

Forum: Security Council (SC)

Issue: Assessing the role of Iran in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

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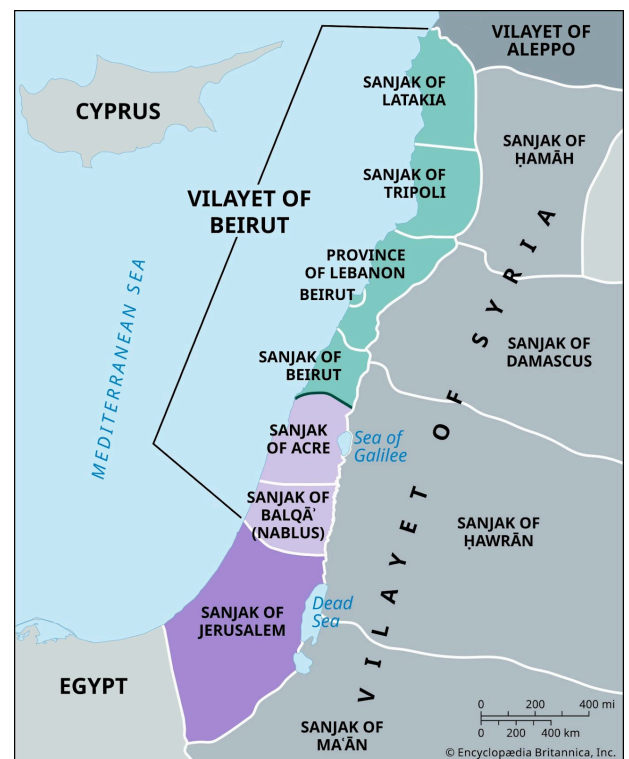
Position: President

INTRODUCTION

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, one of the most recent large-scale military operations, is an issue that has not only affected the regional state of peace, but has raised global concerns on its unfolding. Counting more than a hundred thousand deaths since its beginning, with more than seventy thousand of those casualties in the past twenty years¹. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict is one of the most deadly conflicts in recent human history.²

This particular conflict has its roots in the early twentieth century, after the conclusion of the First World War (WWI). In particular, the area currently disputed by the Israeli and Palestinian governments was once part of the Ottoman Empire. However, after the end of WWI, which led to a defeat for the Ottoman Empire, the region was occupied, and shared amongst the main powers of the war; France and Great Britain. The two nations, not wanting to cause greater disorder in the region after the war period, decided to follow the current district system, which the Ottoman Empire had established since 1888³.

Thus, in 1918, the region was split between Great Britain and France, with the former obtaining the districts of Balqa and Acre, while all the districts north of Acre would belong to France. The area now belonging to the British, coinciding with the region prior known as Palestine, was united with the district of Jerusalem and, under the new mandate proposed by Great Britain, and approved by the predecessor of the United Nations, the



¹ "CHARTS: Deaths and Injuries in Israel-Palestine since 2000." *Israel-Palestine Timeline*, 2015, israelpalestinetimeline.org/charts/.

² Plesz, Orsolya. "The Partitioning of the Middle East." *Manchester Historian*, 21 Nov. 2016, manchesterhistorian.com/2016/the-partitioning-of-the-middle-east-after-wwi/.

³ Britannica. "Israel-Palestine Conflict Explained: History, Maps, & Dates | Britannica." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2024, www.britannica.com/explore/israeli-palestinian-conflicts.

League of Nations⁴. The result was the formation of two separate governance regions; the Vilayet (district) of Beirut, most of which was obtained by the French, and Palestine, obtained and occupied by the British.

During this particular period, the time that lasted between the division of the region (1918) to the start of the Second World War (1939) (WWII), Jewish populations, mainly from central Europe, started inhabiting the region governed by Great Britain, an area interconnected to the Jewish ancient history. Jewish individuals already inhabited the region since the area belonged to the Ottoman Empire, but the British governance led to an influx of Jewish individuals immigrating to the region⁵. Until that period, the involvement of Iran and other nations in the Middle East was minimal, due to control or influence of European powers.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Abraham Records⁶

Series of agreements to normalize relations between Israel and Arab states

Anti-Semitism⁷

Hostility toward or discrimination against Jews as a religious or racial group

Axis of Resistance⁸

A loose and informal military network of militant groups, which bill themselves as resistance forces, and state-controlled armed forces in the Middle East that are supported by Iran and its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

Hamas⁹

⁴ BBC. "Israel and the Palestinians: History of the Conflict Explained." *BBC News*, 20 Jan. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44124396.

⁵ Tessler, Mark. *A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Second Edition*. Indiana University Press, 2009.

⁶ Zeidan, Adam. "Abraham Accords | Peace Declaration, Summary, Countries, & Significance | Britannica." *Www.britannica.com*, 15 Sept. 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/Abraham-Accords.

⁷ Berenbaum, Michael. "Antisemitism | History, Meaning, Facts, & Examples." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 20 July 1998, www.britannica.com/topic/antisemitism.

⁸ Zeidan, Adam. "Axis of Resistance | Groups, Countries, Map, Leaders, Middle East, Iran, Hamas, Houthi, & Hezbollah." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 25 Oct. 2024, www.britannica.com/topic/Axis-of-Resistance.

⁹ Britannica. "Hamas | Definition, History, Ideology, & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11 Nov. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas.

Militant Palestinian nationalist and Islamist movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip that is dedicated to the establishment of an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine.

Hezbollah¹⁰

Lebanese political party and militant group that first emerged during Lebanon's civil war as a militia after the Israeli invasion of that country in 1982. Since the 2000s it has been one of the foremost political forces in Lebanon.

Palestinian-Islamic Jihad (PIJ)¹¹

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), militant group founded with the goal of liberating historical Palestine through armed struggle and by appealing to the region's Islamic heritage. It was first formed in the Gaza Strip but also operates in the West Bank.

Proxy Warfare¹²

A military conflict in which one or more third parties directly or indirectly support one or more state or non-state combatants in an effort to influence the conflict's outcome and thereby to advance their own strategic interests or to undermine those of their opponents.

Sanjak¹³

Sanjaks were administrative divisions of the Ottoman Empire. All sanjaks were distributed between France, Great Britain, and their allies upon the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire after World War One.

Zionism¹⁴

Jewish nationalist movement with the goal of the creation and support of a Jewish national state in Palestine, the ancient homeland of the Jews. Though Zionism originated in eastern and central Europe in the latter part of the 19th century, it is in many ways a continuation of the ancient attachment of the Jews and of the Jewish religion to the historical region of Palestine.

¹⁰ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Hezbollah | Lebanese Militant Group & Political Party." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 23 Aug. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah.

¹¹ "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Group, Gaza, & Jenin | Britannica." *Www.britannica.com*, www.britannica.com/topic/Palestinian-Islamic-Jihad.

¹² Baugh, Sue. "Proxy War | Armed Conflict." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/proxy-war.

¹³ "Sanjak Explained." *Explained.today*, 2025, www.everything.explained.today/Sanjak/.

¹⁴ ---. "Zionism | Definition, History, Examples, & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 30 Jan. 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/Zionism.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

The end of the Second World War, one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, on September 2, 1945 provided the opportunity for the winning nations to decide on the new distribution of land. Upon the Potsdam Agreement in November 1945¹⁵, the new borders and governing regions of the defeated nations were agreed on, with Germany losing land in its eastern border and the USSR gaining region in the west. However, apart from such adjustments which affected particularly the boundaries of the European continent, the Potsdam Agreement provided the opportunity to France and the United Kingdom, then referred to as the Allies alongside the United States of America, to decide upon the distribution of land in the previously divided Ottoman Region, as well as other territories under their partial control after the end of the First World War in 1918¹⁶.

Aiming to resolve this issue, which could potentially disrupt the international balance in the region, the two nations forwarded the idea to the United Nations. At the same period of time, the Zionist movement led by David Ben Gurion, which had asked for the establishment of an independent Israeli state for more than a decade, saw a great increase particularly amongst Jewish communities in central Europe. This ultimately influenced the Allies into considering potential regions for the establishment of the state of Israel. This discussion was part of the Paris Peace Treaties in 1947, with the ultimate decision taken in the UN Partition Plan in 1948¹⁷, which allocated the region of Beirut along with the Sanjak of Jerusalem for the establishment of the new independent state of Israel. The land was to be split into two regions, one being the Jewish, or Israeli, state, and the other being the Arab state, inhabited by local muslim populations and placed under international control. The Zionist movement accepted the plan formed, but the regional Arab leadership rejected it, due to distributional imbalances.

However, due to the area being interconnected to Jewish religious history and because of sympathy shown due to the harsh years of the Holocaust, the region was selected amongst others for the establishment of Israel. After the official declaration of independence of the country in May 1948, attacks by Arab populations were made against Jewish inhabitants. Israel successfully intercepted the attacks, gaining more land than it was originally assigned by the United Nations in the Partition Plan. This led to more than seven hundred thousand Palestinian

¹⁵ ---. "The Potsdam Conference, 1945." *State.gov*, Office Of The Historian, 2019, history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/potsdam-conf.

¹⁶ United Nations. "Origins and Evolution of the Palestine Problem: 1917-1947 (Part I)." *Question of Palestine*, 2021, www.un.org/unispal/history2/origins-and-evolution-of-the-palestine-problem/part-i-1917-1947/.

¹⁷ Britannica. "United Nations Resolution 181 | Map & Summary." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2 Nov. 2014, www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Resolution-181.

individuals fleeing in neighbouring Arab states, mainly Syria and Iran. The outcome was the formation of borders based on armistice lines, and with no peace treaties signed, instability in the region was provoked. As a result, regional Arab nations as well as the displaced Palestinian populations formed the idea of Palestinian solidarity, a key idea which has led the Palestinian axis of resistance ever since¹⁸.



Figure 2: Israeli-Palestinian border as decided in the UN Partition Plan (1948)¹⁹

The 1979 Revolution in Iran

Initially, Iran, governed by the pro-Western monarch Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was in favour of the establishment of the new Israeli state. Having been strongly influenced by the French, a country with critical involvement in the organisation of Iranian governance, Iran had strong ties with Israel, especially in the exchange of information. Iranian-Israeli trade was also robust until the Iranian revolution, with the two countries having close ties, especially in oil and agricultural trade.

¹⁸ United Nations. "History of the Question of Palestine." *United Nations*, 2025, www.un.org/unispal/history/.

¹⁹ in. "Israel's Borders Explained in Maps." *Www.google.com*, 2024, images.app.goo.gl/FN92EHTrGL9X2SUA6.

However, the 1979 revolution in Iran was a turning point for the ties between the two nations. In particular, national dissatisfaction with Shah's governance, as well as the deteriorating economic state of Iran, led to the idea that the reason behind Iran's inability to achieve development was the adherence to western ideas that overall created a weak country. Overall, this idea led to the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini, a political figure who had been exiled by Shah due to his extremist religious beliefs²⁰.

Up until January 1978, Iran recognized the de facto establishment²¹ of the Israeli state. This changed upon the Iranian revolution, initiated in January 1978 with protests in the capital of Iran demanding that Khomeini becomes the new leader of Iran. In February 1979, Shah fled the country and Khomeini returned from exile, and on February 11, 1979, the monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was officially overthrown. Two months later, Khomeini became the official leader of Iran, and after a nationwide referendum, the Islamic Republic of Iran was officially established²².

After the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Israel was declared an illegitimate and unlawful regime by Khomeini. The previously robust relations between the two nations were officially disrupted, with Anti-Zionism and the idea of Palestinian solidarity becoming the main foreign policy stance of Iran²³.

Iran's regional strategy and the axis of resistance

Iran's change of stance regarding the matter of the Israeli-Palestinian reality led other Arab Nations in the region to firmly support the idea of Palestinian solidarity. Although previously supported to a small extent by a small number of Arab Nations, with the main being Syria due to the ongoing issue of the Golan Heights, Iran's influence in the Arab League led to other neighbouring countries to shift their view on the matter. Lebanon and Egypt are two important examples, with the countries' leaders openly supporting the Palestinian independence movement after the Islamic revolution in Iran.

However, seeing the revolution as a potential threat to global peace and balance, the United States of America called for an immediate establishment of a framework for peace in the

²⁰ Afary, Janet. "Iranian Revolution | Causes, Effects, & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 28 Mar. 2019, www.britannica.com/event/Iranian-Revolution.

²¹ Motamedi, Maziar. "Iran and Israel: From Allies to Archenemies, How Did They Get Here?" *Al Jazeera*, 6 Nov. 2023, www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/6/iran-and-israel-from-allies-to-archenemies-how-did-they-get-here.

²² Hart, Scarlett. "Iranian Revolution." *World History Encyclopedia*, 13 Feb. 2025, www.worldhistory.org/Iranian_Revolution/.

²³ Litvak, Meir. "The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Holocaust: Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism." *Journal of Israeli History*, vol. 25, no. 1, Mar. 2006, pp. 267–284, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13531040500502874>.

region. This framework, created in March 1979, was formed between the nations of Egypt, Israel and the United States and aimed for a permanent cease of armed conflicts in the region, by the establishment of permanent and mutually accepted borders. The Camp David Accords²⁴, as they were named, were rejected by Iran and Lebanon due to the lack of Palestinian involvement in the decisions. The Iranian government supported that even though the Camp David Accords were established for the formation of permanent land borders, the borders between the region of Palestine, south of Jerusalem, and Israel, as they were agreed on in the UN Partition Plan, are not borders between two separate nations, but in fact internal borders, which could not be decided upon without the agreement of the Palestinian party.

The government of Israel later on stated that this agreement was necessary for keeping tensions low in the area, particularly after the Six-Day War in 1967. In addition, the cooperation of Egypt with Israel was considered as a threat to Iran, as the nations had closely cooperated in the past, and had criticized the situation in the region. Iran's dissatisfaction with the reaction of neighbouring nations to the situation led to the formation of an informal alliance opposing the western influence in the Middle East and the Israeli presence in the region. This alliance, composed of both state and non-state actors, took the name Axis of Resistance. It remains unclear when this alliance was first formed, but it is certain that it was supported by the Iranian and the Syrian governments, particularly during the decade that followed the Iranian Revolution²⁵.

The initial aims of this alliance were also the promotion of the new Iranian type of governance, deeply rooted into the Islamic tradition and culture. Having been influenced by western nations, particularly after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, many nations in the Middle East had been deeply influenced by the Western culture, which often contrasted with the model the Islamic Republic of Iran adopted. This effort enhanced the relationship of Iran to some neighbouring nations, such as Syria and Lebanon, but also led to weakened relationships with other member countries of the Arab League, such as Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates²⁶.

Iran's strategy to achieve Palestinian independence also started to become apparent from the early beginnings of the decade that followed the Islamic revolution in the nation. In particular, with the knowledge that Israel then had more, and stronger in power, allies, Iran avoided direct military conflicts. Instead, Iran engaged in Proxy Warfare, an indirect type of

²⁴ Britannica. "Camp David Accords | Summary, History, & Facts." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11 Sept. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/Camp-David-Accords.

²⁵Office of the Historian. "Camp David Accords and the Arab-Israeli Peace Process." *State.gov*, 2019, history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/camp-david.

²⁶ "Camp David Accords | EBSCO." *EBSCO Information Services, Inc.* | *Www.ebsco.com*, 2023, www.ebsco.com/research-starters/history/camp-david-accords.

conflict which occurs when a nation funds and generally supports military groups other than the nation's army in order to engage in small in extent, asymmetrical and unorganised warfare. Furthermore, the Iranian stance particularly among members of the Arab League led to a type of information warfare, as Arab nations were split into two opposing groups, gathering information and providing it to their allies.

Therefore, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict split the Arab world into two sides. The one supporting Israeli presence in the region of the Middle East, which was primarily composed of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and other close allies of the United States of America, and the other supporting the Palestinian solidarity idea, which was mainly composed of Iran and Syria. This has led to many Arab nations, such as Egypt and Jordan, to openly consider Iran as a threat to regional peace rather than a liberator²⁷.

The Palestinian Islamist movements and political direction

Inspired by the Islamic revolution in Iran, and with the hopes of an independent Palestinian state, a new militant and political organisation appeared in the political scene of Palestine in 1980. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) started as a small organisation primarily focusing on the organisation of the Palestinian State. Initially, the group did not participate in elections due to the unorganised governance system. Therefore, the group remained solely militant up until 1987, with the formation of the current political power of Palestine²⁸.

The Harakat-al-Mukawama-al-Islamiyya organisation, also known as Hamas, was founded in Palestine during the First Intifada, when an Israeli vehicle collided with two other vehicles carrying Palestinian workers, killing two of them. This was considered provocative by many Palestinian individuals, with many of them demanding more radical action against Israel, leading to the formation of Hamas. The organisation quickly rose in the Palestinian political scene. Along with PIJ, Hamas rejected the legitimacy of Israel as a nation, and called for armed resistance against Israeli governance in the region. From the start of 1990, it became clear that Palestine aimed for the establishment of permanent borders in the borders agreed-on in the UN Partition Plan, even though no military action was made from the part of the Palestine during that period²⁹.

Simultaneously, another militant organisation aiming to export and promote the type of governance model Iran had adopted after the Islamic revolution was created in Lebanon.

²⁷ Winder, Alex. "Camp David Accords, 1978-1979." *Interactive Encyclopedia of the Palestine Question – Palquest*, www.palquest.org/en/highlight/167/camp-david-accords-1978-1979.

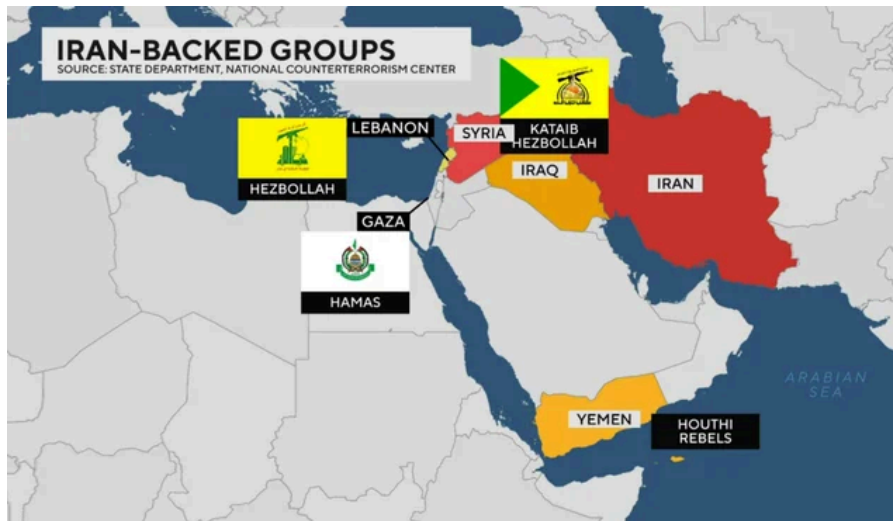
²⁸ "Palestinian Islamic Jihad | Group, Gaza, & Jenin | Britannica." *Www.britannica.com*, www.britannica.com/topic/Palestinian-Islamic-Jihad.

²⁹ Wilson Center. "Doctrine of Hamas." *Wilson Center*, 20 Oct. 2023, www.wilsoncenter.org/article/doctrine-hamas.

Hezbollah, as it was named, was formed during the harsh years of the Lebanese civil war (1977-1990) with the aim to reduce the western influence on the country of Lebanon which led to internal conflicts. Even though formed in the beginning of 1982, the organisation did not grow in size until the end of the Lebanese civil war, when it received military and financial aid from the Iranian government³⁰.

Until the beginning of the new century, the PIJ, Hamas and Hezbollah had a limited political role in both their originating countries. In addition, apart from small scale conflicts with the Israeli army, the organisations did not engage in official conflicts with the Israeli state. However, after Hamas' political win in 2006, when the organisation won the official legislative elections of Palestine, the organisations received military power and technology in order to put pressure on the Israeli side. The aid did not stop even after the fall of Hamas' regime in 2007 due to internal conflicts³¹.

Therefore, the three militant organisations acting in the region with the aim to oppose the Israeli government, were supported by Iran. This action, possibly part of Iran's Proxy Warfare military strategy, led to the formation of close ties with the Iranian government. Hezbollah and PIJ are supported from Iran to a great extent, as the country provided the Palestinian organisation with intelligence and technology. The relationship with Hamas is, however, not the same, as the organisation aligned itself with Sunni rebels in the Syrian civil war (2017-2020), opposing Iran's stance³².



³⁰ The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Hezbollah | Lebanese Militant Group & Political Party." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 23 Aug. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah.

³¹ ---. "Hamas | Definition, History, Ideology, & Facts." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 11 Nov. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas.

³² The Editors of Encyclopædia Britannica. "Syrian Civil War | Facts & Timeline." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Britannica, 6 Dec. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War.

Figure 3: Map depicting geographical location of Iran and its supported military organisations³³

Seeing more small-scale conflicts occurring in the twenty-first century, Israel demanded aid from its allies. With the increase of anti-Zionist militant organisations in the area, the Israeli government spent more than thirty percent of its annual budget on military gear³⁴, to prepare for the possibility of a large-scale attack which could potentially initiate in every of the nation's borders.

Current state of the conflict and the role of Iran

After having demanded aid from its allies, Israel and the United States of America, along with several member nations of the Arab League, namely the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, signed the Abraham Accords in 2020 with the aim of normalising the relationship between Israel and Arab nations. Iran, considering the effort similar to the one made in Camp David Accords, viewed the agreement as a betrayal to the idea of Palestinian solidarity, particularly from the part of the Arab nations³⁵.

On October 7 2023, a conflict between Hamas and Israel was initiated after subsequent military responses in the region of Jerusalem. Initially, this conflict was believed to be part of the small in scale conflicts which have stained the Israeli-Palestinian history. However, this would be the start of the deadliest conflict in the last twenty years. Both Hamas and Israel engaged in attacks in the region, and the mutually shared region of Jerusalem became the hotspot of this conflict. Although not officially recognised as a conflict from both sides then, the mutual attacks led to the death of more than a thousand individuals, approximately ninety percent of those inhabiting the region of Palestine³⁶.

On January 4 2024, the attacks were officially recognised as a conflict both from the Israeli and Palestinian side. Until then, Iran and the United States of America had no direct involvement in the attacks. However, April 13 2024 marked the first time Iran launched a direct attack on Israel after an Israeli air strike on Iran's consulate in Syria, a country attacked ,alongside Lebanon, by Israel in order to limit the possibility of an attack launched by Hezbollah

³³ Israel. "What Is Hezbollah and What Does Lebanon Have to Do with the Israel ..." *Www.google.com*, 2024, images.app.goo.gl/86DNJZCtXSGwPmNc9

³⁴ "Israel Military Spending/Defense Budget 1960-2024." *Www.macrotrends.net*, www.macrotrends.net/global-metrics/countries/ISR/israel/military-spending-defense-budget.

³⁵ Zeidan, Adam. "Abraham Accords | Peace Declaration, Summary, Countries, & Significance | Britannica." *Www.britannica.com*, 15 Sept. 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/Abraham-Accords.

³⁶ Masquelier-Page, Alice. "More than 55,000 Palestinians Have Been Killed in the Israel-Hamas War, Gaza Health Officials Say | the Associated Press." *The Associated Press*, 13 June 2025, www.ap.org/news-highlights/spotlights/2025/more-than-55000-palestinians-have-been-killed-in-the-israel-hamas-war-gaza-health-officials-say/.

and other military organisations supported by Iran. The attack involved three hundred missiles and drones directly aiming at the Israeli capital. Since then, Israel has responded by launching similar in scale air strikes on Iran, aiming to hit Tehran³⁷.

With the involvement of Iran, Israel demanded the direct involvement of the United States of America in the conflict. Even though the country has previously provided military support and technology to the Israeli army, supplying the country with the sufficient means to create the main military system protecting Tel Aviv (The Iron Dome), the United States of America obtained a direct position in the conflict by deploying carrier groups aiming to deter Iran and Hezbollah from attacking, as well as by intercepting Iranian missiles, particularly during the April 2024 attack. The USA has also opposed the Israeli military strategy of continuous attacks in the strip of Gaza, underlining the urgent need to limit civilian casualties³⁸.

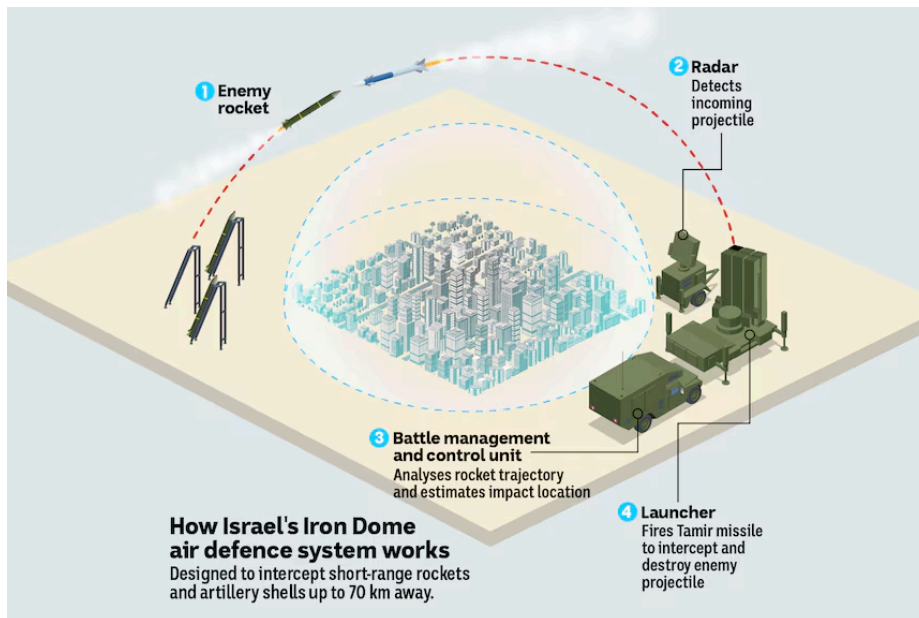


Figure 4: Image depicting the function of the 'Iron Dome'³⁹

On June 13 2025, Iran launched the largest in scale air strike on the entirety of Israel, causing damage to infrastructure and civilian deaths. The nation's government then supported that with this action, the country was officially part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, taking the

³⁷"Israel Targets Iran's Nuclear Sites and Military Commanders in Major Attack - Follow Live." *BBC News*, www.bbc.com/news/live/c93ydegyq71t.

³⁸ Murphy, Matt. *How the Controversial US-Israeli Backed Gaza Aid Plan Turned to Chaos*. 31 May 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/cn4g0xmem2lo.

³⁹ Iron, Israel's. "What Is Israel's Iron Dome Air Defence System and Did It Fail ..." *Www.google.com*, 2023, images.app.goo.gl/A4f4PNTWGB83KdJcA.

side of Hamas, now supporting it directly in the battlegrounds. This statement was, however, led to the United States responding with a full-scale military attack on the Iranian main nuclear bases, Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan, destroying the nuclear reserves of Iran, in order to stop the country from potentially engaging in a nuclear attack against Israel⁴⁰.

So far, the conflict has seen more than sixty thousand deaths, with approximately fifty nine thousand belonging to Palestinian civilians, and a thousand to Israeli soldiers and civilians⁴¹. After the attack of the USA on Iran, the latter has ceased any direct military involvement in the conflict, indirectly supporting Hamas, PIJ and Hezbollah by providing information and military aid.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

Iran

The role of Iran in the long history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict became apparent after the Islamic revolution in the country, which led to it being ruled by stricter legislation following religious and cultural laws. After the Islamic revolution in 1979, Iran has been supporting military organisations aiming to achieve the idea of Palestinian solidarity, which has also become the foreign main policy of the Iranian government. The main organisations Iran has funded, and also equipped with military technology and information are Hamas, PIJ and Hezbollah, all of which have an active and direct military role in the ongoing conflict. This is part of Iran's Proxy Warfare military policy, with the aim not to directly be involved in the conflict.

Iran has also long condemned the decision of several Arab nations to make peace deals with Israel, regarding them as a betrayal to the Arab culture and religion. Alongside Syria and Lebanon, Iran has been one of a few countries to openly state their support towards the Palestinian citizens who seek independence. Its role in the conflict became direct on April 13 2024, when a full scale airstrike was launched against the Israeli capital of Tel Aviv. This attack was intercepted by the United States of America, who also launched a military attack on Iranian nuclear sites a year later, on June 22 2025. This led to Iran stepping out of the conflict as a member directly involved, but continues to support the military organisations striving for

⁴⁰ Gan, Nectar, et al. "Israel Hits Notorious Iranian Prison as White House Reiterates US "Totally Obliterated" Nuclear Sites." *CNN*, 23 June 2025, edition.cnn.com/world/live-news/israel-iran-us-strikes-06-23-25-intl-hnk.

⁴¹ AJLabs. "Israel-Hamas War in Maps and Charts: Live Tracker." *Al Jazeera*, 3 Feb. 2025, www.aljazeera.com/news/longform/2023/10/9/israel-hamas-war-in-maps-and-charts-live-tracker.

Palestinian independence. The Proxy Warfare military strategy followed by Iran had been condemned by the United Nations and has been reported by Israel in numerous occasions⁴²

Israel

Israel has been the main factor in the ongoing conflict since its formation in 1948, responding to small scale attacks and conflicts initiated by neighbouring nations. Until the conflict that started on October 17 2023, Israeli sovereignty was posed under threat during the First and the Second Intifada, which were small scale conflicts between Israel and Palestinian forces. The two Intifadas were also considered a threat by the Palestinian governance, as the attacks also posed the Palestinian sovereignty under threat. In the twenty first century, seeing the potential of large scale conflict occurring between the Israeli army and Hamas alongside other anti-Zionist organisations, the country equipped itself with state of the art military technology, such as the anti-missile technology of the Iron Dome, which gives the possibility of intercepting any missile attack on Israeli airspace.

Israel has been accused by Iran and Syria of neglecting the resolutions drafted by the United Nations General Assembly as well as the Security Council, due to the rejection to reach a ceasefire deal which could potentially be the resolution of the conflict. Israel so far has seen approximately a thousand casualties in the conflict, with thirty of them reported missing at the moment. The United Nations has strongly condemned the actions taken by Israel during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, commenting on the need for a ceasefire as well as the legality of Israel's attacks which have provoked the death of approximately sixty thousand palestinian civilians⁴³.

United States of America

The United States of America has been an active provider of military technology, information and funds to Israel, who has been their close ally in many fields since its establishment in 1948. From the beginning of the century, the USA has provided Israel with military equipment in order to respond to any potential attack by neighboring nations or military organisations. Approximately seventy percent of the Israeli army forces have been donated by the USA, an amount that equals approximately thirty eight billion US dollars in value⁴⁴.

The USA has also acted as a diplomatic shield for Israel, especially in the Security Council of the United Nations. However, the USA has pressured Israel to proceed to the

⁴² ---. "Iran–Israel Proxy War." *Wikipedia*, Wikimedia Foundation

⁴³ "Israeli Actions in Palestinian Territories Constitute War Crimes, Human Rights Council Hears." *UN News*, 17 June 2025, news.un.org/en/story/2025/06/1164496.

⁴⁴ Masters, Jonathan, and Will Merrow. "U.S. Aid to Israel in Four Charts." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 13 Nov. 2024, www.cfr.org/article/us-aid-israel-four-charts.

finalisation of a two state solution, which would overall provide equilateral balance and long term peace. The USA is also aiming to reduce Iran's influence in the Arab world as well as other nation members of the UN, through the imposition of sanctions and the establishment of partnerships, such as in the case of the Abraham Accords, a series of agreements aiming to normalize the relationship between Israel and Arab nations.

Hamas

Since its establishment in 1987, Hamas has been a key factor in the Palestinian political scene. Even though the organisation initially had a limited political role, it managed to obtain financial and military support by Iran and develop into a political-military organisation, which would ultimately win the official Palestinian elections of 2006.

Hamas is currently the main political power in Palestine. On October 7 2023, the organisation, representing the entirety of Palestine, engaged in a military conflict with Israel, which would become official three months later, in January 2024. So far, the leader of Hamas, Yahya Sinwar, alongside many others high in leadership Hamas officials have been killed in the ongoing military conflict. Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation by countries such as the United States of America, Israel, and nations of the European Union⁴⁵.

Hezbollah

Hezbollah is considered as Iran's main Proxy Warfare organ, since its establishment in 1982. Even though based on Lebanese soil, the organisation has received more than a hundred thousand missiles by the Iranian government⁴⁶, and is currently active in the conflict between Israel and Palestine, by making attacks in the Northern front of Israel.

The organisation has had an important political role in Lebanon, which has led to a strong Iranian influence on the Lebanese government. So far, Hezbollah has been used by Iran as a method of deterring Israel from engaging in further attacks in neighboring nations, and particularly Iran. Hezbollah has received all of its military equipment and funding from private donors, and the Iranian government.

Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

⁴⁵ ---. "Hamas | Definition, History, Ideology, & Facts." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11 Nov. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas.

⁴⁶ The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Hezbollah | Lebanese Militant Group & Political Party." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 23 Aug. 2018, www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah.

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is composed of 57 member nations of the Arab world. Its role is mainly advisory, and does not have any political power. However, since its establishment in 1969, the organization has long strived for keeping unity between nations of the Arab world.

The OIC continuously condemns the actions Israel has taken against Palestinian civilians and calls for unison to achieve Palestinian independence. However, nations-members of the OIC are divided in regards to this issue, due to the ranging stance of nations on Iran, with many nations opposing Iranian influence, and others enhancing it. The United Nations have highlighted the importance of the organisation in reaching points of consensus, even though it does not have the power to implement political actions⁴⁷.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
January 1 1888	Establishment of Sanjaks in the region by the Ottoman Empire
11 November 1918	End of WWI and the fall of the Ottoman Empire
23 December 1918	Division of the Sanjaks to France and Great Britain
2 September 1945	End of World War II
14 May 1948	Israel is established and is officially recognised by the Allies of WWII as well as Eastern, and Western Germany
February 1 1979	The Iranian Revolution starts and Iran becomes an Islamic Republic
December 14 1987	Hamas is founded by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin

⁴⁷ "OIC Has Unified Stance on Palestine." *Spa.gov.sa*, SaudiPressAgency, 2023, spa.gov.sa/en/N2204372.

January 5, 1988	Iran begins contacts with the newly founded Hamas
September 13 1993	The First Oslo Accord is signed
September 28 1995	The Second Oslo Accord is signed, with Iran increasing its support to Hamas
March 22 2004	The leader of Hamas is assassinated by Israeli military forces
January 25 2006	The Palestinian legislative elections are won by Hamas
June 14 2007	Hamas gets total control of the Gaza strip after a conflict with Hamas
January 18 2009	Israel invades Gaza, with Iran providing military support to Palestine and the PIJ
May 11 2018	The US recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital and opens an embassy in the city. This action is considered provocative by Iran
August 13 2020	Abraham Records are signed between Israel, Bahrain and the UAE to establish relationship between the countries, an action considered provocative by Iran
May 11 2021	11-Day-War starts between Israel and Hamas, with Iran providing technical and military support to the organisation
January 2 2024	A full-scale military conflict initiated between Israel and Hamas, with Lebanon and Iran attacked by Israeli Forces, which led to them providing military support and attacking Israel
June 13 2025	Iran commenced a full scale air strike on Israel, underlining that Iran is officially an involved party in the conflict
June 22 2025	Operation midnight Hammer was completed by the US military forces, bombing three major nuclear sites in Iran

RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

[Resolution 1747 \(2007\)](#)⁴⁸

This resolution, drafted by the Security Council in 2007, aimed to directly limit the Iranian influence on military organisations in the Middle Eastern region. Iran's Proxy Warfare strategy involved not only funding, but also providing smaller organisations, especially in neighbouring nations, with military equipment and technology. An example of this strategy is the case of Hezbollah, an organisation whose equipment has come from Iranian funds to its entirety.

Considering this strategy as a threat to global peace and realising the possibility of smaller attacks to lead to a major conflict, the Security Council took the initiative to impose a military embargo on Iran, prohibiting it from engaging in any form of military trade or transfer. This initiative was also taken in order to limit Iranian nuclear development. However, Iran and its trading allies, such as Syria, did not comply with Resolution 1747, as military trade continued in the region with the United Nations unable to monitor this activity.

[Resolution ES/ 10-21 \(2023\)](#)⁴⁹

Being one of the first resolutions to represent the stance of the United Nations in the recently initiated conflict, this resolution, passed with overwhelming majority by the United Nations General Assembly (121-14-44), aimed at putting an early end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, even before it was recognised officially by the involved sides.

The resolution called for an immediate humanitarian truce in the strip of Gaza, and it was also the first resolution drafted to condemn Israeli violence against civilians. The resolution was heavily supported by Iran, Syria and Lebanon, even though it never came into action due to a veto that was raised by the United States of America, thus limiting the effect of this resolution.

[Resolution 2735 \(2024\)](#)⁵⁰

Resolution 2735, drafted in 2024, was part of a peace initiative taken by the United States of America in order to achieve a permanent ceasefire. The resolution endorsed a mutual hostage release plan, as well as a ceasefire deal that would take place in three parts. Moreover, Resolution 2735 called for Hamas to accept this plan, which would also ensure the total

⁴⁸ "S/RES/1747 (2007) | Security Council." *Un.org*, 2020, [main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/1747-%282007%29](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/1747-%282007%29).

⁴⁹ Dpr 3. "Protection of Civilians and Upholding Legal and Humanitarian Obligations - GA Resolution (A/RES/ES-10/21)." *Question of Palestine*, www.un.org/unispal/document/protection-of-civilians-and-upholding-legal-and-humanitarian-obligations-ga-resolution-a-res-es-10-21/.

⁵⁰ Security, UN. "Resolution 2735 (2024) /: Adopted by the Security Council at Its 9650th Meeting, on 10 June 2024." *United Nations Digital Library System*, UN, 10 June 2024, digitallibrary.un.org/record/4051310?v=pdf&ln=en.

reconstruction of the Gaza strip and a permanent two-state solution. This particular resolution put diplomatic pressure into both sides of the conflict, which finally led to the initiation of the plan proposed. This would, however, only last four days, as both parties did not comply with the decisions presented in the resolution

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Oslo Accords (1993-1995)⁵¹

The Oslo Accords were part of the first major agreement on the distribution of land between Israel and the Palestinian authority. With the First Oslo Accord signed (1993), Israel, alongside the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), which was the Palestinian main political power at the time, agreed on the creation of an official Palestinian Authority (PA), which would have formal political power in the Gaza strip and the West Bank. Seeing as the First Oslo Accord was partially successful in achieving partial independence for Palestine, the two parties, now in the Second Oslo Accord (1995), reached a point of consensus regarding the implementation of a two state solution plan. The solutions discussed and the initiatives taken in the Oslo Accords were rejected and condemned by the Iranian government. The country, seeing the major political power of Palestine reaching an agreement that would not necessarily ensure full Palestinian independence, labelled the Oslo Accords as a betrayal for the Palestinian cause. None of the Oslo Accords' decisions were proven fruitful, with Iran increasing its support for the PIJ and Hamas which led to the downfall of the PLO.

Arab Peace Initiative (2002)⁵²

The Arab Peace Initiative refers to a proposal made by Saudi Arabia in the beginning of 2002. Seeing Iran's influence leading to more smaller military organisations arising in its neighboring countries, Saudi Arabia proposed total normalization of the relationship with the country of Israel, with the condition of resolving the Golan Heights issue and the establishment of a Palestinian state. This solution, even though supported by the Arab League, was not implemented due to Israeli and Iranian rejection. The latter considered the initiative a method for Saudi Arabia to enhance its relationship with the Western world, which would also deteriorate the relationship between the Arab nations. Israeli rejection mainly derived from the fact that no formal or clear borders were discussed, creating a possibility of a diplomatic loophole which could cause more harm than good. Overall, the failure of this initiative led to a larger divide between nations in the Arab League, with many taking the side of Iran, while others aligned their views with Saudi Arabia which aimed for the expansion of the Middle-Eastern external relations.

⁵¹ ---. "Oslo Accords | Palestinian Liberation Organization-Israel [1993] | Britannica." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2020, www.britannica.com/topic/Oslo-Accords.

⁵² The. "Arab Peace Initiative | Full Text, Arab League, & Saudi Arabia." *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 20 Feb. 2025, www.britannica.com/topic/Arab-Peace-Initiative.

Annapolis Conference (2007)⁵³

The Annapolis conference refers to a summit hosted by the United States of America in 2007, with the aim of reestablishing the talks between the Palestinian and Israeli authorities, with a border goal of achieving a permanent agreement, and ideally a permanent state solution by the following year. However, multilateral talks in the Annapolis conference did not reach a positive end, as no final and mutually accepted decision was reached. Moreover, Iran's opposition on the Annapolis conference was considered to be the main reason behind the summit's failure, as Iran boycotted the conference and held a summit at the same exact period of time named: "the International Islamic Conference in Support of Palestine", with the aim of presenting the ultimate aim of the axis of resistance.

Abraham Accords (2020)⁵⁴

Being one of the most recent agreements between the United States of America and member nations of the Arab League, the aim of the Abraham Accords was the normalization of the relationship between Israel and Arab nations, particularly the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Morocco. Even though the Abraham Accords do not have a direct connection to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as they mainly focused in establishing financial and strategic ties between the Arab League and Israel, Iran regarded the agreements made as a threat, leading to it intensifying its support for military organizations, such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Even though the Abraham Accords were successful in establishing a robust relationship between the involved nations, it ultimately destabilized the condition in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as the balance between nations in the Arab League.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

The creation of a regional security framework

A recurring issue that has arisen, particularly after the start of the ongoing conflict, is the fact that there have been no mutually approved frameworks that focus on the establishment of particular limits that, when exceeded, would lead to the generalization of the conflict in the greater region. In particular, Iran has long condemned the Israeli attacks on the Gaza strip, which are enhanced and often conducted using its allies' military equipment. Simultaneously, Israel has pointed Iran out for engaging in Proxy Warfare, which has potentially led to the extension of the conflict, with more parties involved.

Therefore, it is crucial that a mutually accepted agreement regarding the involved nations exceeding particular military actions, such as Proxy Warfare and civilian targeting, is

⁵³ "Annapolis Conference - Israeli-Palestinian Joint Understanding ("Annapolis Understanding") - White House Press Release/Non-UN Document." *Question of Palestine*, www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-205805/.

⁵⁴ ---. "Abraham Accords | Peace Declaration, Summary, Countries, & Significance | Britannica." *Www.britannica.com*, 15 Sept. 2023, www.britannica.com/topic/Abraham-Accords.

made. This initiative would not necessarily involve the nations which are currently part of the ongoing conflict, as both sides have condemned the involvement of third party nations which have played an indirect role, such as in the case of Turkiye. The implementation of such a solution would be similar to one of NATO's constituting Articles, stating that if one party violates the agreements made, the others have the legal responsibility to respond accordingly (Article 5). If implemented, this solution can cause greater hesitance to all parties prior to launching a full-scale attack, which therefore leads to a smaller possibility of a large-scale conflict to occur. Reaching an agreement on this could be, however, challenging as it requires mutual understanding in order to achieve long term peace, which has not yet been shown in the history of this conflict.

Strengthening of the international legal accountability mechanisms

Israel has been accused, both in the United Nations General Assembly, as well as in the Security Council, of violating human rights laws. Many resolutions, such as Resolution ES/10-21 (2023), have condemned and highlighted the legal violations Israel has exceeded during the recent conflict which began on October 7, 2023. However, the country of Israel has neglected the decisions taken in the said resolutions, and has continued committing war crimes, as they are officially named in the Rome Statute and the Geneva Conventions. The main violations Israel has been accused of are the deliberate attacks on unarmed civilians, the denial of humanitarian access delivered to the West Bank and the Gaza strip, as well as collective punishment, which refers to the use of tactics to reduce food and water supply to Palestine⁵⁵.

These violations, even though pointed out by the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council, have not yet been prosecuted, due to the nation stating that the findings abide by international law. Hamas and the PIJ have also been accused of committing indiscriminate use of force, which has also been highlighted in the ICJ.

The existence of such accusations and potential war crimes highlights the need of stricter and stronger accountability mechanisms, focusing both on the imposition of financial sanctions, as well as embargoes related to trade. Moreover, to achieve a higher degree of accountability, the violations examined in the ICJ can be transferred to the International Criminal Court (ICC). This mechanism would ensure individual accountability for the violations committed, which would overall lead to the persecution of individuals provoking the conflict, from both parties. This particular solution would be strongly supported by Iran, which has long asked for individual accountability, but would likely face opposition from Israel, which would lose its de facto political immunity.

De-militarization of Palestinian state and implementation of a grey-zone

⁵⁵ Human Rights Watch. "Israel's Crimes against Humanity in Gaza." *Human Rights Watch*, 14 Nov. 2024, www.hrw.org/news/2024/11/14/israels-crimes-against-humanity-gaza.

Another initiative that could be a feasible solution for the Israeli-Palestinian movement, is the creation of a zone of land controlled by the United Nations between Palestine and Israel, as well as the total de-militarization of the Palestinian state. In particular, so far Palestinian and Israeli communities have been inhabiting neighbouring regions, based on the initial border placed after the UN Partition Plan in 1948 and the initial internal conflicts between the local populations and the new inhabitants in 1949. In addition, since then, no specific treaty has focused entirely on limiting the trade of military equipment in the Palestinian state, due to the fact that Palestine does not have an internationally accepted constitution, and it is also not considered an independent country. This has given the opportunity to third-party countries, such as Iran, to legally equip the Palestinian state with arms.

Therefore, the complete demilitarization of the Palestinian state could be a feasible solution to limit the rise of military organisations which fuel the conflict. For this, however, to occur, a zone controlled by none other than the United Nations, also referred to as a grey zone, must be established in order to ensure that the demilitarization of Palestine will not act as an advantage for the Israeli army to take control of disputed land. This solution can therefore lead to an induced two state outcome, as the result will be the formation of two autonomous and independent states.

Implementation of the neutrality model in Palestine

The neutrality model, which has long been used by nations such as Switzerland, which aim to remain impartial in the occurrence of any possible conflict, is a possible solution that could lead to a permanent cease of military activity and conflicts in the region as a whole. By the Palestinian state accepting neutrality, the state would no longer be possible to join any military alliances, and partial demilitarization measures would be implemented to limit the effect of military organisations to the Palestinian political scene, which has occurred in the past.

Again, the two state solution is not only a factor that could enhance this measure, but can also be considered necessary in order to achieve the desired results; long-term peace, and unity. In addition, for this solution to be feasible, the formation of a national constitution is of paramount importance, as it would ensure long-term results and stability. Furthermore, stronger monitoring of the equipment of arms is required to ensure the feasibility of the neutrality model, an action that can be taken on through a special mission of the United Nations. A potential challenge, however, could be Iran's opposition to the plan and Israeli rejection due to distrust.



Figure 5: Street with apartment buildings in the Gaza strip, as of July 2025⁵⁶

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⁵⁶ *App.goo.gl*, 2024, images.app.goo.gl/MTMxX5sk1hKmH7BF9.

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