

# THE LOCAL AND GLOBAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT

## AS CONSEQUÊNCIAS LOCAIS E GLOBAIS DO CONFLITO ISRAELENSE-PALESTINO

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### Abstract

This study discusses the local and global consequences of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in relation to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). The objectives of this study are to analyse the relationship between local and global consequences on both Palestine and Israel, stemming from the October 7th, 2023, attacks. The goals focused on include SDG 2, Zero Hunger; SDG 3, Good Health and Wellbeing; SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation; SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities; SDG 13, Climate Action; and SDG, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Using secondary and primary data through photographs, SWOT analysis, mapping exercises, photo collages, and news article analysis, we could provide a well-rounded evaluation of the conflict and its impact. Through our approach to this topic, we discovered there is a clear power imbalance between Israel and Palestine, leading to the undue suffering of the Palestinian people located in Gaza and a historical division between Israeli and Palestinian people through political indoctrination.

Keywords: sanitation, injustice, individual action, conflict, ecocide.

### Resumo

*Este estudo discute as consequências locais e globais do conflito israelo-palestino em relação aos Objetivos de Desenvolvimento Sustentável (ODS) das Nações Unidas. Os objetivos deste estudo são analisar a relação entre as consequências locais e globais para Palestina e Israel, decorrentes dos ataques de 7 de outubro de 2023. Os ODS abordados incluem: ODS 2, Fome Zero; ODS 3, Saúde e Bem-estar; ODS 6, Água Limpa e Saneamento; ODS 10, Redução das Desigualdades; ODS 13, Ação Climática; e ODS 16, Paz, Justiça e Instituições Eficazes. Utilizando dados secundários e primários por meio de fotografias, análise SWOT, exercícios de mapeamento, colagens fotográficas e análise de artigos de notícias, foi possível realizar uma avaliação abrangente do conflito e de seu impacto. A partir dessa abordagem, identificamos um evidente desequilíbrio de poder entre Israel e Palestina, resultando no sofrimento desproporcional da população palestina em Gaza e em uma divisão histórica entre israelenses e palestinos, perpetuada por processos de doutrinação política.*

*Palavras-chave: saneamento, injustiça, ação individual, conflito, ecocídio.*

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### Introduction

This report addresses the ongoing global challenges relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its associated Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focuses on the issues occurring as a result of this conflict. Palestine and Israel are located in a similar area with many nature reserves across both (Isaac & Hilal, 2011). Due to this important biodiverse landscape, the conflict has had severe biological implications. These include desertification of agricultural lands, lack of water access for irrigation and human use, and lack of waste management leading to land degradation (Isaac & Hilal, 2011). The SDGs aim to provide a framework for an equitable society on a global scale. The main SDGs that this report focuses on are Zero Hunger, Good Health and Wellbeing, Clean Water and Sanitation, Reduced Inequalities, Climate Action and Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (United Nations, n.d.). This report analyses the shortcomings in this area and its impacts worldwide.

### Literature Review

Palestine has a rich history riddled with conflict. After World War 2, Israel was officially declared a state and recognised by other countries, partitioning Palestine and Israel into two separate states (Barnett, et al., 2023). The retelling of the fraught history of these two independent countries varies on which side tells the story. From an Israeli perspective, the history is changed to benefit a Zionist narrative while removing responsibility for their actions during the war; the Arab perspective seeks to incite the citizens who had become cynical after the loss of Palestine (Rogan & Shlaim, 2001). Political indoctrination further led to further division between Israeli and Palestinian citizens (Hazkani, 2015).

The constant bombing in Gaza has halted any progress made to reach the goal of Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East, n.d.). The loss of life and infrastructure has disrupted the peace of this environment. Fleeing refugees from Palestine are one of the largest groups worldwide, and from 2022, roughly 5.9 million are enrolled with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees in Near East, n.d.).



Figure 3 - A photo collage created by compiling images that illustrate the issues highlighted in the news items examined for this research (Source: author, 2024).



Table 1 - The news articles analysed in our findings are displayed in the table below (Source: author, 2024).

Article	Source Type
'Nuance is being lost'- How Israel-Gaza war is spilling into cultural life <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-68457690">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-68457690</a>	BBC News – 3 March 2024
Why Ireland is the most pro-Palestinian nation in Europe <a href="https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/29/middleeast/why-ireland-is-the-most-pro-palestinian-nation-in-europe-mime-intl/index.html">https://edition.cnn.com/2024/03/29/middleeast/why-ireland-is-the-most-pro-palestinian-nation-in-europe-mime-intl/index.html</a>	CNN – 29 March 2024
Orban invites Netanyahu to Hungary as ICC warrant divides Europeans <a href="https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/pm-orban-says-he-will-invite-israeli-pm-netanyahu-hungary-after-icc-move-2024-11-22/">https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/pm-orban-says-he-will-invite-israeli-pm-netanyahu-hungary-after-icc-move-2024-11-22/</a>	Reuters – 22 November 2024
Sanitary disaster in Gaza 'worsening by the day', warns UNRWA <a href="https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154346">https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154346</a>	UN News – 16 September 2024
Revealed: repairing Israel's destruction of Gaza will come at colossal climate cost <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/06/rebuilding-gaza-climate-cost">https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/06/rebuilding-gaza-climate-cost</a>	The Guardian – 6 June 2024
Israel has missed US deadline to boost Gaza aid, UN agency says <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8r10v76nxyo">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c8r10v76nxyo</a>	BBC News – 12 November 2024
The Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire is a respite, not a wider solution <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ygn5579gvo">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5ygn5579gvo</a>	BBC News – 27 November 2024

## Results

While life in Israel has changed, people's perceptions of the government have, too. Without the return of 100 hostages and a continuing sense of unease about possible attacks from those who condemn Israeli actions in Gaza, citizens are still able to access the necessities and have plentiful luxuries available to them that Gazans do not. Water, food, and fuel are abundant in Israel, and sanitation facilities are available. Many social luxuries are still in full flow, such as cafes and restaurants, whereas those in Gaza barely have any shelter. This extreme disparity explains the inequalities within a small area, with one of the countries having power over the other through fear, constant bombardment and withholding of supplies (Lidman, 2024).

Waterborne diseases have become a problem, with bodies of water becoming contaminated due to the higher use of drainage systems. One case of Polio has been reported in Gaza for the first time in 25 years, resulting from the sewage-polluted coastline. Approximately 40,000 civilians have contracted Hepatitis A throughout the war, which is a 46,959% increase compared to the same period before the war (Nour, et al., 2024).

Israeli bombardment has significantly increased carbon emissions (652,552 metric tons of carbon dioxide in the first 4 months of the war), which, in turn, will increase global temperatures, contributing to the worldwide climate crisis (Lakhani, 2024).

An increasing issue has been the presence of asbestos in the air due to bombing. Older buildings are often built with asbestos in the foundations and used as a fire retardant. However, it was later discovered to have adverse effects on the health of those exposed. As older buildings are destroyed by bombing, asbestos particles are released into the air for civilians to breathe in (Rahim & Grist., 2024). Asbestos can lead to a variety of diseases, including mesothelioma, lung cancer, and asbestosis. The increased exposure of asbestos to civilians in Gaza will have long-term health effects on the population, regardless of how long the conflict lasts (Emmett, 2021).

The conflict has divided political opinion worldwide, with governments picking a side or declining to comment. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of November, an arrest warrant was issued for potential war crimes committed by Israel's Prime Minister, the former Defence Minister, and a Senior Hamas. This decision came after numerous months since the case was introduced to the ICC in May 2024. This decision has been controversial with the member countries of the ICC (Than & Heine, 2024). This may not resolve the conflict. Instead, it could exacerbate the ongoing dispute (Duursma, 2020). Many European countries have not formally stated how to proceed with the arrest warrant. However, a range of opinions is evident. The Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orban, has said that he will defy the arrest warrant and not detain Netanyahu if he goes to Hungary (Than & Heine, 2024). This showcases Israeli governmental support within European governments. Decision-making is the sole responsibility of the ICC member countries, even though the warrant is a legitimate legal document. Ireland's government, however, has firmly held that the arrest warrants are valid and that they will be upheld if any of the named individuals were to enter Irish jurisdiction. This is likely because the Irish people sympathise with the Palestinian struggle due to shared colonial experiences. This is shown through the Irish government's outspoken support of the Palestinian cause in recent months (Kennedy & McSweeney, 2024). This reiterates that while there is support for the Israeli government's actions within Europe, some politicians still condemn Israeli actions. While Europe remains divided in their opinion on the conflict, President Joe Biden of the United States of America (USA) has stated that America "will always stand with Israel against threats to its security". Additionally, he stated that there is no comparison between Israel and Hamas. An official declaration of the USAs



stance has not been made; Mr Biden's declaration would suggest a pro-Israeli stance (Lukiv, 2024).

Opinions on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict have been developed on a global scale. Razzall (Razzall, 2024) discusses the influence that celebrities and pop culture have on public political opinion. Various public figures have conveyed the challenges faced throughout the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Kneecap, a band from West Belfast, Northern Ireland, displayed their solidarity with Palestine by expressing their 'pro-Palestinian' stance on The Late Late Show through their clothing (Razzall, 2024) and running 10 kilometres every day of their English and Scottish Tour to raise over £30,000 for food parcels for Gaza (Rigotti, 2024). On the other hand, Dame Helen Mirren and Boy George have advocated for Israeli inclusion in events, Eurovision in particular (Razzall, 2024). This indicates support from influential figures for both sides of the conflict. Those in the public can easily influence an individual's political opinion. Jackson and Darrow (Jackson & Darrow, 2005) discovered that 'By manipulating the survey questions to place the celebrity endorsement at the top of the respondent's mind for half the sample, we can demonstrate that celebrity endorsement leads to increased agreement with a political statement.' This confirms that opinions fed to us through social media, pop culture, and celebrity statements influence the political views of individuals, with young adults being particularly affected.

Sporting events are often used to convey political opinions, meaning that the message reaches a wide range of people watching. This can influence the political opinions of people who have unformed opinions. They may choose to align with their team's political views to feel included (Whigham, et al., 2020). Usually, it is not the sports teams that are political, but the fan base associated. (Paine & Enten, 2017). Displays of Palestinian solidarity are prevalent in sports. Greek basketball team, Panathinaikos fans, displayed a banner stating 'Stop Genocide. Freedom to Palestine' at a match against Maccabi Tel Aviv, an Israeli team (Solaris, 2024).

In football, political statements are ubiquitous, with displays from the Celtic Football Club (CFC) occurring regularly. The Palestinian Flag has been incorporated into the Green Brigade's regular display of flags each week.

There have been multiple instances of CFC fans displaying their solidarity with Palestine, including at the matches against Athletic Madrid (Spanish) (Bonar, 2023), Livingston (Scottish) (Irvine, 2023), Hapoel Be'er Sheva (Israeli) (PA Sport, 2016) and many more. Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) is another team that has shown solidarity with Palestine. At their game against Athletic Madrid, fans displayed a large banner stating, 'Free Palestine'. UEFA did not fine PSG for this political statement, which was controversial

due to previous fines towards CFC for their displays (Pretot, 2024).

An average of 1.5 million people are living in overcrowded shelters in Gaza, leaving them susceptible to disease. Cleanliness is impacted due to the lack of hygiene items available. This leads to the increased spread of disease and infection. This affects children and those with a compromised immune system to a greater degree (United Nations, 2024). The healthcare facilities are dependent on volunteers, decreasing effectiveness. This can lead to an increased mortality rate (Mohapatra, et al., 2024).

Israel claims to have increased aid and holds the distribution liable for lack of access. Distribution centres in Gaza supply basic necessities to families; however, aid often cannot reach these centres. Despite these claims, Israeli forces demolished bakeries and other food suppliers which are critical for survival (Buheji & Hasan, 2024). Only 7 to 9 trucks can enter Gaza, meaning limited aid can pass through the crossings. Before the conflict escalation, aid was received without issue (Donnison, 2024). Food insecurity now affects over half of the population (Zurayk, et al., 2012).

Both Lebanon and Israel have accepted the ceasefire deal, which will result in a pause in conflict (Bowen, 2024). The intermittent period between the ceasefire declaration and the official start of the ceasefire saw an uptick in violent Israeli airstrikes throughout Lebanon (CBS News, 2024). Despite accepting the ceasefire deal, Netanyahu sees this as a time to 'replenish stocks' (Bowen, 2024) indicating a temporary ceasefire.

## Conclusion

To conclude, the local and global consequences of the conflict were assessed, and the findings show a grim reality. Emissions have massively increased due to Israeli bombardment, which increases the Greenhouse Effect. Contaminated air affects how people breathe and leads to the development of serious health conditions. Water quality and sewage have also collapsed. Political opinion is divided worldwide, with public figures speaking out about what side they favour. Sports fanbases also have an influence on the political opinion of individuals. Overall, the conflict between Israel and Palestine has had many current adverse effects on people, infrastructure and the environment within Gaza, along with a global impact on climate change and political opinion. This is set to continue for many years as 'ecocide' has destroyed many years of agricultural efforts, political mindsets of like-minded groups are difficult to shift, and conflict-related health impacts will have a lasting effect. This will prolong the life of the conflict, even in its aftermath.

Figure 4.5 and 6 - Demonstrations at football matches. (Source: author, 2024).

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