

# **BALMUN'25**

## **GA3: SOCHUM**

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### **STUDY GUIDE**

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## **1. Letter From Co-Secretaries Generals**

**It is our utmost pleasure to be able to serve this year's BALMUN Conference, a gathering where we unite to shape the world through democracy and collective ideas, as the Co-Secretaries General. We are more than prepared to provide you with the best 3 days journey of all your MUN experiences. With our excellent academic team, we greet you with 8 committees in total: 2 of them being General Assembly, 4 of them being Special and 2 of them as Crisis Committees. Let this conference serve as a reminder that leadership is not measured by the volume of one's voice, but by the integrity of people's ideas and the willingness to listen, adapt, and inspire the change.**

**Sincerely,**

**Alin Asel Mordeniz & Ceylin Umay Köylü**

**Co-Secretaries General**

## 2. Letter From Under Secretary General

Esteemed Participants,

At first i would like to welcome you all to **BALMUN'25**. It's a pleasure to be here for everyone of you.

My name is Ada Akar and I'm an IBDP student in **SOBIL**. I am more than delighted to attend this thrilling conference with you all. We worked day and night to bring you the best academic experience ever. There is nothing more I want than all of you dear delegates have the best of their time in this event.

Just after I was invited to be the USG of this committee, the whole academic team started to work tirelessly for only bringing you this amazing experience. You will be able to find every single detail that you'll need in your debates. Believe me, it will be an unforgettable memory for all of you but not just only in an academic way :)

This study guide should be your first research data. The committee will keep the ball rolling with the information and the key words in it. The points I want you to specifically cover are all in this guide. I highly recommend you to also check the **QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED** part to have more certain ideas about the agenda. The planned committee is according to this guide but moreover i recommend you to do research from the sources in bibliography.

Last but not least, i'm as much as excited as you are for this committee and believe me when i say that whole of the academia are here to encourage and support you whenever we can. I hope **BALMUN'25** will be THE mun for all of you.

You can contact me if you need via [adakar2008@gmail.com](mailto:adakar2008@gmail.com) ,

Ada Akar **UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL**  
BALMUN'25

### **3. Introduction to the committee**

Social, humanitarian & cultural issues committee is the third general assembly committee of the United Nations (UN). Protecting human rights and finding possible solutions for the crises as refugees, children, women and local people. The committee criticizes the reports and gives advice to the supreme court. It was founded in 1945 after the institution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its principle task lies in analyzing the scope of social, humanitarian, and human rights inequalities—from global literacy to the elimination of racism—and designing policy to bridge such divides. Sochum as the name suggests is the one dealing with the social issues of global politics. The General Assembly is made up of 193 members, according to the rules of procedure each state can send up to six delegates to the general assembly filling one spot for each GA committee. Like all other General Assembly committees SOCHUM does not possess the legal authority nor is it legally binding due to the anarchical political system however it does possess the authority to formulate and pass resolutions to the Security Council where it is to be debated and if found plausible put into action, yet still not legally binding in theory.

### **4. Introduction to the Agenda Item**

#### **HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE AREA GAZA**

Due to the ongoing conflict in the area Gaza, the living atmosphere is almost inhuman. A lot of violations against human rights occur in Palestine caused by the war. Furthermore the number of migration from the member state had a high range of increase. Moreover, actions of Israel can be counted as war crimes. The basic human rights; the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education are taken from the Palestinian people. According to the “Human Rights Watch” Israeli authorities have caused the massive, deliberate forced displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza since October 2023 and are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.. The report is being published at the time of an ongoing Israeli military campaign in northern Gaza that has most likely created a new wave of forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians. Gaza has conducted hostilities caused horrific violations as human suffering, especially as a result of Israel’s strategies for war -means and methods- and in many actions Israel has taken ended involving gross violations of international human rights law (IHRL) and serious violations of international humanitarian law (IHL). The level of human rights violations to international law was unprecedented, giving rise to concerns over the

commission of war crimes and other possible atrocities. The High Commissioner stresses the importance of full and immediate compliance with those obligations for prevent a possible genocide based on the totality of conduct and taking into account events since, including Israel's recent operations in North Gaza and its adoption of legislation on UNWRA activities, has assumed even further criticality and urgency. These actions taken by the Israeli government can lead alliance member states to another conflict which might cause III. World War.

## REFUGEE CRISIS

As of the end of June 2024, an estimated 122.6 million people around the world had been forced to leave their own homes due to the conflicts, persecutions, violences, and widespread human rights disobedience. Among the refugees there are some labels as:

- 43.7 million are classified as refugees—including 32 million under the care of the UNHCR and 6 million Palestine refugees supported by UNRWA. There are camps for only Palestinian civilians in different member states and the rates of refugees from Palestine have increased due to the inhuman activities of Israel.
- 72.1 million are internally displaced, meaning they've been uprooted within their own countries.
- 8 million are asylum seekers, individuals who have fled and are awaiting decisions on their refugee status.

The rise in displacement during the first half of 2024 was primarily driven by ongoing conflicts, crises in Sudan and Ukraine; where violence and instability continue to force people to migration. Currently, a significant share of the world's refugee population, more than one-third of those under the UNHCR's mandate and others in need of international protection, is being hosted by just five countries: **Iran, Türkiye, Colombia, Germany, and Uganda**. New internal displacements were reported in 16 countries, but just six of them; Sudan, Myanmar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, Haiti, and Mozambique accounted for 90% of these new cases. This indicates how heavily the burden of internal displacement is concentrated in a few particularly troubled regions. These specific countries and regions are facing some crisis behind their own borders also.

Unfortunately, solutions for refugees are becoming harder to find. While in the 1990s, about 1.5 million refugees per year were able to return to their home countries, that number has dropped to around 385,000 annually over the past decade. This sharp decline means that the number of people being displaced far outpaces the number finding a safe and lasting resolution. The conditions of these

refugees are also becoming more and more desperate due to the economic crisis, conflicts, water shortage and more. Each day their chance of returning to their homeland decreases.

## **5. Background Information**

### **a. Israel - Palestine Conflict**

The area that today comprises Israel and the Palestinian territories was once belonging to the Ottoman Empire until it fell After the World War I. The area occupied by the British included the Ottoman region of Jerusalem and the sanjaks of Acre and Balqa in the Beirut government, while the north of Acre were occupied by the French. Since the areas occupied by the British was mainly the historical figures of Palestine, the Britons adopted the member state to be it's mandate. It's governorship upon the region has been authorized by the League of Nations

Following decades of tensions between Arabs and Jews under British mandate against Palestine, both groups pushed for self-determination after the Ottoman Empire's fall in 1922. In 1947, Britain announced its withdrawal and supported UN Resolution 181, which proposed partitioning the territory into separate Jewish and Arab states. Against a backdrop of growing violence between Jews and Arabs, and against British rule, the United Nations (UN) voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states. Jerusalem would become an international city. This was one of the first actions taken upon putting a jewish member state into the area for having more control in the Middle East. While the plan was accepted internationally, Arab leaders rejected it. When Britain withdrew in May 1948, Israel declared independence, triggering ongoing conflict over borders, security, and land. Since then, Israel has fought several major wars with Arab states in 1948–49, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 2006, and from 2023 onward, shaping the broader Middle East.

## **6. Previous Conflicts**

### **a. Arab - Israeli war 1948**

The Arab-Israeli War of 1948 broke out when five Arab nations invaded territory in the former Palestinian mandate immediately following the announcement of the independence of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948. In 1947, and again on May 14, 1948, the United States had offered de facto

recognition of the Israeli Provisional Government, but during the war, the United States maintained an arms embargo against all belligerents.



The United Nations resolution caused a conflict between Jews and Arab groups within Palestine. Fighting began with attacks by bunch of Palestinian Arab groups attached to local units of the Arab Liberation Army composed of volunteers from Palestine and neighboring Arab member states. These groups planned attacks against Jewish cities, settlements, and armed forces. The Jewish forces were called the Haganah, the underground military forces of the Jewish community in Palestine, and two small groups, the Irgun, and LEHI. The goal of the Arabs was initially to block the Partition Resolution and to prevent the occupation of a possible Jewish State. The Jews, on the other hand, hoped to gain control over the territory and declare their independence.

The 1948 war was the conclusion of a civil war which happened from November 1947 to May 1948, between the Jews and Arabs accomodating in the British mandate of Palestine. The conflict between Israel and Arab forces outside of the borders of Palestine began on May 15, 1948 when those forces swooped in from neighboring countries just hours after British forces left Palestine and Israel had declared its own independence. A series of armistice agreements with the neighboring countries as Egypt (February 24, 1949), Lebanon (March 23, 1949), Transjordan (April 3, 1949), and Syria (July 20, 1949) brought a formal end to the war and established “De Facto” borders for the newly created State of Israel. The borders of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were also created by these treaties.



*b. Suez War 1956*

The Suez Crisis of 1956, in which the Egyptian Government seized control of the Suez Canal from the British and French owned company that managed it, had important consequences for U.S. relations with both Middle Eastern countries and European allies.

On July 26, 1956, Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser wanted to nationalize the British and French owned Suez Canal Company that operated towards Suez Canal. Nasser's decision was a big threat against British and French stock holdings in the Company and as the Canal was in fact a symbolic bridge for Europe to have access to Middle East and their sources and supplies, moreover it threatened the oil supply of Europe from Middle East. The ensuing Suez Crisis

threatened regional stability and challenged the U.S. relationship with two primary Cold War allies, Britain and France.



Nasser nationalized the canal after the United States and Britain reneged on a previous agreement to finance the Aswan Dam project. The Aswan Dam was designed to control the Nile's flood waters and provide electricity and water to the Egyptian populace and, as such,

was a symbol of Egypt's modernization and their life support. The United States and Britain withdrew their financing for the Aswan Dam after Nasser made several moves that appeared friendly to the communist block, including an arms deal with Czechoslovakia and recognition of the Chinese Government in Beijing. Without support from the United States and Britain, Nasser needed the revenue generated from tolls collected from ships using the Suez Canal to subsidize the cost of building the dam.

Although the United States was concerned about Nasser's nationalization movements against the Suez canal, it brought a diplomatic solution to the problem. Britain and France, however, viewed the situation as a threat to their national interests. Accordingly, they sought a military solution upon the topic and the solution involved Israel. They secretly contacted the Israeli Government and proposed a joint military operation in which Israel would invade the Sinai and march toward the Suez Canal zone after which Britain and France would issue a warning to both Egypt and Israel to stay away from the Canal. Britain and France would then land paratroopers in the Canal Zone on the pretense of protecting it. Israel willingly agreed to this scenario since it gave Israel the opportunity to gain control of the Gaza

Strip and Sinai Peninsula, end the Egyptian blockade of the Straits of Tiran, and retaliate against Egypt over its support for Palestinian commando raids on Israel's western border during the previous two years.

On October 29, 1956, Israeli forces moved across the border, defeated the Egyptian army in the Sinai, captured Sharm al-Sheikh and thereby guaranteed Israeli strategic control over the Straits of Tiran. Britain and France issued their ultimatum and landed troops, effectively carrying out the agreed upon operation. However, the United States and the Soviet Union responded to events by demanding a cease-fire. In a resolution before the United Nations, the United States also called for the evacuation of Israeli, French, and British forces from Egypt under the supervision of a special United Nations force. By December 22, the last British and French troops had withdrawn from Egyptian territory, but Israel kept its troops in Gaza until March 19, 1957, when the United States finally compelled the Israeli Government to withdraw its troops.

The Suez conflict fundamentally altered the regional balance of power. It was a military defeat for Egypt, but Nasser's status grew in the Arab world as the defender of Arab nationalism. Israel withdrew from Egyptian territory gained in the fighting but regained access to the Straits of Tiran, while the United Nations adopted a larger role maintaining a peacekeeping force in the Sinai. Britain and France lost influence in the region and suffered humiliation after the withdrawal of their troops from the Canal Zone. Moreover, relations between the United States and its British and French allies temporarily deteriorated in the months following the war. In contrast, Soviet influence in the Middle East grew, especially in Syria where the Soviets began to supply arms and advisers to the Syrian military. The United States had played a moderating role, and in so doing had improved its relations with Egypt, but the fundamental disputes between Israel and its neighbors remained unresolved. When these disagreements resurfaced, the United States would again be drawn into the conflicts.

### *c. Six - Day War 1967*

War in 1967 came as a result of years of increasing tension and vicious border skirmishes between Arabs and Israelis. Six-Day War, or Arab-Israeli War of 1967, War between Israel and the Arab countries of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Palestinian guerrillas attacked to Israel from their sheltered bases located in Syria which helped guerilla to do mounting raids into Israel. Syria led to increased hostility between the two countries. The biggest flashpoint was Israel's northern border with Syria,

where they fought over disputed territory and Syria's attempts to divert the River Jordan away from Israel's national water grid.

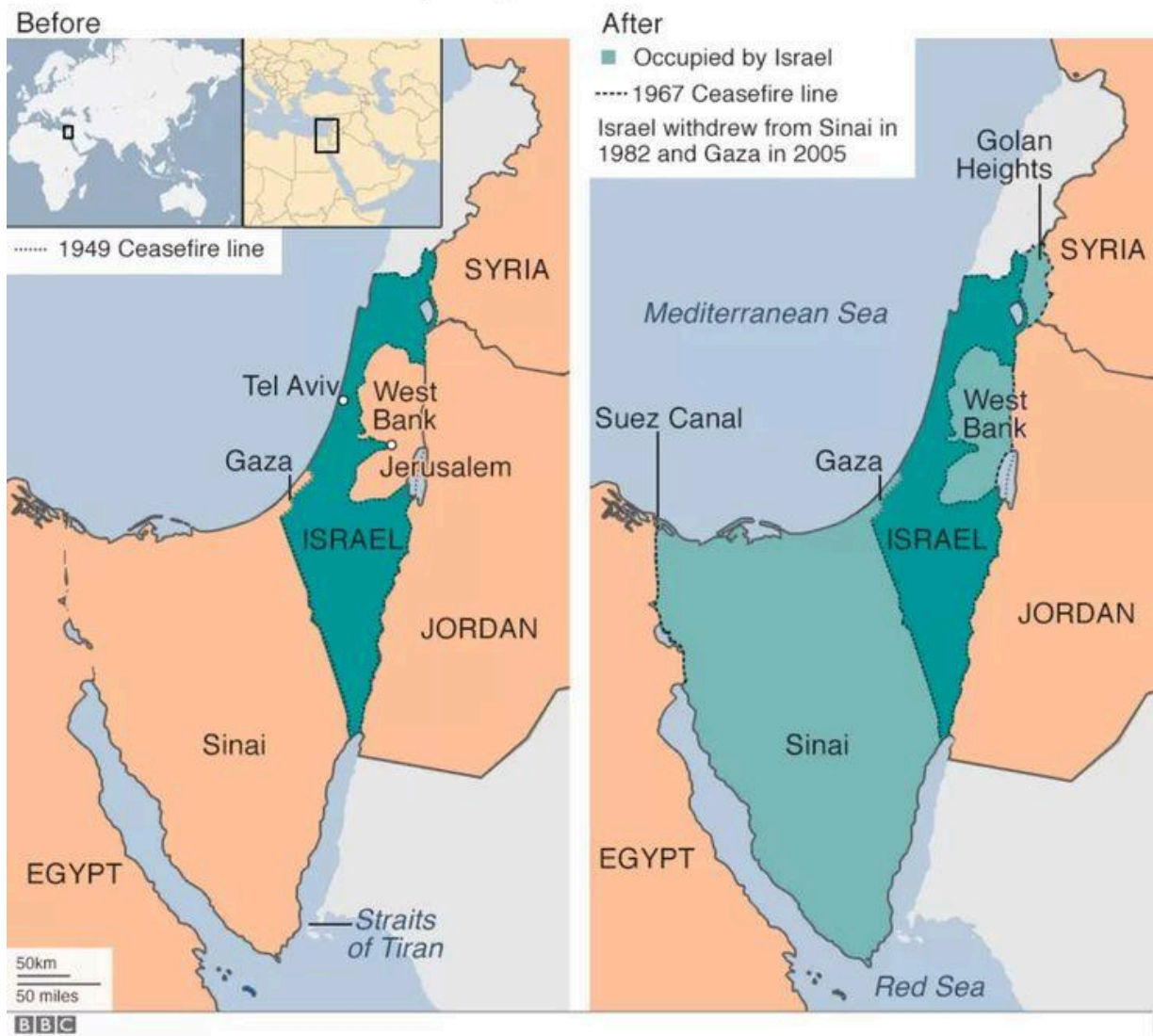
A series of miscalculations by both sides followed. Syria feared that an invasion by Israel was forthcoming and appealed to Egypt for support. Egypt answered the request by ordering the withdrawal of UN peacekeeping forces from the Sinai Peninsula and by moving troops into the area. Amid increasingly belligerent language from both sides, Egypt signed a mutual defense treaty with Jordan.

Western powers had no doubt which side in the Middle East was stronger on the eve of war in 1967. The US military's Joint Chiefs of Staff judged "that Israel will be militarily unchallengeable by any combination of Arab states at least during the next five years."

In a report on the Israeli army in January 1967, the British defence attaché in Tel Aviv assessed that "in command, training, equipment and services the Israel army is more prepared for war than ever before. Well-trained, tough, self-reliant, the Israeli soldier has a strong fighting spirit and would willingly go to war in defence of his country."

Between June 5 and June 10, Israel defeated Egypt, Jordan, and Syria and occupied the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. From the beginning, the United States sought a ceasefire in order to prevent an Arab defeat bad enough to force the Soviet Union to intervene. U.S. officials were also concerned about alienating pro-Western Arab regimes, especially after Egypt and several other Arab states accused the United States of helping Israel and broke diplomatic relations. Yet after June 5, the administration did not also demand an immediate Israeli pullback from the territories it had occupied. U.S. officials believed that in light of the tenuous nature of the prewar armistice regime, they should not force Israel to withdraw unless peace settlements were put into place.

### Before and after the Six Day War, 1967



#### d. 1973 Yom Kippur War

After Israel's victory in the Six-Day War of 1967, Jews had a control of territory four times its previous size. Egypt lost Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip, Jordan lost the West Bank and East Jerusalem and Syria lost their strategic territory Golan Heights.

When Anwar el-Sadat became the president of Egypt in 1970, He wanted to make peace and thereby achieve stability and recovery of the Sinai, but after Israel's 1967 victory it was unlikely that Israel's peace terms would be in favour of Egypt. So Sadat conceived of a daring plan to attack Israel again, which, even if unsuccessful, might convince the Israelis that peace with Egypt was necessary.

When the fourth Arab-Israeli war began on October 6, 1973, many of Israel's soldiers were away from their posts observing Yom Kippur, and the Arab armies made impressive advances with their Soviet weaponry.

Iraqi forces soon joined the war, and Syria received support from Jordan. After several days, Israel was fully mobilized, and the Israel Defense Forces began beating back the Arab gains at a heavy cost to soldiers and equipment. A U.S. airlift of arms aided Israel's cause, but President Richard Nixon delayed the emergency military aid for a week as a tacit signal of U.S. sympathy for Egypt. On October 25, an Egyptian-Israeli cease-fire was secured by the United Nations.

The War again ended with an Israeli victory and it brought heavy casualties with it. However Egypt came to a conclusion in which they signed a treaty agreement with Israel and became the first neighbour member state to do so with Israel. With this agreement, Egypt gained Sinai again, This action taken by Egypt did not taken very well by the other member states in the Arab League, especially Syria. The end of the Yom Kippur War was a disaster for Syria and it caused them to lose even more territory in the Golan Heights. They were one of the member states to vote upon Egypt to be expelled from the League.

#### *e. 1982 Lebanon War*

In March 1978, members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) infiltrated Israel, leading to the murder of an American tourist and the hijacking of a bus, resulting in the deaths of 34 hostages. In retaliation, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon, targeting terrorist bases. After two months, they withdrew, allowing United Nations peacekeepers to enter.

Violence continued to escalate, with repeated PLO attacks and Israeli reprisals. A ceasefire brokered by the US in July 1981 quickly fell apart, as the PLO conducted 270 terrorist operations in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and along the Lebanese border, resulting in 29 Israeli deaths and over 300 injuries.

At the time, an estimated 15,000 to 18,000 PLO members were stationed across Lebanon, armed with significant quantities of light and heavy weaponry.

In June 1982, a Palestinian group had an attempt of suicide against the Israel's ambassador of Great Britain and as a return, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) started an operation called "Operation Peace for Galilee".

The operations goal was to eliminate the PLO's influence in Lebanon and improve their defence forces against further cross-border attacks. Israeli forces marched towards Beirut, and they successfully achieved to force the leader of PLO, Yasser Arafat and the people beside him to evacuate into Tunisia. By September 1, 1982, approximately 14,000 PLO fighters left with the leader Yasser Arafat.

The May 17 Agreement of 1983 ended the state of war between Israel and Lebanon, and provided for an Israeli withdrawal from the country. Amid rising casualties from guerrilla attacks, the IDF retreated south of the Awali river on 3 September 1983.

#### *f. 2006 Second Lebanon War*

The 2006 Lebanon war between Israel and Hezbollah began in 12 July with a cross-border raid. It concluded as two Israeli soldiers were held captured and eight were killed. Since this was not the first time Hezbollah had faced Israeli forces, the fact that Israeli soldiers were hostages caused Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to move on with political options as a large-scale military response. If he had failed to react decisively, his government could have collapsed. It is spoken as there was a coordination with Iran or Syria which is vague about some speculations towards a broader plan may have been at play.

Israel's response was however full of unsuccessful coordinations and unpreparedness. The IDF had only a few combat-ready brigades at the time, most of which had spent years focused on counter-insurgency in the occupied territories. As a result, Israeli forces lacked training for high-intensity warfare against a determined and well-prepared enemy.

The Israeli Navy, whose task was to blockade Lebanon and leave them out of the ranges and conflicts, had a surprise counter attack after one of its modern warships was struck by an Iranian missile. It was a sign that proves Hezbollah's supporters were more than they've expected and it was a clear win for Hezbollah.

Israel Air Force (IAF) played the leading role in the early phase of the war. With the improved technology and intelligence gathered from years of mandation over Lebanon, the IAF successfully destroyed most of Hezbollah's forces as medium-range missile systems and command centers in less than 3 days. Operations called Deep-Strike failed to eliminate Hezbollah leadership, and the bombardment of Lebanese infrastructure did not fully sever Hezbollah's supply lines. Shortly, the IAF was unsuccessful upon preventing Hezbollah's short-range rocket attacks against northern Israel. Due to these attacks, the area was forced to be evacuated.

Even though Israel had a stronger strategy and warships, Hezbollah's secret weapon -ability to launch rockets- continued to have a huge impact on the whole procedure of the war. Civilian casualties on the Israeli side remained relatively low, but mostly due to mass evacuations and the inaccuracy of Hezbollah's rockets caused huge problems on the Israeli side. In the end, the IDF and its supporting systems as logistics, civil defense, command structure, were not enough and it was criticized for their performance. After the war, the consequences and the undeniable situations exposed the limitations of Israel's conventional military power in asymmetric warfare.

## **7. Israel - Hamas Conflict**

### *a. Significant Figures*

#### BENJAMIN NETENYAHU:

Benjamin Netanyahu was born in October 1949, Tel Aviv. He was three times elected to be the prime minister of Israel (1996-1999, 2009-2021, 2022-) Netanyahu was in military forces of Israel before being a politician and did some temporary ambassadorships. The starting point for him being a prime minister was very aggressive. Soon he became the president, Netanyahu wanted to open a tunnel near Al-Aqsa Mosque and it caused an intense fighting from Palestinians. He wanted to give Palestine less territory than written in documents and after violent protests and brutal conflicts, they did a peace meeting with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat which concluded as 40% of the West Bank will be in Palestine's control. However Netanyahu's leadership was not approved by Israeli people and it was not a shock that he lost the elections held on 1999.

In 2009, after Benjamin Netanyahu won his second elections, for the first time there was an expression upon qualified support for the principle of an independent Palestinian state, with the conditions that any future Palestinian state would have to be demilitarized and would have to formally recognize Israel as a Jewish state. Those conditions were quickly rejected by Palestinian leaders.

Domestically, Netanyahu was facing a big economic gap among the middle class and the young. In summer 2011, there was street protest spreading all around Israel, decrying social and economic inequality and calling on the government to increase its support for basic needs such as transportation, education, child care, housing, and other public services. The following year his coalition was threatened twice by disagreements with coalition partners over military draft exemptions for Haredi Jews. The third and final coalition crisis of 2012 led Israel to an early selection after the coalition met an impasse over an austerity budget.

His war mentality is different according to a lot of people and it is easy to judge. On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched a coordinated air, land and sea operation against Israel which was one of the biggest attacks they've faced. The casualties were about 1.200 Israeli civilians killed and 240 of them was taken hostage. This attack caused society to wonder about the preparedness of the government and caused very serious trust issues. As Israel began conducting air strikes against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Netanyahu brought Gantz from the opposition into his emergency war cabinet, both bolstering the military expertise of Netanyahu's government and reducing his reliance on his far-right ministers in wartime decision-making. A ground invasion began weeks later, bringing the Israel- Hamas war into full swing.

### HAMAS:

Hamas is an Islamist militant movement that has controlled the Gaza Strip for nearly two decades. It violently rejects the existence of Israel, which it claims is occupying Palestine. In October 2023, Hamas attacked southern Israel, killing nearly 1,200 people and taking more than 200 hostages. In response, Israel declared a war aimed at eradicating the group.

Dozens of countries, including the United States, have designated Hamas a terrorist organization over the years, though some apply this label only to its military wing. The United States has pledged billions of dollars in new military aid since the Israel-Hamas war began and remains Israel's top weapon supplier.



Hamas's most important ally in the region is Iran, but it has also received significant financial and political support from Turkey. Qatar hosts the Hamas political office and also provides it with financial resources, though with the knowledge and cooperation of the Israeli government. Hamas is meanwhile one component of Iran's so-called axis of resistance, a regional network of anti-Israel partners that includes Palestinian Islamic Jihad, Lebanon's Hezbollah, Yemen's Houthis, and various militias in Iraq and Syria. Given these connections, many security experts fear that the Israel-Hamas war could engulf the region in a wider conflict.

Hamas's rival party, Fatah, which dominates the Palestinian Authority and rules in the West Bank, has formally renounced violence, though it has not always upheld that vow in times of high Israeli-Palestinian tensions. The split in Palestinian leadership and Hamas's unwavering hostility toward Israel diminished prospects for stability in Gaza ahead of the ongoing war, which has only cast the territory into further despair.

#### *b. International Interventions*



Israelis and Palestinians, always had a conflict over their territories in the Middle East and the main reason why Israel was so consistent is their claims to the Holy Land for decades. Although the United States is a strong supporter of Israel, it has traditionally tried to advance a diplomatic solution that would reconcile the competing claims of the two parties.

The Middle East was always a big opportunity of US so the whole area is very significant to the United States as successive administrations pursued a broad set of interrelated goals including securing vital energy resources, staving off Soviet and Iranian influence, ensuring the survival and security of Israel and Arab allies, countering terrorism, promoting democracy, and reducing refugee flows. Correspondingly, the United States has sought to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which has been a major driver of regional dynamics, with an eye toward obtaining these strategic objectives while balancing its support for Israel and pushing for broader regional stability.

However, there is a fact that the United States is yes having peace agreements for conflict to have an end but on the other hand on 13 August 2024, the Department of State announced that the U.S. had

approved a \$20 billion weapons package sale to Israel, which included fighter jets and advanced air-to-air missiles.



Second half of the 20th Century, The economic relations between Türkiye and Israel were very close and strong. Türkiye was also the first member state to recognize Israel in the whole area.

However after Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to office in 2002 the relations with Hamas grew stronger while with Israel it started its downfall. In 2006, current Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal visited Türkiye after he was invited by president Erdoğan. Hamas had by then been designated a terrorist group by Israel, the US and the EU, amongst others.

Even though the relations were not as strong as before, there was no political crisis between two member states until in 2009, president Erdoğan stormed out of a meeting during the World Economic Forum in Davos after a clash with Israel's President Shimon Peres over Israeli air strikes in Gaza.

The breaking point was when a ship, the Mavi Marmara, sailed from Istanbul to Gaza leading a flotilla of boats carrying volunteers and humanitarian aid to challenge Israel's maritime blockade of the Gaza Strip.

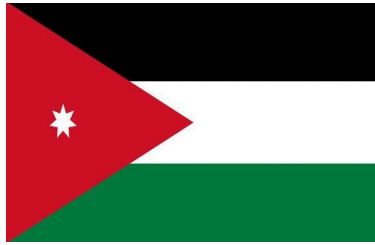
When the Mavi Marmara refused to halt, Israeli commandos raided it in international waters and 10 Turkish citizens on board were killed in ensuing clashes. The incident led Turkey to suspend diplomatic relations with Israel for several years.



Egypt both has a border with Israel and Gaza but even though Egypt is a muslim country, their relationship with HAMAS is complicated. In 1978, Cairo signed a formal peace based treaty at Camp David. Egyptian society wanted to be more close with Palestine and they wanted their government to show more support to them. While Cairo has acted as an interlocutor between Hamas and Israel in most of the conflicts, Egypt has long been wary about a desire by some on the Israeli right for Egypt to take responsibility for Gaza, pointing to the Egyptian administration of the coastal strip from 1948-67.

On October 7, the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued an official statement characterizing the Hamas attack as a Palestinian response to Israel's aggressive actions against Palestinian cities, while simultaneously advocating for restraint and calm from both parties involved. Al-Kamal Sayyis, a representative of the opposition "National Coalition Party" within the leftist faction in Egypt, asserted that the attack was not an isolated event but rather a retaliatory measure in response to the actions of the far-right Israeli government, which seeks to undermine the Palestinian cause.

In addition to the chorus of support for Hamas, there exist Egyptian voices that denounce Hamas' assault on Israeli civilians. Ibrahim Issa, a prominent Egyptian publicist, asserted that while the Palestinian resistance against Israeli occupation forces is deemed legitimate, the same cannot be said for the abduction and killing of Israeli citizens and their transport to Gaza, as this constitutes an act of terrorism. Dalia Ziada, an Egyptian intellectual, underscored the complicity of those who endorse the acts of terrorism perpetrated by Hamas, namely the rape of women, the abduction of vulnerable children and adults, incursions into civilian residences during religious observances, and the killing of unarmed individuals.



The crisis raging in Israel and Gaza since October 2023 has threatened Jordan's interests in ways not seen since the country lost control of the West Bank in 1967. Public protests in response to the crisis have grown to sizes comparable to those that occurred during the Arab Spring. Jordan's security has also been exposed to Iranian efforts to regionalise the conflict by encouraging militia activity in Iraq, which has fuelled the protests in Jordan, and by exploiting Jordanian airspace to strike Israel. Amman has responded by adopting an activist diplomatic approach to de-escalate the conflict.

The government views the ongoing war, the extreme right-wing government in Israel, the weakness of the Palestinian Authority and increasing settler violence in the West Bank as raising the risk of a doomsday scenario it has feared for many years: an influx of Palestinian refugees from the West Bank into Jordan, the end of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) – which provides services to 2.4 million Palestinian refugees in Jordan – the loss of Jordanian custodianship over Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem, and interruptions in vital water and energy supplies from Israel due to heightened political tensions.



The conflict between Israel and Lebanon is as significant as Israel-Hamas conflict with its historical, regional and political roots of both member states. Since the occurrence of Arab-Israeli wars, the heat between Israel and Lebanon has never stopped. Territorial conflicts and the geopolitical location of Lebanon was one of the basic reasons of the conflict next to the involvement of international area and member states such as Iran, Syria, and the west, most importantly USA. Since the creation of the State of Israel in 1948, relations between two governments were never good. With Hezbollah being an aggressive group was one the most significant facts in the conflicts. This group had many conflicts with Israel and the military operations by them and the counter responses from Israel have caused massive consequences, migrations, and tension along the border between Israel and Lebanon.

*OTHER IMPORTANT MEMBER STATES,*

Syria, Iran, Iraq, Yemen, Russian Federation

## **8. Human Rights Violations**

*What are human rights:*

Understanding human rights violations comes with first understanding human rights.

Israeli authorities have caused massive, deliberate forced displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza since October 2023 and are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity. The monitoring and verification of grave violations remained extremely challenging, including owing to access constraints, a high level of insecurity, and threats and direct attacks also on United Nations personnel, monitors and humanitarian actors. Nevertheless, verification work continued, with the number of killings verified by OHCHR by 2 September 2024 standing at 8,119 Palestinians in Gaza, including 2,036 women and 3,588 children (1,865 boys and 1,723 girls). Of these verified figures, 7,607 were killed in residential buildings or similar housing, 19 out of which 44 per cent were children, 26 per cent women and 30 per cent men. An analysis of the distribution of the verified fatalities in residential buildings or similar housing shows that all governorates of the Gaza Strip were affected, with a high number of fatalities verified in all areas. The fatalities were almost evenly distributed between the low of 13 percent in North Gaza and the high of 28 percent in Middle Gaza, highlighting that no area was safe in Gaza.

Furthermore, because of the conflicts that have been happening since 1948, most of the Palestinian civilians were forced to leave their own homeland. For instance, Palestine refugees are defined as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.” These refugees are accommodated in refugee camps which are socioeconomically poor and consist of more people than its capacity. UNRWA has a camp services office in each camp, which the residents visit to update their records or to raise issues relating to Agency services with the Camp Services Officer (CSO). The CSO, in turn, refers refugee concerns and petitions to the UNRWA administration in the area in which the camp is located.

### *Violations of International Humanitarian Law:*

In the aftermath of the war started on October 7, 2023 and Israel's response to the attacks with bombardments, there is much discussion, by both experts and non-experts, about International Humanitarian Law (IHL), because of the current situations and the historical cases upon civilizations.

IHL, or the laws of war, has existed in some form for thousands of years, but the modern version is set out in the Geneva Conventions 1949, alongside other treaties, and customary international law.

It is important to say that the rules of law are non-reciprocal, meaning that they apply irrespective of what the other side has done. Violations - such as deliberately targeting civilians or imposing collective punishment - can never be justified by claiming that another party has committed violations, or that there are power imbalances or other injustices. According to these laws, the most important clause is about civilians and their immunity.

The laws of war only apply in specific situations, notably during an armed conflict or an occupation. Other laws, particularly international human rights law, apply at all times, governing the duties of all states to protect the rights of the people in the territory where they have jurisdiction or a degree of control.

International humanitarian law governs the conduct of hostilities and is distinct from the law that governs the decision to use force. Whatever the legality of a decision to use force, all parties must comply with IHL.

### **WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP 2022 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT**

The Palestinian Authority Basic Law provides for an elected president and legislative council. There have been no elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip for Palestinian Authority offices since 2006,

and Palestinians there do not have the right to vote in Israeli elections. President Mahmoud Abbas has remained in office despite the expiration of his four-year term in 2009. The Palestinian Legislative Council has not functioned since 2007, and in 2018 the Palestinian Authority dissolved the Constitutional Court. President Abbas indefinitely postponed national elections in April 2021, stating the reason was that Israel had not agreed to allow Palestinians in East Jerusalem to participate in voting per Israel's commitment in the Oslo Accords. The Palestinian Authority head of government is Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh. President Abbas is also chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and general commander of the Fatah movement.

Eight uniformed Palestinian Authority security force (PASF) agencies operated in parts of the West Bank. Several are under Palestinian Authority Ministry of Interior operational control and follow the prime minister's guidance. The Palestinian Civil Police has primary responsibility for civil and community policing. The National Security Forces conduct gendarmerie-style security operations in circumstances that exceed the capabilities of the civil police. Military Intelligence Handles criminal matters involving PASF personnel, including any accusations of serious offenses. General Intelligence is responsible for external intelligence gathering and operations and internal criminal investigations and arrests. The Preventive Security Organization is responsible for internal intelligence gathering and investigations related to internal security cases. The Palestinian Authority uses the Preventive Security Organization at times to crack down on dissent it considers threatening to political stability. The Presidential Guard protects facilities and provides dignitary protection. The Civil Defense provides emergency response, including for fires, for which Israel has increasingly requested them to operate within Israel. The Military Medical Services provides lifetime medical care and response to all uniformed Palestinian Authority security forces and their families. Palestinian Authority civilian authorities maintained effective control of security forces. There were reports that members of the PASF committed abuses.

1) With respect to the Palestinian Authority: credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings by Palestinian Authority officials; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishments by Palestinian Authority officials; arbitrary arrest or detention; political prisoners and detainees; significant problems with the independence of the judiciary; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media, including violence, threats of violence, unjustified detentions and prosecutions of journalists, and censorship; serious restrictions on internet freedom; substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, including harassment of nongovernmental organizations; serious and unreasonable restrictions on political participation, including no national elections since 2006; serious government corruption; lack of investigation of and accountability for gender-based violence; crimes, violence, and threats of violence motivated by antisemitism; crimes involving violence and threats of violence

targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex persons; and reports of the worst forms of child labor.

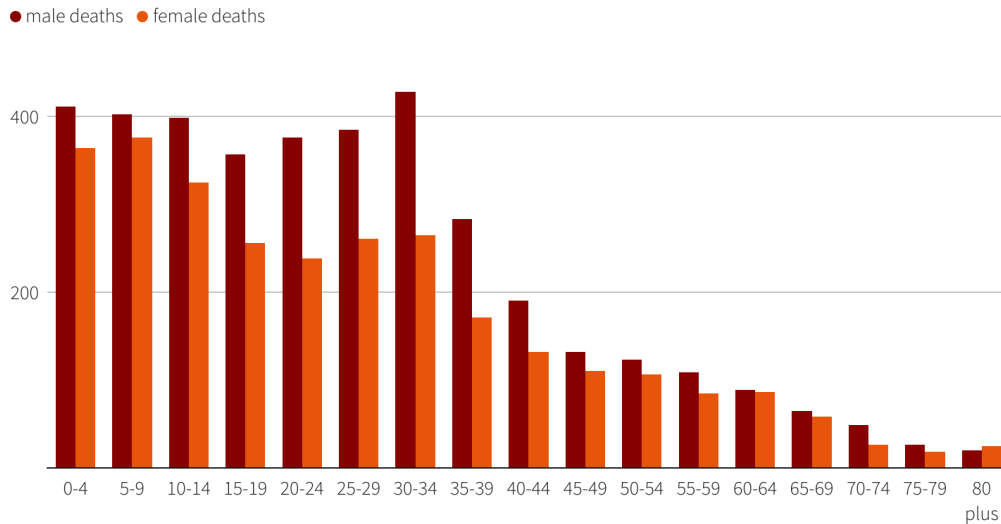
2) With respect to Hamas: credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings by Hamas personnel; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by Hamas personnel; arbitrary arrest or detention; political prisoners or detainees; serious problems with the independence of the judiciary; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on freedom of expression, including violence, threats of violence, arbitrary arrests or prosecutions of journalists, censorship, and criminalization of libel and slander; serious restrictions on internet freedom; substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; serious and unreasonable restrictions on political participation; serious government corruption; lack of investigation of and accountability for gender-based violence; crimes, violence, and threats of violence motivated by antisemitism; unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers; crimes involving violence and threats of violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex persons; and the worst forms of child labor.

3) With respect to Israeli security forces in the West Bank: credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings; torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by Israeli officials; arbitrary arrest or detention; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; punishment of family members for alleged offenses by a relative; restrictions on freedom of expression, including violence, threats of violence, unjustified arrests and prosecutions against journalists, and censorship; serious restrictions on internet freedom; substantial interference with the rights of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, including harassment of nongovernmental organizations; serious restrictions on freedom of movement and residence including arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, and home of Palestinians residing in Jerusalem. Each of these violations disproportionately impacted Palestinians, including crimes involving violence or threats of violence targeting Palestinians.



## Palestinian deaths, by age, in Gaza from Oct 7 to Oct 26

The health ministry says 60% of the people killed over the period were under the age of 30



Source: Palestinian Health Ministry

*The number of deaths in Gaza in 19 days.*

## 9. Global Refugee Crisis

The end of June 2024, the current numerical data of forced migration was 122.6 million people worldwide. The reason behind this increase is the wars, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order (as changing reigns, water shortage, air pollution and high rate of homicides)

Looking at the war between Israel and Hamas, among the many haunting images from the area Gaza, the centre of the conflict, people who have nowhere else to go are trapped and often killed because of the missiles and the actions taken by both sides. Under international law, an occupying Power must not force a civilian population to flee the territory it occupies, and because of this code, the actions taken by Israel are seen by people as war crimes.

Refugee crisis in Gaza is more violent than it seems. The camps they're being put in are not enough for that rate of refugees and that causes living standards to be lower than the human rights rates. The representative of China urged Israel to implement relevant Council resolutions, immediately stop its attack on Rafah and its collective punishment of the Palestinian people. Slovenia is currently most concerned with those living in Gaza and they've made a press release in order to support a ceasefire to stop the war and they've called on the Israeli government to stop violating international human rights laws. Israeli bombardments were also attacking the camps of Palestinian refugees which attracted

great reaction. “The situation in Rafah is just one chapter of the systemic violence carried out over years of occupation, aimed at undermining the resilience of refugees and eliminating their right to return.” an Algerian delegate stated in its speech.

## 10. Syrian Civil War

### *a. Historical Background*

The Syrian government, led by Bashar Assad since March 2011, has been under great pressure from pro-democracy groups. The regime, which began in 1971 with Bashar Assad's father Hafez Assad, has long been promised to be ended by protesters. The government has used a large number of police, soldiers and special forces against the actions taken. Opposition militias gathered in 2011 to counter this violence and launched an armed resistance in 2012, dragging Syria into civil war. In late November 2024, when the government's military power weakened, a rapid attack by the opposition could not be prevented and Assad was forced to flee the country in early December. After Assad's fall, a new government took shape and tried to establish control over all of Syria, and the civil war continued.

### *b. Refugee Crisis*

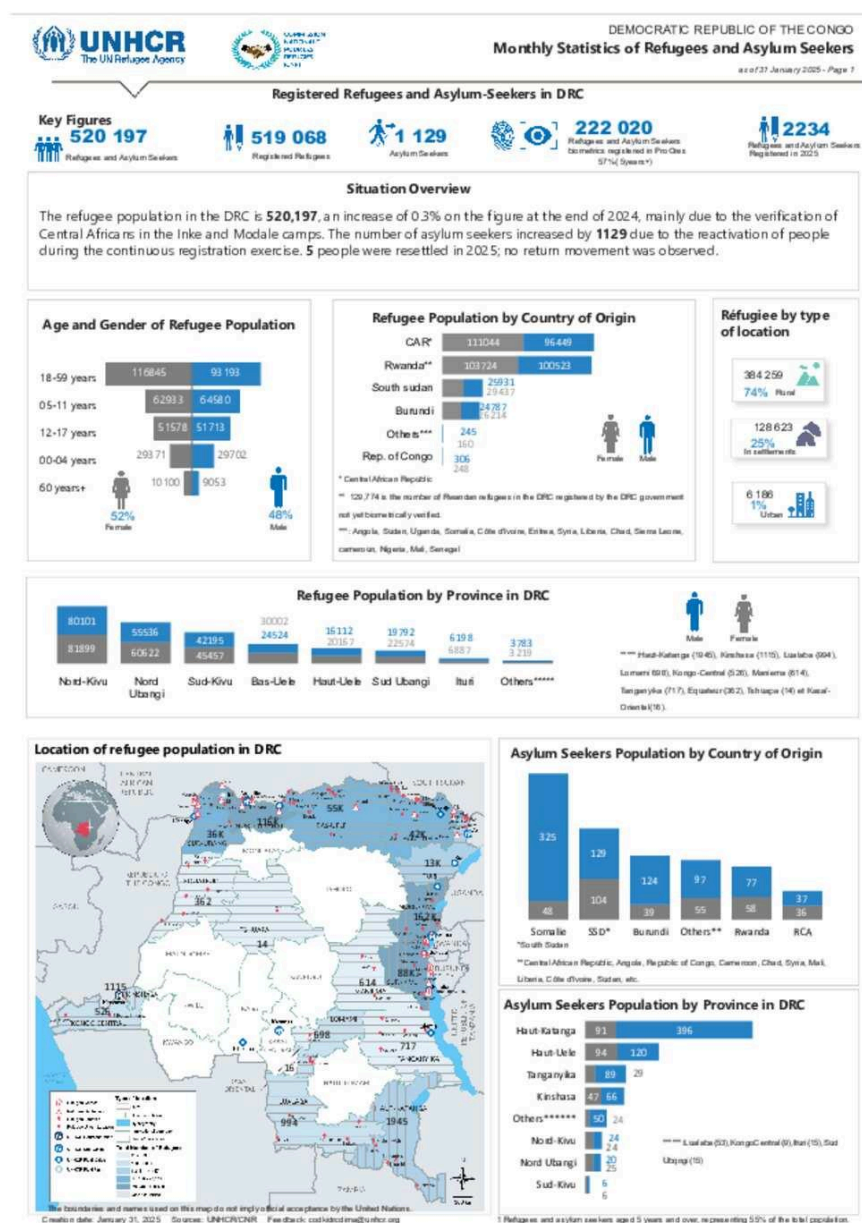


Caused by the Civil War, the 14 million Syrians were forced to leave their hometown due to the lack of remaining sources and human rights violations in the area. The 6 million from the 14 million accommodated in the neighbouring countries as Türkiye, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq.

The crisis began in March 2011, due to the acts of protestants against the government and the response from the government being very violent. These acts of violations caused the civil war now, after 14 years, civilization living in Syria - %70 percent of the whole population- still needs

humanitarian aid and support. Currently, after the fall of the Assad regime, there's an uncontrollable entrance from the Syrians who want to go back to their homes and the number of the ones who successfully pass the border is more than 1 million. UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) is supporting the refugees who want to return and doing research in the area to provide humanitarian help to them.

Approximately 92 percent of refugees who have fled to neighboring countries live in rural and urban settings, with only roughly five percent living in refugee camps. However, living outside refugee camps does not necessarily mean success or stability. More than 70 percent of Syrian refugees are living in poverty, with limited access to basic services, education or job opportunities and few prospects of returning home.



## 11. Significant Member States

### a) Türkiye

Türkiye currently hosts approximately 3.1 million registered refugees who are from Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and Iran. Moreover, the unregistered number of individuals which are not processed officially into the governmental documents are dealing with lack of healthcare, education and housing. Despite the successful integration of refugees into public social services, supported by substantial EU funding, significant humanitarian needs persist. These challenges are primarily driven by the worsening socio-economic conditions and the inflation in the country. These factors cause social prejudice against refugees. The Turkish people are dealing with a bad economy, class distinction and mismanagement and while in these conditions the fact that the Turkish government still accepts refugees at high range causes protests. Therefore because of these protests and hate, the heat between refugees and Turkish civilization continues to rise and it leads to conflicts.

The February earthquakes in 2023, causing over 50,000 deaths and over 107,000 injuries with massive destruction and suffering in southeast Türkiye, created further challenges for already vulnerable refugees and the Turkish population.

Following the fall of the Assad regime in December 2024, expectations grew that Syrian refugees would begin returning to their homeland. However, the ongoing challenges of inadequate infrastructure, housing shortages, limited access to education, and scarce job opportunities have hindered the return of refugees from Türkiye.

### b) Eritrea

Eritrean government forces committed war crimes against humanity, and other serious violations against Tigrayan civilians during the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia's Tigray region. Eritrean forces also forcibly disappeared dozens of Eritrean refugees living there, raped several, coercively repatriated hundreds, and destroyed two Eritrean refugee camps. Eritrean forces also committed widespread pillaging with much of the blunder taken back to Eritrea.

At home, government repression persisted, including through forced conscription, mass roundups to fill the army's ranks and widespread forced labor. The government also severely restricted freedom of expression, opinion, and faith.

Eritrea has been ruled by its unelected president, Isaias Afewerki, since independence in 1993, with no legislature, no independent civil society organizations, and no independent judiciary. The transitional constitution, which guarantees civil rights, has never been implemented—removing all checks on Isaias’s arbitrary rule.

As of mid-2023, over 537,000 Eritreans — nearly 15% of the country’s population — have been displaced abroad due to ongoing violence and political instability. This represents an increase of approximately 36,000 people compared to 2022.

#### c) Central African Republic

For more than a decade, a humanitarian crisis has raged in the Central African Republic. It’s gone largely unnoticed in mainstream western media; however over 750,000 Central Africans were registered as refugees in 2023 with thousands more displaced internally. This escalation in violence which is happening since the country won its independence against France has made it increasingly dangerous for Central Africans to live in the country.

#### d) Somalia

In recent years, the number of Somali refugees around the world has been in decline, registering as less than 800,000 last year. Unfortunately, Somalia’s protracted cycle of crisis has once again led to an increase in refugees with over 814,000 as of mid-2023. The situation is dire for many, who are forced to contend with drought, conflict, and hunger. Last year and earlier this year, the country was at the epicenter of the current Horn of Africa crisis and facing famine-like conditions. While rains have broken the drought, the recovery from this crisis will not be swift. Concern has been in Somalia for over 35 years, as well as neighbouring countries that serve as some of the largest host communities to Somali refugees. One key programme that we run for both refugees and internally-displaced Somalis is our Cash Consortium, giving people the autonomy and dignity of being able to prioritise their own financial needs with cash transfers. We’ve distributed more than \$16 million (€14.5 million) to over 300,000 people since the launch of the programme.

#### e) Democratic Republic of Congo

The displacement situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the one of the most complex and long existing crises in Africa and the fourth largest internally displaced persons (IDP) crisis in the world. The conflict has been occurring since the DRC gained its independence in 1960, and the country currently hosts more than half a million refugees and 6.2 million IDPs - the largest IDP population in Africa. In 2022, insecurity in the DRC was exacerbated by a spike in violence in the eastern provinces of Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu — internally displacing hundreds of thousands of people and claiming the lives of many more. More than 6.2 million people are displaced within the country and more than 1 million Congolese have sought asylum, mostly within Africa. At the same time, the DRC hosts more than half a million refugees from neighboring countries, three-quarters of whom live outside refugee camps and settlements. Ongoing fighting that began in October 2023, between the Congolese army and non-state armed groups in eastern DRC continues to displace populations in North Kivu, South Kivu and Ituri, where over 7 million people are affected by the conflict. As of early December 2023, more than 450,000 civilians have been displaced in Rutshuru and Masisi territories in North Kivu Province. The severity of the crisis is further exacerbated by the limited humanitarian access to those in dire need, primarily due to the obstruction of major routes. Cut off from essential humanitarian aid, approximately 200,000 internally displaced people are currently stranded.

#### f) Sudan

On April 15th, 2023, violent clashes erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, resulting in the displacement of nearly 13 million people, including internally displaced people (IDPs), asylum seekers and refugees. This conflict exacerbated many of Sudan's existing challenges, including ongoing conflicts, disease outbreaks, economic and political instability and climate emergencies. Since the starting point of the conflicts in Sudan in April 2023, large numbers of civilians have been forced to flee, including people who were already internally displaced and refugees from other countries who had sought safety in Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled into neighbouring countries or returned home in adverse circumstances – notably to the Central African Republic, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda. Others self-relocated within Sudan. Sudan risks becoming the worst hunger crisis in recent history with war raging across the country.

*Other important member states:*

Bangladesh, South Sudan, Ukraine, Afghanistan

## **12. Questions to be Answered**

1. What diplomatic actions can be taken towards preventing human rights violations in the Israel-Palestine War?
2. How can a cease-fire between two member states be signed?
3. How can the international arena prevent Israel from committing crimes against International Human Rights?
4. What can the Palestinian internal affairs do to protect the affected civilians in the area?
5. How can neighbouring countries provide better life standards to the Palestinian people?
6. How can other countries create a legal agreement for preventing the harm occurring towards innocent people?
7. How can the UN create a system to work upon improving living standards of the people affected by the war?

8. What can the International interventions do to secure the borders and limit the access to both countries for preventing more casualties?
9. How can religious ideologies be neutralized by cultural communications with both member states?
10. How can Palestine be supported economically for the continuity of their internal management?
11. What can UNHCR do to improve the refugee camps?
12. How can the member states who are accepting refugees be economically supported by other member states?
13. How can the immunity of civilizations in the wars be persistent?
14. What policies can the neighbouring member states develop to provide humanitarian aid to the warzones and improved refugee camps?
15. What political sanctions can be done to member states who are violating International Human Rights?
16. What standards should be given into the refugee camps (as education, work etc.)?
17. How can hosting member states encourage refugees to contribute into society?
18. How can a general refugee law can be created by the UN to prevent any inhuman living standards for the migrants.

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