

October 1007th

& Beyond:

Perspectives, Risks and Expectations

A large, semi-transparent image of the Palestinian flag is positioned in the background, behind the main text. The flag consists of three horizontal stripes of black, white, and green, with a red triangle at the top left corner.

Palestine Workshop Report

ULISA (IIRSR)
PALESTINE WORKSHOP
OCTOBER 1007th AND BEYOND: RISKS AND
EXPECTATIONS

WORKSHOP REPORT

This report is an English translation of a previously published report in Turkish.

The opinions stated in the report belong to the workshop participants and do not necessarily reflect the views of AYBU or ULISA.



Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University

Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research (IIRSR)

Uluslararası İlişkiler ve Stratejik Araştırmalar Enstitüsü (ULİSA)

PARTICIPANTS

Workshop Chair

Assoc. Prof. İbrahim Demir
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, IIRSR-ULİSA

CBRN and International Law

Prof. Yücel ACER
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Law Faculty

Prof. Aytunç ATEŞ
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences

Haşmet Serdar ÖZDEMİR
Turkish Air Force Logistics Command

Assoc. Prof. Cihat YAYCI
Retired Rear Admiral

Asst. Prof. Hatice Kübra ECEMİŞ YILMAZ
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Law Faculty

∅

Humanitarian Aid and Migration

At. Hüseyin CEVEN
İHH Humanitarian Aid Foundation

Dr. Selman Salim KESGİN
Turkish Red Crescent

Dr. Osman TÜRK
Türkiye Diyanet Foundation

Assoc. Prof. Ali Zafer SAĞIROĞLU
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Human and Social Sciences

Kaan SANER
Turkish Red Crescent

∅

Türkiye, China/India, Russia, USA, Iran Perspectives

Asst. Prof. Seher BULUT
Medipol University, Center for Middle East Studies (ORSAM)

Assoc. Prof. İbrahim DEMİR
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Political Sciences

Asst. Prof. Md. Nazmul ISLAM
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Political Sciences

Assoc. Prof. M. Hüseyin MERCAN
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Political Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Sevinç ÖZCAN
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Political Sciences

Assoc. Prof. Bayram SİNKAYA
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University, Faculty of Political Sciences

PREPARED BY

Assoc. Prof. İbrahim DEMİR

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Assist. Prof. Md. Nazmul ISLAM

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Research Assistant Gülşen YILMAZ

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Research Assistant Öznur ALBAYRAK

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Research Assistant Muhammed ORUÇ

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

WORKSHOP REPORTERS

Research Assistant Gülşen YILMAZ

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Research Assistant Öznur ALBAYRAK

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Research Assistant Muhammed ORUÇ

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Didem ASLANTAŞ

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

Hüseyin Serhat SOLMAZ

AYBU, Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research IIRSR-ULİSA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The claim of 'legitimate defense' by Israel is inconsistent in terms of international law due to Israel's long-standing blockade on Gaza and its 'occupying' status in Palestine. The assertion of the right to legitimate defense by an occupying country lacks legal grounds. Another aspect of the problematic nature of Israel's attacks in terms of international law is the disproportionate use of force.
- **The Israel problem has historically had a significant impact on the foreign policies and identities of Gulf countries, demonstrating that changes in this regard will have important implications for regional and international politics.**
- The International Criminal Court's (ICC) swift progression in the Russia-Ukraine case, leading to an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin, contrasts with its slower approach in the Palestinian situation, where it has not pursued any cases or issued arrest warrants for any Israelis. This highlights the court's varying approaches to different situations.
- **In 2015, the State of Palestine became a party to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and requested the court to investigate crimes and those responsible in the Palestinian territories. Following this, the ICC commenced investigations into the events, asserting jurisdiction over the matter.**
- Israel's actions towards civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip violate international humanitarian law and constitute war crimes, crime against humanity, and genocide. These actions could be considered as part of a systematic and widespread plan against the civilian population.
- **The necessary steps for identifying urgent humanitarian needs in the region are clearly outlined. Distribution of food rations, blankets, hot meals, hygiene kits, clothing, diapers for infants, medicines, medical supplies, and first aid kits are among the primary essential needs. The operation of generators and the availability to fuel are crucial for the functioning of life-saving equipment. Additionally, addressing the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and the elderly is imperative.**
- The identification and procurement of materials, facilitated by the advance preparation and field information conducted by the Disaster and Emergency

Management Authority of Türkiye (AFAD), Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, and the Diyanet Foundation (TDV), faced significant obstacles implemented by Israel in terms of reaching the intended beneficiaries in the region.

- **To ensure adequate humanitarian aid, Israel must open its airspace, and border crossings should be kept open. Pressures should be applied through letters to Security Council members and diplomatic channels. Additionally, Egypt, as a transit country, also bears responsibility apart from the occupying force.**
- In the region, a form of dispossession activity is being implemented by Israel, leading to displacement of the locals. Therefore, the issue points towards a process of dispossession, displacement, and demographic change.
- **A significant influx of migration from Palestine to Türkiye is not expected. It is recommended that Türkiye takes on a temporary role in this regard. Despite the forced migration of the Palestinian people in other directions, Türkiye should take serious and proactive measures. To prevent dispossession, it is essential to implement thorough documentation and archival practices.**
- Hamas' October 7 attack is noteworthy for two reasons. Firstly, the presence of an unusually high number of civilians as targets and the presence of hostages have created a difficult situation even for those sympathetic to the Palestinian cause in the international community. Secondly, the United States has aligned itself with Israel to an unprecedented extent, to a level unseen since 1973.
- **Hamas has conducted an operation meticulously planned and organized to enter Israel, aiming to dismantle three myths related to Israel. The first stage aimed to demonstrate that Gaza can be crossed and exited. The second aimed to debunk the myth that Mossad knows everything. The third aimed to show that attacks on Israel are possible despite the Iron Dome. With the events on October 7th, these three myths were shattered and undermined.**
- Germany's pro-Israel stance presents an interesting situation. While the EU previously demonstrated a more neutral and constructive approach, it now operates on a similar frequency with the United States. It is necessary for

Türkiye to play a more active role in the UN and clearly express its pro-Palestinian stance.

- **The increased military presence of the United States in the Eastern Mediterranean is perceived as clear support for Israel. However, the heightened American military presence may be viewed as a measure to prevent the spread of the conflict in the region rather than active involvement in the war. Indeed, Hezbollah and Iran have been warned against any attempts to launch an attack against Israel.**
- The Israel-Hamas conflict is unlikely to escalate to a broader scale in the wider Middle East. Iran faces significant internal issues and economic problems, making it inclined to avoid active attacks against Israel and the U.S. Russia states it is monitoring the situation at the rhetorical level. China, on the other hand, does not provide assurances and is not likely to intervene in the region.
- **The highly controversial process leading to the formation of Israel and subsequent developments in the region are closely connected to Türkiye's recent history. Recent events concerning Al-Aqsa Mosque, Al-Quds, and Gaza are particularly critical components in the ongoing Israel-Türkiye relations.**
- Türkiye initially acted constructively, attempting to take on a mediator and problem-solving role. However, due to the planned and deliberate brutality of Israel, reaching a level akin to 'genocide,' the situation has surpassed the roles Türkiye initially assumed. In this context, Türkiye appears to continue prioritizing actions related to civilians, ceasefire efforts, and acting as a guarantor.
- **Israel is actively engaged in digital diplomacy. In this context, it is crucial to undertake efforts to preserve the dignity of those who lost their lives in Gaza and to focus on initiatives that humanize them rather than reducing them to numbers. A long-term project could be initiated related to those who have lost their lives. In case of a shift in the international agenda in a few months, such an effort will help maintain the dignity of the people in Gaza.**
- China perceives the emergence of the "IMEC" project as a reaction to the "Belt and Road" initiative, considering it a significant threat to China. In this context, China has the capability to engage in trade with the regions in conflict and

crisis-ridden regions and to adopt an approach of turning crises into opportunities. China tends to make long-term plans and prefers focusing on long-term strategies rather than short-term goals. It appears that China is not seeking a short-term solution to the Israel-Palestine issue and is not willing to take on responsibility in this regard.

- **There is a rapprochement in India-Israel relations. The contributions provided by the United States to India support this convergence. The IMEC project has emerged as an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative and has become a continuously debated topic. This development project strengthens security relations between Israel and India. The Indian government has declared its full support for Israel due to the Kashmir issue.**
- It is true that Russia has taken an active role in the Palestinian issue, but this role is currently limited to rhetoric. Until now, Russia's approach has been characterized by pro-Palestinian statements, and it has remained at a level of monitoring and reporting the situation in the region.
- **Türkiye's mediation in Ukraine has positively influenced Russia-Türkiye relations. In the Palestine-Israel issue, there is a possibility for both states to act together.**
- Iran has consistently held one of the most explicit positions on the Palestinian issue. In this context, it completely rejects the legitimacy of Israel and defines the Israeli government as an occupying force/regime in Palestinian territories. Generally, Iran has supported and continues to support Palestinian resistance movements within this framework.

FOREWORD

The issue of Israel, rooted in the early 1900s and entered in a new dramatic phase on October 7, 2023, was discussed and assessed through a workshop organized by our University's Institute of International Relations and Strategic Studies (IIRSS-ULISA). This written report was prepared from the workshop deliberations and discussions.

During the workshop, expert academics, researchers, and fieldworkers conducted a meticulous study, addressing developments under the topics of international law; CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats); humanitarian aid; migration; and perspectives from Türkiye, Iran, Russia, the United States, and China. The preliminary report formed during the desk studies was reviewed and improved by the participating authors through file-sharing collaboration.

I extend my sincere thanks to the ULISA Institute staff and participants from various institutions who dedicated their time and contributed to the workshop organization.

I hope that the workshop report proves beneficial for a peaceful and more humanitarian world.

Prof. Ali Cengiz KÖSEOĞLU

Rector or Chancellor
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University

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İbrahim DEMİR, PhD

Assoc. Prof.

IIRSS-ULISA Institute and Dept. of Economics
Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University

OPENING REMARKS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our esteemed Institute Director and the Rectorate of Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University for inviting me to this workshop and providing me with this opportunity. I find this workshop to be very significant in terms of considering such an event on a day like this and offering not only observations but also recommendations to at least support decision-makers. I highly appreciate Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University for taking the lead in organizing this workshop. As I have listened to the introductory remarks of Professor İbrahim Demir, I particularly want to emphasize that I am very pleased.

By objectively examining the events and step by step considering what can be done in this workshop, and evaluating what can be done from the perspective of Türkiye, it will be clarified.

First and foremost, I believe it is necessary to look at the population and geographical area of Israel and Palestine to understand the gravity of the situation. It is essential to set aside suggestions that ignore global realpolitik and focus on realistic proposals to provide meaningful contributions.

Although China comes to mind as the most populous state in terms of density, it is actually Israel and Palestine. Israel has an area of 22 thousand square kilometers, which is 1/35th of Türkiye's. Its population is approximately 10 million. When you exclude the deserts, the number of people living per square kilometer is almost 5 thousand. In 1983, Israel's population was 3.6 million, and in 40 years, it has almost tripled to reach 10 million. Türkiye's population has not even doubled during this period. Israel adopts an immigration policy where it invites all Jews in the world to come to Israel. The birth rate in Israel is also twice the OECD average.

In other words, expecting Israel to give up land and return to the 1967 borders is not realistic. Israel is a state that aims to expand its territory. Therefore, one must be very cautious as Israel can potentially launch attacks anywhere at any time. Israel is a state that encourages immigration. Israel will only give land to Palestine if it acquires land from Lebanon, Syria, or other states.

Israel is the most expansionist and occupying state in the world. Israel's occupation and expansionism cannot be compared to any other country in terms

of its land space. Since 1948, Israel has swallowed up 85% of Palestine's land, effectively doubling its size. Is there any other state in the world that has doubled its land area in 70 years? Considering not only what they took from Palestine but also from Egypt, Lebanon, and Syria, it is evident that this state is incredibly expansionist and imperialistic. Israel has not only occupied the land territory of Palestine but also its maritime territory, to which I will address later.

The territories of Palestine, both in the West Bank and Gaza, are currently separated by Israeli occupations. This means there is no freedom of travel for those in the West Bank to Gaza or vice versa. Geographically, Palestinians are segregated. Additionally, there is a political division within the Palestinian leadership, with Fatah on one side and Hamas on the other.

The Objective is the Seizure of the Promised Land, Also Known as the Greater Israel Project

"The Promised Land" refers to the lands between the Nile River and the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers. This target region is currently divided into three states to the north of the country, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers: Iraq, Syria, and Türkiye. Iraq and Syria have been divided and prepared for Greater Israel through a game where "whose hand is in control is uncertain." Türkiye is next in line. To understand this, we need to cast back a bit.

The goal was to establish a puppet state named PKK/YPG and Barzanistan, which would take Latakia as its gateway to the sea but would essentially be a puppet Israeli state. In this way, Israel and the puppet Israeli state would unite through the sea. The Turkish Armed Forces (TSK), strengthened after July 15, became an obstacle to this by intervening in this corridor with operations such as Operation Peace Spring, Operation Olive Branch, and Operation Euphrates Shield. It should be noted that both the United States and Russia support the PKK/YPG terrorists. The region controlled by these terrorists is, in fact, a Shadow Israel.

The Torahic Behavioral Codes of the Israeli Government

To understand Israel's political structure, there are noteworthy aspects. Israel is a religious state, and its governance derives every discourse and state policy from the Torah. The Israeli Minister of National Defense stated, "There are animals in

front of us, no humans, no rules, no laws, no courts," justifying the attacks on Gaza. The source of such perspective lies in the third verse of the 15th chapter of the Samuel version of the Torah, which reads: "Slay both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey. Destroy them completely." This Teyvatic understanding underlies the philosophy of Israel's genocidal policies.

This is not a War of Cross and Crescent; it is a "Look at the Acrobat" War.

We need to be very cautious. As experts in international relations, we examine the backstage of events, questioning the relationship between events that occur closely in time and space. It is not the time to act based on our emotions. It is crucial to analyze events thoroughly.

This war is not a Crusade-Crescent war. In the West, there is a mindset that sees this war as an Armageddon. If it turns into a Crusade-Crescent war, we should avoid causing damage to rights and interests, strengthening colonial governors, and empowering Brown Britons. Colonial governors do not engage in a Crescent war, and it should not be forgotten that in such a situation, they would be on the side of the Crusaders. President Erdoğan has cautioned both domestically and internationally, saying, "Be careful, there is a completely different situation here; do not turn this into a Crusade-Crescent war."

It is necessary to interpret the events in the context of the developments in neighboring countries such as Syria, Iraq, and Greece. Limiting the project to Gaza and Palestine would be a great misconception.

If we briefly recall the events that give the impression that Türkiye has been targeted in this process:

Dangerous Scenario for Türkiye

Recall that, before the events between Israel and Palestine on October 7th, a sudden order was given to the YPG/PKK in this region to move south to Deir ez-Zor. Then, the PKK/YPG attacked Arab villages, and Arab tribes retaliated. Turkmen forces supported these Arab tribes to prevent the PKK from moving further south. However, the PKK continues to move south in the region.

The danger for Türkiye is as follows: if the PKK/YPG moves from the north to the south, and Israel also advances from the south, seizing land from Syria and

Lebanon (allegedly claiming attacks from these lands), reaching the region under U.S. control, Israel could unite with the area controlled by the PKK/YPG. In such a scenario, Israel could indirectly become a neighbor to Türkiye.

It should be remembered that evaluating events by centering on Türkiye and analyzing the current and possible future impacts of developments on Türkiye should be a priority. In the event of any move that would jeopardize the existence of the Republic of Türkiye, the Turkish nation would face great danger. Let us not forget that if the Turkish state and nation weaken, all oppressed people and the Islamic world would be vulnerable. Therefore, it is not right to throw Türkiye into the fire in the Middle East. In this region, Türkiye is the primary target in the face of the Greater Israel project.

The Republic of Türkiye is within this circle of fire. This is our state, and we all need to take care of our state. It is essential to observe closely what other states are doing.

Iran's Position

The official statement from Iran's United Nations representative is the only official stance on this matter. It states that Iran will not intervene in the conflict in Gaza unless there is an attack on its citizens.

Greece and Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus' (GCASC) Position

Here, the Palestinian National Authority under the leadership of Mahmoud Abbas has a lesson to learn. The Palestinian National Authority has so far considered the Greek Cypriot Administration of Southern Cyprus' (GCASC) as its counterpart in Cyprus, appointed an ambassador to the GCASC, and disregarded the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC).

If Greece and the GCASC remain silent on calls for a ceasefire and stopping this genocide, it is time for Mahmoud Abbas to immediately withdraw his ambassador from the GCASC and appoint an ambassador to the TRNC. This is unity and integrity. This is the unity of the ummah. Therefore, one of the suggestions is that if we want to present a political image of unity in response to the genocide

committed by Israel, the Palestinian leadership should reconsider and rearrange its stance based on the attitudes of states in the UN votes.

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League's Position

Türkiye currently lacks the military, political, and economic leverage to stop the genocide in Gaza executed by Israel, supported by the United States and the rest of the Western world. This is a political reality. However, this should never imply any weakness in the ability of the Republic of Türkiye to protect its borders. Türkiye has the highest capability, determination, and capacity to defend its borders in the world.

Babies are dying, people are dying, and Palestinians are being killed. Gaza is being emptied, and Palestinian land is being lost. Meanwhile, Israel is growing. This needs to be stopped as soon as possible. There are two entities with the power to stop this so-called war, which is essentially genocide: the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League. If member states of the OIC and the Arab League, which are major producers of oil and natural gas, urgently impose an embargo on oil and gas exports to the West and suspend all trade agreements with the West, the Western economies will inevitably collapse within 3-5 days, as these countries are the major markets for the West.

If these proposals are put on the table and rejected, the leaders of these states will have lost their credibility in the eyes of the Islamic world. While short-term effects may not be immediate, Türkiye's sincere reactions in the medium and long term could position itself as a leader not just for governments but for the people as well.

Russia's Position

The second mask that needs to be unveiled is Russia, which appears to be anti-US and anti-Israel. To make an apt analogy: Russia seems to be arm wrestling with these powers on the table, but underneath, it is shaking hands.

In this context, it should be noted that Russia, officially controlling Syrian airspace since 2011, keeps the Syrian airspace open for Israel and the United States while keeping it closed to Türkiye. Russia even refrains from opening its airspace

for Türkiye to conduct air operations against the PKK/YPG, thus indirectly supporting the PKK/YPG.

In the current geopolitical situation, a call should be made to Russia as well: "Ensure that Israel does not expand, refrain from taking territory from Syria, and close Syrian airspace to Israel for the preservation of Syria's territorial integrity."

Gaza is the Only Coastal Opening in Palestine

Israel has not only occupied approximately 85% of Palestine's land, but it has also occupied almost the same proportion of its maritime territory.

How, might you ask? Through the agreement made with the Republic of Cyprus (GKRY) in 2010, Israel took control of 80% of the maritime area allocated to Palestine under international law. Israel has also hindered Palestine from extracting the oil and natural gas present in the maritime area left for Palestine.

Various sources indicate that there are rich oil and natural gas deposits in the Palestinian maritime jurisdiction formed along the coast of Gaza.

If Israel completely seizes the Gaza Strip, it will also gain control over Palestine's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the oil and natural gas resources therein.

The only legal measure to prevent the realization of this negative scenario is to establish a maritime jurisdiction boundary agreement like the Libya-Türkiye agreement with Palestine. Because Palestine is Türkiye's maritime neighbor, as both countries have mutual coastlines. The Libya-Türkiye EEZ agreement is a strategy that disrupts games. A similar agreement could be made with Palestine, which shares coastlines with Türkiye.

In the event of such an agreement, we would have a legal and political document and justification to say, "We cannot remain indifferent to the events in our neighbor."

Moreover, Palestine would also have a legal document stating, "Gaza and its seas belong to Palestine." Furthermore, both states would gain much more maritime territory compared to the maritime areas proposed by the Republic of Cyprus.

Conclusions and Proposals

Türkiye should wear its helmet very well; after all, the ring of fire surrounds Türkiye. Within the ring of fire, Türkiye must always consider its rights and interests and be very careful. It is essential to prevent the spread of the fire ignited in Gaza.

Concrete recommendations to stop bloodshed in Palestine and strengthen the political and legal ties between Türkiye and Palestine include the following:

1. Until a lasting ceasefire is achieved, it is recommended that member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab League, which are producers of oil and natural gas, urgently implement an embargo on natural gas and oil exports to the West. This includes suspending all commercial agreements with the West and halting imports from Western countries.
2. Preventing Israel from expanding, acquiring land from Syria, and ensuring the territorial integrity of Syria requires Russia to close Syrian airspace to Israel.
3. To assert ownership of the Gaza coastal strip and maritime areas legally and politically, a similar maritime jurisdiction boundary agreement to the Libya-Türkiye agreement should be made with Palestine.
4. Recognition of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (KKTC) by the Palestinian Authority and the appointment of mutual ambassadors.

Cihat Yaycı, Ph. D.

Assoc. Prof.
Topkapı University

A. INTRODUCTION

The events unfolding in Gaza after October 7, 2023, are a reflection of long-lasting injustices and oppression stemming from the contentious and questionable establishment of a Jewish refugee community as a state in Palestine. Therefore, it is significant to recognize that these post-October 7th developments cannot be fully understood without acknowledging the historical background. It is not solely the outcome of military actions by Hamas or the tragic events involving the loss of Israeli lives on October 7, 2023.

Gaza, like other Palestine territories, have been kept under blockade and targeted by Israel, waiting for a suitable international and regional (political, economic, military) atmosphere to "swallow" all of Palestine. Regardless of the occurrences on October 7th, there are reports suggesting that Israel had intentions to occupy and annex Gaza. The developments following October 7 further substantiate the notion that Israel's actions, culminating in the reported genocide, were part of premeditated and systematic processes initiated from earlier stages.

The attempts by Israel to destroy Gaza and its people, especially during the period of the energy crisis in Europe in the wake of the Ukraine-Russia War, may be related to the rich energy reservoirs and energy transit routes in the waters off Gaza. This also aligns with the idea that oil and energy-thirsty imperial powers, which have no geographical borders with the parties in the Middle East, have strong interests in accessing and controlling the energy resources in the region.

It seems that Israel's goal is to create the perception that Hamas, not the People of Palestine, is the sole ruler or owner of Gaza and to annex Gaza by 'winning' it through a war with Hamas. The continuous and systematic use of the term 'Israel-Hamas War' in the narratives by Israel and by the Israel-oriented international media circles is for this reason.

Israel relies on propaganda of 'legitimate defense/the right to self-defense' produced to gain sympathy in the face of resistance in Gaza. Israel is an occupying force in Palestine and Gaza. Therefore, according to the international law, Israel's claim for self-defense is baseless.

Israel has been motivated by an enduring security need due to the self-created controversial process that resulted in statehood and its continued implementation of a terror regime with racist and discriminatory (apartheid) tendencies in Palestine since 1967. Israel has sought to address the security need by specializing in propaganda, pressure, and violence; controlling global finance and media; influencing world political actors through threats and blackmailing; directing global public opinion through media manipulation; radical religious references; Holocaust victimization; and anti-Semitism protection, as well as forming concentrated power in the academia and Hollywood. More importantly, the nuclear threat posed by Israel to its region and the global community has served as the primary justification for its unlawful conduct.

As the result of centuries of organized and targeted efforts, Israel has successfully consolidated its endeavors by obtaining the 'official' support of the contemporary superpowers, the United States, and Europe. The economic and political destabilization of some critical countries such as Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Libya long before, also created a power vacuum in the Middle East and provided Israel with better maneuvering ability. Destabilization of these countries, which may have seemed irrelevant and occurred a long time ago, proves significance today.

Israel is particularly concerned with two potential issues regarding the genocide and atrocities it is committing in Gaza: First, the digital-age-facilitated awakening of world nations regarding the true face of Zionism and Israel in the world. This awakening has the potential to yield political consequences in many societies, including the US, and symbolizes the decline of Zionism and Israel. Second, the possibility of the perpetrators and supporters of genocide in Gaza being brought to justice and punished for genocide and crimes against humanity in international courts. Initiatives for the prosecution of those responsible have already begun. However, attention should be paid to the measures taken by those responsible and supporters in Israel against these efforts. Efforts such as artificially generated video footages, disinformation, and face-masked individuals in physical (face-to-face) support visits to Israel should be considered as attempts to obstruct justice and hinder personal connections to the mentioned crimes.

The fragile security structure of Israel, its persistence in Palestinian territories, and its 'reckless' behavior in the Middle East have been closely linked to its possession of nuclear weapons. This situation, which plays a 'key role' in resolving the Israel issue, is extremely concerning in the context of the future of the Middle East in terms of 'nuclearization.' Israel's nuclear potential must certainly be controlled by the responsible international organizations. The Middle East and greater world communities demand and deserve this. Israel gains its so-called legitimacy from nuclear power it possesses. Granting countries legitimacy through nuclear weapons, which derive power from threats and blackmail rather than legitimate and balanced soft/hard power according to international law, is highly problematic for global and regional security.



Drawing by Sare Şeyma Duran

The unconditional official US support to Israel is one of the most significant enablers of Israel's lawless actions. Despite unprecedented anti-Israel and anti-Zionism protests in the U.S., it is evident that the official U.S. support for Israel does not necessarily translate into the support of the 'American people.' Despite intense media manipulation, the American society, contrary to the narrative, has come to perceive Zionism and Israel as a threat not only to the security of the Middle East but also to America's political, economic, and social future. Millions in the United States

emphasize that Gaza 'liberated' Americans from Zionism at the expense of the lives of thousands of Gazans. In contrast to the power centers in America, the

general sentiment among the American people is that Zionism and Israel are not an 'asset' but a 'responsibility'. In this sense, it would be appropriate to distinguish between the U.S. foreign policy and the stance of the American people regarding Israel and Zionism.

An important aspect of the events in Gaza is the re-emergence of the perception that international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) are biased and hollow entities established on double standards to serve the interests of a few countries living under the Zionist influence. It has become evident that these organizations are not impartial, and they do lean towards the interests of certain nations. Billions feel that world peace and stability cannot be solely entrusted to these organizations no longer.

Considering Israel's expansionist ambitions, it would not be accurate to think that occupation and annexation attempts are limited to Palestine, Gaza, or Al-Quds. Israel, following its goals beyond Palestine and Gaza, will likely move towards implementing its expansionist aspirations in a broader geographical area that includes Türkiye, Lebanon, and Syria per the Jewish ideal of *Arz-ı Mev'ud* (the promised land). Israel has long been in the preparation for these aspirations through religious references and rhetoric, academic research, educational curriculum practices for children, and a series of military and political activities.

In this regard, the Israel issue is not merely a concern for Palestine and Gaza, but it is a matter that Türkiye and other relevant parties such as the US, Russia, EU, Iran, and Gulf states should carefully monitor in the context of national and global security.

B. INTERNATIONAL LAW

1. Are Israel's Attacks and Military Operations in Compliance with the Laws of War?

Israel has been blockading the Gaza Strip since 2007. Gaza is a narrow strip of land on the Palestinian Territory along the east coast of the Mediterranean Sea that stretches from the Egyptian border to a point in the north where it touches to the Israeli border. It is just 41 kilometers in length and 12 kilometers at its widest section. There are 2.3 million Palestinians living in this little belt of territory, and there is a high population density with highly difficult living conditions.

International law is called into question by Israel's military acts upon the military activities which Hamas members began on October 7th against Israel. Significant issues such as the rights and obligations of the parties in this conflict, as well as the legitimacy of their methods and acts have been raised from the legal standpoint.

It is especially critical to evaluate Israel's military activities in and against the Gaza Strip in terms of both the right to self-defense and the rules of international humanitarian law due to their severity, brutality, and intensity.

First and foremost, because of its long-standing blockade on Gaza and its well-proven status of the "occupying" power there, Israel's claim of "right to defense" is highly problematic under international law. There is no legal foundation of the assertion that a nation is entitled to self-defense in a territory that it occupies. The use of excessive force is another reason to argue that Israel's strikes exceed the limits of right to self-defense in international law.

Conventional rule and the rules of international treaties pertaining to the protection of non-combatants, especially civilians, during armed conflicts are collectively referred to as international humanitarian law. It also aims to save the ecosystem and even civilian infrastructure. The regulations also aim to save those engaged in the fight from unnecessary deaths and suffering. Combatants are restricted in terms of war weapons and tactics in order to protect the fundamental rights of non-combatants as well as unnecessary deaths and sufferings.

Concerns about serious possible violations of international humanitarian law are raised upon the Israeli military acts in and against the Gaza Strip, including the intentional targeting and the systematic killings of civilians, the destruction of civilian infrastructure and buildings, as well as enforced migrations of civilian population. The Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, pledged to transform Hamas-controlled territories into "ruined cities" and called the day of the attacks on Hamas a "difficult day". It is implied by this statement that the targeting of the Gaza Strip is "indiscriminate."

Israel's actions also constitute serious violations of international humanitarian law. According to international law, military assaults on civilians and civilian infrastructure are considered "war crimes." Violations of the laws of war, often known as international humanitarian law, constitute war crimes. Israel's military attacks on Gazans are war crimes and grave violations of international humanitarian law.

Israel is accused of gravely violating international humanitarian law and committing war crimes when it uses white phosphorous against Palestinians in the Kerame region of northern Gaza. Israeli soldiers, commanders, and government representatives who participated in this breach can face war crimes charges.

The UN Security Council established the ad hoc International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to try those who had committed crimes during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. In addition, in the lawsuit that Bosnia and Herzegovina brought against Serbia, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) decided that the attacks at Srebrenica constituted genocide. Likewise, a complaint has been brought against the Myanmar government to the International Court of Justice for crimes committed against the Rohingya Muslim population.

Likewise, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crime of genocide may be prosecuted in relation to Israel's attacks on the Gaza Strip. The incidents may be deemed crimes against humanity or war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC).

2. What is the Situation in the Gulf Countries?

The Palestinian issue is defined as one of the central issues in the Middle East. Due to the historical links and cultural sensitivity of Gulf cultures to Palestine, this issue has become a question of identity for the Gulf countries and is now a top priority in their foreign policy. Since the 1930s, the Gulf countries—particularly Saudi Arabia—have demonstrated sensitivity to the Palestinian situation and forged close bonds with the Palestinian people by offering them financial and emotional assistance. Gulf nations now include this in their foreign policy. Specifically, Saudi monarchs—King Abdulaziz and King Faisal, in particular—have made major diplomatic efforts with American officials over the Palestinian issue and have influenced American policy. King Faisal's 1973 oil embargo with OPEC countries against the United States, which supported Israel against the Arabs, demonstrated the importance of the Palestinian issue for the Gulf countries and the determination of the Saudi leadership. King Faisal's assassination in 1975 was considered as the loss of the biggest supporter of the Palestinian issue. However, the Saudi leadership continued to provide financial and diplomatic support to the Palestinian cause after the Arab Israeli Wars. In 2002, Saudi King Abdullah's Arab Peace Plan initiative showed that the Palestinian issue was high on the Saudi agenda in the context of deepening the Saudi American alliance. In 2020, the UAE and Israel normalized relations by signing the Ibrahim Agreement. This agreement was considered an important step for Israel in achieving its long-term goals. After the establishment of Israel in 1948, the Arab states' attitude of not recognizing Israel and accepting it as illegitimate extended to the exclusion of Egypt from the Arab world, which made an agreement with Israel in the Camp David Accords.

Anti-Israel attitude in Gulf politics, particularly after 1973, became the norm and presented Israel with serious challenges. Israel tried to gain sway over US Middle East policy in order to get around this. Within the context of the security alliance, the United States exerted pressure on the monarchies in the Gulf to begin the process of normalization with Israel. The Gulf countries, long spearheaded by Saudi Arabia, never wavered in their opposition to Israel and continued to be

strong backers of the Palestinian cause. The important role that the Gulf plays in the Palestinian issue was demonstrated by the pioneering role played by a few Gulf countries in recognizing Israel and establishing diplomatic ties. The Gulf barrier, which had traditionally stood in the way of the Palestinian people, was removed in accordance with the Saudi and UAE Crown Princes' relationship. Nations such as Kuwait and Qatar have exhibited a resolute position in addressing the Palestinian issue and have made it clear that they would not enter into accords with Israel.

The foreign policies and identities of the Gulf countries have traditionally been greatly influenced by the Palestinian question, and shifts in this area have had a substantial impact on both regional and global affairs. In light of historical backgrounds and contemporary political dynamics, the Gulf countries' relationship to Israel is significant.

3. What are the Reasons for the Presence of States Hosting Naval Vessels in the Mediterranean?

According to Cihat Yaycı, the acquisition of the Gaza Strip's marine jurisdictional regions is the primary goal of the Israel-Palestine conflict. It has been made clear that this is all part of a larger scheme to tip the scales in Israel's favor in the Eastern Mediterranean. Yaycı claims that Israel wants to take control of the Gaza Strip's marine jurisdictional regions. The goal of this action is to increase Israel's control over the Eastern Mediterranean's energy resources. Israel will obtain sovereignty over Palestine's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and its abundant oil resources if it fully occupies the Gaza Strip. Israel will have more authority over the region's energy resources as a result of this circumstance.

Yaycı, emphasizing that Türkiye has mutual coastlines with Palestine, has highlighted the significance of this for Türkiye's "Blue Homeland" concept. Additionally, by presenting an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) map between Türkiye and Palestine, Yaycı has provided a visual representation of these mutual coastlines and maritime jurisdictional areas. As emphasized by Yaycı, Israel's seizure of maritime jurisdictional areas in the Gaza Strip could significantly

impact the balance of energy resources in the Eastern Mediterranean. This action has the potential to reshape the existing energy dynamics and policies in the region.

Türkiye's mutual coastlines with Palestine further underscore the significance of Türkiye's Blue Homeland strategy. The Blue Homeland strategy aims to protect Türkiye's maritime jurisdictional areas and rights at sea. Yaycı's assessment indicates that security and energy policies in the Eastern Mediterranean could be shaped based on the outcomes of the Israel-Palestine conflict. This has the potential to influence the foreign policy and security strategies of other countries in the region. The maritime jurisdictional areas and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) relations between Türkiye and Palestine are crucial factors affecting Türkiye's maritime law and policies in the region. The impacts of Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip on regional energy policies and security balances should be directly addressed in the context of Türkiye's Blue Homeland strategy and Türkiye-Palestine relations.

The fact that Palestine and Türkiye share coasts emphasizes how important Türkiye's Blue Homeland policy is. The goal of the Blue Homeland policy is to safeguard Türkiye's marine rights and jurisdictional regions. Yaycı's analysis suggests that the resolution of the Israel-Palestine issue may have an impact on energy and security policy in the Eastern Mediterranean. This might have an impact on other nations in the region's security and foreign policy plans. Türkiye's marine laws and policies in the region are significantly influenced by the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) ties and maritime jurisdictional regions with Palestine. It is important to take into account how Israel's operations against the Gaza Strip affect regional energy policies and security balances in the context of Türkiye's Blue Homeland strategy and relations with Palestine.

4. How likely is it that Netanyahu and others in charge will face war crimes charges, be found guilty, and have their sentences carried out by the International Criminal Court (ICC)?

States have a duty to take the appropriate legal action to bring charges against those who they believe have seriously violated humanitarian law. Regardless of their location or country, those who commit such offenses should be looked into and punished in accordance with the universal jurisdiction concept. According to this concept, people who commit war crimes are subject to prosecution regardless of the location or nationality of the crime. One of the main tenets of international law is to stop foreign crimes from going unpunished.

The application of the concept of universal jurisdiction is exemplified by the cases of those who broke humanitarian law during the Syrian Civil War and sought asylum in nations including Finland, Sweden, Germany, Austria, and France only to face war crimes charges. Instances of legal processes may also be found in special international tribunals created for war crimes and other transnational crimes perpetrated in Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, and Cambodia. These tribunals were established by the UN Security Council and have jurisdiction over specific conflicts and crimes. The International Criminal Tribunals for Yugoslavia and Rwanda have played an important role in prosecuting those responsible for war crimes in those countries. These tribunals were established for crimes committed in specific geographical and time periods.

Currently, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is the main organization in charge of looking into war crimes. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a global court that was founded by intergovernmental treaties and to which several nations have ratified. It is housed in The Hague, Netherlands. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has the jurisdiction to look into war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide that have occurred in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem as Palestine is a State Party to the ICC. If high ranking government officials are found guilty of these crimes, the ICC has the authority to condemn them to jail.

The International Criminal Court's differing approaches to different situations are demonstrated by its accelerated proceedings and the issuance of an arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Russia-Ukraine situation, as well as its slower approach and lack of any prosecutions or arrest warrants against Israelis in the Palestinian context. The ICC's varying reactions to various circumstances demonstrate the complexity of international law and the impact of political considerations on the judicial system.

Politics and law are both factors in investigations and prosecutions of crimes under international law. The intricacy of the procedures involved in looking into and trying war criminals serves as an example of how international law functions in this context. Investigating and prosecuting major crimes like war crimes and crimes against humanity requires cooperation from states and international courts. These procedures, however, could occasionally differ because of how complicated political issues and international relations can be.

The first set of acts consists of Israel's deliberate killing of civilians during military assaults in or across the Gaza Strip. Homes, apartment complexes, schools, mosques, and even hospitals are the targets of these indiscriminate air and ground strikes. It is estimated that hundreds of Palestinian civilians, half of whom were women and children, died and thousands more were injured in Gaza and the West Bank because of bombing operations. The deliberate killing of people is seen as a serious transgression of the Geneva Conventions and constitutes a crime against humanity. These killings, which are carried out in a methodical and widespread manner with the expressed intention of annihilation or genocide, can also be classified as crimes against humanity or even genocide.

Roads, water and sewage systems, food infrastructure, and housing facilities have all been destroyed by Israeli assaults on civilian settlements and infrastructure. Several buildings, including health clinics, are no longer functional as a result of these attacks.

Numerous civilians were killed in the attack on the Al-Ahli Al-Arabi hospital in Gaza, which is classified as a crime against humanity due to its extent, occurrence,

and aftermath. Gaza's supply of gasoline, food, water, electricity, and humanitarian supplies has been cut off by Israel, leaving hundreds of thousands of people unable to meet their most basic requirements. Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee their homes as the over a million civilian residents of Gaza's northern region were threatened with imminent assaults unless they relocated south. According to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights spokesman Ravina Shamdasani, forcing civilians to migrate is illegal and against international law.

After the State of Palestine requested and was granted ICC membership in 2015, the ICC started looking into crimes that had been perpetrated in Palestinian territory and identifying the perpetrators. The Court ruled that it had jurisdiction over the probe.

The presenting of persons suspected or to be accused of such crimes before the Court is necessary for the prosecution and punishment of those responsible. There can be difficulties with this, especially with relation to Israeli citizens and the possibility of bringing them before the Court. It is imperative to assess Israel's military activities in the Gaza Strip in light of international law, which means looking into the possibility of war crimes and crimes against humanity. The investigation and prosecution of war crimes depend heavily on the role played by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in this case.

5. Why Has the International Community Remaining So Powerless in the Face of UN Ineffectiveness with Regard to the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

The Geneva Conventions, which have been ratified by all UN members and are backed by rulings by international war crimes courts, provide the guidelines for armed warfare. The treatment of troops, civilians, and war captives during hostilities is regulated by these treaties. In particular, the fourth Geneva Convention ensures that civilian hospitals are safe from attacks and addresses the protection of people during times of conflict. Belligerent parties are required by international humanitarian law principles to give prior notice of assaults that may have an impact on civilian populations. Unevaluated people must be safeguarded

and prevented from becoming a lawful target. The Israeli army needs to take the appropriate safety measures to safeguard people and property. In order to safeguard people and property in the area designated for evacuation, the Israeli army must take the appropriate safety measures. The occupying force has a duty to provide for the civilian population's food and medical requirements while under military occupation. Israel's obstruction of relief vehicles' travel to Gaza is a breach of this regulation. Israel is committing war crimes and violating international humanitarian law when it attacks people and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip. These activities can be viewed as a component of a larger, organized scheme to harm civilians. Israel is said to be targeting forced population shifts and relocation with its assaults, which are concentrated on the provinces of Gaza and North Gaza. The fundamental rights of Gaza Strip residents are allegedly being violated by these acts. The fundamental rights of Gaza Strip residents are allegedly being violated by these acts. According to the Geneva Conventions, Israel is guilty of crimes such as forcing people to evacuate their homes, ethnic cleansing, and destroying settlements by frequent airstrikes on residential areas. Targeting civilians directly are other crimes Israel has committed such as widespread bombings, blackouts of power and water, and hospital devastation. The rights of the civilian population in Palestine must be taken into consideration by the international community in order to take a more proactive approach to ending this state of conflict. Israel has committed war crimes via its military operations in the Gaza Strip, which are grave breaches of humanitarian law and international law. The civilian population's fundamental rights are violated by these acts, which also cause serious humanitarian crises in the area. In this case, the international community needs to step in and defend the rights of Palestinian citizens.

In order to prevent a third global war and to uphold world peace, the United Nations (UN) was founded following global War II. After the League of Nations failed, the winning powers of the war developed a framework upon which this edifice was erected. The General Assembly, the Security Council (UNSC), the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Secretariat, and the International Court of Justice are among the primary administrative entities that

make up the UN. With 194 member nations, the organization is governed from its headquarters in New York. Among the UN's two principal bodies, the General Assembly has the authority to make advisory judgments. In the General Assembly, votes are cast equally by each member nation, and decisions are decided by a majority vote. As the UN's executive body, the UNSC is made up of five permanent members—the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and China—as well as rotating members. Due to their veto power, the permanent members of the UNSC can have a significant influence on decisions. The UNSC is frequently criticized for things like its veto power, poor equal representation, and perpetual membership arrangement. Requirements for reform include limiting the use of the veto and altering the composition of the UNSC. Germany, Japan, Brazil, and India, known as the G4 Group, have underlined the necessity of reforming the UNSC to make sure it accurately represents the reality of the global community in the 21st century. Türkiye has taken issue with the UN's incapacity to respond effectively to significant humanitarian crises and the unreliability of the permanent members of the UNSC. This issue has been brought to light by President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, who said, "The world is greater than five." Adding more rotating members to the UNSC and fortifying the General Assembly against the Security Council are among Türkiye's demands.

6. What is the Place of Obstructing Humanitarian and Emergency Aid in International Law?

A blockade is a tactic used by one of the fighting parties to impede the other party's connections with third states, as defined under international humanitarian law. Usually, this is accomplished by occupying the enemy party's ports and managing all ship and aircraft operations. A blockade's primary goals are to prevent the blockaded party from leaving the open seas and to restrict its commercial activity. In particular, this strategy has the potential to greatly affect the civilian population's fundamental standard of living.

International humanitarian law forbids collective punishment of civilian populations and prevents blockades from becoming punitive in nature. Under these circumstances, Israel's total siege of Gaza violates humanitarian law and can

be considered a war crime. Water and energy shortages are examples of the blockade, which is illegal under the laws of war and may even be a war crime. The denial of these basic services to more than two million civilians in Gaza is not justified by the fact that Hamas utilizes the water and electrical infrastructure. Depriving the Gaza population of its needs for survival is against humanitarian law's rules of necessity and proportionality, and it could even be a war crime. It is imperative to evaluate the Gaza Strip embargo through the lens of international humanitarian law, as impeding the delivery of humanitarian supplies is indefensible. This makes Israel's denial of Gaza's humanitarian supplies potentially illegal under international law.

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C. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR (CBRN) THREATS

1. What are the Implications of the Palestine-Israel Conflict in the Context of CBRN Threats?

Since October 7, there has been an argument that Israel may have used weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) in Gaza due to the ongoing severity of Israeli brutality, the genocide carried out by Israel, and Israel's intelligence and military shortcomings (the inability to accomplish the desired military outcome in the anticipated amount of time). These worries are reinforced by Israel's use of phosphorous bombs and the quantity of civilian deaths. A potential constraint on Israel's ability to employ WMDs is a shift in global public sentiment against the country.

It is important to consider more than only the prospect of Israel utilizing WMDs in relation to Gaza and Palestine. Israel's most potent weapon against neighboring countries and the Islamic world, in addition to unrestricted US assistance, is its arsenal of nuclear weapons. Israel knows how difficult it is to stay in Palestine and how seriously vulnerable it is in terms of security. Israel therefore views nuclear weapons as a guarantee of its existence, despite the possibility of causing great harm. Given the current circumstances, the Middle East—an area marked by protracted and violent conflicts—could become a "nuclear minefield." In the framework of game theories, this argument must be further investigated.

2. Is it Possible to Use WMDs in the Israel Issue?

WMDs may have repercussions and impacts that become apparent months or years later. Their difficult control is a major factor in their non-use, and they can have both short- and long-term effects. Because these weapons are hard to detect with the five senses, they are frequently referred to as "magic agents" (WMDs/CBRN agents). The deployment of weapons of mass destruction in tunnels would put hostages at danger in addition to Hamas members. Such chemical warfare agents are dangerous and need specialized knowledge to handle, store, and use. There are serious hazards to the people involved, the environment, and mankind when WMDs are used directly in each territory. For

example, despite Russia's frequent threats to deploy nuclear weapons during the Ukraine War, hardly any attempts were made to do so because of these concerns. The deployment of WMDs is an unpredictable process that might have uncontrollable repercussions. It is forbidden to use such weapons, and several treaties protect this prohibition:

- the Strasbourg Agreement between France and the Holy Roman Empire in 1675
- the Hague Conventions of 1899–1907
- Chemical Weapons Convention of 1993 (accepted by 188 countries).

The use of WMD will not only harm the opposing side but will affect the entire area used. When using WMD, you cannot just target and eliminate a specific person; those around them will also be affected. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required to protect against these effects, but distributing PPE to everyone is not feasible due to cost. WMD incidents should be considered and evaluated in three phases: before, during and after the incident. Consideration of each stage alone may not be sufficient to assess all the processes and their effects. Such incidents cause considerable chaos and place an overwhelming burden on healthcare facilities. Those who use these weapons may harm themselves and their own citizens, putting Israel in a culpable position for both sides. The use of these weapons in tunnels is highly risky and the consequences can be severe. This could mean the commission of genocide orchestrated by Israel.

The use or endorsement of such weapons has certain political dimensions; for example, Biden is expected to run for re-election in the 2024 US elections. The use or endorsement of such weapons would cause an outcry in the global and American public. In this scenario, pressure would mount on Biden to act against Israel, and this could potentially affect the outcome of the election.

Another issue is the question of hostages. If such weapons are used, Israeli and foreign citizens held in tunnels will be affected and may even die. Such a situation will also have implications and consequences for Israel's domestic politics. Indeed, the families of Israeli hostages are currently exerting considerable pressure on politicians and staging protests.

One of the most significant factors in the potential use of nuclear weapons is that the effects will not be confined to Israel's borders but will have transboundary effects. The drama of Chernobyl affected Russia, the Slavic countries and even our country. Therefore, the decision to use such weapons will not be so easy. Russia has raised this threat several times but has not acted on it. The Scandinavian countries are the most prepared because of the risks they face. The high level of risk makes their usage less preferable.

In addition to the military and political aspects, the use of WMD also has an environmental dimension. The consequences of the use of CBRN agents will be very costly in all dimensions. It will create an incredible risk situation for soil, water, and ecology in every respect. The global coronavirus pandemic is an important example for understanding CBRN. On the other hand, nuclear power plants in neighboring countries are a source of risk for all countries in the region if the necessary precautions are not taken. The incident is significant in the global nuclear dimension. There are 437 nuclear reactors in the world. The USA, which is against nuclear armament, nuclear power, and nuclear energy. However, 100 of the 437 reactors are in the USA. Countries with nuclear capabilities seek to maintain control over power.

The most important way to prepare for such processes, as for all processes, is through education. Recognizing CBRN agents, counter measures against them, and carefully planning and implementing training and other processes are necessary for them to run smoothly and effectively.

D. HUMANITARIAN AID

1. What are the Urgent Humanitarian Needs in Palestine, and What are the Challenges Encountered in Aid Distribution, Especially in Conflict Zones?

The steps to be taken to pre-identify urgent humanitarian needs in the region are clearly defined. Distribution of rations, blankets, hot meals, hygiene kits, clothing, diapers, medicines, and medical supplies, and first aid kits are among the primary needs. Generators and fuel are essential for the operation of life-saving equipment. In addition to these, the needs of the special group referred to as children, pregnant women, and the elderly must be addressed to.

Although organizations such as the Turkish Red Crescent, IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation and the Türkiye Diyanet Foundation (TDV) in Türkiye have extensive staff and operational experience, they face many challenges in distributing aid in the region. The closure of the Rafah border crossing and the inability to carry out entry and exit procedures are the main difficulties. While aid to Gaza is coordinated with humanitarian organizations and implemented with local partner institutions, the closure of the crossings limits the capacity of these organizations. In addition to the limited aid reaching the region, activities are carried out in cooperation with local institutions by facilitating financial transactions within the region. The Presidency of Disaster and Emergency Management (AFAD), the Turkish Red Crescent, IHH and TDV are preparing for the necessary materials before arriving in the region. Despite the preliminary preparations and the information about the field, there are serious obstacles in reaching the needy people with the located and supplied materials. There are few parallels in the world with their deep expertise in humanitarian aid to our institutions. Therefore, when the crucial obstacle of closed crossings is removed, our institutions will be able to operate significantly in the region. Once the crossings are reopened, our institutions will be able to easily identify and deliver aid to beneficiaries.

The Israeli occupation of hospitals and civilian settlements, which flouts the laws of war, creates many problems. Blocking access to electricity, water and food are a few of the most fundamental problems. The aid that reaches the region is not

proportionate and does not meet the basic humanitarian needs of the civilian population, in addition to access to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which is a de facto occupation zone. Therefore, Israel should cease its policy of cutting off humanitarian aid as soon as possible. The civilian population is facing a situation where starvation is used as a weapon. Therefore, the failure of the occupiers to follow basic rules points to another major problem. Israel's targeting of hospitals or hitting sites near humanitarian aid depots is a serious security concern. Unless a hospital is used for military purposes beyond its intended civilian function, whether it treats Hamas fighters or is run by Hamas members, it should not be targeted. Even if there is evidence of military use, the principles of proportionality and precaution must be observed, considering the conditions of the patients, services, and civilians in the hospital.

The Turkish Red Crescent, within the framework of operational access, is in contact with the Red Crescent organizations in the region, namely those of Egypt, Palestine, and Israel. As national associations within the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Red Crescent has an advantage over other organizations in finding natural partners in all countries. However, one of the fundamental challenges is the limited capacity to transport relevant materials through border crossings. Another dimension of the problem is the targeting of humanitarian workers operating in the Occupied Territories. The targeting of personnel and facilities of the United Nations, the Palestinian Red Crescent and other humanitarian organizations makes access to humanitarian and medical assistance impossible. In order to ensure the delivery of adequate humanitarian aid, Israel must open its airspace and keep border crossings open. Diplomatic contacts should be made with members of the UN Security Council to bring pressure to bear on this issue. In addition, as a neighboring transit country to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Egypt has a responsibility to facilitate humanitarian aid as a High Contracting Party to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949.

Living conditions in the region pose a serious threat to public health. Deteriorating public health can lead to epidemic diseases such as cholera. Another

major concern is that equipment sent to the region may be rendered inoperable by the lack of basic services such as electricity and water. It is crucial to emphasize that every civilian not directly involved in an armed conflict has a right to life under international humanitarian and human rights law, which prioritizes humanitarian needs over participation in an armed conflict.

2. What can be done to ensure effective delivery of humanitarian aid and long-term sustainable solutions for affected people?

Conflicts need to stop immediately for a quick ceasefire. In the short term, it is essential to urgently lift the blockade and allow aid to reach civilians in accordance with international law. NGO's can open offices in the region. In the medium/long term, the challenge is to deal with the thousands of pieces of rubble and destruction. Coordinated search and rescue operations by the relevant organizations are essential to remove the debris. IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation has applied to AFAD to volunteer for search and rescue operations in the region.

Another key issue is the importance of preserving the region's demographic structure. The foundations for a new zoning plan need to be laid. In addition, it would be beneficial to conduct Gaza-specific activities in a way that is consistent with Türkiye's foreign policy in order to avoid discord and promote unity. TDV can organize a conference with international addressees in order to raise awareness of Muslim communities in the region. TDV can undertake this organization.

Within the framework of humanitarian concerns, it is important to advocate on behalf of both parties and to engage in dialogue with both sides. Türkiye, which is well equipped in the field of humanitarian aid, can carry out initiatives led by civil society organizations. Both the Jewish community in Türkiye and the Turkish community in Israel should be involved in humanitarian missions. For example, the Chief Rabbi of the Turkish Jewish Community could be sent to Al-Quds on a humanitarian mission. Relations with Israel can be managed through lobbies in the respective countries. It is also important to collaborate with

Azerbaijan, which has a Jewish population. The regular and sufficient flow of humanitarian aid depends on an increase in humanitarian aid through the Rafah crossing and the opening of the Kerem Shalom and Erez border crossings.

Türkiye should not overlook its responsibilities due to its cultural and historical values. On the other hand, Hamas should review its stance in such a way as to improve the humanitarian position of Türkiye and support Türkiye's humanitarian initiatives in order to achieve results. Türkiye's humanitarian stance should be based on advocating for the humanitarian concerns and needs of both the Palestinian and Israeli people. Türkiye has never been a country with a poor humanitarian record. Türkiye's humanitarian values are consistent and universal. Hamas should appreciate Türkiye in this regard. Despite the occasional tensions between Israel and Türkiye, Israel has always taken Türkiye seriously.

The Turkish Red Crescent, with its extensive international connections, should raise its voice more. It should work with other partners to strengthen collective efforts. The Presidency of Religious Affairs of Türkiye can make stronger calls and campaigns to mobilize its counterparts in Islamic countries.

On the other hand, the effective functioning of the UN mechanism is crucial. Public opinion plays an important role in conflict resolution. Artists from different regions and parties should be brought into the conflict zone to raise awareness.

E. MIGRATION

1. What are the Reflections of Dehumanization, Forced Displacement, and Migration in the Context of the Israeli Genocide?

A kind of expropriation is taking place in the region. This issue causes displacement. Therefore, the issue means expropriation, displacement, and demographic change. Policies should be implemented that do not allow forced displacement outside the region. Since 2006-2007, there has been emigration from Palestine to Türkiye. However, in recent years, two thirds of irregular emigration movements in Türkiye are aimed towards Europe. Some of the displaced people go to Türkiye, while others try to move to other countries. Therefore, a massive flow of emigration from Palestine to Türkiye is not expected. It is foreseen that Türkiye temporarily takes a role in this matter. Despite the forced migration of the Palestinian people in other destinations, Türkiye needs to take serious and proactive measures. Documentation and archival practices should be implemented to prevent expropriation.

On the other hand, the visa liberalization between Israel and Türkiye could be reviewed and gradual limitations could be imposed. The visa exemption for Israeli citizens, while Palestinians are subject to a visa requirement, is a problematic situation. From this point of view, the visa requirement for the oppressed Palestinian citizens and the visa exemption for the Israeli citizens are contradictory to the foreign policy stance and behavior of Türkiye.

F. TÜRKİYE, CHINA/INDIA, RUSSIA, USA and IRAN PERSPECTIVES

The Hamas attack of 7 October stands out for two main reasons. First, the scale of the attack, which targeted an unprecedented number of civilians and hostages, created a situation that even international observers usually sympathetic to the Palestinian cause found difficult to defend. Second, since 1973 the United States has supported by Israel to an unprecedented degree.

However, debates about the October 7 attack continue. There is speculation that Israel and the US were actually forewarned about these attacks. These speculations are based on the fact that Egyptian intelligence had informed Israel about the movements of the Kassam brigades. However, debates continue about the reliability and certainty of this information in terms of intelligence quality. Netanyahu and Nasrallah are facing challenges in this new phase. The process has engendered leaders who can move freely within their own spheres of influence and involves the whole world. Netanyahu had planned a multifaceted attack on Gaza. As a precaution, Hamas carried out a meticulously calculated and organized operation on how and where to enter Israel. The primary objective of this operation was to challenge three myths about Israel: firstly, to demonstrate that Gaza can be breached and exited; secondly, to dismantle the myth that Mossad knows everything; and thirdly, to show that Israel can still be attacked despite the Iron Dome. The operation significantly undermined and shook these three myths on October 7th.

During the 2006 Palestinian elections, Hamas won 76 out of 132 seats. However, despite its electoral success, Hamas was not recognized by Israel and Western states. If it had been recognized, Hamas could have become a legitimate political party. It is worth noting that while the military arm of Hezbollah is recognized as a terrorist organization, its political arm is not viewed in the same way. Consequently, the opportunity for Hamas to be integrated into the system as a legitimate and responsible actor was squandered over time.

The Gaza operation could be a new phase in Israel's expansionist strategy. A recent statement by Mearsheimer can be summarized as follows: "When Crimea was annexed, it was not given much attention, seen merely as a small peninsula.

Its strategic importance was underestimated. The Western countries downplayed this situation. However, this was actually a sign of the invasion of Ukraine.” The current military and political path followed by Israel indicates future developments, a situation that must be recognized.

The Abraham Accords are a significant development for Israel. The agreement, signed with the UAE and Bahrain in 2020, was later expanded to include Morocco and Sudan within the same year. There were plans to extend it to other countries, such as Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, in subsequent stages. The Belt and Road Initiative was also discussed, and a perception of peace with Israel in the Middle East began to emerge. It could be said that this was part of Netanyahu’s effort to shape perceptions. Especially through the normalization and dialogue process with Muslim countries, Netanyahu aimed to create the impression that, “We may not have resolved the Palestinian problem, but our relations with Arab and Muslim countries are very good. Palestine is not a problem for the region. This is an internal issue for Israel.” However, this operation changed everything. Perhaps Hamas chose to sacrifice itself to declare that there is no peace in Palestine.

Recent events have intensified the division surrounding the Palestinian issue, both internationally and in public opinion. The majority of Western states actively support Israel, reducing the matter to the dimensions of a religious war. In contrast, most Islamic countries, including Türkiye, condemn Israel’s military attacks and view Hamas as a ‘resistance organization’ rather than a ‘terrorist organization.’ The Islamic world generally expresses its support for Palestine. In this context, it is emphasized that there is a necessity to establish a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders. However, the disagreements between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority, along with Hamas being the de facto ruler of Gaza and some of its policies, prevent the formation of political unity among Palestinians. The polarization experienced during the ceasefire request demonstrates each country’s stance. The parties in favor of or against the resolution proposal presented to the UN by Russia also indicate their stance.

Germany’s stance towards Israel poses an intriguing situation. While the EU previously adopted a more neutral and constructive approach, it now aligns more

closely with the USA. It is essential for Türkiye to take on a more proactive role in the UN and clearly express its pro-Palestine stance.

Regarding a guarantor mechanism, the USA, and the EU, as well as China, Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates may all seek a role. However, a guarantor mechanism with so many parties may not be effective. As a short-term solution, pressure could be applied in Israel to agree to a ceasefire. Although this may not be a viable solution, it could serve as a starting point for the process. Establishing a humanitarian corridor requires coordination between Israeli and Palestinian authorities. Local guarantors, such as officials who can ensure that aid will not go to Hamas could also play a role. If Jordan and Egypt refuse to open their borders, refugee camps could be established within Palestine for Palestinians. It is essential to recognize that aid alone cannot resolve the current issues, as negotiations have reached an impasse. To establish a humanitarian aid corridor by sea to Gaza is crucial.

International law allows assistance, including weapons, to those under occupation against the occupier. Muslim countries should show more courageous in providing this assistance. States, conscientious states, and those in Muslim world should treat Israel like North Korea. Imposing sanctions and terminating diplomatic relations are necessary measures. Hamas represents one of the last hopes for Palestinian resistance. Considering the helplessness and 'submission' of the Palestinian National Authority towards Israel, if Hamas is eliminated, there will be no effective Palestinian resistance. However, reaching an agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian National Authority is essential for the future of Palestine. On the other hand, such negotiations may increase Al-Qaeda-style radicalization in Palestine, and those who want to resist occupation may gravitate towards other groups, potentially perpetuating violence in the region.

1. Türkiye's Perspective

Due to the presence of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Palestine and the historical ties with the Palestinian geography and people, Türkiye has closely monitored the Israel issue for many years. The highly debated process that led to the formation of

Israel and subsequent developments in the region have been closely intertwined with Türkiye's recent history. Especially Al-Aqsa Mosque, Al-Quds, and Gaza have emerged as critical focal points in Israel-Türkiye relations in recent times. Israel's policy towards Gaza has had a negative impact on bilateral relations with Türkiye. Israel considers Gaza a problem and a security threat, and there are even considerations of turning the West Bank into a situation similar to Gaza. After the Gaza operation, there is a possibility that attention will shift to this region. Some experts claim that Israel-Türkiye relations have come to an end due to a mismatch in interests, while others argue that there is no continuity in the relationship. Therefore, diplomatic and trade relations need to be evaluated from a different perspective.

What are the Risks and Expectations for Türkiye in the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

Initially, Türkiye took a constructive approach, aiming to mediate and solve problems. However, due to Israel's brutality taking on a planned and deliberate state of 'genocide,' the situation has surpassed the roles Türkiye has undertaken. In this situation, Türkiye seems to continue prioritizing actions focused on civilians, ceasefires, and guarantees. Türkiye will likely persist in actively monitoring and intervening in events through diplomatic pressure on the international stage, initiatives within Islamic countries, adherence to international law, humanitarian aid, mediation, and other functions.

On the other hand, it can be claimed that recent circumstances have strengthened Türkiye's hand in achieving a diplomatic resolution to the crisis. More information about the effectiveness of this role will likely emerge at the International Conference scheduled for November 15, 2023.

Israel's digital diplomacy can serve as an example. A broader perspective can be presented by focusing on individuals rather than just numbers. Instead of mere numerical references, it is necessary to use names and photos. Israel, generally seen as a country that wins on the ground but faces judgment at the table, is actively engaged in digital diplomacy. In this regard, preserving the dignity of

those who lost their lives in Gaza and conducting efforts to humanize them rather than reducing them to numbers are crucial. A long-term study related to those who have lost their lives could be undertaken. In the event of a change in the international agenda in the coming months, this study will help maintain the dignity of Gazans.

Türkiye's stance towards Hamas is influenced by the dynamics of Israel-Türkiye relations. Israel has sought Türkiye to maintain distance from Hamas and attempted to marginalize the group. This policy may have pushed Hamas under the influence of Iran. Israel already had the aim of destroying Gaza, and Hamas became a factor in this process. Radicalization increased in Gaza, while Israel sought to justify sanctions against Palestinians. This policy compelled the people of Gaza to maintain ties with Hamas, leading to increased support for the organization. There is a consensus on the Palestinians' right to self-determination, the right to resist, and the necessity to respect their basic human rights. In the current situation, it is notable that Iran has not supported Hamas in the recent crisis and has distanced itself from the process. Therefore, discussing the relationship between Iran and Hamas after this period may not be entirely accurate.

2. China-India Perspective

What is the Role and Expectation of China in the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

When evaluating the China issue, it is crucial to focus on China's regional policies first. China started taking steps to increase its influence in the region after 2013. It aims to develop special relations with Islamic and Muslim countries, and in this context, it has established closer ties with Pakistan since 2017. These policies have elicited a response from the United States. The U.S. domestic politics appear quite complex, with measures similar to those imposed on North Korea being applied to Bangladesh, for example. It is observed that the U.S. has focused on the Indo-Pacific strategy since 2021. Relations with Russia are another focal point for the U.S. The U.S. has been showcasing its strength as a long-standing response. While China invests in different regions, it does not provide a sense of political and

military support alongside these investments. China's stance on this matter has become apparent in a highly diplomatic manner. Regarding the Israel-Palestine issue, China avoids using the name Hamas and expresses its position using extremely diplomatic language.

The Uighur issue is also on China's agenda, and therefore, China avoids taking an official stance on this matter. China perceives the India & the USA led India-Middle East-European Corridor (IMEC) project as a significant threat, viewing it as a reaction to the "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)". In this context, China has the ability to engage in trade in conflict and crisis-ridden areas, adopting an approach that turns crises into opportunities. China tends to make long-term plans and prefers long-term strategies over short-term goals. It is observed that China is not seeking short-term solutions to the Israel-Palestine issue and is unwilling to take responsibility. This situation may continue for an extended period, possibly around 50 years.

In the past, the Chinese public overwhelmingly supported Palestine, with support reaching around 90%. However, in contemporary times, this support has decreased to approximately 50%. The influence of social media has played a significant role in this shift. While support among Chinese leaders has declined, relations with Israel have also seriously weakened in recent years. This situation is related to the unconditional support the United States provides to Israel, further widening the gap between Israel and China.

What is the Role and Expectation of India in the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

There is a rapprochement in India-Israel relations, supported by the contributions from the United States to India. The India-Middle East-European Corridor (IMEC) project emerged as an alternative to the Belt and Road Initiative and has been a consistently debated topic. Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and later Cyprus were planned to be included in this development project, strengthening security relations between Israel and India. The Indian government has announced its complete support for Israel due to the Kashmir issue, which was not explicitly provided before. Additionally, India has sent aid to

Gaza, aiming to portray itself as a soft power. Moreover, India has weak relations with Western states, and its proximity to Israel is seen as an opening towards the West. It is anticipated that Israel-India relations will further develop and strengthen.

3. Russia's Perspective

What is the Role and Expectation of Russia in the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

Russia has indeed played an active role in the Palestinian issue, but this role is currently limited to rhetoric. Russia's approach so far has involved monitoring and reporting the situation in the region through pro-Palestinian statements. An irony worth mentioning is that a country involved in atrocities in Ukraine seeks to play a role in the Palestinian issue. Türkiye's mediation in Ukraine has positively influenced Russia-Türkiye relations. Regarding the Palestine-Israel issue, there is a possibility of the two states acting together.

4. Perspective of the United States and its Allies

What is the Role and Expectation of the United States and its Allies in the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

Since the ground operation began, there have been hesitations in carrying it out following the air strike. In Israel, the public has been mobilized for the past nine months; on January 3, judicial reform was initiated, causing divisions among the people. This division is also reflected in the army. Before the operation, there were issues with Western states, but the operation has completely changed these relations.

To prevent fractures within the army, mobilization has been declared, and gains have become crucial. Thus, the energy that the army would spend internally has been directed externally.

The reaction from the United States regarding the ground operation will be crucial. While the Pentagon wants the operation to continue, the State Department is in favor of halting the operation before further casualties occur.

5. Iran's Perspective

What is the Role and Expectation of Iran in the Israel-Palestine Conflict?

Iran has consistently taken a clear stance on the Palestine issue, completely rejecting the legitimacy of Israel and defining the Israeli government as an occupying force or regime in Palestinian territories. Iran has generally supported Palestinian resistance movements and continues to do so. Iran claims that its Middle East policy serves as a resistance strategy against the regional policies and expansion of the United States and Israel. Within this framework, Iran's relations with Hezbollah and Hamas, its support for the Assad regime in Syria, and its assistance to the Houthis in Yemen are all assessed.

Iran has historically supported the Palestinian cause, including the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). However, relations between Iran and the PLO have strained over time, particularly due to the PLO leadership's engagement with Israel and Iran's active support for Hamas. Iran provides significant support to Hamas, including monthly financial aid estimated between \$100 million to \$120 million. Iran also provides military training and assistance in developing technologies such as missiles, rockets, and drones for Hamas militants. Iran not only supports Hamas but also actively backs the Islamic Jihad and several other smaller militant groups.

While actively supporting Palestinian resistance, Iran is unlikely to directly attack Israel or U.S. targets to avoid expanding the war front. This is due to Iran's military limitations and the economic and political challenges it faces. Similarly, Israel and the U.S. are not eager to initiate attacks on Iran, as demonstrated by the increased American military presence in the Eastern Mediterranean aimed at deterring attacks that could escalate the conflict with Iran and its allies. The U.S. administration has explicitly warned Iran in this regard. However, this deterrent is not entirely effective in preventing occasional small-scale attacks by Iran-affiliated militia groups. In response, both the U.S. and Israel have occasionally conducted retaliatory or preemptive strikes against these militias and Iran's presence in Syria instead of directly targeting Iran's military objectives.

Iran's position is explicit, while other regional countries seem more cautious, apprehensive, and helpless regarding the Palestinian issue. Iran welcomes Hamas's training and arming, and other than Iran, no other country supports the resistance. The question of who will supply weapons is also crucial. Whether this situation works in favor of Hamas, serves as Iran's strategy to support the Palestinian cause, or contributes to further chaos in the region is yet to be determined.

Iran plays an influential role in supporting Palestine, increasing its political influence in the region, and undermining other peaceful solution proposals. It is stated that Iran is the sole supporter of Palestine in its armed struggle.

In the current situation, it is noteworthy that Iran did not support Hamas in the last period of the crisis and moved away from the process. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to talk about the relationship between Iran and Hamas at this point.

G. CONCLUSION

Israel has been committing genocide in Gaza since October 7, 2023, and is committing crimes against humanity. It is stated that the solution to the Israel problem can only be achieved through either a 'great war' or a 'great peace'. Israel's so-called rhetoric of the "Promised Land", fueled by religious references and constantly encouraged from education to the military field, makes the Israel issue not just a concern for Palestine, Al-Quds, or Gaza but also for a broader geography that includes Türkiye. In this sense, the Israel problem is a national security concern for Türkiye as well.

The Israel problem, especially concerning Palestine, is claimed to be permanently resolved only through a 'two-state' solution. Israel's disregard for UN Security Council Resolution 242, adopted in November 1967, is a significant barrier to progress. Full implementation of the relevant resolution requires Israel to withdraw to its pre-1967 war borders, cease annexation, ensure the territorial integrity of Palestine, and facilitate the return of Palestinians. On the other hand, the leaders of Muslim Eastern States should urge the Biden administration to reverse the decision to move the US Embassy in Israel from Jerusalem (Al-Quds), made during the Trump era, in a manner contrary to the status of Jerusalem (Al-Quds) accepted by the international community, and to move the Embassy back to Tel Aviv. The decision made during the Trump era is widely viewed as a clear violation of international decisions regarding the status of Jerusalem (Al-Quds) and Palestine, including UN Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 252 (1968), 267 (1969), 298 (1971), 338 (1973), 446 (1979), 465 (1980), 476 (1980), 478 (1980), 2334 (2016), and UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/72/15(2017).

International law was in favor of Palestine, and the moral superiority of Palestine has been recognized by the international community. However, it appears that this situation is beginning to shift. It is imperative that we prioritize peace processes. The disruption of peace processes is often attributed to the attitudes of Israeli and U.S. leaders. The Palestinian issue was critical during the Clinton era as well. Despite the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) recognizing Israel during this period, nothing was gained in return.

Peace does not seem to be on the horizon in the near future. An environment should be created in which the parties can engage in dialogue with each other. However, it is challenging to stop expansionist Israel and return the land it has seized. The problem has evolved beyond the issues of the 1990s; it now encompasses not only Al-Quds but also Israel's expansionist policies. Palestinians face security challenges in certain areas of the West Bank. The border has disappeared on the West Bank, and it is understood that it will not be negotiated, and a military solution is considered necessary for a resolution.

The view that the Palestinian issue should be resolved militarily and through armed struggle is countered by proposals for recognition through international law and diplomatic solutions. There are different opinions among the Palestinian National Authority, Hamas supporters, and other small groups.

At this juncture, it is challenging to assert that the actors in the Middle East have established red lines against Israel. In other words, there has not been a consensus that Israel would face retaliation if it were to cross those lines. Therefore, it is not expected that regional countries will engage more against Israel, which continues its operations in Gaza.

In addition to Western support, the most critical aspect of the Israel issue is Israel's nuclear weapons capability. This capability both makes the solution to the Israel problem impossible and strengthens Israel's irresponsible and expansionist ambitions in the region. Efforts should be made in international law and international organizations for this situation to safeguard the region's future. Israel's nuclear arsenal should be brought under control through international law.

The lack of political, economic, and military unity in the Islamic world has been a significant factor contributing to events in Palestine. It is unlikely that individual countries opposing Israel and Western powers in a coalition will have positive results. In this sense, the most important step to be taken is to establish political, economic, and security unity in the Islamic world through a balanced mix of soft, hard, and smart power.

Palestine shares maritime borders with Türkiye. To strengthen the international identity of Palestine, a maritime jurisdiction agreement similar to the one between Türkiye and Libya can be established with Palestine. This agreement would provide, Palestine with a legal document for the Gaza Strip, and grant Türkiye approximately 5000 square kilometers of sea area. In turn, Palestine would gain a sea area of 8510 square kilometers, which is much larger than its land area. Such an agreement would also benefit Türkiye by disrupting the Greek-Cypriot game in the Eastern Mediterranean.

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Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University
Institute for International Relations and Strategic Research (IIRSR-ULISA)

Address : Güvenevler Mah. Cinnah Cad. No: 16
Çankaya/ ANKARA

Phone : +90(312)906-1313

For questions and English translation suggestions please contact.

e-mail : ulisa@aybu.edu.tr

Web Page : www.aybu.edu.tr/yulisa

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