

# Research Report

United Nations Security Council

Topic:

The question of ensuring the protection of civilians and achieving a sustainable ceasefire in the Gaza Strip while addressing the security concerns of all parties involved.

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## Introduction

The conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people is one of the longest-running and most violent disputes in the world. Its origins go back more than a century.

There have been a series of wars between Israel and Arab nations.

The consequences of the historic dispute over issues including land, borders and rights are still being felt and include the latest war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

The current truce, initiated by US President Donald Trump's Framework, the Gaza peace plan, is still fragile and only in the first step of many.

## Key Terms

**Gaza Strip:** The smaller one of the Palestinian territories, currently being occupied by Israel and going through severe crisis due to the war.

**Hamas:** A Sunni Islamist Palestinian nationalist political organisation, which has governed the Gaza Strip since 2007, but also been severely criticized for human rights violations and called a terrorist group.

**Palestinian Liberation Organization/PLO:** Internationally recognized as the official representative of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories, currently being represented by the Palestinian Authority.

**Two-State Solution:** Possible solution to the conflict, by creating two states on the territory of the mandatory Palestine, supported by the PLO, but rejected by Israel.

**Rafah Border Crossing:** Border crossing between Egypt and Palestine, the only border in the Gaza strip, not shared with Israel.

**International Humanitarian Law/IHL:** Laws and principles that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict on civilians and civilian infrastructure.

## Timeline/Background

**World War One:** Britain takes control over land known as mandatory Palestine, where an Arab majority and a Jewish minority alongside other ethnic groups live. Britain agrees to establish a national home in Palestine for Jews, which lets tensions rise between the two parties.

**1920-1940:** More Jews arrive due to persecution in Europe, because of which the Jewish population makes up 30% of the whole population by 1947.

1947: UN vote - against British Rule - for Palestine to be split into separate states for Arabs and Jews, due to growing violence between the two groups, with no support from Arab groups, who feel that the decision gives Jews more land than they deserve.

1948: Britain withdraws from the problem, handing it to the UN. Jewish leaders declare Israel, an independent state, in Palestine, which gets recognized by the UN a year later.

1948: Arab-Israeli war: Israel immediately gets surrounded by Arab armies the day it declares independence. The war ends in 1949 with Israel controlling most of the territory. Agreements leave Egypt occupying the Gaza Strip, Jordan occupying the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Israel occupying West Jerusalem.

About 750,000 Palestinians flee, or are forced from, their homes on land which become Israel and end up as refugees.

The following years many Jews come to Israel.

1967 Middle East War (Six-Day war): Israel launches an attack at the Egypt Air Force due to fear of an attack. Israel captures the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza from Egypt, though they later returned the Sinai, and East Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan.

~ Oslo Accords and Gaza-Jericho Agreement get passed, PLO receives partial control, but Hamas get voted into office in the Gaza Strip. ~

2007-2009: A Blockade is put on Palestine by Israel, after this Israel invades Gaza destroying building and killing over 1000 people.

2014: Invasion of Gaza by Israel, killing about 2200 Palestinians and 73 Israelis.

2018-2019: Great March of Return and Clashes in November and May bring more deaths.

2021: 2021 Israel-Palestine crisis, lasting two weeks and a day and ending with ceasefire, while both parties claim victory, with estimated 250 deaths.

2023-2025: Gaza War: Hamas lead a surprise attack on Israel on 7 October 2023, leading to the outbreak of war, since then, thousands were killed or injured.

## Current Situation

After many years of war between the Hamas and Israel, the Gaza peace plan was agreed on by both parties and recognized by the UNSC. So far, every hostage, on both sides, has returned home, marking the first step of the newfound truce. However, the Rafah border crossing remains closed. Both sides have to rebuild their cities, help their injured and

mourn deaths. While all of this is happening, both parties keep accusing each other of breaking the ceasefire with attacks or military operations.

Palestine:

- Gaza Strip:
  - o Humanitarian crisis (famine, medical crisis, ...)
  - o Destroyed homes and infrastructure
  - o Possible military operation by Hamas near Rafah border crossing/breaking of ceasefire

Israel:

- Possible opening of Rafah border crossing (under certain conditions)
- Rebuilding with help of USA
- Air strikes on Gaza/probable breaking of ceasefire

## Past-UN/ International actions

**Oslo-Accords:** Agreement between Israel and the PLO, which led to both parties recognizing each other and the creation of the Palestinian Authority.

- Palestinian Authority: Government body, which exercises partial civil control over the Israeli-occupied West Bank and used to control the Gaza strip prior to the 2006 elections, when Hamas took over and expelled them in the Gaza strip.

**Gaza-Jericho Agreement:** Follow up treaty of the Oslo Accords, providing limited Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with Israel withdrawing from certain regions.

**Gaza peace plan/Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict:** A peace plan, presented by US President Donald Trump, which calls for immediate ceasefire, the return of all hostages, the demilitarization of the Gaza Strip and stabilization to rebuild Palestine, agreed upon by both the Israeli government and the Hamas.

### Resolutions passed by the Security Council:

- Calls for
  - o Humanitarian pauses and corridors in Gaza
  - o Increased aid in Gaza (fuel, food and medical supplies)
  - o Opening all Gaza border crossings for humanitarian aid
- Passed Resolution 2803, supporting the Gaza peace plan and the establishment of the Board of Peace

**Board of Peace:** American government-led international organization established by Donald Trump, tasked with overseeing the processes of the Gaza peace plan. So far,

they have sent out invites to countries and held a signing ceremony. However, they have also been described as a “pay-to-play club” due to the fee paid, when joining and many countries have denied the invitation to join.

## Key Country Positions

### China:

- Supports two-state solution
- Abstained from voting on Gaza peace plan
- Believes the UNSC Resolution on the Gaza peace plan is lacking in many aspects

### Russia:

- Supports two-state solution
- Does not consider Hamas a terror organisation and continues to diplomatically negotiate with them
- Abstained from voting on Gaza peace plan

### UK:

- Urges Israel to remove aid constraints and withdraw from Palestine
- Approves Gaza peace plan
- Does not support Hamas as governors, wants demilitarization of Hamas
- Wants all border crossings open

### USA:

- Has provided extensive military and diplomatic aid to Israel during the war
- Vetoed prior resolutions, that called for humanitarian ceasefire
- Presented the Gaza peace plan
- Leads the Board of Peace

### France:

- Decided to dispatch tonnes of food aid to Gaza
- Urges Israel to remove all obstacles for humanitarian aid
- Calls for opening of second phase of Gaza peace plan

### Israel:

- Does not want Gaza to be rebuild until Hamas have been completely disarmed
- Will probably open the Rafah border crossing

### Palestine:

- Needs humanitarian aid
- Wants a better, stable future

- Scepticism about the BoP, since most leaders are Israel supporters

#### Egypt:

- Condemns ceasefire violations
- Fully committed to making the peace plan a success

#### Türkiye:

- Strongly condemns ceasefire violations
- Supports humanitarian aid and ceasefire
- Part of the Board of Peace

#### South Africa:

- Alleged that Israel was committing genocide in the Gaza Strip (brought case to court)
- Welcomes Gaza peace plan

## Alliances & Blocs

### **BRICS**

- Brazil
- China
- Iran
- Russia
- South Africa
- United Arab Emirates

### **NATO**

- France
- Canada
- UK
- USA
- Türkiye
- Germany

### **Board of Peace**

- USA
- Israel
- United Arab Emirates
- Türkiye
- Many countries denied the invitation

### **States, that have recognized Palestine as a state:**

- Brazil
- Canada
- China
- Egypt
- France

- Iran
- Jordan
- Russia
- South Africa
- Türkiye
- UK
- United Arab Emirates

**States, that have not recognized Palestine as a state:**

- Germany
- Israel
- South Korea
- USA