

Palestine and Israel Conflict

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Buildings falling apart, mothers crying, children bleeding from head to toe, and death of many. Palestine is facing a genocide and is being ignored. For over a century, Israel and Palestine have been having an ongoing conflict on the ownership of the land of Jerusalem. There have been many wars that have occurred such as the Nakba. However, on October 7th, Hamas sent missiles to Israel killing 1,200 civilians and took many hostages. Since October 7th, there has been an ongoing war between the two countries killing many innocent civilians. We have seen nearly 40,000 deaths in the Gaza Strip (with 1.5 million displaced) and around 1,500 deaths in Israel. The reason for this war based on Israel's side is Israel believes that Hamas is hiding in the Gaza Strip and is planning missile attacks to destroy Israel. They believe they have killed 12,000 Hamas members (which include children) out of the nearly 40,000 civilians killed. They are planning to end the war when all the hostages are given back to them. When looking at the information, clearly this is not a war but is a ethnic cleansing of the Palestinians. Although Hamas anger can be understood, attacking innocent civilians and taking them hostage cannot be justified. This essay aims to understand, in the Gaza strip, how many Hamas members have been killed over civilians? What is the root cause of the internal conflict in Palestine and Israel? What happened on October 7th and since and who is at fault? Is this war a genocide? And what our stance should be on the conflict after reading all the information about the conflict? By examining the questions asked, we can confirm a stance on the conflict and the parties involved.

Israel has noted that they have killed around 12,000 Hamas members of the nearly 40,000 Palestinian women, children, and men killed. However, they claim that many of them were not in the Hamas uniform, so it is difficult to distinguish between Hamas and civilians (Merlyn Thomas, Jake Horton & Benedict Garman, 2024). These claims cannot be more false. Yoav Gallant, the minister of defense of Israel since 2022, has publicly said that they consider

Palestinians “human animals” (Mojo Story, 2023). This racism and bigotry is being supported by many Western Media outlets and governments. Based on the information and numbers, we have seen more children and women killed than Hamas members killed. The trustworthiness of the IDF is also questionable as they have quoted very inaccurate information. The IDF informed the world about them finding a list of Hamas member names and a tunnel for bombing Israel but was exposed for misinformation as it was an Arabic calendar instead of terrorist names and an elevator shaft rather than a tunnel (Bahl, 2023). As shown, the IDF has been proven to provide inaccurate information. This also suggests that the count of Hamas members killed could be skewed and false.

Mainly news outlets and government officials note the conflict “Since October 7th” but the conflict began many years before. The conflict started after World War 1. After World War 1, Britain established a new home for the Jewish people under the Balfour Declaration. The British took control from the Ottomans in 1917. From 1918 to 1947, Jews had a large migration to Palestine. Palestinians happily took them in; however, the growth was too fast. They did not have enough space. The Jewish population grew from 6% to 33%. Palestinians were unhappy with the immense number of immigrants they were forced to take in which led to the Palestinian revolt from 1936 to 1939. Zionist organization continued to send in more Jews and sent in armed militia and attacked Palestinians. They demanded to make Palestine their homeland. In 1947, the UN separated the country to 55-45, with the majority being to the Jews (Jerusalem under international territory). Israel took control of East Jerusalem after the Six-Day War in 1967 along with the West Bank – a step not recognized by the international community (Mohammed Haddad & Alia Chughtai, 2023). After Israel being born in 1948, this started the first Nakba where

300,000 Palestinians were forced to migrate and 750,000 were killed by Zionist militias. Since then, Israel started illegally settling in Palestinian land and imposed a blockade on the Gaza Strip in 2007. Hamas retaliated on October 7th which led to the mass genocide that is currently happening. From 2008 to October 7th, 2023, a total of 21,510 Palestinian deaths and 1,508 Israelites died (Mohammed Haddad & Alia Chughtai, 2023).

Israel has noted that they are doing their best to avoid civilian deaths. However, since October 7th, 2024, to February 29th, 2024, we have seen over 30,000 confirmed Palestinians deaths killed by Israel with most of them being civilians. We have also seen around 75,000 Palestinians injured with missing limbs. We have 1.7 million or 80% of the Palestinian population displaced. Around 45% of the infrastructure of Gaza has been destroyed. On March 27th, the US allowed for a ceasefire in Gaza but the death count still rises with bombs still arriving even after the ceasefire was called. Personally, I have Palestinian friends who have had countless of their family members dead because of the attacks. It pains me to see such inhumane behavior. Israel has noted that they are doing their best to avoid civilian deaths. John Spencer (2024) writes,

“The Israeli Defense Force has used many types of PGMs to avoid civilian harm, including the use of munitions like small diameter bombs (SDBs), as well as technologies and tactics that increase the accuracy of non-PGMs. Israel has also employed a tactic when a military has air supremacy called dive bombing, as well as gathering pre-strike intelligence on the presence of civilians from satellite imagery, scans of cell phone presence, and other target observation techniques. All of this is to do more pinpoint targets to avoid civilian deaths. In other words, the simplistic notion that a military must use more PGMs versus non-PGMs in a war is false” (John Spencer, 2024).

Israel's goal is to avoid civilian deaths and eliminate Hamas but they have been very unsuccessful in avoiding civilians as we have seen many more civilians die over Hamas members or injured. We have seen over 30,000 civilian deaths and only 9,000 Hamas members killed.

Many blame the genocide on Hamas as they say they have started the war on October 7th. However, as stated before, the conflict began over 100 years ago. With so many Palestinians dead, families destroyed, Hamas decided to bomb Israel and take hostages and supposedly committed sexual assault. However, Israel then bombed countless killing over 30 times the number of Palestinians over the Israelites. Israel states that the war will not end and the ports to Gaza will not be open until all the hostages have been returned. Hamas has around 240 Israeli hostages and Israel has 10,000 Palestinian hostages. 105 Israel hostages have been released as of February 14th (Al-Jazeera, 2023). The US, Israel's closest ally, has given 260 billion dollars' worth of weapons to support Israel (Merlyn Thomas, Jake Horton & Benedict Garman, 2024).

Genocide is defined as the the acts committed with intent to partially or wholly destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group (Meriam Webster, 2024). The argument of whether the war is considered a genocide or not is argued by many. Israel has blocked the ports for humanitarian aid to arrive in Gaza making life in Gaza almost impossible. They have also killed nearly 40,000 civilians and displaced 1.5 million of them. They have also destroyed 45% of the Gaza Strip. This war is very one sided as Israel has nowhere near the same casualties and have not had massive damage to their infrastructure compared to Gaza. Bassem Youssef also agrees as he says "Israel looks like Superman but in reality, they are Homelander" (Piers Morgan, 2023). Homelander being a villain in a series called "The Boys". He is seen as a hero by the population but was actually evil and was killing everyone. Israel is also getting support from the US

financially for weapons with 260 billion dollars worth of weapons. Even after the temporary ceasefire was passed, many more Palestinians have died and bombs still continue. As Israel controls what is being able to get out and in to Gaza, this would be considered a genocide.

Based on the information I have provided, you may still choose who you support. Looking at the provided information, the numbers and pictures show what is currently happening in Gaza. With the majority of people supporting Israel using the claim that Hamas started it on October 7th, I have shown that the conflict was from almost a century ago before Hamas was created. However, Hamas does not represent the whole of Palestine. They consider themselves as freedom fighters for Palestine but are not representatives of Palestine. I personally believe and side with the Palestinian children and innocent civilians. Basseem Youssef quotes in the Piers Morgan interview, "Israel looks like Superman but in reality, they are Homelander" (Piers Morgan, 2023). As mentioned earlier, Israel looks like a hero to the general public but is a villain to its victims. In a video recorded on November 22, 2005, we see Palestinian children fighting and yelling at IDF soldiers to open a checkpoint in the West Bank so they can go to school, home, and continue their daily activities (AP Archive, 2015).

Reading, watching, and looking at the numbers of the Palestinians dying is breaking my heart as we cannot even have a ceasefire for them. Children are dying and we have not been able to stop it. This happened during the Nazis time, and it is one of humanity's biggest regrets. We are allowing the same events to occur. How many deaths must there be for this war to end? I have learned many events that led up to the mass genocide which only opened my eyes wider to the injustice occurring before our eyes. I learned about the history that led up to the war. Children continue to die, mothers continue to weep, friends that make memories become memories. The genocide continues until we all stand and put an end to it.

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