



# **Hanyang Model United Nations VIII**

## **Chair Report**

**Committee: The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

**Chairs: Gyumin Kim, Nahyun Ju**

**Agenda: Evaluating and improving the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, with a focus on accountability, justice, and adherence to international humanitarian laws, including the Geneva Conventions.**

### **1. Committee Introduction**

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), established on 15 March 2006 by the UN General Assembly in its resolution 60/251, is the main intergovernmental body within the United Nations. The Council was formed with the mandate to work to strengthen, promote, and protect the rights of humans worldwide, as well as to address the instances of human rights violations and provide guidance to resolve them peacefully. The UNHRC directs its focus throughout the year to settle various pressing human rights issues by meeting at the United Nations Office in Geneva (UNOG). The Council's primary goals are to ensure universal comprehension and to prevent violation of individual rights, while guaranteeing equitable access to these rights, scrutinising governmental efforts in safeguarding the rights of individuals, monitoring governmental adherence to the United Nations agreements, and providing aid and assistance to individuals whose rights have been violated.

As a predecessor to the UNHRC, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights was established in 1946 with the purpose of guaranteeing essential human rights and freedoms. The Commission started with 18 Member States and grew to encompass 53 Member States. The Commission's brief expanded over time, with the necessity to respond to a wide range of human rights issues and set up standards for governing countries' actions. Prior to its abolishment, the Commission was utilised as a platform for countries – both small and large – to express their concerns regarding human rights issues along with human rights organisations, advocacy groups, and non-governmental organizations. It was then replaced by

UNHRC on 23 March 2006, on the basis for more effective human rights protection. As a council, the UNHRC holds a higher status and greater accountability than the former Commission placed by a stronger body; the former was told to close shop. The Council is guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity, and non-selectivity and works to enhance the promotion and protection of all human rights, including civil, political, economic, social, cultural, and the rights to development (resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 March 2006).

Currently, the UNHRC has 47 elected Member States that serve on a rotating basis. Members are chosen directly and individually by the 193 Member States in the UN General Assembly and are expected to cooperate fully with the Council with the commitment to uphold high human rights standards. There are five UN regional groups, that are equally distributed among the Member States: African States (13 seats), Asia-Pacific States (13 seats), Eastern European States (6 seats), Latin America and Caribbean States (8 seats), Western European and other States (7 seats). Elections are held on a yearly basis, with one of the members being renewed each year. Each Member State serves a three-year term, with a maximum of two consecutive terms. The rotational structure of the Council membership was to ensure that all groups are represented and to enhance its credibility by having diverse opinions when tackling human rights abuses worldwide. Through the utilization of the Universal Periodic Review, the UNHRC serves as a forum to guarantee multilateral cooperation for addressing national and international human rights violations as well as to conduct comprehensive reviews of human rights records of all UN member states. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) offers significant support to the UNHRC through substantive, technical, and secretariat assistance. The UNHRC holds three regular sessions per year: one in March, June, and September.

As an international platform for dialogue on human rights matters, the Council's regular sessions consist of discussions about resolutions or decisions reflecting the global community's stance on specific human rights violations and prompt governmental action to prevent this. It collaborates with UN officials, mandated experts, nation-states, civil society, and other willing participants. In cases of urgent human rights crises, they may convene for special sessions. As of October 2024, the UNHRC has held a total of 57 regular sessions. Specifically, from its establishment in 2006 to 2023, the UNHRC has held a total of 36 special sessions and 9 urgent debates; adopted 1,481 resolutions; set up 38 commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions; and established 60 Special Procedures mandates (Welcome

to the Human Rights Council). The UNHRC is constantly adapting and improving, to better combat the growing human rights issues in the world today.

## **2. Agenda Background**

### **a. 2007 Gaza Blockade**

In June 2007, the Israeli authorities imposed a further restriction on the Israel-Gaza crossings as a response to the takeover of Gaza by Hamas. This restricted the movement of necessary goods, resources, and people – both in numbers and allowed categories – effectively isolating Gaza from other Occupied Territories and the world (*Timeline: the humanitarian impact of the Gaza blockade*). With patients dying in the process of waiting for the response on their application to exit Gaza for specialized treatment, till Oct 2023, this blockade into and out of Gaza (via land, sea, and air), repeated short periods of some relative ease (with commercial transfer and exports resuming) and periods of complete blockade (*The Gaza Strip | The humanitarian impact of 15 years of blockade - June 2022*). This blockade also included access to the Gaza coast, with Israeli authorities allowing access to about 50% of the allocated fishing waters under the Oslo Accords in June 2022. However, following the events of 7 October 2023, Israel declared a complete siege on Gaza, blocking all crossing for 20 days and exacerbating the situation in Gaza even further.

### **b. 7 October 2023 and the Siege on Gaza**

On 7 October 2023, Izz ad-Din alQassam Brigades (members of the Hamas armed wing), along with other Palestinian armed groups and Palestinian civilians, carried out an attack against the Israeli civilian communities and military bases in southern and central Israel. A large-scale rocket and mortar attacks were made, and more than 1,200 persons were killed (by members of the Palestinian armed groups or by rockets and mortars), 812 of which were civilians (Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *Swords of Iron*). At least 252 people were taken hostage to Gaza, including 90 women, 36 children, elderly, and about 20 Israeli security forces. Many of the abducted Israeli security forces have been killed while captive (*Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel 6-9*). As of 26 May

2024, 125 hostages remain captive in Gaza, dead or alive (Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *Swords of Iron*). Public statements declaring that rockets were intentionally launched towards Israeli civilian targets (such as residential areas in Tel Aviv) were made by Hamas on 7 Oct 2023. However, the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel – “The Commission” – (established by the United Nations Human Rights Council on 2021), noted that these rockets fired by the Palestinian armed groups: “lacks precision guidance systems” and are “inherently inaccurate”. The committee also added that “[the Palestinian armed groups’] accuracy in distinguishing between military and civilian targets remains limited” (*Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel* 6-9).

Following the attack on 7 October 2023, Israel initiated a large-scale military and announced a complete siege on Gaza: a response which resulted in the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories “dramatically worsen[ing]” (*Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories* 4). This siege involved cutting off water, fuel, and electricity, as well as the movement of goods into Gaza; and between 7 and 20 October 2023, no humanitarian aid trucks could enter the Gaza Strip. On 18 October 2023, the Prime Minister of Israel, Netanyahu, stated that “we will not allow humanitarian assistance in the form of food and medicines from our territory to the Gaza Strip” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs. *Statement by PM Netanyahu*) The Commission noted that “such measures amount to the collective punishment of the entire population for the actions of few, a clear violation of international humanitarian law” (*Detailed findings on the military operations and attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory from 7 October to 31 December 2023* 65).

Following the complete siege on Gaza, on 11 October 2023, the sole power plant in Gaza stopped working after running out of fuel needed to generate electricity. This left Gaza in a state of blackout, with very limited fuel-dependent commercial/private generators and solar energy remaining. Note that Gaza was already experiencing persistent electricity shortage prior to 7 October 2023, and the airstrike by Israel – with some specifically targeted – destroyed the solar panels in

Gaza, depleting the already limited alternative electricity supply (*Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel* 68-69).

On 21 October 2024, Israel agreed to allow a minimum number of trucks per day (instead of the average of 500 trucks per day prior to 7 October) after being subjected to immense international pressure and the release of some Israeli hostages. These trucks were allowed to enter Gaza from Egypt, none directly from Israel, and a mere average of 12 trucks managed to enter Gaza per day as of 27 October 2024. Note that the population of Gaza was already heavily reliant on humanitarian aid and assistance prior to 7 October 2024 and that this complete blockade of the Gaza Strip (including all humanitarian deliveries) from 8 to 21 October had already severely impacted them. Israel opened the main Israel-Gaza crossing, Kerem Shalom, on 17 December 2023, and between 21 October and 31 December 2023, 6,010 trucks carrying humanitarian items were allowed to enter the Gaza Strip (*Detailed findings on the military operations and attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory from 7 October to 31 December 2023* 69-70). This is a fraction of what was needed to address the basic needs of 2.3 million people, with the Humanitarian organizations estimating that 35,930 additional trucks should have entered the Gaza Strip, especially considering when the Israel Security Forces disrupted the local food supply chain of Gaza, by preventing fishing and agriculture (71-72). Furthermore, humanitarian aid deliveries faced continual delays, disruptions, and restrictions, with lengthy security checks, telecommunication shutdown, logistical and safety challenges, blocked roads, and insufficient fuels. The Commission specifically reported that the “approval process for goods entering Gaza is opaque and inconsistent, with the same items being accepted or rejected arbitrarily on different occasions” (72).

Furthermore, the Commission has also expressed concerns over Israel’s “denial of the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination” and commented that Israel Prime Minister Netanyahu’s ‘Day after Hamas’ plan (presented on 23 February 2024) “may be seen as implying a *de facto* annexation of the Gaza Strip” and that the Israel Government’s military operation “has shifted to targeting the autonomy of the Palestinian people as a whole” (*Detailed findings on the military operations and attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory from 7 October to 31 December 2023* 9).

### **c. Water Crisis in Gaza**

The Oxfam Press Release on 17 July 2024 published that the water supply in Gaza has decreased by 94%, resulting in about 4.74 liters of water per person per day, which is under a third of the recommended minimum in emergencies. Specifically, the external supply from Israel's national water company, Mekorot, fell by 78%, and Gaza City has lost nearly all its water production capacity due to the Israeli military attacks damaging and/or destroying the five water and sanitation infrastructure. Israel has also destroyed 70% of all sewage pumps and 100% of all wastewater treatment plants in Gaza. This extreme lack of clean water and sanitation significantly impacted the public health and hygiene of the Palestinian population, with 26% of Gaza's population falling severely ill from easily preventable diseases (*Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe: Oxfam*). It is estimated that around 70% of the population in Gaza is drinking salinised and contaminated water (*Israel must stop using water as a weapon of war: UN expert*). To which, Pedro Arrojo-Agudo, the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, addressed that "Israel must stop using water as a weapon of war" and pointed out that "Under Article 7 of the Rome Statute, intentionally depriving the civilian population of conditions of life, calculated to bring about their destruction, is an act of extermination and classified as a crime against humanity" (*Israel must stop using water as a weapon of war: UN expert*).

### **d. Blocking Humanitarian Aid & Food Crisis**

Since the Israeli military offensive began on 7 October 2023, Israel has 83 percent of food aid entering Gaza (*Palestinians 'starving to death' in northern Gaza due to Israeli siege*). With an average of 159 aid trucks entering Gaza per day – despite the operational target of 500 trucks being needed per day (*Israel continues to block aid into northern Gaza; UN sending team to shattered Al-Shifa Hospital*) – it is estimated that about 50,000 children below the age of five will need urgent treatment for malnutrition by the end of 2024 (*Palestinians 'starving to death' in northern Gaza due to Israeli siege*).

Oxfam also reported that the entry of humanitarian aid and assistance into Gaza has remained a major challenge, with COGAT requiring lengthy

back-and-forth communications before preclearance may be granted, followed by supplies having to queue for weeks. It then explained that the trucks were often denied entry for “obscure reasons”, even though the preclearance was given prior. This halts the delivery and distribution of vital humanitarian assistance, which a large majority of the population in Gaza depends on (Abdul Samad, Lama, & et al).

Furthermore, the widespread damage to the agricultural infrastructure in Gaza adds to the food insecurity in Gaza, with over 57 percent of total cropland, 33 percent of greenhouses, and 70 percent of the fishing fleet on the Gaza Coast being destroyed. Severe shortages in fodder and water have also resulted in the deaths of some 70 percent of livestock (*Restricted local food production exacerbates the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip*).

**e. Targeting Civilians & Death Toll**

As of 23 October 2024, approximately 48,000 people in Gaza were killed following the Israeli offensive, which began on 7 October 2023 (*World News in Brief: UNRWA staffer killed in Gaza, Central African Republic update, terror in Türkiye, journalists face financial reprisals*). Airstrikes and bombardment by Israel continue in north Gaza, Khan Younis, and Rafah, where an estimated 1.2 million people are living (*Israel continues to block aid into northern Gaza; UN sending team to shattered Al-Shifa Hospital*).

**f. Israel’s UNRWA Ban**

On 28 October 2024, the Israeli parliament – the Knesset - passed two legislation which bans UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) from operating in Israel, and Israeli authorities from contacting UNRWA. The legislation is to take effect in 90 days from 28 October and does not ban UNRWA from operating in Gaza (*Israel bans UN aid agency UNRWA from operating in Israel*). Though it is unclear how the legislation will affect the Gaza aid as of 2 November 2024, it would stop Israel from issuing foreign UNRWA staff entry and work permits and halt humanitarian aid delivery with the Israeli military’s coordination to permit aid shipments into Gaza, ending (Borger & McKernan). Considering UNRWA’s significance in providing essential services and protection to more than five million Palestinian refugees across the



Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria; the impact of this ban could be critical (*Potentially 'deadly' consequences could arise from Israel's UNRWA ban: UNICEF*).

As of 23 October 2024, 230 UNRWA staff members were killed following the Israeli offensive, which began on 7 October 2023 (*World News in Brief: UNRWA staffer killed in Gaza, Central African Republic update, terror in Türkiye, journalists face financial reprisals*). Some of these staff were killed in Israel's repeated attacks on the UNRWA hospitals and schools, which shelters more than 1 million Palestinians in Gaza (Nashed).

### **3. Previous Actions**

#### **a. Establishment of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)**

Following the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was established by the United Nations General Assembly in its Resolution 302 (IV) (*Assistance to Palestine refugees*) on 8 December 1949. The Agency was “to carry out in collaboration with local governments the direct relief and works programs as recommended by the Economic Survey Mission” (*Assistance to Palestine refugees*) and began operations on 1 May 1950 (*Who We Are*). Though it was meant to be a temporary organisation, with a lack of a solution to the Palestine refugee problem, the UN General Assembly has repeatedly renewed UNRWA's mandate (every three years, that is), extending it until 30 June 2026 on 12 December 2022 (*Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 12 December 2022*). The Agency is primarily funded by voluntary contributions from the UN Member States, with some funding from the Regular Budget of the United Nations. Currently, about 5.9 million Palestine refugees are eligible for UNRWA services (*Who We Are*).

#### **b. Establishment of the United Nations Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (UNSCIIIP)**

On 13 May 1968, the International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, adopted the resolution: I. On respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories, which expressed “grave concern at the violation of human rights in Arab territories occupied by Israel” and called upon the “Government of Israel to desist forthwith from acts of destroying homes of the Arab civilian population inhabiting areas occupied by Israel” (*Final Act of the Tehran Conference on Human Right 5*).

Following the 1968 Teheran International Conference on Human Rights, on 19 December 1968, the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (UNSCIIIP) was subsequently established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 2443 (XXIII) (*Respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories*). The Special Committee – comprised of Permanent Representatives from the three Member States: Malaysia, Senegal, and Sri Lanka, as of 2024 – was mandated to investigate the Israeli policies and practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian and other Arabic populations in the Israeli-occupied territories until the complete termination of the Israeli occupation. The Israeli-occupied territories here refer to the territories under Israeli occupation since 1967, which includes the occupied Syrian Golan and the areas of the Occupied Palestinian Territory such as the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza Strip. More specifically, the committee was to “co-operate” with the Government of Israel and “facilitate” the “respect and implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 in occupied territories” (*Respect for and implementation of human rights in occupied territories*). However, since the Special Committee’s establishment in 1968, the committee has not been granted access to the occupied territories by the Government of Israel. As such, the recent Special Committee’s annual field research on 21 to 24 June 2024 at Amman was conducted without access to these territories.

**c. International Court of Justice: Order of 26 January 2024**

On 26 January 2024, the International Court of Justice concluded that some of the actions committed by Israel in Gaza – alleged by South Africa – appear to be

capable of failing within the provisions of the Geneva Convention. It ordered Israel to:

- i. (1) The State of Israel shall immediately suspend its military operations in and against Gaza. (...)
- ii. (6) The State of Israel shall, (...) [not] engage in direct and public incitement to commit genocide, conspiracy to commit genocide, attempt to commit genocide, or complicity in genocide (...)
- iii. (7) The State of Israel shall take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (...) (*Summary of the Order of 26 January 2024 1-3*)

The Court highlighted the lack of basic access to basic food, water, electricity, medicines, and heating among many Palestinians, and noted that “the catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip is at serious risk of deteriorating further before the Court renders its final judgment”. The Court further explained that the current steps taken by Israel are “insufficient to remove the risk that irreparable prejudice will be caused” (6).

**i. Order of 24 May 2024**

On 24 May 2024, the International Court of Justice further ordered Israel to “immediately halt its military offensive (...) which may inflict on the Palestinian group in Gaza conditions of life that could bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part”. The Court pointed out the Israel military offensive in Rafah on 7 May 2024, where weeks of intensified bombardment followed and resulted in the displacement of approximately 800,000 Palestinians from Rafah, and stated that: “[The Court] is not convinced that the evacuation efforts and related measures that Israel affirms to have undertaken to enhance the security of civilians in the Gaza Strip (...) are sufficient to alleviate the immense risk to which the Palestinian population is exposed” (*Summary of the Order of 24 May 2024*).

**d. Recent Resolution Adopted by UN**

Following the International Court of Justice: Order of 26 January 2024, on 17 September 2024, the UN General Assembly held its 10<sup>th</sup> emergency special session where it passed a resolution demanding Israel to comply with international law and withdraw its military forces from the Occupied Palestinian Territories within the next twelve months. The resolution passed with a vote of 124 nations in favour, 14 against, and 43 abstentions. The resolution stressed “the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967”, and specifically:

- i. 2. *Demands* that Israel brings to an end without delay its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, which constitutes a wrongful act of a continuing character entailing its international responsibility, and do so no later than 12 months from the adoption of the present resolution;
- ii. 3. *Demands* that Israel comply without delay with all its legal obligations under international law, including as stipulated by the International Court of Justice, by, inter alia:
  1. (a) Withdrawing all its military forces from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including its airspace and maritime space;
  2. (b) Putting an end to its unlawful policies and practices, including ceasing immediately all new settlement activity, evacuating all settlers from the Occupied Palestinian Territory and dismantling the parts of the wall constructed by Israel that are situated in the Territory, and repealing all legislation and measures creating or maintaining the unlawful situation (...)
  3. (c) Returning the land and other immovable property, as well as all assets seized from any natural or legal person since its occupation started in 1967, and all cultural property and assets taken from Palestinians and Palestinian institutions; (*Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences arising from Israel’s policies and practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and from the illegality of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory* 5-6)

The resolution bears significance in that it demanded Israel to move “immovable property” as well as all assets it seized; ruled Israel’s occupation as an “unlawful presence,” and that it outlined a 12-month time frame. Furthermore, it also called upon all its Member States to “Not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by Israel’s illegal presence in the Territory” (6). However, Israel's compliance with this resolution remains dubious considering its past actions, and so does the compliance of other Member States in rendering assistance to Israel, especially the United States and Germany.

**iv. Sponsors of the Resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1)**

The list of nations that sponsored the resolution was as follows: Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guyana, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sudan, Türkiye, Uganda, Yemen and the State of Palestine.

**v. Nations Against the Resolution (A/ES-10/L.31/Rev.1)**

The 14 nations against the resolution were Argentina, Czechia, Fiji, Hungary, Israel, Malawi, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, Tuvalu, and the United States of America.

**4. Possible Actions and Solutions**

**a. Suspension of Israel’s UN Membership**

The United Nations could consider suspending Israel’s Membership as a UN Member State. Under Articles 5 and 6 of the United Nations Charter, Chapter II, it is stated that:

**i. Article 5**

A Member of the United Nations against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General

Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council. The exercise of these rights and privileges may be restored by the Security Council.

ii. Article 6

A Member of the United Nations who has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council (*United Nations Charter, Chapter II: Membership*).

From this, it is ruled that the UN General Assembly has the power to suspend and expel a Member State's membership with the approval of the five Permanent Security Council Members: the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, and France.

**b. Admission of The State of Palestine as a Member State**

The UN could review and consider accepting the State of Palestine as an official Member State of the United Nations. Palestine is currently a non-member observer state, a permanent observer state, to be specific, and is allowed to participate in the United Nations proceedings. However, it cannot vote on draft resolutions and decisions in the UN's main organs and bodies, including the Security Council, General Assembly, and the six main committees (*Palestine's status at the UN explained*). As of October 2024, the application for a full UN Membership by the Palestinian Authorities failed to pass the United Nations Security Council, with the United States vetoing (*Security Council Fails to Recommend Full United Nations Membership for State of Palestine, Owing to Veto Cast by United States*). Even if the application were to be passed, the impact of this on improving the humanitarian situation in the Occupied Territories is unknown. However, the State of Palestine would be allowed to vote in the UN's main bodies and Israel's actions would become a more complex legal matter (with the possibility of the State of Palestine bringing Israel to the International Court). The UNHRC could adopt a resolution that urges the Security Council to support the admission of The State of Palestine as a new Member State.

**c. Ceasefire**

The United Nations could demand Israel to a ceasefire – permanently or temporarily – by adopting further resolutions. Though considering that Israel has largely ignored previous resolutions calling and demanding for ceasefire (including the International Court of Justice Order of 26 January 2024), cooperation to these further resolutions by Israeli authorities is unlikely unless it is accompanied by global sanctions or pressure.

**d. UN Sanctions**

The United Nations could demand all its Member States to stop rendering any aid and assistance to Israel – including firearms export – until a satisfactory status quota has been reached and the basic human rights of the populations in the Occupied Territories have been met. Specifically, the UNHRC could demand an arms embargo (sanction on military export or weaponry) from all its Member States, a stricter impose on the resolution A/HRC/55/L.30 (adopted on 26 March 2024) where it called up all its Member States to “cease the sale, transfer and diversion of arms, munitions and other military equipment to Israel” (*Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the obligation to ensure accountability and justice* 5).

**e. Two-State Solution**

The Two-State Solution is a proposal in which Palestine and its territories are partitioned into two states: Israel and Palestine (Thomas). As of October 2024, the Palestinian Authorities support the resolution, while both Hamas and the Prime Minister of Israel, Netanyahu, do not. The United Nations could try and reintroduce the partitioning plan, by adopting a resolution that not only calls Israel and Palestine to agree and accept the Two-State Solution but also its Member States to support the idea as well. However, note that the initial UN partitioning plan of Palestine in 1947 never materialized with the Arab-Israeli war erupting in the following year, 1948 (*What is the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict?*). In achieving the Two-State Solution, it would require international support and pressure on both Hamas and Israel.

## 5. Questions to Consider

- a. What stance does each state have on the current situation in the Occupied Territories, and how is this stance reflected in their domestic and foreign policies?
- b. What is the Government of Israel's goal (including post-war) with the Occupied Territories and its population? What stance does each state have on Israel's post-war campaign?
- c. What and who is Hamas? What power and authority do they have? What is their goal, and what values do they hold?
- d. What intervention can be made to improve the humanitarian situation in Gaza? To what extent will this be successful and what will be the Government of Israel's response to this?
- e. What role does the mainstream media play in representing both the Government of Israel and the Palestinians? Consider the Israeli authorities' use of language when referring to the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- f. How has the Israel-Palestine conflict affected the Arab communities and their representation?



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