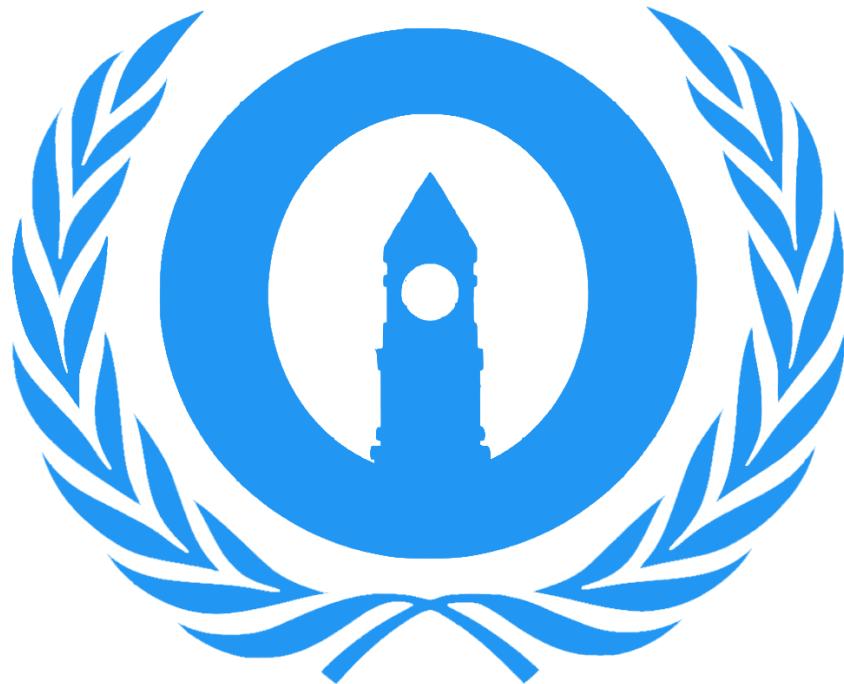


# OMUN V



United Nations Security  
Council



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## Chair Letter

Salutations delegates,

On behalf of the Dais, I would like to welcome you to both the 5th Annual Ontario Model United Nations and the United Nations Security Council. For those new to Model UN as a whole, I assure you that these conferences can be life-changing and help you uncover a passion you never knew you had—I hope your experience at OMUN achieves this. I welcome you all and I hope you have a wonderful experience.

Let me first begin by introducing myself, I am a new Year 11 student at UCC with a third-culture kid background; I am so glad to have received the great privilege to be your chair. Model UN has become a great passion of mine because it is intriguing, relevant, and above all, enjoyable. Having attended multiple conferences across the globe in Shanghai, Taipei, Kuala Lumpur, Denpasar-Bali, and Montréal, I love to meet new people whilst critically forming creative solutions to issues confronting the international community. To that end, my interests also lie in history, science, geography, and aviation. In an increasingly globalized world, I like to promote both international-mindedness and multilateralism so that international peace and security can be established not only among nations but among citizens. Thankfully, I will have my Vice-Chair, Ryan Van Slingerland, working by my side to provide you with the best experience at this conference.

Ryan is a Year 9 student who much like myself, shares a fiery passion for Model UN. Ryan is both a Canadian and a proud American. This is Ryan's second year doing both Model UN and OMUN. Ryan has attended UTMUN, OMUN, and will be attending BMUN later this year. Although Ryan has only been to a few conferences, he still has a deep understanding of Model UN and wishes to continue expanding his knowledge on global affairs and politics; as well as their influence on societies. Ryan is very creative and his interests lay in history, geography, architecture, and Star Wars. Once again, I am very thankful that I will be having Ryan working by my side to provide you with the best OMUN experience.

We cannot wait for you to spend an incredible weekend with us in the heart of Toronto. Our team has been working extensively throughout the academic year to put together an extraordinary committee and a comprehensive background guide. Our two topics of discussion are both located in the Middle East. They include the situation in Syria, more specifically regarding the Kurdish-Turkey tensions; as well as the long-lasting Israel-Palestine dispute. This background guide was conceived merely as an introduction to each topic. Nonetheless, we strongly encourage you to perform your own research so you are able to consolidate with that information to liven up debate. I am reassured that all your hard work and effort will allow for fruitful debate to occur. I ensure I will do my best to engage delegates in useful discourse. We look forward to seeing you all engage in fruitful and diplomatic debates. If you have any queries before or during the conference, do not feel afraid to reach out to either me or Ryan. I hope this conference goes well for you all and I cannot wait to meet you!

Raihan Woodhouse

Head Chair

[email]



## General Overview of the Committee

### What is the United Nations Security Council?

Like an organ to the human body, the United Nations Security Council [UNSC]—like the UN as a whole it was founded after the conclusion of World War II in 1945—is one of, if not the most fundamental governing body of the United Nations. It is charged with the primary responsibility of ensuring international peace and security; as well as secondary responsibilities that entail accepting new members into the United Nations and overseeing any changes to its charter and procedures<sup>1</sup>.

The Security Council has 15 member states; under Article 25 of the Charter all delegates, part of this committee must agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Council. The 5 permanent members [P5] consists of the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and France—the nations who were victorious at the end of WWII and have maintained the world's most powerful military force ever since accounting for 55% of global military expenditures in 2013<sup>2</sup>. The P5 has the power to veto any substantive resolution they see fit, including those pertaining to the admission of member states and possible Secretary-General nominees. The remaining 10 members are from specific geographic regions around the world and are elected on a rotating basis to serve a term with a duration of two years.

In its early decades, the Security Council was largely paralyzed by the Cold War division between the US and the USSR as well as their respective allies, however, there were still occurrences of authorized peacekeeping interventions during the Korean War, the Congo Crisis, and the issue in Cyprus—to name a few. After the conclusion of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the UN observed a radical expansion of peacekeeping missions, tackling more missions in ten years' time than in its previous four decades<sup>3</sup>. Though it has witnessed great success, it has encountered tremendous failures that often overshadow its successes such as but not limited to its inability to prevent ethnic massacres in Bosnia and Rwanda.

It is important to note that power and responsibility work hand-in-hand; with great power, comes great responsibility. Thus, in the Security Council at OMUN V, I implore you to consolidate with existing knowledge on the topics on the agenda as a way to find both creative and plausible solutions through perseverance and diplomacy.



<sup>1</sup> ("United")

<sup>2</sup> (Fleurant)

<sup>3</sup> (Meisler)



# Topic 1:

## Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

### History of the Conflict

The conflict between Israel and Palestine dates back all the way back to the end of the nineteenth century. Primarily as a conflict over territory, this conflict has been occurring for generations. Following the end of the Arab-Israeli war, the Holy Land was divided into three different sections: The State of Israel, the West Bank of the Jordan River, and the Gaza Strip (which still continues to be under conflict today). Wars such as the Six-Day War in 1967 allowed Israel to claim East Jerusalem as its capital; additional shifts of territory occurred in the Yom Kippur War in October of 1973, when Egypt and Syria launched a surprise on Israel due to their occupation of the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights. This conflict ended in 1979 with the Camp David Accords which bound Egypt and Israel to a peace treaty. Even with the concluded wars and the peace treaty, a surge of violence and uprising among the Palestinian people in the Middle East. The first intifada, in 1987, was an uprising comprising hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which led to the 1993 Oslo Accords mediated the conflict, setting up a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves and establishing relations between the newly established Palestinian Authority and Israel's government. Although peace has been made in the past, it never seems to remain. In 2013, the U.S. attempted to revive the peace process between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank of the Jordan River. However, peace talks were disrupted when the Fatah (the Palestinian Authority's ruling party) formed a unity government with its rival faction, the Hamas, in 2014. The rivals' reconciliation process has proceeded haltingly since, with the two governments signing an additional agreement in October 2017. Since taking office, the Trump administration has made achieving an Israeli-Palestinian deal a priority but has yet to release its long-awaited proposal for a





peace process. Trump's decision to relocate the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, reversing longstanding U.S. policy, was met with applause among the Israeli leadership but strongly condemned by the Palestinian leaders and others in Europe and the Middle East. Israel considers the "complete and united Jerusalem" its capital, whereas the Palestinians claim East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. Prior to the most recent wave of clashes between Israelis and Palestinians, there had been many outbreaks of violence and instability. In the summer of 2014, clashes in the Palestinian territories precipitated into a military confrontation between the Israeli military (the IDF) and Hamas forces in which the Hamas fired nearly three thousand rockets at Israel, causing a major offensive in Gaza as Israeli retaliation. The skirmish between the Hamas and Israel ended in late August 2014 with a cease-fire deal that was brokered by Egypt. This had only happened after 73 Israelis and 2,251 Palestinians had been killed. Still to this day, the Gaza Strip is under continuous conflict between the Israeli Government and the Hamas.

### **Past UN and International Involvement**

Issues relating to the State of Palestine and aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute are often the centre of attention for debates, resolutions, and resources at the United Nations [UN]. As of January 2010, the Security Council has adopted 79 resolutions pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict<sup>4</sup>. Throughout the 72-year conflict between the two states the UN has been looked upon to provide aide through multiple facets to improve conditions and instil some sort of stability within the conflicted region. The UN has adopted a central role in mediating the conflict by providing support for Palestinian refugees through the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) during this conflict are UN Peacekeepers along with relief. Furthermore, the UN has formulated a platform for Palestinians claims in the realm of politics and human rights in United Nations Division for Palestinian Inalienable Rights; as well as a special committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian people. All these committees are evidence of past UN involvement in the region. Though the UN has been criticized for their lack of support for Israel, it must be noted that Israel has the ability to exercise its right as a sovereign state with a structured system of politics, a strong military, and well-established economy in comparison to their Palestinian neighbours.

In relation to international involvement, the two main sides of this conflict is explored more under *Alliances*, the United States policy at the UN emphasizes that it will veto any unilateral attempt to recognize Palestine as a state; as well as veto any resolution over the attempted condemnation of Israel without concurrently condemning terrorist groups operating in Palestine against Israeli forces. A key date of international involvement in the conflict is in the year 1978 where US President Jimmy Carter hosted and brokered the

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<sup>4</sup> (Hammond)



Camp David Accords, a peace treaty signed by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem<sup>5</sup>. It was the first of its kind, a treaty signifying peace between Israel and their surrounding Arab neighbours. However, fast-forward 39 years, a complete reversal of US foreign policy that promoted a progressive approach to achieving peace between Israel and Palestine. In 2017, President Donald Trump officially recognized the capital of Israel as Jerusalem thus proposing to move the US embassy to the aforementioned city from Tel Aviv. An upheaval of protests occurred along East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip with over 7,500 participants. Christian churches based in Jerusalem warned that this “would yield increased hatred, conflict, violence and suffering in Jerusalem and the Holy Land, moving us farther from the goal of unity and deeper toward destructive division.”<sup>6</sup> The international community strongly condemned the move with Saudi Arabia, China, and EU member states citing it as a flagrant provocation for conflict. At the United Nations Security Council, a resolution to condemn Trump’s move failed due to a veto by the United States given their policy on Israel at the UN with a vote tally of 14-1. Despite the veto in the UNSC, an emergency session was hosted at the UN General Assembly so that Resolution ES-10/L.22—a resolution declaring that the status of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital was null and void—could be voted upon; the votes tallied up to 128-9, with 35 abstentions and 21 absences<sup>7</sup>. Furthermore, extremist views on both sides has since increased with Hamas—the current ruling party on the Gaza Strip—and their political ideology of inciting violence becoming further ingrained in the Palestinians considering a stabbing of a Israeli security guard and countless rocket attacks. However, in 2017, 94 Palestinians were killed with an additional 3,203 Palestinians injured by Israeli Defense Forces [IDFs] a dramatic increase compared to the 704 injuries in 2016<sup>89</sup>.

To end, it is up to the responsibility of delegates to diffuse the political sides that promote extremism to seek revenge or the end of one given side when that is an impossible outcome, especially if the situation continues to escalate. Instead, bilateralism and trust between the two states must be promoted so that all members of that region can live in peace, like they did thousands of years ago.

## Past Solutions

As previously mentioned, the first set of Accords were the Camp David Accords. The Camp David Accords began on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1978, following twelve intense days of secret negotiations at Camp David. The Accords were signed by Egyptian President Anwar el- Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.<sup>10</sup> The

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<sup>5</sup> (Carter)

<sup>6</sup> (Sherwood)

<sup>7</sup> (Gladstone)

<sup>8</sup> (Roth)

<sup>9</sup> (Lazaroff)

<sup>10</sup> (Carter)



two framework agreements were signed in the White House and were witnessed by U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

The second set of Accords, the Oslo Accords, are a set of agreements between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian authorities otherwise known as the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). The first draft of the accord, the Oslo I Accord, was signed in Washington D.C. in 1993 by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzahk Rabin and PLO Leader Yasser Arafat, and witnessed by U.S. President Bill Clinton. The first signings led to the signing of the second draft, the Oslo II Accord, which was signed in Taba, Egypt, in 1995.<sup>11</sup> These accords started the Oslo Process, a process of peace that's aimed at achieving a peace treaty between the two conflicted nations, based on the United Nations Security

Council Resolutions 242 and 338. Resolution 242 was resolved to "the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the occupied territories, acknowledges the claim of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of every state in the region and calls on the UN Secretary-General to appoint an Envoy to facilitate an acceptable solution to the conflict".<sup>12</sup> The second resolution, Resolution 338, was resolved for "all parties to cease all firing and terminate all military activities immediately. The parties should implement Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) in all of its parts and immediately and concurrently with the ceasefire, start negotiations with an aim to establish a just and durable peace in the Middle East".<sup>13</sup>



WASHINGTON, DC - US President Bill Clinton (C) stands between PLO leader Yasser Arafat (R) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzahk Rabin (L) as they shake hands on September 13, 1993, at the White House in Washington DC - CNN

The Taba Summit were talks between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authorities between January 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2001 at Taba, in the Sinai. The peace talks were aimed at enhancing the "final status" negotiations, to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. According to a statement issued by the negotiators at the end of the talks, they came closer to reaching a final settlement than in any other previous peace negotiations. Prime Minister Ehud Barak's government terminated the talks on 27 January 2001 due to the upcoming Israeli election.<sup>14</sup> Unfortunately, the new Sharon government did not restart the peace summit.

<sup>11</sup> ("Oslo")

<sup>12</sup> ("Security Council Resolution 242")

<sup>13</sup> ("Security Council Resolution 388")

<sup>14</sup> ("Taba")



The Agreement on Movement and Access is an agreement between the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authority, signed on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005. The aim of the treaty was to the improvement of Palestinian freedom of movement and economic activity within Palestinian territories, and to open the Gaza–Egypt border. Delegates should aim to find a peaceful solution that benefits both sides of the conflict and puts an end to the continuous loss of innocent lives to this conflict.

## Alliances

State of Israel	State of Palestine
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United States (UNSC*)</li><li>• France (UNSC*)</li><li>• United Kingdom (UNSC*)</li><li>• Germany (UNSC)</li><li>• Belgium (UNSC)</li><li>• Canada</li><li>• Mexico</li><li>• India</li><li>• Federative Republic Brazil</li><li>• Republic of Korea</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tunisia (UNSC)</li><li>• Vietnam (UNSC)</li><li>• South Africa (UNSC)</li><li>• Indonesia (UNSC)</li><li>• Islamic Republic of Iran</li><li>• Republic of Iraq</li><li>• Syria</li><li>• Lebanon</li><li>• Islamic Republic of Pakistan</li><li>• Democratic People's Republic of Korea</li></ul>

\*Countries with (UNSC) next to it are the member nations of the United Nations Security Council, Countries with (UNSC\*) are permanent members\*

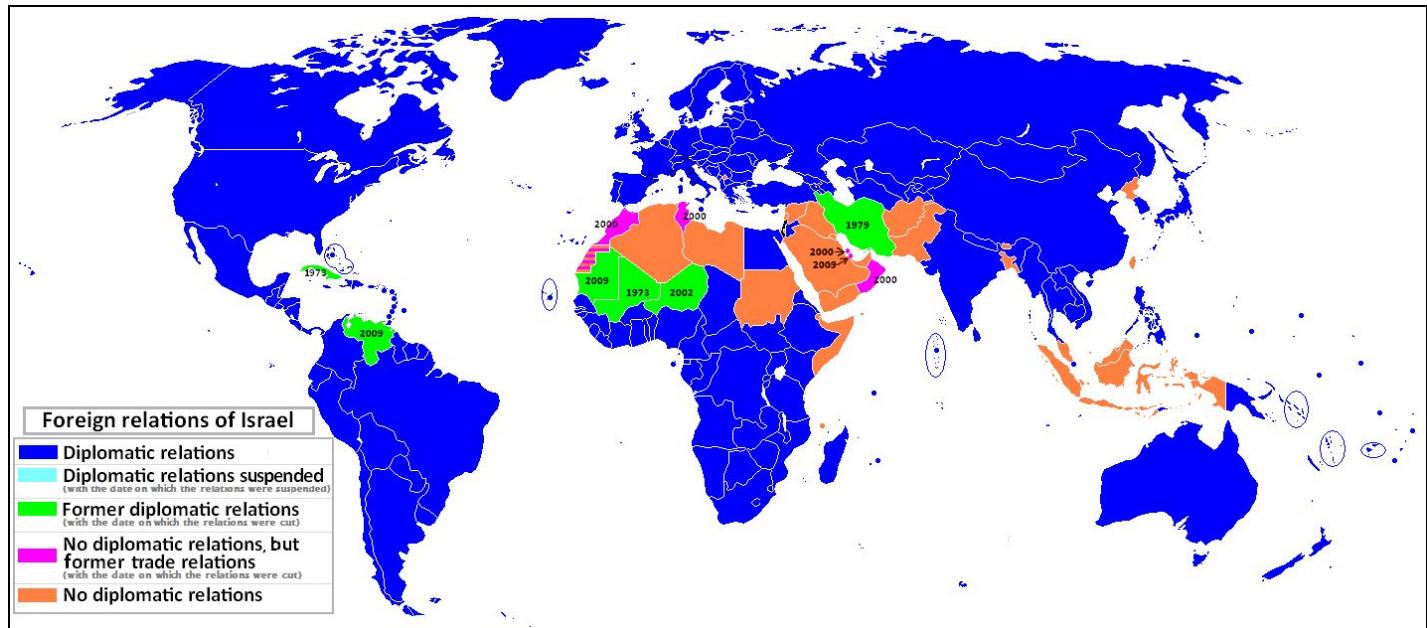
The table above demonstrates the allies in the Security Council for each respective “side” in the Israeli-Palestine dispute. Note that not all nations are listed in the table above.

## Additional Notes

The difference between the two nations in terms of economic development is extreme with Israel being far wealthier considering their services based economy representing 69.5% of their GDP and a GDP per capita of \$36,400<sup>15</sup>. Contrarily, the Palestinian territories have a GDP per capita of \$4,300 and a growth rate of -9.45%<sup>16</sup>. Considering the discrepancy of economic input and output, could peace in the region be helped by economic prosperity?

<sup>15</sup> (“The World Factbook: Israel”)

<sup>16</sup> (“The World Factbook: West Bank”)



Remember, in Model United Nations it is essential that you are able to conjure creative solutions to international issues whilst following your nation's foreign policy and by working in conjunction with your allies.

### Questions to Consider

- How can the tensions and extreme visions in politics on both sides be tamed to allow for peaceful negotiations to begin?
- How do we solve the question of Jerusalem and whose jurisdiction shall it fall under?
- What actions will be taken to reduce xenophobia of Palestinian migrants in neighbouring nations?
- Given the recent March for Return protests from 2018 to 2019, what should be done to avoid the use of extreme defense mechanisms on each sides' military?
- Can economic prosperity help instill peace in the region?
- What does the council want to achieve in the next 5 years to progress peace negotiation between the two parties?



# Topic 2:

## Kurdish-Turkish Conflict

### History of the Conflict

The Kurdish-Turkey conflict is a violent military conflict between the Turkish government and various Kurdish rebel groups. To this day, it is a conflict that has claimed the lives of over 40,000 people, with tensions dating back to the late 1970s. The issue is rooted in a desire for separatism on the part of Kurdish insurgent groups who want to separate from Turkey and create the region of Kurdistan. Currently, the Kurds occupy certain regions of Turkey and other regions of Turkey are ethnically Kurdish-dominant. The Kurds are an ethnic group primarily spread about Iran, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, and Armenia.<sup>17</sup> The Kurds are one of the world's largest stateless nations, with a total population of somewhere between 25 million and 40 million.<sup>18</sup> The Kurdish have been left stateless because of the powers who drew up the map after WW1 and the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. While the 1920 Treaty of Sèvres designed some territory for the Kurds, the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923, which established the modern Turkish state and the other borders in the Middle East, excluding the Kurdish and geographically divided them.<sup>19</sup>



Map showing Kurdish influence in Turkey -  
The Economist

The main rebel group in Turkey is the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which was founded in 1978 by a group of Kurdish students who sought out to stand against oppression of Kurds in Turkey.<sup>20</sup> Shortly after, the government banned the Kurdish language, dress, names, and other customs, which negatively impacted Kurdish culture in the region. In 1980, a military coup was successfully launched, and the national security council declared martial law and abolished Parliament and the government, suspending the Constitution among other drastic measures. Within 2 years, the military returned the government to civilian hands, but maintained control over politics. Throughout the late 80s many civilian deaths occurred as the PKK established itself as a strong force.

<sup>17</sup> Jen Kirby, "9 questions about Turkey, Syria, and the Kurds you were too embarrassed to ask," October 16th, 2019. Vox. <https://www.vox.com/world/2019/10/16/20908262/turkey-syria-kurds-trump-invasion-questions>

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>20</sup> Lice Yalaza, "Turkey and the Kurds - Dreams of Kurdistan," July 6th, 2014. The Economist  
<https://www.economist.com/europe/2014/07/06/dreams-of-kurdistan>



Specifically, in 1984, the PKK announced a Kurdish uprising, which provoked the government to kill civilians through the Turkish Armed Forces. Between 1984 and 1991, an estimated 2,500 people were killed; over the next four years, that figure rose dramatically to 20,000.<sup>21</sup> Because of this, Turkey has been condemned by the European Court of Human Rights and several nations for their executions, torturing, destroyed villages, murdering of journalists, and more. The Turkish government matched the power of the PKK in bloody counterattacks, leaving irreparable damage. However, the Kurd were fueled by a desire for self-determination.

At the time, there were multiple movements for the Kurdish people, namely the Kurdish Democratic Union Party, or PYD, which became a rising power after the outbreak of the Syrian civil war in 2011. PYD, a branch of the PKK, has ties to the PKK are part of the reason why Turkey sees the Kurds as a large threat. The first uprising in Turkey ended in September 1999, when a ceasefire was declared between the government and the rebels. However, conflict resumed in 2004 June, when the PKK ended the ceasefire, and more severely escalated in mid-2011. Later, the Turkish government was able to secretly negotiate with Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed PKK leader, about a ceasefire between the Turkish state and the PKK. In 2013, Abdullah Öcalan announced the end of armed struggle and a ceasefire with peace talks.<sup>22</sup> However, during the July 2015 “Operation Martyr Yalçın”, Turkey bombed PKK bases in Iraq and PYD bases in the Kurdish region Rojava. Consequently, the PKK cancelled the ceasefire in 2015 as tensions were high in a time where the Turkish state was also preventing its Kurdish citizens from sending support to the fighters in Iraq supporting Kurds.<sup>23</sup> Turkey was accused of assisting the Islamic state, killing hundreds more Kurdish civilians, and committing many human rights violations. It is alleged that Turkey provided transport and logistical assistance to ISIS, trained their fighters, offered medical care, and helped recruit troops.<sup>24</sup>

Since July 2015, more than 2,300 people have been killed in violent clashes. Large-scale military operations in the south-eastern provinces have destroyed a considerable amount of infrastructure. Inversely, PKK terrorists have targeted places of symbolic value in Istanbul and Ankara in attacks that have resulted in multiple deaths.

<sup>25</sup> Between late September 2015 and November 2015, Turkish Armed Forces destroyed PKK mountain force

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<sup>21</sup> “The Kurds in Turkey,” n.d. *Federation of American Scientists*.

[https://fas.org/asmp/profiles/turkey\\_background\\_kurds.htm](https://fas.org/asmp/profiles/turkey_background_kurds.htm)

<sup>22</sup> Uta Freyer, “The Kurdish-Turkish Conflict and its Relation to the Theories of Misperception, Identity and Culture,” 2014. *Grin*. <https://www.grin.com/document/301364>

<sup>23</sup> “The truce between Turkey and Kurdish militants is over,” July 26th, 2015. *The Economist*.

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2015/07/26/the-truce-between-turkey-and-kurdish-militants-is-over>

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*,

<sup>25</sup> “Turkey's Kurdish Conflict: 2015-Present,” December 2016. *Institute for Security and Development Policy*.

<https://isdp.eu/content/uploads/2016/12/2016-Turkeys-Kurdish-Conflict-2015-Present.pdf>



structures in the province of Hakkari with about 120 people left dead.<sup>26</sup> Conflicts escalated during the turn of the year in late 2015 and early 2016, with clashes between the state forces and Kurdish fighters. The Kurdistan Freedom Fighters (TAK) conducted multiple car bomb attacks in February and March, with the Turkish state retaliating with aggressive raids and confiscation of Kurdish property.<sup>27</sup> Later in the year, the conflict became more political, with the Turkish Grand National Assembly lifting immunity on Kurdish officials and the TSK restructuring its operations from urban to rural. In June, a failed military coup left 300 people dead, which provoked a state of emergency and martial law. In 2019, Turkey launched an offensive into northeastern Syria against the Syrian democratic forces, and another operation against the PKK in Iraq, Operation Claw-3.<sup>28</sup> The Turkish ministry has said that the operation was launched to "facilitate border security, neutralize terrorists, and destroy shelters in the Sinat-Haftanin region in northern Iraq."<sup>29</sup> Since then, tensions have not been kept at bay, and small skirmishes have been often occurring.

### Past UN/International Involvement Notes

With millions of Syrians seeking help, The UNSC decided to adopt Resolution 2165 from 2014 in order to direct relief delivery through more border crossings and across conflict lines.<sup>30</sup> Furthermore, a 15 member body, "decided that United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners could, with notification to the Syrian authorities, use the border crossings at Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al Yarubiyah and Al-Ramtha in addition to those already in use, "to ensure that assistance, including medical and surgical supplies, reached people in need throughout Syria through the most direct routes."<sup>31</sup> This resolution has prompted the Council to act decisively in the event of non compliance with the resolution given the previous outcome of resolution 2139 in 2014.<sup>32</sup> The UNSC reaffirmed that all Syrian parties to the conflict must ensure that there is protection and safety amongst all United Nations personnel and their humanitarian partners and will continuously work together in order to ceasefires and eliminate the Syrian and Turkish crisis. Another aspect of UN Involvement was Resolution 2245 from 2015. The Resolution was put in place in order to "Endorse Road Map for peace process Syria, and setting a timetable for negotiations.<sup>33</sup> The resolution was unanimously adopted when

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<sup>26</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>28</sup> David Phillips, "Turkey Supports ISIS," *World Beyond War*. <https://worldbeyondwar.org/turkey-supports-isis/>

<sup>29</sup> "Turkey launches new military operation in northern Iraq against PKK," August 24th, 2019, *XinhuaNet*. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-08/24/c\\_138335238.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-08/24/c_138335238.htm)

<sup>30</sup> Un.org. (2020). With Millions of Syrians in Need, Security Council Adopts Resolution 2165 (2014) Directing Relief Delivery through More Border Crossings, across Conflict Lines | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. Available at: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11473.doc.htm>

<sup>31</sup> UN

<sup>32</sup> UN

<sup>33</sup> UN



foreign ministers and others met for the 3rd time, in order to reaffirm the endorsement of the “30 June 2012 Geneva Communiqué, and endorsed the “Vienna Statements” in pursuit of the Communiqué’s implementation as the basis for a Syrian-led, Syrian-owned political transition to end the conflict.”<sup>34</sup> The resolution prompted the Secretary General to convene representatives of the Syroan Government to engage in negotiations in order to tackle the urgent basis. In brief the UNSC strongly advocated for free and fair elections, pursuant of a new constitution, which will be held within 18 months and administered under UN supervision, upholding high standards of transparency and accountability. The UNSC acknowledges the similarities of ceasefire and the parallel political process, and encourages that both should continue to “move ahead expeditiously.”<sup>35</sup> Here are some key preambles to this resolution:

- *Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations*<sup>36</sup>
- *Expressing its gravest concern at the continued suffering of the Syrian people, the dire and deteriorating humanitarian situation, the ongoing conflict and its persistent and brutal violence, the negative impact of terrorism and violent extremist ideology in support of terrorism, the destabilizing effect of the crisis on the region and beyond, including the resulting increase in terrorists drawn to the fighting in Syria, the physical destruction in the country, and increasing sectarianism, and underscoring that the situation will continue to deteriorate in the absence of a political solution*<sup>37</sup>
- *Recalling its demand that all parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in this regard, the primary responsibility to protect its population lies with the Syrian authorities*<sup>38</sup>

## Possible Solutions

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.,



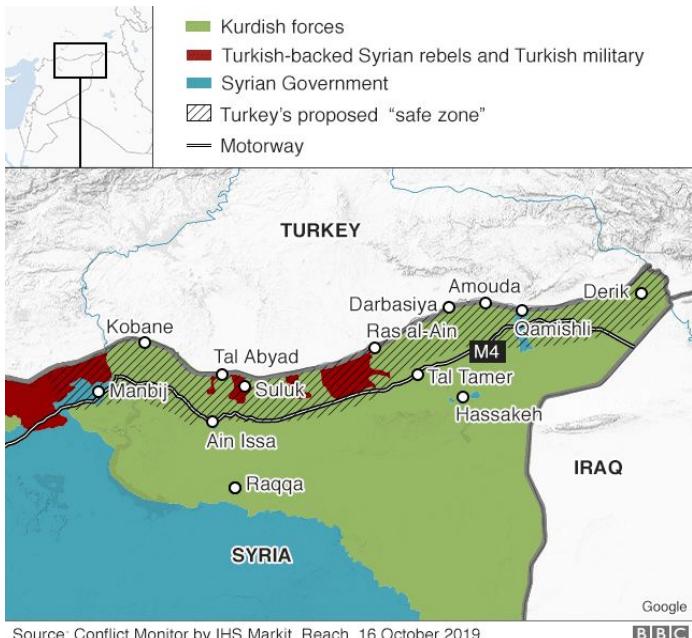
It is evident that this conflict must be resolved and thus the United Nations has introduced and followed multiple solutions regarding the Turkish and Kurdish conflict. Furthermore, one of the more common solutions to this conflict is the Turkey/Kurdish “safe zones.” Created by UNSC resolutions, these safe zones were put in place in order to protect civilians fleeing from the conflict, and to provide them with humanitarian aid. This de escalation zone is very important Turkish officials say, in order to maintain the regional peace, safety and stability for the Syrians. Turkey considers these safe zones to be able to space around 2 million of the more than 3.6 million refugees.<sup>39</sup> Under the plan implemented in 2016 by the Trukish Government, a total of 140 villages and 10 districts would be set up in the safe zone in order to accommodate around 1 million Syrians, which would cost and expected 26.4 billion dollars, which is considerably far beyond Turkeys financial means. Turkey also calls for international support and cooperation, in order to start the return of voluntary refugees.<sup>40</sup> While this solution may seem very beneficial to the Turkish people, many say that these so-called “safe zones” are not actually safe. The Trukish Government may have doubts about the plans feasibility with regards to the idea of an international coalition. Furthermore, many call for financial clarity of these safe zones and raise the question of possible disagreements by the current residents with regards to public works and building of the settlements.<sup>41</sup> “Ediz Ekinci, a former Afghanistan adviser to the UN, said humanitarian issues were a priority for the Turkish armed forces and is quoted on this statement; "If there is the risk of a humanitarian catastrophe, that operational plan is either cancelled or updated by the military. Our forces have always won general approval by our NATO allies." It is important to note that the UN has mentioned on numerous occasions, that they are not monitoring these safe zones and that they are strictly Turkeys. In conclusion, while this is a valid solution there are some demographic and financial issues with Turkey’s safe zone development plans

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<sup>39</sup> Aljazeera citation

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.,

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.,



*Turkish proposed “safe zones”*

## Alliances

Remember, in Model United Nations it is essential that you are able to conjure creative solutions to international issues whilst following your nation's foreign policy and by working in conjunction with your allies.

The table below demonstrates the allies in the Security Council for each respective side in the Kurdish-Turkish dispute.

\*Countries with (UNSC) next to it are the member nations of the United Nations Security Council, Countries with (UNSC\*) are permanent members\*

The Kurdistan Region	State of Turkey
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• United States (UNSC*)</li><li>• France (UNSC*)</li><li>• Germany (UNSC)</li><li>• Belgium (UNSC)</li><li>• Republic of Korea</li><li>• Israel</li><li>• Canada</li><li>• Norway</li><li>• Finland</li><li>• Syria</li><li>• Slovenia</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The People's Republic of China (UNSC*)</li><li>• Russian Federation (UNSC*)</li><li>• South Africa (UNSC)</li><li>• Indonesia (UNSC)</li><li>• Sudan</li><li>• Chile</li><li>• Islamic Republic of Iran</li><li>• Islamic Republic of Pakistan</li><li>• Qatar</li></ul>



## Questions to Consider

- Despite the United States breaking the alliance with the Kurds, how can member states of the UNSC negotiate for a possible ceasefire and plan to implement some sort of positive change in the area?
- What should be done to help the people displaced by this conflict/crisis?
- What needs to be done about the ISIS prisoners who have escaped?
- How can the Kurds in the region defend themselves (if you think they should) from Turkish forces and is there a possibility of another power vacuum occurring?

## Suggested Readings

### Topic 1.

- Vox - "[The Israel-Palestine conflict: a brief, simple history](#)" - YouTube
- Vox - <https://www.vox.com/2018/5/14/17340798/jerusalem-embassy-israel-palestinians-us-trump>
- "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict | Global Conflict Tracker." *Global Conflict Tracker*, 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>.
- "The Israel-Palestinian Conflict Explained." *BBC News*, 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44124396>.

### Topic 2.

- Council for Foreign Relations - "[Conflict Between Turkey and Armed Kurdish Groups](#)"
- Vox - "[Why Turkey is Invading Syria](#)" - YouTube
- Euronews - "[What is the PKK and what's behind Turkey's war in Syria?](#)"

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