

Q: Palestine Conflict is a long-standing one on the United Nations table.

Discuss its recent escalation since Oct 2023 and critically assess the big powers reaction to it.

Introduction:-

Since Oct 2023, the conflict between Israel-Hamas has gotten worse, catching the world's attention and being discussed at the United Nations table. This increase in violence has led to different reactions from major countries. The responses from major world powers have varied, influenced by their own political interests and strategic goals.

Background History:- Since 1948, Israel has expanded by purchasing lands from Palestinians but after 1967, they are taking lands by occupation or force fully, with the laws that are in favor of Jews.

The 1948 UN plan for separate Jewish and Palestinian states

was blocked by Israel's later land grabs. Hamas and Israel governments both rejected the two nation state idea for different reasons. Palestine and other many countries want Israel to return pre-1967 borders. but US supports for current borders. The Palestine Liberation Organization under Mahmood Abbas is now political. but the Hamas is still militant group.

Hamas Attack on Israel:

Hamas launched an unexpected attack on Israel on 7 Oct 2023. Including 2200 fighters, crossed the borders by various means like paragliding, breaching the borders at different points and by sea. They targeted security forces, settlers and tent-Dag celebration. Resulting in approximately 1400 deaths and 240 captives taken to Gaza. They fired 5000 missiles on Israel. Most were intercepted by 'Iron Dome' but some hit

The target, affecting 13 cities including Tel. Aviv.

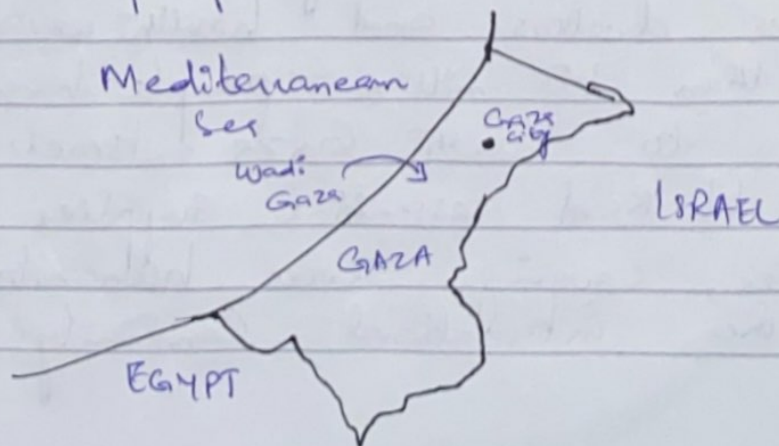


WAR CRIMES BY ISRAEL: In response to 7 Oct 2023 Hamas attack, Israel launched an extensive attack on Gaza, destroying 80% buildings of North and Central Gaza including hospitals, Mosques, Churches, Schools. Over 37000+ palestinians died, from which 12000 were children, 10000 women, 120 journalists, 200 plus doctors, and health workers. More than 1.7 million people have been displaced to South Gaza. Israel even blocked essential supplies to Gaza, causing severe humanitarian crisis. The international community

led by South Africa calls for war crimes investigations against Israel and Hamas, with increasing protests in west demanding for an end to Israel's actions.

Political Impact: Benny Gantz, a senior Israel leader and former military chief resigned from Netanyahu's government on 9 June 2024. He disagreed with Netanyahu's plans of handling the Gaza conflict. His disagreement have broke down the Israel war cabinet, and led to divisions.

Recent Attacks: Israel has recently attacked an South Gaza on 13 July 2024, targeting two top Hamas leaders and killing atleast 71 people.



Regional Tensions: The conflict has worsened regional tensions in the Middle East. Hezbollah from Lebanon fought with Israelis, Yemen's Houthis fired missiles at Israeli and ships. Many groups supported by Iran, attacked an US military bases in Iraq and Syria.

- REACTIONS OF BIG POWERS.

- ① United States: Since October 2023, Israel has strong support from US including military aid and warnings to other parties not to escalate in the conflict. Over time, criticism grew regarding civilian casualties in Gaza, with calls for humanitarian pause and delivery of aid to Gaza. Despite this, US supports Israel militarily and diplomatically including vetoing UN resolutions against Israel's actions. The administration of US called for truces and expressed concern for Gaza but still maintained Israel to self-defence.

Some Key statements that show
we need of US:-

Biden warned:- (October, 18, 2023)

" My message to any state
or any other hostile actor thinking
about attacking on Israel will
same, as it was 2 weeks
ago. Don't. Don't. Don't.

**Nov, 3, 2023:- Blinken Calls for
"humanitarian pause" to allow
more aid to Gaza**

" We believe that each of
these efforts would be
facilitated by humanitarian
pause".

**Dec, 12, 2023:- Biden accuses
Israel of indiscriminate bombard-
ments on Gaza, a war crime.**

" They are starting to lose
our support by the indis-
criminately bombing that takes
place"

Feb, 8, 2024: Biden criticizes Israel's offensive in Gaza.

"I'm of the view, as you know that, the conduct of the response in Gaza stop has been over the top".

March, 5, 2024: Kamala Harris stressed support for Israel in talks with Israel war cabinet member, Benny Gantz.

"She reiterated US support for Israel's right to defend itself in the face of ongoing Hamas terrorist threats and underscored our unwavering commitment to Israel's security".
The white house says in statement.

10 June 2024 (Security Council welcomes New Gaza ceasefire proposal):

In this, US called for an immediate ceasefire and stressed the urgent need for a durable end to war through a ceasefire deal between

Hamas and Israel. The deal of a two state but according to current borders.

② **China:** China has expressed valid concerns about the Israel-Palestine conflict. China voted in favor of the Ceasefire resolution, emphasizing its support for efforts to halt the conflict and address the pressing humanitarian situation in Gaza.

③ **Russia:** Russia's stance on the Palestine-Israel conflict has been complex. It has shown some support for a fair resolution for Palestine while pursuing its own geopolitical interests but Russia has also cautioned about the conflict's potential to cause a wider regional crisis. So, Russia also voted for ceasefire resolution.

③ United Kingdom:- Cited the resolution as an important step in ending the conflict but it also emphasized on Hamas to accept the ceasefire deal to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and the remaining hostages.

④ Algeria:- Algeria expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and voted in favor of the resolution to give diplomacy a chance, indicating a supportive stance towards Palestine.

⑤ Switzerland:- It supported the resolution as the best step for ending the violence in the Middle East and expressed concern over high number of Palestinian casualties, suggesting a stance leaning towards Palestine.