

**TOPIC:** Israel-Palestine Conflict

**DELEGATE NAME:** Taha Usta

**COUNTRY:** South Africa

The Israel-Palestine Conflict is one of the longest running conflicts in the modern era. If we mark it’s beggining as 1880s, the conflict has been active for atleast 130 years for now.

With the conflict been ongoing to this date, many innocent lives were lost and yet nothing have come of it. Besides, Jerusalem cannot be labeled as a ‘’godforsaken place’’ by any means, but one constantly at the center of international awareness. That means it is one of the most extensively dealt-with conflicts in the world. In the past 60 years alone, the conflict between Palestinians and the Israelis has been the subject of attempts at mediation by many countries, including South Africa. Although the sides have come to partial agreements about the peace summits the conflict still contains an inner core that refuses to cease its existence. South Africa sees this inner core as one of the main and vital problems that prevent an positive outcome in the peace summits.

The conflict refuses to be solved because it is a conflict unprecendented in human history itself. There is no chance for a nation that already lost its sovereignty to decide for internal and external reasons to return to their ancient homeland and re-establish a new nation there with using brute force. This means the Palestinian people is intentionally being forced to face and accept a unique phenomenon that will never exist.

That’s why at its most profound level, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not about territory, as in the case of many historical conflicts, but a battle over the national identity of the entire homeland. For both sides, the size of the nation confronting them seems to be unclear – whether it consists only of Israeli Jews or the entire Jewish population. And the Israelis don’t know whether they are confronting only the Palestinians or the entire Muslim population. This is the inner core, a fundamental belief that constantly creates spirals of mistrust between two countries, preventing for a clear and positive solution.