

Oakridge Model United Nations 2025

Background Guide

Agenda: *Addressing the rights of refugees and IDPs: balancing the principles of national sovereignty with the promotion of human rights.*

Chapter XV

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear delegates,

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you to Oakridge Model United Nations 2025. Considering that this may be many of your first voyages into the captivating realm of Model United Nations, this background guide is designed to help you set a direction for yourself during committee proceedings and enlighten you about diplomacy as a whole, encouraging participation and engagement. For the veterans, we encourage you to do the same and deepen your understanding of the agenda.

Nevertheless, research and study on the agenda extends far beyond the pages of this background guide. Delegates are expected to explore various secure and authentic sources, such as UN-verified sites, government sites and reputable news channels, for their research. Afterwards, you should aggregate and jot down important points, note questions to pose to one another and prepare credible responses to certain controversial issues in which your nation-state may be involved.

Mock United Nations Conferences are all about making the world a better place by contributing positively to it. Our world today is in a more sensitive position than ever before, and we strive to change it for the greater good. All of this begins with your ability to voice your opinions and present them effectively. However, it is equally important to be a good listener; capable of seeing the world through another's lens. Understanding, learning, and seeking solutions in the most compromised and harmless way is a true strength.

We are confident that the upcoming UNHRC sessions at Oakridge Model United Nations 2025 will provide a transformative learning experience, fostering your growth as both professionals and individuals.

Wishing you a great learning experience and all the very best. We hope to have you all with us!

Nayan Chandra Veeranki
President

Alishaan Mirza
Vice President

Points to Remember

A few important points delegates should keep in mind while preparing:

Procedure: The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organized and efficient debate. The committee will follow the [UNA-USA Rules of Procedure](#). Although the Executive Board shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding the procedure.

Foreign Policy: Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one's foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.

Role of the Executive Board: The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate debate. The committee shall decide the direction and flow of the debate. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stances on any issue. However, the Executive Board may put forward questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points in time to further debate and test participants.

News Sources

This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the conference. Evidence or proof for substantiating statements made during formal debate is acceptable from the following sources:

1. Any Reuters article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in the council.
2. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information.
3. Reports from NGOs working with [UNESCO](#), [UNICEF](#) and other UN bodies will be accepted. Documents from international organizations like [OIC](#), [NAFTA](#), [SAARC](#), [BRICS](#), [EU](#), [ASEAN](#), and [ICJ](#) may also be presented as a credible source of information.

Introduction to UNHRC

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) is one of the [six primary organs of the United Nations \(UN\)](#), it is the main body responsible for making policies and hosting all the 193 Member States of the UN; its mandate allows it to exercise deliberative, supervisory, financial and elective functions of any regard throughout the charter, however, it is noteworthy that none of the General Assembly's resolutions are legally binding and are only recommendatory in nature.

While most decisions are based on a simple majority system, a few such as appointing a new member to the General Assembly require a two-thirds majority instead. While during the beginning of the General Assembly's session, it does hold a general debate where any member may participate and raise an issue of international concern, most work is done in its six main sub-committees:

- First Committee - Disarmament & International Security
- Second Committee - Economic & Financial Council
- Third Committee - Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues
- Fourth Committee - Special Political & Decolonization Committee
- Fifth Committee - Administrative & Budgetary
- Sixth Committee - Legal

Human rights are inalienable entitlements established not by law, but by human birthright, and the history of human rights has been shaped by all major world events and by the struggle for dignity, freedom, and equality everywhere. However, it was only with the signing of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), the subsequent establishment of the United Nations (UN) in the shadow of World War II, and the call to “reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,” where human rights finally achieved formal, universal recognition. The UN has remained committed to “promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all” through charter-based and treaty-based mechanisms. Charter-based mechanisms derive from the provisions of the Charter, most commonly as subsidiary bodies like the Human Rights Council. Treaty-based mechanisms are the human rights covenants and conventions, along with their respective treaty bodies, which take the force of law and monitor the implementation of the provisions of the treaties. Recognizing the need to preserve and build on the Commission's achievements and to redress its shortcomings, the HRC was created to ensure stronger system-wide coherence and preserve the value of human life “in larger freedom.”

The Council was charged with, inter alia, assuming the roles and responsibilities of the Commission, promoting the full implementation of human rights obligations, responding to human rights emergencies, undertaking a universal periodic review, and making recommendations to States and the General Assembly (GA). Link to understand how UNHRC works – <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>

The syntax and structure of the resolution shall be explained on the second day of the conference. But for the sake of reference a draft resolution is being shared below: [Draft resolution](#)** We will be thoroughly explaining the Draft Resolutions and the documentation part as a whole in the committee.

Problem Statement

The UN Commission on Human Rights was created with the purpose of “[weaving] the international legal fabric that protects our fundamental rights and freedoms.” There are currently 47 members of UNHRC, but it has made sure that voices from all other countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and human rights defenders can be heard. Every year, over 3000 delegates meet in Geneva and participate in debate over different resolutions to pass. While the UNHRC advocates for human rights, the Commission also allows the UNHRC to look into allegations of human rights violations. The council can request to refer cases to the International Criminal Court (ICC) or the International Court of Justice (ICJ). Only the international courts have the authority to prosecute for human rights violations and war crimes against civilians, whereas the UNHRC has the responsibility to draw attention to and denounce human rights violations.

There are conventions, declarations, and non-governmental bodies whose work has made progress in ensuring that armed conflict is as safe, legal and as compartmentalized as it can be. Nevertheless, the fact remains that armed conflict continues to impact civilians in a catastrophic fashion. Even for civilians who do survive international or civil conflict, the wounds of war are present in destroyed infrastructure, socioeconomic unrest, tolls on physical and mental health, and other crises. Millions of people who face these types of conditions have chosen to flee to escape danger.

Astounding progress has also been made towards guaranteeing that displaced persons may seek asylum without risk of deportation. Many nations have displayed remarkable resilience by taking in so many refugees from nearby countries embroiled in conflict. However, non-refoulement is still frequently violated, and the problems for refugees do not end there. Many refugee communities are forced to endure food shortages, lack of access to medical care, poor labor conditions, and xenophobic violence.

Anatomy of a War

International armed conflict (war), as defined by [Common Article 2 of the Geneva Conventions](#), refers to "all cases of declared war or of any other armed conflict which may arise between two or more of the High Contracting Parties." This essentially means that war arises when there is the use of military force between states, regardless of a formal declaration by either side. As a result, conflict-affected areas are created. Conflict-affected areas (typically referred to as conflict zones) are generally identified by the presence of an international or domestic conflict, which disrupts political and social stability, in addition to widespread or serious human rights violations and institutional weakness or the collapse of state infrastructure.

Non-state actors, such as political militias, criminal organizations, and international terrorist groups, are commonly understood as parties that enact violence targeting civilians, governments, and other states to achieve political or ideological aims and are regarded as the prominent parties in exacerbating the deteriorating conditions in conflict-affected areas.

Terrorism and war threaten the very fabric of governance, disrupting peace, harmony, and cohesion between nations while simultaneously bringing grave humanitarian crises upon innocents who have no say in the foreign affairs of their respective nations. As noted in [Article 2\(4\) of the UN Charter](#), "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations." Despite such a precedent, there are several contradictory measures enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, among other legal norms, which facilitate and legitimize the necessity of engaging in warfare.

[Article 51 of the United Nations Charter](#) legitimises the right to self-defence in response to armed attacks. It states: "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."



While the nature and circumstances around what constitutes an 'armed attack' remain vague, states continue to exploit the ambiguous nature of this article. In addition, the United Nations Security Council has the jurisdiction to handle threats to international peace under [Article 39 of the UN Charter](#), which states: "The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace,

breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with [Articles 41 and 42](#), to maintain or restore international peace and security." This essentially gives the Security Council the mandate to authorise military intervention, which directly coincides with the notion of collective self-defence and the responsibility to protect, as per the [Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect](#). "The responsibility to protect is a principle which seeks to ensure that the international community never again fails to act in the face of genocide and other gross forms of human rights abuse. "R2P," as it is commonly abbreviated, was adopted by heads of state and government at the [World Summit in 2005 sitting as the United Nations General Assembly](#). The principle stipulates, first, that states have an obligation to protect their citizens from mass atrocities; second, that the international community should assist them in doing so; and, third, that, if the state in question fails to act appropriately, the responsibility to do so falls to that larger community of states. R2P should be understood as a solemn promise made by leaders of every country to all men and women endangered by mass atrocities. wherein states assist an ally through military support or by facilitating the provision of humanitarian aid.

While it is important to question the ethicality of the exercise or invocation of such legal instruments, it is also detrimental to ponder and distinguish between the necessity and the illegitimacy behind such actions, which the principles of *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* particularly outline. *Jus ad bellum* derives from the Charter of the United Nations, which declares in [Article 2](#): "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations." Conversely, *jus in bello* refers to the regulation of measures during war, specifically the principles of precaution, proportionality, and distinction.

The principles of precaution refer to the parties engaging in warfare taking measures to ensure minimal civilian harm, injury to civilian life, and damage to civilian infrastructure, including the following measures:

- Utilizing weapons that cause the least amount of civilian harm and suspending attacks preemptively if it becomes apparent that they may cause disproportionate civilian damage
- Ensuring effective warnings are made to civilians before an attack is conducted
- Verifying that targets are military objectives

The principles of proportionality prevent attacks that might lead to incidental and collateral damage, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated.

And lastly, the principles of distinction require parties and their military artillery to differentiate between civilians, military objectives, and combatants.

Introduction to the agenda

What is a Territorial Dispute?

A territorial dispute is a disagreement between two or more parties pertaining to the right to exercise *sovereign* authority over assessing a border/s (Politically defined boundaries separating territory or maritime zones between political entities and the areas where political entities exercise border governance measures on their territory or extraterritorially).

What is Sovereignty?

Sovereignty in the international context refers to the principle that a state has the exclusive right to govern itself independently, without interference from external forces. This means that a state has the authority to make decisions about its own affairs, including its political, economic, and social systems, without being subject to the control or influence of other states. In the international system, sovereignty is considered a fundamental principle that underpins the stability and order of the global community. It provides the basis for the recognition of states as legal and political entities, and establishes the framework for diplomatic relations, treaties, and international law. The principle of sovereignty also implies that states have certain rights and obligations in their interactions with other states. These include the right to self-defense, the obligation to respect the territorial integrity of other states, and the responsibility to uphold the principles of international law and human rights. At the same time, sovereignty is not an absolute principle, and is subject to certain limitations and constraints. For example, states may voluntarily agree to limit their sovereignty.

Sovereignty primarily refers to four fundamental principles:

1. Territorial integrity- The right for a state to assert and execute its own governance and jurisdiction within its borders which are not to be violated [as affirmed by [Article 2\(4\) of the UN Charter](#)]
2. Legal Independence- The right to engage with States in diplomatic forums, agreements and treaties [as affirmed by [Article 2\(4\) of the UN Charter](#)]
3. Right to Self-Determination- The right for people to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development
4. Non-Intervention- The right to prevent external actors from intervening in internal affairs [as affirmed by [Article 2\(7\) of the UN Charter](#)].

What is *Self-Determination*?

“It is only through the realization of this very basic right of people to determine, with no compulsion or coercion, their own future, political status and independence that we can begin to address others such as dignity, justice, progress and equity.”- Fathimath Najwa, representative of Maldives

The right to self-determination is an essential component in recognizing and fulfilling the full enjoyment of all human rights for all people, and it carries *erga omnes* status—meaning it is a responsibility owed to the international community as a whole. Violations of this right, especially by force, are condemned to the fullest extent.

As described by Article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), “All peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.” The significance of the same is also enshrined in Article 1(2) of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that one of the UN’s primary goals is “to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples.”

Who are *Refugees*?

Refugees are people who are forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country. They are unable to return home because they fear persecution due to who they are, what they believe or say, or as a result of armed conflict, violence, or serious public disorder, as described by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

International Refugee Law

The [1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol](#) are the framework responsible for creating the basis of humanitarian aid for refugees, known as International Refugee Law (IRL). With 149 State parties to either or both, they define the term 'refugee' and outlines the rights of refugees, as well as the legal obligations of Member States to protect them. The 1967 Protocol Related to the Status of Refugees, which will be abbreviated as the Protocol, is also crucial to IRL.

The guidelines from the Convention seek to protect the human rights of refugees. The primary objectives are:

1. To define a refugee;
2. To safeguard a refugee’s ability to seek asylum;
3. To protect against refoulement; and
4. To outline the duties of refugees and of signatories.

Internally Displaced Persons

“The plight of internally displaced persons is more than a humanitarian issue. It takes an integrated approach – combining development, peacebuilding, human rights, climate action and disaster risk reduction efforts.”

- United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres

[The United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement](#) which sets out the rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the obligations of governments towards them in accordance with international law, also describes internally displaced persons (IDPs) as: "persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border." The key elements of this definition (which is descriptive, rather than providing for a legal status) are:

1. The involuntary character of the movement.
2. The fact that such movement takes place within national borders. IDPs include both citizens as well as other habitual residents of the country in which they are displaced, which may include, for example, stateless persons.

Internally displaced people include, but are not limited to:

- Families caught between warring parties and having to flee their homes under relentless bombardments or the threat of armed attacks, whose own governments may be responsible for displacing them
- Residents of poor neighborhoods rendered unsafe and uninhabitable, at least temporarily, by the impacts of weather-related, geophysical or technological hazards
- Indigenous communities forced from their ancestral lands to make way for the construction of dams and other infrastructure projects
- Families pushed to leave their homes by constant harassment by local criminal gangs
- Rural communities whose livelihoods are decimated by drought, leaving them unable to feed their families and forced to seek external help elsewhere
- Communities from coastal, mountainous or arid areas whose land and livelihoods are irrevocably lost because of gradual environmental degradation linked to the impacts of climate change

Durable Solutions for Refugees

The United Nations promotes three long-term responses to address refugee situations:

1. **Voluntary Repatriation**
2. **Local Integration**
3. **Resettlement**

Voluntary Repatriation

Voluntary repatriation, when possible, is one of the primary long-term solutions supported by the UN. For it to be implemented effectively, it's essential that refugees' decisions to return to their home countries are made freely, without any pressure, and are based on accurate and unbiased information. The ultimate goal is for refugees to return in safety and dignity, and for national protection in their home countries to be fully restored.

Successful repatriation relies on close collaboration between the countries of origin and asylum, UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), other UN agencies, international bodies, and partner NGOs. These actors must work together to ensure the return is sustainable. In host countries, this involves providing refugees with reliable information, necessary documentation, and financial assistance. In the countries of origin, support should include legal amnesty, restoration of property rights, and reintegration programs.

Local Integration

Local integration is a complex process where refugees are absorbed into the host country, enabling them to rebuild their lives socially and economically. This solution is suitable for certain groups of refugees, particularly those who are unable to return to their country of origin in the foreseeable future. The 1951 Refugee Convention provides a legal basis for the integration of refugees into host societies.

The extent of integration depends on factors like the number of refugees and the host country's resources. Groups typically prioritized for integration include:

1. Refugees born in the host country who might otherwise be stateless;
2. Refugees with no viable option for repatriation in the near term; and

3. Refugees with strong personal, familial, or cultural ties to the host country.

Some countries take a step-by-step approach, gradually extending rights and protections. However, certain rights should be provided from the outset, such as legal documentation, freedom of movement, help with administrative procedures, and access to employment, education, healthcare, and family reunification.

When host countries lack adequate resources to support integration efforts, the international community is expected to offer assistance. One such supportive approach is called "Development through Local Integration," which combines refugee protection with long-term development strategies.

Resettlement

Resettlement involves moving refugees from their first host country to a third country that agrees to accept them and support their long-term integration. This solution is particularly important for refugees who cannot return home or be integrated locally.

Resettlement also serves as a mechanism for international responsibility-sharing, helping to ease the burden on initial host countries and improve protection mechanisms. Additionally, it can reduce the need for refugees to make secondary movements—when refugees move from one host country to another in search of better conditions.

In resettlement arrangements, responsibilities can be divided between countries that provide initial reception and those offering long-term solutions. This kind of arrangement may also encourage coastal nations to accept refugees rescued at sea, knowing they won't bear full responsibility for long-term care.

To avoid unintended incentives that might encourage irregular migration, resettlement should be used carefully and as part of a broader plan that includes all three durable solutions. Though one country can lead a resettlement initiative, success is more likely when multiple nations cooperate. This includes setting clear terms for resettlement programs, timelines, integration support in the new country, and efforts to improve conditions in the original host country while refugees are waiting.

Using Existing Migration Policies

In certain situations, refugees may be able to access temporary or permanent solutions through national migration systems. These pathways might include regularizing their legal status or migrating legally to another country. The availability and effectiveness of such options depend greatly on the specific country involved and are influenced by its domestic laws, bilateral treaties, or regional migration frameworks.

These frameworks can encompass freedom of movement agreements or targeted initiatives for particular populations, such as those based on ethnic ties, labor migration programs, or family reunification policies. Importantly, these national migration policies should complement, rather than replace, international refugee protection mechanisms. They are especially important when conventional refugee solutions such as repatriation, integration, or resettlement are ineffective. In such cases, migration options may offer refugees safer alternatives and improved access to employment, healthcare, and education.

For migration frameworks to be a meaningful alternative, they must offer refugees the ability to stay in the host country for a stable period. These policies must also include safeguards against **refoulement** which is the forced return of individuals to countries where they may face danger and should provide expanding rights and protections over time.

If a refugee is granted legal residency under national migration law, they may eventually lose their refugee status under international law. However, this change is neither automatic nor immediate. It requires a proper assessment of their ongoing protection needs, and their fundamental human rights must be upheld regardless of the pathway they follow.

Case Studies

Myanmar

While global attention focuses on other armed conflicts, a violent civil war continues in Myanmar, driven by ethnic divisions and religious tensions. Entire towns have been destroyed, indiscriminate airstrikes target civilians, and a growing refugee crisis threatens to become one of the worst in history. What makes this war difficult to report on is not just the complete ban of foreign journalists in the conflict zones, but also its incredibly complicated history. Despite officially beginning in 2021, the prelude to this war and that of several other conflicts in the nation stretch back almost 80 years. Here's a summary that will shed some light on Myanmar's story of military coups, rebellions, protests, and the decades-long battle for democracy that its people simply refuse to lose.

In 2015, a conference was held between the central government and the leaders of the 15 largest rebel groups, during which the majority found common ground and signed a nationwide ceasefire agreement. Then in 2016, elections were held, and this time Aung San Suu Kyi finally found herself placed in a position of significant power. It wasn't the seat of president, as the constitution forbade her from joining due to a couple of odd clauses, such as one that bars widows from running for president, which was clearly just added to keep her away from the seat. However, the newly elected president understood her

importance and her image to the people, and so he promoted her to a new position, the State Counselor of Myanmar, essentially the equivalent of prime minister, making Suu Kyi the de facto leader of Myanmar.

Seeing the recent political reforms, the military handing power back to the people, and even a historic ceasefire agreement, Myanmar and the international community alike had great hopes that the nation was finally on a path to stability. But don't get your hopes up too quickly.

While explaining the history of insurgencies and government crackdowns in Myanmar, there is one thing that we're yet to touch on, and that's the issue of religion, specifically the hostility between Buddhists and Muslims in the nation. Myanmar is a majority Buddhist country and has been for a long time. However, the Rakhine State is a majority Muslim region. Long ago, when the area was under British colonial rule, the British incentivized residents from modern-day India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to move into the area to begin cultivating the farmland, which is how Islam came to dominate the region. People from this region are generally referred to as the Rohingya, and like many others, the Rohingya were promised independence but never received it.

Not only that, ever since the independence of Myanmar, the Rohingya have been the subject of intense discrimination, including a 1982 law that was passed that officially stripped them all of citizenship. Their schools and healthcare are significantly behind the rest of the country, the military routinely steals their land and gives it away to Buddhist settlers, and there are even limits as to how many children they can have. Essentially, the government of Myanmar believes that the people of Rakhine State are nothing more than foreigners illegally living on stolen land.

Widespread persecution and violence continued throughout the years, but 2015 was the year that it all came to a head, with mosques burning in several cities and even children not safe from the violence. Muslims across Myanmar began fleeing either to Rakhine State or across the border into Bangladesh. At the same time, a new rebel army formed, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, which began striking back at the military. What this means is that in the same year that peace accords were made with several of the largest insurgencies, a brand new one appeared, meaning that nationwide peace was still nowhere in sight. However, with little else to worry about, the military responded and came down on the Rohingya with all their might.

Before 2015, there were already an estimated 140,000 Rohingya that were internally displaced due to the violent nationwide riots, but once the military got involved, nowhere was safe. The military viewed basically the entire Rakhine State as supporters of the armed insurgency and were essentially granted permission to deal with the region as they pleased. In May of 2016, Human Rights Watch released video footage of over a thousand homes burning and helicopter gunships firing on fleeing civilians. Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya began crossing the border into Bangladesh with no money, no possessions, and often no family. It became quite obvious to the international community that what was happening here was a state-sponsored genocide. The UN presented evidence of incarcerated children, systematic sexual violence, and indisputable massacres.

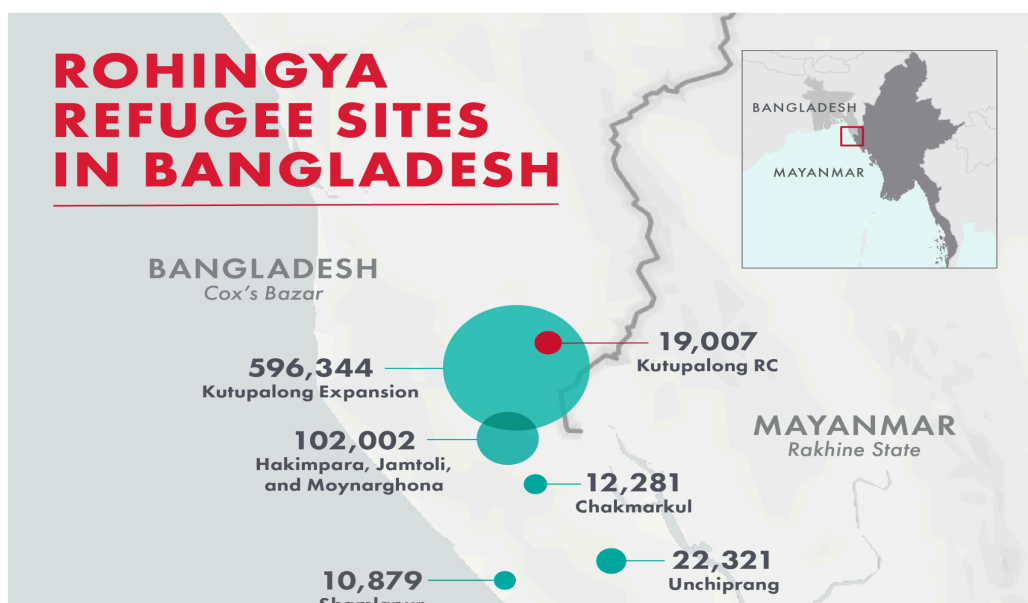
One horrifying scene occurred near the border of Bangladesh, where fleeing refugees were forced to turn around upon encountering a minefield, but on returning south, they were gunned down by helicopters in what was described as a genocide zone. All of these atrocities have resulted in the creation of the world's

largest refugee camp, the Kutupalong camp located in Bangladesh, which in 2017 housed around 100,000 people, and this number has since grown nearly sixfold.

However, despite all of this, one figure remained oddly silent: Suu Kyi. For years, she had been completely silent on the anti-Muslim violence, and in 2015, in an interview with the BBC, she denied that any sort of ethnic cleansing was occurring and refused to even condemn the violence. As the de facto leader of the nation and the face of the people, it was concerning to say the least that she not only refused to take sides but even openly admitted that she didn't believe the Rohingya could be true citizens of Myanmar. According to many analysts, she refused to take a strong position so as not to upset a majority voting block, but in doing so, she essentially condemned an ongoing genocide. She has also refused to attend several UN meetings discussing the topic, leading to many activists worldwide calling for her Nobel Peace Prize to be revoked. However, there isn't a precedent for such a drastic action, so she still has it.

Then, in a complete repeat of history, on February 1, 2021, the Myanmar military initiated yet another coup, taking over the government and once again imprisoning Suu Kyi. They declared the results of the 2020 election fraudulent and claimed to be taking control to restore stability to the nation. Mass protests erupted once again, as the people at this point are no stranger to taking matters into their own hands. But this time, things were different, with the military quickly resorting to intense violence to quell the riots. Thousands of protesters gave up on the peaceful demonstrations and instead traveled to the border regions and started training with rebels. Seven groups that had signed the original ceasefire announced in 2021 that they'd be resuming hostilities toward the military junta, with thousands of their members now supporting the newly formed National Unity Government, made up of fairly elected officials who had been ousted in the recent coup. Even communist fighters returned after 30 years of inactivity, crossing over from China and joining the fight. In late 2021, the National Unity Government declared a state of emergency and called for a people's war against the junta, marking what many consider to be the official beginning of the Myanmar Civil War, a war that many believe the junta may be losing.

And that is how we arrive at the current state of affairs: a 70-year history of bloody military coups, mass protests, and state-sponsored violence that has led to internal displacement and millions being forced to seek refuge for their survival. An icon of peace who refuses to condemn violence, dangerous religious extremists, and thousands upon thousands of innocent lives lost. But despite it all, the fire of democracy in Myanmar refuses to be snuffed out, and the results of the ongoing civil war will determine the future of the nation for many years to come.



Hamas, Israel and Palestine

For the better part of the past 70 years, the Israel-Palestine conflict has left the Middle East in a state of absolute misery, characterized by callous bloodshed and horrendous crimes violating international humanitarian law on both sides. This situation has disrupted the political hierarchy of both regions and, in turn, further exacerbated the seemingly never-ending battle over sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the right to self-determination. The stance of relevant actors remains divided, which is why this conflict persists, as no legal instruments with appropriate jurisdiction are being utilized to reach a mutually beneficial resolution. Even if the international community successfully encapsulated the events into a brief description, it would fail to elaborate on the various aspects of the Israel-Palestine conflict. The situation is not merely about land occupation or ethnic variations; instead, it is an overly drawn-out power struggle between the two parties that overlaps on ethnic, religious, and geographical grounds.

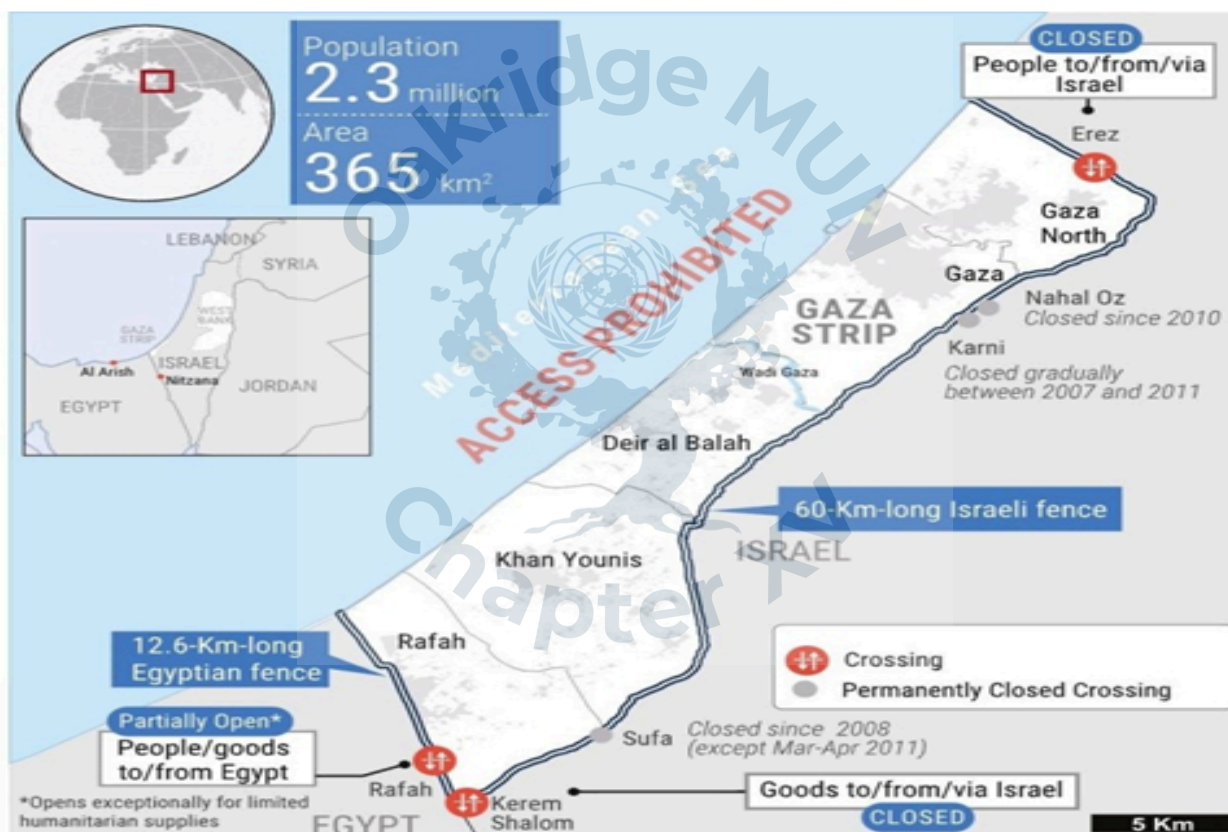
At the dawn of the new decade, tensions between the West, Israel, and Palestine seemed to have heightened, particularly after the USA stated that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza was legal. Everything came to a head on October 7, 2023, when the terrorist organization known as Hamas, which has served as the democratically elected ruling party of Gaza since 2006, orchestrated the largest terrorist attack since 9/11. Following this, Israel officially invoked Article 51 of the UN Charter, thus beginning its siege in pursuit of the destruction of Hamas, which has now turned Gaza into an active war zone. After October 7, this macro-characterization of Gaza's civilians as a population of human shields has reached unprecedented levels, with Israel's top-ranking political and military leaders consistently alleging that civilians are either Hamas operatives, "accomplices," or human shields among whom Hamas is "embedded." In November, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs defined the residents of the Gaza Strip as human shields and accused Hamas of using the civilian population in this manner. The Ministry defines armed groups fighting from urban areas as deliberately "embedded" in the population to such an extent that it "cannot be concluded from the mere fact that seeming 'civilians' or 'civilian objects' have been targeted that an attack was unlawful."

The conflict has brought devastating consequences to the people of Gaza. From October 7, 2023, to January 10, 2024, the following casualties have been reported:

- 63,264 injuries were reported in the occupied Palestinian territory, with 59,167 injuries in the Gaza Strip alone.
- 70% of the casualties were women and children.
- Over 7,780 persons are missing, and 85% of the population has been displaced.
- 4,097 injuries and 2,334 displacements reported in the West Bank, and 612 injuries in Lebanon.
- 1,386 fatalities and 9,038 injuries were reported in Israel, with the majority occurring during the October 7, 2023, attacks or from injuries in the aftermath.

- The WHO reported that the number of children under age 5 who are acutely malnourished has jumped from 0.8 per cent before the hostilities in Gaza to between 12.4 and 16.5 per cent in northern Gaza.

In addition, it is important to note that due to either collateral damage or a shortage of electricity, about 14 hospitals and 51 public health centres were forced to stop operating, leading to only 60% of hospitals and 30% of public health centres remaining operational in Gaza. Moreover, a United Nations-coordinated partnership of 15 international organizations and UN agencies investigating the hunger crisis in Gaza reported on March 18, 2024, that “all evidence points towards a major acceleration of death and malnutrition.” The partnership indicated that in northern Gaza, where 70 per cent of the population is estimated to be experiencing catastrophic hunger, famine could occur anytime between mid-March and May.



Conflict zone in the occupied region of Gaza

Questions a resolution must answer (QARMA)

1. *How to strike a balance between national interests whilst abiding by the principles of International Refugee Law?*
2. *Is there a need for Member States to change/shift their policies on refugees and IDPs?*
3. *Defining the nature of the existing Refugee and IDP framework and legislation*
4. *How to implement principles and practices established in existing frameworks?*
5. *How can the international community collaborate to facilitate the safe passage of refugees or IDPs while keeping international law obligations in mind?*

Important Glossary

- **1951 Convention:** The primary international legal framework for refugee protection. It defines who qualifies as a refugee, ensures the right to seek asylum, and sets out the responsibilities of both refugees and the countries that have signed the treaty.
- **1967 Protocol:** An important addition to international refugee law that eliminates the original time and geographic limitations of the 1951 Convention, allowing its protections to apply globally and to future refugee situations.
- **Appeasement:** A diplomatic strategy where one party offers concessions to another in an attempt to avoid conflict or escalation.
- **Asylum:** Protection granted by a state to individuals—such as refugees or asylum-seekers—who have fled their own country due to threats to their safety.
- **Asylum-seeker:** A person who is requesting international protection but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been decided.
- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL; Law of War):** A branch of international law aimed at reducing the impact of armed conflict by protecting those not participating in hostilities and restricting means and methods of warfare.

- **International Refugee Law (IRL):** A set of international legal instruments designed to ensure humanitarian protection and rights for refugees. The 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol are its central components today.
- **Local Integration:** The process of refugees becoming part of the social, cultural, and economic life of the host country, often leading to permanent residence or citizenship over time.
- **Non-refoulement:** A fundamental principle of refugee law that prohibits returning refugees or asylum seekers to a country where they would be at risk of persecution, torture, or serious harm.
- **Refoulement:** The act of forcibly sending a refugee back to a country where they are likely to face persecution. Under international refugee law, this is considered a serious human rights violation.
- **Refugees:** Individuals who are forced to leave their home country due to war, persecution, or violence. Most are civilians caught in conflict or targeted for their identity, beliefs, or affiliations.
- **Resettlement:** The relocation of refugees from one country of asylum to another state that agrees to admit them and facilitate their long-term integration.
- **Secondary Movement:** When a refugee or asylum-seeker moves from the first country of asylum to another country in search of better protection or living conditions.
- **Voluntary Repatriation:** When a refugee or asylum-seeker chooses to return to their country of origin from their host country, typically once conditions in the home country are deemed safe enough for return.