



UNITED NATIONS
International Court of Justice

October 8, 2019

Honorable Judges,

Welcome to the fifteenth annual FUMUN Conference. My name is Jessica Castillo and I will be serving as the Chair for the International Court of Justice committee on Border conflict in Israel. I am currently a junior with a double major in Politics and International Studies with minors in Latin American and Caribbean Studies, French, and Peace and Justice Studies. I congratulate you on participating in this wonderful event. At FUMUN you will hone your skills in public speaking and debate while immersing yourself in cultural studies and current global issues, all very important in our increasingly global world.

My name is Lilah Murphy and I am excited to be serving as your co-Chair for the International Court of Justice hearing on the Border Conflict in Israel. Before we get into the case, I want to tell you a little bit about myself. I am a History major here at Fairfield University with minors in Environmental Studies, Peace and Justice Studies, and Islamic World Studies. I have been involved in Model UN since my freshman year of college, but I have only begun taking an active role in the club this year. I am now the secretary of the club and plan to help out whenever I can. Model United Nations, whether you go into international relations or not, teaches you the necessary skills for your career. It helps you write, think critically, form a position, make arguments, and collaborate in a group. I envy your decision to get involved so early in your academic career.

Good day, everyone! My name is Liam Weaver, and I am also excited to be your co-chair today. I am an accounting major in the Dolan School of Business here. I'm relatively new to Model UN, but I took a course this summer regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict zones. I've also had the good fortune of being able to travel to many foreign lands. I have also had the privilege of volunteering in both Cuba and Cambodia.

Procedures for the International Court of Justice

In this year's conference, we will be modeling the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which is a fundamentally technical committee. In this committee, instead of acting as delegates representing your countries, you will be acting on your own criteria and values to decide on these controversial court cases. You will be asked to produce a legal ruling with its accompanying legal background. The International Court of Justice (also known as The Court) is the main judicial organ of the United Nations and it's headquartered in the Hague, The Netherlands.

Procedures in The Court happen in two stages: the first, which is based off of written information, is the stage where all of the judges share and discuss their position papers, their position on the topic, the legal background of the case, and any questions of procedures. In the second stage, which is collaborative, all judges will be asked to write their legal ruling on the case and all differing opinions will write a failure describing why they disagree with the ruling. Once both stages have concluded, The Court enters the deliberation stage where the legal ruling would be discussed, modified, and voted on behind closed doors and all failures added to the end of the document.

Background on the Arab-Israeli Conflict

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been an ongoing land dispute, since 1948 according to Palestinians, or for over 3,700 years, according to Israeli Jews. In 1948, the Jewish Zionist organization declared independence as the state of Israel in the area of Palestine. According to Israelis, Israel was created in the Jewish Holy Land, and it is their right to establish the state of Israel on the Holy Land because the Jews have a right to self-determination, self-governance, and to be safe from persecution. However, in creating the state of Israel, the Palestinians in the territory of Palestine have been displaced, causing a massive internal refugee crisis. According to Palestinians, their rights to their property has been violated since Israel declared independence because they have been pushed from their homes. In order for Israelis to have a Jewish-state, they need a Jewish majority. Therefore, Palestinians do not have full political rights under the Israeli government.

In 1948, the United Nations created a document, dividing the land between the two groups of people. This document is the basis of the two-state solution. This document was never enforced and in 1967, Israel gained more territory, pushing Palestinians into a smaller and smaller area. During the Oslo Accords in the 1990's, there were negotiations of peace, which were ultimately rejected by the Palestinian Liberation Organization on the grounds that they did not negotiate means for autonomy for the Palestinians like the Israelis had promised. This has led Israelis to conclude that the Palestinians were not interested in creating lasting peace.

Currently, a dispute over the border and the idea of a two-state solution persists. The majority of Palestinians have been pushed into the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank. By 2020, the United Nations believes the Gaza Strip will be unliveable, due to the lack of food, drinking water, sewage treatment facilities, overcrowding, internal refugees, etc.

When you are making your arguments, keep the following questions in mind:

What is the history of the conflict? How do the Israelis view this history? How do the Palestinians view this history?

What are the international laws that are relevant to this conflict? Where are the human rights violations? Who is the victim and who is the perpetrator?

Who is in a position of power in this conflict and why?

Who constitutes the governing body for each group of people and how does that influence the decisions made on behalf of both groups of people?

What justifications are made on both sides of the conflict for such actions? Do they have any standing?

Links to get you started:

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/06/50-years-israeli-occupation-longest-modern-history-170604111317533.html>

<https://youtu.be/iRYZjOuUnIU>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/29/world/middleeast/hamas-arrests-bombing-gaza.html?searchResultPosition=3>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/10/israeli-forces-kill-palestinian-protester-gaza-wound-dozens-191004153620358.html>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/09/netanyahu-announces-post-election-plan-annex-jordan-valley-190910155523634.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iwo2TLlMhiw>