**Security Council**

*The United Nations’ Security Council*

***Chair:***

Ricardo Agudelo

Laura Guzmán

Topic A: Myanmar Civil War

Topic B: Israel-Palestine War

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**1.0 Letter from the Chair**

1.1. Letter from Presidents

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the model of the United Nations of Marymount School, MSMUN 2024. It is an honor for us, Ricardo Agudelo and Laura Guzmán, to be your presidents in this version of the United Nations Security Council. We are excited to have you on our committee.

This year, the topics to be discussed will be “Israel-Palestine War” and the “Myanmar Civil War”. These are issues of utmost importance for the international community and its security, which is why it is necessary to propose solutions and arguments that improve the current situation. We expect a lot of prior preparation, as well as participation, in order to obtain innovative alternatives on how to address the issues raised.

As your presidents, we will be at your disposal at any time to help and guide you when you need us, so that you can give your best. Let us know when you need us and we will be willing to do it.

We hope you enjoy this model and version of the Security Council. Always remember to try to make the impossible possible.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Agudelo and Laura Guzmán.

**3.0 Topic A: *Myanmar crisis***

3.1. Historical context

Ever since Myanmar, which also goes by the name of Burma, gained its independence from the British colonial rule on January 4th of 1948, the country has battled with an unstable and poor military rule, an ethnic civil war, and an increase in poverty. In 2011, due to the great disapproval of the military government, the nation started the process of transforming into a democratic one, still, in accordance to the 2008 constitution, it would still have 25 percent of the seats in the junta. Even though the country was supposedly transforming into a democratic nation without a set military rule, the situation did not significantly change as for the Tatmadaw’s political party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), still remained with a lot of influence in the government and the nation. After it suffered a major loss in the 2020 elections, later on, in February of 2021, military leaders such as the Senior General Min Aung Hlaing staged a coup and forcibly took back control of the country. Ever since then, the ethnic armed groups and militias seen in the nation, with the aid of activists and former lawmakers, have been opposing to Tatmadaw, which is the colloquial way of addressing the military.

In response to this opposition, the government started a campaign that involved the brutal treatment directed to the protesters and forces that decided to go against it. This has included the torturing and causing the death of numerous civilians. At the same time, it influenced the State Administration Council, which is the country’s junta, into unlawfully placing charges against the previous president, Win Myint, who had just been overthrown, and the State Counsellor, Aung San Suu Kyi. These actions were also taken for the members of the State Counsellor's political party, the National League of Democracy (NLD), as well as other opposition parties, who were also charged with crimes such as corruption, ending with them being put under house arrest.

Furthermore, these actions have caught the attention of the United Nations, but a solution has not yet been agreed to. Regardless of the Tatmadaw’s efforts to gain control over the totality of the nation’s territory, it has not been capable of doing so due to the great influence from groups out of the margin of the law that go against it. In fact, these groups, with the involvement of previous NLD lawmakers, activists and the main leaders that organized the protests have created a parallel government called the National Unity Government, which, in September of 2021, declared war on the military government, specifically the junta, and created its own armed force called the People’s Defence Force in order to defend itself and attack its enemy properly. Due to the great violence produced by both the military and the National Unity Government, thousands of civilians have been forced to migrate to other countries.

Furthermore, the government has taken violent actions for its goal of “cleansing” Myanmar from the Rohingya muslim ethnic group. Even though the group has lived in Burma for generations, specifically in the south-western region called the Rakhine State, it is not considered an official ethnic group and had its memeber’s citizenships denied in 1982. The situation worsened in August of 2017, when there were serious human rights violations, murders, the separation of families, and the burning of villages to the ground. This forced more than 742,000 people, of which more than half were children, to migrate to countries such as Bangladesh in seek of refuge, showing how far the military government is willing to go to get its ideas across.

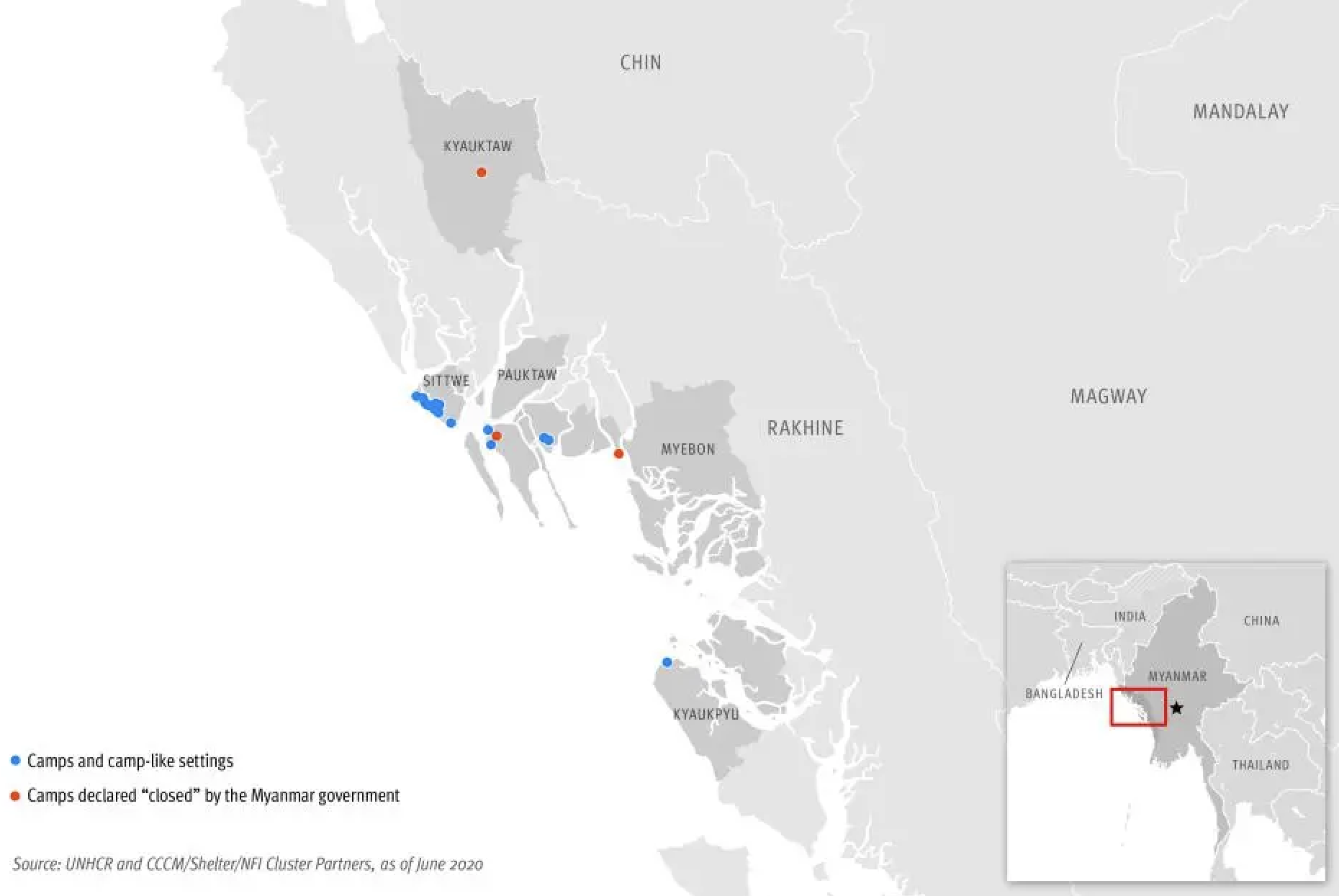
In an interview with the National Unity Government’s humanitarian minister, it was stated that the opposition greatly apologizes for failing to provide peace and justice to the Rohingya population after this great military attack, stating that the civilian government tried but simply did not have enough resources and forces to aid the ethnic group. He mainly apologized due to the fact that he saw the attacks in the Rakhine State but was unable to take action because the fires had already started, a situation which was understood by the Rohingya leaders.

In 2017, it was recorded that Burma’s government had turned the Rakhine State into a type of open air prison, where the Rohyngya’s were segregated and discriminated, violating several human rights, specially due to the authorities being prone to physical and sexual violence, the last one being the most common in women and girls. Apart from this, the restrictions seen in the region go against the minority’s freedom of movement and access to resources such as education, food and water. As a consequence of all this, this situation has been cataloged as an apartheid, which is a crime against humanity, seeing that the Tatmadaw was oppressing and showing dominance over the ethnic group, even going as far as to generating policies and measures with the goal of isolating the racial group.

*Figure 1*

The following image will show the previous and currently active camps in Myanmar:

The active ones are in blue:



Emerson, J. (2020). *Myanmar camps.* Human Rights Watch. (Image).

People in the camps are forced to be under house arrest on a daily basis and are prohibited from moving through resources such as extortion and barbed-wire fencing, reducing the people’s freedom and limiting the chances of them migrating and seeking help in another country. This has shown that the creation of these camps was in order to confine and segregate the ethnic group, whose members are not even considered citizens, after various years of wanting to eliminate them from the nation.

In November of 2019, the military stated that there would be a “National Strategy of Resettlement of Internally Displaced Persons and Closure of IDP Camps”. This was meant to ameliorate the situation of the Rohingya group, still, although it came into action, it did not make much of a difference. The campaign consisted in building new structures near the camps were the group had to live, continuing to force segregation but in a bigger space, prohibiting the people to go back to their homes and reintegrate with Myanmar citizens.

3.2. Current situation

Right now, the country continues to be under martial law, regardless of the civilian’s opposition, especially from those who are part of pro-democracy groups. Still, it has made it hard for the Tatmadaw to maintain the country under control, which has backfired into making the junta increase its abuses directed towards the citizens, which are both war crimes and crimes against humanity. These attacks can vary, but the most common ones are torture, arbitary arrests, and extrajudicial killings.

It was planned that in August of 2023, elections would be held in order for the nation to go back into a democracy. Nevertheless, as it had already happened three times before, meaning that it was expected, this was postponed after the junta stated that the country was still in a state of emergency. In order to “calm” the citizens after this act, the junta decided to slightly reduce the sentence that it had unlawfully given to Aung San Suu, the National League of Democracy’s leader, and the former president who was overthrown, President Win Myint, for false charges.

Before all this, the junta had already stated that there would be a new Political Registration Law, in order for any party that wanted to participate in the supposed elections. Seeing that the NLD and other 40 opposition parties refused to register because they believed that the elections were not going to be held, which turned out to be true, the State said that they were dissolved for not abiding by the law. Through this new law and previous orders made during the martial law, only the political parties that the junta backed-up and the military, seeing that it takes up a quarter of the seats, would be capable of participating in future elections, leading the way to more years of oppression for the citizens, where there may be processes of democracy but where the parties would not make a great change, as they all would be powered by the same forces.

Apart from all of this, the junta is starting to increase surveillance of the citizens, even going as far as to completely disregard their right to privacy. In the past year, it has digitized the data of around 51 million citizens, including the biometrics of more than 700,000 civilians, such as fingerprints, retina and face scans. This information is all used by the junta’s Ministry of Immigration and Population in order to connect it to the people’s documents, like their passport, and their bank details, such as the purchases that they make. At the same time, they keep track of the SIM cards and cell phones that they buy, all with the objective of having more surveillance on opposition members, activists and human rights defenders, as well as to probe on the citizen rights of ethnic groups such as the Rohingya and other minorities.

More than 24,000 activists and rights defenders have been arrested for protesting against the coup and 4,000 have been killed, although many estimate that this number is much higher. Many lawyers have tried to represent and defend those who have been unjustly arrested, but have had many obstacles and restrictions planned by the government that make their jobs nearly impossible. Equally, they have been the subjects of various threats, detentions, arbitrary arrests, and even torture and maltreatment for going against the junta and trying to provide justice, making some of them to abstain helping others in fear that these types of actions may be directed to them. Seeing that there is a great amount of people who have been arrested, the State has created a new program of “special courts” where prisoners are judged through an entity that is under the control of the junta, without access to a lawyer, meaning that those detained have their right to due process denied leaving them with an unfair trial that will probably end badly for them.

On April 11 of 2023, the military launched a thermobaric bomb attack in a building of the opposition, in the Pa Zi Gyi village, killing around 160 people, including children, violating the laws of war. This has not been the first attack from the military to the civilians. The day before this attack, it also delivered some airstrikes in Chin State, ending with the life of 9 people. It had also conducted airstrikes in the Bago Region on May 2 of the same year. Airstrikes have become normal and have happened in other cities repeatedly, including those with displaced civilians, committing another major war crime. Plus, on April 21, there was a ground and air assault on a hospital that was funded by Japan, where 22 people were murdered and were found with signs of torture. Throughout these attacks, the military has included cluster munitions in its armament, which is prohibited in 123 countries.

More than 18 million people require humanitarian aid and around 2 million citizens have been forced to be internally displaced, of which 500,000 have had to flee due to the military and the People’s Defence Force armed conflict. The number of people needing humanitarian aid is very high not only due to the conflict but because the military have blocked any of it that may help the citizens, in order to punish them for going against the government. They have accomplished this by isolating areas and terrorizing the people living there. Even after Cyclone Mocha severely deteriorated various states, such as the Rakhine one, it prohibited the entrance of aid to the sectors. The conflict has generated food insecurity in the nation, also leading to a fall in the country’s currency and shortages of essential resources like medicines.

The Rohingya group still lives under an apartheid of around 600,000 people, who are usually imprisoned after being persecuted. 140,000 of them have been in open-air camps since 2012 after the military’s ethnic cleanse campaign, without the right to mobility, which are suspected to be designed for permanent segregation of the muslim community. The conditions seen in these camps go against the right to life and basic needs, as there is great malnutrition, maternal mortality and health risks such as waterborne diseases. Plus, the government has already stated that it is not willing to improve the conditions seen in the camps, for it considers them adequate and enough. Even after the junta and the Bangladesh government have started a patriot repatriation process, it has not achieved any improvements and continues to be solely theoretical, for it has not started to officially happen.

As a consequence of the conflict, sexual violence, especially that targetted to girls and women has increased. Those who have committed these actions are both from the military and other non-state actors. Women have been subject to human trafficking with the objective of sexual exploitation, both inside and outside of the nation. Also, the amount of women and girls participating in education and politics has significantly reduced, also being a consequence of many girls being married before they reach the age of eighteen. At the same time, seeing that the junta declares all types of homosexuality as a crime, for which a person can receive up to ten years in jail, those who have been detained and are part of the community tend to be sexually assaulted.

In order to try and gain more leverage on the military, the NUG promoted Operation 1027 in October of 2023, which consisted of joining forces with the Arakan Army and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army in order to attack the military control in the northern part of the country, which borders China. This also motivated other opposition groups in the country to conduct attacks against the military, which has made the NUG state in January 31st of 2024 that the Spring Revolution, which is the name that has been given to the opposition’s actions, is stronger than ever, as it has made the opposition gain more resources after various ethnic groups and minorities joined to attack the government. Additionally, the increasing crisis has made various militants desert, making the junta lose even more power.

Regardless of the junta clearly becoming weaker, it refuses to back down and continues with operation of the Rohingya camps, as well as continues to unlawfully arrest civilians and commit serious human rights violations. This is why, after it loses control of a city or town to the opposition, it decides to attack it with long range artillery and air power, which has been seen before with numerous airstrikes. This is why, still in January of 2024, the military’s army chief, Min Aung Hlaing, has stated that it is ready to crush the opposition, all while extending the state of emergency in the country, and it does not seem that it is willing to stop the atrocities that have been committed under his command.

3.3. Previous resolutions

The United Nations Security Council through resolution 2669 of December 21st of 2022, regarding the situation in Myanmar of which it is deeply concerned, especially the maltreatment to the Rohingya group, has stated the following:

i). *Demands* a cease of fire and an end to the violence, as well as a reduction of the tensions between the military and the opposition forces, as well as minority groups;

ii). *Urges* the Tatmadaw to release the prisoners who have been arbitrarily detained, such as President Win Myint and the State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi;

iii). *Reiterates* its suggestion to hold diplomatic processes including dialogue and reconciliation all with the main objective of the wellbeing and interests of the citizens of Myanmar;

iv). *Urges* both the military and the opposition to respect the rule of law, human rights, and the fundamental freedoms of the citizens;

v). *Acknowledges* ASEAN’s role in finding a solution for the benefit of the civilians and encourages the international community to support it. (ASEAN’s role is explained in the international response);

vi). *Calls for* the implementation of the Five Point Consensus given by ASEAN;

vii). *Reiterates* support to the ASEAN Special Envoy’s efforts to produce diplomatic dialogue, leading the way to democracy, as well as encourages the UN Special Envoy to aid in the process;

viii). *Urges* all of the parties involved in the Myanmar crisis to cooperate with ASEAN in order to start with the dialogue;

ix). Reiterates the necessity for humanitarian aid, as well as provide safety and protection to those who are willing to deliver it, such as medical help.

x). Underscores the need to alleviate tensions with the Rohingya group and start with the return to their homes, while being under protection and assistance of the state, which would be the same case with those who have been internally displaced.

xi). Decides to remain seized on the matter.

(Security Council, 2022)

3.4 International response

Seeing that Myanmar is part of ASEAN, which stands for the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations, it means that it has to try and abide by the organization’s political and economic ideals. After seeing that the nation has taken a different path than the association would have liked, it has created a five-point consensus regarding Myanmar. This consists of the country having to end the violent attacks from the part of the junta to the common people, attempt to start a peaceful dialogue which includes minorities like the Rohingya, allowing the participation of a special envoy from ASEAN that ensures that the process is done peacefully and has the citizen’s best interest in mind, permitting ASEAN to send humanitarian aid not only to the citizens but also to the Rohingya group, and allowing the special envoy to visit and take into account the point of view of all the parties involved in the crisis.

Additionally, as the government has committed numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity, there have been various nations that have reacted to its actions. Members of the European Union, of which France has taken a major role in the issue, have condemned the government’s atrocities. France has vocally supported the 2021 resolutions made by the United Nations Human Rights Council that called for the Tatmadaw to make a stop in the human rights abuses and give back the power to the democratically elected government. Plus, the European Union has given several economic sanctions on the nation, which have been ignored by the junta. These types of sanctions have also been implemented by the United Kingdom and Canada.

Due to the fact that the Security Council has rather disregarded the issue after its resolution in 2022, the planned global arms embargo, targeted sanctions to the entities that fund the military, and the charges imposed under the International Criminal Court have been ignored and not put in order.

A UN reporter has stated that nations such as China, Russia, Thailand, Singapore, and India have entities that have provided materials and weapons to Myanmar’s government, for which the arms dealers have prevented sanctions by using front companies.

In addition, the United States has imposed several sanctions on Myanmar's banks, causing Singapore's United Overseas Bank and Bangladesh’s Sonali Bank, which were commonly used by the junta to transfer money for the buying of weapons, to suspend transfers coming from the country. Also, the United States has decided to implement sanctions on aviation fuel, in order to try and stop the common airstrikes delivered by the junta, while also sanctioning any transaction related to the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, with the main objective of reducing the junta’s economical resources so they do not have enough to continue striking against civilians.

Regardless of all of these actions and attempts to ameliorate the situation, the military has yet received serious consequences due to the greatly uncoordinated international response and continues to fight against the opposition with full force.

3.5. Useful sources

**Regarding the conflict:**

*Council of Foreign Relations, regarding the situation in Myanmar*

<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/myanmar-history-coup-military-rule-ethnic-conflict-rohingya>

*UN Refugee Agency, in the prospect of Rohingya Refugee Crisis*

<https://www.unrefugees.org/news/rohingya-refugee-crisis-explained/#RohingyainBangladesh>

*UN Documents for Myanmar*

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/myanmar/>

*Official website of the National Unity Government*

<https://gov.nugmyanmar.org>

**About the United Nations and Important Documents:**

United Nations. (n.d.). *Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

United Nations. (n.d.-a). *UN Charter | United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

3.6. Expectations for debate

We expect a wide participation from all of the delegates, with interventions that are “out of the box”, in order to address the great conflict seen in Myanmar, which has greatly deteriorated the citizen’s lives. The main goal is to find a diplomatic and achievable solution for the topic, in which all parties can be equally satisfied and the consequences are tackled, as well as resolved.

We expect your motivation, do not be afraid to stand out and speak the things you want to tell, this is a space for mistakes and learning, where no one will be judged.

We truly expect that you enjoy this experience to its fullest, and boost your confidence, as well as argumentative and critical skills. Remember we are always available upon any doubt or suggestion.

It is in this commission's hand to resolve this issue, it is in your hands to make the impossible possible.

**4.0 Topic B: *Israel-Palestine Conflict***

4.1. Historical context

The conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has been ongoing for many years. Over the decades, the violent eviction of Palestinian families in Israel and the constant mutual attacks between the two nations have intensified, leaving little hope for a peaceful and early end to this conflict. Throughout the war, other countries have taken part because of their strong relations with either Israel or Palestine. From world powers such as the United States and Russia, to the UN and the European Union have been involved, but none have proven to be effective mediators in establishing peace.

In order to understand the conflict we have to go many years ago… "The Promised Land" is a concept attributed by the Jews to the piece of land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea. Although the Jews claim this territory as their own, and they establish that it is fundamental for the free development of their culture, the Arabs and Christians (among many other cultures) also claim this same piece of land as sacred or as the historical heritage of their culture, which throughout history has generated many conflicts.

During the 19th century, the anti-semitic movement increased in Europe, which caused many Jews to be persecuted or singled out within a socio-cultural context in which they had been living for centuries. For this reason, at the beginning of the 20th century, Zionism was born, a movement whose main objective was to establish a state for the Jews after many centuries of persecution. Led by Theodore Hertzl, the movement spread a few by a few in Europe, which caused a massive migration of Jews to the so-called "promised land", however, this territory, officially called "Palestine", was occupied by the Ottoman Empire, which in turn sheltered a large number of Muslims. When this first massive wave of Jews arrived in the Palestinian territory, the ideological differences between Jews and Muslims came to light; constant clashes began to be seen between Jewish paramilitary groups and Muslim militias much more often, who disputed territory, commercial control and demographic establishments, and as if that were not enough, the side of the "Central Powers" (the side occupied by the German Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Ottoman Empire) had just lost the war, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, Bulgaria and the Ottoman Empire) had just lost World War I, and their territories were to be taken over by the nations of the "Entente side", among which was the United Kingdom, who was left with that troublesome little piece of land that had already been a headache for the Ottomans: Palestine.

With the arrival of the British, the territory was becoming more and more conflictive, so much so that at a certain point the British government issued the "Balfour Declaration" (a letter in which it recognized the importance of a territory or state for the Jews in Palestinian territory), and of course, this represented a great inconvenience for the Palestinians. Over the next few years the number of Jews arriving in the territory was enormous, Jews trying to escape a second wave of anti-Semitism, that is, German Nazism driven by the anti-Semitic Adolf Hitler, a movement that was spreading rapidly throughout Europe in the early 1940s.

In response to the Balfour Declaration, in 1936 and 1937, some protests were held in Palestine against British neo-colonialism, the payment of taxes and the increasing migration of Jews to the territory, and in response, the British crown decided to repress these demonstrations, massively arresting and demolishing some Palestinian homes. In addition to that, in 1939, it is believed that the United Kingdom helped to finance and form the Jewish defense groups or Jewish paramilitary groups that were the first signs of an army for the State of Israel, and which aimed to confront Palestinian militias and insurgents. They were given weapons, strategic support and intelligence so that they could control them at their complete convenience, something that after World War II ended up being a problem for the Palestinians because they were fighting against an already trained army.

After more than 6 million Jews died during World War II, the United Nations decided in 1947 that the territory of Palestine would be divided into two independent states: one Jewish, the other Muslim. The Jews had no problem with this, however, the Muslims were completely unhappy with the decision, as it represented a great loss of territory for them. This caused the latter to file a complaint to the United Nations, who despite trying to stop the plan due to the disagreement of the Palestinians, were stopped by the proclamation of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, by the hand of David Ben-Gurion. This of course infuriated the Palestinians, who, the day after the proclamation of the State of Israel, invaded their territory with the help of Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and Transjordan (today Jordan), but the move did not work out as expected, since within a year, Israel managed to win the war, thus conquering a large part of ancient Palestine, including West Jerusalem. This situation left a huge number of displaced people that to this day, counting the children and grandchildren of the Palestinians exiled in the first Arab-Israeli war of 1948, amounts to 5-6 million according to BBC and Aljazeera data, who also had to move to settlements in neighboring countries or to other areas of the new Palestine such as the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians called this events or these “genocides” as the “Nakba”.

In 1956, Egypt interfered again in the conflict by getting involved in a war with Israel over the Suez Canal, a war that territorially speaking had no consequences until 1967 when Egypt itself decided to attack Israel again, but this time the Jews were victorious and conquered the West Bank, Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, which belonged to Egypt, thus winning the famous Six-Day War. In 1973 Egypt returns to another war with Israel, this time in the Yom Kippur War, which in the end ends in a peace agreement between the two countries, mediated by the United States, thus making Egypt the first Arab country to sign peace with Israel, and thus Palestine a people with one less ally in this conflict.

After the Six-Day War, the Jews began to emigrate to the Palestinian territories, and being protected by the State of Israel, they expelled the Palestinians themselves from their lands, which proved that they were a zero to the left for the Israeli state. The descendants of those Jews are still in Palestinian territory today, and are protected by fences, walls and the Mistara itself (which represents another impediment to the Palestinians for the longed-for creation of their own state. Entities such as the United Nations and the International Court of Justice, demand these Jewish settlements as illegal, since they go against the agreements of the Geneva Convention, in which it is established that a country cannot mobilize its population to a militarily occupied territory, however, the Israelis defend themselves saying that this territory was not militarily occupied because before 1967, it was not anyone's territory, and simply the Jews arrived and settled there as anyone could have done.

After this six-day war in which Israel managed to occupy a large part of the Egyptian and Palestinian territory, some groups emerged against the Israeli repression, among them the Marxist-Leninist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which as a form of protest and to be noticed within the world panorama, was characterized by hijacking Israeli airplanes, although, after this, another group took its place. Due to such "violations" of international agreements and Human Rights established by the UN, the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) was born, a political and paramilitary group (categorized by the State of Israel) whose main objective was to attack against the Jewish state and found a Palestinian state. This group focused mainly on showing the world the Palestinian struggle in a violent way, which is why they attacked both from within the geographical limits of the conflict, and from outside the borders of Gaza and the West Bank. These attacks reached the Olympic Games in Munich in 1972, where a group of Palestinian terrorists destroyed the entire Israeli sports team. In 1988, the Arab League also recognized the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people, by stripping the Palestinian authorities of their legitimacy.



<https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-internacional-62510712>

Due to this endless number of conflicts, the PLO and Israel signed, with the help of the United States and President Bill Clinton, the Oslo Accords in 1992, so that peace would finally reign in the territory, but the relations between them remained very tense, so much so that Israel was forced to build in 1995 a concrete wall many kilometers long that divided the Palestinian territories (Gaza and the West Bank) from Israeli territory. In the Oslo Accords, the PLO granted, among other things, 60% of the territorial control of the West Bank to Israel, as well as access to the land and water resources of that territory. The importance of the creation of a single Palestinian government controlling both the Gaza Strip and the West Bank was also reaffirmed. East Jerusalem was intended to be the capital of the country, but, although it was for a short period of time, it ceased to be so because it was occupied by Israel. This angered armed groups such as Hamas, who from these Palestinian territories, to this day, continue to repeatedly attack Israeli territory with the famous “Rockets” (a type of bombs), and the State of Israel, in response, counterattacks with larger bombs, thus ending the lives of a lot of innocent people who today number up to 8,400 Palestinians according to BBC data.

The first series of protests in Palestine during 1987 to 1993 occurred in response to an event between an Israeli truck and Palestinian vans, which left all the passengers of the latter as fatalities. It then became common for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza to attack Israeli tanks with stones and the occasional violent response, and thus Hamas emerged, another Muslim group that did not fit the two-state idea, advocated for the rights of the Palestinian people and emerged as an uprising movement against the Israeli occupation. To control these protests, the Israeli defense minister at the time, Yitzhak Rabin, preferred to carry out summary executions, close universities, deport activists and destroy universities, something that, to the public eye, was seen as an excessively violent way of responding to the Palestinian uprising. According to the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, the Israeli armed forces killed around 1,070 Palestinians during these protests.

On September 28, 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited the Al-Aqsa Mosque, protected by military forces, who were on the lookout for his visit in the vicinity. This provoked the Palestinians, who organized some demonstrations which, according to Aljezeera, reached 200 wounded and 5 dead in 2 days. In response, Israel began to deploy military forces that reached beyond its jurisdiction, and protected the Jewish settlements in the West Bank, which, according to the International Court of Justice, have been the target of the Israeli occupation.

4.2. Current situation

Over the past decades, the conflict has escalated to the point where external factors come to intervene, or to the point where this divided government of Palestine acts in two different ways because of its beliefs and hopes for the conflict. Gaza, which is the territory controlled by the Hamas terrorist organization, has decided not to recognize the State of Israel as sovereign and has mentioned on different occasions that it will not stop resorting to violence for the liberation of the Palestinian people, something that converges the international community to this day. On the other hand, the West Bank, led by the political party Al-Fatah, has tried to solve the conflict in the most peaceful way possible, at a point where the State of Israel has its recognition, but at the same time, Palestine also has it, however the fact that the former president of the United States, Donald Trump, decided to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital and move the embassy from Tel-Aviv, has stalled these negotiations between the two states.

Another factor to take into account is the presence of the Israeli army in the Palestinian territories, a governmental organization that has been accused of violating human rights and international rights by occupying territories; the Palestinians accuse the Israeli armed forces of committing crimes against their people during the "Red Crescent", "Ramadan", "The Israeli Nationalist March" and many other events both Islamic and Jewish, which have left a lot of dead in the streets of the "Holy City". Also, the same armed forces of Israel and the same government have been accused by some members of the international community and Palestinian organizations of evicting families of this nationality in cities such as Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel-Aviv, Ramallah, etc. to replace them with new Jewish settlers coming to Israel, something that added to the big problem that exists because of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, worsens the situation. Due to all this, the attacks between both territories, mainly with the famous "Rockets", are becoming much more recurrent, which has left an endless number of dead and wounded that has not helped the problem to be solved.

As mentioned above, the West Bank is controlled by the Palestinian Authority, a country government that is not recognized as a member state of the United Nations, however, it is an observer as well as nations such as the Vatican, and on the other hand, the Gaza Strip, understood as a conflict zone and where about 2 million people live, is occupied by Hamas, who after failing to win the elections in 2007, took control of the territory by force. In turn, the West Bank is a divided and Israeli-controlled area on the border, and Gaza, although it too, has a different position because it is completely sealed off, as if it were an open-air prison for those living inside.

Thus, Palestine is a country divided into 2, and since the "unofficial" Hamas government in Gaza does not recognize the sovereignty and legitimacy of the State of Israel, it decided, as it has already done on several occasions, to attack the Jewish state. On October 7, 2023, Hamas, with the help of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, carried out a coordinated attack against Israel in the form of a war, which, according to VOX data, registered a total of 1,400 dead and 240 hostages captured and taken to Gaza. By the way, this first attack was the close of the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, meaning that many members of the military forces were on a rest period, so it would be a reason for why Hamas decided to attack that day specifically. This attack was carried out by air, where they attacked the Iron Dome (a monument that defends Jerusalem from attacks with "Rockets" or any other type of aerial weaponry), however, the Iron Dome failed to contain some of the missiles, which managed to hit inhabited areas, leaving a long list of dead. Also, they attacked by land, when with the help of construction equipment they managed to collapse the concrete wall that separates Gaza from Israel. In addition, some Hamas terrorists entered Israel in boats, which dropped them off near the coastal town of Zikim, and in parallel, others entered Israel in motorized paragliders into certain areas controlled by the Israeli army, thus also cutting off the latter's connections with central intelligence posts. On that same October 7, the "terrorist" group Hamas attacked the Nova music festival in southern Israel, close to a kibbutz called Reim, where an estimated 364 people of different nationalities were killed, thus expanding the conflict to an international level. Many of those kidnapped at the Nova festival (which was also a festival held in the name of peace) have not been located to date, and some others have already been found, but were not found in time. There is the case of Shani Louk, a young German woman who decided to attend the festival and after being kidnapped and murdered, her body was tied to a van and dragged around Gaza as if it were a trophy.

In response, the State of Israel, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, declared a state of war, and responded to the attacks with White Phosphorus and a military incursion into the territory in order to bring the situation under control. This type of weaponry is completely prohibited by the United Nations, since dropping incendiary weapons on civilian areas is completely illegal. White phosphorus had already been used by Israel on other occasions against civilians in Gaza, according to reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, and now, because of its use and the different responses given by the government of Netanyahu, Israel is being investigated by the ICJ and the ICC for crimes against humanity, as established in the Rome Statute and the 2010 Kampala Conference. In addition to this, Palestinians in the northern Gaza Strip were forced to move south to escape chemical attacks launched by the Israeli army, thus provoking a forced displacement that to this day has kept many Palestinians detained in southern Gaza, who cannot even leave to Egypt due to border and migration control, in addition to the difficult climatic conditions of the Sinai Peninsula.

Because of this declaration, the State of Israel has been calling up reservists for the war, not only within the national territory, but also Netanyahu turned to Jewish reservists who do not necessarily have Israeli nationality. From Argentina, Chile, Colombia or Mexico, to give some examples, planes loaded with Jewish reservists left for "the promised land" in order to face the Hamas offensive. Also, Israel decided to cut off water, food and electricity supplies to Gaza in order to weaken Hamas, but this resulted in a major humanitarian crisis that has not been resolved. Various NGOs and international organizations, not necessarily pro-Palestinian or Muslim, have decided to collect funds and supplies for the people of Gaza, something that Israel itself has also done for those affected by Hamas attacks. This partial border closure has greatly hindered the access of paramedics and social workers to Gaza, thus preventing immediate humanitarian care, however, and in view of this crisis, Israel joined with Egypt to let out some foreigners on the Sinai side, more specifically through the Rafah border crossing, on November 1. This was the first time the border was opened since October 7.



<https://www.aa.com.tr/es/mundo/fuentes-m%C3%A9dicas-denuncian-uso-de-bombas-de-f%C3%B3sforo-blanco-en-gaza-por-parte-de-israel/3016131>

The war, although it started from the Hamas side, has had some movement in the last 3 months of the conflict. On November 12, 2023, Israel entered the Gaza Strip in order to contain Hamas. The Israeli offensive managed to reach Al-Shifa hospital, where, according to military forces, Hamas had one of the largest military operations centers ever seen in this conflict. It is described that inside the hospital they had weapons, supplies and a network of tunnels that connected with some strategic points in Gaza and Israel, however, Hamas and its spokesmen have come out to declare that this is completely false and advocate for an international review by the United Nations or the Red Cross to verify or deny what the Israeli army said. What is certain is that in that hospital they found corpses of the war, which were taken by the armed forces, some Israeli or international hostages, and above all, some patients of the hospital who deplore the humanitarian situation they are living under the yoke of the Israeli army, as mentioned by AA and some other pro-Palestinian or Islamic media.

In a matter of 2 months, Israel has managed to take control of the vast majority of Gaza, however, this is being carried out at an immense humanitarian cost that has left many civilian casualties within the confines of the strip. Destroyed buildings, civilians and protesters killed under crossfire or considered collateral damage, raids and arbitrary arrests are some of the consequences that the Palestinian population is suffering due to the Israeli occupation. And it has not only happened within the Gaza Strip, in Beirut, Lebanon, Israel managed to assassinate one of the main leaders of Hamas, Saleh Al-Arouri, thus extending the conflict and civil damage to other borders.



<https://www.amnesty.org/es/latest/news/2023/10/israel-opt-civilians-in-gaza-at-unprecedented-risk-as-israel-imposes-communication-black-out-during-bombardment-and-expanding-ground-attacks/>

On November 22, Israel and Hamas, mediated by Qatar and Egypt, agreed to the release of 110 Israeli hostages in exchange for the release of 240 Palestinian prisoners, and following this small truce, attacks intensified again in two main areas: the West Bank, where the Israeli army redeployed troops (something not seen since 2005), and on the border with Lebanon, where the Hezbollah group (allied with Hamas) decided to attack Israeli cities in the north, responding also to the attack they did in Beirut.

Cyber and technological warfare have played a significant role in the conflict as well. On one hand, Israeli intelligence has successfully disrupted Hamas' connections within the Gaza Strip, preventing them from coordinating attacks by cutting off communication between squads. Despite phishing attempts, malware, and digital sabotage, Israeli operational systems remain fully protected by firewalls – a digital shield enabling electronic systems to defend against potential attacks or information theft-.

However, according to Infobae, cyber attacks from pro-Palestinian groups have targeted companies such as Mekorot (Israel's Water Company) and the Israel Electric Authority, putting the nation's water and electricity supply at risk. Additionally, new ransomware has emerged, posing threats to Israeli cybersecurity, as these tracking methods or viruses are orchestrated by pro-Palestinian organizations.

The Israeli government and Hamas have both faced accusations of violating international humanitarian law. However, there is a distinction at an institutional level between the Israeli government and the Hamas terrorist organization. Hamas has been accused of committing crimes against humanity and violating human rights, categorizing them as a terrorist organization. They are not officially recognized as a government.

On the other hand, the Israeli government, led by Benjamin Netanyahu, operates as an official and recognized government. Consequently, it is subject to the opinions and decisions of international allies. Israel cannot independently govern its conflict and must adhere to global regulations. Ultra-nationalists in Israel, including the current Prime Minister, may view war as a response and a means of national unity against perceived international threats. This approach could also serve to divert attention from domestic issues, such as the proposed Judicial Reform that sparked protests in 2023.

However, the Israeli government's actions on the international stage have raised concerns. Despite Hamas engaging in similar or worse violations, Israel's status as a recognized government means it faces scrutiny for potentially violating established rights and agreements, such as the Rome Statute and decisions from the Kampala Conference of 2010. This has led to a questionable international image for Israel, while Hamas, as a terrorist organization, may not receive sanctions that significantly impact its organizational functioning. Despite all of these, according to La Vanguardia, the number of deaths arrises to 25,000 people, and 62,000 injured.

Today, the conflict has reached its global nature as anti-Semitic and Islamophobic sentiments are spreading around the world as a result of the stigmatization given by the rest of the world to people belonging to these two religions and their position in the conflict. It is important to stress: a Jew is not the same as an Israeli, and a Muslim is not the same as a Palestinian, and the mere fact that they belong to a religion or not does not mean anything about their position in the conflict. Moreover, in Germany, Colombia and some other countries, especially in Europe, anti-Semitic and Islamophobic reactions to the conflict are being experienced, so much so that Jewish houses and Israeli embassies (for example) are being vandalized and violated around the world, putting at risk the lives of people who identify with this symbology, something not seen since Nazi Germany where this type of persecution was a daily occurrence.

4.3. Previous resolutions

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has had many previous agreements and resolutions in search of an improvement of the humanitarian and political situation in these countries. After each of the wars of the 20th century (the Arab-Israeli war, the six-day war, etc.) truce and peace agreements were signed between the countries involved. In addition, the Oslo Accords in 1992 were the high point and representative of peace between these two countries, demonstrating that peace is possible. Also, both Israel and Palestine are two countries monitored by the United Nations and have been charged by the ICC and the ICJ with war crimes and violations of international humanitarian law. Also, the mere fact that the United Nations has intervened shows that this is a conflict of great international interest that must be resolved as peacefully as possible and with the help of other mediating nations to cooperate with each other for positive peace.

It should be emphasized that although these agreements have worked at the time, they are increasingly violated in the war due to the evolution of the conflict and the geopolitical organization of the parties involved, therefore, to date there is no effective resolution to end the conflict peacefully and to punish or establish consequences for those involved in violations of international humanitarian law or even the national constitutions themselves. However, the UN Security Council stablished for example a resolution for civilians protection in 2023, the General Assembly did the same but with the Questions of the palestinian government in 2010, etc.

4.4 International response

International intervention has not been delayed. One of the first to speak out was the United States, led by President Joe Biden, who decided to lend support to Israel in the event of a conflict. The "Yankees" dispatched one of the largest aircraft carriers in their navy to nearby waters so that, in the event of an attack, it could assist the State of Israel. However, President Biden expressed the United States' intention to actively seek peace between the two nations, aiming to prevent the conflict from escalating further. This approach also respects Palestinian autonomy and the political organization that must be maintained in Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel.

Regarding the stance taken by the United States and the Israeli attacks, the Houthi government in Yemen has decided to declare war on Israel as a form of support for Palestine. The Houthis have captured and attacked American, British, and Chinese (among others) ships in the Red Sea, one of the most significant global trade routes, thereby endangering the world economy. In addition to this, they have launched remotely piloted airstrikes on Israel's borders, including the city of Eilat, which lies on the Red Sea coast. Despite Israel's success in protecting itself with its "Arrow" air defense system, this poses a new emerging threat to Israeli intelligence. In response to the ship attacks, the United States and the United Kingdom conducted airstrikes on Houthi bases in Yemen to prevent their continued involvement. However, as they receive military and economic support from a power like Iran, the Houthis persist in their opposition to the Netanyahu government.

Hezbollah, as mentioned earlier, had its first military interaction with Israel following the assassination of one of the Hamas leaders in Beirut. Consequently, the attacks carried out by this militia against Israel occur recurrently and pose a threat to the security of the northern part of the country. What is even more striking is that behind Hezbollah, as well as other countries or organizations to be mentioned, including Hamas itself, there is a very significant sponsor – Iran. The Ayatollah government has allegedly targeted Israeli intelligence centers in neighboring countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan. To date, Iran has provided funding to the Houthis and some rebel militias in the aforementioned countries. In Iraq, rebel militias are reported to have launched at least 100 attacks against U.S. troops in the country due to their connections with the State of Israel, against which they also fired a short-range missile. It's important to note that the United States still has around 2,500 troops in Iraq due to the potential resurgence of the Islamic State in Baghdad. Although the government has formally requested their withdrawal from the territory, it is not yet officially confirmed. Militant groups take advantage of this situation to weaken the Americans as much as possible.

Similar events occur in Syria, a country plagued by violence, where Iranian-backed militia groups attacked some U.S. military bases last year. In response, Biden destroyed some of their operation centers and bombed a residential building in Damascus, where it is claimed that 5 members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard died. Simultaneously, Netanyahu successfully targeted Hamas leader Hassan Hakashah in Syria, who had launched missiles towards Israel from behind the Golan Heights on January 20.

Regarding the weaponry provided by Iran, it is well known that Iran finances groups such as the Houthis, the Islamic Republic in Iraq and Syria, and Hezbollah. However, the connections with Hamas have never been dismantled. According to Jews News Syndicate, in the days leading up to the start of the war, Hamas was testing short-range drones that reportedly featured Iranian technology and coincided with some characteristics of drones used in the conflict in Ukraine by Vladimir Putin's government. Additionally, the Iranian government unveiled a new unmanned aerial vehicle that is said to reach the borders of Israel and bears a striking resemblance in design to the MQ-9 manufactured by the United States.

On the other hand, powers like Russia and China have chosen to stay on the sidelines of the conflict for economic reasons. However, at least Russia is known to have ties with Hamas and Iran, two of its major military allies. It is suggested that Russia could provide assistance if the situation worsens.

4.5. Useful sources

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4.6. Expectations for debate

Delegates are expected to have the ability to think of creative solutions to achieve harmony in this conflict. They are asked to keep in mind that this is a religious conflict that has been going on for many years, related to religious aspects and that it is very difficult to solve, therefore it will not always be possible to reach a 100% effective solution, however, it is expected that the conflict can be mediated, moving away from the religious and cultural fact in order to avoid major conflicts.

Delegates are also asked to be very careful when searching. The Israel-Palestine (Hamas) conflict is surrounded by false news, incomplete information and an excessive media coverage that alters the information, therefore, we will be very attentive to the sources to be used in order to avoid major conflicts. The numbers and figures given in some media do not match what is really happening, therefore it is very important to access reliable media and without risk of convenient manipulation.

It is important to emphasize that the conflict cannot be thought of as Israel vs. Palestine. As of today, the scale of the conflict is confined to Israel vs. Hamas as a terrorist organization, which only represents a very small part of Palestinian thinking and goes against what many people think about the conflict. This stigmatization of the conflict has led to situations of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia that we do not want to recreate or promote during the model. This, above all, will be a debate based on respect that does not judge people as such, nor countries, but that from the dialogue we will show a favorable space to expose positions and ideas congruent with their countries.

This is a sensitive conflict for some delegates, therefore, mutual and professional respect is expected from the whole committee within the discussion area without interfering with their own positions and the delegates as individuals. The debate will always be oriented to personal and professional respect as a healthy environment and debate.

**5. Qarmas**

**Topic A:**

* Does your delegation have any relation with the Myanmar crisis? Has it stated its position?
* Has your delegation given any sanctions to any of the parties involved?
* Has your delegation given any aid to the Myanmar citizens and/ or accepted refugees?
* What solutions does your delegation propose to the current crisis?
* Would your delegation be open to send military aid to either of the parties?
* Does your delegation recognize the National Union Government as Myanmar’s true government?

**Topic B:**

* How is your delegation involved in the Israel-Palestine conflict?
* What is your country's relationship with Palestine and Israel? Does it recognize both? Or only one?
* What weapons does your delegation have at its disposal to face a possible offensive by your opponent?
* How has your delegation dealt with migrants and war refugees?
* Has your delegation served as an intermediary or proposed a solution to the conflict?
* Taking into account the expectations for the debate, what does your delegation propose to reach a mutual consensus?

**6. Delegation list**

1. Republic of the Union of Myanmar (military) /State of Israel
2. Representative of the National Unity Government/State of Palestine
3. French Republic
4. United States of America
5. Russian Federation
6. People's Republic of China
7. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
8. Federal Republic of Germany
9. Kingdom of Spain
10. State of Japan
11. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
12. Republic of India
13. People's Republic of Bangladesh
14. Islamic Republic of Iran
15. Republic of Iraq

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