Resolving the Palestine-Israel Conflict: The Role and Challenges for the United Nations

Lotfi Tadj¹*, Fahmi Sidiq², Usman Abbas Yakubu³

¹Department of Industrial Engineering, Alfaisal University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
²Pharmacy Study Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universitas Perjuangan Tasikmalaya, Tasikmalaya, Indonesia
³Department of Mathematics, Yusuf Maitama Sule University, Kano, Nigeria

*Corresponding author email: Itadj@alfaisal.edu

Abstract

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has become an important issue in international politics. International organizations such as the United Nations (UN) are trying to resolve this conflict through various resolutions and peace efforts. However, various factors, including differences in views, the influence of the Jewish lobby in the United States, and political obstacles, have hindered significant progress. Israel's separation wall in the West Bank has also become the focus of international legal debate and contention. This article presents an overview of the UN's role in resolving the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the impact of its policies. The UN, especially the Security Council, has a central role in maintaining international peace, but the difficulties in dealing with these conflicts reveal its limitations.

Keywords: Palestine-Israel Conflict, United Nations (UN), Security Council.

1. Introduction

The conflict between Palestine and Israel has been one of the longest and most complex conflicts in the world. This conflict shows no signs of resolution to date, even though it has been going on for decades. The State of Israel declared its independence in 1948 (Nimni, 2020), which was immediately followed by attacks from neighboring Arab countries. Since then, armed conflict has continued and has had a very wide impact in the Middle East region.

Its founding in 1948, recognized by the United Nations (UN), opened a new chapter in Palestinian history. Since then, Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories has become a major issue that has fueled tensions between the two sides. Palestine, with its majority Muslim population, enjoys broad support from Arab countries in the Middle East and countries with a Muslim majority (Ya'akov, 2020). On the other hand, Israel, which has strong support from Western countries, including the United States, continues to maintain its sovereignty and continued existence.

Geopolitically, this conflict is complicated by shifting norms in international society. Initially, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict received support on the grounds of eradicating organizations such as Hamas and securing Israel. However, over time, the norms of war and colonialism changed to norms of peace and human rights. Peace efforts that have been made always end in stalemate, largely due to strong geopolitical factors and the status of Israel's occupation of Gaza and the West Bank.

The main problem in this conflict is fighting over authority over land, especially what is considered sacred by both parties. This conflict covers land that has very important historical, religious and cultural values. This conflict has its roots in the events of 1967, when Israel attacked Egypt, Jordan and Syria, and succeeded in capturing areas such as Sinai, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and Jerusalem. Tensions that have persisted for decades have had a profound impact on the daily lives of people in the region. Palestinians and Israelis continue to live in uncertainty and anxiety about their future (Makdisi, 2018; Yahaya, 2020). Children grow up with the traumatic experience of armed conflict, while the older generation continues to relive bitter memories from the past.

This conflict also has significant global implications. The international community continues to strive to mediate and find a fair solution for both parties. Diplomatic efforts and multilateral dialogue continue to be carried out to reach an agreement that can end the bloodshed and pave the way towards security and justice in the region. Apart from that, issues related to human rights and justice are also in the international spotlight in the context of this conflict. Non-governmental organizations and international institutions continue to monitor the situation on the ground and work to ensure the protection of civilians and advocate for their rights.
In relation to this conflict, it is important for us to understand the roots of the problem, the political dynamics and the cultural complexity that surrounds it. This journal aims to provide in-depth insight into the Palestine-Israel conflict, analyze the latest developments, and present various perspectives from experts and stakeholders. Through a deeper understanding of this conflict, it is hoped that we can create constructive dialogue and help pave the way towards a sustainable solution. Hopefully this journal can make a positive contribution to efforts to achieve peace and justice in the Palestine-Israel region.

It is important to recognize that the conflict between Palestine and Israel is not new in history. One of the important moments in efforts to resolve the conflict was the reaching of an agreement on September 13 1993 in Washington, which was witnessed by President Clinton and attended by Yaser Arafat from the Palestinian side and Itzhak Rabin from the Israeli side. This agreement was represented by Mahmud Abbas from Palestine and Shimon Perez from Israel, with witnesses from the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the United States and Russia. The Middle East region, with its historical background of three divine religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—makes it a very significant region religiously for all three parties. However, since the Iran-Iraq conflict to the Palestine-Israel conflict which continues to this day, this region is also known as one of the most volatile regions in the world.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict not only has a political dimension, but also includes religious aspects that are very sensitive for Muslims and Jews. Therefore, research on this conflict has high relevance and urgency. Through this research, it is hoped that we can gain a deeper understanding of the sources of this conflict, as well as the role of the United Nations (UN) in responding to this conflict. The United Nations (UN) has a central role in efforts to maintain world peace and security. As an international organization, the UN has a mandate to mediate conflicts and maintain global stability. Through this study, we can evaluate the extent to which UN policies and interventions influence the development of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

The aim of the research in this journal is to identify and understand the influence of United Nations (UN) policies in the conflict between Palestine and Israel. Thus, this journal aims to achieve several important things:

1. Identifying the Influence of UN Policy, this journal attempts to critically analyze the influence and impact of policies implemented by the United Nations in efforts to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This includes analysis of UN resolutions, mediation efforts, as well as UN intervention in this conflict.

2. Studying UN Policy in Resolving Conflicts, apart from identifying influences, this journal also intends to investigate and understand the approaches and strategies used by the UN in efforts to resolve these conflicts. This includes diplomatic policies, peace efforts, and the framework that has been implemented by the UN.

3. Providing a Reference Source, it is hoped that this journal can become a reference source for researchers, academics, practitioners and readers who are interested in the field of international law and the Palestine-Israel conflict. It will make a significant contribution to understanding the issues related to the UN's role in the conflict.

4. Providing Contributions and Inspiration, with in-depth analysis of the UN's role in the Palestine-Israel conflict, it is hoped that this journal can provide positive contributions and new inspiration in understanding this problem. This could inspire further research and better solutions to achieve peace and justice in the region.

The research also makes clear the importance of previous literature review approaches in developing knowledge and understanding. Previous works covering the same topic have provided a strong foundation for this research, as well as showing that this topic has high relevance and complexity. Through examining these articles, the author builds a strong framework for thinking and links recent events to existing discussions. This is important to understand the changing dynamics of conflict and ensure that the research provides up-to-date and relevant insights.

2. Methodology

The research method used in writing this article is a qualitative method based on library research. This approach involves analysis and interpretation of various literary sources related to the influence of United Nations (UN) policies on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This method allows the author to explore the study theoretically without having to conduct field research.

The author collects information regarding UN policy towards the Palestine-Israel conflict as reference material. Information sources are divided into two categories, namely primary sources and secondary sources. Primary sources relate directly to UN policy, while secondary sources relate to the influence on the recent Palestinian-Israeli conflict. By combining these two sources, it is hoped that this article will not only be theoretical but also factual, so that it can enrich knowledge in the context of Islam in the world.

The aim of the research in this journal is to identify and understand the influence of United Nations (UN) policies on the Palestine-Israel conflict. Apart from that, this research aims to analyze the policies held by the UN in an effort to resolve this conflict. This article can also be a reference source for other writers in the field of science, especially in international law, as well as for those who want to develop their understanding of the Palestine-Israel conflict. It is hoped that this journal will provide new contributions and inspiration in the understanding of international law.
3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Establishment of the United Nations (UN)

The results of this research provide information regarding the founding of the United Nations (UN) as an important background in the context of the Palestine-Israel conflict. The United Nations (UN) is an international organization of governments consisting of 193 member countries at the time of writing this article. The name "United Nations" was first used in the United Nations Declaration on January 1, 1942, during the Second World War, when 26 countries joined together to fight their enemy, the Axis Powers led by Germany. However, the United Nations officially came into force on October 24, 1945, after its Charter was ratified by a number of countries, including China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as the majority of other signatory countries.

The background to the founding of the UN involves the history of a previous international organization, namely the League of Nations, which was founded in 1919 after the First World War. The League of Nations aimed to promote international cooperation and achieve peace and security, but failed to stop the Second World War. The UN is considered a new attempt to create an international organization that is more effective in preventing war and promoting peace and cooperation in the world.

This article also details a brief history of the formation of the UN and its primary role in dealing with international conflicts. The formation of the UN involved a number of international conferences, including the United Nations (UN) Conference in San Francisco in 1945. The UN Charter was signed by 55 country representatives on 26 June 1945 and officially came into force on 24 October 1945 after being ratified by a number of major countries (Lowe et al., 2010; Acharya, 2022). Understanding the founding of the UN is important because this organization will be the main focus in analysis of the influence of UN policy on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This article provides an overview of the organization's background and its role in dealing with international conflicts.

Broadly speaking, the United Nations (UN) is an international organization that aims to promote cooperation between countries throughout the world. Formed after World War II, the UN is committed to creating and maintaining world peace, as well as addressing global problems such as poverty, climate change and international crime. The UN was born from the spirit of international cooperation after World War II. The name "United Nations" was first used in 1942 when 26 countries joined to fight the Axis powers. However, the organization was officially established in 1945 after the ratification of the UN Charter by member countries, including China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

The UN Charter outlines the basic principles adhered to by this organization. Some of these include the principles of sovereignty, equality of members, peaceful cooperation, and the prohibition of interference in a country's internal affairs. In carrying out its duties, the UN has six main organs, including the General Assembly, Security Council, Secretariat, International Court of Justice, Economic and Social Council, as well as various specialized institutions such as UNESCO and UNICEF.

One of the main focuses of the UN is maintaining world peace and security. The UN has the authority to take military action through the Security Council if necessary. However, this organization also prioritizes a peaceful approach in resolving international conflicts. As time goes by, the UN continues to adapt to world changes and respond to new challenges. The organization remains an important platform for countries around the world to work together to find solutions to the global problems faced by humanity.

3.2. United Nations (UN) Policy Regarding the Palestine-Israel Conflict

In the international world, conflicts and disagreements between countries often become serious problems that can result in large negative impacts, especially for civilians who are not directly involved in the conflict. Therefore, international organizations such as the United Nations (UN) have an important role in efforts to maintain world peace and security and resolve conflicts between countries.

The UN was founded in 1945 by 50 countries in response to the bitter experiences of World War II. One of the main goals of the UN is to maintain international peace and security. The UN Security Council is the main institution responsible for achieving these goals. This institution has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, and has the authority to take necessary actions.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has become one of the longest and most complex conflicts in the world. The Arab-Israeli wars in 1948, 1967 and 1973 resulted in the Palestinian Arab region being seized by Israel. The UN has passed various resolutions urging Israel to leave the occupied areas, but implementation of these resolutions has not materialized, and Israel is not subject to sanctions by the UN.

The role of the UN in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is very interesting to research. Despite the UN's best efforts to find a peaceful solution, the conflict continues. A deeper understanding of the UN's role and influence in these conflicts can help in efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the region.

The involvement of the United Nations (UN) in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict began with UN General Assembly Resolution No. 181 in 1947. This resolution proposed the division of the Palestinian territories into Palestinian territories and Israeli territories without taking into account the aspirations of the majority of the Palestinian people who inhabit these territories. Based on this resolution, Israel will control 53.5% of the Palestinian
General Assembly, which consists of all member countries of the United Nations, in order to pass any resolution, one of the permanent member countries, the resolution will fail. This situation shows how important the role of the United States is in determining decisions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This resolution received the support of the majority of member countries, which is a sign that the international community, so it cannot impose sanctions on Israel. This factor shows the complexity in dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the international level.

In 1967, there was a war between Arabs and Israel which lasted for six days, which Israel won again. Israel succeeded in colonizing the remaining Palestinian territories, namely the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as controlling areas of Egypt (Sinai Desert) and Syria (Golan Heights). On November 22, 1967, the UN Security Council passed Resolution No. 242 regarding the Middle East. This resolution urges to end the war, achieve a just and permanent peace, and demands every country in the region to live in peace.

Although this resolution was accepted by the Security Council, the views of the two parties, namely Israel and Arabs, differed. Israel welcomed the resolution because it was considered beneficial to Israel, while several Arab countries gave mixed responses. Palestine protested because the contents of the resolution did not pay attention to its basic aspirations, while Syria rejected the resolution. At the same time, Jordan did not take a firm stance, and Egypt stated that it accepted the resolution.

Follow-up from the United Nations (UN) Security Council in efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues. On October 22 1973, the UNSC issued Resolution No. 338 which calls for a ceasefire for the conflicting parties and an end to armed actions by both parties. However, even though this resolution was issued, the conflict, which was marked by bloody incidents and armed actions from both sides, still continued, hampering the peace process.

Then, on May 27 1999, the UN Security Council issued Resolution No. 1276 which asks both parties to seriously implement Resolution No. 338. The peace process between the two parties remained difficult, and the situation was further aggravated by the provocative visit of the leader of the Likud Party, Ariel Sharon, to the Al Aqsa Mosque complex on 28 September 2000. This triggered the outbreak of the Intifada as a reaction to the anger and disappointment of the Palestinian people. Israel responded with harsh actions such as bombing the cities of Ramallah and Gaza City. The tit-for-tat action between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian fighters deepened the conflict between the two parties (Léonard & Kaunert 2012).

The UN Security Council tried to reduce this situation and issued Resolution No. 1402 on March 30 2002. This resolution asked both parties to the conflict to cease fire and for Israel to withdraw its troops from Palestinian cities, including the Palace area of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Even though this resolution was issued, Israel did not withdraw its troops and instead carried out a hostage situation against Arafat, accompanied by the destruction of almost all the buildings in the Presidential Palace, which is the symbol of the Palestinian Authority (Tyagi & Agrawal 2020). This action shocked and angered the international community at Israel's arrogance. This situation forced the UN Security Council to take further action, and finally, on April 4 2002, Resolution No. 1403. This is the third resolution in a very short time with the aim of ending Israel's arrogance and bringing both parties to the negotiating table to discuss a peace agreement.

On the other hand, the continued construction of the separation wall between Palestine and Israel has received various responses. The Palestinian people consider it an attempt to annex Palestinian land or Israel's way of occupying Palestinian land before there is an agreement regarding the establishment of a Palestinian State. Therefore, member states of the United Nations (UN) and Arab groups sent a petition to the UN General Assembly asking the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to immediately convene to discuss this issue.

The results of the ICJ session on February 23 2004 in The Hague decided that Israel's separation wall in the West Bank was illegal and must be dismantled, and asked the UN to take the necessary action. Then, on July 20 2004, the UN General Assembly held a session to discuss the ICJ's decision, resulting in resolution ES-10 which officially urged Israel to stop the project of building a separation wall between Israel and Palestine, including destroying the wall that had been built because it violated humanitarian principles. This resolution received the support of the majority of members of the session, with a ratio of 150 supporting, 6 opposing, and 10 abstaining.

The UN Security Council, as the strongest body in the United Nations, has the task of maintaining international peace and security. However, in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the UN Security Council has failed several times to pass resolutions condemning Israel's actions. This failure was caused by the threat of a veto from one of the five permanent members of the Security Council, namely China, the United States, Britain, France and Russia. Even though a resolution proposed by the UN Security Council has the support of the majority of its members, if it receives a veto from one of the permanent member countries, the resolution will fail. This situation shows how important the role of the United States is in determining decisions regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the international level.

On the other hand, the UN General Assembly, which consists of all member countries of the United Nations, in making resolutions is usually based on a majority vote and no country has veto rights. However, the resolution issued by the UN General Assembly is non-binding or only states the wishes of the international community, so it cannot impose sanctions on Israel. This factor shows the complexity in dealing with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the world level.
3.3. Influence of United Nations (UN) Policy Regarding Conflict Palestine-Israel

The influence of United Nations (UN) policy regarding the Palestine-Israel conflict is visible in various aspects. The UN Charter and The Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasize the principles of human rights that should be respected by all UN member states. However, in reality, there are still human rights violations against Palestinian civilians due to Israeli army attacks. This becomes complex because Palestinians have to defend themselves from army attacks that force them to stay on their land.

The United Nations (UN) acts as an organization whose aim is to maintain international peace and security. The UN Charter formulates noble goals and principles in this endeavor, including the principles of sovereign equality, prohibition of the use of violence or threats to the territorial integrity and political independence of states, as well as the prohibition of interference in the internal affairs of member states. This charter places the UN Security Council as a body that has strong competence in maintaining international peace (Gheorghe, 2022; Jubaidi & Budiman 2021).

However, in resolving conflicts such as between Palestine and Israel, the UN Security Council, which consists of 15 member countries, often faces obstacles in reaching an agreement that can end the conflict. The five permanent members of the Security Council, which include the United States, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and China, have veto powers, making Security Council decisions heavily influenced by them. This was a key factor in the failure of the UN Security Council to reach a resolution condemning Israel’s actions in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The United States, as a permanent member of the Security Council and with considerable influence from the Jewish lobby at home, has used its veto power to protect Israel from resolutions that would sanction or condemn its actions.

Meanwhile, the UN General Assembly, which consists of all member countries and does not have veto rights, issues resolutions that are more non-binding or simply express the wishes of the international community. Due to its non-binding nature, this resolution is also unable to provide effective sanctions against Israel. This shows that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through the United Nations is greatly influenced by international politics and the power dynamics that exist within the UN Security Council.

Resolution 1402 issued by the Security Council on 4 April 2002 expressed concern over the deteriorating situation on the ground and noted that previous resolutions had not been implemented (Ayoob, 2004). The resolution also seeks immediate implementation and welcomes the visit of United States Secretary of State Colin Powell to the region, and supports efforts by envoys from Russia, the United States, the European Union, and the United Nations (UN) Special Coordinator to bring a resolution that can survive the settlement conflict in the Middle East. Secretary-General Kofi Annan was instructed to keep the Council informed of developments in the situation.

However, in reality, Israel as one of the countries involved in the dispute does not comply with the Security Council resolution. This is ironic because the United Nations (UN) charter clearly explains the binding power of the resolution on countries involved in international disputes, as well as the sanctions that can be imposed on countries that do not comply with the resolution. These sanctions can take the form of actions that use violence without military force (article 41 of the United Nations (UN) charter) or actions that involve military force. However, implementing sanctions is often complex and difficult in the context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

4. Conclusion

In the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the UN seeks to resolve it through resolutions and supports the peace process. However, obstacles arise from differences in views and the strong influence of external parties, especially the US. The important point is: The UN passed important resolutions, but their implementation was difficult due to differences in views. The construction of a wall separated by Israel in the West Bank has sparked controversy and has been condemned by the UN. The heavy influence of the US in this conflict, especially through the Jewish lobby and close ties with Israel, influenced UN policy and hindered peace progress. The UN Security Council dealt with limitations in resolving this conflict, especially due to the threat of veto power from permanent members, including the US. Although the UN emphasizes the importance of human rights, violations continue to occur, especially by Israel, and enforcement of human rights is often hampered.

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