



# **WrightMUN**

## **High School Model UN Background Guide**

### **General Assembly Third Committee**

#### **on Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Issues**

**Saturday, April 19, 2025**

**Wright State University**

**White Hall**

## **GA3 Background Guide**

Staff:

Director  
Chair

Marwah Almuzoughi  
Murphy VanBalen

**Topic: Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in Gaza**

### **Message from the Director of the Third Committee of the General Assembly**

Delegates,

Welcome to the WrightMUN! My name is Marwah Almuzoughi and I am the Director of the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly. The GA Third Committee tackles social, humanitarian and cultural issues. It has universal membership of the 193 UN Member States. Helpful background and information on GA3 can be found here: <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>. It is encouraged to become familiar with the nature and mandate of this organization.

This background guide is intended to offer delegates a starting point for research on human rights and the humanitarian crisis in Gaza since the start of the October 7 war. With a ceasefire in place at the time of this writing, it is an appropriate time to consider the matter of how the international community can respond to the various problems facing Gaza. This background guide offers many insights, facts, figures and citations, but is not intended to limit research to the content provided within it. Delegates are advised to ensure they can address all of the questions posed by the Director at the end of this topic.

Please remember, this is a learning conference and all delegates are encouraged to please participate! That means raising your placard, making policy speeches, and creating working papers. Should you have any questions, please approach the Dais and we would be happy to assist.

Sincerely,

Marwah Almuzoughi  
Director, UN Human Rights Council

## Topic: Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid in Gaza

### Introduction

Gaza Strip is a small piece of land of 140 square miles with over 2.2 million people. Surrounded on land by Egypt to the south and Israel to the north and east, the territory and the administration by the Palestinian Islamist group Hamas but lacks sovereignty over its own affairs. Gaza heavily relies on the aid and resources of the UN and countries like Qatar, within the confines of Egyptian and Israeli control of borders, airspace and access by sea. With Hamas long bent on conflict with Israel under the banner of “resistance,” their ascendancy to power in 2007 has led to recurring violence between the two, affecting the humanitarian situation there.



The issue of human rights and humanitarian aid in Gaza is not new, but has received new urgency since the war begun by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and the Israeli response that escalated the humanitarian crisis to unprecedented levels of hardship. The matter for the UN in the Spring of 2025 is how to deliver aid effectively and guarantee the rights of the people in Gaza in the context of ongoing or recurring conflict. After 16 months of war, Gaza's population is dependent on internationally delivered food and other aid. Most are displaced from their homes and in need of shelter, water, and sanitation. As of this writing, a three-phase ceasefire plan in place since January, which allowed for aid delivery and the consideration of long-term political solutions, was faltering. Even if war resumes, human rights are a benchmark of international law, and humanitarian aid deserves consideration for stateless Palestinians caught in war.

### Background

Gaza Strip is a small narrow piece of land that was part of the Ottoman Empire until the end of WWI, when the League of Nations granted the United Kingdom control under a “mandate” system of administration. The British were buffeted by pressures for independence from local Palestinians, broader Arab forces, and Jewish nationalists (Zionists). The British failed at attempts to broker two-state solutions from 1936-1939 and, after WWII, declared its intent to leave Palestine by May 1948. The UNSCOP committee was created to propose a solution to Palestine question. The resulting General Assembly resolution 181 (1947) called for the partition of Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state, a proposal accepted by the Zionist movement but

rejected by Arab representatives. An ensuing war led to the founding of the State of Israel whose armistice lines (or “Green Line”) remain a source of contention today.

Gaza Strip came under the control of Egypt, which cultivated an “All-Palestine Government” but, after the 1952 Egyptian revolution, merged with the United Arab Republic under formal Egyptian military administration.<sup>1</sup> Egypt largely left Gazans to the care of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), established by General Assembly resolution 302 (1949) with a mandate to provide humanitarian and development assistance for Palestinians who became refugees in the 1948 war.<sup>2</sup> Palestinian nationalist militias, many of whom formed the Palestinian Liberation Organization as in 1964, conducted raids from Egypt, Syria, Jordan, West Bank and Gaza, provoking Israeli retaliations against the groups and the governments who harbored them.

In the 1967 Six Day War, Israel not only won but seized multiple lands from Jordan, Syria and Egypt commonly known as the “occupied territories.” Security Council resolution 242 (1967) notes “the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war,” and called upon “the withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict,” as well as the “termination of all claims or states of belligerency” and “acknowledgement of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and apolitical independence of every State in the area.”<sup>3</sup> One of the territories grabbed by Israel in the war was the Gaza Strip.



Regarding the political status of the “Occupied Palestinian Territories” (OPT) of Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem, UN General Assembly resolution 3236 (1974) reaffirmed the “inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in Palestine” to “the right to national independence and sovereignty.”<sup>4</sup> Egypt negotiated peace with Israel in the 1978 Camp David Accords, but also included *A Framework for Peace in the Middle East* in which Egypt renounced territorial claims over Gaza Strip. Jordan ceded claims to the West Bank and East Jerusalem ahead of the PLO’s Yasser Arafat’s proclaiming the State of Palestine “on our Palestinian territory with its capital Jerusalem” on November 15, 1988.<sup>5</sup> Some countries recognize Palestine, some recognize Israel, and some recognize both, but the issue of a sovereign Palestine remained unresolved.

<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-Palestine\\_Government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-Palestine_Government)

<sup>2</sup> UN General Assembly resolution 302 (1949) <https://www.unrwa.org/sites/default/files/nr005121.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> S/Res/242 (1967) <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/90717?ln=en&v=pdf>

<sup>4</sup> A/RES/3236 (1974) <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-177305/>

<sup>5</sup> “Palestinian Declaration of Independence.” *Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question*. <https://www.palquest.org/en/historictext/9673/palestinian-declaration-independence>

The “intifada”, or Palestinian uprising of the late 1980s, challenged the logistics and legitimacy of Israeli control of the territories. International pressure for solutions led to the 1991 Madrid Conference and secret PLO-Israeli talks that led to the 1993 Oslo Accords, a declaration of principles by which the PLO would renounce violence, recognize Israel and – in so doing – be the sole arbiter of Palestinian talks with Israel over the final status of Palestine. Such talks ultimately failed and violence renewed in 2000-2001, but negotiations produced peace between Israel and Jordan, and led to the creation of the “Palestinian Authority,” with limited administration and security powers in Gaza and parts of the West Bank.

With renewed violence and failed talks, the “Quartet” of the US, EU, Russia and the UN proposed the Road Map for Peace, a proposal endorsed by SC resolution 1515 (2003) for a phased process to get to two states living side by side in peace.<sup>6</sup> Israel chose a unilateral path of disengagement in 2004-2005, involving the removal of settlements from Gaza and the construction of a “separation barrier” around West Bank and Gaza in an attempt to prevent Palestinian militants from infiltrating Israeli territory. The UNGA adopted a resolution demanding that Israel halt construction of the barrier, and in July 2004 the ICJ ruled that Israel’s separation barrier contravened international law; that it must be dismantled; and that compensation must be paid by Israel to the Palestinian owners of property confiscated for causing widespread destruction of property and the disruption of the lives of thousands of civilians. A September 2004 Israeli military incursion into the Gaza Strip implemented the Israeli redeployment plan, leaving Gaza stateless behind Israel’s separation barrier.

Legislative elections for the Palestinian Authority were held January 2006. Palestinian residents in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem were allowed to vote, and Hamas won a majority 74 of the 132 parliamentary seats. Israel, the US and the EU insisted that they would not work with or fund Hamas, which they classified as a terrorist organization. The Quartet group announced that financial assistance to a future Palestinian administration would depend on the extent to which Hamas renounce violence; respect agreements approved under the Fatah regime; and recognize Israel’s right to exist. Hamas rejected the conditions, and Gaza quickly became an isolated territory with few resources or allies. Palestinian civil war divided territories into those parts of West Bank controlled by the Palestinian Authority’s President and the PLO, and the Gaza Strip controlled by Hamas.

Egypt joined Israel in the cordoning off the Strip, both opposed to Hamas’ policies of political Islam, ties to Iran, and tactics of terrorism. Recurring conflict between Israel and the Iran-armed Hamas have taken place, from 2008/9 to 2012, 2014 and 2021.<sup>7</sup> All of these raised questions of Israeli force. A 2009 UN Fact Finding Mission created by the UNHRC to investigate violations of international human rights law and humanitarian law.<sup>8</sup> The Goldstone Report criticized Israel’s tactics and treatments of civilian populations, though the Report’s author, Judge Richard Goldstone later retracted part of the report claiming “Gazan civilians were deliberately targeted as a matter of Israeli policy.”<sup>9</sup>

Similarly, a 2014 UNHRC Special Session on the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) condemned Israel’s “widespread, systematic and gross violations of international human rights

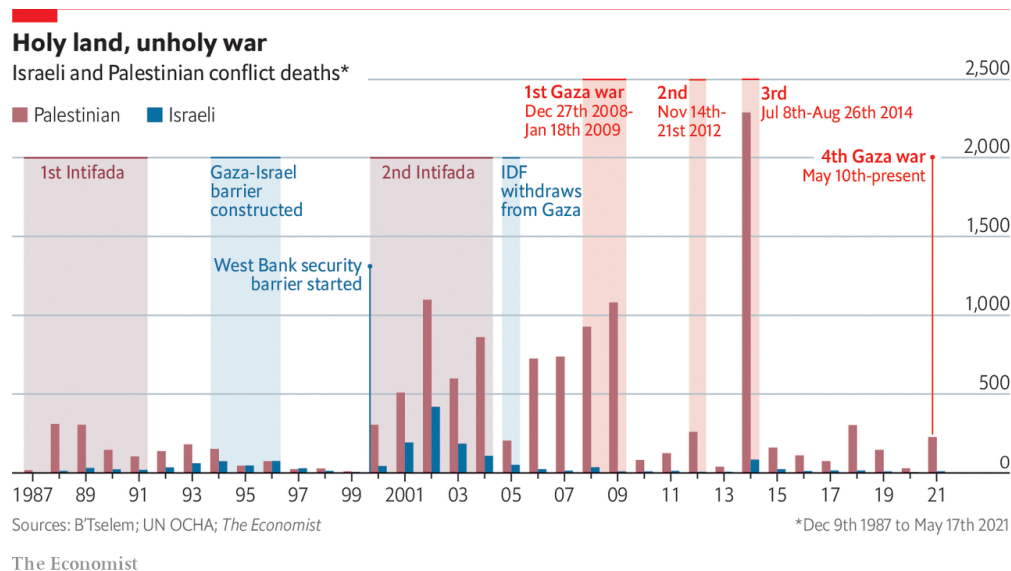
---

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-180005/>

<sup>7</sup> “The Israel-Palestine conflict has claimed 14,000 lives since 1987.” The Economist, May 18, 2021 <https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2021/05/18/the-israel-palestine-conflict-has-claimed-14000-lives-since-1987>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/special-sessions/session9/fact-finding-mission>

<sup>9</sup> “Goldstone Retracts Part of UN Report on Gaza.” NPR, April 3, 2011 <https://www.npr.org/2011/04/03/135093832/goldstone-retracts-part-of-u-n-report-on-gaza>



and fundamental freedoms” arising from the 2014 military operations in Gaza, citing “disproportionate attacks...targeting of civilians and civilian properties in collective punishment contrary to international law.”<sup>10</sup> Even between conflicts, the situation in Gaza raised concerns about its population and humanitarian needs there. Ten years after disengagement, and ten years ago, UN reports and Arab world analysts fretted over Gaza becoming “unliveable.”<sup>11</sup>

### October 7 and After

All of this was an almost-routine tragedy by comparison to what happened in Gaza on and after October 7, 2023. After the assault on Israel by Hamas, Israel retaliated with the bombing and reinvasion and reoccupation of Gaza. Estimates of casualties in the Gaza War vary from 46,000 to over 64,000 killed. Reports vary between the PA’s Ministry of Health and the Hamas-led Government Media Office (GMO) providing information out of Gaza, with various charges of bias amidst the fog of war.<sup>12</sup> The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) attempts to track casualty lists and other data.<sup>13</sup>

South Africa took Israel to the International Court of Justice in January 2024 for violating the 1948 Genocide Convention in its conduct of the war in Gaza, leading to mass killing, mass displacement of civilians, and causing a humanitarian “catastrophe” by limiting food, fuel and medicine amidst intense bombing of civilian infrastructure.<sup>14</sup> The ICJ rendered a provisional “binding order” that called upon Israel to take “all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts” of Genocide related to Gaza’s Palestinians as a group, including (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting conditions calculated to bring about the groups’ physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group.<sup>15</sup> The January ruling, and a subsequent May ruling, refrained from calling Israel’s actions

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/special-sessions/session21/st-special-session>

<sup>11</sup> “Gaza Strip Faces Bleak Future after Israel’s Pullout.” *The Arab Weekly*, April 9, 2015 <https://thearabweekly.com/gaza-strip-faces-bleak-future-ten-years-after-israels-pullout>

<sup>12</sup> Gabriel Epstein, “Gaza Fatality Data Has Become Completely Unreliable.” *WINEP*, March 26, 2024 <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/gaza-fatality-data-has-become-completely-unreliable>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.ochaopt.org/updates>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240112-pre-01-00-en.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-pre-01-00-en.pdf>

genocide, but focused on the need for Israel to act to prevent these outcomes and demonstrate that Israel does not have genocidal intent. In follow-up orders in March and May 2024, the ICJ argued that the situation in Gaza “confirms the need for the immediate and effective implementation” of the January orders, and to allow “unhindered provision” of basic services and humanitarian assistance.”<sup>16</sup> The Court also reiterated concern for the hostages and called for their immediate and unconditional release by Hamas, as well as called for parties to preserve evidence to permit investigations into allegations of genocide.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) went further, issuing warrants in September 2024 for the arrest of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant (and Hamas leaders) for war crimes and crimes against humanity, arguing reasonable grounds that the Israeli leaders “bear criminal responsibility for the war crime of starvation” and the creation of conditions “calculated to bring about the destruction of part of the civilian population in Gaza” due to the lack of food, water, electricity, fuel and medical supplies.<sup>17</sup>

At the time of writing, a ceasefire in Gaza that had been in effect since January 19, 2025. Israel and Hamas agreed to the deal, brokered by the US, Qatar and Egypt, which provided for three stages: 1st, a 42-day phase in which the complete ceasefire is accompanied by the release of 33 Israeli and other hostages by Hamas in exchange for an estimated 1900 Palestinian prisoners by Israel; Israeli forces withdraw from populated areas to border zones while Palestinian civilians and aid trucks are permitted entry; 2nd, negotiations among parties have begun to attempt to agree upon a permanent ceasefire, which would lead to a complete Israeli force withdrawal from Gaza and return of all remaining living hostages from Gaza; 3rd, the reconstruction of Gaza and return of all remains of remaining hostages.<sup>18</sup>

### ***Existing frameworks***

Two areas of law and treaty are germane to the question of Gaza: international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL).<sup>19</sup> International Humanitarian Law (IHL) refers to the rules governing the treatment of those outside a state’s authority in the realm of armed conflict specifically, derived heavily from the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols, and the Hague Regulations (1907). Noncombatant immunity from violence and the treatment of prisoners of war are included here, emphasizing the distinction of combatant and non-combatant and the injunction to spare civilians and minimize civilian losses. IHRL refers to a series of largely post-WWII treaties stipulating human rights protections from state abuse, be it rights of women, children and races from discrimination, to rights to press, assembly and vote, to the right to life, health and dignity of individual, including rights not to be tortured or subject to death without due process.<sup>20</sup>

---

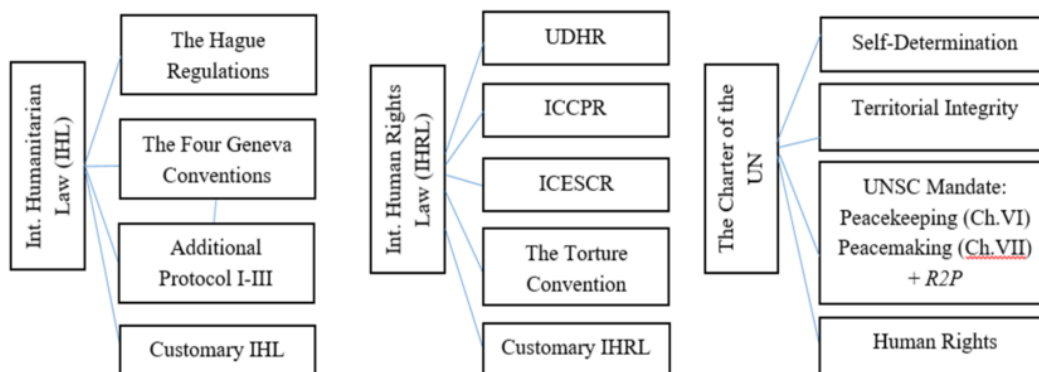
<sup>16</sup> <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/summary-of-icjs-order-24may24/#:~:text=The%20Court%20considers%20that%2C%20in,its%20physical%20destruction%20in%20whole>

<sup>17</sup> ICC. “Situation in the State of Palestine.” November 21, 2024 <https://www.icc-cpi.int/news/situation-state-palestine-icc-pre-trial-chamber-i-rejects-state-israels-challenges>

<sup>18</sup> Raffi Berg, “What We Know about the Gaza Ceasefire Deal.” BBC, February 2, 2025 <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy5klqv5zv0o>

<sup>19</sup> For a discussion of the differences, see International Committee of the Red Cross, “What is the Difference Between IHL and human rights law?” <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/what-difference-between-ihl-and-human-rights-law>

<sup>20</sup> The chart is from Mahmoud Abdou, “International Law and the Territorial Controls of Non-State Armed Groups in Yemen and Libya (2011-2015).” [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Relevant-Bodies-of-PIL-IHL-IHRL-and-the-UN-Charter-59\\_fig1\\_360726423](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Relevant-Bodies-of-PIL-IHL-IHRL-and-the-UN-Charter-59_fig1_360726423)



States, and even non-state actors with stable control of territory who “act like a state,” are to afford certain protections to those within their jurisdiction, be it individuals under detention or societies under occupation.<sup>21</sup>

### **Occupation and IHRL**

It is a matter of debate as to whether Israel was an occupying power from its disengagement in 2005 through its reentry into Gaza October 2023. The 1907 Hague Regulations state three components of determining a territory occupied: (1) the presence of military forces, (2) the exercise of authority by the presumed occupant, and (3) the non-consent of the government and people under control.<sup>22</sup> Israel physically withdrew in 2005, signaling its end of occupation. Hamas asserted control and authority of Gaza in 2007, triggering Israel to reclassify Gaza Strip as a “hostile entity,” leading to tightened economic and security measures over Gaza’s land access.<sup>23</sup> After the first of several conflicts with Hamas in Gaza, in 2008/2009, coupled with the 2008 Free Gaza Movement’s attempts to enter Gaza by sea, Israel imposed a maritime closure of the Gaza Strip. A naval blockade against belligerents is legal under the laws of armed conflict so long as it (a) does not have the purpose of starving or denying civilians essential objects for survival, nor (b) is excessive or disproportionate in damage to the civilian population.<sup>24</sup> The International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion (2024) declared Gaza to be under “continuous belligerent occupation” by Israel, suggesting that Israel be bound not only by international humanitarian law but also the human rights law under the obligations of an occupying power.<sup>25</sup> Regardless of the debate about 2005-2023, it is beyond dispute that Israel has occupied Gaza since October 7, 2023, reigniting calls for the application of international human rights law (IHRL) relevant to occupation. HRC resolution 55/30 (2024) calls upon States to “ensure their obligations of non-recognition, non-aid or assistance with regard to the serious breaches of

<sup>21</sup> International Committee of the Red Cross, “What is the Difference Between IHL and human rights law?” <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/what-difference-between-ihl-and-human-rights-law>

<sup>22</sup> 1907 Hague Regulations Article 42. See also Bantekas and Jaber (2025), p. 5.

<sup>23</sup> Lisa Bhungalia, “A Liminal Territory: Gaza, Executive Discretion, and Sanctions Turned Humanitarian.” *GeoJournal* (2010), p.347.

<sup>24</sup> “Israel, Blockade of Gaza and the Flotilla Incident.” ICRC <https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/israel-blockade-gaza-and-flotilla-incident#:~:text=In%20particular%2C%20the%20tightening%20of,year%20later%2C%20in%20January%202009.>

<sup>25</sup> For more information on the legal arguments, see Ilias Bantekas and Safaa Jaber, “The Human Rights Obligations of Belligerent Occupiers: Israel and the Gazan Population,” *Journal of Conflict and Security Law* (2025): 1-18.



peremptory norms of international law by Israel,” and calls for cooperation to bring, “through lawful means, an end to” Israel’s “serious breaches and a reversal of the illegal policies and practices of Israel.”<sup>26</sup> Regional bodies have chimed in on the conflict. The Arab League’s 2024 Manama Declaration called for both an end to the fighting in the Gaza Strip as well as for UN peacekeepers to be deployed in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), including Gaza Strip, pending a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.<sup>27</sup>

On the matter of international humanitarian law, Israel claims to be acting in self-defense, to be taking care to distinguish military targets and avoid civilian-only targets—taking precautions to give civilians notice and time ahead of operations—while pointing out Hamas’ violations of law amounting to war crimes by deliberately targeting civilians, taking hostages, and using civilians as “human shields.”<sup>28</sup>

On the matter of human rights in the Gaza conflict, The Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (2024), submitted to the General Assembly in accordance with HRC resolution S-30/1 (2021),<sup>29</sup> affirmed that Gaza was under “belligerent occupation by Israel, and thus bound by the 4<sup>th</sup> Geneva Convention and Regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land of 1907.”<sup>30</sup> The Report listed several “Factual Findings, including the following:

- Israel carried out 498 attacks on 110 health-care facilities in the Gaza Strip between 7 October 2023 and 30 July 2024, killing 747 and injuring 969. As of July, 2024, only 16 of Gaza’s 36 hospitals are partially functioning at overcapacity
- While Israeli security forces issued evacuation orders to some hospitals, the Commission found the orders were not “feasible” to be “implemented in a safe manner.”
- Despite Israeli claims that “over 85% of major medical facilities in Gaza were used by Hamas for terror operations,” the Commission interviewed medical personnel who “denied there was any military activity”
- A June 2024 UNICEF report stated only two of three “stabilization centres for treating malnourished children” were functioning, in North Gaza Governorate and Deir al-Balah.
- Israel arrested over 4,000 Palestinians in Gaza between October 2023 and July 2024, many transferred to facilities in Israel for interrogation under the “Incarceration of Unlawful Combatants Act.” Israelis claim to conduct a hearing within 7 to 10 days,” and those released at crossing points lack procedures to ensure medical attention” or support, contributing to children being separated from family. Reports of mistreatment of detainees include being stripped, beaten, and given death threats, among others.
- 251 people were abducted and taken to Gaza as hostages on 7 October 2023, and that they were “held incommunicado without contact with the outside world, including ICRC (Red Cross).” There was credible evidence of some hostages being subject to sexualized torture and abuse. The Commission found that the “majority of hostages were subjected to mistreatment,” and reiterated “the responsibility of Palestinian armed groups” to “ensure adequate access to food, water and medicine” for the hostages.<sup>31</sup>

---

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> “Arab League calls for UN peacekeepers in occupied Palestinian territory.” *Al Jazeera*, May 16, 2024 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/5/16/arab-league-calls-for-un-peacekeepers-in-occupied-palestinian-territory>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.ajc.org/news/israel-hamas-and-international-law-what-you-need-to-know>

<sup>29</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/S-30/1>

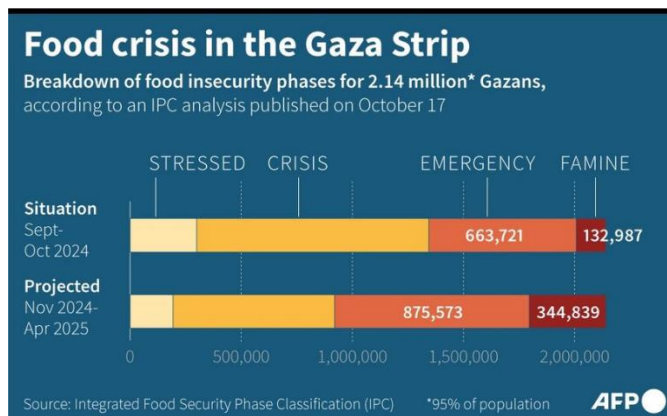
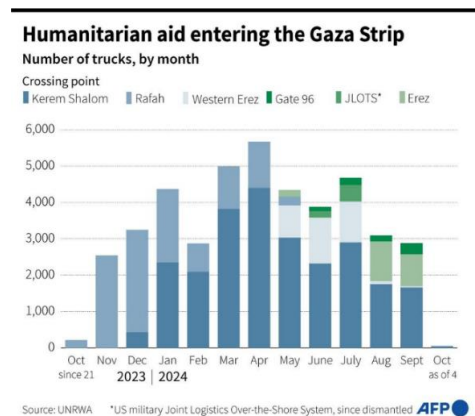
<sup>30</sup> <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/262/79/pdf/n2426279.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/262/79/pdf/n2426279.pdf>

As for detainees and their treatment, a 1998 Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organizations of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms was endorsed by GA resolution 53/144 (1998), raising issues about the line between the right to protest and violent and nonviolent actions that warrant security responses. Israel's Order 101 (1967) on the "Prohibition of Incitement and Hostile Propaganda Actions" requires assembly of ten or more in the occupied territories for the purpose of discussion on a political topic to have a permit or be deemed illegal.<sup>32</sup> Israel further claims that human rights law pertains to its sovereign territory, not extraterritorially in places especially in which Israel lacks effective control.<sup>33</sup>

On the matter of humanitarian assistance, UNRWA remains the chief aid supplier in Gaza and Palestinian refugee populations in general. With the discovery of a small portion of UNRWA staff having ties to the Hamas attack on Israel, several countries cut ties and aid to the organization, including Israel and the United States. Others who suspended aid to UNRWA, have resumed.<sup>34</sup> UNRWA noted its role in delivering aid during the Phase I ceasefire from late January through the start of March 2025, providing food assistance to over 90% of the population and restoring access services and health centers in Rafah, Gaza City, and Khan Younis.<sup>35</sup> They boasted providing 64,000 people with tents, and half a million people with clothes and cooking equipment.<sup>36</sup> If the ceasefire fails and conflict resumes, the humanitarian crisis will become critical again.

Delivery of aid is still a matter of acquiescence by Israel or Egypt for deliveries by land, air or sea. Aid was largely absent from October 7-20, 2023, and since then has fluctuated between 300 and 4600 trucks per month, but all at levels most say are far below what is needed given the devastation of war on the economy and infrastructure.<sup>37</sup> Food insecurity is widespread, with a million Gazans facing famine or emergency food insecurity as of Fall 2024.<sup>38</sup>



<sup>32</sup> See Raghad Jaraisy and Tamar Feldman, "Protesting for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: Assessing the Challenges and Revisiting the Human Rights Defender Framework." *Journal of Human Rights Practice* Vol. 5, No. 3 (2013): p. 423.

<sup>33</sup> Bantekas and Jaber, p.11-16.

<sup>34</sup> <https://unwatch.org/updated-list-of-countries-suspending-unwra-funding/>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/news-releases/gaza-strip-phase-one-lifesaving-ceasefire-draws-end-unrwa-reaches-2-million>

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Chloe Reouveyrolles-Bazire. "How Much Aid is Getting into Gaza?" *Al-Monitor*, October 21, 2024 <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2024/10/how-much-aid-getting-gaza>

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

Regarding statehood as a goal, HRC resolution 55/30 (2024) reaffirmed the Palestinian people's right "to their independent State of Palestine," while calling for Israel to end "its occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem" and reaffirm its support for a two-state solution "living side by side in peace and security,"<sup>39</sup> recalling the July 2024 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice that Israel as an "Occupying Power," has impeded "the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people."<sup>40</sup> In 2002, the Arab League endorsed the so-called Arab Peace Initiative, reiterated in 2007, which called for a two-state solution in which Arab states would recognize Israel in exchange for Israel's recognition of a Palestinian state at the pre-war lines of 1967, including Gaza, West Bank and East Jerusalem.<sup>41</sup> The Quartet Road Map and Arab Peace Initiative are reaffirmed in GA resolution 79/49 (2024) reaffirmation of the right of the Palestinian people to "their independent State of Palestine" and call for the UN system to assist the realization of Palestinian self-determination.<sup>42</sup>

The fate of Gaza, and Palestine in general, remains in limbo, between those who want a two-state solution, those who want only Israel or only Palestine, or something else. The status quo prevails given the deadlock over the lack of agreement by those with the power to do something about it. Among the issues of governing Gaza after war, some have proposed Israeli occupation, Palestinian control, or some form of UN temporary control. Some suggest putting the territory in UN Trusteeship,<sup>43</sup> though some analysts note "the Palestinians, Israeli government, and U.S. government would almost surely oppose such a proposal. Instead, governments should consider other options, including an international transitional authority established by the UN Security Council or another international transitional authority perhaps "blessed" (but not necessarily administered) by the UN."<sup>44</sup>

### **Questions to consider**

1. Does your Member State recognize Israel? Does it recognize Palestine? Or does it recognize both?
2. What is your Member State's position on Israel, the Palestinians, and the 2023 Gaza War? Did your country side with actions in the ICJ charging Israel with genocide? What is your position on the ICC charges brought against Israeli and Hamas leaders?
3. Does your country contribute aid to Gaza and, if so, by what means? What is your Member State's position on UNRWA as an entity to receive donations and be involved in providing aid in Gaza?
4. If considerations of a broader peace for Israel-Palestine are discussed, what is your country's views of the Quartet Road Map to Peace and the idea of a two-state solution?

---

<sup>39</sup> <https://docs.un.org/en/A/HRC/RES/55/30>. Delegates should consult the previous HRC resolutions concerning Palestine, found here: <https://www.un.org/unispal/human-rights-council-resolutions/>

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-181223/>

<sup>42</sup> <https://docs.un.org/A/C.3/79/L.49>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/trusteeship-council#:~:text=The%20main%20goals%20of%20the,towards%20self%2Dgovernment%20or%20independence.>

<sup>44</sup> Larry Johnson. "Should the UN Administer Post-Conflict Gaza?" *Lawfare*, July 19, 2024 <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/should-the-united-nations-administer-post-conflict-gaza>