

THE IMPACT OF ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT ON REGIONAL STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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Abstract

The paper investigated the impact of Israeli-Palestine conflict on regional stability with emphasis in the Middle East. The Israeli-Palestine conflict is one of the ongoing conflicts in the global system that have generated grave humanitarian concern as the conflict has led to the death of thousands including women and children and the social displacement of many. The conflict has also led to the destruction of key infrastructures such as hospitals, banks and schools etc. The conflict has generated refugee crisis along the borders countries to the conflict. The realist theory propounded by Hans Morgenthau in 1978 was deployed for the study. Secondary source of data was utilized; it involves the collection of data from textbooks, journal and article etc. The study finds out that the Israeli-Palestine conflict has become complicated owing to the interest of some regional powers like Iran. The continue support Hamas received from Iran has been instrumental for Hamas in waging the war against Israel. The paper recommends that the international and regional community should intensify effort to address the problem of terrorism in the world. The mere proscription of terrorist groups is not enough; effort should be made to curtail them for the safety of mankind.

Keywords: Conflict, Israel, Palestine, Middle East, War, Gaza

Introduction

Conflict provides one of the important mechanisms of studying international relations. It is an inevitable aspect of human society. Karl Marx belief that conflict is an integral part of human existence; conflict propels socio-economic and political development. This view is contrary to the functionalist theory that believe in peace and cooperation among social entity in order to bring about progress in the society. Collier and Hoeffler (2004) defined conflict as a dynamic process of opposition and confrontation that arises when individuals or groups perceive a divergence of interests, goals, or values and believe that those differences cannot be achieved simultaneously. In international relations, conflict refers to the discord that arises when the actions or interests of states or non-state actors are incompatible. The global system has experienced several conflicts which include; Congo crisis of 1960, Yemen war, Russia-Ukraine ongoing war and the Israel-Palestine ongoing conflict which is the focus of this study amongst others.

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a complex and long-standing geopolitical and cultural struggle centered on the land historically known as Palestine, encompassing present-day Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip (Said, 1992). Historically, the region has been inhabited for thousands of years by various groups, including Jews, Christians, and Muslims. A two-state solution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was proposed by the United Nation. Morris (2008) noted that the idea dates back

to the early 20th century, with various plans proposing partitioning the British Mandate of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. The United Nations proposed such a partition plan in 1947, but it was rejected by Arab leaders, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. A commonly referenced framework for a two-state solution is based on the pre-1967 borders, known as the Green Line (Morris, 2008). This line demarcates the boundaries between Israel and the territories captured during the 1967 Six-Day War, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem. Many proposals advocate for a Palestinian state comprising the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as its capital. It has significant religious importance to all three Abrahamic faiths.

In modern time, the conflict traces back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the rise of national movements; Zionism (seeking a Jewish homeland) and Arab nationalism (seeking independence from colonial powers)(Gelvin, 2014). Palestine quest for recognition as a state has not been granted. In fact, Palestine's quest for recognition as a sovereign state remains a central issue. In 2012, the United Nations General Assembly granted Palestine non-member observer state status, reflecting partial international recognition (UNGA, 2012).The Palestinian Authority (PA) was established by the Oslo Accords, the PA administers parts of the West Bank. Mahmoud Abbas, the President of the PA, is also the Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Palestine is partition in to two; Gaza strip governed by Hamas and West Bank governed by Israel(Gelvin, 2014).

The Israel-Palestine conflict has grave impact on regional security. The impact has manifested in the following dimension; humanitarian crises, terrorism and radicalization, regional tensions and alliances, proxy conflicts and economic impact among others.

It is against this background that this paper intends to examine the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict on regional stability in the Middle East

Statement of the Problem

On October 7, 2023, Israel was attacked which led to the death of many and the destruction of properties. Hamas claim responsibility for the attack. There have been tension prior to the October 7 attack between Israel and Palestine and this was triggered by a lot of factors such as historical, territorial disputes, the status of Jerusalem, settlements, refugees and right of return and security concerns etc (Lustick, 2019). Historically, both Israelis and Palestinians claim historical and religious ties to the land. For the Jews, it is the site of ancient Israel and significant religious history. For Palestinians, it is their ancestral homeland where they have lived for generations. On the status of Jerusalem, Jerusalem holds significant religious importance for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Both Israelis and Palestinians claim it as their capital, leading to intense disputes over control and sovereignty (Lustick, 2019).On territorial dispute, the 1967 Six-Day War resulted in Israel capturing the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, and other territories. The ongoing Israeli occupation of the West Bank and control over Gaza are central issues. The expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank is viewed as illegal under international law by many, further complicating the situation (Lustick, 2019). On settlement, Israeli settlements in the West Bank are considered illegal under international law by many, though Israel disputes this. The expansion of these settlements complicates peace negotiations and affects the viability of a future Palestinian state. On security, Israel cites security threats from Palestinian groups, including Hamas, which it considers a terrorist organization. In response to attacks and threats, Israel has implemented security measures that Palestinians view as oppressive (Lustick, 2019).

The conflict has grave implication for humanitarian crisis. On humanitarian crisis, the conflict has

led to food and water shortages as a result of blockades and restrictions which have limited the availability of essential supplies. For example, in Gaza, there are frequent shortages of food, clean water, and medical supplies. The conflict has impacted negatively on health care system as healthcare systems in both Gaza and the West Bank often struggle with shortages of medical equipment and supplies, which has exacerbated in the wake of the heightened conflict (WHO, 2024). The ongoing conflicts and military operations have resulted in the social displacement of civilians and this has led to crowded and inadequate living conditions in refugee camps or temporary shelters. The conflict has also led to the destruction of homes and infrastructure, impacting daily life and long-term recovery. The Israel-Palestine conflict has raised grave humanitarian problems and stability in the Middle East.

Aim/Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the impact of Israel-Palestine conflict on regional stability in the Middle East. The specific objectives include:

- I. Examine the origin of Israel-Palestine conflict
- ii. Analyze the impact of the conflict on humanitarian crisis
- iii. Examine the impact of the conflict on the stability of Middle East

Methodology

The historical research design was adopted for the study. It involves studying past event so as to under present events in other to be able to predict future events. Secondary source of data was utilized for this study. Secondary source of data refer to the set of data collated or authored by another person, archives, in the form of documents collected for a purpose other than the present one in which it is being used (Asika, 2006). Selltitz et al (1977), has declared that the usefulness of secondary sources of data lies in the fact that information of this sort is collected periodically. Also, gathering of information from such sources does not require the cooperation or assistance of the individual about whom information is being sought. The sources of data for this study includes: magazines, newspapers, textbooks, journals and seminar papers among others. The content analysis was adopted as our method of data analysis.

Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework adopted for study is the realist theory propounded by Hans Morgenthau in 1978. Realism is a theory that is predicated on power politics (realpolitik) and holds the view that international behaviour of states is determined by the search for power and the distribution of power. The philosophical foundation of this school of thought may be traced to Niccolo Di Bernardo Dei Machiavelli (1469-1527) and Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679). Lysias (2013) noted that these philosophers were not realist scholars per se, but their philosophical rationalizations informed realist political thought. Machiavelli posits that political leaders should always be engaged with power; even during peacetime (Machiavelli cited in Lysias, 2013).

Realism unlike idealism believes that human nature is evil and inherently egocentric. Also, human kind is intuitively anarchic and conflictual in dispositions, unless there are beneficial conditions under which they (human) can cohabit (Lysias, 2013). According to Morgenthau (1978, p. 56), “the interest of the state define in terms of power, is the primary moral guide by which policies are developed, but prudence in pursuing those interest is the primary ethical guide for policy makers”. In the world of power politics, states must increase their power to guarantee their survival. Morgenthau further stated that (1978, p. 56), “the goal of the state has come to include the search for ways to acquire and keep power, increase power and demonstrate power. In short, in a world of conflicting states seeking power, or world confirmed by historical experience and by the nature of

man, states must engage in power politics in order to survive, and they should do anything prudent or otherwise to achieve that goal".

According to Ogonor (2007, p. 28-29), realism is predicated on the following assumptions.

- 1). The realist theory assume that there is no essential harmony of interest among nations and that nation-state often has conflicting national objective, some of which lead to war.
- 2). Realism posits that the capabilities of state are crucial for the outcome of international conflict and for the ability of one state to influence another state behavior.
- 3). Power, they believe has a military and non-military component which include not just military force but also the levels of technology, population, national resources, geographical factors, forms of government, political leadership and ideology.
- 4). Realists posit that there are severe limitations in the extent to which political reforms or education can alter human nature. Man is evil, sinful and power seeking. According to the realist, human nature is not innately good or perfectible. The task of the statesman lies in fashioning a political system or framework within which the human propensity to engage in conflict can be minimized.
- 5). Realists assumed that moral principles in their abstract formulation cannot be applied to political actions.
- 6). Realists further believe that the balance of power framework can furnish an important regulation devise to prevent any one nation from achieving total hegemony within the comity of nation.

Relating and applying the realist theory in understanding the Israel-Palestine conflict and its impact on the stability of the Middle East, it becomes pertinent to state that the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine (Hamas) is predicated on certain interest which the actors involve intend to actualize. Israel is surrounded by hostile neighbours in the Middle East; these are countries mainly interested in wiping Israel out from the region. Israel quest for territorial expansion in the Middle East has been seen as a threat by other countries (Palestine inclusive) in the region. The need to checkmate this expansion and other issues has led to the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict.

The realist theory is appropriate as the theoretical framework as it explains the diverse interest of the actors in the conflict and how these interest has propel the ongoing fighting.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Origin of Israel-Palestine Conflict

In the past century, a multitude of local and international actors have been involved in shaping of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Oren (2011) stated that a comprehensive analysis of contemporary events is difficult without thoroughly examining the historical background. This historical overview encompasses the period of the British Mandate preceding the establishment of Israel, the subsequent escalation of oppression and violence against Palestinians, resistance against settler colonialism, and different actors that played a role over the last century. The letter written by British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Lionel Walter Rothschild, commonly

known as the Balfour Declaration, contained the following statement: “His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object (Burak, 2023). Burak noted that during its period of control, Britain facilitated a significant Jewish immigration process to Palestine, including those fleeing Nazi Germany, and initiated land confiscation (Burak, 2023). This period aimed at a substantial demographic transformation and intensified pressure on the Palestinian population. Oren (2011) noted that between 1936-1939, there was an Arab Revolt. The newly formed Arab Higher Committee called for a general strike and boycott among the Palestinian population. Despite the resistance from peasants and the general populace, the British Mandate responded with house demolitions, mass arrests, and killings etc.

Between 1939-1948 there was a Jewish Terror Campaign, during this phase, Zionist militants created several terrorist organizations. One of them went by the name of Irgun. This terrorist organization proclaimed a revolt, on 1 February 1944, against the British mandatory government. The leader of this terrorist organization was Menachem Begin, who later became the Prime Minister of Israel. Begin was described by the British government as the “leader of the notorious terrorist organization”. Among the terror actions orchestrated by Irgun, was the bombing of the offices of the British Mandate's Immigration Department and the Income Tax Offices in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, followed by a series of attacks on police stations in which six policemen were killed (Oren, 2011). Then, Menachem Begin ordered an attack on the British military and administrative headquarters at the King David Hotel, destroying the building's southern wing, and 91 people, mostly British, were killed. Another terrorist leader, Yitzhak Shamir, who became the seventh prime minister of Israel, serving two terms, had orchestrated several terror operations through the Stern Gang. Of the key targets was Lord Moyne, the British Resident Minister in the Middle East, who was assassinated. Shamir was also among the plotters behind the assassination of the United Nations representative in the Middle East, Count Folke Bernadotte, who was killed in September 1948 (Oren, 2011).

In 1947, the United Nations (UN) came up with a Partition Plan for Palestine. The partition of the land between Palestinians and Jews was proposed through United Nations Resolution 181. The Palestinian people objected to the plan because it allocated approximately 55% of the land to the Jewish state, which included the fertile coastal areas. At that time, the Jewish population was roughly equivalent to 33% of the Palestinian population (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024). After the plan, the first Arab-Israeli War broke out. Between 1947-1949, the Arab-Israeli War and Nakba broke out. The Nakba, meaning “catastrophe” in Arabic, refers to the forced displacement and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians during and after the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. It led to the establishment of the State of Israel and the displacement of an estimated 700,000 to 800,000 Palestinians, creating a large population of Palestinian refugees who lost their homes and property (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024). The total share of Palestinian land was reduced to approximately 22%, which now corresponds to the occupied territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Between 1949 and 1967, what is now recognized as the Gaza Strip within the contemporary Palestinian territory was under the control of Egyptian forces, initially from the Kingdom of Egypt and subsequently, starting in 1958, from the United Arab Republic (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024). In 1964, The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded in 1964 to represent the Palestinian people and advocate for self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Over time, the PLO evolved, officially recognizing Israel and engaging in peace negotiations, with its main faction, Fatah,

which was founded as a political party in 1965. In 1967, the Six-Day War or the third Arab-Israeli War broke out. The Six-Day War of 1967 was a brief but significant conflict between Israel and a coalition of Arab states, including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. Israel captured territories including the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights (Council on Foreign Relation, 2024).

In 1978, the Camp David Accords were signed as a series of negotiations between Israel and Egypt mediated by the United States in 1978. The accords led to a peace treaty between Israel and Egypt in 1979, the first between Israel and an Arab state. They also established a framework for autonomy for the Palestinian territories, although the Palestinian issue was not fully resolved at that time. In 1978, Israel invaded Lebanon in what was known as “Operation Litani,” it was prompted by what is known as the Coastal Road massacre in Israel and aimed to push Palestinian resistance groups, particularly the PLO, away from the Israeli border. Israeli forces advanced into southern Lebanon, creating a buffer zone along the Litani River. The operation led to the establishment of UNIFIL and marked the beginning of a series of conflicts in the region (Burak, 2023). 1982-2000 saw the invasion of Palestine by Israel. It was the second Israeli invasion of Lebanon, also known as the 1982 Lebanon War which lasted from June 1982 to May 2000. It began when Israel launched a full-scale military invasion of Lebanon with the primary objective of driving the PLO out of Lebanon and establishing an occupied zone by Israel in the south. This invasion resulted in the expulsion of the PLO from Lebanon. It also led to the emergence of Hezbollah as a resistance group sponsored by Iran (Burak, 2023). After, two decades of guerrilla operations, Israel withdrew from most of Lebanon in 2000, but the conflict continued in the form of sporadic clashes and hostilities until a ceasefire was reached in 2006.

Hamas is a Palestinian political and militant organization established in 1987 during the First Intifada (1987-1993), with Sheikh Ahmed Yassin among its founders. Known for its Muslim Brotherhood ideology, it has governed the Gaza Strip since 2007, following its electoral victory and subsequent conflict with Fatah. It is recognized as a legitimate political entity by some and designated a terrorist organization by others. The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades is the military wing of Hamas separated Palestinian regions. Also, as part of the Oslo Accords, Israel divided the West Bank into three areas (A, B, and C) and increased its control over the occupied territories and key checkpoints. In 1995, Israel built up an electronic fence and wall encircling the Gaza Strip, effectively severing connections between the separated Palestinian regions (Burak, 2023). Between 2008 and 2021, Israel launched four major offensives in the Gaza Strip in 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021, resulting in significant Palestinian casualties, including children, and extensive destruction of homes, schools, and offices. Reconstruction was been hindered by a blockade preventing essential building materials from entering Gaza. The 2008 attack employed banned weapons like phosphorus gas, and in 2014, over 2,100 Palestinians, including 1,462 civilians and nearly 500 children, lost their lives, exacerbating Palestinian displacement and illegal Israeli occupation (Council on Foreign Relation, 2024).

On October 7, 2023, Hamas's Qassam Brigade executed a daring incursion into southern Israel from the besieged Palestinian enclave of Gaza, operating under the banner of the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation. This involved land, air, and sea infiltrations, accompanied by a barrage of thousands of missiles. This escalation resulted in a tragically high number of casualties on both sides, with Hamas taking Israeli captives, including military personnel, for potential use as bargaining chips in future negotiations. Meanwhile, Israel's actions in Gaza continued to target civilians and facilities, including hospitals, actions that are widely considered as violations of

international law (Council on Foreign Relations, 2024).

Impact of the Conflict on Humanitarian Crisis

Israel-Palestine conflict have grave humanitarian crisis. To illustrate the severity of the situation, UN Secretary-General António Guterres delivered a paper to the Security Council on the Middle East, where he remarked that “last December, the hostilities in Gaza and Israel that have created appalling human suffering, physical destruction, and collective trauma led to my exceptional invocation of Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations. Seven months later, the war rages on (UN, 2024). The Ministry of Health in Gaza reported that over 38,000 Palestinians have been killed with some 87,000 injured and thousands missing, many of whom are women and children. Over 1,500 Israelis and foreign nationals have been reportedly killed according to British Broadcasting Corporation with more than 7,000 injured and 125 hostages still held in Gaza (BBC, 2024).

The United Nations noted further that between October 7, 2023 and July 17, 2024, 557 Palestinians including 138 children were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem; the vast majority were killed in the context of Israeli security operations, including during subsequent exchanges with Palestinian armed groups; these include 540 killed by Israeli forces, 10 by Israeli settlers and 7 where it remains unknown whether the perpetrators were Israeli forces or settlers (UN, 2024). During the same period, 22 Israelis, including 9 members of Israeli forces, were killed by Palestinians in Israel and the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem (UN, 2024).

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024), the humanitarian support system in Gaza is close to total collapse. There is a complete breakdown of public order. And the spectre of further regional spillover is increasing by the day, as exchanges of fire across the Blue Line between Hizbullah and Israel continue. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification partnership (2024) reported that almost half a million of people face catastrophic levels of food insecurity. Communicable diseases are on the rise. Chokeholds on the fuel-supply have severely reduced access to water, sanitation, hygiene and health services. The United Nations noted that it remains committed to delivering life-saving aid in Gaza. But noted that it face severe challenges and deadly risks. According to the body, humanitarian convoys are frequently unable to collect and distribute life-saving goods in safety including from the crucial Karem Abu Salem/Kerem Shalom crossing. Attacks on humanitarian aid workers and shelters, as well as strikes on or near health and humanitarian facilities, continue. Lawlessness and criminality are rampant (UN, 2024).

The United Nations reported that Israeli measures are undermining the Palestinian Authority, crippling the Palestinian economy and driving instability. In June, 2024, the Israeli security cabinet approved a series of punitive steps against the Palestinian Authority. The steps reportedly include the legalization under Israeli law, of five Israeli outposts in the occupied West Bank, the advancement of thousands of settlement housing units, and demolitions in parts of Area B in the occupied West Bank. At the same time, the Israeli Finance Minister lifted the suspension of the transfer to the Palestinian Authority of partial clearance revenues. These revenues are collected by Israel on behalf of the Palestinians. He also renewed, for four months, the letter of indemnity for Israeli correspondent banking with Palestinian banks. Both of these measures are critical for Palestinian fiscal stability (UN, 2024).

Below are pictorial evidence that depict the dire humanitarian challenges the Israel-Palestine conflict have imposed on mankind.

Plate 1: Depict the destruction of building



Source; UNDP (2024)

Plate 2: Depict the destruction of building



Source; UNDP (2024)

Plate 3: Depict the children in refugee camp without limited access to basic necessities such as shelter, food and water etc.



Source: UNDP (2024)

Apart from the loss of lives, key basic infrastructures have been damaged owing to offensive attacks from both the Israeli forces and Hizbullah. Critical infrastructures that were built have been damaged and destroyed and socio-economic activities in Southern Gaza paralyzed.

Impact of the Conflict on the Stability of Middle East

The Israeli-Palestine conflict poses a grave danger to the stability of the Middle East. As noted by **UN Secretary-General António Guterres**, the risk of regional spillover of the Israeli-Palestine conflict remains high, a full-blown conflict between Israel and Hizbullah would be catastrophic for Lebanon and the wider region (UN, 2024). Khaled Khiari, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East and Asia and the Pacific, reported that, since 7 October, 304 Palestinians, including 79 children, have been killed in the occupied West Bank, where settler violence remains a grave concern. Meanwhile, four Israelis, including three members of the Israel Defense Forces, were killed in attacks by Palestinians in the West Bank, and another four Israelis were killed by Palestinians during an attack in West Jerusalem. Moreover, the continued daily fire across the Blue Line poses great risk to regional stability, he said, pointing to several instances of strikes deeper into the territories of Lebanon and Israel which raise the risk of conflict (UN, 2024).

Also briefing the Council, Itay Epshtain, Special Advisor and Senior Humanitarian Law and Policy Consultant at the Norwegian Refugee Council, shone a spotlight on Israel's forcible transfer of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians within Gaza, coupled with armed Israeli settlers' intensified campaign of violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank. Such violence is often overlooked by Israeli security forces and even encouraged by certain Government officials. As Israel's military operations in Gaza drive civilians closer to the southern border, the looming possibility of mass deportation to Egypt grows, he warned (UN, 2024). He stated that the Council should attribute responsibility to Israel when members of its armed forces allow for and participate in settler violence, and when it directly allocates funds and arms to settlement guard squads who often partake in such attacks (UN, 2024).

The representative of Israel stressed that “genocidal terrorists are seeking to murder Israeli citizens every single day” and this Council “is quick to show solidarity with civilians across the Middle East so long as they are not Israelis”. The body has not condemned the rocket fire from Lebanon, Syria and Yemen, he continued, noting that 50,000 Israeli civilians have been displaced along the northern border because of Iranian-backed attacks by Hizbullah from Lebanon (UN, 2024). “If these attacks continue, the situation will escalate and may lead to a full-scale war” he warned, adding that “Israel will defend itself”. According to him, while the Council focuses on the

disgraceful act of a handful of Israeli extremists, rockets are raining down on Israel's north and south, and entire families have been burned alive by Hamas-ISIS, he said, expressing shock at the Council's "willingness to waste its time on such a marginal, extremist phenomenon while the whole region is on fire" (UN, 2024).

Regional powers like Lebanon and Iran have been providing support to Hamas thereby complicating the conflict and threatening the fragile peace in the Middle East. Iran is Hamas's most important external source of support. Ismail Haniyeh, Hamas's Qatar-based political leader, told Al Jazeera in 2022 that the group annually receives up to \$70 million from Iran. Reportedly, some five hundred Hamas fighters were trained in Iran in preparation for the October 7 attack, a reflection of Iran's longstanding support of Hamas (International Crisis Group, 2022). Indeed, in March 2024, Haniyeh thanked Iran. "Iran stands at the forefront of supporting the cause and people of Palestine," he said (BBC, 2024). Iran has also been providing financial aid, military training, and the provision of weapons etc to Hamas. Iran's backing of Hamas is part of its broader strategy to exert influence in the region and support groups that oppose Israel.

Lebanon's support to Hamas in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is primarily through the presence and activities of other groups like Hezbollah, which is based in Lebanon. Hezbollah, a Shiite militant group and political party, has ideological and strategic alignments with Hamas, despite their differing religious and political orientations. Both groups share opposition to Israel and coordinate to some extent on tactics and strategies. While the Lebanese government does not openly support Hamas, the presence of Hezbollah and other sympathizers within Lebanon provides a supportive environment for Hamas's activities. Hezbollah's leader, Hassan Nasrallah, has expressed support for the Palestinian cause, and the group is known to cooperate with Hamas in training and military coordination.

Findings

- i. The study finds out that the Israeli-Palestine conflict has grave impact on humanitarian crisis. Between October 7, 2023 and July 17, 2024, 557 Palestinians including 138 children were killed in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem; the vast majorities were killed in the context of Israeli security operations. (UN, 2024).
- ii. The work found out that the conflict has implication for the stability of the Middle East as countries that share borders with the warring actors have been negatively affected; refugee crisis and mass deportation etc.
- iii. The study found out that the Israeli-Palestine conflict has become complicated owing to the interest of some regional powers like Iran. The continue support Hamas received from Iran has been instrumental for Hamas in waging the war against Israel.

Conclusion

The Israel-Palestine conflict has had a significant and enduring impact on the stability of the Middle East. As a longstanding and deeply complex issue, it continues to influence regional politics, security dynamics, and international relations. The conflict has served as a focal point for tensions between different ethnic, religious, and national groups within the region, often exacerbating other disputes and contributing to broader instability. The persistent nature of the conflict has also impacted peace processes and diplomatic efforts, with multiple attempts at resolution often hindered by deep-seated mistrust and differing objectives among the parties involved. Furthermore, the conflict has drawn in various regional and global powers, each with

their own strategic interests, which further complicates the prospect of a lasting peace. Despite intermittent periods of calm and attempts at negotiation, the conflict remains a key source of instability in the Middle East. It affects not only the immediate parties but also the broader geopolitical landscape, influencing regional alliances, security considerations, and the flow of resources. The resolution of the Israel-Palestine conflict, therefore, is widely viewed as a critical element in achieving long-term stability and peace in the Middle East.

Recommendations

- i. There is need for the international community to prevail on the parties involved in the conflict to cease fire and create a humanitarian corridor to address the suffering of children, women and the sick
- ii. Power broker in the Middle East such as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran etc. should put aside their personal interest and work together in other to bring the warring factions to conflict together to address the issue that led to the conflict so as to bring the conflict to an end
- iv. The international and regional community should intensify effort to address the problem of terrorism in the world. The mere proscription of terrorist groups is not enough; effort should be made to curtail them for the safety of mankind.

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