



Mission Viejo High School Model United Nations
29th Annual Conference
“Through the Fire the Spirit is Forged”



INTERPOL, Palestinian Statehood

I. Background of Topic

For thousands of years, Israel and Palestine have clashed in an ongoing hostile conflict regarding territorial rights and land disputes over what they both believe to be their God-given land, specifically the holy city of Jerusalem. It is considered one of the chief causes of Middle Eastern tensions and solving this issue is the key to creating peace in this region. Following the terrible aftermath of the Holocaust, hundreds of thousands of the Jewish people were displaced all throughout Europe, leaving families separated, homeless, and barely surviving. The Zionist movement became more influential and stated that Jews of Israel reserved the right to a national home in which their people have been settled in since biblical times. They believed it was only logical that they deserved their own Jewish state due to the injustices brought upon them during the Holocaust, and Jerusalem in addition to the land occupied by Palestinians was rightfully theirs. Not only did the Jews believe that this land was theirs, they were suffering from terrible discrimination and harsh living conditions and were seeking a safe haven to avoid judgment to rebuild their lives with their families.

The Muslim Palestinians strongly oppose Israeli reasoning and believe that Israel should be renamed Palestine and ruled by the Palestinian Authority. They believe that “Palestine” is the land of their people, culturally. After the June 1967 war when Israel invaded the Gaza Strip, many Palestinians left this territory for surrounding Muslim nations to seek refuge. Many nations denied entry to the Palestinians, who were then forced into various refugee camps throughout the Palestinian territories. These people now want a Palestinian state so they can be freed from the refugee camps. Israel, however, feels that a Palestinian state (based on previously discussed conditions) would be a threat to Israeli sovereignty. Tensions in the Middle East are still exorbitantly high and peace must be sought out immediately.

In the past, the peace processes has been dependent on a two-state solution, but the wants of Palestinians have been changing. A poll was conducted in the West Bank and Gaza which showed that only 34% of Palestinians support the "two states for two peoples" idea.



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65% believed peace talks were the best solution, and 20% wanted to have violence. However, this poll revealed that "73% of 1,010 Palestinians in West Bank, Gaza agree with 'hadith or the Islamic court' quoted in Hamas Charter about the need to kill Jews hiding behind stones, trees," This poll also concluded that "72% of Palestinians endorsed the denial of Jewish history in Jerusalem, 62% supported kidnapping IDF soldiers and holding them hostage and 53% were in favor or teaching songs about hating Jews in Palestinian schools."

Violence towards Israelis and towards other Palestinians makes up a large part of the conflict in the region. Israeli policy has been heavily influenced by the fighting amongst rival Palestinian and Arab movements. For example, Palestinian baathists broke from the Palestinian Liberation Organization to ally with the Shia Amal Movement.

In the First Intifada, many Palestinians were killed movement started by the Palestinian Liberation Organization. This movement was started to punish suspected Israeli security service informers and collaborators. The Palestinian Authority was strongly condemned by rights groups complaining that these collaborators were denied fair trials for the poor treatment they encountered. A report released by the Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group stated that less than 45 percent of those killed were actually guilty of informing for Israel.

Another issue that plagues the region is of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. Israel reestablished many of their communities that were destroyed in 1929 and 1948 and expanded settlements into the West Bank. These settlements are, as of 2009, home to about 301,000 people. DEMA added, "Most of the settlements are in the western parts of the West Bank, while others are deep into Palestinian territory, overlooking Palestinian cities. These settlements have been the site of much inter-communal conflict." Hamas and other terrorist organizations see this as an encroachment of Israel onto native Palestinian lands thus responds with violence to stem Israeli expansion.

The Israel Palestine Conflict is an age old issue that can, hopefully, be resolved in a timely manner.



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II. UN Involvement

The issue between Israel and Palestine has been on the United Nation’s agenda for decades. After the British left Palestine, they left their mess in the hands of the United Nations. Since then, it has been a top priority for the United Nations to resolve this conflict in the Middle East.

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war large portions of displaced Palestinians have not yet been allowed access back into their home territory which now is a Jewish state. The Law of Return only grants Jews from around the world citizenship and excludes Palestinians who fled Israeli territory during the war. According to the UN resolution 194, adopted in 1948, "the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the Governments or authorities responsible. UN Resolution 3236 “reaffirms also the inalienable right of the Palestinians to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced and uprooted, and calls for their return”. Resolution 242 affirms the necessity for "achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem"; however, Resolution 242 does not specify that the "just settlement" must or should be in the form of a literal Palestinian right of return.

More recently, Palestine has submitted a formal request for statehood to the United Nations. This has been a hot topic in global politics. Nations believe that creating a Palestinian state is a positive idea that has not been attempted in prior attempts at settling this age old dispute.

III. Possible Solutions

The classic solution to the conflict of giving Palestine their own state is the idea of a “two-state solution”. Since Palestine has formally requested for statehood, it is a given fact that a two-state solution will be attempted yet again. We must look deeper into the issue now. Palestinians and Israeli’s feel that they have cultural and religious ties to this holy land. It is



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crucial to consider the arguments of both sides when determining what would constitute as a “fair” border for this Palestinian state. One idea is that Israel keeps its current land while Palestine attempts to revive the territories of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights. Jerusalem would be under Israeli control, as it is now. There also is the idea of redrawing the borders of Israel to make room for a Palestinian state. Jerusalem, in this case, would most likely become an international city governed by the United Nations. The sovereignty of both sides needs to be considered and from there a Palestinian state constitution can be born. The UN takes Palestine’s request for statehood very seriously, and it is important to find a compromise with the Israelis in order to create this new nation.

IV. Bloc Positions

Asian bloc: The Asian nations are in full support of a Palestinian state and believe that any nations who impede on such a state being formed are in the wrong.

Latin Bloc: The Latin countries support the recognition of a Palestinian state.

European Bloc: European nations are generally in support of the formation of a Palestinian state

African Bloc: Having a large portion of African citizens as Muslims, there is an overwhelming support and recognition of a Palestinian State

Middle Eastern Bloc: All Muslim Middle Eastern nations support a Palestinian state. While Israel does support the creation and recognition of a Palestinian state, they will only do so if Palestine adheres to certain policies.

North American Bloc: In general, the North American Nations do not believe a Palestinian state would contribute to peace in the Middle East.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What are the important aspects behind the conflict between Israel and Palestine?
2. What other benefits will Palestine receive if they gain statehood?
3. How will the Western World be affected by a Palestinian state?



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4. With the Arab Spring occurring not long ago, what effect (if any) will surrounding Arab countries have on the establishment of the new state?
5. Under what conditions can a Palestinian state be favorable to Israel and her allies?

VI. Useful Websites

<http://www.holocaust-history.org/short-essays/what-happened.shtml>

[http://israelipalestinian.procon.org/view.resource.php?
resourceID=000631](http://israelipalestinian.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000631)

http://www.historyguy.com/israeli-palestinian_conflict.html

<http://www.zionism-israel.com/>

<http://www.ifamericansknew.org/history/>

[http://pheids.com/info/guide/p/pr/
proposals_for_a_palestinian_state.html](http://pheids.com/info/guide/p/pr/proposals_for_a_palestinian_state.html)