

CBS AON 2025

UNSC



United Nations Security Council

STUDY GUIDE

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RENASCENTIA DE LEGATUM

Letter from the Executive Board:

Dear Delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you all as the Executive Board to the United Nations Security Council. Model UN is all about leadership, communicating with simplicity, clarity, purpose as well as impact. For the committee session to be a fruitful experience, we request the delegates to be participative and active during the committee. Please note that this background guide is to be used as a direction for your research. You are expected to do your own research as well. Your real research lies beyond this guide and we are eager to see all of you discussing possible solutions together, applying your extensive research and great knowledge of the topics discussed in this committee.

Understanding both the importance and complexity of this agenda, we strongly recommend you to be prepared and well researched in committee and at the same time request for your participation at all times, making it a learning experience for all of us. We strongly hope that you all will come prepared and motivated to discuss the situation at hand, brainstorm together to find solutions of the same, applying legal frameworks and in the process, take back a lot from the committee.

Our goal for you in this committee is to have an enriching experience by learning the art of diplomacy and at the same time see you solve real-life problems happening in this world. We look forward to seeing you all in action. All the best for the conference!

Regards,

SOUMYAJYOTI SARKAR(CHAIRPERSON)

NEIL JOSEPH CHAKRABORTY (VICE-CHAIRPERSON)

ARMAN ALI SARDAR (DIRECTOR)

SAMYANTAK BHATTACHARYYA (RAPPORTEUR)

Topic Area Summary

THE BALFOUR DECLARATION

The Balfour Declaration of 1917 was a pivotal moment in Middle Eastern history. Issued as a letter from British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lord Rothschild, a leader of the British Jewish community, it stated that the British government supported “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”.

Following the declaration and under the British Mandate (1919–1948), waves of Jewish immigration to Palestine increased, known as Aliyah. These immigrants, many fleeing persecution in Europe, established new communities and economic enterprises. The Jewish population in Palestine grew rapidly, from about 90,000 after the Third Aliyah (1919–1923) to even higher numbers with subsequent waves.

For Jews, the declaration marked a significant step toward the realization of their national aspirations. For Palestinians and other Arab inhabitants, however, it was the beginning of displacement and a struggle for self determination, as the declaration did not guarantee their political rights or national status.

THE 1947 UN PARTITION PLAN

By the end of World War II, the situation had become untenable. The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) proposed a partition plan in 1947 to resolve the competing nationalist claims. The plan, adopted as UN General Assembly Resolution 181, recommended dividing Palestine into independent Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. The Jewish state was allocated about 56% of the territory, the Arab state about 43%, and Jerusalem the remainder.

Jewish leaders accepted the plan, Arab leaders and the Palestinian Arab community rejected it outright, arguing it violated their right to self determination, especially since they formed a majority and owned most of the land.

This rejection led to the first Arab-Israeli war and the mass displacement of Palestinians after the declaration of the State of Israel in 1948.

Topic Area Summary

1948 ARAB ISRAELI WAR

By early 1948, Arab Liberation Army regiments and local Palestinian forces, such as those led by Abd al-Qadir al-Husayni, consolidated their presence in key regions like Galilee and Samaria, and organized blockades—most notably of the Jewish population in Jerusalem. Jewish forces, primarily the Haganah, faced severe challenges in maintaining supply lines and defending isolated settlements. However, under David Ben-Gurion's leadership, the Jewish community reorganized its forces, implemented conscription, and secured critical arms shipments from abroad, which proved decisive as the conflict intensified.

On May 14, 1948, David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel. The next day, armies from Egypt, Transjordan (Jordan), Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq invaded the newly declared state, marking the beginning of the first Arab-Israeli war. The initial Arab offensives made some gains, but Israeli forces soon counterattacked, pushing back the invading armies and expanding their control beyond the areas allocated to the Jewish state under the UN plan.

By the end of the war in 1949, Israel had expanded its territory to control about 77% of the former Mandated Palestine, significantly more than the UN partition had allotted. Jordan occupied the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and Egypt took control of the Gaza Strip. The 1949 Armistice Agreements formalized these new boundaries, but left no independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian Intifadas

The First Intifada (1987–1993) was a spontaneous, grassroots Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It erupted in December 1987 after an Israeli vehicle struck and killed four Palestinians in Gaza, an incident widely perceived as the culmination of mounting frustrations over intensified Israeli land expropriation, settlement construction, economic hardship, and political repression. The uprising was not orchestrated by the exiled PLO but was instead led by local Palestinian organizations and committees, quickly drawing in broad segments of the population, including youth and women. Initially, the Intifada was characterized by widespread civil disobedience—mass protests, general strikes, boycotts of Israeli products, refusal to pay taxes, and the creation of underground schools—as well as confrontations involving stone-throwing and Molotov cocktails. As Israeli reprisals grew harsher, with mass arrests, curfews, and the use of live ammunition, the resistance became more violent, including the use of firearms and explosives.

Topic Area Summary

The movement drew significant international attention to the Palestinian cause, highlighting the harsh realities of occupation and leading to a shift in the political landscape. By the time the uprising subsided, nearly 2,000 people had been killed, with a ratio of about three Palestinians for every Israeli. The First Intifada ultimately paved the way for peace negotiations, culminating in the Madrid Conference and the Oslo Accords, which established a framework for limited Palestinian self-rule.

The Second Intifada (2000–2005), also known as the al-Aqsa Intifada, broke out in September 2000 following the collapse of peace talks and Ariel Sharon's visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem, which was seen as a provocation by many Palestinians. This uprising was markedly more violent than the first, with frequent suicide bombings, shootings, and attacks against Israeli civilians and soldiers. In response, Israel launched large-scale military operations, including incursions into Palestinian cities, targeted assassinations, and the destruction of infrastructure. The Second Intifada resulted in thousands of deaths on both sides and a deepening of mistrust, leading to further separation between Israeli and Palestinian communities and the construction of the Israeli West Bank barrier.

There were other wars such as the Suez Crisis, Six-Day War, The Yom Kippur War, The Lebanon War which increased the rift between the Arabs and the Israelis even further.

RENASCENTIA DE LEGATUM

Hamas' Rise To Power In Gaza

Hamas, an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya ("Islamic Resistance Movement"), was founded in Gaza in 1987 during the First Intifada as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood, which had been active in the region since the 1950s. Initially, Hamas gained influence through a network of mosques and charitable organizations, positioning itself as both a religious and nationalist movement opposed to Israeli occupation.

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Hamas conducted numerous attacks, including suicide bombings, against Israeli targets, especially as it rejected the Oslo Accords and the peace process led by the PLO. The group was designated a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, and the European Union. Despite this, Hamas built a strong base of support among Palestinians, particularly in Gaza, due to its reputation for social welfare and resistance, as well as growing dissatisfaction with Fatah, which many viewed as corrupt and ineffective.

In June 2007, after a week of intense fighting, Hamas forcibly took control of the Gaza Strip, ousting Fatah and establishing itself as the de facto authority there. President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed the Hamas-led government and outlawed the Hamas militia, but Hamas maintained control of Gaza while Fatah retained power in the West Bank.

Hamas has since governed Gaza with an authoritarian approach, establishing its own judiciary and security apparatus, while facing criticism for human rights abuses, lack of transparency, and repression of dissent. The blockade, repeated conflicts with Israel, and internal repression have led to severe humanitarian crises in Gaza.

Since then, there have been many conflicts and military operations conducted by both Hamas and the State of Israel. These are a few important operations listed below: -

Operation Cast Lead (2008)

Operation Pillar of Defence (2012)

Operation Protective Edge (2014)

Operation Guardian of the Walls (2021)

About UNSC

The United Nations Security Council – United Nations (UNSC-UN) is an international organization dedicated to fostering global peace and security through collaboration, inclusivity, and reform. Founded on the principles of being For the People, To the People, and By the People, our organization seeks to empower individuals and nations to work together toward a more peaceful and secure world.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established on October 24, 1945, as an intergovernmental body tasked with maintaining international peace and security. Formed in the aftermath of World War II, the UNSC was envisioned as a platform for diplomatic dialogue and conflict resolution among nations.

Originally comprising 51 member states, the United Nations has since grown to include 193 member countries, each contributing to the organization's mission of promoting global stability and cooperation.

Despite its noble intentions, the UNSC faces significant challenges in fulfilling its mandate. The concentration of power among the five permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—has led to a lack of representation and voice for majority of member states. These five countries possess veto power, enabling them to unilaterally block resolutions and actions, often at the expense of broader international interests.

Moreover, the UNSC has struggled to effectively address ongoing conflicts, wars, and acts of terrorism that continue to threaten global peace. From regional disputes to international terrorism, the council's efforts have often fallen short in preventing and resolving crises.

It is for the Security Council to determine when and where a UN peace operation should be deployed.

RENASCENTIA DE LEGATUM

About UNSC

The Security Council responds to crises around the world on a case-by-case basis and it has a range of options at its disposal. It takes many different factors into account when considering the establishment of new peace operation, including:

1. Whether there is a ceasefire in place and the parties have committed themselves to a peace process intended to reach a political settlement;
2. Whether a clear political goal exists and whether it can be reflected in the mandate;
3. Whether a precise mandate for a UN operation can be formulated;
4. Whether the safety and security of UN personnel can be reasonably ensured, including if reasonable guarantees can be obtained from the main parties or factions regarding the safety and security of UN personnel.

The Security Council establishes a peace resolution by adopting a Security Council resolution. The resolution sets out that mission's mandate and size.

The Security Council monitors the work of UN peace operations on an ongoing basis, including through periodic reports from the Secretary-General and by holding dedicated Security Council sessions to discuss the work of specific operations.

The Security Council can vote to extend or amend or end mission mandates as it deems appropriate.

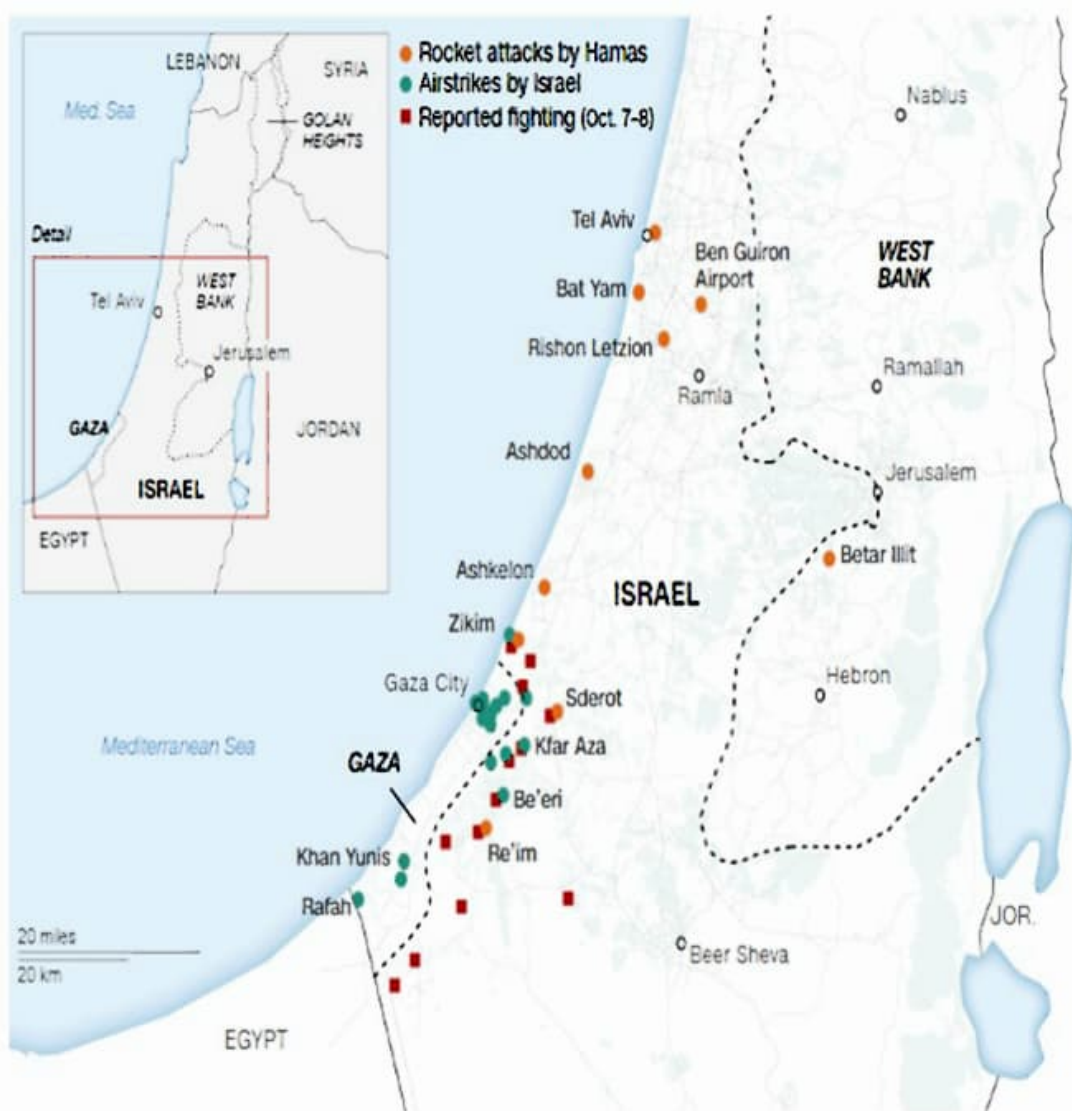
Under Article 25 of the Charter, all UN members agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the UN make recommendations to Member States, the Council alone has the power to take decisions which Member States are obligated to implement.

RENASCENTIA DE LEGATUM

Relevance Of The Freeze Date

Locations of Hamas attacks and Israeli strikes

Israel is pounding densely-packed Gaza with airstrikes and militant group Hamas has launched barrage after barrage of rockets toward Israeli cities, following the militant group's unprecedented weekend assault.



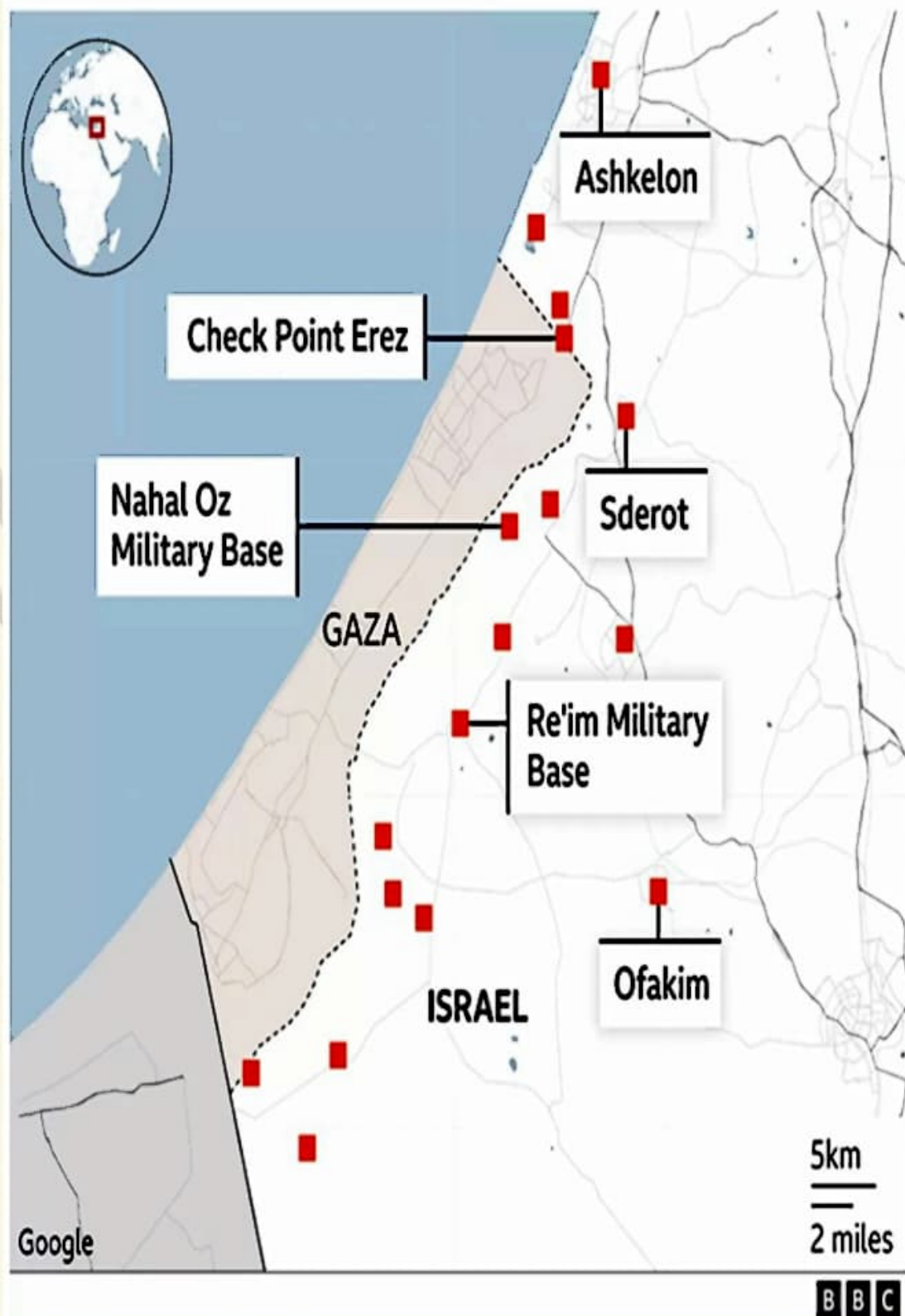
Data as of Oct. 11, 2023 at 1:45 a.m. ET.

Sources: Israel Defense Forces, Hamas, CNN reporting

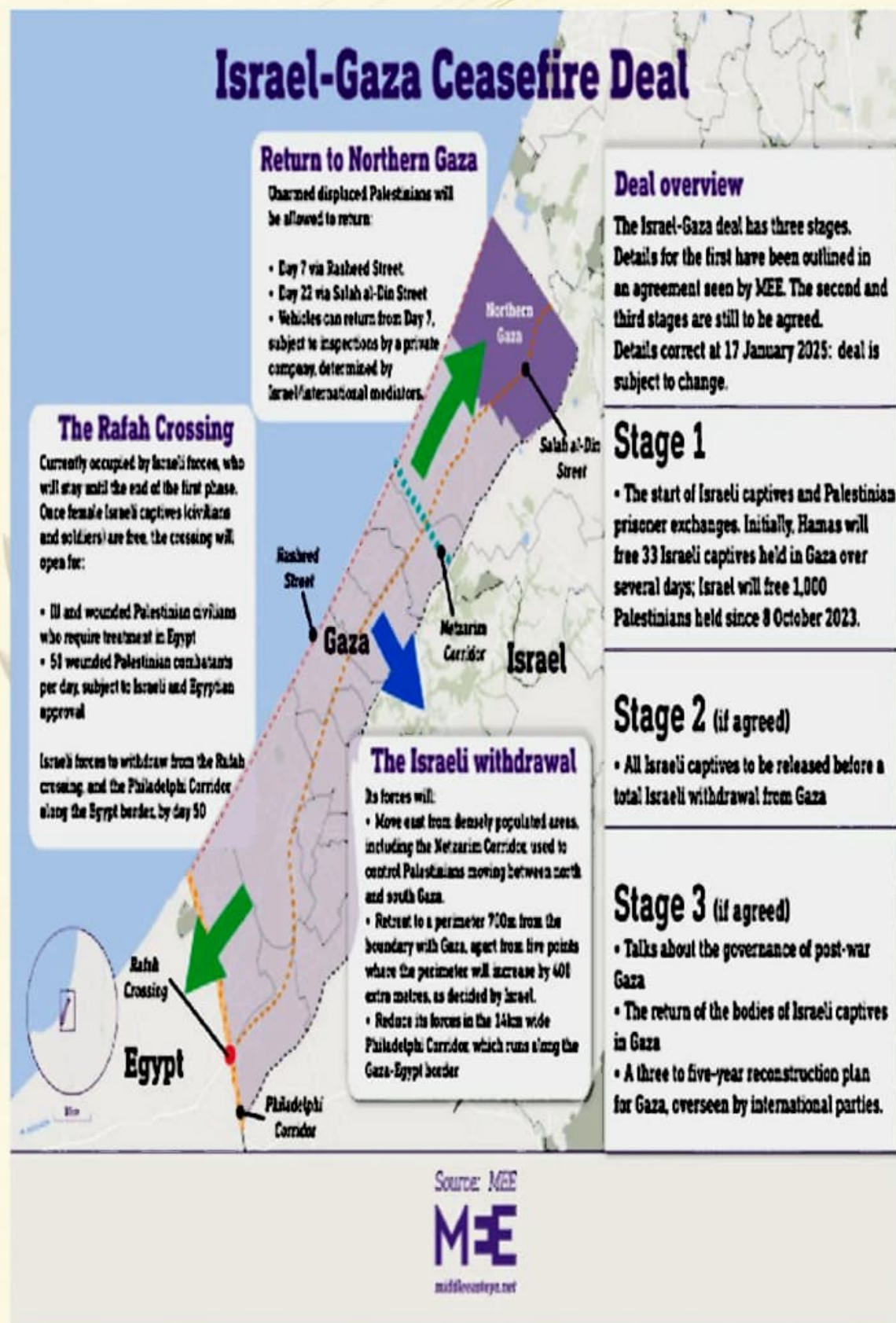
Graphic: Lou Robinson, Rosa de Acosta and Renée Rigdon, CNN

Relevance Of The Freeze Date

Palestinian infiltrations near the Gaza strip



Relevance Of The Freeze Date



Timeline Of Events

October 2023

1. **October 7:** Hamas launches a large-scale attack on southern Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking around 250 hostages. Israel declares war, begins airstrikes, and imposes a total blockade on Gaza.
2. **October 9:** Complete blockade of food, water, electricity, and fuel to Gaza.
3. **October 12–13:** Israel orders 1.1 million Palestinians to evacuate northern Gaza; mass displacement begins.
4. **October 21:** First humanitarian aid trucks allowed into Gaza, but at levels far below what is needed.
5. **October 27:** Israel launches a ground invasion of Gaza and disrupts telecommunications for 36 hours.

November 2023

1. **Early November:** Israeli ground operations intensify; heavy bombardment across Gaza.
2. **November 15:** Israeli troops enter al-Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, after a siege.
3. **November 21:** First four-day ceasefire agreed, allowing limited hostage prisoner exchanges and some humanitarian aid.
4. **Late November:** Ceasefire ends; Israel resumes military operations.

December 2023

1. **Throughout December:** Intense fighting resumes; Israeli forces advance deeper into Gaza, especially Khan Younis and southern areas.
2. **Humanitarian crisis worsens:** Widespread displacement and infrastructure collapse.
3. **Hostage negotiations:** Ongoing but limited progress.

January 2024

1. **Continued fighting:** Israeli operations focus on southern Gaza and remaining Hamas strongholds.
2. **Civilian casualties and displacement:** Numbers continue to rise; 90% of Gaza's population displaced by early 2024.
3. **Regional escalation:** Clashes with Hezbollah on Israel-Lebanon border persist.

Timeline Of Events

February 2024

1. **Israeli operations:** Ongoing in central and southern Gaza.
2. **International pressure:** Calls for ceasefire and increased humanitarian aid intensify.

March 2024

1. **Fighting continues:** Israeli forces maintain pressure on remaining Hamas positions.
2. **Humanitarian access:** Still severely restricted; aid agencies warn of famine risk.

April 2024

1. **Major offensives:** Israel launches operations in Rafah, targeting Hamas leadership and infrastructure.
2. **Casualties:** Palestinian death toll surpasses 30,000 (as reported by Gaza Health Ministry).

May 2024

1. **US involvement:** President Biden announces Israel's acceptance of a ceasefire proposal, but Netanyahu rejects it and operations continue.
2. **Hezbollah conflict:** Israel escalates operations in southern Lebanon; regional tensions rise.

June–July 2024

1. **Rafah offensive:** Israeli ground operations in Rafah intensify, causing further mass displacement.
2. **Key Hamas leaders:** Israel claims to have killed top Hamas leaders, including Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif.
3. **Humanitarian situation:** Catastrophic, with most of Gaza's population displaced and infrastructure devastated.

August–September 2024

1. **Stalemate:** Fighting continues at lower intensity; negotiations for a broader ceasefire stall.
2. **Hostage situation:** Remains unresolved.

Timeline Of Events

October–December 2024

1. **October:** One-year anniversary of the war; over 50,000 Palestinians and 1,700 Israelis reported killed by April 2025.
2. **Late 2024:** Israel continues targeted operations; sporadic clashes with Hezbollah and other groups.
3. **Ceasefire negotiations:** Renewed international efforts for a lasting truce.

January 2025

1. **January 19:** A new ceasefire agreement begins, providing a six-week pause in fighting, partial Israeli withdrawal, and increased humanitarian aid.
2. **Hostage-prisoner exchanges:** Hamas releases 33 hostages (eight reported dead); Israel releases nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners.
3. **Civilians return:** Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians allowed to return to northern Gaza. February 2025
4. **Ceasefire holds:** Negotiations for a second phase, including the release of remaining hostages and a permanent ceasefire, continue.
5. **Hamas reemerges:** Some militants appear in public, policing and organizing aid distribution.

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March 2025

1. **Early March:** Talks for a lasting ceasefire stall; Israel threatens to resume operations if demands are not met. Ceasefire has often reached the verge of collapse; Israeli military operations resume around Gaza. Supply of aid is controlled and surveillance increased.
2. **March 17:** Penultimate day of a fragile ceasefire in a heated political landscape and intense situation as hostilities are certain to be resumed if last minute negotiation fails.

On March 17, 2025 - Day 1 of UNSC committee begins and the future is on the delegates to decide.