became known as the "catastrophe." This led to a massive wave of refugees and fueled the PLO's demand for a "right of return" for the refugees.

Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO): The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PLO) was established in 1964 as the main umbrella organization for the national movement of the Palestinians. The PLO's mission was to coordinate resistance efforts against the occupation and to promote Palestinian interests internationally.

Armed Struggle and Diplomacy: Throughout its history, the PLO has employed a mix of armed struggle and diplomacy to achieve its objectives. This includes guerilla tactics, such as those carried out by Fatah and the PLO, as well as diplomacy through the UN and other international bodies.

The Oslo Accords and the Palestinian Authority: The Oslo Accords of 1993 marked a major turning point in the history of the Palestinian National Movement (PA). The accords established the PA and raised the prospect of a settlement with Israel. But the subsequent failure of peace talks and the continued occupation of the PA led to anger and frustration among many Palestinians.

Divisions and Challenges:

The Palestinian National Movement (PNM) has been subject to internal struggles, including political struggles between factions like Fatah and Hamas. It has also faced external challenges, such as the ongoing Israeli military occupation, the expansion of settlements, and restrictions on freedom of movement and access. All in all, the PNM remains a multifaceted and dynamic entity, driven by the aspirations of self-determination, equity, and the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people.

OVERVIEW

The year 2023 saw an unprecedented level of targeting, attack and killing of civilians in the context of the conflict between Israel and Palestine. On October 7, the Gaza Strip's Hamas-led militants launched an offensive against southern Israel, in which they deliberately killed civilians, shot into crowds, shot people in their homes and took hostages, including elderly and children, back to Gaza. According to the Israeli authorities, over 1,200 people were killed, mostly civilians, since October 7, and as of December 15, 133 people were still held hostage. Following the offensive, Israeli authorities shut off basic services to Gazans, such as water and electricity, and restricted access to all but trickle of fuel and essential humanitarian aid, in an act of collective punishment that



constituted war crimes and was still ongoing at the time. Israeli forces continued to shell Gaza, striking schools and hospitals and destroying large parts of neighborhoods, including in illegal attacks. Israeli forces also used white phosphorus in heavily populated areas. On December 11, the evacuation of all the people from northern Gaza was ordered, and by December 11, 85 percent of the population, or 1.8 million, had been displaced.

More than 18,700 people, mostly civilians, including over 7,800 children, were killed between October 7 and December 12 by Israeli forces, according to the Gaza authorities. The death toll is the highest since the United Nations began recording deaths in 2005, and includes unlawful killings resulting from Israel's practice of excessive lethal force, as well as some extrajudicial executions. The long closure of the Gaza Strip has exacerbated the humanitarian situation caused by 16 years of heavy Israeli restrictions on the flow of people and goods into and out of the enclave. This closure, combined with Egyptian restrictions on its border with Gaza, has deprived the two-and-a-half million Palestinians in Gaza of the right to move freely and improve their lives, severely restricted access to electricity, medical care and water, and destroyed the economy. According to the United Nations Office on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 464 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank from early 2023 to December 12, including 109 children. This is more than double the number of children killed in the West Bank in any year since 2005.

Around 3800 Palestinians were held in administrative detention as of December 1 on the basis of classified information held by the Israeli Prison Service, the highest number in three decades, according to a human rights group, HaMoked. The Israeli government approved 12,895 new housing units for settlement construction in the West Bank in the first six months of the year, according to Peace Now, a monitoring group that has been tracking settlement construction since 2012. It is considered a war crime to move civilians into occupied territory. The number of settler attacks on Palestinians and their properties reached its highest level since the United Nations began recording data in 2006, with an average of three attacks per day, up from two attacks per day in both 2022 and 2021. Attacks increased to over five attacks per day from October 7. Leading Palestinian civil society groups remain

outlawed as "terrorist" and "illegal." In August 2022, their offices were raided by Israeli forces.

The repression of the Palestinians by the Israeli authorities, conducted in the name of preserving the superiority of the Jewish Israelis over the Palestinians, is a crime against humanity, comparable to the crimes of apartheid or persecution. Since October 7, the intensity of the Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip has escalated, with over 46,000 homes destroyed and more than 234,000 damaged, equivalent to 60 percent of the housing stock in the Strip as of 24 November, aid organizations reported. At least 342 schools have been damaged, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), while 187 "health attacks" have been reported, resulting in the destruction of 24 hospitals. Israeli air strikes and the blockade have forced most hospitals to close, while electricity and fuel shortages have led to the closure of sewerage and desalination facilities, bakeries, and telecommunication blackouts. Trucks began to enter Gaza on 21 October, but aid has not been sufficient to cover the needs of Gazans. The evacuation order of northern Gaza by Israel did not take account of the needs of elderly, disabled, and sick Gazans, and the move threatens forced displacement, a war crime.

The last round of fighting in May between Israel and the Palestinian armed groups, which included rocket attacks against Israel, resulted in at least 33 deaths in Gaza, with at least 12 civilian deaths, and 2 civilian deaths in Israel, as reported by the United Nations Office on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (OCHA). Since 2007, Israel has imposed a blanket travel ban on most Gazans, with Erez being the only passenger crossing to and from the West Bank. The policy of closure is often justified by Israeli authorities as a result of the political takeover of Gaza by Hamas from the PA in June 2007 on the grounds of security. However, the policy of closure is based on a blanket prohibition on travel for all Gazans, with the exception of those deemed by Israel to be under "extraordinary hardship," such as those in need of critical medical care and their families.

Key international Actors:

The United Nations, the European Union, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, and the United Nations Security Council all spoke out against the October 7 attacks by Hamas, but far fewer spoke out against the serious human rights violations committed by the Israeli authorities. The US and other Western nations have



supplied Israel with weapons or military assistance, while others have provided military assistance to armed groups in the Palestinian territories that risk being implicated in war crimes in light of ongoing serious violations.