

# MSMUN 2019

## Arab League

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: English

### Chair:

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### Topics:

1. The Gaza Strip Conflict
2. Attempts to establish a joint Arab military force

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## **1. Welcoming letter**

The most noble task that humans can perform is to work in favor of his species, leaving aside its particular interest to focus on the joint efforts of progress. The effort of humanity clarifies the path that should be followed whenever we make any action. No matter how miniscule, it will have an effect on us. For that reason, use that effort, that comes from our vital force, to fraternally unite humanity. When we work on something and put every tiny part of us in the effort to achieve that something, we turn work into art. This is the most outstanding feature of the human condition, which leads us to transform the blood, sweat and tears into the most splendid works of art. Many have argued that to find the answer to the concerns it is necessary to refer to the spirit of the founders, this would be to find the motivations that allowed a project to become a reality. The simple fact of being seated the next three days will mean for all of us the immense responsibility of leaving a legacy.

For us, the past months have been a mixture of ambition, work and vision, that today we have the honor to present to you.

We are confident that each of you accept to put yourself under the vision of world-class characters and really understand that you will represent more than the interests of your Nations. We hope that months of preparation will be translated into a fruitful debate in which we put our work on your hands, so you have a great experience.

Delegates, the Arab League is presented to you as an academic opportunity that offers the best of both of us, having as the engine and cornerstone your satisfaction and comfort. Be sure that our work as your Presidents will lie in the way; you, the participants, will be the fund and essence of the Committee. Our biggest goal is to share with you the attitude and availability that demands this challenge that today passes to your hands.

You are all welcome to MSMUN and to the Arab League.

Always at your service,

Mariana Estrada

Sofía Urrea

## **2. Introduction to the committee**

The Arab League is an organization made up of Arab-speaking nations, mainly from Asia and Africa. It was created in Cairo, in 1945, to secure Arab unity and with the goal of assisting

and promoting self-determination, independence, sovereignty, and the interests of its members and observers.

The idea of creating an Arab league first started in 1942 when the British wanted to rally Arab countries against the Axis powers. However, the league didn't take off until 1945, when Arab states were concerned about postwar colonial divisions of territory and liberating those Arab countries still under colonial rule, as well as the emerging idea of creating a strong opposition to the Jewish state in Palestine. In its early years, the Arab League focused mainly on social, cultural and economic programs. In 1950, a pact to commit members to treat acts of aggression on any member state as an act against all was signed, calling upon all members to collaborate in military affairs. In 1959, the league held the first petroleum congress and, in 1964, established the Arab League Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization. Between 2004 and 2008 some members adopted the Arab Charter on Human Rights. Currently, the Arab League acts upon all issues concerning to its members.

Its founding members were “Egypt, Iraq, Jordan (originally Transjordan, Jordan, as of 1950), and Yemen. Countries that later joined are: Algeria (1962), Bahrain (1971), Comoros (1993), Djibouti (1977), Kuwait (1961), Libya (1953), Mauritania (1973), Morocco (1958), Oman (1971), Qatar (1971), Somalia (1974), Southern Yemen<sup>1</sup> (1967), Sudan (1956), Tunisia (1958), and the United Arab Emirates (1971). The Palestine Liberation Organization was admitted in 1976.” Arab League (2011). League of Arab States.

There were also accepted 4 observers which have the possibility to express their opinion and give advice. However they're not allowed to vote. These observers are Eritrea, which joined in 2003, India, Brazil and Venezuela. Syria no longer belongs to the league, due to the suspension made in 2011 by the Civil War that was being presented, reducing the number of member states to 21.

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<sup>1</sup> Since the unification of North and South on May 22, 1990, the Republic of Yemen is member of the League instead of Southern Yemen.

Today, the Arab League has 21 members which are: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. These nations have generally varied population, resources, GDP and education. They are mostly Muslim, Arabic-speaking nations. Through accords for collective defense, economic partnership, and trade, among others, the group encourages its members to coordinate government and social projects to resolve and prevent struggles. The league has 4 observers<sup>2</sup> which are: Brazil, Eritrea, India, and Venezuela.

The highest authority of the association is known as the Council, made out of state agents and led by the general secretariat. Every member has one vote, independent of its size and power. Observers do not have vote in any substantial matter. The league meets two times per year, in March and September, and may be called, if necessary, to a special session by two or more members. If a decision is unanimous it's supposed to be acknowledged by all members due to the fact that becomes binding, as well as other Arab League resolutions that are binding for all states signing the resolution.

### **2.1. Procedure of the committee**

The Council of the Arab League will be simulated at MSMUN, being the one with the power to take all the decisions. The committee sessions will work like a regular summit of the Council. It's expected from it to conclude with recommendation policies and a possible resolution to the problematics approached.

According to the Charter of the Arab League<sup>3</sup>, approved, signed and ratified by every member state of the League, resolutions are legally binding for all members who sign it. In order for a resolution to pass, it's required a simple majority<sup>4</sup>. Nevertheless, it's only binding for states that choose to sign it.

Inside the committee, each voting member state of the League will be represented by one delegation, having in this committee, 20 voting members. The League's four observer states

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<sup>2</sup> The status of observer entitles countries to be allowed to express their opinion and give advice, but not allowed to vote.

<sup>3</sup> League of Arab States, *Charter of the Arab League*, 22 March 1945.

<sup>4</sup> 11 members if 20 or 21 member states present.

may not vote substantial matters. In this case we will have additional observers due to the fact that they'll be needed for debating the proposed topics. All the observers of the League during this session will be: Brazil, France, Eritrea, India, Iran, Israel, Russia, Syria, United States and Venezuela.

Diplomatically, the League allows to use language that expresses opinion, perception or actions. Therefore terms like "condemn," "strongly condemn," etc are allowed in its resolutions. In this sense, Arab League resolutions have the same freedom as the Security Council.

The Arab League has the power and authority to deploy troops, but it's only possible to states that have signed the Charter. Peacekeepers may be deployed with the consent of the state in question or, if the state lacks of a cohesive government, by a supermajority vote of the League.

### **3. Topic 1: The Gaza Strip Conflict**

#### **3.1. Introduction**

Along history, the Middle East has been known as a crossroad for trading affairs, politics, and warfare. The multiple conquerors and settlers and the processes of conquest and decolonization have had an impact, converting the region in a hot zone of rich political, extremist and ethnic groups. With these groups sharing territory, tension has been evident in various areas. Among these regions we can evidence the Gaza Strip, a coastal region of approximately 360 square kilometers of terrain near the Mediterranean Sea, home for 1.8 million human beings.



Along history it's been dominated by diverse powers, like the Ottoman Empire, during the 16th century. Controlled by the British during the First World War and later, it was the cause of the Arab - Israeli War. Due to its natural richness and valuable coastal location, as well to its religious and cultural significance for both sides of the conflict, Gaza has become a zone of conflict and war for decades, enduring years of protest, violence, and war. Time and violent attacks have contributed to the deteriorated economic situation of the region; salaries have been cut, unemployment has reached 32.4% and extreme poverty has reached 29.2% according to The World Bank (2018).

### 3.2. Background

One of the territories left by the Ottoman Empire passed to be part of the Mandate of Palestine, territory where the Gaza Strip was located, and which came under the British administration with grade A<sup>6</sup>. In 1922 the borders of Palestine's mandate were approved by the League of Nations, and it was stipulated in the rules for that Mandate that a home for the Jewish people should be built there.

<sup>5</sup> Graphic of the Gaza Strip. What is Gaza?. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18080046/gaza-palestine-israel>

<sup>6</sup>Mandates were classified from grade A to grade C, with "C" being the grade with the highest intervention of the leader and "A" being the lowest grade.



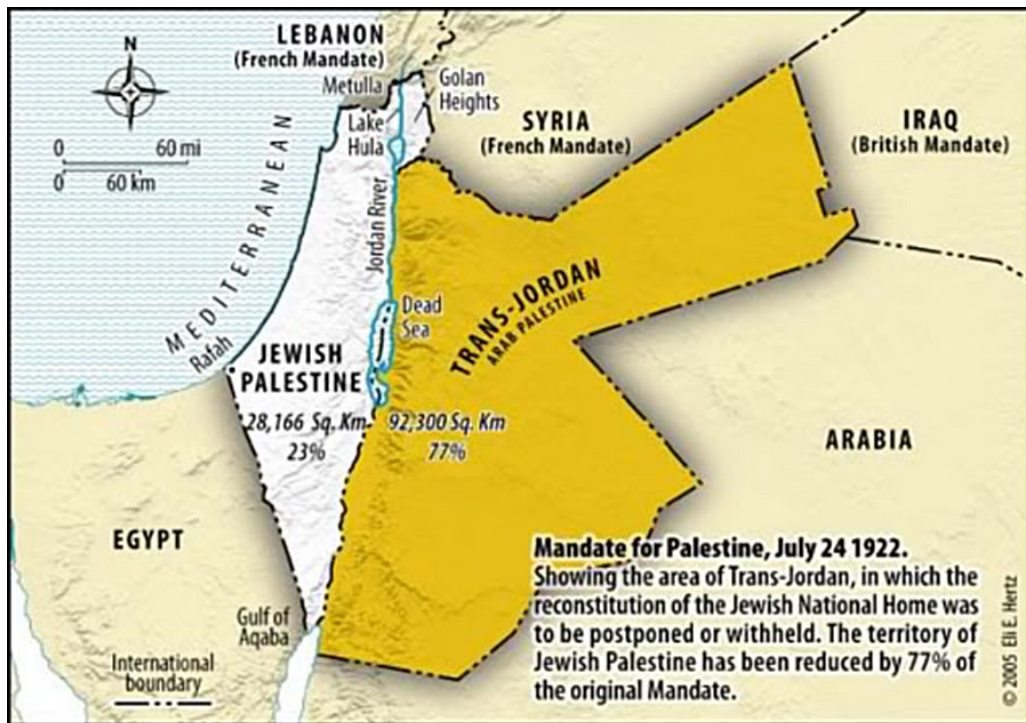
However, it was clarified in article 25 of the charter that the applicability of these rules could be postponed or exempted in the territories that ran from the Jordan River to the eastern border of Palestine that was not yet stipulated. Several revolts and even a mobilization of troops made the United Kingdom decide to divide Palestine and provide them with three-quarters of land to the east of the Jordan River. This area was renamed Transjordan. And Transjordan was indeed the area described in the provision presented by article 25, so the land was exempt from the promise made to the Jewish people.

During 1922, the United Kingdom notified the Council of the League of Nations that by applying Article 25 would be approved the division of the Mandate in two administrative units, Transjordan or the East Bank and the West Bank (West of Palestine), which is simply referred as Palestine.

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<sup>7</sup> Graphic of the Mandate of Palestine. You, I. (2019). British Mandate in Palestine \*. Retrieved from <http://www.israelandyou.com/british-mandate/#jp-carousel-18172>





In 1946, the British entered into an agreement with the commander from the East Bank, through which they agreed that Transjordan was now considered an independent state, now being known as the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

The Mandate of Palestine was controversial since it was raised, unlike the other Mandates, which had planned for the local population to somehow exercise their right to self-determination, the case of the Palestinian Mandate posed that a local minority along with a large number of immigrants belonging to that group will exercise their right to self-determination. Because of this, there were strong tensions between the Jewish population and the Arabs of the region. So, from the beginning, there were always partition proposals to avoid conflict.

In 1947, Resolution 181 of the General Assembly was drafted; it proposed a plan that would have divided Palestine (western) into a patchwork of eight pieces, with three pieces going to a Jewish state (55% of the division), four to an Arab state (44% of the division), and one to continued British trusteeship. However, the General Assembly can't change limits or borders because it is not a body of binding international legislature; its resolutions are not

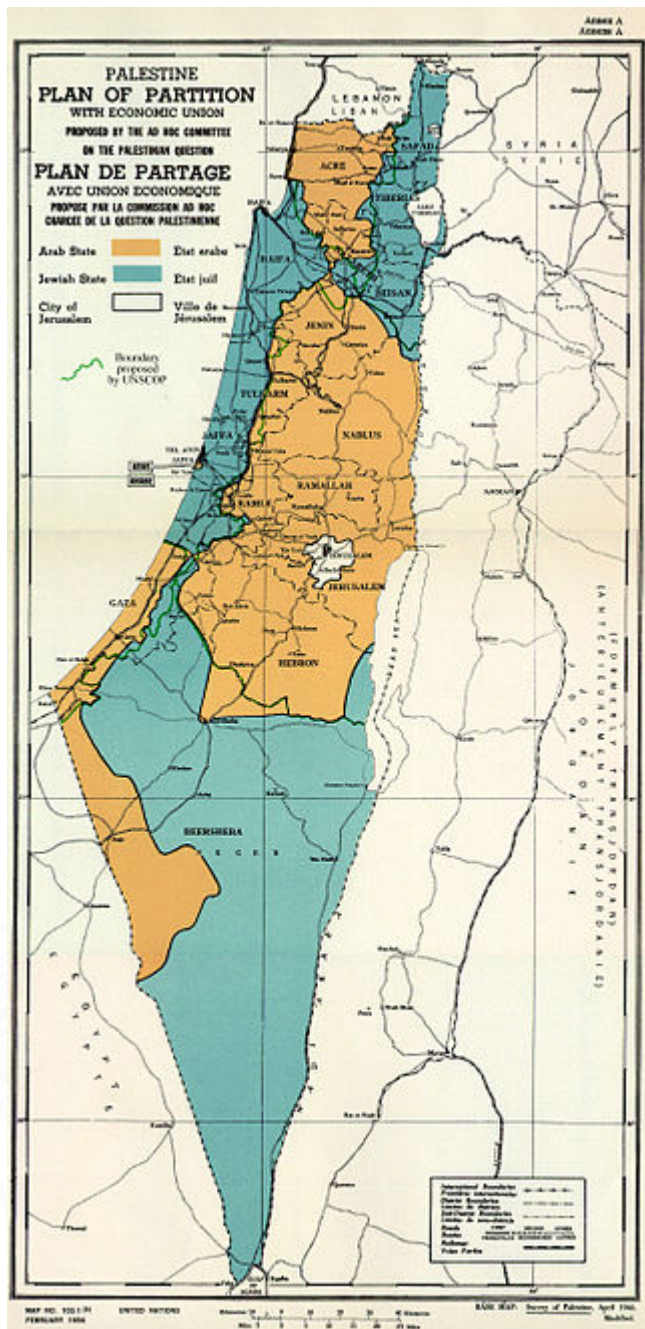
<sup>8</sup> Graphic of Transjordan and Palestine in 1922. YPSILANTIS, O. (2019). Palestine 1922. Retrieved from [http://zakhor-online.com/?attachment\\_id=5481](http://zakhor-online.com/?attachment_id=5481)

legally binding, and it doesn't have the power to redraw the borders of the nations. While the Jewish community accepted, the local Arabs rejected it forcefully, on the basis that the territorial division did not reflect the demographic distribution of both communities (around 600,000 Jews and 1,300,000 Arabs in Palestine), and as a response to this partition they mobilized troops to Israel's borders. The proposal of 1947 was a plan that would've worked if it had been accepted by both parties because the dividing frame would have been binding, but without mutual commitment it wouldn't have any binding power.



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The modern conflict dates back to May 14, 1948, when after the Second World War and the Holocaust, Jews claimed for a country of their own, so Jewish authorities declared the independence of Palestine, the new one called Israel. The Jewish state received a

<sup>9</sup> Graphic of NSCOP (3 September 1947) and UN Ad Hoc Committee (25 November 1947) partition plans. United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine. (2019). Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_Nations\\_Partition\\_Plan\\_for\\_Palestine#/media/File:UN\\_Palestine\\_Partition\\_Versions\\_1947.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine#/media/File:UN_Palestine_Partition_Versions_1947.jpg)

considerably big part of Palestine, which was considered their traditional home. However, the Arabs who already lived there and in neighboring countries refused to accept the new country.



The day of independence, Arabs launched airstrikes on Tel Aviv, starting the 1948 war between Israel and a coalition of Arab states. When the war ended, Egypt received the control of Gaza. Thousands of Palestinians residing in Israel had to scape. More than 700.000 Palestinians became dependent on United Nations' supplies to survive under the regime controlled by Egypt.

In 1949 Israel signed the Armistice Agreement with Egypt, this agreement was considered to be a step towards peace in various territories with the only exception of the Gaza Strip. Later this year, two more armistice agreements were signed, with Lebanon and Syria; these agreements followed the same international boundaries as the first one signed.

Egypt breached the terms of the Armistice Agreement by blocking Israeli ships in an international waterway. Attacks to Israel civils were launched from Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In 1956 Israel captured the Gaza Strip from Egyptian control. The United States intervened and made Israel withdraw from Egyptian territory and the UN forces established on the borders to prevent further conflict.

By June 1967, tensions between Israel and Palestine heightened, and as a response to the threat by the Arabs by posing troops on its borders, Israel started the "Six-Day War" by

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<sup>10</sup> Graphic of Israel (Independent Palestine). Jordan May Play Greater West Bank Role | Sharnoff's Global Views. (2019). Retrieved from <https://www.sharnoffsglobalviews.com/jordan-west-bank-136/>

launching airstrikes against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. During it, Egypt abdicated control of the Gaza Strip, but forces with Israeli origin occupied the territory and stayed there for years, leaving one million Palestinian refugees under Israeli Rule. The war resulted in 250.000 Palestinians displaced and Israel's control over the Gaza Strip and other territories.

Later in 1973 Ramadan War took place during the Jewish Day of Atonement as Syria and Egypt attacked. The following year, Arabs launched airstrikes on the capital followed by troops from Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt (commanding as well forces sent by Saudi Arabia). The United Kingdom intervened in the conflict on the areas that legally belonged to the Arabs. Israel managed to maintain its territory granted by the UN and took control over other territories.

In 1985, the United States started giving three billion dollars in grants to Israel annually, and in 1993, a sum of 93 million dollars started to add annually to the 95 million dollars that the UNRWA<sup>11</sup> gives to Palestinian refugees.

Since 1990 Israel started to impose movement restriction on the Gaza Strip, building barriers and safety wall, making life there miserable and damaging every kind of social or economic advance.

Emerging tensions between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization<sup>12</sup> (PLO) concluded in the First Palestinian Intifada<sup>13</sup> against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The uprising lasted until 1993 when the Palestinian and Israeli leaders signed the Oslo Accords, which resulted from the negotiation for Israel's withdrawal from Gaza and other key areas, recognition of the PLO as the representation of the Palestinian people and the creation of a Palestinian authority which permitted limited self-governance of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by the PLO. Nevertheless, Israel did not withdraw from Gaza.

On September 2000, the Second Intifada broke out with a wave of protests against the visit to the Temple Mount of the leader Ariel Sharon from Israel's opposition. This new Palestinian popular uprising was characterized by greater virulence in both Palestinian protests and attacks, as well as in military incursions and Israeli repression. It also marked

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<sup>11</sup>The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East is a relief and human development agency which supports more than 5 million registered Palestinian refugees, and their patrilineal descendants, who fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1948 Palestine war as well as those who fled or were expelled during and following the 1967 Six Day war. (UNRWA, 2019)

<sup>12</sup> Rising Palestinian nationalist movement.

<sup>13</sup> Intifada is the popular name of two rebellions of the Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip against Israel.

the start of the firing of rockets into Israel from the Gaza Strip, especially by paramilitary groups such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

Israel finally backed off from Gaza in February 2005 due to the attacks from Palestinian insurgent groups; evacuating 8.000 Jewish settlers and concluding its presence for 38 years.

In 2006, an Islamist political group called Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections and took control of Gaza. This organization is considered as terrorist by the European Union, United States, Israel, Jordan and Egypt, among others. During Hamas' control, Gaza has become a site for protests, bombings, land assaults and other acts of violence. An inner blockade was imposed on Gaza by the Hamas, meaning no goods or people could come in or out. While this posed problematics to the civils, the situation came to a crucial point when Egypt posed a blockade on the surrounding territory.

Due to Hamas victory in elections and the change of mandate resulting violent, Israel established a blockade by land, air and sea in Gaza, damaging the infrastructure and economy of the region. Since then (2005), three big conflicts between the Israel Defense Forces and Hamas have taken place.

In June 2007, Israel intensified Gaza's movement restrictions, imposing a land, sea and air blockade, allegedly citing security concerns against Hamas government, undermining more living conditions. Since then, Palestinians have protested and organized to raise awareness for the rights of the refugees and coinciding relocation of the U.S Embassy to Jerusalem.

On December 27, 2008, Israeli Forces launched a some airstrikes against the Gaza Strip, concluding the temporary truce between Hamas and Israel. They attacked police stations, schools, hospitals, UN warehouses, mosques, government buildings and other structures, all of them places where Israel claimed that weapons were stored. The *casus belli*<sup>14</sup> according to Israel was the launching of Hamas rockets on the south of Israel (about 3,000 in 2008), which had intensified in the previous weeks before the attack.

On July 8, 2014, the Israel Defense Forces launched Operation Protective Margin over Gazan territory, due to an escalation of tension in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel stated that the only objective of the operation was to attack the Movement of Islamic Resistance (Hamas), the organization that governs the Strip after winning the elections in 2006 and

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<sup>14</sup> Circumstance of such a nature that a declaration of war may result.



ending the rocket attacks on Israel. The State of Palestine and various human rights organizations accused Israel of carrying an indiscriminate attack against all Palestinians, as the attacks caused the death of mainly civilians. In response, Hamas launched rockets against Israel. The 2014 War in Gaza, had a time duration of 50 days in which it presented a high scale of damage, leaving a bloodshed with 2.251 local civilians dead. Among them, 551 children.

Tensions increased, causing that the growing list of violent clashes in the Gaza Strip raised. Although great efforts were made to reduce violence and achieve peace, the territory had always been a haunted place for instability and war, so it remained, and currently remains, a volatile region difficult to improve. This bloody and awful conflict has caused 8.184 casualties for the Palestinians and 1.518 for Israel by 2018.



### **3.3. Current Situation**

The Gaza Strip is one of the densest and most populated places in the world. Its current population is 1.95 million people, and there can be found approximately 4167 people per square kilometer. Due to these extreme numbers of overcrowding and the lack of necessary and adequate resources to survive and maintain a good quality of life, Gaza faces multiple social problems.

Although the planet has big biodiversity indexes, resources not only natural but also artificial are limited, and unfortunately, much more in some regions than in others. As a result of the large number of people living in the Gaza Strip per square kilometer and the lack of resources in the area, things as lands to be cultivated, capacity of educational institutions and adequate housing units for the people have become scarce and limited.

These conditions have led to serious detrimental effects on the quality of life in Gaza. For example, the conflict that has been occurring since 2014, has resulted in the closure of a large number of schools due to the damage caused in them, leading to an average of about 40 students per classroom and greatly reducing the academic level of these institutions.

Forced displacement, mistreatment of women, daily stressors and the precarious conditions of the inhabitants of the region have led to a lack of understanding and social communication among the community, which has led to an increase of intrafamily violence, causing damage mainly to women and children. According to the 2014 report of “Violence Against Women in the Gaza Strip”, after the Israeli Military Operation Protective Edge, 39.6% of women reported having suffered domestic violence; as well as it was reported that changes in gender roles, have caused frustration within families, increased rates of emotional violence, sexual harassment and physical violence against women.

Besides the social divisions caused by the frequent disputes in the area, the Palestinian territory occupied by other states faces a political division in which two rival parties dominate the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The West Bank is governed by Fatah and Gaza by Hamas. Both governments are in charge of supervising Palestinian populations, with their own and respective laws, ministries, police and security forces. Negotiation is the main strategy of the West Bank to protect the rights and statehood of the Palestinians, while Gaza’s government has adopted a more hostile approach against Israel, leading to more violence, war and bloodshed.



The humanitarian situation worsened sharply in 2017, when Hamas decided to engross more control over the government into its organization by creating a structure to run Gaza's ministries, and in response to this action, the West Bank government led by Fatah reduced electricity payments and monetary quotas for patients remittals outside the borders of Gaza, leading to a lack of basic health services and poor sanitation, as well as to limitations in the irrigation of agricultural land in the region, causing lack of products and starving.

Since March 2018, the Palestinians have decided to march on the border of Israel and Gaza, increasing tensions and violence between these two countries. This protest, called the "Great March of Return", began with the basis that thousands of Palestinians wanted to return home after 70 years of being displaced from what is now Israel. While the Palestinians see it as a right to return to their homes, the Israelis see it as an excuse to diminish the Jewish state. However, what in principle was targeted as a movement driven by independent activists, quickly converted in extreme violence between both sides.

Indexes show that in conflicts between Gazans and Israelis, 131 Palestinians have died and 13900 have been injured.

In mid-2018, the inhabitants of Gaza sent incendiary kites and the Hamas army launched numerous rockets into Israel, not only damaging the territory and its lands but also injuring civilians. In response to this attack, Israel carried out its largest air strike on a governmental building in Gaza City.

After a ceasefire was agreed, the Israeli government decided to impose new restrictions over Gaza as a result of hostilities by its governor. Including within these, the reduction of the gas and fuel load and the strengthening of the naval blockade on the Gaza coast from six to three nautical miles. In an attempt to eliminate the imposed blockade, the Palestinians only ended up with the imposition of much stricter regulations, making it difficult to deliver enough aid to the area.

To conclude, the recent years, since the blockade that was imposed to Gaza, the territory has been a space for bombings, rocket attacks and various protests. Due to the increasing lack of resources and shortages, the problematic has turned into a humanitarian crisis that has put the lives of millions of Palestinians at risk. Those people who still live in Gaza face poverty, hunger, lack of resources and high unemployment rates. In addition, inhabitants remain stuck in this place, because the border with Egypt keeps closed and Israel allows nothing more than the passage of trucks with food or resources. It should also be noted

that the industries and the agricultural field in this territory has been broken due to the constant war and invasion. Reconstruction is necessary, as the region is on track to become unlivable by 2021.

The situation has alarmed the International Community, arousing reactions and comments in all states and even organizations. The actual situation has made Israel become the center of attention for its blockade, as well as alleged violations of human rights. The United Nations has also taken a stand on recent attacks, urging Israel and Gaza to cease hostility immediately and return to peaceful negotiations.

The Arab League has called upon the International Criminal Court<sup>15</sup> to investigate the governors of Israel who have intervened in the Gaza Strip, as there are suspicions and doubts about the actions taken. In addition, the issue has led to worldwide protests in solidarity with Gaza. For example, in Turkey, protesters congregated near the Israeli consulate in Istanbul to condemn their decision to ensue violence. Similarly, protests have appeared in the United Kingdom, South Africa, the United States, and Australia for the same cause.

### **3.4. QARMAS**

- Was your country ever involved in the distribution of the lands where the Gaza strip and its surroundings are located?
- Is your country directly or indirectly involved in the disputes and issues that are currently being presented in the Gaza Strip?
- Which is the current position of your country in terms of the issue? Do you consider that the Gaza Strip belongs to Israel or to Palestine? Why?
- What does your country propose to change the dangerous and detrimental situation that is occurring in this place?
- What changes should be made in the system so that the lives of those people who live in the Gaza Strip are not at risk?
- Should Israel's governors be investigated and judged by the International Criminal Court for its alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity?

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<sup>15</sup> The International Criminal Court (ICC) is an international organism that investigates and tries individuals charged with the gravest crimes of concern to the international community: genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and the crime of aggression. (lcc-cpi.int, 2019)



## **4. Topic 2: Attempts to establish a joint Arab military force**

### **4.1. Introduction**

Establishing a joint Arab military force was an initiative of the Arab League in the past years. This organization had no military force, contrary to some others as the European Union or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, but currently noticed that having it is quite necessary due to the threats that are being presented all along the continent.

The purpose of creating a joint Arab military force is to provide the league and its members the capability to have an effective and quick reaction force to crisis that might present, to fight terrorism and to maintain security.

The idea first appeared in 2015 and it has had an impact until today. It can serve to respond to internal and external threats that the members of the league may face. Based in Egypt and counting with a larger respond force than NATO, the joint Arab force could present an alleged threat to western powers.

The joint force can compromise 42.000 elite troops, naval vessels and war planes, starting with forces from Jordan, Sudan, GCC States<sup>16</sup>, Saudi Arabia and Morocco, all under Saudi general command.

### **4.2. Background**

The idea of creating a Joint Arab Military Force first emerged in January 2015, when the Secretariat of the Arab League decided to go beyond previously posed ideas of a military alliance and proposed the creation of a joint Arab rapid intervention force. Leaders of Arab States agreed to form a joint military force which would serve to the purpose of counter Islamist extremism and Iran's influence. The agreement was announced by the Arab league after a meeting. During the meeting, Egypt's president Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi stated that Arab security was facing immense threats and the decision to establish the joint military force would help to defend the Arab territory. King Hamad of Bahrain endorsed this call, and the Arab summit in March 2015 supported the idea of what its Secretary General called a "historical development" (Arab League Secretariat, 2015): A Joint Arab Force (JAF). Regrettably, in late August, everything stopped abruptly: Saudi Arabia, with the support of

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<sup>16</sup> Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states: The United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait, and in 2009, Yemen joined the Organization, which is headquartered at Doha, Qatar.

other Gulf states<sup>17</sup>, rescheduling the consecutive meeting in which the subject was the force's establishment indefinitely.

The task of the new force was to undertake rapid missions of military intervention and other tasks to face the security and protection challenges of any member country that could represent a direct threat to Arab national security, including terrorist groups and organizations. Details about the force were still imprecise, but it was thought about a force of up to 40,000 troops (35,000 ground troops, 5,000 naval forces and 500-1,000 air forces) with its headquarter in Egypt and with a Saudi general commander. The membership of this force was going to be voluntary; and it was supposed to have a structure similar to NATO. The costs for the troops would be covered by the respective member states, while the command structure would be financed by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). It was also planned to establish an Arab peacekeeping force composed by military and civilian people that were going to be always prepared at their countries of origin and ready for rapid deployment when necessary.

Member States could ask for the assistance of this force by presenting a request to the Arab League. In the event that the state could not make that request, the Secretary General had the power to do so on its behalf. Issues such as the agreement on the status of the forces had not yet been finalized. In a series of gatherings following the announcements, the Arab states tried to resolve the remaining issues, pointing to a final protocol to be delivered to the Arab League Council by the end of August of 2015.

At the end of August, Saudi Arabia denied to sign the final decision that was necessary to continue with the process; in this, it was supported by Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Once again, a regional idea to keep national and regional security had stagnated. The principal reason for the breakdown of the JAF was the disagreement between Saudi Arabia and Egypt about the deployment of it in Libya or in states with a government in dispute. This preoccupation was shared by other Arab states such as Algeria, which feared that the JAF was used as a pretext to invade other states instead of maintaining security, which is why Tunisia said the idea was neither realistic nor achievable. Morocco, that was aboard the project, considered it as a force for prevention rather than

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<sup>17</sup> The Arab states of the Persian Gulf are the seven Arab states that border the Persian Gulf, which are: Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

intervention, but the force had not only gone through absence of trust among the member states of the Arab League, it wasn't also clear what it intended to accomplish and, in addition, it seemed much more ambitious than any preceding collective security agreement.

The secretary general of the League particularized that the besought joint Arab force was not going to be a new army or military alliance that was going to attack any country. He clarified that it was destined to fight terrorism and maintain Arab national security along with regional stability. However, the creation of a JAF was never achieved, and the idea of forming it was left out of the important issues to be discussed at the sessions of the Arab League.

In 2018, attempts were again made to create a joint Arab military force. These agreements were a repercussion of Western powers trying to restrict Iran's nuclear program by offering to remove the existing economic sanctions. Middle East American allies took this as a betrayal of Washington's commitment to Middle East security. Arab leaders considered the deal wouldn't stop Iran from extending its influence as it was done in Iraq, Bahrain, Lebanon and Yemen.

Arab nations, Jordan and Egypt among them, supported Saudi Arabia-led campaign to counter Iran's influence using airstrikes and support from the Houthi movement in Yemen. United States provided logistic and intelligence, Saudi Arabia lead the airstrikes and Egypt the large army. The Arab League considers this as a successful operation and decided this would continue until rebels surrendered and handed in their weapons.

From November 3 to 16, forces from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, joined in an Arab shield as a new sign of the joint Arab military force started by United States' middle east partners. This operation was held in Egypt. Lebanon and Morocco participated as observers.

#### **4.3. Current Situation**

Actions have been taken by joint Arab military forces in 2015 and 2018, however there's not a clear frame of action and restrictions in which the forces work under. This is considered as a threat by most western powers that believe this alliance could be a possible threat in the future interfering with their interests.

The Great Middle Eastern War of 2019 is expected to be more destructive than Lebanon War of 2006. Tensions are growing due to efforts by Hezbollah and Syria, and Iran's help to build missiles that could damage Israel, meaning that there's a considerably

high possibility of another war between Arabs and Israel in Syria and Israel's border, that would involve a conflagration as never seen before in the affected areas.

On the one hand, there are many tensions and ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, and the possibility of establishing a joint Arab military force could benefit all parties, helping to secure territories and resolve conflicts. On the other hand, it could bring more conflicts, worsen than existing ones and even generate problematics with Western countries if a framework is not established to work under and make sure that things don't go out of control.

It is your responsibility as delegates to determine if it would be better to create an Arab military force or not, based on what it is discussed during the session; and if it should be done, we recommend you all to create a treaty that contains a legal framework on which this new militia will be based. An also, to establish where the resources that will be used by the force will come from.

**Note:** We recommend you check the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 to have an idea of what the creation of a treaty with a legal framework means.<sup>18</sup>

#### 4.4. QARMAS

- Is it pertinent to create a joint Arab military force?
- What repercussions will the creation of an Arab military force have?
- Is your country part of the idea of creating a joint military force? What are its reasons?
- Will your country be willing to join this military force?
- What restrictions would be considered pertinent?
- Does your country consider that a frame is necessary for this alliance to work?
- Under what standards does your country consider that this military force should be created?
- Western countries feel threatened. Is there a reason to be? How can tensions with these countries be calmed?

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<sup>18</sup>[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static/assets/pdf/stock\\_publications/20120822\\_nato\\_treaty\\_en\\_light\\_2009.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/stock_publications/20120822_nato_treaty_en_light_2009.pdf)

## 5. Links

- <https://www.ochaopt.org/theme/gaza-blockade>
- <https://www.rumboagaza.org/antecedentes/gaza/>
- <https://www.history.com/news/gaza-conflict-history-israel-palestine>
- <https://israelipalestinian.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=000634>
- <https://www.hispantv.com/noticias/palestina/390759/liga-arabe-onu-parar-matanza-palestinos>
- <https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%2031%20Joint%20Arab%20Force.pdf>
- <http://www.mepc.org/commentary/arab-joint-military-force-raises-hopes-and-questions>
- <https://www.arabianbusiness.com/arab-league-begins-formation-of-joint-military-force-590322.html>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32106939>
- <https://www.news24.com/Africa/News/forces-from-egypt-5-other-arab-nations-to-start-joint-drill-20181101>
- <https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/59601>
- <https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/uae-and-saudi-join-major-arab-military-drills-in-egypt-1.787807>
- [https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static/assets/pdf/stock\\_publications/20120822\\_nato\\_treaty\\_en\\_light\\_2009.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/stock_publications/20120822_nato_treaty_en_light_2009.pdf)

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