

The Gaza Strip is a densely populated piece of land along the Mediterranean Sea which has become the epicentre of the world's current most controversial and costly conflict, that is, the Israel-Palestinian dispute. It is difficult to come up with a particular date upon which this conflict started. Instead, it is more likely dated back to the early 20th century. This situation is not only geopolitical but also a disaster of human suffering as it has taken the lives of thousands of civilians in Gaza. This article examines the historical roots of the conflict, consequences, effort of international organizations and the role of diplomacy to carefully understand and describe the current state of affairs in Gaza to find a probable resolution.

THE HISTORY OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT AND THE ROOT CAUSES OF THE GAZA SITUATION

The establishment of Israel by the United Nations back in 1948 followed by the partition of Palestine led to a series of brutal conflicts and wars between Israel and its neighbours which led to thousands being displaced. Many of these refugees ended up in Gaza Strip of Palestine.

During the **Six Day war, 1967** Israel captured Gaza and since then Gaza has been a focal point of tension. Although Israel withdrew its military presence from Gaza in 2005 under the "Disengagement Plan." It maintained a blockade limiting resources. This blockade was seen as an attempt to potentially kill all civilians in Gaza strip by its inhabitants. In 2007, Hamas, a Palestinian Para-military force took over Gaza after a brief conflict with Fatah. It also refused to recognize Israel's right to exist which resulted in many military clashes between Israel and Gaza.

The Blockade of Palestine and the constant conflicts have created a fatal and devastating impact on the civilians of Gaza. Around 2.1 million people are currently alive in Gaza. Basic necessities such as electricity, clean water, and healthcare are in short supply due to restrictions on imports and the destruction of infrastructure during military operations.

It has been observed that Israel is almost intentionally targeting the children population to ruin the future population of the Gaza strip. Many have grown up knowing nothing but conflict, and the psychological toll is immense, this can become a threat to global security. Many children may adopt "Anti-West" ideologies and may become a threat to the security of the West in the near future. According to UNICEF, nearly half of Gaza's children require psycho-social support. Schools have been destroyed or severely damaged, limiting access to education. Moreover, the health sector in Gaza is struggling under the weight of chronic shortages in medical supplies and equipment. Hospitals, already understaffed and under-equipped, are often overwhelmed during periods of conflict when casualties soar.

EFFORTS TO DE-ESCALATE THE SITUATION

International organizations are trying to provide humanitarian aid and attempting to mediate peace. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has been a lifeline for many Palestinians, providing food, medical care, and education to the refugees in Gaza. However, the political complexity of the situation often hampers their efforts.

Peacekeeping initiatives, particularly from the United Nations and the European Union, have aimed to de-escalate tensions between Israel and Gaza. However, these efforts have largely been unsuccessful due to the entrenched positions of both sides. Hamas refuses to disarm or recognize Israel, while Israel insists on its right to self-defence and views many Palestinian groups as terrorist organizations. Most of the sanctions against Israel had to be cancelled because of lack of votes from most country. Some smaller countries are hesitant to vote against Israel's actions as Israel is backed up by USA. And voting against Israel may put them on the enemy list of USA.

NGOs also play a vital role, offering everything from medical aid to trauma counselling for children affected by the violence. However, their work is often obstructed by the blockade and ongoing hostilities, making it difficult for them to reach the people who need their services most.

RESULTS OF THE WARFARE

The recurrent violence in Gaza has taken a significant toll on essential services. Education has been disrupted, with schools being used as shelters during military escalations and sometimes targeted in airstrikes. Many students are unable to complete their education, and dropout rates have increased. Teachers and students alike face daily challenges, from the psychological stress of living in a conflict zone to the lack of basic learning materials.

Healthcare is in a similarly dire state. Hospitals and clinics are frequently damaged during fighting, and they are often overwhelmed by the sheer number of casualties. Routine medical services are delayed or cancelled, and patients with chronic illnesses suffer the most. The blockade has made it nearly impossible to import much-needed medical supplies, leading to critical shortages.

The water and sanitation infrastructure has also been heavily impacted. Around 97% of Gaza's water is undrinkable, forcing many families to rely on expensive and unreliable bottled water. Power shortages further exacerbate these issues, limiting the ability of water treatment plants to operate at full capacity.

GLOBAL RESPONSES

The international community has long been involved in trying to mediate peace between Israel and Palestine, but efforts have consistently fallen short. The U.S., as a key ally of Israel, has historically supported Israel's right to defend itself, while also advocating for a two-state solution as the only viable path to peace. However, US continues to secretly send Israel weapons to support their cause. **US has been accused of sending Israel biological weapons of war which includes Anthrax and Botulism.** However, this has not been confirmed and is still under the investigation by United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and most of the information related to this has been redacted.

Other countries, particularly in Europe, have taken a more balanced approach, calling for an end to the blockade and for Israel to halt its settlement activities in the West Bank. Arab nations have also weighed in, though their support for Palestine has often been tempered by their own geopolitical interests.

Diplomatic efforts are often hampered by the complex political dynamics within the Palestinian territories. While Hamas controls Gaza, Fatah governs the West Bank, and the rivalry between the two factions weakens the Palestinian position in negotiations. Meanwhile, Israel's security concerns and its continued settlement expansion in the West Bank remain significant barriers to peace.

There's a possibility of intervention by the UNPKF since Israel has been refusing to accept the decisions of the UNSC

FACTS AND FIGURES

- **Casualties:** 39,677 (Palestinians) killed, 91,645 (Palestinians) injured [from <https://www.ochaopt.org/>]
- **Unemployment:** The unemployment rate exceeds 50%.
- **Electricity:** Gaza experiences daily power cuts, with most areas receiving only 4-6 hours of electricity per day.
- **Water:** 97% of Gaza's water is unsafe for drinking.
- **Education:** Over 250 schools were damaged during the May 2021 conflict.
- **Collateral Damages-** \$6.5 Billion

ANALYSIS AND OPINION

The ongoing crisis in Gaza represents a tragic combination of historical grievances, political deadlock, and humanitarian suffering. While both Israel and Hamas claim to be defending their people, it is the civilians—particularly children—who bear the brunt of the violence. For any lasting peace to be achieved, both sides must be willing to make compromises, and the international community must intensify its diplomatic efforts to break the current stalemate.

A solution that addresses the root causes of the conflict—Israel's security concerns and Palestinians' demands for sovereignty and basic human rights—is essential. Without such a solution, Gaza will remain a symbol of one of the most intractable and heart-breaking conflicts of our time.

SOURCES--

Source Name	Source website
UNRWA	https://www.unrwa.org/
OCHAOPT	https://www.ochaopt.org/
OHCHR	https://www.ohchr.org/
ICG	https://www.crisisgroup.org/

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THANK YOU, FOR READING MY ARTICLE