



STUDY GUIDE

EKMUN 2025

**EUROPEAN
COUNCIL**

Israel and Palestine War



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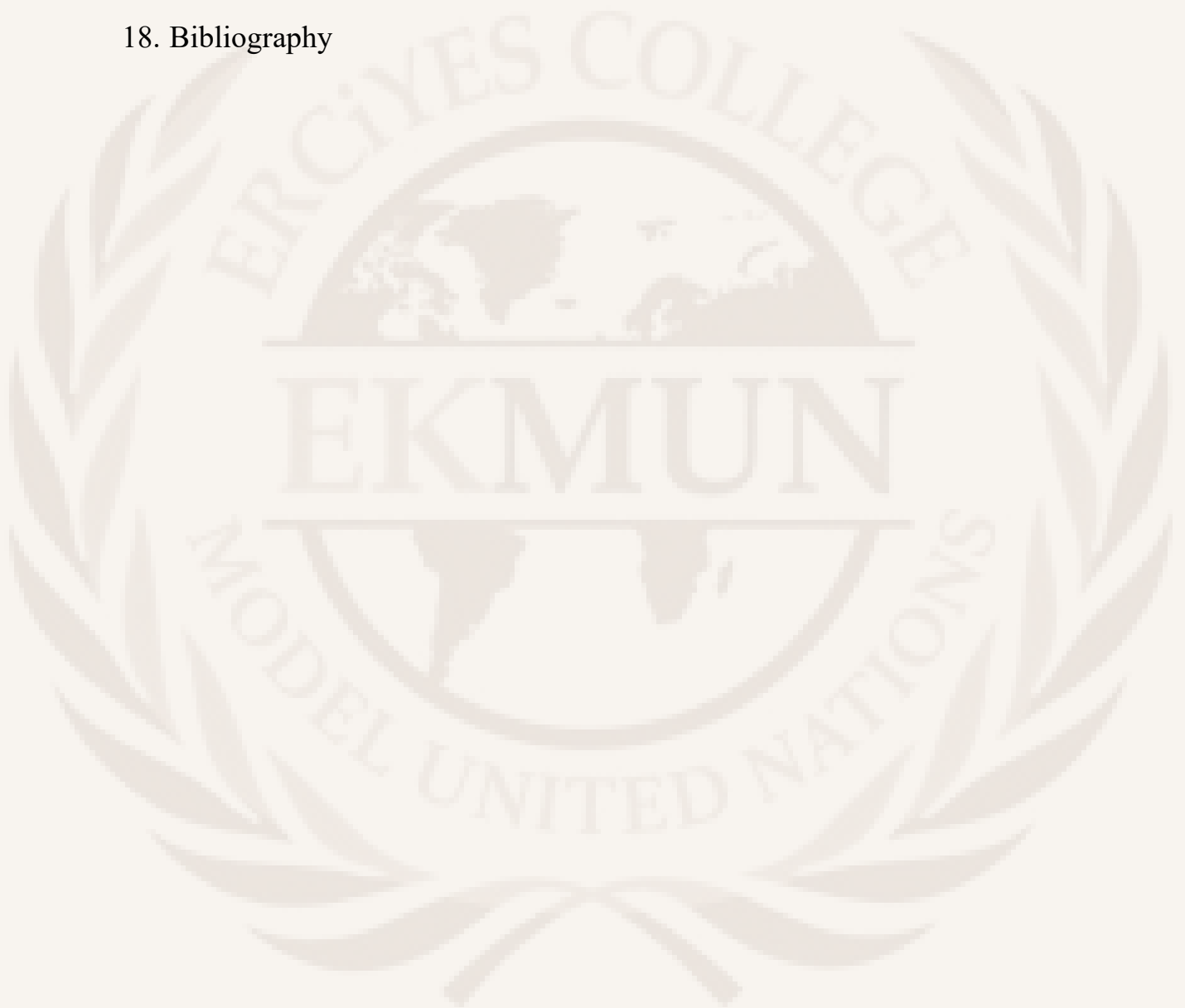
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Dear Delegates,

As the Secretary-General of EKMUN'2025, it is my greatest honor to welcome you to this year's conference. Soon, we will come together to engage in discussions that mirror the complexity and importance of real-world diplomacy. Each one of you brings a unique perspective, a distinct voice, and an ambition to create change and it is exactly this diversity that makes Model United Nations such a powerful experience.

Over the upcoming days, you will find yourself not only debating international matters but also stepping into the shoes of world leaders, policymakers, and diplomats. The preparation, dedication, and curiosity you bring to this conference will shape not just your experience, but the overall atmosphere of cooperation and respect that defines EKMUN'2025

Throughout this conference, you will not only have the opportunity to discuss global issues but also to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, and negotiation. Remember that Model United Nations is not just about reaching resolutions it is about understanding perspectives, fostering respect, and finding common ground among differences.

I strongly encourage each one of you to be bold, respectful, and solution-oriented during your sessions. Let this conference be a place where your voices are heard, and your ideas make an impact.

I wish you all productive debates and unforgettable memories.

Warm regards,

Ayliz Çolak

Secretary-General of EKMUN'2025

Letter from the Under Secretary General:

Dear Delegates,

My name is Kerem Ali NİŞANCI, I am 16 years old and a 10th grade student at Hidayet Aydoğan Social Sciences High School. This MUN will be my 13th MUN also. I am truly honored to serve as your Under-Secretary-General for this year's EKMUN25. It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to our committee, European Council.

Over the course of three days, we will work together to address one of the most complex and sensitive issues of our time, the impacts and results of the Israel-Palestine war. This agenda is not just a matter of international politics; it touches on humanitarian law, human rights, regional stability, and the values that define our shared humanity. As members of the European Council, you will be expected to think critically, negotiate responsibly, and propose realistic solutions that reflect both empathy and diplomatic balance.

The European Council has always been a platform where unity is tested by diversity, where 27 nations come together to act as one voice. In this committee, you will experience the true nature of multilateral diplomacy: compromise, collaboration, and leadership. I encourage each of you to research deeply, respect differing perspectives, and never hesitate to express your own stance with confidence and integrity.

We, as the Chairboard, are beyond excited to witness the engaging debates, creative resolutions, and meaningful discussions that will unfold during our sessions. Remember, diplomacy begins with understanding, and every word you speak here contributes to shaping a more peaceful world.

On behalf of the Secretariat, I warmly welcome you to the European Council and wish you all a fruitful and unforgettable MUN experience at EKMUN 25.

With my best regards,

Kerem Ali NİŞANCI

Under-Secretary-General of the European Council Committee

Letter from the President Chair:

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to start with expressing my gratitude for being on the Chairboard in this committee. I am Yakup Gümüřoluk, I will take a part as your President chair in our conference.

Our committee will entertain advanced delegates who are experienced in expressing their ideas and taking leadership roles. This committee will bring you to another level and provide you a more professional environment. I believe we are going to have a great, profitable and fun time together and find effective and comprehensive solutions upon the political matters of the modern world.

I trust your questioning and interpretation in terms of analyzing the condition of the recent world. I am excitedly expecting to meet soon.

With my best regards,

Yakup Gümüřoluk

President Chair of the European Council Committee

Letter from the Vice Chair:

Dear EKMUN25 European Council Committee Members,

I am Eyyüphan Çakal and I will be serving as the Vice Chair of the European Council Committee of EKMUN25. I am 15 years old and I am a 10th-grade student at Kilim Social Sciences High School. This will be my 7th MUN experience and I am so excited to meet you all!

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most complex and long-standing issues on the international agenda, with deep historical, political and humanitarian dimensions. The European Council emphasizes a two-state solution based on international law, UN resolutions and respect for human rights. Key concerns include the status of Jerusalem, settlement expansion, security, displacement of civilians and access to humanitarian aid, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank. The EU also supports diplomatic dialogue, economic assistance and confidence-building initiatives to promote de-escalation and revive peace negotiations between the parties. I am very sure that you all will be effective during the conference and you all will find sustainable solutions for this.

I am really excited to be a part of this MUN and I am looking forward to seeing you all.

Take care,

Eyyüphan Çakal

Vice Chair of the European Council Committee

3. Introduction of the Committee:

Introducing the European Council Committee:

The European Council is one of the most important institutions of the European Union. It brings together the heads of state or government of the member states, the President of the European Council, and the President of the European Commission. The Council determines the general political direction and priorities of the European Union; that is, it acts not as a legislative body, but as the highest-level political platform where strategic decisions are made.

The European Council plays a critical role in shaping the European Union's common stance, particularly in the areas of foreign policy and security. During global crises and regional conflicts, it emerges as the main platform where European leaders coordinate their diplomatic, humanitarian, and political responses.

In this committee, delegates will participate in discussions reflecting the policies of the European Union member states they represent and will strive to develop a common European approach. The Israeli Palestinian conflict is an important test for the European Union's foreign policy, as it requires balancing humanitarian values with security concerns and regional diplomatic relations.

The aim of this simulation is to produce realistic and feasible political solutions that reflect European values through negotiation and cooperation. Delegates will aim to contribute to peace and stability by establishing a common position on the Israeli Palestinian conflict under the umbrella of the European Council.

4. Introduction of the Agenda Item:

Introduction of Agenda Item:

The European Council is one of the most important institutions shaping the European Union's common response to international conflicts and humanitarian crises. As the EU's highest political body, it brings together the leaders of member states; it sets strategies, identifies priorities, and shapes the Union's overall stance on global issues.

The ongoing Israeli Palestinian war has had human, political, and economic impacts that deeply affect not only the Middle East but the entire global community. The conflict has challenged global peace efforts, placed diplomatic relations under tension, and tested the international system's response to situations of extended violence. At the same time, Jerusalem, the main center of the war, plays a significant role in causing the war to last for many years and its effects to increase greatly, as it is of great importance to both sides' religions, Islam and Judaism.

For the European Council, addressing the effects and impacts of this war is of great importance. The European Union has long been an active defender of a two-state solution and has worked towards achieving peace in the region.

However, recent tensions have sparked new debates on how the EU should balance its international responsibilities, security concerns, and economic ties in the region.

5. History of Tension Between Countries:

The Israel–Palestine conflict has deep historical roots, extending back to the early 20th century. Its origins lie in competing national movements — Jewish Zionism and Palestinian Arab nationalism — both of which sought sovereignty over the same land.

In the late 19th century, waves of Jewish migration to Palestine began under the influence of the Zionist movement, which aimed to establish a national homeland for the Jewish people. At that time, the region was under Ottoman rule and later became a British Mandate territory after World War I. Growing tensions between Jewish and Arab communities over land ownership, immigration, and political control eventually led to violent clashes.

After the Holocaust and World War II, global support for the creation of a Jewish state increased. In 1947, the United Nations Partition Plan proposed dividing the territory into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem placed under international administration. The Jewish leadership accepted the plan, while Arab leaders rejected it, arguing that it violated the rights of the indigenous Arab population.

Following Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, several Arab nations invaded the new state, leading to the Arab Israeli War of 1948. The war resulted in Israel's victory and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, an event Palestinians refer to as the Nakba ("catastrophe"). Since then, the region has experienced multiple wars — in 1967, 1973, and beyond — as well as recurring outbreaks of violence, settlement expansion, and political fragmentation.

The Six-Day War, fought between June 5 and June 10, 1967, was a major turning point in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the broader Middle East. The war broke out between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, mainly Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, following months of growing regional tension, military mobilization, and border clashes.

The most recent escalation, beginning in October 2023, marked one of the deadliest phases in decades. It reignited global debate over humanitarian law,

the future of Gaza, and the long-term prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

On the morning of October 7, 2023, the military wing of Hamas, the Al-Qassam Brigades, targeted the Supernova Music Festival near Re'im. The attackers entered the festival grounds using motorized parachutes and pickup trucks, opening fire on the crowd with automatic rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. The incident resulted in 378 people being killed and 44 being taken hostage.

Some victims were subjected to sexual and gender-based violence.

Approximately 20 of the attackers were killed by Israeli security forces.

This attack is seen not only as an attack on civilians in Israel, but also as an attack on cultural and human values. The festival was an event where young people gathered in a peaceful environment, and this type of attack targeted social bonds and cultural expression.

6. Who is Hamas?

Hamas (Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya) is a political and armed organization founded in Palestine in 1987. Initially, it emerged as a group aiming to organize resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Political Role: Hamas is a political force that holds power, particularly in the Gaza Strip. It won the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections and formed a government in Gaza.

Military Wing: Hamas' military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, carries out armed resistance actions against Israel. These activities have been classified as terrorist acts by some countries and international organizations.

Ideology: Hamas advocates for the establishment of an independent state on Palestinian territory and aims to promote Islamic values in social and political life.

7. Military Strength Comparison Between Israel and Palestine:

The Israel-Palestine conflict escalated again on October 7, 2023, with Hamas attacks on Israel, continuing for over a year and resulting in serious humanitarian and political consequences. As of October 10, 2025, a temporary ceasefire has been implemented; this ceasefire is seen as the first step toward a broader peace plan approved by the UN Security Council. Under the ceasefire, Hamas will release 20 Israeli hostages, in exchange for the release of approximately 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, Israeli forces will gradually withdraw from Gaza, and 600 trucks of humanitarian aid (food, medicine, and basic necessities) will be delivered daily; however, aid organizations say this amount is insufficient.

As a result of the conflict, approximately 90% of Gaza's infrastructure has been damaged. Thousands of civilians have lost their lives and many have been forced to leave their homes; their return is fraught with difficulties. The international community continues to call for journalists and humanitarian aid organizations to be granted access to the region.

International reactions have also been significant. The UN General Assembly, in its New York Declaration adopted on September 12, 2025, supported a two-state solution and called for a permanent ceasefire. The European Union welcomed the ceasefire and stated that it was ready to contribute to lasting peace. At the same time, public reactions such as the “Red Line” demonstrations held in the Netherlands have raised global concerns about the safety of civilians and military operations in Gaza.

8. Concerns on War Morality

Concerns Regarding Israel's Policies: Perspectives from International Organizations

International human rights organizations have raised significant concerns regarding Israel's military operations and policies during the recent conflicts in Gaza. Reports indicate that serious violations of international humanitarian law may have occurred, including actions that have endangered civilians, restricted humanitarian aid, and damaged critical infrastructure such as hospitals and utilities.

1. Forced Displacement and Civilian Evacuation

Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that since October 2023, large-scale displacement of civilians has taken place in Gaza. The organization stated that these evacuations were conducted under conditions that posed serious risks to civilian safety and could constitute violations of international law. HRW also emphasized that these movements were not always justified by clear military necessity and often resulted in widespread humanitarian suffering.

2. Restrictions on Essential Services

According to HRW, the deliberate restriction of basic services such as water, electricity, and fuel has led to severe humanitarian consequences. The organization noted that these measures have disproportionately affected the civilian population and may amount to collective punishment, which is prohibited under international law.

3. Damage to Healthcare Facilities and Access to Medical Services

Human Rights Watch documented incidents where hospitals and medical centers in Gaza were damaged or rendered non-operational. The organization expressed concern that medical staff and patients were deprived of essential supplies such as electricity, water, medicine, and food. It further noted reports of evacuations carried out under dangerous conditions, raising serious humanitarian and legal concerns.

4. Obstruction of Humanitarian Aid and Civilian Casualties

HRW also reported incidents in which civilians gathering for humanitarian aid distribution came under fire, resulting in significant loss of life. Between May 2025 and July 2025, at least 859 Palestinian civilians were reportedly killed in such events. The organization stated that these incidents underline the urgent need for greater protection of civilians and unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance.

9. Resource and Food Insufficiency in the Region and Impacts

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank, has led to a severe shortage of basic resources. Essential needs such as food, clean water, electricity, and medical supplies have become inaccessible due to war, blockade, and infrastructure destruction.

Food and water shortages are among the most serious problems. Many families have become highly dependent on limited humanitarian aid, and according to UN reports, tens of thousands of people face food insecurity. The rates of nutritional insecurity are increasing, particularly among children. Water supply is also a major problem; due to the blockade and infrastructure damage, access to clean and sufficient water is not possible in many areas.

Health and hygiene conditions are also negatively affected by this situation. Hospitals and clinics are experiencing medical supply and drug shortages. Lack of clean water and poor hygiene conditions are causing the spread of infectious diseases, worsening the humanitarian crisis.

The economic impact is also severe. Agriculture and local businesses have been badly damaged as farmland, markets, and supply channels have been destroyed. High unemployment and loss of income are increasing food insecurity and poverty, seriously affecting the daily lives of civilians.

10. About Sumud Fleet

The Sumud Fleet is an international civil movement launched in 2025 to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza and break Israel's sea blockade. This fleet, consisting of more than 50 ships with the support of thousands of participants from over 44 countries, has become one of the largest civilian-led sea convoys in history.

The fleet was organized by organizations such as the Freedom Flotilla Coalition, the Global Movement, and the Maghreb Sumud Fleet. Participants included artists, politicians, journalists, doctors, and activists. The fleet aimed not only to transport humanitarian aid but also to send a powerful message of solidarity symbolizing international support for the Palestinian people.

The Sumud Fleet set sail for Gaza with 41 ships on September 29-30, 2025. However, the Israeli navy intervened and seized the fleet's ships along with the activists on board.

One ship managed to enter Gaza's territorial waters but was seized before reaching the Gaza coast. Two legal ships changed course to Cyprus. As a result, all activists were illegally detained by Israeli soldiers, and legal proceedings are ongoing.

The Sumud Fleet not only transported humanitarian aid, but also aimed to send a powerful message of support symbolizing international solidarity with the

Palestinian people. This civilian initiative to break Israel's naval blockade is seen as a response to violations of international law and human rights abuses. The fleet demonstrates that the Palestinian people are not alone and that the people of conscience around the world stand in solidarity with them.

11. Public Reaction to the Attacks and Actions

The Israel-Palestine war has caused a huge stir around the world and sparked widespread public reaction. In particular, civilian deaths in Gaza, the destruction of infrastructure, and the obstruction of humanitarian aid have led to protests in many countries. Millions of people from Europe to Asia, and from America to the Middle East, have taken to the streets demanding an end to the war and the protection of civilians.

International actors such as the United Nations, the European Union, and Turkey have repeatedly called on the parties to cease fire and emphasized the need for humanitarian aid to reach the region safely.

Human rights organizations have described Israel's bombardments and blockade as violations of international law.

There has also been widespread reaction on social media, with “Free Palestine” campaigns shared by millions of people around the world. In response, some Western states have continued to defend Israel's “right to self-defense.”

However, a large part of the global public has voiced that the war has had devastating consequences for humanity and that lasting peace must be achieved.

12. Emerging Waves of Migration

The Israel-Palestine war has caused one of the most serious migration and refugee crises in the region. Due to ongoing conflicts, bombings, and blockades, hundreds of thousands of civilians have been forced to leave their homes. As a

result of the intense attacks, particularly in Gaza, many families have left their homes to seek refuge in safer areas, but often these areas lack adequate shelter, water, and food.

According to United Nations data, millions of Palestinians have been displaced since the war began. Some have taken refuge in temporary camps within Gaza, while others have attempted to cross into neighboring countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. This situation has further increased the already existing economic and social burden on the countries in the region.

The ongoing conflict has profoundly affected people not only physically but also psychologically. Children have been deprived of education, families have been torn apart, and access to healthcare has become nearly impossible.

Although the international community has responded to this crisis by sending humanitarian aid and attempting to meet the basic needs of refugees, it is noted that this aid is often insufficient due to the lack of security and political obstacles in the region.

Therefore, the issue of migration and refugees has become not only a consequence of war but also one of the greatest humanitarian and political obstacles to long-term peace in the region.

13. Decisions Taken by the European Council on Israel and Palestine

The Council of Europe and the European Union have made numerous statements and taken decisions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In particular, in response to the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, the EU immediately called for a ceasefire and emphasized the need to protect the civilian population. The Council of Europe stated that Israel must comply with

international law and human rights, obligations and demanded unimpeded access for humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The EU has also condemned settlement expansion and settler violence in the West Bank, stating that such activities undermine the peace process. In 2025, the European Commission proposed suspending certain trade agreements with Israel and imposing sanctions on individuals and groups involved in human rights violations.

Overall, the European Council maintains that a two-state solution remains the most realistic and lasting path to peace in the region, consistently calling for the parties to act in accordance with international law and for the protection of civilians.

14. The General Outcome as a Result of the War

The Israel-Palestine conflict escalated again on October 7, 2023, with Hamas attacks on Israel, continuing for over a year and resulting in serious humanitarian and political consequences. As of October 10, 2025, a temporary ceasefire has been implemented; this ceasefire is seen as the first step toward a broader peace plan approved by the UN Security Council. Under the ceasefire, Hamas will release 20 Israeli hostages, in exchange for the release of approximately 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, Israeli forces will gradually withdraw from Gaza, and 600 trucks of humanitarian aid (food, medicine, and basic necessities) will be delivered daily; however, aid organizations say this amount is insufficient.

As a result of the conflict, approximately 90% of Gaza's infrastructure has been damaged. Thousands of civilians have lost their lives and many have been forced to leave their homes; their return is fraught with difficulties. The international community continues to call for journalists and humanitarian aid organizations to be granted access to the region.

International reactions have also been significant. The UN General Assembly, in its New York Declaration adopted on September 12, 2025, supported a two-state solution and called for a permanent ceasefire.

The European Union welcomed the ceasefire and stated that it was ready to contribute to lasting peace. At the same time, public reactions such as the “Red Line” demonstrations held in the Netherlands have raised global concerns about the safety of civilians and military operations in Gaza.

15.Key Questions

1. How should the European Council maintain neutrality while promoting peace in the Isreal-Palestine conflict?
2. How can European nations present a unifief stance regarding Isreal’s blockade and the humanatarian crisis in Palestine?
3. How should International actors support and protect civilian initiatives such as the Sumud Fleet?
4. How should the EU coordinate a common migration policiy in response to new refugee waves caused by the conflict?
5. What diplomatic or legal measures should be taken against parties obstructing humanatarian aid access?
6. How civilian casualties and infrastructure destruction in Gaza be adressed under international law?

16.Key Terms

1. Two-State Solution: A proposed resolution envisioning independent states of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.
2. Ceasefire: A temporary or permanent suspension of hostilities between conflicting parties.
3. Humanitarian Aid: Assistance provided to civilians in conflict zones, including food, water, medicine, and other essential supplies.
4. Forced Displacement: The involuntary movement of civilians due to war, occupation, or threats to their safety.
5. Collective Punishment: The imposition of penalties on an entire group for the actions of a few individuals, prohibited under international law.
6. Sumud Fleet: An international civil initiative launched in 2025 to break the Israeli naval blockade and deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza.
7. Nakba: The Arabic term meaning “catastrophe,” referring to the mass displacement of Palestinians during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.
8. Hamas: A Palestinian political and militant organization founded in 1987, governing the Gaza Strip; classified as a terrorist organization by some states.

9. Blockade: The military or economic restriction of movement of goods, people, and aid into or out of a specific region.

17. Countries Playing Critical Roles

France

France strongly supports a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders, recognizing Jerusalem as the shared capital of both Israel and Palestine. The French government has repeatedly called for an immediate ceasefire and full humanitarian access to Gaza. France condemns attacks on civilians from both sides and insists on accountability for violations of international humanitarian law. Paris also advocates for an independent international investigation into alleged war crimes.

Germany

Germany reaffirms Israel's right to self-defense but simultaneously urges protection of civilians and adherence to international law. Berlin supports UN-backed peace negotiations and stresses the importance of humanitarian corridors to ensure aid delivery. While maintaining strong ties with Israel, Germany has also expressed concern about settlement expansion and civilian casualties in Gaza, emphasizing the need for a lasting political solution.

Spain

Spain has been one of the most vocal EU members supporting the recognition of the State of Palestine. Madrid condemns Israel's blockade on Gaza and calls for an end to collective punishment and indiscriminate attacks on civilians. Spain supports EU-level sanctions against those responsible for human rights violations and insists that peace can only be achieved through diplomacy and mutual recognition.

Italy

Italy takes a balanced and pragmatic approach, recognizing Israel's security concerns while prioritizing humanitarian assistance and regional stability. Rome calls for both sides to return to the negotiation table under UN supervision and supports the creation of safe humanitarian corridors. Italy also emphasizes cooperation within the Mediterranean region to manage migration and reconstruction efforts following the war.

Netherlands

The Netherlands focuses on human rights, accountability, and rule of law. The Dutch government condemns Hamas attacks but has also criticized Israel's disproportionate use of force in Gaza. It supports independent UN investigations into civilian casualties and advocates for greater EU involvement in aid delivery and post-war reconstruction. The Netherlands highlights that sustainable peace can only be achieved through respect for human dignity and international law.

Overall EU Position

The European Council collectively upholds the two-state solution as the foundation for lasting peace. It calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, respect for humanitarian law, and unrestricted aid access to Gaza. While member states differ in emphasis—some leaning toward Israel's security, others toward Palestinian humanitarian protection—the EU seeks a unified, balanced, and lawful diplomatic approach to the conflicts.

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