



Background Paper

Committee: Human Rights

Topic: Safeguarding Human Rights in the Israel-Palestine Conflict: Assessing the Impact on Civilian Rights and the International Community's Role

Chairs: Dan Issacar Castro Gurrola and Juliana Isabel Peña Salas

The enduring Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a severe issue that has persisted for numerous years. This conflict started when the movement Zionism surfaced, (According to Oxford academics it was a “national movement of establishment and support of an independent Jewish state in its ancient homeland”) in the late 19th century. This movement increased after the Holocaust, resulting in the creation of Israel. The League of Nations after World War I, granted Britain to rule Palestine, at this time tensions between Jewish and Arab communities increased, accompanied by land disputes. The current situation involving Israel and Palestine has caused more than tens of thousands of lives to be lost (Council of Foreign Relations, 2). Human rights violations that occur both in Israel and Palestine are the violation of torture and maltreatment, the intimidation of undesirable persons, restrictions on the freedom of speech and the press, and the hampering of the work of human rights organizations.

The human rights treaties of which Israel and Palestine are part according to Human Rights include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), this treaty requires member nations to enforce and defend fundamental human rights, including the right to life and human dignity. Additionally, they are also part of the “Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment” It demands the current member states to take all appropriate action to stop and punish torture and cruel treatment”. The global community's job in this conflict has severely impacted the way this problem has turned out. The

United States, a world power and ally of Israel, has been crucial in diplomatic efforts (putting up peace plans, helping shuttle diplomacy between the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians, and hosting peace conferences). An example of these diplomatic efforts made by the United States was in 1978, when Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords, also in 1993 Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed the Oslo Accords. Another diplomatic effort made by the United States was in 2020 there were brokered groundbreaking agreements between Israel and the UAE, followed by Bahrain. These deals, known as the Abraham Accords, marked a significant shift in the dynamics of the Middle East. The challenges in enforcing international human rights standards in the region civilians may enhance in their countries are a large amount. The first is political complexity, because deeply rooted political, historical, and religious issues, may make it difficult to respect the human rights of all groups. Citizens are facing an issue with blockades and restrictions on movement.

In 2007, tensions arose between the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority and Hamas, leading to Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip. This power shift caused significant humanitarian crises, as highlighted by the United States Institute of Peace. Handling the situation involving Palestinian refugee's desire to return home is a challenge. Implementing and ensuring the international human rights standards in this context is complicated. Additionally, a notable obstacle exists due to a lack of accountability. Allegations of human rights violations against both Israeli and Palestinian authorities persist without adequate responsibility being acknowledged, hindering the enforcement of international human rights standards.

In 1967 civilian rights were affected by the Israeli Settlement Expansion. Israel began establishing settlements in East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, resulting in long land disputes and increased tensions between Palestine and Israel. The citizens' capacity for exercising freedom of speech and autonomy was significantly violated. The expansion of settlements is generally considered to be in opposition to global legislation, especially the Fourth Geneva Convention, which according to the International Humanitarian Law Databases forbids “the transfer of civilians from an occupying power into territory it occupies. Communities of Palestinians moved away as a result of settlement construction”. According to BBC News in 2014 there was also a disagreement between Israel and Hamas “The conflict ended in significant fatalities and catastrophe, mostly in Gaza”. Again Israel's civilian rights were violated due to the

extensive damage to civilian infrastructure. On the other hand, the group in charge of the Gaza Strip, Hamas, was drawn for its criticism due to its acts of violence. The accusations directed at them turn around an irresponsible burst of rockets fired randomly into innocent Israeli people. However, Israel, as previously stated, has also violated the rights of Palestinians, an example of this is Israel's settlements in areas of Palestine that are internationally recognized as occupied, which goes against international law. These settlements have direct effects on Palestinian land, limiting their access and sparking disputes over resources and territory.

The conflict between Palestine and Israel is taking the lives of innocent people, it needs to be stopped. The fundamental right to life holds significance among all rights even in the face of numerous other rights being violated. This is because no individual possesses the authority to deprive another person of their opportunity to live, to be free, and to express their opinion. In the committee, it will be debated the various methods to address human rights concerns in this conflict. This topic is crucial to address because Human rights violations are a concern on both conflicting sides. After all, the security of Israelis and Palestinians is as well affecting the global community, because of the ongoing tensions and conflicts. For this conflict to be resolved is essential to bring stability and peace to the area.

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Background Paper

Committee: Human Rights

Topic: Ensuring the Protection and Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

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The global crisis, characterized by the issues of asylum seekers and refugees, represents one of the most crucial humanitarian challenges nowadays. Driven by political instability, conflict, climate change, and repression, millions of people are forced to leave their homes in search of safety.

The way borders are managed significantly affects the experiences of those seeking asylum and refugees. Although they were designed to manage migration flows, strict border controls often intensify the vulnerability of people finding a place to stay. These policies expose people to the risk of trafficking, exploitation, and limited access to basic rights and services.

In addition, the resettlement process, characterized by long waiting periods, limited allowances, and bureaucratic hurdles, often causes uncertainty and instability, which has an enormous impact on the physical condition and mental health of these people. Receiving countries are responsible for protecting the health of refugees and the rights of asylum seekers inside their borders. While some countries have comprehensive frameworks that offer great opportunities for protection, integration, and support, others make no effort to apply their obligations fully. The prevalence of scarce resources, overcrowded camps, and limited access to essential services such as education and healthcare, point out the challenges faced by both asylum providers and displaced people.

Countries worldwide need to collaborate closely to address the protection and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers. Reforming border policies to ensure humane treatment and

dignity, increasing resettlement opportunities, and adopting a more equitable sharing of responsibilities between countries are urgent steps. Protecting human rights, promoting comprehensive integration, and providing adequate resources are essential for receiving countries to allow asylum seekers and refugees to rebuild their lives.

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