

**Forum:** HUM (Human Rights Council)

**Issue:** The question of ensuring the human rights within the Israel-Gaza conflict

**Student Officer:** *Jacob Dietrich, Katharina Assmann, Hannah Reynolds Bezuijen*

---

## Introduction

The infraction of the human rights on the Gaza-Stripe is an issue, affecting the middle east for several decades. The predominant conflict is: who has the power over the Gaza? Eventually, the Islamic-Palestinian organization also called “ Hamas ” became the controlling force of Gaza and therefore they exerted their power extremely and captivated Gazas citizens. Additionally, Israel is expressing their power by bombing Gaza and meanwhile occupying the West Bank. The roots of those acts of aggression can be found in 1948 when Israel was found. After the second World War Great Britain gave Jews from all over the world the opportunity the form a state, while native Arabs were forced to accept their eviction.

Freedom of speech in the west bank and in Gaza is forbidden, decorators and political rivals are arrested. To finally end the legion protest, the freedom of assembly is forbidden as well and in some cases excessive measures are used to stop the uprisings. In Gaza and in the West Bank, torture and other mistreatments of prisoners are on the order of the day. Lastly, women and children are discriminated and need to suffer under violence. Because of those negative treatments, the Gaza-Conflict is a major issue of the Human rights councils, whose goal it to solve the problems in the long term.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Zionism

Zionism is a ideology which is awakened through nationalistic movements coming from the jewish state Palestina. Its aim is it to protect, guard and legitimise Palestina as a whole. This ideology is crucial in order to understand the reasoning behind the awakening of the conflict.

### Operation Summer Rains

Operation “Summer Rains”: refers to the series of battles between Palestinian militants and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) during summer 2006 prompted by the Palestinian operations which resulted in the capture of Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit.

### **Operation Hot Winter**

Operation “Hot Winter”: was an successful Israel defence forces military campaign within the Gaza strip launched on February 29, 2008 in response to the Qassam rockets fired from the strip by Hamas on Israeli civilians. There ended up being 54 civilian casualties.

### **Operation Pillar of Defence**

Operation “Pillar of Defence”: was the largest IDF operation in the Hamas-governed Gaza strip which began on the 14. November 2012 with the killing of Ahmed Jabari who was chief of the Gaza military wing of Hamas, by an Israeli air strike.

### **Intifada**

Word for word Intifada can be translated as “shaking off”, a form of grinding violence. The enormous support coming from the Palestinians across towns, villages but in fact also social divisions is a strong characteristic of an Intifada.

## **Background Information**

The conflict between Israelis and the Palestinians has been going on for a very long time. It started, when the Romans destroyed the Jewish temple in Jerusalem, therefore the Jews needed to flee and distributed all over the world. Since then the Jews started to have the wish for an own state, Palestina. But the main part of this state was inhabited by the Arabas, the main part of them are the Palestinians. Great Britain allowed the Jews to immigrate there, after the Holocaust in the second world war the immigration of the Jews in Jerusalem rose extremely.

Since 1996 the Gaza strip has been subjected and separated from Israel by the Israel-Gaza barrier which helped to reduce infiltration of Israel from suicide bombers. It seemed as if the separation between the Israeli and the Palestinians held advantages thereof, since traveling across the border became much more of a burden and the people were therefore “protected” and shielded from terrorism. However, the economical situation for Palestinians has worsened since then. A lot of Palestinians were no longer able to work in Israel. About 40 percent of the people do not have a job in the isolated Gaza region which is about twice as high as in the West Bank.

## Second Intifada

The second Intifada (Uprising), which began in September 2000, is regarded as a struggle of national liberation against Israeli occupation by the Palestinians. Many Israeli, however, consider it to be a simple act of terrorism. The actions on the side of the Palestinians were taken to an extreme when firing Qassam rockets into the east southern Israeli residential areas. The bombing and targeting of Hamas militants and activists around the years of 2005/2006 acted as an enforcement and began to trigger both sides, who were then eager to take even more extreme measurements in order to sustain their idea of a peaceful nation. Since the Hamas' occupation, Palestinian armed groups in Gaza and Israel continued to evolve and strike back. Palestinian groups have fired rockets into Israel, killing Israeli civilians, including children, and wounding others, as well as causing damage to infrastructure. Israel then decided to act on the Palestinian attacks, causing devastating damage to infrastructure as well. This led to the beginning of the conflict in 2006 especially Operations such as the "Summer Rain" Operation and the "Autumn Clouds" Operation, both taking place in the year of 2006. According to Human Rights Watch, the Palestinian attacks against civilians disregarded and opposed the international humanitarian law in all aspects. Because Hamas exercises power inside Gaza, they are the ones responsible for stopping unlawful attacks even if they themselves may not be responsible for that particular action.

## Major countries and Organizations involved

### Israel

Being founded in 1948 Israel is one of the most important countries involved in this conflict. It faced several wars and conflicts and due to its small size it developed very harsh procedures against enemies. As it also commenced an offensive war against its neighbours, the relationship with Palestine can be described as hostile and is always on a tense state.

### Palestine

Palestine is Israel's opponent in this conflict. The population consists almost completely of Arabs. In the recent time it faced a lot of illegal settlement programs of Israel which rise the tension with the Israelis. Palestine also claims Jerusalem as its capital. All those provocations and political

policies led to several demonstrations. Now it is time to find a solution that brings peace into the region for a peaceful coexistence.

## Egypt

Having a respectable and working relation between Egypt and Israel, seems to be quite a paradox in regards to the Palestinian government bootlegging weapons and arms into the Gaza strip with the help of Egyptian tunnels where the underground smuggling took place. However, President Al-Sisi who deeply despises the Hamas, knows, that Egypt could indeed use Israel as an ally. He therefore is already negotiating between the opposing parties, hoping that this will draw Israel's attention to the further destruction of the Palestinians.

## United States of America

It is known for years that the US was somehow involved in the Gaza conflict, "protecting" by any means the government of Israel. Between 2010 and 2012 the reasons and interactions for the union between the US and Israel started to become public. An obscured payment of around 500.000 Dollars was supervised towards Israeli agents, regarding the cooperation within electronic observation of radio signals.

## Fatas

A Palestinian nationalist political party and the largest faction of the confederated multi-party PLO (Palestine Liberation organization)

## Palestine Liberation Organisation

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, is an organisation founded in 1964, with its aim and dedication of restoring and protecting the Palestinian homeland. Even though its ideologies are based on measurements that go beyond violence regarding Israeli civilians, the organisation is not based on religious beliefs.

## Timeline of events

### Date

June 28<sup>th</sup> , 2006

### Description of event

Beginning of the conflict - Operation "Summer Rains" is included in this time period. The first major mobilization within the Gaza strip which led to the Gaza beach blast

and the destabilization of the Palestinian National Authority

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Operation “Autumn clouds” emerged followed by the ceasefire based on the reduction of Qassam rocket launching Battle of Gaza between Palestinian militants and the IDF. This battle came to an end on the 23 January 2008 after Israels decision to cut the water and food supplies off.

February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

After the firing of 40 Qassam rockets, the operation “Hot Winter” emerged. The protest against the IDF attacks began to rise which was followed by a wide spread of International affairs and alarms. Israel's actions were hardly criticised on an international level.

December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008

The Gaza War began after Israel launched an enormous military campaign within the Gaza strip. This was carried out with the aim of reducing the Rocket attacks by the Hamas on southern Israel. Through this the smuggling should be prevented as well.

March, 2010

The worst operation after the “Cast lead” operation, an operation which was a three-week armed battle between Palestinians and Israelis on the Gaza strip resulting in a ceasefire, continued in 2010 with an operation called Operation “Returning echo”

October, 2012

The last operation called “Pillar of Defence” Operation was more radical and extreme then the year of 2010. Israel hoped for them to be in a decision of self-defence.

November, 2012

The United Nations recognized Palestine from a non-member observer entity to a non-member observer state which provides Palestine with new hope for leverage in their trade with Israel.

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The beginning of the Gaza War. It came to an end with a ceasefire 50 days later.

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

During the 1990's the prime minister of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin a left-wing politician followed a policy - under the protest of many conservatives - of peace with the Palestinians. Negotiations resulted in the declaration of principles. The government of the state of Israel and the PLO agreed that it is time to put an end to decades of confrontation and conflict by arranging this main agreement between the two parties, the declaration of principles on Interim Self-governing. Israel guaranteed the withdrawal of its forces from the Gaza strip and the West Bank, recognized the PLO as a representative organisation of the Palestinians and provided them the rights to govern themselves. In return the Palestinians renounced all aspirations to destruct the state of Israel.

Even though those attempts to solve the issue between the two parties has been a milestone in the history of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a lot of issues remained uncertain.

Major issues such as the villages of the Israelis in the Palestinian territory, border demarcation and the fate of the Palestinian refugees were supposed to be discussed in the following years. Unfortunately, the prime minister Rabin has been assassinated in Tel Aviv after a holding a speech demanding peace. Provocations by both sides led to the failure of any further successful negotiations.

## Possible Solutions

- trying to organise a permanent accommodation for the Palestinian refugees
- urging to find a way of peaceful coexistence
- trying to solve issues with fundamentalists
- bringing any provocations to a stop
- Finding a way of peaceful coexistence by either forming one state or establishing the two state solution

## Bibliography

- “Oslo I Accord” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation. 7.3.2018. Web.
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo\\_I\\_Accord#Agreed\\_Minutes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_I_Accord#Agreed_Minutes)
- “Gaza-Israel conflict” Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation. 27.03.2018 Web. (Date accessed 31.03.2018)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza-Israel\\_conflict](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza-Israel_conflict)
- “Die erste Intifada und das Friedensabkommen von Oslo” Schäuble, M. BPB. 23.3.2008 [German]. Web. (Date accessed 31.3.2018)
- <http://www.bpb.de/internationales/asien/israel/45071/intifada-und-oslo>
- “A human rights crime in Gaza” Welt. Jimmy Carter. 15.05.2008 Web. (Date accessed 31.03.2018)
- <https://www.welt.de/english-news/article1997642/A-Human-Rights-Crime-In-Gaza.html>
- “The World Factbook” Central Intelligence Agency. CIA Association. 20.03.2018 Web. (Date accessed 31.03.2018)
- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>