 **COMMITTEE:** Disarmament and InternationalSecurity

**COUNTRY:** Germany

**AGENDA ITEM:** Israel-Palestine Conflict

***Introduction:***

Israel-Palestine Conflict is a long-lasting, destructive and a tedious issue for both sides. Having its origins from the Zionist Project and the rebellion against this idea by Palestinians, the issue has been retrogressing ever since. Worsening with the establishment of Israel, the first war between them took place. Yet, it made the issue even more complicated since Israel possessed new areas which were seen as original Palestinian lands. (BBC 2021) Both nations had been in agony because of wars (Arab-Israel War 1948, Six-Day War), rebellions (Intifadas) and conflicts (Al-Aqsa Mosque 2021). Only in the most recent conflict, Al-Aqsa Mosque raid, at least seven members of one family, including three children, were killed in an explosion in northern Gaza. (TRTWORLD 2021). There are numerous issues all based upon the nearly 100-year-old conflict. Germany believes it is the time to give this affliction a halt.

***Reflections:***

Germany believes that Israel deserves to have a secure life, within its internationally acknowledged borders. Moreover, Palestinians deserve better living conditions too. Germany is fully aware of the numerous problems brought by this long-lasting conflict such as Palestinian asylum seekers and refugees who were evicted out of their houses, the water issue between nations and Israeli settlements.

Starting with the most recent conflict, Al-Aqsa Mosque raid, Germany has shown its esteem on civilian rights by strongly condemning the rocket attacks from Gaza on Israel, which have killed and injured civilians in Israel. The indiscriminate firing of rockets by Hamas and other terrorist groups at Israeli population centres were unacceptable for Germany. (AA 2021) On the other hand, Israel is being criticized by disproportionately large number of resolutions. As far as Germany is concerned, Israel is repeatedly and inappropriately criticised, being a subject to bias and marginalisation in UN bodies. Therefore; Germany works to contend with any unfair treatment of Israel in the UN. (Atm 2022) Germany supports Israel’s actions and refuses to condemn Israel for killing Palestinians in Gaza as it had the right to act in self-defence and to protect its citizens.

Moving on with an uprising issue ever since 1949: Asylum seekers, refugees and Palestinians who are evicted out of their houses by force. Only during the 1967 war, 300 000 Palestinians were expelled. Since then, evictions have dramatically increased with the effects of The Segregation Wall across West Bank, disrupting Palestine’s fields and new settlements in occupied areas. (Hlrn) Germany is gravely concerned about the humanitarian consequences of the conflict and the living conditions of Palestinian civils. (Amt 2022) Hence, Germany signed agreements with UNRWA in support of Palestine refugees in Gaza and Lebanon, amounting to a total of EUR 25 million. (UNRWA 2021) Furthermore, we do not leave the susceptible civilians alone by sending out winterization supports. Overall, this makes us the second largest supporter of UNRWA. (UNRWA 2021)

When the subject is opened up more, enormous effect of Israeli settlements can be observed. More than half of today’s Palestinian population are refugees (5.5 million) and internally displaced persons (200,000). (Hlrn) Germany is not in favour of effacing Palestinian people. In fact, Germany has no doubt that building more settlements will only further complicate the so-called Middle East peace process. Moreover, it is clear that expanding the settlements violates international laws. Germany has proved its intentions by signing 2 joint statements, with foreign ministries like Ireland, Italy and Finland, urging Israel to retract its plans on building more settlements. (UN, &eacute;trang&egrave;res, 2022)

Another issue of the region is Palestinian’s lack of access to clean water. The water resources in the area are fully controlled by Israel. Amount of water consumed by an average Palestinian is 30 litres less than the minimum daily allotment to survive in a normal standard of life. (Amnesty International 2017) Germany is fully aware of the seriousness of the issue. Therefore, German development cooperation has been present in the water and sanitation sector in the Palestinian Territories since 1994. (Giz.de, BMZ.de)

***Conclusion and Possible Solutions:***

Germany remains and will remain strongly committed to the protection of human rights, establishment of peace, welfare and security among all. Germany believes both Israel and Palestinians had spent enough power and time for this conflict. In Germany’s judgement, although UN is extremely vital for international peace, it has failed to make effective actions ever since. Hence, Germany promotes the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian issue on the basis of a two-state solution. (DW.de 2019) Nevertheless; allotment of the lands, Jerusalem being the capital of both nations, borders and water resources ought to be rigorously debated, then negotiated. Therefore, all nations ought to do their utmost for more effective resolutions and set peace above their national interests. Just as Willy Brandt, former chancellor of Germany, stated: ‘’ Peace is not everything, but everything is nothing without peace.’’.

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