UNSC
BACKGROUND
PAPER

Topic: International Response to the Hamas Presence in Gaza: Military Intervention or Respect for Palestian Sovereignty

CHAIRS:

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I. Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. With the power to impose sanctions, authorize military interventions and establish peacekeeping missions, this committee plays a key role in the resolution of international conflicts. Its relevance in the matter lies in the need to determine whether the international community should intervene militarily in Gaza or respect Palestinian sovereignty in the presence of Hamas.

II. Historical Background

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has deep roots dating back to the early 20th century, when the region was part of the British Mandate of Palestine. In 1947, the UN proposed the partition of the territory into a Jewish and an Arab state, which resulted in the creation of Israel in 1948 and the first Arab-Israeli war. Since then, the region has been the scene of multiple conflicts, including the Six-Day War (1967) and the First and Second Intifada (1987-1993 and 2000-2005, respectively).

In 2006, Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections and, in 2007, took control of the Gaza Strip after a confrontation with Fatah and after Israel ceded it in 2005. Since then, Gaza has been the subject of blockades, armed conflicts and airstrikes. Hamas has been a key player in the armed resistance against Israel, which has led the international community to debate its recognition or isolation. In addition, the influence of external actors such as Iran and Qatar has allowed Hamas to remain operationally functional and continue to expand its military capabilities.

III. Current Political Context

Currently, Hamas rules Gaza while the Palestinian Authority controls the West Bank. Israel, Egypt and the United States consider Hamas a terrorist organization, while other actors, such as Russia and Turkey, have shown more diplomatic positions. Israeli military offensives and missile attacks from Gaza towards Israel continue in a cycle of violence.

The conflict has intensified with the development of new military technologies, such as drones and long-range missiles, as well as with the role of external actors such as Iran, which provides financial and weapons support to Hamas. Israel has created a missile blockade system and has sent espionage missions through the Mossad. However, many countries have opposed the defense of Israel, causing a humanitarian crisis that affects the Israelis and the inhabitants of Gaza.

The shortage of food, medicine and access to clean water has increased international pressure on Israel to ease restrictions.

After Hamas kidnapped more than 200 innocent Israeli civilians, the nation of Israel has recovered them through negotiations with the group, giving up terrorists for civilians. Despite this, Hamas has tortured and killed most of the hostages. While many have died in exile, others have been returned in inhumane conditions.

IV. Relevant Statistical Data

The Gaza Strip is home to more than 2.3 million people, with 80% of the population depending on international humanitarian aid. The population density is one of the highest in the world, which aggravates the problems of access to basic resources such as drinking water, electricity and medical care.

Since 2008, more than 30,000 Palestinians have been killed in clashes with Israel, while thousands of Israelis have been injured, kidnapped as hostages in Gaza or killed in rocket attacks and Hamas interventions from Gaza and Israel. The conflict has left a balance of massive destruction in infrastructure, with hospitals, schools and severely damaged homes.

The economy in Gaza is in crisis, with an unemployment rate that exceeds 45%, one of the highest in the world. The lack of job opportunities has generated a greater dependence on international aid, which in turn has been used as a pressure mechanism by Israel and Egypt to condition Hamas policies.

Israel has imposed a land, sea and air blockade since 2007, which has drastically limited trade and access to essential goods. According to the UN, 97% of the water in Gaza is not fit for human consumption, which has led to an increase in diseases and health crises among the population.

V. Key Actors

- Israel: He considers Hamas a threat and has carried out multiple military operations in Gaza.
- Palestine: Represented by the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas in Gaza.
- Egypt: Controls the southern border of Gaza and a half in negotiations.
- United States: Supports Israel and considers Hamas a terrorist organization.
- Iran: Finance and support Hamas.
- UN and OCHA: Coordinate humanitarian aid in Gaza.
- Turkey and Qatar: They have provided diplomatic and financial support to Hama

VI. Positions and Perspectives of the Main Actors

- Israel and Western allies: They seek to dismantle Hamas' military capacity and guarantee Israel's security.
- Palestine and Arab nations: They demand an end to the blockade and respect for Palestinian sovereignty.
- Russia and China: They defend diplomatic solutions without military intervention and have criticized the Israeli bombings.
- UN and NGOs: They call for a ceasefire and respect for human rights.

VII. Treaties and Related International Agreements

The Oslo Agreements (1993-1995) established a framework for peace between Israel and Palestine, including mutual recognition and the creation of the Palestinian Authority. However, the peace process has stalled due to continued tensions and the growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) called for Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied during the Six-Day War and the recognition of the right of all states in the region to live in peace. Resolution 338 (1973) reaffirmed these principles and called for peace negotiations.

The Egypt-Israel Peace Treaty (1979) ended the hostilities between the two countries and resulted in the return of Sinai to Egypt, setting a precedent for possible peace agreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The Geneva Conventions establish the legal framework for the protection of civilians in conflict zones, something that has been intensely debated in relation to Gaza due to Israeli bombing and Hamas rocket attacks.

The Arab Peace Plan (2002) proposed a solution based on mutual recognition between Israel and Palestine, with the establishment of a Palestinian state within the 1967 borders and the end of the Israeli occupation.

VIII. Obstacles to Reaching Solutions

- Lack of consensus in the international community.
- Constant cycle of violence.
- Division between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.
- Economic blockade and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
- Inflexible positions of key actors.
- Influence of external actors who financially finance and support conflicting parties.

IX. Previous Solutions and Proposals

Negotiations mediated by Egypt and the UN
Use regional and global actors to facilitate dialogue and build trust between the parties. This seeks to find common ground, although it depends on the political will and impartiality of the mediators.

Temporary ceasefire with truce agreements
Establish cessation of hostilities to reduce violence immediately and create a favorable environment for subsequent negotiations. Its effectiveness depends on compliance and the constant verification of the agreements.

Proposal for an independent Palestinian State with secure borders
Creating a sovereign Palestinian state alongside Israel, based on mutually accepted borders, which could guarantee both the self-determination of the Palestinians and the security of Israel. Implementation faces challenges in territorial and security issues.

Hamas disarmament programs in exchange for lifting the blockade
Negotiating the progressive reduction of Hamas' military capacity to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza through the partial or total lifting of the blockade. This measure requires a solid system of verification and mutual trust.

UN peace missions in the region
Deploy international forces to monitor the cessation of hostilities, protect civilians and assist in the implementation of peace agreements. Its success depends on the authorization and cooperation of the parties involved.

Hamas and Palestinian Authority reconciliation agreements
Promote political union among Palestinian factions to present a unified position in international negotiations. Effective reconciliation could strengthen the Palestinian position, although it involves overcoming ideological and strategic differences.

XI. Essential Questions to Guide the Debate

- Should the international community intervene militarily in Gaza to curb violence, or is a strategy focused on respect for Palestinian sovereignty preferable?
- What measures could be implemented to ensure the security of Israel without compromising the human rights and well-being of the people of Gaza?
- How can a reconciliation process between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority be facilitated that allows for unified and viable political representation?
- What would be the short- and long-term impacts of a military intervention on regional and global stability?
- What role can and should international actors, in particular the UN, play in the implementation of lasting solutions to the conflict?

XII. Additional Resources

- United Nations Security Council. (n.d.). What is the Security Council? Retrieved from https://main.un.org/securitycouncil
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