

Forum: General Assembly One
Issue: The question of strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region
Student Officer: Jae Hee Lee
Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

As evident as it is from observing the map of the globe, the Mediterranean region is a gigantic area, consisting of 22 countries (excluding Northern Cyprus, which is recognized only by Turkey). It has been the hub of European culture and the center of the world's major issues since centuries ago. Therefore, it is not a surprise that numerous disputes have taken place, and still happen, in the area extremely frequently. Whatever the reason may be - economic, political or religious – there is no denying that there is currently a plethora of cumbersome issues that need to be handled in the Mediterranean.

The Israeli – Palestinian conflict has been going on for more than a century now. The menacing civil war in Syria led to the unprecedented number of refugees in Europe since the Second World War. And, of course, there is the Islamic State. The essential information of these issues will be described in further detail, but further research is recommended in order for a deeper and more thorough understanding.

Even though they are currently overshadowed by more publicized issues such as the ones regarding the Islamic Republic and such, there is no doubt that the seriousness of these are extremely intense and deserve the necessary attention. As the overall goal of the United Nations is to keep global peace and promote global cooperation, it is our duty to encourage the global community to come together and devise adequate solutions through active, and multinational participation.

Definition of Key Terms

The Mediterranean Sea

The Mediterranean Sea is a body of water, almost completely enclosed by the land of the Mediterranean region, with Europe to the North and Africa to the South. It is also connected to the Atlantic Ocean. The Mediterranean Region consists of the countries that

border the Mediterranean, which include Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Montenegro, Palestine, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Turkey and Tunisia.

Territorial Dispute

A territorial dispute is the disagreement over the control of land between two or more states.

The Zionist Movement

A Jewish extremist ideology and movement that encouraged all Jews around the world to unite powers and establish a single Jewish nation blessed by god.

The Arab Spring

A set of protests, riots, and civil wars in the Arabian region which began on the 18th of December 2010 in Tunisia and eventually spread.

Caliphate

To enthrone as the leader of an Islamic State.

Key Issues

The Israeli–Palestinian Conflict – Israel & Palestine

Starting from the late 19th century, Jewish people who were prompted by the Zionist movement (refer to the Definition of Key Terms for details) called for the establishment of a Jewish country, Israel, on Palestinian land. There are always problems and obstacles when starting a new nation, but the creation of Israel was particularly troublesome in various aspects. Firstly, the area that the Jews wanted to build their new home on was not only in the middle of Palestinian territory, but was also 78% of it. Secondly, the countries that would border Israel are mostly Islam, including Palestine (86% Muslim, 10% Christian), and were definitely not happy to suddenly have a Judaist nation among their midst.

However, in contrast to what was anticipated, the first few immigration of Jews into Palestine created no, or very mediocre problems. However, as more and more Zionists immigrated to Palestine, the indigenous population started to become increasingly alarmed.

As Hitler rose to power in Germany, Zionist activities to locate Jewish refugees in the Palestine led to a vertical increase of Jewish immigration, and eventually conflict grew.

In 1947, the United Nations decided to intervene this conflict. However, instead of letting the Zionists create their own state and a system of government through diplomatic means, the UN simply divided Palestinian land and gave the Zionists 55% of it, when in reality, they only represented 30% of the population. The nation of Israel was officially established.

Unfortunately, the presence of Israel among Islamic countries was much more disturbing than what was anticipated: extremist Zionist forces had committed a total of 16 massacres straight after the establishment of the nation, and by the end of 1949, had committed 17 more, in the name of "holy conquest". Such behavior was obviously despised by neighboring Arabic nations including Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Syria, who eventually invaded Israel in 1948, marking the start of the first Arab-Israeli War. To everyone's surprise, Israel defeated the united forces of the five countries, and even went on to conquer up to 78% of Palestine. As a result, almost 75% of the Palestinian population were made refugees.

Even after the war, Israel went on to conquer even more land, and eventually occupied the final 22% of Palestinian land in 1967, with the Six Day War. There were numerous additional conflicts and wars afterwards, which there are too many to list all. The significant ones are displayed at the Timeline of Events, but further research by delegates is highly recommended.

The Situation in Syria (The Syrian Civil War)

The unrest in Syria began in early 2011, when there were nationwide protests called the Arab Spring against the president Bashar al-Assad and his government, which was corrupt to an unbearable level. The government responded to these uprisings with violence, and the conflict between it and the people gradually developed from mere protests to armed rebellions.

The war had, and still has, destructive effects on Syria and it's neighboring nations. As of August 2015, it is estimated by the United Nations that there were 250 thousand casualties, over 7.6 million people displaced internally, over 4 million refugees abroad (which is directly connected with the next issue: The European Migrant Crisis), and about 80000 civilian deaths so far.

Moreover, the Syrian Government is responsible for crimes against humanity, such as dropping barrel bombs which contain chlorine, a deadly chemical agent, on civilian areas.

As of July 2013, the Syrian government was said to be in control of approximately 40% of the land and 60% of the population, while the territory controlled fully by the Syrian Army was reported to have shrunk to up to 16% of the nation.

The European Migrant Crisis

The European Migrant Crisis, or the European Refugee Crisis began in 2015, when countless refugees from mainly Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq started to flood into Europe seeking an asylum.

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), an estimated amount of 3072 people died or went missing in 2014 in the Mediterranean while trying to migrate to Europe. The overall estimated casualties are over 22000 people. These statistics show that safety of the transportation of the refugees are a major problem.

Even though the action of accepting refugees into the borders are considered philanthropic, the truth is not all that beautiful. Migrants who are desperate for survival are doing dangerous labor for extremely little money, which results in numerous problems: not only is child labor growing to an uncontrollable portion, but the jobs of the original citizens are being threatened due to the introduction of the refugees' cheap labor.

The Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)

The Islamic State claims themselves that they are a nation that follows strictly the principles of Salafism, Salafi Jihadism, and Wahhabism Islam. However, the global community does not accept their claim and consider It as a Sunni-Islam armed terrorist force, due to its countless violations of the Koran and the basic Islamic principles. There are approximately 50 thousand to 260 thousand total members.

The ISIS has committed numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity based on its primary goal of conquering the world, making it Islamic, and getting rid of anyone who gets in the way via terrorism. Adept at using social media, the group has uploaded numerous videos, including beheadings of kidnapped individuals, onto social media for the means of implementing horror in the global society. Moreover, the group has claimed responsibility for the terrorist bomb attack in Paris in November 2015.

One may wonder where the organization gets the funds for all these activities, but the ISIS is actually funded very stably via products from the occupied territory, support from Saudi Arabia, kidnapping for ransom, and fundraising via modern communication networks.

There are numerous countries that the Islamic State has its influences, such as Libya, Algeria, Yemen and such. However, the main nations that it bases its activities and base on are Syria, Palestine and Iraq, which are all located in the Mediterranean. Especially, the Islamic State has recently had violent encounters with Syria. Therefore, it is reasonable that this issue is discussed alongside with others in the Mediterranean.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

The United Nations

Because the name “Islamic State” implies that the group is accepted as a recognized state, many, including the UN, criticize the word and refer to the organization as Daesh.

Moreover, The Security Council of the United Nations adopted resolution 2253 in order to expand sanctions on organizations that fund the Islamic State in December 2015.

For the Syrian Civil War, In August 2014, The United Nations has officially condemned the Syrian Government, alongside the Islamic State, for committing war crimes against humanity. A 45-page report was issued in Geneva on the 27th of August 2014 demanding the Syrian government be prosecuted.

Also, investigators in Syria have drawn up four suspects who they believe should face international justice, and have called for action for the United Nations’ Security Council to appropriate deserving punishments.

The United States of America

Despite the fact that Jewish people make up only 2% of the US population, it is definitely not an overstatement to say that most of the US economy is controlled, and is under the influence of, Jews. Consequently, the United States has always been supportive of Israel in political, military and economical means. Currently, the US pays for up to 20% of Israel’s military, and US taxpayers give Israel an average of \$8 million per day, thanks to the Israel Lobby, which is more than funds towards any other nation.

As of political relations, The US has always been fully supportive of Israeli actions. The United States have officially used its VETO power in the Council Meetings of the United Nations a total of 32 times in order to prevent adopting a resolution that would bring negative effects on Israel. Considering that Israel is a controversial nation that causes numerous troubles inside the Mediterranean region, the US is often criticized heavily for their support.

Also, during the Six Day War, Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a US Navy ship, which resulted in over 200 American casualties. Some found this attack to be an act of war against the US, but very few agreed, and even the President at the time, Lyndon Johnson, stated that he “did not want to embarrass an ally”.

Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of event
September 3, 1947	The United Nations intervenes in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and recommends Palestine that it gives the Zionists 55% of its land.
May 15, 1948	The 1948 Arab Israeli starts.
July 20, 1949	The signings of the armistice agreements between Israel and its four neighboring countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria) are finished.
June 5, 1967	Israel starts the “Six Day War” in which Israeli forces launched a surprise attack on Egypt, and successfully occupying the final 22% of Palestine.
September 17, 1978	The Camp David Accords were signed between Egypt and Israel.
October 26, 1994	The Israel – Jordan Treaty of Peace is signed.
1999	The Islamic State is established under the name of Jama’at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad.
July 17, 2000	Al-Assad is made president of Syria, and his long authoritarian

	regime begins.
July 25, 2000	The Camp David Summit fails to resolve relationship between Palestine and Israel.
2002	Both the Beirut Summit and the Road Map for Peace fails to make meaningful changes for the conflict.
October, 2004	The Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad joins the al-Qaeda.
October 13, 2006	The Islamic State is declared in Iraq.
March 15, 2011	The Syrian Civil War officially starts.
April 21, 2012	The United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) is formed.
July 22, 2012	The Syrian government uses chemical weapons on civilians.
February 3, 2013	The Islamic State officially separates from the al-Qaeda and goes it's separate path.
June 29, 2014	The Islamic State declares caliphate.
September 6, 2014	The Syrian Army bombs the capital of the Islamic State, but due to bad aim, at least 60 civilians were killed.
April 19, 2015	Five boats carrying almost 2000 migrants to Europe sinks in the Mediterranean, with 1200 civilian casualties.
November 13, 2015	The Islamic State claims responsibility for the terrorist attacks in Paris, killing 130 and injuring 368.
December 17, 2015	The Security Council of the United Nations adopts resolution 2253 in order to expand sanctions on organizations that fund the Islamic State.
January 12, 2016	The Islamic State claims responsibility for the terrorist attack in

Istanbul, killing 12 and injuring 14.

January 14, 2016

The Islamic State claims responsibility for the terrorist attack in Jakarta, killing 4 and injuring 24.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict

On 1949, Israel and its four neighboring countries (Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria) signed a set of agreements which ended the 1948 Arab – Israeli War. This treaty kept the peace in the area until Israel started yet another war by starting the Six-Day War in 1967.

On September 17th of 1978, the Egyptian president Anwar El Sadat and the Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin signed the Camp David Accords. This was instantly followed by the Egyptian - Israeli Peace Treaty, which was signed in Washington DC, March 26th 1979. The Egyptian – Israeli Peace Treaty included the mutual recognition of each other as countries, the complete withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from Egypt and such. These agreements also gained access to the Suez Canal for Israeli ships.

The 1994 Israel – Jordan Treaty of Peace normalized relationships between the two countries.

The Camp David Summit of July 2000 between US president Bill Clinton, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was ultimately unsuccessful, and the relationship between the two nations were not alleviated.

In 2002, two attempts were made at solving the tension in the Arabian region: the Beirut Summit and the Road Map for Peace. Both these attempts were not successful, as both meetings devised meaningful resolutions which were both never really implemented.

The Islamic State

Though technically not an “attempt to solve the issue”, the United Nations and numerous other organizations have refused to refer to the organization as the “Islamic State”, since the name implies that the speaker recognizes the organization as a nation. Instead, the name “Daesh” is encouraged to refer to the group.

On December 2015, The Security Council of the United Nations adopted resolution 2253 in order to expand sanctions on organizations that fund the Islamic State.

There were countless military interventions against the Islamic State since 2014, and further research is recommended for specific details.

The Situation in Syria

On 27th August 2014, The United Nations has officially condemned the Syrian Government, alongside the Islamic State, for committing war crimes against humanity, and a 45-page report was issued in Geneva, demanding the Syrian government be prosecuted.

Also, investigators in Syria have drawn up four suspects who they believe should face international justice, and have called for action for the United Nations' Security Council to appropriate deserving punishments.

In late 2011, the Arab League launched two initiatives in order to end the civil war in Syria, but both were unsuccessful. Approximately 10 more conferences and attempts were made after them, and were all not successful. The most recent was the 2016 Geneva Peace Conference on Syria, at which the Syrian government official and the opposition refused to sit in the same room at the first day. They finally agreed to talk on the 29th of January, but no real solution has been suggested to this point.

The European Refugee Crisis

On April 2015, the first European Union Summit on the issue was established. However, currently, some member states are disregarding international responsibilities by building walls, closing borders and such.

On September 2015, an agreement was made between the members that 120 thousand asylum seekers from Greece and Italy would be relocated, but as the European Commission President has stated, relocation will only be completed by 2101 at this pace.

Possible Solutions

The Israeli – Palestinian Conflict

It is apparent that the United States, who acts as a “keeper of justice” in most global conflicts, is biased towards Israel when it comes to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Moreover, as mentioned previously, the United Nations has a history of unreasonably giving the Israeli the right to appropriate a chunk of Palestinian land.

Delegates of countries that are suffering from this issue should therefore initially focus on convincing the delegate of the United States of America to take a more neutral approach to the issue, and should after persuade the whole house of the General Assembly for cooperation and recognition.

The Islamic State

Despite the fact that they call themselves the “Islamic State”, most Muslim nations, just like other nations, despise the organization and deny that they are related through any means. Therefore, it should be fairly easy for the delegates of the house to seek a solution together, which would be achieved through cooperation.

However, the delegates should keep in mind that a simple “full-on” attack is not always the best solution and that many factors, including preventing further acts of terrorism, should be taken into consideration.

The Situation in Syria

Al-Assad’s totalitarian regime in Syria is deeply rooted into the nation’s government, and the house should focus on not only securing the lives of the civilians in the region and ending the conflict, but also on ultimately removing Syria of the destructive leader. Keep in mind that the aftermaths of the sudden absence of current power should be also taken into consideration.

The European Refugee Crisis

While countries such as Germany are planning to take in as much as 1 million refugees in their borders for the sake of the people, other MEDC’s are currently very reserved about the acceptance of migrants in their nation. It would be crucial that all of the members European Union and Syria’s neighboring nations, help solve the issue. Note that this does not necessarily have to be literally taking in a large number of refugees, but can also be financial, including funds and support of essential material (food, water, and such) for survival.

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