



SECURITY COUNCIL | DIRECTIVE

The United Nations Security Council (SC) is the only UN body with the ability to put forth concrete concerted actions concerning a particular global security issue. For more information on working methods of the Security Council [SEE HERE](#).

As a delegate at the simulated SC, you will discuss the establishment of a US embassy in Jerusalem and the emergence of related hostilities. While representing a specific UN Member State, you are asked to adhere to your country's specific policies by familiarizing yourself with its past resolutions, affiliations and geopolitical allies. In other words, become a true Delegate of this country and stay in character throughout the simulation. To provide you an example: The United States would likely not agree Russian resolution to condemn Israeli actions. Therefore, rhetoric, viewpoints and policies will differ significantly. Please [SEE HERE](#) a video of an actual SC session to familiarize with process.

All fifteen (15) Member States of the Security Council* serve on this UN body to seek solutions to prevent and contain global security threats. In the case of our SC simulation, we seek solutions to prevent and contain global security threats between Israel and Palestine, as well as other related belligerents. Based on this, the following questions can guide your research as you prepare for the conference.

- Extent to which Security Council resolutions affect domestic policies of a sovereign nation
- Definition of sovereignty
- Rules of war
- Definitions of human rights
- Current and former allies
- Netanyahu's national security policies and postures
- Use of veto in matters regarding the conflict and how it can shape negotiations
- Contemplate mechanisms and commitments for actors to remain compliant with found solution to adhere to agreement.

UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBER STATES 2018

Bolivia, China, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, France, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States, and Sweden. NOTE*: Israel and Palestine will be present at this meeting as non-voting participant states.



BACKGROUND AND HISTORY | AT A GLANCE

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict has been one of the world's most concerning and volatile issue areas for decades. Since the foundation of Israel in 1948, there has been ongoing conflict between the Jews and Arabs that reside in the region. To further complicate an already complex issue, many states have taken sides in the conflict which has taken the scope of the conflict from something regional, to a very international concern. What makes the conflict worse is the presence of nuclear weapons. Religious tensions and the presence of weapons of mass destruction easily make the Israeli/Palestinian conflict one of the most delicate international dilemmas.

The history of this conflict can be traced back hundreds of years, but for the sake of brevity, this guide will begin in 1948, the founding of the State of Israel. The founding of Israel came during the wave of de-colonization in the wake of World War Two. Many of the former great empires began crumble and their colonies took the opportunity to claim their own independence. States such as Israel, India, and Pakistan were a handful of states that claimed independence with the decline of the British empire. Israeli independence sparked the conflict that the world has come to know today. From 1948 to present day, Israel has been the ire of Arab states in the region as well as their allies.

Over the course of 70 years, conflicts such as the Suez war, the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, and the Intifadas have left dark marks on a history already marked in blood¹. These conflicts almost always had another state influencing the outcome which has always made matters arguably worse. States such as Iran, Egypt, and Syria have been staunch supporters of Palestine have often come to their aid. The United States has been a staunch supporter of Israel since the 1970's. This alliance was borne out of a necessity to balance Soviet influence in the region which has been absent (through Russia) since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. US influence has remained and will likely remain for the foreseeable future. What gives the US more cause to remain involved is the strong presence of Hamas (an organization recognized as a terrorist organization in the US) as a political actor in Palestine. The US' profound support of Israel has led to the establishment of an embassy in Jerusalem which has allowed for new hostilities to come to the surface.

¹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29123668>



ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN RELATIONS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Relations between the two have recently been more strained than usual. This has been provoked by the US placing its embassy in Jerusalem, which recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, even though Jerusalem sits on the border between Israel and Palestine. This move has ignited protests that have evolved into violent clashes between Palestinian protestors and Israeli police and military forces. Additionally, these clashes have resulted in an estimated 100+ casualties. Clashes between armed forces and protestors have caused more intensified debate regarding the two-state solution² as well as questions regarding human rights. These clashes have been marked with mortar strikes, rocket attacks, and air strikes³ which have only stoked tensions.

On January 25th, 2018, Nikolay Mladenov (Special Coordinator: Middle East Peace Process) reaffirmed to the security council that a two-state solution is "...the only viable option for a just and sustainable end to the conflict."⁴ In response to this comment made in the Security Council, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, stated that it was time to stop "managing" the conflict and that the Security Council (UNSC) should be pushing to solve it. This conflict is not so far-fetched as stalemate in the Security Council has allowed for stagnation that has only led to further bloodshed. Notably, UNSC Resolution 2334 called for Israel to cease settlement activity as it violated international law and that Israel had been shirking its duties as an occupational power under the Geneva Conventions. What made this vote highly controversial is the abstention from the US which allowed for the resolution to pass with an otherwise unanimous vote. In matters that regard Israel in the Security Council, the US wither vetoes resolutions that attack Israel or vote affirmatively on resolutions that favor Israel. An abstention vote on a resolution that condemned Israeli actions was a significant break from US behavior. This was also the first resolution in 7 years which addressed the conflict between Israel and Palestine. Other resolutions that have taken action against Israel have strained Israeli perceptions of the UN.

² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/11/637741-day-solidarity-un-reaffirms-two-state-solution-only-answer-question-palestine>

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/may/17/israeli-airstrikes-target-militant-sites-in-gaza>

⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/01/1001221>



SECURITY COUNCIL MANDATE

The Security Council is charged with addressing the recent US establishment of an embassy in Jerusalem. This highly controversial move has sparked renewed hostilities and has pushed the US to withdraw from the Human Rights Council. This council should motion for strengthening diplomatic relations and disallow actions of further escalation in an already volatile conflict that will surely plunge the region into further instability and risk complete destabilization. It is also important to note, that a nuclear factor⁵ as well as a terrorism⁶ are very present and should also be included in negotiations. This council is not tasked with finding a conclusive solution to the conflict but should address US actions and help ease tensions.

For further reading and research:

[Database of UN Security Council publications regarding the Israel-Palestine Conflict](#)

[Comprehensive timeline of events between Israel and Palestine](#)

[Further explanation of the two-state solution](#)

[Human Rights Watch report on Israeli human rights abuses](#)

[US Office of the Director of National Intelligence report on Hamas](#)

⁵ <http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/israel/>

⁶ <https://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>