

OPEN EYE MODEL UN CONFERENCE 3.0

Committee: Continuous Crisis Committee

Agenda: Resolving the Israeli – Palestine Crisis

Chairs: Hussain Vandeliwala & Aarav Gupta

Position: Head Chair and Vice Chair



Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

It is our esteemed pleasure to welcome you all to **the Continuous Crisis Committee (CCC)** at **Open Eye Model United Nations 3.0 (OEMUN 3.0)** along with the Secretariat.

This Background guide will never be enough for research, however, it will give you enough insight into the agenda. Also, embedded in this study guide, are a series of hints, at which direction your research should be heading. The Dais encourages you to research further about the agenda, foreign policies and intricate details.

We hope that every delegate has a great time during the conference. An MUN is not only about battling out your foreign policy but also meeting new people, fostering friendships, learning new things and having a time to remember.

Feel free to drop your queries to the executive board. If this is your first MUN, it is highly encouraged that you should contact the dais and come to pace with the intricacy of the committee, agenda and the procedure of the MUN conference. Feel free to contact us.

Just to conclude, the background guide aims to make an effort to give delegates a better understanding of the agenda and give them a base to build their research upon. We will be following **UNA - USA Rules of Procedure**.

Committee Email: crisis.oemun@gmail.com

Looking forward to seeing you all in committee!

Regards,

Hussain Vandeliwala & Aarav Gupta (Chairs of CCC)

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS:

Zionism

Zionism is derived from the word 'Zion', which is referred to as Jerusalem. Zionism literally means 'Return to Zion (Jerusalem)'. It was a Jewish 'nationalist' movement that had the objective to create a Jewish nation in what was then Palestine. Post Jewish Diaspora there had been various attempts by individuals and organizations to persuade Jews around the world to 'return' to Palestine; Jews did not find this appealing at the time. The movement however gained momentum in the late 19th century.

Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism literally means discrimination against all Semites. Semites are the people who speak the Semitic languages which include Jews and Arabs. However today, it is used to describe the hostility or discrimination against Jews as a religious or racial group. The term anti-Semitism was coined in 1879 to designate the anti-Jewish campaigns under way in central Europe at that time.

Ethnic Cleansing

United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention calls ethnic cleansing a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means civilians of another ethnic or religious group from specific areas.

Military occupation

Hague Regulations states that a "territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of a hostile army. The occupation extends only to the territory where such authority has been established and can be exercised."

War Crimes

Breaching the Geneva Convention of 1949 and any act of willful killing, torture, inhuman treatment including biological experiments, willfully causing great suffering, serious injury to body or health, extensive destruction, appropriation of property, compelling a prisoner of war or other protected person to serve in the forces of a hostile Power, willfully depriving a prisoner of war or other protected person of the rights of fair and regular trial, taking of hostages can be classified as a War Crime under the Rome Statute of ICC

Pre - emptive Strikes

It is a military doctrine whereby a State claims the right to launch an offensive attack on a potential enemy before that enemy has had the chance to carry out an attack. The threatened state might be wrong in its assessment of the threat and launch an unwarranted destructive attack.

Intifada

Intifada origins from the Arabic word intifāda which means an uprising. It is used to refer to the Palestinian uprising against the Israeli government in the Gaza strip and the West Bank.

Timeline

(Note that pre-1947 'Palestine' is used for the area that is today referred to as Israel including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank)

1900-1917 - Zionism and early Jewish immigration to Palestine

Feb. 14, 1947 - British Government refers the Question of the future of Palestine to the United Nations

Nov. 29, 1947 - United Nations proposes to divide Palestine into separate Jewish and Palestinian countries

May 15, 1948 - First Arab-Israeli War

1948-1949 - 700,000 Palestinians become refugees due to the demographic changes post war

July 1956 - Second Arab-Israeli War

June 2, 1964 - Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is formed

June 5, 1967 - Six day war takes place

1967 - 250,000 Palestinians get displaced post war

Mar. 1969 - War of Attrition with Egypt

1974 - Israel signs a Disengagement Accord with Syria and Egypt

1982 - Israel invades Lebanon driving PLO out of Beirut

Dec. 1987 - First Intifada begins

1993-1994 - Israel and PLO sign the Paris Protocol, Cairo Agreement & Oslo Peace Accord

Oct. 1994 - Israel and Jordan sign a peace treaty

Sep. 1995 - Oslo II Accords signed between Israel and the PLO

Sep. 2000 - Beginning of the Second Intifada

2002 - Israel launches Operation Defensive Shield and invades most of the West Bank

July 2006 - Israel-Lebanon War

Dec, 2008 - Operation Cast Lead: Israel's occupation in Gaza

Jan. 2009 - Israel announces a Unilateral Ceasefire and Israeli troops leave Gaza

Feb. 2017 - Israel passes law which legalises 4,000 Settler homes

Major Parties Involved

1. Hamas

Hamas has been in power in the Gaza Strip since it won the legislative elections in the region in 2008. It has a social service wing and a military wing (The latter has been declared a terrorist group by Israel and most Western nations). Hamas' primary objective is to liberate lands that it considers part of Palestine from Israel and to form an Islamic state in its place. Hamas refuses to recognise Israel's "right to statehood".

2. Palestinian National Authority (Fatah)

The Palestinian Authority was formed in 1994 following the Gaza – Jericho agreements between the State of Israel and the PLO. Further negotiations (which are yet to take place) were then meant to happen between the 2 parties regarding the final solution for the region. The PNA was designed as and still functions as an Interim government in the West Bank. After Hamas won the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections, disputes arose between PNA and Hamas leadership leading to a Hamas takeover of the Gaza strip leading to 2 rival administrations (one of fatah and one of hamas). The PNA wishes for a state of Palestine to be established on the pre – 1967 border of Palestine with East Jerusalem as its capital

3. State of Israel

A part of British Mandate Palestine was established as a home for the Jewish People by the Balfour declaration, the state of Israel's borders rest predominantly within the areas allocated to Jewish immigrants in 1947. Israel believes that as a country, it has a right to exist and condemns rocket attacks and waves of suicide bombing waves (known as intifadas) that it believes are sponsored by Hamas and other terrorist groups (Whom Israel believes are associated with Hamas). Israel has also established settlements across the West Bank, something that is considered illegal by the International Community.

4. Arab League

At the Arab League's conference in Khartoum in 1967, it famously issued its three No's: No Recognition of Israel, No negotiation with Israel and no peace with Israel. However, since then, this stance of the Arab league has softened. The Arab League supports peace with Israel while still strongly supporting the "Palestinian Arab cause". The Arab League primarily endorses the Arab Peace initiative introduced by Saudi Arabia in 2002. It must also be noted that various nations in the Arab League such as Egypt and Jordan recognize Israel as a state, while the Arab League as a whole does not do so.

History

Following WW1, The area known as Mandatory Palestine (which was controlled by the Ottoman Empire) came under the control of the British Empire. During the late 19th Century, many European and Middle Eastern Jews began to migrate to Mandatory Palestine, and both ethnic groups backed the Allies as the Ottomans discriminated against them in favor of the Turks. During this time, the ideas of Zionism and Arab nationalism began to rise to prominence amongst their respective ethnicities.

When the British gained control of Palestine in 1917, they issued the Balfour declaration backing the creation of a homeland for the Jewish People. In 1923, the area now comprising Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was mandated to the British while the Emirate of Transjordan (Present day Jordan) was carved into a separate British Protectorate. Over the years, Jewish immigration to the region continued to increase. Riots broke out in Jerusalem in 1922 and 1929, and the British Government tried to reassure the arabs that the creation of a Jewish state was not the intention of the Balfour Declaration.

When the Nazis came to power in Germany in 1933, Jewish immigration to the region hit an all time high, prompting resentment amongst arabs living in the region, who pressured the British to place immigration controls against the Jews for the duration of their mandate in Palestine, which ended by 1939 just as Nazi Germany began to eliminate Jews living in Germany and other countries they occupied. Following various attempts to solve the disputes between the Jews and the Arabs, the British asked the newly formed UN for help, the majority of which proposed a plan of partition.

Following the United Kingdom terminating its mandate in Palestine on 14th May 1948, David Ben Gurion declared the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz Israel. It was immediately attacked by neighbouring arab countries which declared war on it. The war came to an end following the signing of an armistice between both parties in 1949. Many Palestinians fled and many more were expelled from areas now part of the state of Israel, while many Jewish people across the Arab world were expelled from their countries and forced to relocate in Israel.

In 1956, Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal and banned Israeli shipping from passing through it. Israel launched a ground invasion of Egypt during the Suez Crisis in an attempt to take the Suez Canal with British and French Air and ground support. In 1967, The Arab League declared its famous 3 "nos" with regards to its position on Israel. Israel kicked off the 6 day war following pre

- empty strikes against Egyptian and Syrian Military targets which ended with Israel gaining complete control of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula.

Links for Further Research:

Note from the dias: Delegates please keep in mind that these links should only be used to get a basic understanding of the conflict at hand, delegates are strongly encouraged to do their own research by finding information on the Internet themselves.

1. <https://www.britannica.com/event/Arab-Israeli-wars> (Use to get a summary of the conflict, will not be regarded as a credible source by the dias)
2. <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44124396>
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/palestinian-rocket-fire-israeli-air-strikes-gaza-2021-05-11/>
4. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/425584>
5. <https://hamas.ps/ar/>
6. <https://www.gov.il/en>

