

XII Modelo de las Naciones Unidas The Victoria School



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UN Security Council

SECURITY COUNCIL

Topics:

Topic A: Al-Shabaab attacks in Somalia's famine crisis.

- Identify Al-Shabaab's global security threat.
- Examine Somalia's lost control towards Al-Shabaab increasing supporters.

Topic B: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.

- Explain the role of terrorist organizations in the development of the conflict.
- Distinguish the involvement of power countries and how it affects territorial dispute.

Presidents:

- Luna del Mar Quintero (The Victoria School) – lmquintero@tvs.edu.co
- Samuel Quevedo (The English School) samuelquevedo@englishschool.edu.co

Welcome to the committee:

Dear delegates, it is an honour to extend you the most cordial and warm welcome to the committee of the Security Council, and to the Twelfth Model of the United Nations of The Victoria School (XII TVS MUN). We hope this committee will be a space in which you can debate about global issues, creating meaningful and high-level discussions and solutions, with an excellent understanding of the complex problems and the possible answers your fellow delegates may present. In addition, we would like to remark that this will be a space

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of pure intellectual development; a space where we expect each and every delegate to work on their thinking, argumentative and communicative skills, so we believe it is worth mentioning that our expectations are high and we expect the best dedication, attitude and commitment towards this model. Finally, we hope you have a great time and enjoy while at the model

Should you have any doubts, questions, or troubles, you are more than welcome to ask, as we are here to guide you.

Sincerely yours,
Luna Quintero.

Welcome Delegates. My name is Samuel Quevedo and I'll be one of your presidents during this year's edition of The Victoria School MUN. As it is the case in our committee, we'll be performing as the actual security council, and this is no light statement. There's a reason for this to traditionally be amongst the toughest committees in MUN conferences, and it has to do with its scope and magnitude. Here, we'll not only partake in debating issues of one nature, our jobs, your job is to delve deep into peace-building, discipline ever as complex as man himself. The profound impact of any of the Security Council's resolution is of tremendous reach around the world, and responsibility is necessary to handle the fate of other peoples in the interests of the world. Remember, with power comes responsibility, and you require an interdisciplinary and broad understanding of the conflict in order to tackle it. It is of no secret to anyone that expectations in an SC are high, and I expect the full maximum of your capacity during these three days, diplomatically, academically, and as people.

Equally, I'll always be there available to help you reach it.

In essence, do not fear to go beyond, propose the unlikely, and shine with all of your skills in the Committee, for the chair, and myself, will be happy to guide you in this achieving process.

Samuel Quevedo The English School

Mandate & Mission:

The Security Council is one of the 6 main organs of the United Nations, and it's considered by some to be the most powerful committee because of the responsibility it holds for maintaining international peace and security. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council, and while other organs can make recommendations to member states, only this committee has the power to make decisions that member states are compelled to implement.

XII Modelo de las Naciones Unidas The Victoria School



About the committee:

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since then, it has taken permanent residence in the New York headquarters of the United Nations. It was decided, for security reasons, that a representative of each of its members must always be present at United Nations Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises. Unlike other organs, the security council counts with five powerful countries referred as “permanent members”, which are **China, France, Russia, The United Kingdom, and The United States.**

Additionally, the Permanent Member States of the Security Council were granted a special voting power known as the "right to veto". It was agreed that if any of the five “permanent members” cast a negative vote in the 15-member Security Council, the resolution or decision would not be approved. However, if a permanent member does not fully agree with a proposed resolution but does not wish to cast a veto, it may choose to abstain, allowing the resolution to be adopted if it obtains the required number of nine favourable votes.

Topic A: Al-Shabaab Attacks in Somalia’s Famine Crisis

Historical Context:

Al-Shabaab is a militant group that came from a radical youth wing of Somalia’s Union of Islamic Courts before it was forced out by Ethiopian forces. It has been banned as a terrorist group by both the United States and the United Kingdom and there are many reports of foreign jihadists from neighboring countries going to Somalia to help Al-Shabaab.

The group has imposed a very strict rule in the areas under its control, including stoning women accused of adultery to death and amputating the hands of thieves.

On the other hand, Somalia’s history needs to be taken into account; over the past two decades Somalia has been in an unending crisis, evolving from a civil war (1988-91), then state collapse, clan war and famine (1991-92), and finally the international humanitarian intervention finishing in the 1990’s.

No effective government for more than 20 years kept the country in sole war-zone, causing Al-Shabaab to gain support by promising people the security they yearned for.

La crisis alimentaria de Somalia mata a 258.000 personas, la mitad niños. (2013, May 09). Retrieved from <https://www.expoknews.com/la-crisis-alimentaria-de-somalia-mata-a-258-000-personas-la-mitad-ninos/>

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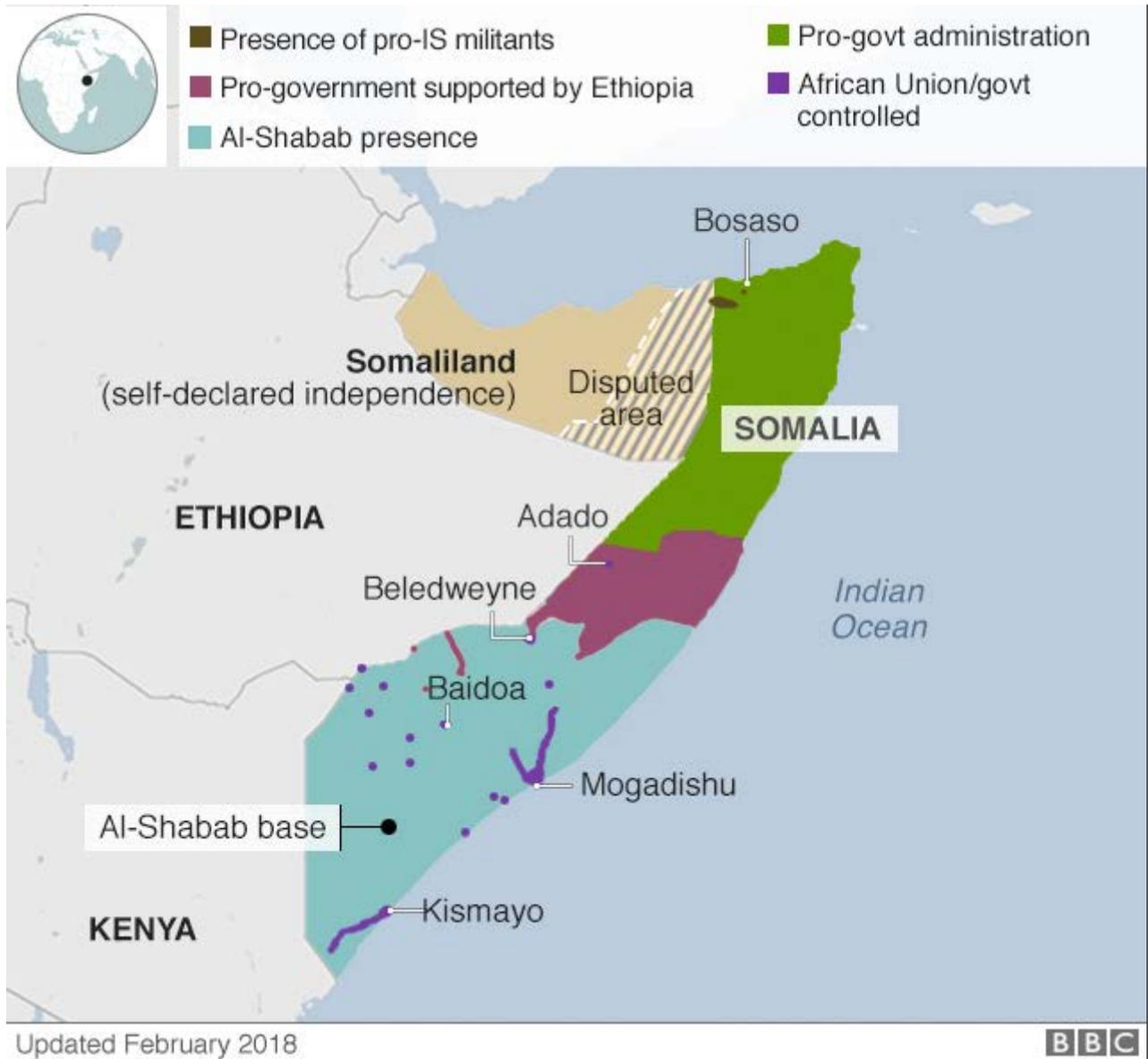


Current Situation:

From some time now, a risk of famine, driven by drought and clan-based conflict, has been looming over somalia. However, this year the country has seen attacks in Mogadishu and rural areas, attacks that were carried out by Al-Shabaab; the 23rd of February of the present year there were two attacks in Mogadishu, and many innocents were either killed or seriously injured; the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), responded to these attacks. However, on April 1st, Al-Shabaab perpetrated against the Ugandan contingent of the AMISOM and many soldiers were killed and injured.

Who are Somalia's al-Shabab? (2017, December 22). Retrieved from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-15336689>

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Al-Shabaab has proven to be one of the most lethal organizations in the world, even if the financial pressure has driven it out of poor rural communities.

What The Terrorist Attack In Somalia Tells Us About The Resurgence Of Al-Shabaab. (2017, October 25). Retrieved from <https://frontera.net/news/africa/what-the-terrorist->

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[attack-in-somalia-tells-us-about-the-resurgence-of-al-](#)



[shabaab/](#)

With the government regaining control over Mogadishu and other towns, Somalis were feeling optimistic. Unfortunately, militants started to extort huge sums from starving communities and forcibly recruit children as suicide bombers. Lower and Middle Juba, Lower and Middle Shabelle, Gedo, Bay, Bakool, Banaadir and Hiraaan, reported regular explosions, including landmine attacks, car and suicide bombs. At least 54 civilian deaths from explosive violence have been recorded since September.

A series of recent attacks by Al-Shabaab in October placed the group in one of the bloodiest terrorist attacks since 2001; a suicide car bomb was detonated at the gate of the Ugandan army base in Bulamarer, and a second suicidal car bomb targeted a convoy of Ugandan army reinforcements coming from another base. Ugandan officials said only 4 soldiers were killed in the attack.

Some security forces even killed attackers with which they had engaged in a 2-hour gun battle in Mogadishu; Al-Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack, which was aimed at the AMISOM, the military coalition under the authority of the African Union.

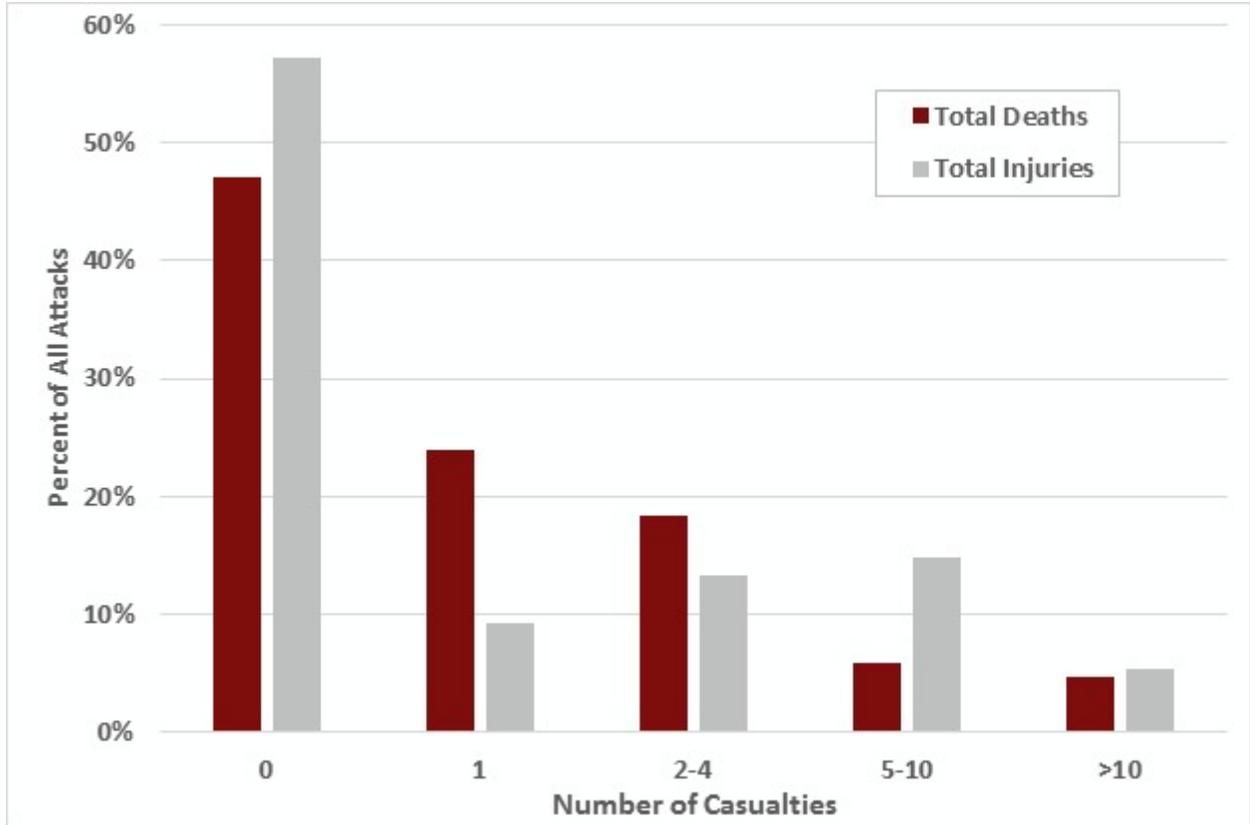
As of November 1st, 2018, around 2,345 Al Shabaab-related incidents, including 713 fatalities, had been reported. The numbers are rising, and have become much higher; in 2017, 3,034 incidents involving Al Shabaab were reported, with 1,329 fatalities. In 2016, 2,662 Al Shabaab-related incidents and 419 fatalities were reported.

Bombings in Mogadishu - a 2017 timeline. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2018/10/attacks-somalia-timeline->

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The US military and other members of the international community have expressed their concern surrounding Somalia's security forces trying to take over the country from the African Union force while the local troops are not ready.

Research Questions

- What is your country's position in this conflict?
- What measures has your country taken on this issue?
- What political and cultural ideology does your country have that could affect the position it stands?
- How can your country help in this conflict?
- What short-term and long-term solutions may there be for this issue?

Qarmas

- Does the resolution present points that favor every affected party?

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- Is the resolution objective and unbiased towards the situation of the countries involved?
- Does the resolution apply measures to prevent further violence?
- Is the resolution specific and clear?

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Topic B: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Historical Context:

While it is true that the conflict itself exploded after World War II, tension started rising way before, with events such as the **Treaties of Brest-Litovsk**^[1]. Peace negotiations, which the Soviet government had requested on Nov. 8, 1917, began on December 22. They were divided, individual almost, and the Soviet delegation tried to prolong the proceedings as much as possible, while the Germans grew increasingly impatient.

When negotiations resumed, the Soviet delegation tried to stall; but after the Central Powers concluded a separate peace with the Ukrainian delegation, new Soviet policies were announced, and so negotiations came to a halt on February 10. However, when the Germans renewed their military offensive, the Russians immediately requested to resume negotiations. On February 23, the Germans responded with an ultimatum allowing the Russians two days to open talks and three more to conclude them.

On March 3 the Soviet government accepted a treaty by which Russia lost Ukraine and Finland.

The conflict, as previously mentioned, started after World War II; when six million Jewish people were killed and those remaining demanded their own country. Anti-Semitism was and still is a key to understand why Zionist^[2] leaders actively promoted the idea of an independent Jewish nation, and that Jews should have a land of their own.

Anti-Semitism has existed wherever Jews have settled outside Palestine. In the ancient Greco-Roman world, religious differences were the primary basis for anti-Semitism. With Jesus and his crucifixion; although Jesus and his disciples were Jews and Christianity is rooted in the Jewish teaching of monotheism, Judaism and Christianity became rivals soon after Jesus was crucified. Religious rivalry initially was theological. It soon also became political. Jews continuously suffered anti-semitism, up to the point where, in fact, most of the practices seen in Nazi Germany actually began in medieval Europe. In many cities Jews were confined, and in some countries they were required to distinguish themselves from Christians yellow badge worn on their garment, or a special hat called a Judenhut. Jewish banking evolved and escalated, and because Christianity didn't allow moneylending it resulted in an economic resentment which led to the expulsion of Jews from several European countries during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. Jews were denied citizenship and civil liberties, including religious freedom throughout much of medieval Europe.

After some time, Jews were given a large part of Palestine, which they considered their traditional home. When the state of Israel was born, it was natural that Jerusalem should be restored as the country's capital, for it is of great importance to Jews, however, Jerusalem has an important significance for many aside from Jews, mostly Christians and Muslims.

For Christians the city that truly matters is Jerusalem (although Bethlehem was Jesus' birthplace). It is the place where Jesus preached, and died. It is where the belief of the empty

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tomb lies, where Christ rose from the dead. Jerusalem is the sacred heart of the Christian story.

Now, for Islam, Jerusalem is the place where the Prophet Muhammad began his mission. Jerusalem has a strong Islamic intellectual and spiritual history – for example, the theologian Al-Ghazali is said to have spent an entire year in retreat, meditation and prayer in one of the minarets of the “Noble Sanctuary.” In addition, Islamic rule over Jerusalem lasted for 12 centuries, which is longer than any other, whether Israelite, Roman, Persian or Christian. Since 1967, for many Muslims, Jerusalem has become a symbol of resistance to Israeli occupation and the status of Jerusalem is one of the key issues that needs to be resolved as part of any future peace deal between Israelis and Arabs.

In 1948 sides engaged in war, a conflict known as the Six-Day War; it was fought from 5 to 10 June 1967, and resulted in Israel taking most of the territory (the Sinai Peninsula, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights) still, Egypt controlled Gaza and most of the West Bank. The thousands of Palestinians and Syrian Arabs who managed to flee what had become Israel became the region’s serious refugee problem.

The land was divided into three parts, the State of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. There were some shifts of territory due to conflicts until the Yom Kippur War in 1973, when Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel for inhabiting the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights, it ended thanks to the Camp David Accords in 1979, that bound them to a peace treaty.

User, S. (n.d.). Palestine People and land (palestinian-loss-of-land-1946-2010). Retrieved from <https://www.palestinepnc.org/en/news/item/14-palestine-people-and-land-palestinian->

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[loss-of-land-1946-2010](#)



In 1987, the first intifada^[3] came around. The Oslo Accords of 1993 dealt with the conflict setting a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves. In 2000, however, the second intifada started and was much more violent. After the wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians, in 2015 Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas decreed they would no longer be bound by the Oslo Accords.

Before the wave of clashes, there had been many outbreaks of violence. In 2014 there was a military confrontation in Palestinian territory between Israeli militants and Hamas. The conflict ended in August with a cease-fire, but 73 Israelis and 2,251 Palestinians were killed.

Current Situation:

Today the division is still very complicated, prominent, but fought for. The West Bank is mostly controlled by the Palestinian Authority but occupied by Israel, because Israeli troops are enforcing restrictions on Palestinian movement. During the last 50 years more than 1,000km² of Palestinian land has been appropriated to build settlements, 50,000 Palestinian homes have been demolished to allow over half a million Israelis to settle in. Because of said

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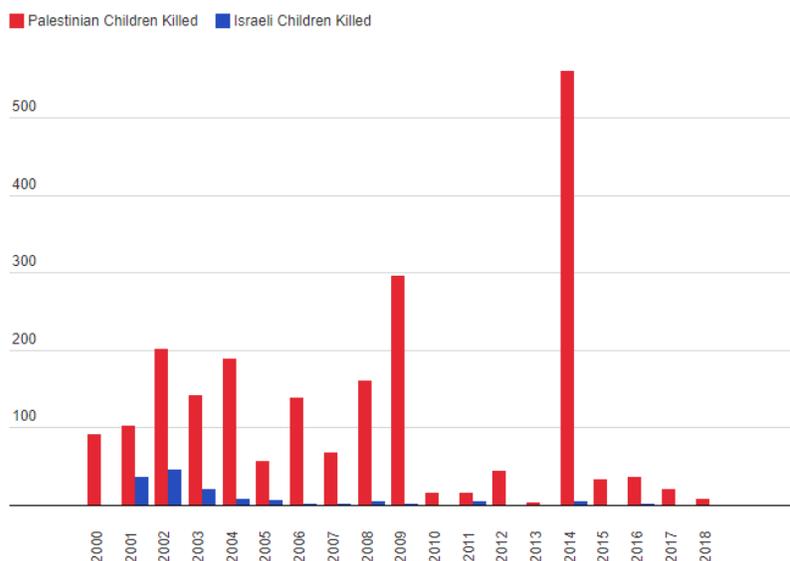
settlements, Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian president, refuses to trust the Israeli government; settlement construction reached a seven-year high under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and while Netanyahu did freeze settlement expansion everywhere but Jerusalem for 10 months, Palestinians wanted a total freeze.

Israel's military forces continue to occupy and confiscate privately owned land in the West Bank, and gaining control over Gaza. Palestinians have minimum control over their lives, and thousands of Palestinian men, women, and children are being held in Israeli prisons. Currently around 350 Palestinian children are held in Israeli prisons and detention centers for the Israeli army prosecute hundreds of Palestinian children in juvenile military courts, arresting them in night raids and blindfolding them, threatening them, subjugating them to harsh interrogations, and keeping them under solitary confinement.

Palestinian borders are controlled by Israeli forces, and more often than not, men, women, and children are strip searched, beaten; women in labor are prevented from reaching hospitals; food and medicine are blocked from entering Gaza.

CHARTS: Deaths and Injuries in Israel-Palestine since 2000. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://israelpalestinetimeline.org/charts/>

Israeli and Palestinian Children Killed in the Current Violence



This chart shows how many Palestinian children have been killed by Israelis (red bar) and how many Israeli children have been killed by Palestinians (blue bar) each year since the Second Intifada began on September 28, 2000. In total, at least **2,177 Palestinian children** and **134 Israeli children** have been killed.

Source: B'Tselem • Get the data • Created with Datawrapper

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Palestinians, on the other hand, have not proven to manage the situation any better; Palestinian political violence has targeted Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese, Jordanians, Egyptians, Americans and citizens of other countries. Attacks take place within and outside Israel and are directed at both military and civilians. Statistics state that 3,500 Israelis have been killed and 25,000 have been severely wounded since the establishment of Israel in 1948. These figures include soldiers as well as civilians, including those killed in exchanges of gunfire listed as 'hostile terrorist attacks'. Suicide bombings constituted just 0.5% of Palestinian attacks against Israelis in the first two years of the Al Aqsa Intifada, though this percentage accounted for half of the Israelis killed.

A factor that has made the situation considerably worse, are armed 'terrorist' groups, and Palestine has various involved in politically motivated violence. Among the groups are the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Abu Nidal Organization, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas. Nonetheless, even in its earlier stages, the operational goal of most Palestinian terrorism was a limited one. However, beginning the 1980s, Yasser Arafat and the PLO gradually moved away from their early ideological rejection of the existence of Israel and effectively abandoned the dream of creating a Palestinian state in all of historic Palestine, therefore, the PLO officially renounced terrorism in 1988, and Fatah says it no longer engages in terrorism, although the Authority continues to incentivize terrorism. The PFLP-GC has been internationally inactive, and the Abu Nidal organization all but dissolved on his death and exists only in name.

One major one is the Hamas-Fatah split. Since Hamas took control of Gaza, Israel has been concerned that any peace agreement with the Palestinian Authority wouldn't stick in Gaza, where it has no real control. That's especially worrying for the Israeli leadership given Hamas's public commitment to Israel's destruction.

In general, it can be stated that both Israel and the Palestinians have resorted to terrorism at various times during the course of their long conflict, which has made treaties and peace talks ultimately useless.

In May 2018, the U.S Embassy relocated to Jerusalem, and while Israelis were pleased with the situation, Palestinians, perceiving it as a signal of American support for Jerusalem as Israel's capital, responded with protests at the Gaza-Israel border which were met with Israeli force, resulting in the deaths of dozens of protesters.

The last protest coincided with the seventieth anniversary of the Palestinian exodus, and while most protesters were peaceful, some threw rocks and other objects. Israeli forces killed 86 civilians, and wounded about 3,700.

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Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories>



On the other hand, there was a recent attack suspected to be initiated by Palestine, a rocket launched inside the Gaza Strip and six civilians, including one child, were killed as a result. There was another incident in which 11 Palestinian children and 2 adults were killed in the al-Shati refugee camp by a rocket fired from Gaza. If the missile is confirmed to be Palestinian, it would mean that attacks launched by armed groups killed more civilians inside Gaza than in Israel.

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Occupied Palestinian Territories. (2018, March 12). Retrieved from <https://www.warchildholland.org/occupied-palestinian-territories>

Meanwhile, other countries (particularly the US) have worked to settle the conflict, but so far nothing has worked. The primary approach is a “two-state solution” that would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and most of the West Bank, leaving the rest of land to Israel. Israel will not agree to this. The alternative is a “one-state solution”, all land becomes either one big Israel or one big Palestine.

Research Questions

- What is your country’s position in this conflict?
- What measures has your country taken on this issue?
- What political and cultural ideologies does your country have that could affect the position it stands?
- How can your country help in this conflict?

Qarmas

- Does the resolution present points that favor every affected party?
- Is the resolution objective, that is, unbiased towards the situation of the countries involved?
- Does the resolution apply measures to prevent further violence?
- Is the resolution specific and clear?
- Does the resolution encompass solutions for a situation in which the peace negotiations fail?

XII Modelo de las Naciones Unidas

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[1] peace treaties signed at Brest-Litovsk (now in Belarus) by the Central Powers with the Ukrainian Republic and Soviet Russia, which concluded hostilities between those countries during World War I.

[2] Modern Zionism was officially established as a political organization by Theodor Herzl in 1897. A Jewish journalist and political activist from Austria, Herzl believed that the Jewish population couldn't survive if it didn't have a nation of its own.

[3] Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.