

1948-2024



World History with Ms. Balgahoom and Mr.
Wolowitz

Definition

When we use the term Arab, we often think of Muslims. However, like many parts of the Middle East, Palestine is home to Christians, Jews and Muslims alike. It is important to remember as we discuss this topic, that Arab is an ethnicity.



Definition

In this discussion, we will be using the term Israeli often. To clarify, Israeli refer to people living in Israel.



Definition

Zionism refers to the belief that Jewish people have the right to a homeland. It is a form of Jewish nationalism and we must remember that not every Jewish person shares this belief. We must also remember that having anti-zionist stance does not mean you are anti-semitic.



Pictured: Theodor Herzl



Introduction

1948 is a significant year to both Palestinians and Israelis. For Palestinians, this marks the year of the Nakba or “catastrophe”. While Israelis celebrate it as the “Year of Independence”.

At your tables, I want you to think about why these two groups have extremely different perspectives on the year? Use your knowledge from the previous lessons to formulate your

answer

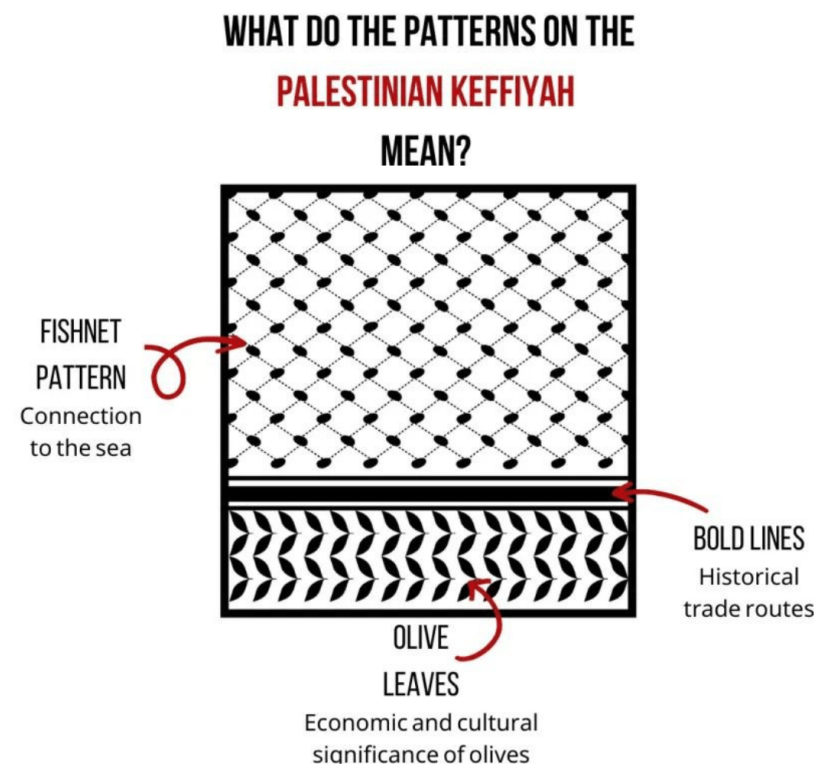


Symbols of Resistance



Keys

Many Palestinians that were kicked out of their homes during the Nakba of 1948, 1967, etc. carry keys of their homes to symbolize that they will one day return home



Keffiyehs

These have become synonymous with resistance and each pattern represents a part of Palestinian culture



Watermelons

Back in 1967, flying the Palestinian flag was illegal so many adopted the watermelon since it's colors matched the Palestinian Flag.

Fast Facts/ Recap

After WWII ends, the British end up leaving the Palestine realizing that tensions were far too high between the Arabs and Jews.

The British Mandate ends on May 14th, 1948 and the first Arab-Israeli War begins.

As a result, May 14 and 15th 1948 is remembered quite differently between both group as there was clearly one winner.

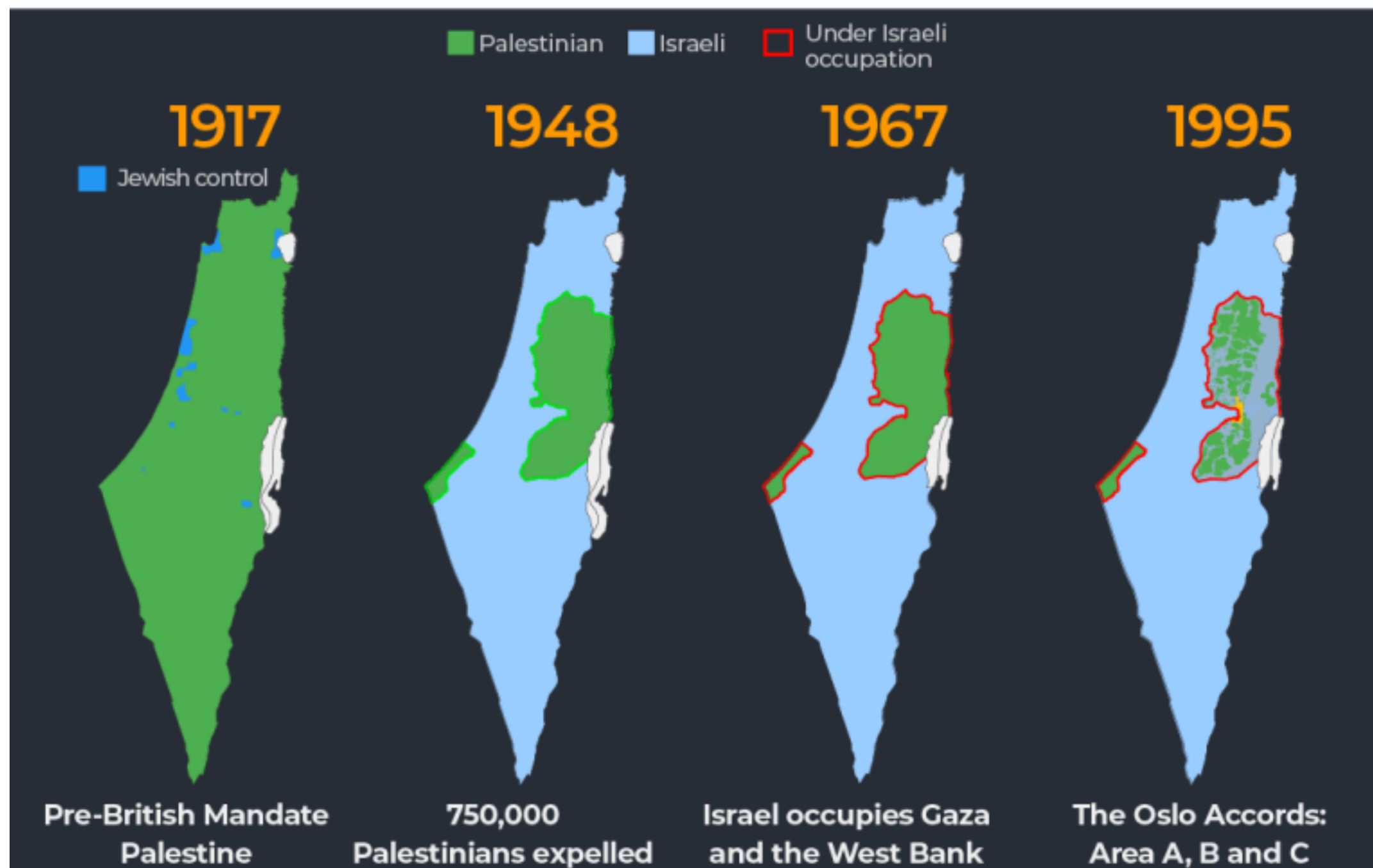
Nakba means catastrophe and refers to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine and near destruction of Palestinian society at the time. At least 750,000 Palestinians became refugees and were forced to move beyond the borders of Palestine.



What is the Nakba?

Every year, on

May 15 Palestinians around the world mark the Nakba, or **catastrophe**, referring to the **ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948**.



Israel's **military occupation of Palestine** remains at the core of this decades-long conflict which **continues to impact every part of Palestinians' lives**.



Source: UN OCHA | May 15, 2022



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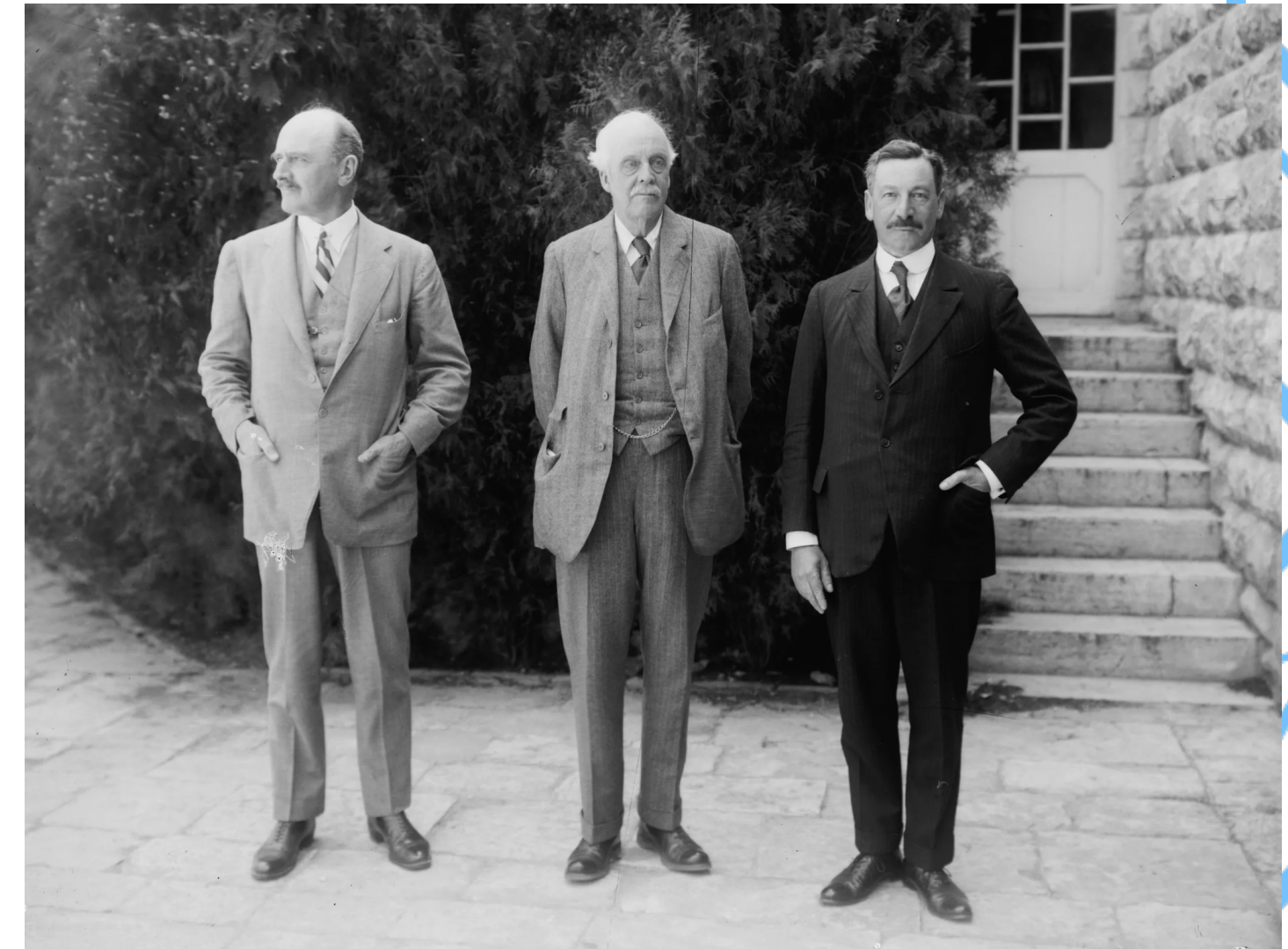
Events Leading to the Nakba/ War of Independence

When Zionism emerges in the late 1800s, thousands of Eastern European and Russian Jews began to settle in Palestine. Many sought safe haven as they were facing persecution from the Russian Empire.

Theodor Herzl writes a pamphlet called "The Jewish State" and believes that creating a Jewish state would rectify the anti-Semitic sentiments spread in Europe.

After the Ottoman Empire collapses the British occupy and imperialize Palestine. But before the British are set to take over they issue the Balfour Declaration.

This declaration promised Zionists that they will help establish a Jewish homeland in Palestine. British hoped that the it would secure their control over Palestine and drum up Jewish support for World War I



L-R: Chaim Weizmann, Arthur Balfour, Anthony Eden

Events Leading to the Nakba/ War of Independence

From 1922 to 1935, the Jewish population in Palestine nearly tripled. This triggers a displacement of thousands Palestinians.

When the Nazi seized power in Germany and grew their empire, 30,000-60,000 European Jews fled to Palestine. This causes more displacement

Arab Revolt of 1936 was a revolt organized by Palestinian Arabs against the British mandate and their support for settler colonialism.

In 1944, several Zionist groups declared war on Britain when they tried to put limits on Jewish immigration to Palestine. In fact they launched a number of attacks.



Events Leading to the Nakba/ War of Independence

When the British leave Palestine, the UN adopts Resolution 181 which recommends that the Palestine be broken up into an Arab and Jewish state.

The UN Partition Plan would give the Jews 55% of the total land including major cities and the coastline from Haifa to Jaffa.

This would deprive the Arab state of key agricultural land and sea ports which led to the rejection of the proposal. This rejection led to the first Arab-Israeli War which lasted from 1948-1949.

During the war, thousands were forced to leave their homes which is now known as the Nakba of 1948.



Displacement

To be clear, displacement of Palestinians from their homes started long before the Nakba. In fact, it began when the British began to take over.

But mass displacement, began when the UN partition was passed and from December 1947-May 1948, over 440,000 Palestinians were displaced from 220 villages.

In addition to displacements, a number of massacres took place during that time period like the Baldat al-Sheikh massacre to the Deir Yassin massacre.



ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Palestinian villages destroyed by Israel

Between 1947 and 1949, Zionist military forces destroyed at least

530 villages

Zionist military forces committed dozens of massacres including:

● Destroyed Palestinian villages

Baldat al-Sheikh massacre
December 31, 1947

al-Abbasiya massacre
May 4, 1948

Lyyda massacre
July 9-18, 1948

Abu Shusha massacre
May 9-12, 1948

al-Khisas massacre
December 18, 1947

Sa'sa' massacre
February 14, 1948

Nasir al-Din massacre
April 12, 1948

Deir Yassin massacre
April 9, 1948

Around
15,000
were killed and more than
750,000
were forcefully displaced

On May 14, 1948, the day the British mandate expired, Zionists declared the state of Israel to be born.



Source: Atlas of Palestine (2010) | May 15, 2022



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Naksa of 1967 or the Six Day War

At least 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly expelled or fled outside of Palestine. Those that were displaced beyond the border are prohibited from returning to their homes.

At least 150,000 Palestinians live in present day Israel.

During 1967, another war breaks out between Israel and Palestine. For Israelis this is known as the Six Day War while Palestinians refer to it as the Naksa (setback). At that point, Israel gains control of East Jerusalem (Al-Quds), the West Bank and Gaza.

Naksa led to the displacement of an additional 430,000 Palestinians and many fled to neighboring countries like Egypt, Syria and Jordan



Effects Today

3 million Palestinians now live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (Al- Quds). They face home demolitions, expulsion, arbitrary arrests and more.

In Gaza, Palestinians live under a strict blockade and are currently experiencing a genocide.

Today there are about 7.98 million Palestinian refugees and internally displaced people who cannot return to their original homes. This includes descendants. Many live in refugee camps today with the hope that they will return one day.



2023/2024

Before we begin discussing current events, it is important that we revisit some key terms to describe what is happening today.

At your tables, let's once again discuss the term on the board. How would you define it and can you think of examples? Be prepared to discuss it.

In addition to that, talk to your tables about the phrase "Never Again". Why would it be relevant to today's discussion?



Genocide Convention of 1948

The U.N. first recognized genocide as a crime under international law in 1946 and was considered as an independent crime after the 1948 Genocide Convention.

The term was first developed in response to not only the systematic murder of Jews during the Holocaust but also in response to a number of instances in history where a particular groups of people were targeted by another.

Must be able to prove intent and it is very difficult to prove. In fact, cultural destruction does not show intent nor does displacing a group of people.



U.N Definition

Article II

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- a. Killing members of the group;*
- b. Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;*
- c. Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;*
- d. Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;*
- e. Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.*

Two Main Elements are necessary:

1. *A mental element:* the "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such"; and
2. *A physical element,* which includes the following five acts, enumerated exhaustively:
 - Killing members of the group
 - Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
 - Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
 - Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
 - Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

Ethnic Cleansing Definition

Ethnic cleansing is not recognized as an independent crime under international law so there is no exact definition.

However this term has been used to describe **“a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas.”**

It can however help prove a genocide is occurring and be attached as evidence of specific war crimes.

“The Commission of Experts also stated that the coercive practices used to remove the civilian population can include: murder, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, extrajudicial executions, rape and sexual assaults, severe physical injury to civilians, confinement of civilian population in ghetto areas, forcible removal, displacement and deportation of civilian population, deliberate military attacks or threats of attacks on civilians and civilian areas, use of civilians as human shields, destruction of property, robbery of personal property, attacks on hospitals, medical personnel, and locations with the Red Cross/ Red Crescent emblem, among others.”-

UN.ORG

Who is Hamas?

Hamas is a Palestinian political party and armed **RESISTANCE MOVEMENT** based in the Gaza Strip. It was initially formed after the First Intifada as a reaction to not only the violence that happened in Gaza but also to the growing discontent towards other political parties at the time.

In 1992, it establishes a military wing to “resist the Israeli occupation”. During the Second Intifada, it leads a number of operations and establishes itself as a force to be reckoned with.

Their current goals includes “freeing thousands of Palestinian prisoners, ending the Gaza blockade, implementing the right to return, and establishing a temporary Palestinian State (1967)”

Hamas was elected in 2006 and only manages local affairs (ie healthcare, public employment, law enforcement, etc.) There have been no elections held in Gaza since.



October 7th, 2023

This date marks the beginning of the deadliest clash between Palestinians and Israelis since early 2000s. Hamas launched over 2,000 rockets into Israel and were able to “break out” of Gaza and enter Israel undetected. During this time, they killed 1200 Israelis and took over 240 people as hostages.

Israel then declares war and begins to conduct airstrikes which led to thousands of civilian deaths. In addition to that, a complete siege was ordered on October 9th cutting off water, electricity, food and fuel from entering Gaza.

As the days turn to weeks turn to months, more than 1.5 million civilians are currently displaced in Gaza facing hunger, dirty water, and constant airstrikes. Over 30,000 men, women, and children in Gaza have died with thousands more injured and missing



Displacement 2023-Present Day

Since October, civilians in Gaza have been repeatedly told to move South to “safe zones”. These safe zones have constantly been changing.

As Palestinians moved South, it led to the largest displacement since the Nakba of 1948. More than 1.5 million people have left their homes in hopes that they would be safe from Israeli airstrikes.

Unfortunately, that is not the case. Airstrikes have been conducted in these safe zones causing the death of thousands of civilians, the destruction of Gaza’s healthcare and education system.

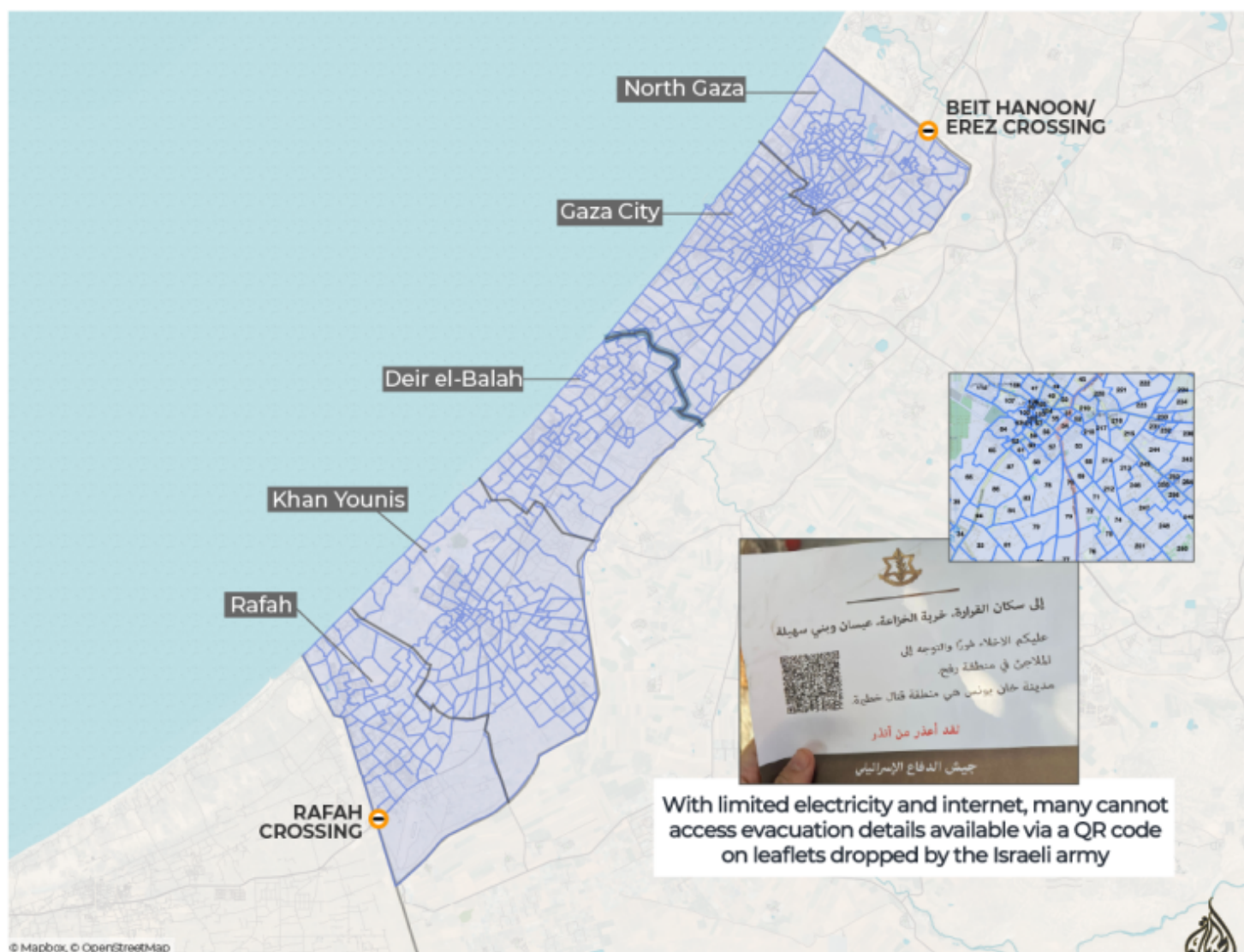


Safe Zones and Leaflets

ISRAEL-GAZA WAR

Gaza - nowhere safe to go

After ordering 1.1 million people to leave the northern Gaza Strip, the Israeli army published a map online that divides the besieged enclave into more than 600 numbered zones with instructions to evacuate part of the south.



Source: Al Jazeera, Israeli army | Updated: December 4, 2023

Israel has told people to evacuate specific areas of southern Gaza

IDF's online map splits Gaza into blocks



Source: IDF, ISW 4 Dec 2023



BBC

Comparing 1948-2023/2024



Why is it referred to as Genocide?

As discussions about the displacement and high death toll of civilians in Gaza have been circulating, Israel has been accused of committing genocide. In fact, South Africa brought a case to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for violating the Genocide Convention in late December 2023.

They accused Israel of “intending to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group”.

Israel denied that they were committing these acts and argued that they had the right to self defense and that many of examples South Africa used were taken out of context and that they were trying minimize as much civilian casualties as possible. They also cited that the court did not have jurisdiction over the case since South Africa did not follow the steps needed before bringing the case.



ICJ Ruling

The ICJ made a number of decisions in favor of South Africa. In fact, they ruled...

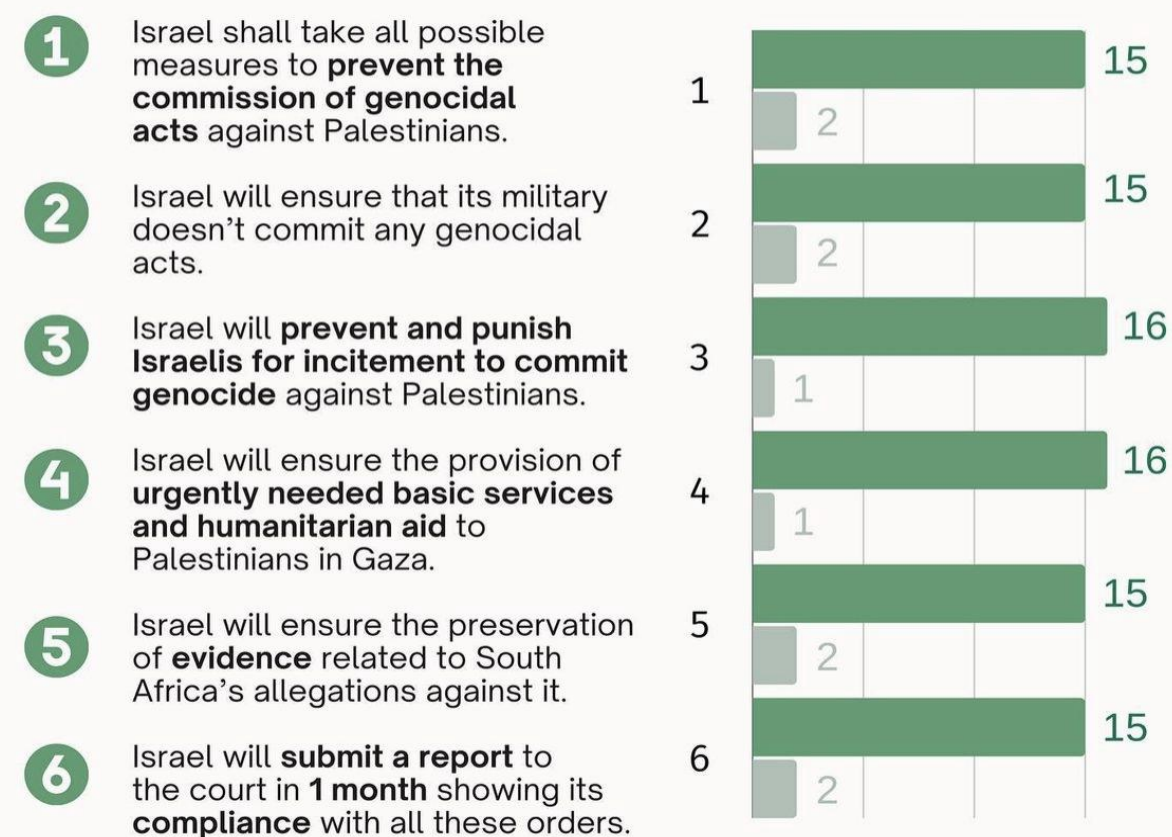
- it had jurisdiction over the case
- allegations were “plausible” and reject that they are baseless

In fact, South Africa stated that it indirectly called for a ceasefire between both groups. However, the ICJ’s rulings can only be enforced by the UN Security Council. It could’ve encouraged actions to call for a permanent ceasefire.

ALL SOURCES IN BIO

What did the Court order?

The Court ignored South Africa’s request to order a ceasefire and only ordered the following:



@LETSTALKPALESTINE



Judges against



Judges in favor

Divestment Now! The Student Movement

Many colleges and universities invest in companies or have relationships with companies tied to Israel. Those protesting believe that these investments help fund Israel use of weapons to kill civilians in Gaza and uphold its military occupation.

Students at universities across the country are calling for an immediate divestment. To show the respective administrations at these campuses that they demand it, students set up encampments, peaceful rallies and protests. Some have set up divestment votes using the student councils.

At this point, many schools like Rutgers, Montclair, Brown have agreed to vote on the matter.





Hind's Hall

Hind's Hall is a song produced by Macklemore and named after Hind Rajab. She was six years old when she was killed by Israeli forces. Her family's car was shot up and she makes a call to 911 asking to be saved. Two paramedics, Yusuf Zeino and Ahmed Al-Madhoun were killed while trying to reach Hind.

