

UN Security Council

MCGS MUN 2018

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

It is an honour for us to welcome you to Security Council simulation of Mayo College Girl's School Model United Nations 2018. The committee shall be having "Emergency Meeting on the Israel-Palestine and Reassessing the Need of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus" as its agendas for discussion. Both the agendas are of equal importance when it comes to their severity and need for immediate action.

Through this guide, we shall try our level best to offer as much as clarity possible on discussion at hand. However, the responsibility of exploring depth and vastness of each topic is totally yours. We hope that you will be able to examine the issue critically and come up with solutions for the same. Your duty as diplomats is not just limited to finding solutions to the problem but more importantly, to problematizing the issue and available solutions on the first hand. In this context, what we mean by problematizing is to analyze the issue at various levels such as but not limited to cultural, legal, political and etc., so that it makes the debate highly substantive. Problematizing the situation is one way of doing what people call as constructive debating. This however can only be possible if you are well worse with your research. We also request you to locate these events in wider functioning and understanding of global politics and not in isolation to one another.

We see this MUN as an opportunity as a chance to sensitize each other with our respective thoughts and enable a shared learning environment. We also see this as an experience where each one of us would be able to question our biases towards these words. We believe that this simulation will end up facilitating decision making in an individual life's and affecting everyday experiences as well. It would help us all to reflect and realize the deep-rooted nature of our thoughts and the intensity with which we hold them true. At the end of three days, we all wish to see you a step ahead of what you were few days before. The marking criteria shall be explained to you in the committee. But do take into consideration that one has to excel in every field may it be diplomacy, research, documentation, lobbying or chits to win an award and it won't just be matter but manner and method which shall also be taken into consideration while deciding the awards. Success or failure of the committee does not depend on passing of a document. Cooperation to understand each other and accommodate viewpoints is what ensures quality. We

humbly ask you for your support to make these three days a memorable learning experience. Feel free to contact us anytime.

Regards
Chairperson
Nikhil Goyal (nikhigoyalatnow@gmail.com)

Nature of Reports and Evidences in Council

Evidence or proofs from the following sources will be accepted as credible in the committee:

1. News Sources

a. **REUTERS** – Any Reuters' article which clearly makes mention of the fact stated or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by another delegate in council can be used to substantiate arguments in the committee.

(<http://www.reuters.com>)

However, Reuters reports claiming to quote any individual affiliated in any manner to any government may not necessarily reflect the views of that government in totality. For example, at times the office holding individuals venture out for lectures, talks, discussions and etc. wherein they tend to express things which that be a contravention/extension of the policy they hold. So we need to take into consideration the time and space dimension of such views and also the chronology of what they spoken or what their government policy was post and prior to this.

Thus, Reuters report can be denied by any member state subject to their policy and it is only when the report is accepted by the government that it shall be admitted as persuasive proof.

b) **State operated News Agencies** – These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council.

Some examples are: (i) RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>

(ii) IRNA (Iran) <http://www.irna.ir/ENIndex.htm>

(iii) Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China) <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information.

Some examples are, a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America (<http://www.state.gov/>)

or the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation (<http://www.eng.mil.ru/en/index.htm>)

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>) or People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>)

c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports <http://www.un.org/en/members/>

(Click on any country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative.)

d. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO (<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>) OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/)

3. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered as credible information or evidence for the Executive Board.

a) UN Bodies like the UNSC (<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>) or UNGA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>)

b) UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>) World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>) International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>) International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>)

c) Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm>) , the International Criminal Court (<http://www.iccpi.int/Menu/ICC>)

Please note that under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>) Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>) or newspapers like The Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>) Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>) Be accepted in the Council.

Duly note each document's source before its presentation in council. Please carry the required reports in soft copy (saved directly from the source and unedited). Also, the background guide cannot be used as proof in the council.

Suggested Pattern for Researching

Researching and understanding the United Nations and the Committee/Council being simulated –Its Mandate, including understanding historical work done on the agenda. research on the allotted country. Understanding its polity, economy, military, culture, history, bilateral relations with other countries, ideological position on various other relevant issues related to the agenda etc.

Comprehending the Foreign Policy of the allotted country. It includes understanding the ideology and principles adopted by the country on the agenda. It further includes studying past actions taken by the country on the agenda and other related issues – specifically analyzing their causes and consequences. Reading the background guide thoroughly.

Researching further upon the agenda **using the links** given in the guide and from other sources such as academic papers, institutional reports, national reports, news articles, blogs etc. Understanding policies adopted by different blocs of countries (example: NATO, EU etc.) and major countries involved in the agenda. Including their position, ideology and adopted past actions.

Characterizing the agenda into sub-topics and preparing speeches and statements on them. It is the same as preparing topics for the moderated caucuses and their content. Preparing a list of possible solutions and actions the UNSC can adopt on the issue as per your country's policies.

Assemble proof/evidence for any important piece of information/allegation you are going to use in committee and keeping your research updated using various news sources.

Committee Description

Introduction

Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.¹

Mandate

The UN Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

Maintaining Peace and Security

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;²
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;³
- dispatch a mission;⁴
- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

- issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.⁵

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;⁶
- severance of diplomatic relations;
- blockade;⁷
- or even collective military action.⁸

² [https://undocs.org/S/RES/47\(1948\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/47(1948))

³ [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2379\(2017\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2379(2017))

⁴ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/404\(1977\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/404(1977))

⁵ <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Nepal%20SRES%201740.pdf>

⁶ http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2385.pdf

⁷ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/665\(1990\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/665(1990))

⁸ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/84\(1950\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/84(1950))

A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.⁹

Emergency Meeting on the Israel-Palestine

Some Definitions:

Anti-Semitism

Anti-Semitism is prejudice against, hatred of, or discrimination against Jews as a national, ethnic, religious or racial group. It is said to be the primary reason of the fleeing of Jews to the lands, thus the start of the Zionist movement.

Zionism

Zionism is the ideology that considers Judaism both a religion and a nationality; thus, supports the creation of a separate Jewish State. It is widely suggested that Zionism, founded as a result of anti-Semitism, is the reason for the Jews' return to the land. Zionists all agree upon the creation of Israel, though they part on the ideal governance. The Zionist left is in support of a secular government that intervenes to economy and the trade of Israeli-controlled land with Arab nations for peace purposes; while the Zionist right, currently more widely accepted, seeks for less secular governance and a more liberal economy, and opposes the 'land for peace' deals.

Nakba

The 1948 war uprooted 700,000 Palestinians from their homes, creating a refugee crisis that is still not resolved. Palestinians call this mass eviction the Nakba – Arabic for "catastrophe" - and its legacy remains one of the most intractable issues in ongoing peace negotiations.

Jerusalem

⁹ <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>



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Note- The cartoon used here in no way depicts any biases of the EB on the agenda at hand. It's merely an attempt to make the Guide a bit more engaging.

Jerusalem is a city that straddles the border between Israel and the West Bank. It's home to some of the holiest sites in both Judaism and Islam, and so both Israel and Palestine want to make it their capital. How to split the city fairly remains one of the fundamental issues dividing Israelis and Palestinians. For the first 20 years of Israel's existence, Jerusalem was divided. Despite this, since Jews make up about two-thirds of the city Israel calls Jerusalem its undivided capital today; but almost no one (including the United States) recognizes it as such. UN Security Council Resolution 478 condemns Israel's decision to annex East Jerusalem as a violation of international law and calls for a compromise solution.

West Bank

The West Bank is a chunk of land in eastern Israel. It's home to 2.6 million Palestinians and would make up the heart of any Palestinian state. Palestinians (and most of the international community) consider it illegally occupied Palestinian land.

Gaza

Gaza is a densely populated strip of land that is mostly surrounded by Israel and peopled almost exclusively by Palestinians. Israel used to have a military presence, but withdrew unilaterally in 2005. It's currently under Israeli blockade.

¹⁰ <https://www.deseretnews.com/article/865693866/11-political-cartoons-on-the-US-embassys-move-to-Jerusalem-and-more.html>



Egypt controlled Gaza until 1967, when Israel occupied it (along with the West Bank) in the Six Day War. Until 2005, Israeli military authorities controlled Gaza in the same way they control the West Bank, and Jews were permitted to settle there. In 2005, then-Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pulled out Israeli troops and settlers unilaterally. Gaza is governed by the Islamist group Hamas, which formed in 1987 as a militant "resistance" group against Israel and won political power in a 2006 U.S.-based election. Hamas' takeover of Gaza prompted an Israeli blockade of the flow of commercial goods into Gaza. Israel has eased the blockade over time, but the cutoff of basic supplies like fuel still does significant humanitarian harm by cutting off access to electricity, food, and medicine.

Israeli Settlements

Settlements are communities of Jews that have been moving in to the West Bank since it came under Israeli occupation in 1967. Some of the settlers move there for religious reasons, some because they want to claim the West Bank territory as Israeli land, and some because the housing there tends to be cheap and subsidized. Settlements are generally considered to be a major impediment to peace, since they blur or constrain the boundaries of any future Palestinian state. Most international law experts believe settlements violate the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits the transfer of population into occupied territories. Israel disputes that.

Intifadas

The intifadas were two Palestinian uprisings against Israel, the first in the late 1980s and the second in the early 2000s.

¹¹ http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/newsid_3470000/newsid_3473600/3473699.stm

The First Intifada was a largely spontaneous series of Palestinian demonstrations, non-violent actions like mass boycotts and Palestinians refusing to work jobs in Israel, and attacks (using rocks, Molotov cocktails, and occasionally firearms) on Israelis. The Israeli military responded to the protests and attacks with heavy force.

The Second, and far bloodier, Intifada grew out of the peace process' collapse in 2000. Negotiations between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat broke down, and the Intifada began shortly afterwards. While both Arafat and Sharon played some part, the central cause was likely a basic mistrust between the two sides that made war inevitable after peace talks broke down.

BDS

BDS is an activist movement aimed at creating costs to Israel's Palestinian policy through boycotts of Israeli goods and institutions, divestment from Israeli companies, and sanctions on the nation itself. Hence, the acronym BDS - boycott, divestment, and sanctions. The movement to accomplish this goal is coordinated by the BDS National Council (BNC), which guides local campaigns around the globe. As the Israeli-Palestinian drags on, many Israelis worry that BDS will become more mainstream. Even Secretary of State John Kerry has warned that BDS could end up being a real problem for Israel if it doesn't make peace with the Palestinians.

The Israeli Wall



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¹² <http://solidaritynetkenya.blogspot.in/2009/11/cartoon-of-day-israeli-wall-vs-berlin.html>

The Israel Wall is a separation barrier built by Israel in the West Bank or along the 1949 Armistice Line ("Green Line"). Upon completion, its total length will be approximately 700 kilometres (430 mi) and include on the western side approximately 9.4% of the West Bank and 23,000 Palestinians.

Israel argues that it protects civilians from Palestinian terrorism such as suicide bombing attacks that increased significantly during the Second Intifada. Between 2000 and July 2003 (completion of the "first continuous segment"), 73 suicide bombings were carried out from the West Bank. However, from August 2003 to the end of 2006, only 12 attacks were carried out.

On July 9, 2004 ruling the International Court of Justice advised that the barrier is a violation of international law, that it should be removed, that Arab residents should be compensated for any damage done, and that other states take action to obtain Israel's compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention¹³. The ICJ said that an occupying power couldn't claim that the lawful inhabitants of the occupied territory constitute a "foreign" threat for the purposes of Article 51 of the UN Charter. It also explained that necessity might constitute a circumstance precluding wrongfulness under certain very limited circumstances, but that Article 25 of the UN Declaration on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts ¹⁴bars a defense of necessity if the State has contributed to the situation of necessity. The Court cited illegal interference by the government of Israel with the Palestinian's national right to self-determination; and land confiscations, house demolitions, the creation of enclaves, and restrictions on movement and access to water, food, education, health care, work, and an adequate standard of living in violation of Israel's obligations under international law. The Court also said that Israeli settlements had been established and that Palestinians had been displaced in violation of Article 49, paragraph 6, of the Fourth Geneva Convention. On request of the ICJ, Palestine submitted a copious statement. The UN Fact Finding Mission and several UN Rapporteurs subsequently said that in the movement and access policy there has been a violation of the right not to be discriminated against on the basis of race or national origin.

For further exploration on this issue, kindly access this link

<https://www.sussex.ac.uk/webteam/gateway/file.php?name=ross-anthropology-of-the-wall&site=10>

¹³ <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/385ec082b509e76c41256739003e636d/6756482d86146898c125641e004aa3c5>

¹⁴ http://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/english/draft_articles/9_6_2001.pdf

Resolution 242/ Resolution 338 (1967)

Right after the Six-Day War, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 242¹⁵ on November 22, 1967; in efforts to achieve peace. This resolution called for withdrawal of Israeli forces in exchange for peace agreements. Unfortunately, closely after, the Yom Kippur War broke out resulting in the establishment of Resolution 338¹⁶. This resolution demanded immediate ceasefire and removal of all military activity along with the implementation of Resolution 242.

Land Day (1976)

The beginning of the annual “Land Day”, in which Palestinian citizens living in Israel protested the Israeli government’s seizure of Palestinian land in the villages of Galilee. During the first Land Day, armed Israeli forces intervened bringing the protests to an end and murdering six Palestinians and injuring more than 100 people. Since then, on every March 30th, Palestinians living in Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories come together to protest the Israeli government and acknowledge Israel’s current confiscation of Palestinian land.

Camp David Accords

Egyptian President Anwar El Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the Camp David Accords on 17 September 1978, following thirteen days of secret negotiations at Camp David. The two framework agreements were signed at the White House, and were witnessed by United States President Jimmy Carter. The second of these frameworks led directly to the 1979 Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty.

The Camp David Accords were the result of 14 months of diplomatic efforts by Egypt, Israel, and the United States that began after Jimmy Carter became President. Following the advice of a Brookings Institution report, Carter opted to replace the incremental, bilateral peace talks which had characterized Henry Kissinger's shuttle diplomacy following the 1973 Yom Kippur War with a comprehensive, multilateral approach. The Yom Kippur War further complicated efforts to achieve the objectives written in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

The efforts initially focused on a comprehensive resolution of disputes between Israel and the Arab countries, gradually evolved into a search for a bilateral agreement between Israel and Egypt

¹⁵ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/242\(1967\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/242(1967))

¹⁶ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/338\(1973\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/338(1973))

Madrid Conference of 1991

The Madrid Conference of 1991, a peaceful conference sparked by the 1991 Gulf War, was a turning point in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict because this was the first time in decades that the Israelis and Arabs interacted with one another face-to-face. This conference was hosted by Spain and sponsored by the United States in an attempt to negotiate peace between the nations. Aside from peace agreements with Jordan, minimum progress was made.

The 1993 Oslo Accords

The Oslo Peace Accords, signed in Washington in 1993, marked the first treaties ever signed between the Israeli and Palestinian nations. The Oslo Accords served to achieve a peace treaty incorporating Resolution 242 and Resolution 338. Unfortunately, the Oslo Accords came to an end when Palestinians were unable to fulfill their side of the commitment.

Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty

The Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty was signed on October 26, 1996 to settle disputes between Jordan and Israel. This treaty settled water and land issues and created a wider collaboration regarding tourist activities and trade. Under this treaty, neither Israel or Jordan was allowed to undergo military strikes by a third world nation.

The Mitchell Report

The Mitchell Report, (officially the Sharm el-Sheikh Fact-Finding Committee Report) is a report that was created by an international fact-finding committee, led by former US Senator George Mitchell. It was published on 30 April 2001, as the product of an Emergency Summit on 17 October 2000, when the parties decided to establish a fact -finding committee to investigate the causes of the Second Intifada, and to pave the way back to negotiations. The report describes possible causes of the al-Aqsa Intifada, and gives recommendations to end the violence, rebuild confidence and resume negotiations.

Full report here:

http://eeas.europa.eu/mepp/docs/mitchell_report_2001_en.pdf

2003 Geneva Accord

On October 14th, 2003, formal Israeli and Palestinian politicians launched a significant peace agreement regarding future negotiations. a former justice minister, Yossi Beilin, led the Israeli Proposal and Yasser Abed Rabbo, a former information minister, was from the

Palestinian side. The proposal sought a Palestinian state including all the Gaza Strip and majority of the West Bank.

The Road Map

The Quartet - composed of the United States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations - came together in 2002 to explore new options for Israeli-Palestinian peace. In April 2003, the Quartet released its "Performance-based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis." The Roadmap outlines a three-stage program leading to an independent Palestinian state and a "final and comprehensive settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict" by 2005. But as "performance-driven" process with no enforcement mechanism, the Roadmap depended on the good faith of all sides and their voluntary compliance with obligations under the plan.

Neither Israel nor the Palestinian Authority has demonstrated such compliance. The Roadmap requires that the Palestinians "immediately undertake an unconditional cessation of violence" and that Israel "freezes all settlement activity." Yet Israel continues to build settlements and construct its illegal separation wall in the West Bank. Israeli aggression, particularly in the form of assassination attempts, led to the breakdown of a unilateral Palestinian ceasefire negotiated by then-Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas. Israeli Prime Minister Sharon has refused to consider Arafat a partner for negotiations, weakening the Palestinian leader's authority. Violence has continued, the Quartet has shown no capacity for imposing requirements on the parties and the Roadmap has steadily lost credibility.

The given link is to a detailed United Nations page on the Road Map:

<http://www.un.org/News/dh/mideast/roadmap122002.pdf>

Palestinian Liberation Organization

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is the national representative of the Palestinian people. It **runs** the Palestinian National Authority (PA), the semi-autonomous government tasked with managing the Palestinian territories until it makes a deal with Israel. In practice, the PLO runs the government in the West Bank but not in Gaza, which is governed by Hamas. In 1993, the PLO accepted Israel's right to exist in exchange for Israel recognizing it as the legitimate representative of Palestinians. That was the beginning of real peace negotiations between the two sides.

Fatah

Fatah is a major Palestinian secular nationalist political party that began in 1965 as the Palestinian National Liberation Movement. Yasser Arafat and friends from Algeria founded the organization, which was originally opposed to the Palestine Liberation Organization that is today one of the largest terror organizations in the world. With Syrian support, Fatah started launching terrorist raids against Israeli targets in January 1965 from Jordan, Lebanon and Egyptian -occupied Gaza. Fatah carried out dozens of raids exclusively against civilian targets in its early years. After taking over the PLO in 1968, its popularity among the Palestinian public decreased significantly. Today, Fatah is the PLO's most prominent faction.

Hamas



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Hamas is a Palestinian Islamist political organization and militant group that has waged war on Israel since its 1987 founding. It seeks to replace Israel with a Palestinian state. It also governs Gaza independently of the Palestinian Authority.

Hamas' charter calls for the destruction of Israel. Though Hamas does not recognize Israel's legitimacy, in 2011 it committed to a Palestinian state in Gaza and the West Bank. It's not clear whether Hamas could reconcile itself to the existence of Israel.

¹⁷ <https://www.mercurynews.com/2014/07/28/cartoons-israel-mixing-it-up-with-hamas/>

Hamas led the charge in using suicide bombings against Israel in the 1990s and 2000s, though in recent years it has shifted to rockets and mortars as its weapons of choice. The organization also offers Palestinians a robust network of social services, which it developed as an alternative to deeply corrupt PA institutions. In 2006, Hamas won a slight majority of the seats in the Palestinian Authority legislative elections.

History

The history of the conflict goes long before the Industrial Revolution. The age of the conflict gives it a character, culture, and religion worth exploring. The issue occurring within Palestine and Israel got international attention initially at the end of World War II. After the end of WW2, the remainder of Jewish population was moved around a lot because of Jewish persecution in European Nations. Many sought refuge in Palestine for new, permanent homes. Due to the Balfour Declaration in 1917, the British were able to relocate Jewish people and provide them a homeland. However, toward the closing of WW2, Great Britain ceased to have control over Palestine and gave unentitled land to the Jews. Thus, the UN Declared Palestine an Arab state and an international zone. Because of the Holocaust, there was a large increase in Zionism excluding Arab states. Arab states invaded and attempted to eradicate the new Israeli territory. They were unsuccessful and Israel gained the territory in 1949. As a result, thousands of Palestinians were displaced and forced into refugee camps by the Israeli border which further depleted the relationship between Arabs and Jews. This led to a series of Wars between Muslim countries and Israel. The conflict intensified because of the rise of terrorist organizations within Palestine to increase nationalism and gain power.

On May 15, 1948 the world's first ever Arab-Israeli war begins. The war began when 5 Arab nations decided to invade the newly named nation of Israel. The Independence of Israel was a direct cause of this invasion. On the night of May 14th, the Arabs launched a full-fledged air attack on the city of Tel Aviv. Yet, it being 5 major Arab nations, the Israelis could protect themselves from this attack. Saudi Arabia sent formations that fought under Egyptian command. Even British trained soldiers from the then Transjordan were sent to support. After intense fighting and bloodshed, the Israeli forces prevailed over the Arab nations, marking their first win since they gained their independence.

Following the independence of Israel and the invasion by the 5 Arab nations, the time between May 1948 and the start of 1949 was the cause of nearly 700,000 Palestinians to become refugees. This was a direct result of the Arab-Israeli war, but not all of them were forced out of their homes. Many of the refugees had fled to avoid the war at the time or had gone of Arab nations who promised them safety. One-third of the Palestinians who left went to the West Bank, one-third went to the Gaza Strip, and the rest had taken refuge in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. These refugees were not taken as citizens but rather put into

refugee camps, with only Jordan allowing many of the refugees to become citizens of Jordan.

From 1949 to 1956 the conflicts continued, and grew. The Suez Crisis being one of the most important ones. On October 29, 1956, Israeli forces pushed into Egypt towards the Suez Canal right after the Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser had nationalized it, which started the Suez Crisis.

The Israelis were joined by French and British troops, nearly causing the Soviet Union to join in the conflict. This was meant to be an aggressive action made by the Israelis to gain more control within the Middle East. All the forces had later withdrew their forces in the early 1957.

On June 2nd, 1964 the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed. It was established in Jerusalem, and was founded in a response to the Palestinians wanting to have a voice within the Arab nation community. Also, due to their rising conflicts against Israel they were in a dire need of an organization to deal with conflicts. The PLO became a nesting zone for nationalist activity to gain independence using political action from the Arab regimes. This also allowed for the nearly 700,000 refugees to return to their home of Palestine.



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¹⁸ <http://supernatural.blogs.com/weblog/2007/12/zapiro-scoops-a.html>

The Six Day war was a defining moment of this contention, resulting in even more slaughter and annihilation. On June 5th, 1967 Israel had propelled a strike against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan, following President Nasser's pronouncement to destroy the Jewish State. Egypt was in alliance with Jordan and Syria. The war caused 776 and 983 Israelis to be murdered and 4,517 to be injured; 15 Israeli fighters were caught.

Starting on June 5, Israel centered the principle exertion of its ground powers against Egypt's Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. In a quick assault, the Israelis burst into Egyptian territory and over the Sinai. Although the Egyptians were outmaneuvered by the Israelis and annihilated in deadly air assaults, they battled with full determination. However, by June 8 the Egyptian powers were crushed, and Israel won over the Gaza Strip and the Sinai to the Suez Canal.

Concurrently, Jordan began to attack the east of Israel on June 5, resulting in an instant and overpowering reaction from the Israeli Powers. Israel invaded the West Bank; on June 7 they seized the Old City of East Jerusalem. To declare the restoration of East Jerusalem with the West, which was previously controlled by Israel, the central chaplain of the Israel Defense Forces blasted a ram's horn at the Western Wall.

Two days prior to propelling a tank and infantry assault on June 9, Israel bombarded Golan Heights, Syrian secured territory. Following a full day of furious battle, the Syrians started to withdraw on June 10. On June 11, the United Nations enforced a cease-fire, ending the Six Day War. Towards the end of the Six Day War, Israeli forces held twice as much land.

Concerned, the U.N Security Council required all Israeli forces to retract from seized regions. However, Israel refused and vigorously added East Jerusalem to their occupied territory.

Along with establishing militia forces, Israel made it clear that all Arab territories would be exchanged if the Arabs agreed to recognize Israel's right to exist and refuse any impending attacks. Worried Arab commanders gathered in August to consider agreeing to Israeli conditions; they determinedly settled on declining the Israeli proposal and agreed upon a no peace, no agreement and absolutely no recognition of Israel policy. Arab leaders decided to safely protect the rights of Palestinian Arabs in employed regions.

Eventually, the president of Egypt negotiated with the people of Israel and made peace. During 1982, Egypt was given the Sinai Peninsula as a negotiation for exclusive recognition of Israel. In later events, Jordan and Egypt withdrew their plea to the Gaza Strip along with the West Bank to the Palestinians, whom during the early 1990s initiated "land for peace" conversations with Israel. Although Israel departed from the Gaza Strip in 2005, they still maintain a stable Israeli-Palestinian arrangement to reinstate the Golan Heights.

Casualties within the Arab nations were massive compared to the Israelis. 4,338 Egyptian soldiers were not only captured, but an unfortunate 15,000 were killed or immensely wounded. Approximately 6,000 Jordanians are assumed dead, in addition to 700 being killed in Gawrych cities. 1,000 Syrians were estimated to have been murdered in action.

From the mid-1969 to August of 1970 local fighting around the ceasefire borders of the Six Day War, which were mainly situated near the Suez Canal. The Egyptians used their weapons given by the Soviet Union to deal with the fighting. Around September Jordan now had a problem of their own. The Palestinian guerillas had attempted to overthrow the Jordanian monarchy. This was known as "Black September" due to the fact that the PLO wanted to have a more radical position within Jordan. This then puts the PLO in a bad position in the eyes of the Jordanians.

Palestinians hijacked 3 Jetliners to Amman (Jordan's capital) in September 1970 and subsequently blew them up on the ground, to make the King of Jordan look impotent or weak. After long standing and bloody confrontations between the Jordanian army and Palestinian commandos, where around 3,000 Palestinian fedayeen (guerrilla fighters) were killed, and the Jordanians turned back Syrian tanks, Hussein reasserted his control. He could not have succeeded, however, without the support of Israel, which, at the request of the United States, had threatened to intervene to prevent Syrian success.

PLO leaders and almost 15,000 PLO fighters relocated to Lebanon after the confrontation with King Hussein of Jordan in 1970 and 1971 and their ejection from Jordan. Lebanon, holding nearly 200,000 Palestinian refugees, was being further influenced into the Palestinian-Israeli War and tension increased amongst the Lebanese trying to preserve their independence, particularly the Muslims that held the best interests for Palestinians against Israel. The Palestinian problem worsened previously agitated economic and political contrasts.

November 15th, 1988, was a day the Israeli and Palestinian Conflict took a turn. The Palestinian National Council (PNC) proclaims the establishment of the Palestinian State. Yasser Arafat was the one who declared the creations of the state. He did not indicate the borders of such a state, although he said a 1947 United Nations partition plan, which provided for a Jewish state and an Arab state in Palestine, still offers a basis for "International legitimacy." This state would had been assumed to include the west bank of the Jordan river and the Gaza strip. The council voted to endorse a crucial resolution adopted in 1967 by the United Nations Security Council that recognizes the sovereignty of all states in the Middle East.

On April 16th, 1993 Hamas had carried out their first suicide bombing in Israel. A man blew his car up beside an Israeli bus parked near the settlement of Mechola, in the Jordan Valley.

Two passengers were killed and five wounded. Between 1993 and the second Intifada in 2000, thirty-seven suicide bombers exploded in Israel. This was a new era to the conflict already at hand.

On September 13th, 1993 the Oslo Peace Accord is signed by Israel and the PLO. Rabin, for his part, signed a letter recognizing the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and accepting the PLO as a negotiating partner. This was new step for both nations in coming to an agreement and peace after decades of conflicts and wars.

The history of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict continues. Mass bombings start to rise with hundreds dying in Israel, while Israeli soldiers kill children for going near the borders. Terrorist groups now use Palestine as a breeding center for recruitment. Nations around the world have had a huge presence in both nations. The United states, U.K, and Soviet Union having the biggest impact on the conflict, allowing themselves to each support a side.

1994-

Israel signed a peace treaty with Jordan in 1994.

1995-

Jewish ultranationalist Yigal Amir assassinated Rabin on November 4, 1995.

2000-

Talks on returning the Golan Heights to Syria collapsed in 2000. Israeli troops quit south Lebanon and the Camp David peace summit with Arafat and Israeli premier Ehud Barak failed.

The second Intifada began that same year.

2003-

In 2003 the Quartet -- the United States, European Union, United Nations and Russia -- made public a "road map" to peace talks. Arafat died the following year and Fatah's Mahmoud Abbas took over as president of the Palestinian Authority.

2005-

In 2005 Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Abbas declared a ceasefire and Israel pulled its troops and settlers out of the Gaza Strip after 38 years of occupation. Sharon was later hit by a stroke and succeeded by Ehud Olmert.

2006-

The Islamist group Hamas, steadily rising in power, won the Palestinian parliamentary election in January 2006.

2007-

War erupted in Lebanon after Hezbollah militants captured two Israeli soldiers and Israel responded with its full military might. At least 1,100 people in Lebanon and 157 Israelis were killed in 34 days of fighting.

Hamas forces routed Abbas loyalists in a week of fighting in Gaza in June 2007. Fatah lost all power in the strip. In the West Bank, Abbas dismissed a Hamas-led unity government.

In November 2007, a conference hosted by President George W. Bush at Annapolis, Maryland relaunched peace talks, aiming for a deal on a Palestinian state by end-2008.

2008-

The Annapolis process stalled and Olmert was forced to quit in September 2008 over a corruption inquiry. Speaking as caretaker, he said Israel must give up nearly all occupied land.

Hamas tightened its grip on the Gaza Strip and agreed on a ceasefire with Israel in June 2008. But a relatively calm summer gave way to renewed clashes as the truce reached the six-month mark, and the Israeli blockade of Gaza bit deeper.

Hamas declared the truce over on December 19 and Gaza militants stepped up rocket attacks on Israel, causing few casualties but sowing fear among Israelis living in rocket range. Both sides signaled they did not want any escalation. But Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said he would not hesitate to use Israeli might to crush Hamas if the rockets did not stop.

A day after opening Gaza border crossings to allow deliveries of fuel and food aid, and following top-level talks in Egypt between President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, Israeli forces struck with fighter planes and helicopters, killing over 155 people in Gaza, at least 100 of them Hamas policemen.

2010-

May 31- At least nine people died, and 30 were wounded, when Israeli troops boarded a flotilla of ships carrying aid for Gaza. It was the ninth attempt since 2008 to break an Israeli and Egyptian blockade of the Gaza Strip by sea.

2011-

March 19- Members of Hamas within Gaza launch more than 50 rockets into Israel. There have been thousands of rockets smuggled into Gaza following Operation Cast Lead, leading to a sudden resurgence of the terrorist group, Hamas, which were nearly eliminated by Israel in 2008.

May 4- Palestinian rivals, Fatah and Hamas, sign a reconciliation pact, bringing their four year reign to an end. The deal requires an interim government to control the West Bank, in order to protect the Abbas and prepare the Gaza strip for parliamentary and presidential elections.

September 20- President Mahmoud Abbas seeks a full UN membership for a Palestinian state at the United Nations.

October 31- Palestine becomes the 195th full member of UNESCO.



2012-

¹⁹ <https://intpolicydigest.org/2011/11/03/unesco-membership-for-palestine-may-leave-america-out-in-the-cold/>

January 25- Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks end within Jordan without improvement. Israel refuse to precondition, as requested by the Palestinians, and continue to build settlements on occupied land.

November 12- Palestinian officials seek Non-Member State Status at the United Nations.

The Palestinians distribute a draft resolution to 193-member states of the United Nations, for international recognition of a future state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem.

Israel's Foreign Ministry warned foreign governments that a successful Palestinian bid for a higher status at the United Nations could result in Israel's cancellation of the Oslo peace accords.

2014-

June 13 - Between June 13th to July 1st, Palestinian groups in Gaza launched 47 rockets towards Israel.

July 8 - In response, Israeli officials created Operation Protective Edge to fight armed Hamas within Gaza. Israel launched an air assault on Gaza, impacting thousands individuals and resulting in the death of 24 Palestinians. As armed Palestinian forces responded, by bombing major Israeli cities, 2,189 Palestinians were found dead, including more than 1,486 civilians, according to the UN. On the Israeli side, 67 soldiers were killed along with the six civilians. More than 4,800 rockets are believed to be fired from Gaza into Israel.

August 26 - Egypt arranged a one-month ceasefire to put a stop to the violence between Israel and Gaza After almost seven weeks of fighting, Israel and Gaza's Hamas agree to a ceasefire, following one of the deadliest wars Israel and Palestine have fought; leaving 2,200 dead.

2015-

March 16 - As violence escalates between the Palestinians and Israelis, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu refuses a two-state solution just before the election; further claiming that he would never create a Palestinian state if he was to return to office.

October 19 - Israeli forces utilize tear gas in response to conflict within occupied Palestinian territories, throughout the West Bank and the Gaza border; almost 2,000 Palestinians had been injured.

2016-

In 2016, to prevent the movement of people throughout the Gaza Strip, Israel continued to enforce strict restrictions on Palestinian human rights.

Violence that had derived from October 2015 continued in 2016, escalating violence, specifically a wave of stabbings, along the West Bank and the Gaza border. Furthermore, in 2016, the Palestinian military launched from Gaza into Israel, resulting in a rise of fear and disruption. The United States provided Israel with \$3.1 Billion US Dollars, due to obligations under the 1978 Camp David accords, for military requirements.

2017-

On February 7th of 2017, the Israeli Parliament passed a law to legalize Jewish Settlements on Palestinian Land. With the enforcement of this law, Jewish establishments on privately owned land in the West Bank will be allowed. However, it is likely that Israel's high court will disapprove the bill.

June - Work begins on the first new Jewish settlement in the West Bank for 25 years.

UNESCO votes to declare the Old City of Hebron a Palestinian World Heritage site, a move that Israel complains ignores the city's Jewish heritage.

December - US President Donald Trump recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, upsetting the Arab world and Western allies

2018

17th January- US funding cuts for UN Palestine refugee agency put vital education, health programmes at risk.²⁰

22nd January- UN agency for Palestine refugee launches global funding push after US aid cuts.

25th January- "We must also reaffirm the international consensus that the two-State solution remains the only viable option for a just and sustainable end to the conflict. We must be unwavering in this position," said Nickolay Mladenov, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, at a Security Council briefing, referring to a set of agreements, the first of which was signed in 1993, establishing a timetable for achieving peace between the two sides.²¹

²⁰ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/1000632>

²¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/1001221>



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30th January- Amid funding crunch, UN agency seeks \$800 million in lifesaving aid for Palestine refugees

20th February- Palestinian President Presents Plan to Relaunch Peace Talks with Israel, Says New Multilateral Mechanism Should Guide Process, in Briefing to Security Council.²³

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

Partition Plan

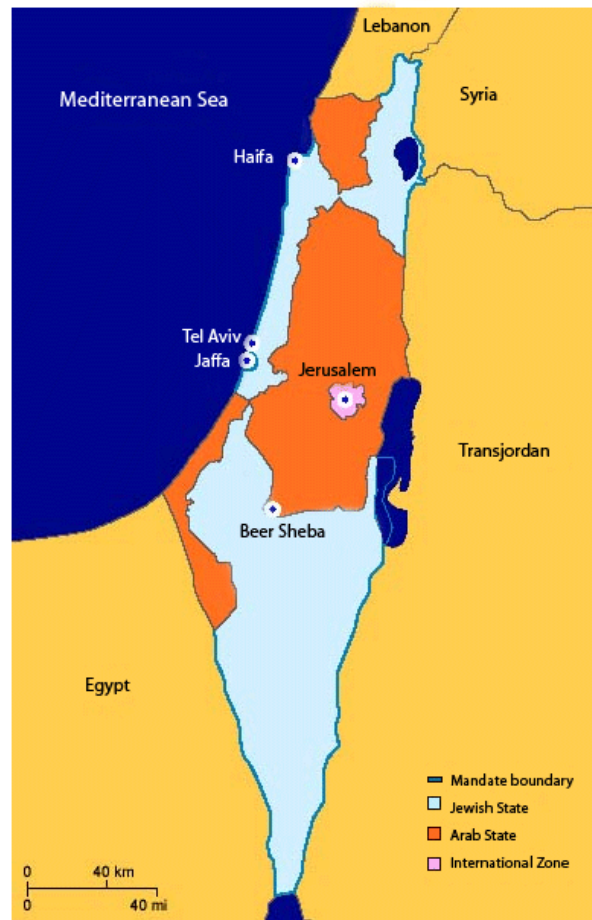
The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine was a proposal developed by the United Nations, which recommended a partition with Economic Union of Mandatory Palestine to follow the termination of the British Mandate. On 29 November 1947, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of the Plan as Resolution 181(II).²⁴

²² <https://twitter.com/Mondoweiss/status/954078856822099968>

²³ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13213.doc.htm>

²⁴ <https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/7F0AF2BD897689B785256C330061D253>

UN PARTITION PLAN 1947



25

The resolution recommended the creation of independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem. The Partition Plan, a four-part document attached to the resolution, provided for the termination of the Mandate, the progressive withdrawal of British armed forces and the delineation of boundaries between the two States and Jerusalem. Part I of the Plan stipulated that the Mandate would be terminated as soon as possible and the United Kingdom would withdraw no later than 1 August 1948. The new states would come into existence two months after the withdrawal, but no later than 1 October 1948.

The Plan sought to address the conflicting objectives and claims of two competing movements: Arab nationalism in Palestine and Jewish nationalism, known as Zionism. The Plan also called for Economic Union between the proposed states, and for the protection of religious and minority rights.

²⁵ <http://www.ijs.org.au/UN-Partition-Resolution/default.aspx>

The Plan was accepted by the Jewish public, except for its fringes, and by the Jewish Agency despite its perceived limitations. With a few exceptions, the Arab leaders and governments rejected the plan of partition in the resolution and indicated an unwillingness to accept any form of territorial division. Their reason was that it violated the principles of national self-determination in the UN charter, which granted people the right to decide their own destiny.

Immediately after adoption of the Resolution by the General Assembly, the civil war broke out. The partition plan was not implemented.

One-State Solution

The one-state solution and the similar bi-national solution are proposed approaches to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Proponents of a bi-national solution to the conflict advocate a single state in Israel, the West Bank, and possibly the Gaza Strip, with citizenship and equal rights in the combined entity for all inhabitants of all three territories, without regard to ethnicity or religion. While some advocate this solution for ideological reasons, others feel simply that, due to the reality on the ground, it is the de facto situation.

Though increasingly debated in academic circles, this approach has remained outside the range of official efforts to resolve the conflict as well as mainstream analysis, where it is eclipsed by the two-state solution. The two-state solution was most recently agreed upon in principle by the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authority at the November 2007 Annapolis Conference and remains the conceptual basis for negotiations proposed by the administration of U.S. President Barack Obama in 2011. Interest in a one-state solution is growing.

Two-State Solution

The two-state solution refers to a solution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict currently under discussion, which calls for "two states for two peoples." The two-state solution envisages an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel, west of the Jordan River.

The framework of the solution is set out in UN resolutions on the "Peaceful settlement of the question of Palestine", going back to 1974. The resolution calls for "two States, Israel and Palestine ... side by side within secure and recognized borders" together with "a just resolution of the refugee question in conformity with UN resolution 194". The borders of the state of Palestine are "based on the pre-1967 borders". The latest resolution in November 2013 was passed 165 to 6, with 6 abstentions. The countries voting against were

Canada, Israel, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Palau and the United States.

The Palestinians have "shown serious interest" in a two-state solution since the mid-1970s, and its mainstream leadership has embraced the concept since the 1982 Arab Summit in Fez. Over the years, polls have consistently shown "respectable Israeli and Palestinian majorities in favor of a negotiated two-state settlement." Agreeing on acceptable borders is a major difficulty with the two-state solution. There have been many diplomatic efforts to realize a two state solution, starting from the 1991 Madrid Conference. There followed the 1993 Oslo accords and the failed 2000 Camp David summit followed by the Taba negotiations in early 2001. In 2002, the Arab League proposed the Arab Peace Initiative. The latest initiative, which also failed, was the 2013–14 peace talks.

Three-State Solution

The three-state solution, also called the Egyptian-Jordanian solution, and the Jordan-Egypt option, is an approach to peace in the Israeli–Palestinian conflict by giving control of the West Bank to Jordan and control of the Gaza Strip to Egypt. The three-state solution essentially replicates the situation that existed between the 1949 Armistice Agreements and the 1967 Six-Day War. Beginning in 1949, Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip, Jordan occupied the West Bank, and no Palestinian Arab state existed. In 1950, Jordan officially annexed the West Bank and granted the Arab residents Jordanian citizenship.

Key Issues

Territory

Gaza is a small enclave that abuts the Mediterranean Ocean and Egypt to the southwest. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with close to 1 million people. Poverty and unemployment are rampant. The Islamic Palestinian party, Hamas, is very strong in Gaza. There are only a few Jewish settlements in Gaza and they are guarded by thousands of Israeli soldiers.

The West Bank is situated west of the Jordan River and Dead Sea, and east of most of Israel. Israel has occupied the land since its victory in 1967. It is now home to 2.1 million people, over 200,000 of whom are Jewish settlers. Of the 1.9 million Palestinians, over 500,000 are refugees, many still living in refugee camps. The economy is largely agricultural. Until the past two years, both Palestinian and Jewish residents who live in the West Bank crossed the border into Israel each day to work. Now only Jews can do so.

Israel's population is about 6.6 million. 5.3 million are Jews and 1.3 million are Arabs and others (such as Druze). If Israel were to absorb the territories it currently occupies, its population would be about 9.7 million, with 4.2 million non-Jews.

The border between Israel and the West Bank would probably have to change in any peace deal. There are about 500,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank, many of whom live near the border with Israel proper. In a two-state deal, some of these settlers would have to leave the West Bank while some border settlements would become Israeli land. In exchange, Israel would give over some of its territory to Palestine. These would be called "land swaps." No set of Israeli and Palestinian leaders has agreed on precisely where to draw the border.

Security

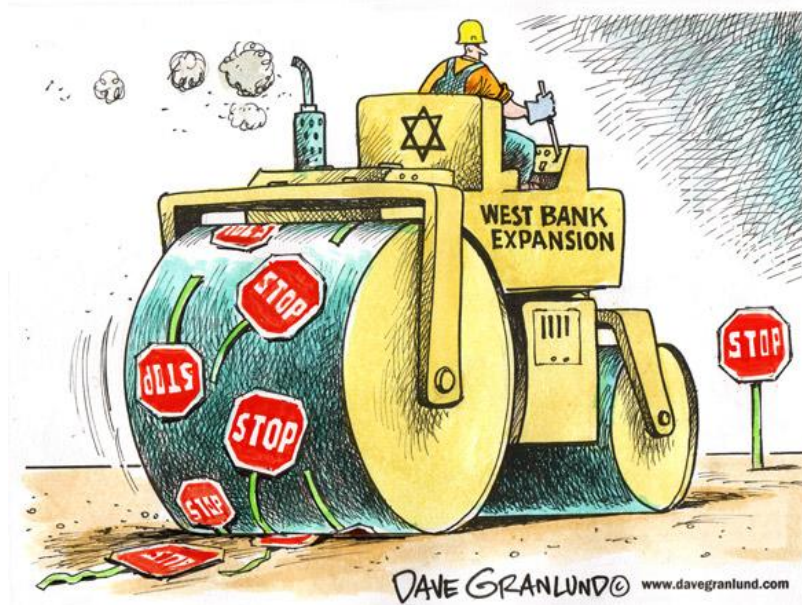
Israel says that it cannot accept Palestinian authority over the occupied territories if the security of Israeli citizens is not guaranteed. Thus, the Israeli government continues to hold Palestinian Authority responsible for the attacks on civilians in Israel. In addition, even if the borders of Israel were more secure, Israel does not trust the Palestinians to ensure the security of Jewish settlements. On the other hand, Palestinians do not believe that Israel will ever allow true self-determination because may it be through direct involvement or foreign involvement Israel will continue to shape/impede Palestine's right to self-determination. Even as Israel withdrew troops from some major cities in the West Bank, soldiers continued to protect Jewish settlements. In fact, most Palestinians claim that there was never any Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, merely redeployment.

For the past two years, to ensure security, the occupied territories have been under a near total "lock-down." Palestinians, who depend on work in Israel, cannot travel there anymore. Often, Palestinians cannot travel from town to town. Israeli military checkpoints are omnipresent. Military curfews are often imposed and schools shut down frequently. The economic consequences for Palestinians have been devastating. The average income of a Palestinian in the occupied territories is now 10% of that of an Israeli.

It's important for one to understand the context, means and method used by a particular leader to attain an end in order to understand an issue comprehensively. More Israeli citizens have been killed by terrorist attacks under the former Prime Minister Sharon's term than under any other period of an Israeli prime minister including the present one Benjamin Netanyahu. And, the retaliation for such attacks had been very strong, including the use of tanks and airpower in the West Bank and Gaza under his power. While some of the major figures in radical Palestinian groups have been killed or captured, most of the victims have been Palestinian civilians. However in the reign of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli responses have been more diplomatic and nonviolent.

Authority should be responsible for preventing terrorist attacks, yet the Israeli military has destroyed most of the infrastructure and capacity for Palestinians to act as a functioning government authority.

Settlements



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The first settlements in the occupied territories sprang up shortly after the 1967 war, and were intended essentially as security outposts. A few religious groups set up Jewish settlements to stake a claim to what they thought were ancient biblical lands. By 1980, there were 12,000 settlers, most of whom were religious Jews who saw the land of the West Bank as the sacred biblical lands of Judea and Samaria. These settlers were encouraged to settle in the Palestinian territories by the Likud government in the late 1970s. In the 1980s, economic incentives were utilized by the government to entice new settlers to the land and the government itself was building many of the new Jewish communities in the West Bank. The number of settlers by 1990 was 76,000 and by 1995 was 146,000. Today, the figure is close to 210,000 settlers, almost all of whom are in the West Bank. Most of the settlements close to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv house Israelis who moved there because the housing was cheaper and the commutes to jobs easier. Many of those who live in more remote settlements strongly believe that Israel has a right to this land and have worked very hard to undermine any peace agreement that would cede territory to Palestinians.

²⁶<http://www.davegranlund.com/cartoons/2009/08/25/israeli-settlements/>

Refugees and the Right of Return

Nearly three million Palestinians are refugees. Half a million live in the West Bank; the rest are mostly in refugee camps in Lebanon and Jordan or are spread elsewhere in the Middle East and the west as part of a large Palestinian Diaspora. Most of the refugees either lost their homes in 1948 or are the descendants of those who lived within the borders of the state of Israel. Some became refugees after the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967.

A core Palestinian demand in peace negotiations is some kind of justice for the refugees, most commonly in the form of the "right of return" to the homes their families abandoned in 1948.

Israel can't accept the right of return without abandoning either its Jewish or democratic identity. Adding 7 million Arabs to Israel's population would make Jews a minority - Israel's total population is about 8 million, a number that includes the 1.5 million Arabs already there. So Israelis refuse to even consider including the right to return in any final status deal.

One of the core problems in negotiations, then, is how to find a way to get justice for the refugees that both the Israeli and Palestinian people can accept. Ideas proposed so far include financial compensation and limited resettlement in Israel, but no two leaders have ever agreed on the details of how these would work.

Jerusalem

In the original UN partition plan, Jerusalem was to remain under international authority because of its prime status for the religions of Judaism, Islam and Christianity. In 1948 the state of Israel controlled the western part of Jerusalem while Jordan controlled the eastern part, including the old city, home to the most important holy sites of the three religions. Israel wants to maintain sovereignty and control over all of Jerusalem while the Palestinians want sovereignty over East Jerusalem and to establish it as the capital of a Palestinian state. East Jerusalem is majority Arab but new Jewish settlements have been built to help solidify the Israeli claim to the whole city.

Incitement

Hateful language, propaganda, and images emanating from school books, the media, and from religious authorities on both sides have led to violence that has rapidly increased in the past two years. True peace and reconciliation are impossible in such an environment. A major part of the problem is that when the Oslo peace process was underway, many people in both communities saw little benefit from peace. From 1992-2000, the standard of living

for the average Palestinian declined in half while Israelis saw a rise in violence during that same period.

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Reassessing the Need of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus

Introduction



27

Cyprus is a strategic geographic point in the Mediterranean area, at the intersection of three continents, and is often described as a “*microcosm of external ambitions*”. In the context of the Cold War, the dispute about the island was at the centre of the attention of the international community: Cyprus could at any moment become an object of military confrontation between Greece and Turkey, both members of NATO since 1952. While the 50th anniversary of the UN peacekeeping mission in Cyprus was celebrated in March 2014, the conflict still continues to move the international community today, especially because of the interweaving between the Cyprus dispute, Turkey’s aspiration to become a member of the European Union, and instability in the South-Mediterranean region. Turkey’s aspiration to become a member of EU is multifaceted, ranging from economic security against its sluggish growth rate to better security in light of events in Ankara others. EU stands divided over Turkey’s membership to the EU, however it is not to deny that lucrative benefits lie on EU side as well such as but not limited to integration of the place where NATO’s second largest troop are stationed, to a global image of standing with Islam and also a gateway to resource pipelines from Central Asia. Turkey’s geographic location and geo strategic importance should not be avoided while characterizing the debate as Turkey is that country which acts as a bridge between Europe and Asia.²⁷ The instability in the South Mediterranean region is also worth exploring. Beyond violent Islamists, the Mediterranean remains a reservoir of terrorism and political violence based on secular ideologies of the left and the right, nationalism and ethnic grievances. The sharp rise in PKK terrorism in Turkey (and terrorism by spin-off groups based in urban areas) is a leading

²⁷ <https://avrupanaliz.wordpress.com/tag/cyprus-dispute/>

²⁸ <http://www.debatingeurope.eu/focus/infobox-arguments-for-and-against-turkeys-eu-membership/>

example. Greece continues to confront steady, low-intensity terrorism from left-wing and anarchist cells, alongside right-wing extremism. Southern Europe as a whole has a long history in confronting separatist and ideological terrorism, and our debate pointed to the potential for its revival under conditions of protracted economic stress and political instability. The general rise of populist movements could also encourage the emergence of xenophobic, anti-globalization or simply nihilistic terrorism on the fringes of radical politics.²⁹

The issue of Cyprus is very closely related to the issues mentioned above. The parties and interest involved keep on pushing and pulling strings on one end or the other to restrict actions on one end or the other.

The peculiarity of this case study is that it seems immune to all attempts of peacemaking. As Epstein, British academician highlights it, the Cyprus dispute *“has resisted with tenacity the efforts of nations great and small to bring about a solution. It frustrates diplomats, amazes outside observers, irritates those who believe we had made progress in studying techniques of negotiation, and has been a sore point with secretaries-general of the UN”*.³⁰

The Historical Background



Cyprus, given its geographic position at the Eastern extremity of the Mediterranean, has always been a strategic point in the area and a place of migratory and commercial exchanges. Historically, the inhabitants of Cyprus are of Hellenic culture, whereas they have successively been under Persian, Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Venetian, then Ottoman domination from 1571 to 1878 and British domination from 1878 to 1960.

²⁹ <http://www.gmfus.org/blog/2016/06/20/terrorism-and-mediterranean-security-net-assessment>

³⁰ http://www.open-diplomacy.eu/blog/the-cyprus-dispute-a-failure-of-un-mediation#_ftn2

³¹ <https://www.economist.com/node/21635025/comments?page=1>

The conflict that still divides the island today originates in the 1950s-1960s, during the independence process. When the Greek Cypriot community took up arms to assert its independence in the 1950s, the British rulers used Turkish militia to help the colonial troops. Greece chose to internationalize the conflict in 1954, by bringing it in the UN arena (a multilateral organization newly created at the time) because it was afraid of not being able to face alone the British opponent.

The Zurich and London Independence Treaties in 1959 gave Turkey a right of military intervention in case of major threat to the independence of the island. In 1960, Cyprus adopted a constitution and became an independent republic, member of the UN, based on a bicomunal institutional(The term “bicomunal”, as defined by the United Nations Organization itself, means that the two communities will participate effectively in the organs and decisions of the central federal government)³² system in which the Turkish minority (representing 18% of the population) acquired an important political and military weight (30% of parliamentary seats and 40% of positions in the police).

The Greek community considering these quotas as disproportionate and attempted to reform the Constitution in the following years and this situation triggered strong tensions between communities which turned into violent clashes. In March 1964, Resolution 186 (1964) of the UN Security Council authorized the envoy of a UN peacekeeping force on the ground, the UNFICYP, which acted as a buffer force. This resolution had three implications: the establishment of the UNFICYP, the recognition of the effective control of the Greek Cypriot community on the Cypriot institutions, and the recognition of the UN accountability in the management of the peace process. Initially, an official mediator was appointed by the Secretary General. However, given the prevailing tensions between the two parties, the formal strategy of a “UN mediator” was abandoned in 1965 and replaced in 1966 by alternative mediations (the “Mission of Good Offices”).

In 1974, the conflict that we know today burst. The Colonels’ Regime who seized power in Greece by a military coup, tried to achieve *Enosis*, i.e. the union between Greece and Cyprus, with military intervention on the island. In response, Turkey invaded the island from the North (and justified this action by the Treaty negotiated with Great Britain at the time of independence) and quickly occupied 38% of the territory. The island was divided into two parts by a line, called the “Green Line”, on which were stationed the peacekeepers of the UNFICYP. In the North, the Turkish Cypriot community now lives, and in the South, the Greek Cypriot community. Although the first phase of the Turkish military intervention can be justified by the Treaty of Guarantee signed by Greece, Turkey and Great-Britain in 1960,

³²[http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/highcom/highcom_pretoria.nsf/all/3AF861EE6C2042E0C2257A4D0037CD2B/\\$file/CYPRUS%20AND%20FEDERATION.pdf?openelement](http://www.mfa.gov.cy/mfa/highcom/highcom_pretoria.nsf/all/3AF861EE6C2042E0C2257A4D0037CD2B/$file/CYPRUS%20AND%20FEDERATION.pdf?openelement)

the second phase clearly exceeds these prerogatives and can thus be considered by the international law as an illegal invasion.

The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) formally declared its independence in 1983 but is not recognized by the international community (with the exception of Turkey). In its Resolution 541 (1983), the UN condemns the Turkish occupation. For twenty years, the situation remained in deadlock, the negotiations (including under the auspices of the UN) failing repeatedly, and the ceasefire being maintained by the presence of the UN force on the Green Line.

In 1990, the Republic of Cyprus presented a formal application for accession to the European Union. This request was made at the appropriate time, given that enlargement had become a priority for the EU since the end of the Cold War. The European identity of Cyprus was immediately recognized by the EU, and the Republic of Cyprus officially became an EU member in May 2004 (the accession including *de facto* only the southern part of the island).

The many years of negotiations by the UN and probably the change in Turkey's policy (following the election of Recep Tayyip Erdogan as Prime Minister in 2003) led to the Annan Plan in 2004, which included the organization of a referendum to establish a federal state. While it was accepted by 65% of the Turkish community of northern Cyprus, the Annan Plan was rejected on April 24, 2004, by more than 70% of Greek Cypriots. The last fourteen years have been marked by a lack of progress, although some crossings between the North and the South of the island have been locally opened. The economic crisis and the recent discovery of gas resources can be seen as new obstacles to reunification, despite the continuous efforts of UN special envoys.³³

United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus

Background

UNFICYP was established by Security Council resolution [186 \(1964\)](#), with a mandate to prevent a recurrence of fighting and, as necessary, to contribute to the maintenance and restoration of law and order and a return to normal conditions. While the mandate of the Force remains the same, its responsibilities evolved, following the hostilities of 1974, to include supervising the ceasefire lines, maintaining a buffer zone and facilitating intercommunal contacts.

³³ <http://www.open-diplomacy.eu/blog/the-cyprus-dispute-a-failure-of-un-mediation>



The Security Council, in its resolution [1568 \(2004\)](#), approved the amended concept of operations and force level of UNFICYP outlined in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus dated 24 September 2004 ([S/2004/756](#)). That led to an authorized strength of 860 troops, including up to 40 military observers and liaison officers, and 69 police officers. Subsequently, the Security Council, in its resolution [2263 \(2016\)](#), decided to increase the Force's force level from 860 to 888. The increase was authorized in response to a recommendation in the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus dated 6 January 2016 ([S/2016/11](#)) that was based on enhanced planning efforts in UNFICYP in anticipation of a possible settlement agreement and the opening of two new crossing points. In addition to its military and police components, UNFICYP comprises a civil affairs component as well as mission support elements.

Current Situation

During its visit to Cyprus, the review team of the UN found that the situation in the UNFICYP area of operations remains calm. The number and type of military incidents have been relatively constant over the past 10 years, and no violent military incident has been reported since 1996. Nevertheless, challenges remain that have the potential to escalate tensions, negatively affect a resumption of the talks and contribute to a further deterioration in the relationship between the sides. Among those challenges is the continued positioning of the opposing forces (i. e., the Greek Cypriot National Guard and the Turkish forces and Turkish Cypriot security forces) along respective ceasefire lines, in some cases divided by only a few metres.

Activities of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus

Against that backdrop, the UNFICYP civilian, military and police components undertake various activities to execute its mandate: to prevent a recurrence of fighting and contribute to maintaining law and order in the buffer zone and a return to normal conditions. Those activities revolve around the concepts of deterrence, prevention and the resolution of conflicts through close liaison and direct engagement. While deterrence and prevention fall mainly, but not exclusively, within the remit of the UNFICYP military component, the resolution of conflicts through liaison and engagement is carried out by all components. In fact, liaison by all components and at all levels has become the primary tool for UNFICYP to resolve potentially confrontational situations and defuse tensions.

Civil Affairs

The UNFICYP civil affairs component supports the implementation of the Force's mandate to contribute to a return to normal conditions, working in close cooperation with the Force's military and police components. In that respect, the activities of the component are organized around three interrelated areas of work: the management of civilian activities in the buffer zone, the provision of support to intercommunal trust-building initiatives and the facilitation of the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Greek Cypriot and Maronite communities living in the north and support to Turkish Cypriots living in the south.

In 2014, to manage civilian activities in the buffer zone, UNFICYP established an integrated office in each sector, known as a Sector Civilian Activity Integrated Office, coordinated by one national Civil Affairs Officer and including two police and two military personnel. The offices engage not only with local communities and authorities, law enforcement agencies and the opposing forces, but also with individual Cypriots, such as farmers and landowners, to ensure that civilian activities in the buffer zone do not disrupt stability and security. An important factor in those efforts is a system of permits that dates back to the 1970s. Under that system, farmers receive permits from UNFICYP authorizing the use of land in the buffer zone whenever it does not interfere with security or law and order concerns. UNFICYP military and police patrols monitor compliance with the permit system.

It is found that the UNFICYP permit system is labour-intensive and suffers from various shortcomings, including limited support from the authorities. UNFICYP does not have access to cadastral records in a form that allows it to confirm title deeds presented by individuals applying for permits, and lacks the means to enforce compliance without the intervention of the relevant local law enforcement agencies. In the absence of formal endorsement by the authorities, many in the buffer zone do not feel compelled to comply with UNFICYP requirements. UNFICYP estimated that the level of compliance at present is around 40 per cent of all civilian activities in the buffer zone. UNFICYP has received

assurances, at the highest political level of the Government of Cyprus, that its authority to regulate civilian activities in the buffer zone is recognized. The officials also committed to support the Force's efforts to ensure that the permit system works effectively and that the authority of UNFICYP to manage civilian activity in the buffer zone is respected.

The considerable increase in civilian activity in the buffer zone has led to a rise in civilian disputes that have the potential to cause tensions. As a result, the review team found that UNFICYP plays an increasingly important role, liaising and engaging with local counterparts in an effort to resolve actual and emerging conflicts. To enable the Force to perform that role more effectively, the review team recommends that each Sector Civilian Activity Integrated Office be headed by one international Civil Affairs Officer, to be redeployed from UNFICYP headquarters. That would raise the profile of the integrated offices, strengthen their capacity in the sectors to mediate civilian disputes through community engagement and provide continuity with regard to engagement, including better outreach to women in the communities, which is critical to gaining the trust of interlocutors.

The UNFICYP civil affairs component also promotes intercommunal initiatives, working as a "connector and convener" among civil society actors and local community representatives. In addition, it supports the efforts of the diplomatic community, including the Religious Track of the Cyprus Peace Process, under the auspices of the Embassy of Sweden, and the Embassy of Slovakia, which brings together political parties for regular discussions. Recognizing that for several decades intercommunal initiatives were largely focused on a small group of activists in Nicosia, the civil affairs component has sought to strengthen cooperation between actors in Nicosia and other areas such as Limassol, Kyrenia, Famagusta and Deryneia/Derynia. The proposed redeployment of one international civilian staff member to each sector, as described above, would also help to strengthen ongoing efforts to promote intercommunal initiatives, including for women, beyond Nicosia.

It is found that, as at the date of reporting, interactions between the two communities remain scarce: while 3 million people crossed the green line in 2006, less than half that number crossed in 2016, with the majority of the crossings likely attributable to Turkish Cypriots living in the north. Civil society actors involved in promoting a culture of peace in Cyprus enjoy little political space or institutional support. Against that backdrop, most interlocutors met by the review team stressed that the modest role played by UNFICYP in support of intercommunal trust- and confidence-building has a significant impact. The review team therefore recommends that UNFICYP continue to facilitate intercommunal events, including small gatherings to promote contact between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot organizations, and assist with larger cultural events where communities can mix

freely. In their interaction with the review team, women’s organizations from both sides called for, in particular, specific events and “safe spaces” to meet as part of community-building.

The civil affairs component also assists Greek Cypriots with their appeals to the Turkish Cypriot authorities to attend services at religious sites in the north, and facilitates crossings of Turkish Cypriots for pilgrimages and commemorations in the south. In 2016, the Force received 139 such requests for services in the north, of which 84 were approved; it also facilitated three major pilgrimages from the north to the Hala Sultan Tekke mosque in the south. The pattern of approvals by the Turkish Cypriot authorities has been uneven, and many of the successful attempts to gain permission involved repeated UNFICYP intervention. While freedom of worship is the primary impact of the Force’s facilitation of requests for religious services, Greek Cypriot services that are held in villages with Turkish Cypriot residents also provide an opportunity for interaction between both communities.

Pursuant to the Third Vienna Agreement of August 1975 between the leaders of the two communities at the time, the UNFICYP civil affairs component, with support from UNFICYP police, has facilitated deliveries of humanitarian supplies and conducted visits to Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north, and visited Turkish Cypriots in the south. Further to the decision by the Turkish Cypriot authorities to impose customs duties on non-medical items in the humanitarian delivery package, implemented as at 1 October 2017, UNFICYP no longer delivers food and non-food items, although it continues to deliver medical supplies and conduct home visits. In the coming period, UNFICYP will continue to work with communities and authorities to ensure that sustainable ways are found to provide for the social welfare, health and educational needs of Greek Cypriots and Maronites living in the north, and Turkish Cypriots in the south.

Military component



³⁴ <https://unyanet.org/projects/study-trip-to-cyprus/>

General, comprises 888 troops, including a Force headquarters of 60 multinational staff officers and soldiers; three sectors, each commanded by a Lieutenant Colonel; and Force troops consisting of a Mobile Force Reserve, a military police unit, engineers and a military aviation unit. The Force maintains 5 camps, 10 permanent observation posts and 3 patrol bases.

Of the authorized military strength of 888 personnel, 28 positions were established under Security Council resolution [2263 \(2016\)](#) to support military planning efforts in anticipation of a possible settlement. With planning for a settlement no longer requiring extensive Force resources, the review team recommends that 20 of those positions be repatriated. The remaining eight positions would need to be retained for monitoring requirements at the Deryneia/Derynia and Lefka-Aplici/Lefke-Apliç crossing points, which are expected to be opened in the coming months.

The UNFICYP military component employs a combination of static observation posts and mobile patrols. Mobile patrols along the 180 -kilometre buffer zone are conducted on foot, in vehicles and by helicopter, and are coordinated and supported by the Force headquarters and troops. The review team found that the daily patrols conducted by the Force, including jointly with UNFICYP police, have a significant preventive effect. The review team therefore recommends that patrolling should continue in all sectors at current levels. At the same time, by eliminating some redundancies and optimizing joint patrolling by the UNFICYP military and police components, 25 positions from the Force across the three sectors can be saved, 10 of which could be used to strengthen the military observation and liaison structure , and the other 15 repatriated. The proposed limited reduction does not affect the current operational tempo, nor the flexibility to constitute a modest sector -level reserve force if required. The question herein now boils down to the purpose of UNFICYP, is it to maintain status quo or make it better? If it's that of making it better, till how long will self-sufficiency be ignored in this.

Police component

The UNFICYP police component is headed by a Senior Police Adviser and comprises 69 police officers and 1 civilian support staff member. Ten UNFICYP police officers are currently deployed at Force headquarters; the remaining 59 are deployed at eight locations in the buffer zone. Eighteen police officers are deployed in sector 1, 15 in sector 2 and 26 in sector 4. That includes between five and seven officers with command responsibilities in each sector. The UNFICYP police component has the highest ratio of women police officers in any United Nations peacekeeping operation: 29, or 42 per cent, of the 69 police officers are women, including the Senior Police Adviser.

UNFICYP police conduct daily patrols and hold meetings with local community leaders and representatives in order to contribute to the maintenance of law and order in the buffer zone. On average, UNFICYP police conduct more than 8,000 patrols a year, including joint patrols with the military in order to monitor the situation and mediate incidents that have the potential to raise tensions between the opposing forces, between civilians and between the military and civilians. In addition, three UNFICYP police officers are assigned to the Civilian Activity Integrated Office at Force headquarters, and two are assigned to each of the three Sector Civilian Activity Integrated Offices. As part of that integrated structure, UNFICYP police officers engage primarily with the police authorities on both sides of the island to help regulate civilian activities in the buffer zone and resolve disputes. Over the past six years, UNFICYP police have handled an average of 3,000 incidents in the buffer zone a year, the majority of which have occurred in sectors 1 and 4. The review team recommends that additional UNFICYP police officers be deployed to the sectors for patrolling and liaison by reducing police personnel at both Force and sector headquarters. Among the additional police officers to be deployed to the sectors, two should be assigned to each Sector Civilian Activity Integrated Office. The second of those officers could also, time permitting, be available to conduct joint patrols with the military in order to maximize impact of in order to contribute to the maintenance of law and order in the buffer zone within the limited resources available, and thereby increasing the effectiveness and impact of UNFICYP activities in the sectors.

Force Coordination and Support

Structured and regular coordination of the activities of UNFICYP across all components presently takes place only within the Sector Civilian Activity Integrated Offices and at Force headquarters. The flow of information within the components comes together in a formal way only at the level of my Special Representative. The review team found that this was already insufficient and would become even more so if and when the new structure, providing for enhanced liaison across all components and at all levels, was implemented. The review team, therefore, recommends the establishment of a Joint Operations Centre and a Joint Mission Analysis Centre, as is the case in other missions. As in other multicomponent missions, the Joint Operations Centre would provide integrated situational awareness and facilitate operational activities undertaken by individual mission components. The Joint Mission Analysis Centre would provide integrated analysis based, inter alia, on information collected from all components, including through standard and ad hoc strategic reports. The Joint Operations Centre would ensure effective information - sharing among all mission components and other relevant stakeholders, while the Joint Mission Analysis Centre would provide multisource integrated analysis and predictive assessments for the benefit of the Force's senior management. The review team finds that a Joint Operations Centre and a Joint Mission Analysis Centre would be indispensable in view

of the proposed new emphasis on liaison and community engagement, and would, to some extent, make up for the lack of a full -fledged political office in UNFICYP. The review team is of the opinion that UNFICYP should be able to create at least a Joint Operations Centre-like structure from existing resources, but sees a need for an additional senior civilian staff member to head the Joint Mission Analysis Centre.³⁵

Current Status of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus

The Security Council on 30th January 2018 renewed the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months and endorsed implementation of recommendations contained in the Secretary-General's strategic review of the mission.

Unanimously adopting resolution 2398 (2018), the Council extended UNFICYP's mandate until 31 July and welcomed efforts by the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leadership to reach a comprehensive and durable settlement.

Noting the outcome of the Conference on Cyprus, which reconvened in June 2017 in Crans-Montana, Switzerland, it urged the sides and all involved participants to renew their political will and commitment to a settlement under United Nations auspices.

Recalling its resolution 2369 (2017), the Council called upon leaders of the two sides to, among other things, put their efforts behind further work on reaching convergences on core issues, and to improve the atmosphere for negotiation, including through more constructive and harmonized messages and refraining from rhetoric that could make success harder to achieve.

Requesting the Secretary-General to maintain transition planning in relation to a settlement, the Council welcomed his report on the Strategic Review of UNFICYP (document [S/2017/1008](#)) and endorsed implementation of its recommendations within existing resources.³⁶

Links for Further Reading

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/cyprus/> (From here you can access all the official documents of the United Nations on the issue of Cyprus)

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13187.doc.htm> (The latest resolution about renewal of mandate)

³⁵ <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1740064.pdf>

³⁶ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13187.doc.htm>

<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/N1740064.pdf> (Strategic review of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces in Cyprus)

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/the-cyprus-issue-overview.en.mfa> (The whole Cyprus dispute in detail)

[http://www.atlantic-community.org/app/webroot/files/articlepdf/Cyprus\[1\].pdf](http://www.atlantic-community.org/app/webroot/files/articlepdf/Cyprus[1].pdf)

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/cyprus-issue-summary.en.mfa>

<http://www.e-ir.info/2017/08/12/the-fallacies-of-the-cyprus-problem/>