
Assessing the OIC's Role in the Israel-Palestine Conflict: Challenges and Effectiveness

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Abstract

This paper critically assesses the role of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict, focusing on its challenges and overall effectiveness. The OIC, as a major intergovernmental body representing the Muslim world, has consistently advocated for Palestinian rights and sought to mediate peace efforts. However, its influence has been limited by internal divisions, geopolitical complexities, and the shifting dynamics of international diplomacy. This study examines the OIC's diplomatic initiatives, its efforts to support Palestinian sovereignty, and the obstacles it faces, including member state disagreements and external political pressures. The paper also evaluates the extent to which the OIC has been able to achieve tangible outcomes, both within the Muslim world and on the global stage, in influencing a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. Ultimately, the paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the OIC's effectiveness as a mediator and advocate in one of the most enduring geopolitical crises of the modern era.

Key words: OIC, Israel-Palestine, UN, Arab, State, Peace

Introduction

The Israel-Palestine conflict has been one of the most persistent and complex geopolitical issues in modern history, with deep-rooted historical, religious, and political dimensions. For decades, global efforts to mediate peace between Israel and Palestine have seen limited success, despite numerous initiatives, negotiations, and peace agreements. Amid this challenging landscape, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), established in 1969, has emerged as a prominent actor in advocating for Palestinian rights and attempting to influence international efforts towards a resolution. Representing 57 member states across the Muslim world, the OIC's mission has been to provide political, diplomatic, and humanitarian support to Palestine, pushing for its recognition as an independent state and addressing the broader issues of the Arab Israeli conflict. Despite its significant ideological and moral support for Palestine, the OIC's role in the conflict has been met with both praise and criticism. While it has provided a collective voice for Muslim-majority nations, the organization has often faced internal divisions, as well as challenges posed by global power dynamics and its limited practical influence in the broader international arena. Furthermore, the OIC's ability to mobilize meaningful change or mediate a resolution is continually questioned, as its efforts are frequently hindered by geopolitical rivalries, competing national interests, and the ongoing complexities of Middle Eastern politics. This paper seeks

to assess the OIC's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict, focusing on its diplomatic, humanitarian, and political efforts. It will explore the challenges the organization faces, such as its fragmented membership, regional tensions, and the shifting global power structures that impact its effectiveness. Through this analysis, the paper aims to provide a clear understanding of the OIC's successes and limitations, offering a balanced perspective on its capacity to influence outcomes in one of the most contentious conflicts of the modern era. The following questions will be addressed in this paper.

Research Questions

1. What have been the primary diplomatic and political strategies employed by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to address the Israel-Palestine conflict, and how effective have these strategies been in achieving their goals?
2. How has the OIC's internal diversity—especially differing political and ideological stances among member states—impacted its ability to present a unified stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict?
3. To what extent has the OIC influenced international opinion and global policy regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict through its resolutions, declarations, and advocacy at the United Nations and other international platforms?
4. What are the key challenges faced by the OIC in balancing its support for Palestinian sovereignty with maintaining relationships with key international actors, such as the United States and Israel, and how do these challenges affect its overall effectiveness in the peace process?

Research methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design to explore the OIC's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict. Qualitative research is particularly suited for understanding complex political dynamics, analysing historical narratives, and interpreting the diverse perspectives of stakeholders involved in the conflict. The research is focus on analysing secondary sources to evaluate the OIC's strategies, effectiveness, challenges, and contributions to the resolution process. The study relies on secondary data collected from a variety of sources, including: resolutions, statements, and reports published by the OIC, particularly those addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict. These documents provide valuable insights into the organization's diplomatic stance, policy recommendations, and initiatives. Scholarly research and articles from international relations, political science, and Middle Eastern studies journals were reviewed to understand how experts assess the OIC's role and effectiveness. Books that focus on the OIC, Middle East politics, and international diplomacy have been also analysed for broader context and historical perspectives. Major international news outlets and media coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict were examined to understand the OIC's public actions, criticisms, and the reception of its policies. Reports from organizations such as Human Rights Watch, the United Nations, also provided additional perspectives on the OIC's interventions and the outcomes of its efforts.

Literature Review

By examining key historical and contemporary interventions, the review seeks to provide a comprehensive understanding of the OIC's capacity to effect change in this complex and deeply entrenched conflict. Al-Ahsan (2004) examines the Organization of Islamic Cooperation's (OIC) role in mediating conflicts among Muslim nations. The OIC was established in 1969 to promote solidarity and address issues such as political conflicts, economic challenges, and collective security. However, it faces challenges due to member states' differing interests, political rivalries, and lack of enforcement power. As a result, the OIC struggles to present a unified approach to conflicts. The article highlights the OIC's use of diplomatic dialogue, peacekeeping, and humanitarian efforts in conflict resolution. Despite these efforts, the OIC's success has been inconsistent. Said (2018) is of the view that terrorist activities have often been orchestrated by Israel to undermine the sovereignty of Palestine. In response, Palestinians resist Israeli brutality, striving to protect their land and counter these acts of aggression. Historically,

Muslims worldwide share a deep religious connection to the region of Palestine, and they feel a strong sense of solidarity with the Palestinian people and their land. Hanif (2014) state that the role of the OIC in external conflicts is equally challenging, much like its involvement in internal matters. Since its inception, the organization has adopted over 2,300 resolutions calling for the boycott of economic and diplomatic relations with Israel. However, these resolutions have largely failed to be effectively implemented. Emmott & Guarascio (2020) are of the view that western countries have largely overlooked the growing likelihood that the Israeli Palestinian conflict will be increasingly framed as a human rights issue, rather than merely a territorial dispute. There is a rising willingness to hold Israel accountable, fuelled by decades of unsuccessful negotiations, gradual annexation, and the controversial Trump peace plan. For example, France has reportedly advocated for European Union member states to impose economic sanctions on Israel should it proceed with annexing additional territories. Human Rights Watch. (2025) proclaims that Israeli authorities impose Israeli civil law on settlers while governing West Bank Palestinians under stringent military law. This dual legal system denies Palestinians fundamental due process, as they are tried in military courts where the conviction rate is close to 100%. In January 2020, the United States unveiled its long-anticipated plan for the Israeli Palestinian conflict. The 181-page "Peace to Prosperity" document marked a significant departure from previous proposals on the matter ("Peace to Prosperity," 2020). The plan grants Israel sovereignty over all of Jerusalem, denies the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and allows Israel to extend its sovereignty over roughly 30% of the West Bank, including the Jordan Valley. Under this framework, Israel would retain control over all ports and borders, while a fragmented network of isolated territorial enclaves would be interconnected through tunnels and bypass roads. In the next section of the paper, the research question will be critically analysed. Key themes, concepts, and variables related to the question will be explored. This analysis aims to provide a deeper understanding and lay the groundwork for further investigation.

A- Primary Approaches Employed by The OIC

1. Diplomatic Advocacy for Palestinian Rights

The OIC has consistently positioned itself as a vocal advocate for Palestinian rights in international forums. It has called for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. The OIC's diplomatic strategy involves lobbying the United Nations (UN) and other international organizations to recognize Palestinian sovereignty and apply international law, including UN resolutions related to the conflict, such as Resolution 242 and Resolution 338, which call for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories (United Nation, 1967,1973).

Effectiveness: While the OIC's diplomatic efforts have garnered support in some international forums, particularly within the UN General Assembly, the geopolitical realities—such as the influence of Western powers, particularly the U.S.—have hindered the OIC's ability to secure binding actions or resolutions that hold Israel accountable.

2. Support for Palestinian Political Representation

The OIC has been instrumental in promoting the Palestinian cause by supporting the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) as the legitimate representatives of the Palestinian people. It has provided financial and political backing to these bodies. The OIC has also been a proponent of Palestinian unity, attempting to mediate between different Palestinian factions (e.g., Fatah and Hamas) to present a united front in negotiations with Israel and the international community.

Effectiveness: Although the OIC's efforts to support Palestinian political representation have been significant, Palestinian political divisions, particularly between Fatah and Hamas, have undermined the potential for a cohesive and unified Palestinian negotiating position. This internal fragmentation has limited the OIC's overall effectiveness in representing the Palestinian cause.

3. Economic and Humanitarian Support

The OIC, through its specialized institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Islamic Solidarity Fund, has provided substantial financial aid to Palestinian communities. The OIC has

played a key humanitarian role worldwide and serves as a vital development agent in its member countries. Initially a mediator, it later focused on addressing humanitarian concerns (S. S. Husain, 1997). This aid is directed at humanitarian relief, infrastructure development, and support for Palestinian refugees. Additionally, the OIC works to rally member states to contribute to Palestinian economic sustainability, including funding projects in the West Bank, Gaza, and refugee camps in neighbouring Arab countries.

Effectiveness: The OIC's economic and humanitarian support has been crucial in alleviating the suffering of Palestinians. However, such aid often falls short in addressing the root causes of the conflict, such as the Israeli occupation and the status of Jerusalem, which continue to dominate the political discourse.

4. Calls for Boycotts and Sanctions on Israel

The OIC has frequently called for boycotts of Israeli products and divestment from Israeli businesses as a form of economic pressure on Israel. It has also advocated for international sanctions to compel Israel to end its occupation and respect Palestinian rights.

Effectiveness: While boycotts and divestment efforts have gained some traction in certain countries and regions, Israel has largely been insulated from serious international sanctions due to its strong relationships with major Western powers. The lack of a unified and enforceable global stance on sanctions has limited the impact of the OIC's economic strategies.

5. Promoting a Two-State Solution

The OIC has consistently endorsed a two-state solution as the most viable way to resolve the conflict, with the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. This position has been articulated in various OIC declarations, including those adopted at the annual summits.

Effectiveness: While the two-state solution remains the official position of the OIC, it has not made significant progress in recent years. Israel's continued expansion of settlements in the West Bank, combined with shifting international attitudes, has made the realization of a two-state solution increasingly unlikely. The OIC's advocacy for this solution, however, has helped maintain international attention on the Palestinian cause.

6. Internationalization of the Issue

The OIC has sought to internationalize the Israel-Palestine conflict by engaging with other international organizations such as the UN, the Arab League, and even regional powers outside the Islamic world. It has also pushed for international recognition of the State of Palestine. The OIC has sought the support of key global powers, including Russia, China, and the European Union, to pressure Israel into negotiating with Palestinians. In the modern world, the OIC has effectively internationalized the Palestinian issue. (S. S. Khan, 2009).

Effectiveness: The OIC's diplomatic engagement in multilateral forums has helped to sustain global awareness of the Palestinian cause, but international politics, especially the influence of the U.S. and its support for Israel, have hindered significant progress toward a resolution.

7. Advocating for Jerusalem's Status

One of the most consistent elements of the OIC's strategy has been its strong stance on the status of Jerusalem. The organization has vigorously opposed Israeli claims over Jerusalem and has worked to maintain the city's status as a shared capital for both Israel and Palestine, with special protections for religious sites.

Effectiveness: Despite the OIC's strong advocacy, the decision by the U.S. to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital in 2017 was a significant blow to the OIC's efforts. However, the OIC has continued to rally member states and other international actors to reject such moves and to protect the city's significance to Palestinians and Muslims worldwide.

B: Political and Ideological Stances Among Member States

The internal diversity within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has significantly impacted its ability to present a unified stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Member states within the OIC have

varying political, ideological, and strategic interests, which leads to divergent views on how to address the conflict. **Divergent Political and Ideological Perspectives:** The OIC consists of 57 member states, including countries with different political systems, economic interests, and historical relationships with Israel. For example, some OIC member states, such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Turkey, have been vocal in their support for Palestinian rights, while others, like Egypt and Jordan, have pursued more pragmatic approaches due to peace treaties with Israel and security considerations. Additionally, countries like the UAE and Bahrain have recently normalized relations with Israel through the Abraham Accords, further complicating the OIC's position on the conflict. **Geopolitical Interests:** Many OIC members have their own geopolitical interests that influence their stance. Countries like Qatar and Iran have used their positions to assert leadership in the Arab and Muslim worlds by supporting Palestinian groups, while nations like Egypt and Jordan have prioritized stability and security, which at times means cooperating with Israel. These differing interests often result in competing priorities within the OIC, hindering consensus on how to approach the Israel-Palestine issue. **Internal Power Dynamics:** The OIC also struggles with internal power dynamics, where more influential member states, such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey, seek to shape the organization's stance based on their own foreign policies. Smaller member states may feel pressure to align with these larger powers or, conversely, may seek to assert their own independent positions, leading to a lack of cohesion in the organization's approach. Many OIC member states are part of broader geopolitical alliances that influence their views on the Israel-Palestine conflict. For example, countries like Pakistan, Malaysia, and Indonesia have historically been outspoken in their support for Palestinian independence, but other member states with closer ties to the West or Israel, such as Egypt and Morocco, may not always align with this stance.

C. Oic Influenced International Opinion and Global Policy

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has played a significant role in influencing international opinion and global policy regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict, particularly through its resolutions, declarations, and advocacy at the United Nations (UN) and other international platforms. However, the extent of its influence is shaped by a number of factors, including the political dynamics of its member states, the strategic interests of other global powers, and the internal divisions within the OIC itself. The OIC has been recognized for its involvement in addressing key global concerns affecting Muslims, such as the Kashmir dispute and the Palestine issue. It has actively intervened in various conflicts and humanitarian crises. This role underscores the OIC's commitment to addressing issues impacting Muslim communities worldwide (Sharqieh, 2012). The OIC influence at international level is discussed below.

1. Advocacy at the United Nations (UN):

The OIC has been a key advocate for Palestinian rights at the UN, especially through its permanent observer status at the General Assembly. The organization has consistently pushed for resolutions that condemn Israeli actions in Palestine, particularly in relation to settlement expansion, the occupation of Palestinian territories, and human rights violations. The OIC has also advocated for the recognition of Palestine as a full member state of the UN and has garnered significant support from non-Western and developing countries for such initiatives. While the OIC's efforts have led to several resolutions condemning Israeli policies, these resolutions often face strong opposition from Western powers like the United States, which has historically vetoed or blocked measures seen as unfavourable to Israel. Lynn Hastings, Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, briefed the Council, emphasizing that while the details of the conflict may change, "the structural reality has not changed." She highlighted the escalating violence against civilians, the ongoing illegal expansion of settlements in the occupied West Bank, and the continued demolition and seizure of Palestinian-owned structures. These actions have fostered a "growing sense of hopelessness" among many Palestinians, who feel that their hopes for statehood, sovereignty, and a peaceful future are slipping away (United Nations, 2022). Hastings also noted that many Israelis are equally aware of the dangers of persisting on the current path.

2. Declarations and Public Diplomacy:

The OIC regularly issues declarations and statements in support of Palestinian statehood and condemning Israeli actions. These public pronouncements are intended to bolster Palestinian diplomacy and raise awareness of the conflict globally. While these declarations help galvanize support among OIC member states and Muslim-majority countries, their influence on Western governments and international organizations has been more limited. The OIC's rhetoric, though powerful in the Islamic world, has often been dismissed by Israel and its allies, who argue that the organization's stance is overly politicized and one-sided.

3. Influence on Global Opinion:

The OIC has been successful in shaping the discourse around Palestine in many parts of the world, especially in the Muslim-majority countries, Africa, and Latin America. Through its advocacy and public diplomacy, the OIC has helped to sustain global awareness of the Palestinian cause. Its resolutions and calls for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions against Israel (such as the BDS movement) have gained traction in certain sectors of international civil society, universities, and human rights organizations. However, the influence of the OIC on global public opinion is often counterbalanced by pro-Israel advocacy groups, which actively work to shape perceptions in the West.

4. Challenges in Influencing Global Policy:

Despite its efforts, the OIC's ability to directly influence global policy has been limited by several factors:

Internal Divisions: As mentioned earlier, internal divisions within the OIC hinder its ability to present a united front. Disparities in member states' geopolitical alliances, economic interests, and relations with Israel weaken the OIC's effectiveness in pushing a cohesive global policy on the conflict. Despite internal division there are certain executive weakness. An analysis suggests that the OIC appears weak due to the limited authority of its executive organs. In the absence of robust executive institutions, the OIC essentially functions as a weak confederation. Its member states face minimal obligations, and the organization lacks any mechanisms for enforcement (Archer, 2001). In this regard active mechanisms for enforcement is necessary. Currently, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is often regarded as ineffective in fulfilling its intended purpose due to several challenges, including mutual distrust among member states, the rise of extremism and terrorism, a lack of political will, and internal divisions. Additionally, the internal mechanisms of the OIC struggle to effectively set agendas, propose meaningful recommendations, or implement resolutions (Siddiqi, 2016). These factors have hindered the organization's ability to achieve its goals and provide tangible benefits to its members.

Opposition from Major Powers: The OIC's attempts to influence policy through the United Nation or other international forums often clash with the positions of powerful countries, particularly the United States, which has consistently supported Israel. This opposition has undermined many of the OIC's resolutions, preventing them from translating into binding global policy changes.

The Influence of Regional Actors: Global powers with a stake in the region, such as the U.S., Russia, and the European Union, often prioritize their own strategic interests over OIC-led efforts, influencing the course of international policy in ways that are not always aligned with the OIC's objectives.

5. Diplomatic Engagement and Efforts for Mediation:

The OIC has also engaged in diplomatic initiatives aimed at mediating the conflict and encouraging dialogue between Israel and Palestine. However, due to the lack of a unified stance among OIC members and the complex geopolitical environment, the OIC has struggled to establish itself as a leading mediator in the peace process. While it has successfully drawn attention to the humanitarian aspects of the conflict, it has not been able to exert sufficient pressure to bring about significant change in the policies of Israel or its supporters.

D. Challenges Faced by The Oic In Balancing Its Support For Palestinian Sovereignty

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) faces several key challenges in balancing its support for Palestinian sovereignty with maintaining relationships with key international actors, particularly the United States and Israel. These challenges are deeply rooted in the complex geopolitics of the Middle East, the divergent interests of OIC member states, and the influence of powerful external actors. Below are the primary challenges the OIC faces and how they affect its overall effectiveness in the peace process.

1. Geopolitical Divisions Within the OIC:

The OIC consists of 57 member states, each with its own geopolitical interests and relationships with the West, Israel, and Palestine. While the organization's core mission is to support Palestinian sovereignty, many of its members have strategic alliances with key international actors, including the United States and Israel, which complicates a unified approach. For example:

Moderate Arab States: Countries like Egypt, Jordan, and the UAE, which have peace treaties with Israel or have normalized relations, such as the UAE and Bahrain through the Abraham Accords, are more cautious in their support for Palestinian sovereignty. These countries often prioritize regional stability, security, and economic ties with the West and Israel over more aggressive advocacy for Palestinian statehood.

Conservative Powers: Countries such as Saudi Arabia, while still supportive of Palestinian sovereignty, have increasingly prioritized pragmatic relationships with the U.S. and Israel due to shared security concerns in the region, especially regarding Iran.

Ideologically Opposed States: Countries like Iran and Qatar strongly advocate for Palestinian independence and often criticize Arab states that engage with Israel. However, their stance can strain relations with moderate OIC members and complicate efforts to form a cohesive OIC policy. These internal divisions make it difficult for the OIC to present a united front and challenge Israel's policies, especially when key members have significant diplomatic, security, and economic ties with Israel or the U.S.

2. The Influence of the United States:

The United States has been a key ally of Israel for decades, providing diplomatic, military, and financial support. This relationship creates a significant challenge for the OIC, as many of its member states depend on the U.S. for economic aid, military assistance, or security guarantees. For instance, countries like Egypt, Jordan, and Pakistan have long-standing relationships with the U.S., and they often prioritize these ties over more confrontational actions against Israel, even if they publicly support Palestinian rights. The U.S. also exerts considerable influence over international organizations like the United Nations, where it has historically used its veto power in the Security Council to block resolutions condemning Israeli actions. This reduces the OIC's ability to effect meaningful change through international diplomacy. The challenge for the OIC is how to support Palestinian sovereignty without alienating member states that rely on U.S. assistance or diplomatic backing.

3. Israeli Diplomacy and Western Support:

Israel's efforts to build relationships with key OIC member states, including those in the Gulf, have been a growing challenge for the OIC's position on Palestine. The normalization agreements, such as the Abraham Accords, which saw the UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco establish diplomatic relations with Israel, highlight the shifting dynamics in the region. Some OIC members see these accords as an opportunity for economic and strategic benefits, while others view them as a betrayal of the Palestinian cause. This shift makes it more difficult for the OIC to present a unified stance on Palestinian sovereignty, as some member states may be hesitant to challenge Israel directly for fear of damaging bilateral ties. These developments also affect the broader international context in which the OIC operates, as the U.S. and Israel increasingly push for normalization and seek to isolate Palestinian leadership from Arab and Muslim countries.

4. Balancing Diplomacy and Support for Palestine:

The OIC's commitment to Palestinian sovereignty often conflicts with the broader diplomatic realities of its member states. Regarding the matter of Palestine, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has effectively raised awareness among its members about Israel's violations of international law. Many OIC members, while supportive of Palestine, must also balance their relationships with Israel, the U.S., and other Western powers to safeguard their own political and economic interests. For example, Turkey, which remains a staunch advocate for Palestinian sovereignty, faces a delicate balancing act in its relations with both the U.S. and Israel. Similarly, countries like Indonesia and Malaysia, while vocal in their support for Palestine, have limited influence in high-level diplomatic negotiations, where key decisions are often made by countries with strong ties to the West. The challenge for the OIC is how to maintain robust diplomatic support for Palestine while respecting the diplomatic realities faced by member states that have important relationships with Israel and the U.S. This delicate balance often results in the OIC taking a less assertive role in the peace process, focusing more on symbolic gestures, declarations, and resolutions rather than taking concrete actions.

5. Impact on the Peace Process:

The internal divisions and external pressures faced by the OIC have diminished its overall effectiveness in the Israel-Palestine peace process. While the OIC has played an important role in bringing attention to Palestinian issues and advocating for international recognition of Palestine, its efforts are often fragmented by competing interests. These challenges hinder the OIC's ability to act as a cohesive and powerful force in the peace process. The OIC's internal disagreements and varying levels of support for Palestine often lead to a lack of coordinated action. Member states with closer ties to Israel or the U.S. may be less inclined to push for radical changes in policy or take strong positions in international forums, reducing the organization's ability to lead a unified diplomatic front. The organization's inability to balance its support for Palestine with maintaining ties to influential global actors has led to a form of diplomatic paralysis, where the OIC is often sidelined in peace talks dominated by the U.S., Israel, and the European Union.

An analysis of the situation from 2014 to 2024.

In 2014, violent clashes in Palestinian territories escalated into a full-scale military confrontation between the Israeli military and Hamas, resulting in nearly 2,300 Palestinian deaths and 73 Israeli fatalities. A ceasefire brokered by Egypt ended the conflict in August 2014. Following further waves of violence, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah declared in 2015 that Palestinians would no longer recognize the territorial divisions set by the Oslo Accords. In March 2018, Israeli troops killed 183 Palestinians and wounded 6,000 during a demonstration near the Gaza perimeter fence. Later that year, Hamas militants fired over 100 rockets into Israel, prompting Israeli airstrikes on more than 50 targets in Gaza. This flare-up was part of a broader return to disunity between Hamas and Fatah, with Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party controlling the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Hamas ruling Gaza. The Trump administration made significant changes to U.S. policy, including cutting funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency (which aids Palestinian refugees) and relocating the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. The administration also helped broker the Abraham Accords, leading to normalized relations between Israel, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, followed by Morocco and Sudan. Palestinian leaders rejected the accords, as did Hamas. In May 2021, protests erupted after a court ruling in favour of evicting Palestinian families from East Jerusalem. This led to further violence, with Hamas firing rockets into Israel and Israel responding with airstrikes, killing over 250 Palestinians and at least 13 Israelis. After 11 days of fighting, both sides agreed to a ceasefire. In late 2022, Benjamin Netanyahu's far-right government took office, focusing on expanding Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and limiting judicial oversight. In early October 2023, Hamas launched a surprise attack, killing over 1,300 Israelis and injuring 3,300, while taking hundreds of hostages. Israel declared war, initiating a ground invasion of Gaza. Despite temporary truces facilitating exchanges of prisoners and humanitarian aid, hostilities resumed, with Israel shifting focus to southern Gaza by January 2024. Countries such as

Saudi Arabia and the UAE have significantly distanced themselves from the Palestinian cause, choosing instead to prioritize their economic and political ties with Israel. Between 2023 and 2024, countless Palestinian families have been forcibly displaced. Homes that once provided a sense of dignity and belonging are now reduced to rubble, leaving behind only a haunting silence and profound despair. In this period, only China and South Africa have openly supported Palestine, putting forth resolutions in an attempt to stir global conscience. Amid growing international concern, particularly from the United States, Israel signalled a move toward lower-intensity operations in Gaza, but operations continued, including in the city of Rafah. In May 2024, the United States paused a shipment of bombs to Israel due to concerns over civilian casualties. In fall 2024, Israel launched a renewed offensive in northern Gaza, specifically targeting the Jabalia refugee camp. Humanitarian issues persisted, with reports of attacks on journalists, schools, and medical facilities, further exacerbating the crisis. By January 2025, Gaza's humanitarian situation had worsened dramatically, with over 1.9 million people displaced and facing acute food insecurity. The conflict has claimed over 46,000 lives, with the majority of those killed being Palestinians. Despite military successes, such as the elimination of key Hamas leaders, concerns about Hamas's ability to recruit new militants remain. These atrocities lay bare the indifference of global human rights advocates, including the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, and France. While 2024 has seen remarkable progress in artificial intelligence and modernization, with the world embracing new technologies and strategies, it is deeply tragic that one region remains a desolate battlefield. The lives of the elderly, children, and women in Palestine have been reduced to harrowing tales of brutality.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has faced considerable challenges in addressing the Israel-Palestine conflict, particularly in light of the complex geopolitical dynamics and diverse interests within its member states. While the OIC has consistently expressed strong support for Palestinian rights and called for an end to Israeli occupation, its effectiveness has been limited by internal divisions, diplomatic constraints, and the evolving political landscape in the Middle East. Despite these obstacles, the OIC's advocacy has played a crucial role in raising international awareness, garnering support for Palestinian self-determination, and influencing global diplomatic discourse. However, for the OIC to enhance its impact, it must address its internal differences, strengthen its coordination with global powers, and actively engage in fostering a viable and sustainable peace process, beyond mere symbolic gestures. As the conflict continues to evolve, the OIC's role remains pivotal, but its future effectiveness will depend on its ability to adapt to the shifting realities of international politics and regional dynamics.

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