

Diplomatic Stance

History and Background

The current occupation and expansion of Israeli's authorities into Palestinian territories has been characterized by violation of human rights that warrant the attention of the international community. Israel's occupation of historical Palestine land is now half a century old and has been a constant cause of tension and aggression between Palestine and Israel (Amnesty International, 2022). There is no doubt that the nature of the conflict has for the past four decades evolved and worsened. More than 700,000 Jewish Israelis now occupy more than 100,000 hectares of Palestine land since the occupation (Amnesty International, 2022). Further, Israel has continued to demonstrate a methodological form of oppression that privileges Jewish Israelis while repressing Palestinians in the occupied territories even though both groups comprise an almost equal population size in the region (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Among the human rights violations that Israeli's military occupation has been accused of include concentrating Palestinians to dense population centers while settling more Jewish communities into Palestinian land, maintaining domination by systematically discriminating against Palestinians, for instance discriminatively allocating lesser resources to Palestinian schools compared to Jewish Israeli schools, restriction of movement, permit regime that denies Palestinians access to key privileges, for instance building permits, and denial of residency rights to thousands of Palestinians among other violations (Human Rights Watch, 2021). Past policies have focused on a call for cease fire between Palestinians and Israelis as well as requiring Israeli to end its occupation in Palestine. However, the attempts have been futile with the current human rights violations by Israelis causing recurrent cycles of violence.

Scotland's Position

Scotland's position on Israel's occupation of Palestinian land as well as violation of human rights has always been clear; the Scottish government condemns in the strongest terms the occupation and the subsequent violation of human rights by Israeli's authorities (McKee, 2021). The Scottish government considers current settlement illegal and that Israel should be held accountable for its human rights violations (McKee, 2021). Besides supporting current UN policy recommendations to end the current conflict, Scotland has made commitment to cut ties with Israel, including trade relations, in an attempt to coerce Israel to end the current occupation. The Scottish government has also been against current trade talks between Israel and United Kingdom noting that the negotiations ignore the human rights impact of such trade agreements (Walker, 2022).

Solutions

Three solutions are critical to dealing with the current human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories"

1. Support to UN agencies providing humanitarian support in affected Palestinian populations. This is a short term solution to assist with the institutional discrimination that denies Palestinians access to basic human rights, such as shelter, education, and health. UN agencies currently supporting Palestinians affected by the conflict need to be strengthened, especially through donor funds from international community.
2. Demanding accountability for Israeli's human rights violations through sanctions from the larger international community. Globalization has made it impossible for any nation to function independently. Sanctions, especially those related to trade can cause the Israel government to become accountable for its actions for fear of losing its international partners due to human rights violations in the occupied territories.

3. Return to the negotiations table. The long-term solution to the current crisis lies in the negotiation table. The two nations need to develop a two-state solution that adheres to the international law and UN resolutions, and mutual agreements (United Nations, 2021)). The negotiations need to be led by the United Nations and need to consider a middle ground that can lead to cease fire for both nations.

Conclusion

At the end of the conference, Scotland expects that a solution that incorporates the international community to end the current crisis in the occupied Palestinian territories will be developed. Our intention in the conference is to engage with other interested parties to develop this intercontinental approach to solving the crisis. We will proceed further in the debate by accommodating different views, including those that do not agree with our stance, if only a viable solution can be agreed upon.

References

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