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**SECURITY COUNCIL**

**Topic 1: Measures to end the violence against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip and the Westbank**

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1.INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), established after World War II, is one of the six principal organs of the UN. Its main responsibility is to ensure international peace and security. Additionally, it recommends new UN members to the General Assembly and approves changes to the UN Charter. The Security Council is the only UN body with the authority to enact international sanctions, authorize military actions, and issue resolutions that are binding on member states.

The UNSC comprises 15 member states, five of which are permanent members: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These permanent members hold the power to veto any resolution made by the Security Council. The non-permanent member states are distributed as follows: three African States, three Asia-Pacific States, two Eastern European States, two Latin American and Caribbean States, and five Western European and Other States.

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC

The ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict is currently claiming thousands of lives, including many children and civilians. Approximately 2 million people lack access to clean water, electricity, adequate medical care, and food due to the Gaza blockade. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are displaced. The violations of human rights and the severity of the conflict have led to accusations of genocide against Israel.

The high number of civilian casualties, particularly during Israeli military operations, is mainly due to the targeted destruction of infrastructure, homes, medical facilities, and schools. Restrictions on freedom of movement and access to essential resources also result in countless deaths. The Israeli government is accused of disproportionate use of force against Palestinian civilians. According to the UN, genocide describes acts committed to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, racial, or religious group.

3. HISTORY OF THE CONFLICT

During the Ottoman and British Mandate periods before World War I, the area around Israel and Palestine belonged to the Ottoman Empire. After the war, it fell under the British Mandate. In November 1917, Great Britain supported the Zionist goal of establishing a national homeland for the Jewish people in Palestine with the Balfour Declaration, leading to the first tensions with the Arab population.

Following the adoption of a UN plan in 1947, Palestine was to be split into a Jewish and an Arab part. This was accepted by the Jewish community but rejected by the Arab side. In 1948, Israel proclaimed its independence, leading to the Arab-Israeli War, where Arab states such as Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan allied against Israel. The war ended in 1949 with a ceasefire, resulting in the expulsion of countless Palestinians.

The conflict centers around the division of Jerusalem, with Israel claiming the western part and Jordan the eastern part. Both Jews and Muslims claim the so-called 'Holy Land.' In October 2023, the conflict reached a new dimension when the terrorist group Hamas fired rockets at Israel from the Gaza Strip, killing and injuring thousands. Hamas' attacks, including abductions and massacres, mainly target the Israeli population, prompting significant military operations by Israel.

Israel and the Arab countries continue to fight over territories such as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. In the areas occupied by the Israelis, there are frequent Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation.

4.KEY ACTORS

A) HAMAS

Hamas is an Islamist organization founded in 1987, aiming to destroy the state of Israel and establish an Islamic state in Palestine. Following its takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007 after a conflict with Fatah, a faction within the Palestinian Liberation Organization, Hamas now pursues its goals through military means.

Hamas is classified as a terrorist organization by the European Union, the United States, Israel, and several other countries. The organization plays a central role in the Israel-Palestine conflict through its control of the Gaza Strip and its security forces, as well as military interventions that escalate the conflict. These include rocket attacks on Israel, weapons smuggling, and deploying fighters from the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades. Hamas' attacks, hostage-taking, and kidnappings cause increasing civilian casualties and significant infrastructure destruction. To restrict Hamas, Egypt and Israel impose a blockade, making access to goods, medical supplies, and essential resources difficult, worsening the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip.

B)ISRAEL

Israel significantly impacts the conflict through its government and settlement policy, as well as its proximity and active involvement. Israel denies that East Jerusalem belongs to Jordan and considers the area an indivisible capital. The Israeli Defence Forces regularly carry out military operations in the disputed territory to combat opposition groups, causing civilian casualties and infrastructure destruction.

The planning and construction of settlements in East Jerusalem are major obstacles to peace. Along with Egypt, Israel enforces a blockade of the Gaza Strip to prevent the supply of weapons to Hamas, severely impacting the civilian population and humanitarian supplies. Israel is regularly accused of human rights and international law violations by human rights organizations and international media, particularly regarding the treatment of Palestinian civilians and prisoners.

C)PALESTINE

Palestine currently holds observer status in the United Nations and was recognized as a ‘non-member state’ in 2012, allowing participation in international forums and seeking support. Politically, Palestine is represented in the conflict by various groups and organizations, including the Palestinian Authority (PA), founded under the Oslo Accords. The PA's main tasks are the administration and security of the Palestinian territories, aiming to establish an independent Palestinian state with the 1967 borders, known as the Green Line, and to make East Jerusalem its capital.

On the other hand, Palestine is supported by Hamas, which does not recognize Israel's sovereignty and engages in violent conflicts with Israel. Islamic Jihad is also actively involved in military resistance against Israel. The Palestinians view the struggle for territory as a fight for cultural preservation and historical heritage. The civilian population is severely affected by the war's effects and the ongoing blockade.

5.MEASURES TAKEN BY THE UN

1. In the Resolution 2712 which was acquired in November 2023 the Security Council officially called for
2. Hamas to free all Hostages
3. Calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages held by Hamas and other groups, especially children, as well as ensuring immediate humanitarian access;

1. The extension of humanitarian pauses and corridor in the Gaza Strip to ensure Civilians humanitarian aid
2. Calls for urgent and extended humanitarian pauses and corridors throughout the Gaza Strip for a sufficient number of days to enable, consistent with international humanitarian law, the full, rapid, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access for United Nations humanitarian agencies

1. All Parties to proceed to comply with their obligations to international law

1. Refrain taking away basic needs of Civilians

1. In the Resolution 2728 which was acquired in March 2024 the Security Council officially called for

1. Immediate Ceasefire during the month of Ramadan
2. Demands an immediate ceasefire for the month of Ramadan respected by all parties leading to a lasting, sustainable ceasefire,

1. To abolish barricade to not further constrict access to humanitarian aid for the in the Gaza Strip
2. Emphasizes the urgent need to expand the flow of humanitarian assistance to and reinforce the protection of civilians in the entire Gaza Strip and reiterates its demand for the lifting of all barriers to the provision of humanitarian assistance at scale, in line with international humanitarian law as well as resolutions 2712 (2023) and 2720 (2023);

1. Offered Humanitarian Aid through the UNRWA (United Nations and work agency for Palestinian refugees in the near east) which ensures aid to Civilians in the Gaza Strip which is funded by volunteering Members of the UN

1. The Security Council repeatedly demands all members states to remain actively seized on this matter

6. USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/situations/conflict-in-Israel-and-oPt>

<https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/israel/palestine>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/middle-east/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15569.doc.htm>

<https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties>

<https://www.un.org/en/situation-in-occupied-palestine-and-israel>

<https://www.unicef.org.au/unicef-youth/making-sense-of-emergencies/youth-israel-palestine-crisis>