

Letter From the Executive Board

Hello Chosen Ones,

Welcome to the League of Legends, the flagship committee at GCMUN 2024. We will be discussing the important agenda of solving the **Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**. Please note that our committee will be a **Crisis Committee**. However, there will be an effective balance between the crisis aspects and the debate aspect in the committee. The committee we shall be stimulating for the League of Legends will be an off the books confidential meeting of the chief of staffs of armed forces of the respective countries which will be known as the **Global Defence Forum (GDF)**. Our meeting will be based in the future, with a realistic timeline of events provided at the end of the study guide. Please ensure that you are well researched with the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in order to find effective solutions. It is also important to research your country's armed forces taking into consideration the nature of the committee. As mentioned earlier the nature of the committee will be crisis, hence it is very important for the delegates to take this into consideration and give their speeches and conduct actions in accordance with this factor since it would have a huge impact on the marking aspect as well. With **our freeze date being set in the future** one thing to note is that all that happened in the past in the real timeline would have actually occurred and delegates can make references to them in their speeches or reflect them in their actions as well. The delegates will have complete operational freedom pertaining to their creativity, however, this does not preclude the fact that their actions should be realistic in nature. Lastly, another important element of this committee is that **you will not directly represent your country**, but you shall represent your country's respective chief of staff. May the force be with you.

Accelerated Time Frame

During the committee, we'll be following something called an "accelerated time frame", wherein a few minutes is equivalent to a few days.

The duration of the conference is two days. If we take a safe estimate of 14 hours of committee time, it comes up to 840 minutes. We would be simulating 10 years in these three days of conference.

This means that 1 minute or 60 seconds of committee time (real-time) equals 6.5 days or 156 hours of simulated time (accelerated time). This implies that 1 day in the simulation will take 9 seconds of committee time to elapse. For further reference, the conversions are as follows.

1 day = 0.15 minutes = 9 seconds

1 week = 1.05 minutes = 63 seconds

1 month = 4.5 minutes = 270 seconds

1 year = 54.75 minutes = 3285 seconds

(Note: This might change depending on the committee)

For example, if the Delegate of the Republic of India wants to move his/her troops from Delhi to Lahore, and if it takes a total time of 20 days in real-time, it would take a total of 3 minutes in an accelerated time frame for this movement to be in effect.

Military Capabilities

Your reaction to a situation expresses itself through six tools that you can use: Directives, Secret Directives, Communiqués, Secret Communiqués and Press Releases.

Directive: As the representative of a state, you can send in a directive to the EB, highlighting what you want your nation to do next in light of the crisis and recent updates. Two or more countries can also send in a Joint Directive. This is generally used to show support for a delegate's plan of action and to provide military or any other support for them as well. **The EB will have complete discretion over whether or not to pass the directive.** The EB can also decide if the committee will be voting on it. This will be decided based on the nature of the directive. The best directives are those that are not just approved by a large majority of the committee, but that also prove that a representative (or a bloc) has in-depth knowledge of the situation.

Secret/Covert Directive: It is of the same nature as a directive except that the content of the directive is not communicated to the committee. The outcome of the directive is, however, communicated to the committee. This can include anything from troop positioning to assassination orders.

Communiqués: Communiqués are messages from the entire committee, a group of countries or an individual to another country, organization, person or group of people who are not present in the committee. These allow communication with other relevant characters in the crisis. Communiqués often include negotiations, threats, and requests for aid or support but are not limited to the above-stated.

Secret Communiqués: These are of the same nature as a communiqué except that all communication is kept private between the delegate(s) and the recipient(s) involved.

Press Releases: This is a statement issued by the delegate, generally, after providing reasons for certain actions via directives. Press releases are similar to communiqués in the fact that they are sent from the committee as a whole; the difference lies in the fact that a press release is addressed to the public.

Sample Directive / Covert Directive

To: The Executive Board

From:

Covert/Overt Directive 1.0

Primary Objective:

Secondary Objective (Optional)

Mission Briefings (Rough Outline)

Plan of Action (As detailed as possible)

Parties/Departments Involved

Additional Information (if any)

Signature

Delegates, you shall be marked not only on your directives but also on the speeches you make in committee. Thus this committee shall be not only how you play your opposition in directives, but also how you lead the committee's debate in the direction you want in your speeches.

History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has deep historical roots dating back to ancient times. In the Biblical era, the land known as Palestine today was home to the Kingdom of Israel, established around 1000 BCE. This region saw the construction and subsequent destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 586 BCE and the Romans in 70 CE, respectively. Following the Bar Kokhba revolt in 135 CE, many Jews were dispersed in what became known as the Jewish diaspora. The area later came under Islamic rule in the 7th century, with significant developments like the building of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Under Ottoman control from 1517 to 1917, Palestine was a predominantly Arab region with Jewish, Christian, and Muslim populations living together.

The late 19th century saw the emergence of Zionism, a movement advocating for the return of Jews to their ancestral homeland, leading to increased Jewish immigration to Palestine. This period also marked the rise of Arab nationalism. In 1917, the British issued the Balfour Declaration, expressing support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Following World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain the mandate over Palestine, setting the stage for further Jewish immigration and increasing tensions between Jewish and Arab communities. Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, intercommunal violence became more frequent as both communities vied for control and self-determination.

World War II and the Holocaust dramatically increased Jewish immigration to Palestine, heightening tensions. In 1947, the United Nations proposed partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, a plan accepted by Jews but rejected by Arabs. Following the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948, neighboring Arab states launched an invasion, leading to the first Arab-Israeli war. The war resulted in a significant displacement of Palestinians, an event Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, or catastrophe. Subsequent decades saw several wars, including the Six-Day War in 1967, where Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, territories still central to the conflict.

The latter half of the 20th century and the early 21st century have been marked by numerous attempts at peace, including the Oslo Accords in the 1990s, which created a framework for Palestinian self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Despite these efforts, violence and unrest have continued, with significant flashpoints such as the Second Intifada (2000-2005)

and recurrent conflicts in Gaza involving Israel and Hamas, the militant group that governs Gaza. The conflict remains unresolved, characterized by deep-seated mistrust, periodic violence, and ongoing disputes over land, refugees, security, and mutual recognition.

Previous Efforts to Resolve the Conflict

Efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been ongoing for decades, involving numerous international, regional, and local initiatives. These efforts have aimed to address issues such as borders, security, refugees, Jerusalem, and mutual recognition, among others. Here's a comprehensive overview of some key attempts:

1. United Nations Partition Plan (1947)

- **Proposal:** The United Nations proposed partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with an internationalized Jerusalem.
- **Outcome:** Accepted by Jewish leaders, rejected by Arab states and Palestinian Arabs. Led to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

2. Camp David Accords (1978)

- **Participants:** Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, mediated by US President Jimmy Carter.
- **Agreement:** Led to the Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty (1979), Israel's withdrawal from Sinai Peninsula, but did not resolve Palestinian issues directly.

3. Madrid Conference (1991)

- **Participants:** Israel, Arab states (including Jordan, Syria, Lebanon), Palestinians (non-official).
- **Objective:** Initiated direct negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors, including a Palestinian delegation for the first time.
- **Outcome:** Laid groundwork for bilateral talks, but did not result in immediate breakthroughs.

4. Oslo Accords (1993-1995)

- **Negotiators:** Secret negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian representatives in Oslo, Norway.
- **Agreement:** Oslo I (1993) and Oslo II (1995) aimed at achieving Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and parts of the West Bank (Areas A and B).

- **Outcome:** Established the Palestinian Authority (PA) and outlined steps towards Palestinian statehood. Oslo II divided the West Bank into areas of varying Palestinian and Israeli control.

5. Camp David Summit (2000)

- **Participants:** Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, mediated by US President Bill Clinton.
- **Objective:** Addressed final status issues, including borders, Jerusalem, refugees.
- **Outcome:** Ended without agreement; led to the Second Intifada (2000-2005) due to Palestinian frustration with perceived lack of progress.

6. Road Map for Peace (2003)

- **Sponsors:** Quartet on the Middle East (US, EU, UN, Russia).
- **Objective:** Outlined steps towards a two-state solution based on mutual recognition and ending violence.
- **Outcome:** Limited implementation due to continued violence and lack of trust between parties.

7. Annapolis Conference (2007)

- **Participants:** Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, mediated by US President George W. Bush.
- **Objective:** Revived negotiations on core issues with the goal of reaching a peace agreement by the end of 2008.
- **Outcome:** Talks failed to produce a final agreement, hampered by political changes in Israel and internal divisions among Palestinians.

8. Kerry Initiative (2013-2014)

- **Sponsor:** US Secretary of State John Kerry.
- **Objective:** Resumed negotiations between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas.

- **Outcome:** Talks collapsed in 2014 over disagreements on settlements, prisoners, and Jerusalem.

9. Trump Peace Plan (2020)

- **Sponsor:** US President Donald Trump.
- **Objective:** Known as the "Peace to Prosperity" plan, aimed to resolve the conflict with significant concessions by both parties, including recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and sovereignty over West Bank settlements.
- **Outcome:** Rejected by Palestinian leadership as biased towards Israel, further complicating peace efforts.

Current Situation

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains a complex and protracted issue marked by deep historical, political, and territorial grievances. Key aspects of the current situation include:

1. Escalation and Violence: Recent escalations, including sporadic rocket attacks from Gaza into southern Israel and subsequent Israeli airstrikes targeting Hamas and other militant groups, have intensified the conflict. This cycle of violence has led to civilian casualties, infrastructure damage, and heightened security measures across the region.

2. Humanitarian Crisis: Gaza continues to face a severe humanitarian crisis exacerbated by ongoing hostilities. The population endures shortages of basic necessities such as food, clean water, and medical supplies, exacerbated by restrictions on movement and access imposed by Israel and Egypt. The situation is compounded by frequent power outages and damaged infrastructure, severely impacting daily life and economic stability.

3. Political Stalemate: Efforts to resolve the conflict diplomatically have been hampered by entrenched positions and historical mistrust between Israeli and Palestinian leaderships. Negotiations over issues such as borders, settlements, security, Jerusalem, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees remain unresolved, despite numerous international mediation efforts and peace initiatives.

4. International Responses: The international community, including the United Nations, European Union, and neighboring Arab states, continues to call for de-escalation and dialogue to achieve a sustainable ceasefire and eventual peace agreement. Diplomatic efforts have focused on urging both parties to return to the negotiating table and find mutually acceptable solutions to longstanding issues.

5. Regional Dynamics: Regional actors, such as Egypt, Qatar, and Jordan, play pivotal roles in mediation efforts and providing humanitarian aid to Gaza. These countries have been instrumental in brokering temporary ceasefires and facilitating indirect talks between Israel and Hamas, aiming to alleviate immediate tensions and pave the way for long-term stability.

6. Impact on Civilians: Civilians on both sides bear the brunt of the conflict's consequences, with frequent displacement, trauma, and loss of life. Children are particularly vulnerable, facing disruptions to education and long-term psychological scars from living in conflict zones. Human

rights organizations highlight the urgent need for protection of civilians and adherence to international humanitarian law amid the ongoing violence.

7. Future Prospects: Achieving a sustainable peace remains a daunting challenge amidst the current climate of distrust and recurrent cycles of violence. The path forward requires bold political leadership, commitment to dialogue, and international support for comprehensive peace-building efforts that address the underlying causes of the conflict and ensure equitable outcomes for all parties involved.

In summary, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues to pose significant humanitarian, security, and political challenges, with the need for concerted international efforts to de-escalate tensions, alleviate suffering, and pursue a just and lasting resolution to the longstanding dispute.

Timeline of Events

(Note: The Timeline of Events is one of the most important aspects of this guide since this will establish the status quo of the committee. The timeline of the events are from Israel's War in Gaza and continues to a hypothetical future as well which also establishes the freeze date in our committee)

Oct. 7, 2023: Hamas gunmen storm into southern Israel from Gaza and rampage through communities in the deadliest day of violence in Israel's history. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says Israel is at war. Retaliatory airstrikes on Gaza begin, along with a total siege.

Oct. 13: Israel tells residents of Gaza City, where more than 1 million people live, to move south. Over the course of the next weeks, Israel will evacuate most of northern Gaza, beginning a process that will uproot nearly the entire population of the Gaza Strip.

Oct. 19: A U.S. Navy warship intercepts missiles and drones launched from Yemen towards Israel. Yemen's Houthi movement, like Hamas an Iranian ally, will continue sporadic long-range attacks on Israel and against Red Sea shipping in what it calls solidarity with Gaza.

Oct. 21: Aid trucks are allowed through the Rafah border crossing from Egypt into Gaza, where food, water, medicines and fuel are running out, after days of diplomatic wrangling. It is a fraction of what is required. Over coming months, the humanitarian crisis worsens as Israel maintains its blockade.

Oct. 27: Israel launches its ground offensive in Gaza.

Nov. 1: Evacuations begin through the Rafah crossing for an estimated 7,000 foreign passport-holders and people needing urgent medical treatment. The vast majority of Gazans cannot leave.

Nov. 15: Israeli troops enter Gaza's biggest hospital, Al Shifa, after a siege of several days. Israel says the hospital has been used to conceal an underground headquarters for Hamas fighters, which staff deny. Within a few weeks, all hospitals serving northern Gaza will cease to function.

Nov. 21: Israel and Hamas announce a truce, which will last seven days, to exchange hostages held in Gaza for Palestinians detained by Israel, and let in more aid.

Around half the hostages - among them women, children and foreigners - are released in return for 240 Palestinian women and teenage detainees, before war resumes on Dec. 1.

Talks on a new ceasefire take place over the following months, but have yet to bear fruit. Israel says it wants only a temporary pause to free more hostages; Hamas says it will free them only as part of a permanent deal to end the war.

Around Dec. 4: Israeli forces launch their first big ground assault in southern Gaza, towards the main southern city, Khan Younis.

International organisations say the extension of the war to the entire length of the enclave, including areas already sheltering hundreds of thousands of displaced people, drastically worsens the humanitarian crisis.

Dec. 12: U.S. President Joe Biden says Israel's "indiscriminate bombing" is costing it international support, a shift in rhetoric from Israel's closest ally. During coming months, Washington will urge Israel increasingly insistently to do more to protect civilians, but will continue to provide arms.

Dec. 15: Israeli forces mistakenly kill three Israeli hostages in Gaza. The incident prompts some of the strongest criticism within Israel of the conduct of the war.

Around Dec. 26: Israeli forces launch a ground assault on areas in the central Gaza Strip, again putting hundreds of thousands to flight, most of them already displaced.

From Jan. 1, 2024: Israel signals it will start withdrawing from northern parts of Gaza, while intense fighting continues in the south.

Jan. 11: U.S. and British warplanes, ships and submarines launch strikes across Yemen in retaliation for Houthi forces attacking Red Sea shipping.

Late January: Israeli forces intensify their effort to encircle Khan Younis. Following this campaign, more than half Gaza's population will end up sheltering in Rafah.

Jan. 23: Israel reports 24 soldiers killed in Gaza, its worst single-day loss of the war.

Jan 26: The International Court of Justice in The Hague, also known as the World Court, orders Israel to prevent genocide but stops short of ordering a halt to fighting.

It says some of Israel's actions could plausibly be violations of the Genocide Convention enacted after the Holocaust.

Feb 29: More than 100 Gazans are killed queuing for aid in the presence of Israeli troops who opened fire, in one of the deadliest incidents of the war. Palestinian authorities say most were killed with heavy machine guns in a "massacre". Israel says most died in a stampede, and its troops fired only at "looters".

March 10: Despite international pressure on the eve of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month begins with no truce.

March 12: A ship carrying 200 tons of aid for Gaza leaves Cyprus in a pilot project to open a sea corridor. Aid agencies say sea deliveries and air drops cannot replace supplies over land through checkpoints still restricted by Israel.

March 18: The IPC global hunger monitor says famine is now projected by May in Gaza, where food shortages are the most pervasive it has seen. More than half of Gaza's population - far more than the 20% associated with famine - is already experiencing the worst level of food shortage, category 5 or "catastrophe".

Israel says the methodology is flawed and denies there are food shortages.

March 18: Israel launches a new assault on Al Shifa Hospital. Over the next two weeks, Israel will claim to have killed hundreds of fighters in combat there and arrested hundreds of others. Medical staff and Hamas deny fighters are present and say many civilians were killed.

March 25: U.N. Security Council adopts a resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. The United States abstains from the vote rather than veto it, a rare break from Israel.

April 1: Israeli air strikes on a convoy kill seven aid workers for the World Central Kitchen charity, drawing a global outcry and increasing pressure to allow in more aid. Israel apologises and later punishes some military commanders.

Also on April 1: Iran's embassy compound in Damascus is hit by a suspected Israeli airstrike that kills several military officers including a top general.

April 13 - Tehran responds to the embassy strike by firing hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel, Iran's first ever direct attack on Israel. Most are intercepted with the help of the United

States and other allies, and no one is killed. Six days later, drones exploded in the central Iranian city of Isfahan in what is widely presumed to be Israel's retaliation.

April 30 - After weeks of pro-Palestinian student protests spreading on U.S. university campuses, police arrest demonstrators who seized a building at Columbia University in New York. The following morning police in Los Angeles intervened to stop violence between protesters and counter-protesters at UCLA.

May 1 - U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, visiting Israel, pushes for greater humanitarian aid for Gaza

June 30 - Hezbollah launches a series of drone attacks from Lebanon into northern Israel, targeting military installations and civilian areas; Israel responds with airstrikes on Hezbollah strongholds in southern Lebanon.

July 7 - Palestinian militant groups in Gaza fire rockets into southern Israel, leading to civilian casualties and Israeli military reprisals targeting Hamas leadership.

July 15 - Attempted assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister during a peace summit in Jerusalem; Israel blames Iranian-backed operatives, heightening tensions.

July 25 - USA announces suspension of aid to Palestinian Authority, citing failure to prevent terrorist activities and incitement against Israel.

August 5 - Iran-backed militias in Syria launch drone strikes on Israeli border towns, causing damage and casualties; Israel retaliates with airstrikes on Iranian bases in Syria.

August 18 - Turkey intercepts a shipment of chemical weapons destined for Hamas in Gaza, sparking international condemnation and emergency UN Security Council session.

September 1 - Hamas militants, with Iranian support, conduct a large-scale assault on Israeli settlements in the West Bank; Israel deploys ground forces, sparking fears of escalation.

September 10 - USA deploys additional military assets to Israel and Jordan, citing threats from Iran and Hezbollah; regional tensions reach critical levels.

October 5 - Israeli forces uncover a Hezbollah plot to use chemical weapons against civilian targets in northern Israel; Israel launches preemptive strikes on Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon.

October 15 - Russia condemns Israeli military actions in Lebanon, warning of consequences for regional stability; USA and NATO allies express support for Israel's right to self-defense.

November 1 - Palestinian Authority declares state of emergency in the West Bank amid escalating clashes with Israeli settlers and security forces; international calls for immediate ceasefire.

November 10 - USA accuses Iran of sponsoring terrorist attacks on Israeli embassies in Europe and South America; Israel considers military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

November 18 - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirms Iran's violation of nuclear enrichment limits; USA urges immediate sanctions and military deterrents.

November 20 - UN Security Council deadlock over resolution condemning Hamas rocket attacks on Israel; USA and European allies consider unilateral action against Palestinian militants.

December 1 - Diplomatic efforts to resume Israeli-Palestinian peace talks collapse; USA and Russia engage in proxy diplomacy, exacerbating regional tensions.

December 10 - The Chief of Staff of Armed Forces of Norway invites the CoS of several other countries for a meeting in Oslo, for potential talks of de-escalation.

Freeze Date: December 10, 2024.

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