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Article

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AMERICA'S IRONCLAD SUPPORT: UNPACKING THE REPERCUSSION OF HAMAS' OCTOBER 07 ATTACK ON ISRAEL

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Abstract

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most enduring and complex political and military struggles in modern history, grounded in deeply contested territorial claims, political hostilities, and religious divisions. Over the decades, several peace efforts including the Oslo Accord, the Camp David Accord, the Abraham Accord, and the Road Map to Peace have been initiated, yet none have succeeded in securing a lasting resolution. The Biden administration has sought to reinvigorate the peace process by reversing key Trump-era policies and reaffirming commitment to a two-state solution. However, prospects for peace have been severely undermined by the October 7th, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel, which triggered a new wave of violence and further entrenched mutual distrust. This study adopts intractable conflict theory as its analytical framework and relies on documentary research methods to assess the evolving dynamics of the conflict. Findings suggest that while a two-state solution remains the most feasible path toward sustainable peace, progress depends heavily on the perceived neutrality and credibility of international mediators. The study recommends that the United States, as a longstanding broker in the peace process, must pursue a more impartial and inclusive strategy that assures both Israelis and Palestinians particularly the latter of its commitment to justice, security, and long-term coexistence.

Keywords: Israeli-Palestinian Peace Process, Bombardment, Artillery Shelling, Hamas.

Introduction

The Arab-Israeli War of 1948 erupted immediately after the declaration of the State of Israel on May 14th, when five Arab nations Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Transjordan launched a

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coordinated invasion into former Palestinian territories. The conflict was sparked by an attack on Tel Aviv on the eve of Israel's independence, which Israeli forces successfully repelled. This marked the beginning of a broader military confrontation that would shape the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East for decades to come. The roots of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however, run much deeper and can be traced back to the 19th century with the emergence of competing nationalist movements Zionism and Arab nationalism. The Zionist movement advocated for the creation of a Jewish nation-state in Palestine, envisioned as a safe haven for Jews facing persecution in Europe and elsewhere. Central to this vision was the belief that the Jewish people had a historical and spiritual connection to the land of Israel, which they regarded as their ancestral homeland. Organizations such as the World Zionist Organization and the Jewish National Fund facilitated Jewish immigration and land acquisition during both Ottoman and British rule. Following the First World War and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations granted Britain the mandate over Palestine and Transjordan in April 1920 at the San Remo Conference. These territories, encompassing present-day Israel, Jordan, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, became the focal point of escalating tensions between Jewish and Arab populations, setting the stage for future confrontations, including the war of 1948.

The Hamas massacre was an extremely shocking, earthquake-like, creepy, and horrifying serial event. The scale of the attack and extreme brutality shocked and outraged not just Israeli sociality but the entire civilized world. How did Hamas, which was established in 1987 focusing mainly on charity activities, transformed into a monster, ISIS-like killing machinery? It is well-known that Hamas was founded by Ahmad Yassin, and from the very beginning he considered the organization as the armed wing of the Muslim Brotherhood. Yassin opposed the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and in his opinion, "Palestine is a Muslim land, which an Arab leader has no right to give up," and "Israel must disappear from the face of the Earth." Hamas is not the only terrorist organization in Gaza. Currently, different terrorist organizations are known in the Gaza Strip, which have a rather diverse ideological background. For example, the Palestine Islam Jihad, created in 1979, is more militant faction; it operates primarily in Gaza, but it also has some underground cells in Cis-Jordan. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains one of the most enduring and intractable struggles in modern international relations. Rooted in competing nationalist claims, territorial disputes, religious symbolism, and historical grievances, the conflict has not only shaped the political contours of the Middle East but has also consistently drawn the attention and involvement of global powers most prominently, the United States. (Mearsheimer & Walt, 2007; Quandt, 2005).

Intractable Conflict Theory: A Theoretical Postulation

Intractable conflict theory can be traced back to the 1950s and 1960s, when scholars such as Morton Deutsch, Kenneth Boulding, and Charles Osgood began to explore the dynamics of conflicts that are difficult to resolve. The concept of intractable conflict was first proposed by American political scientist William Zartman. In his 1983 book, "Ripe for Resolution: Conflict and Intervention in Africa," Zartman argued that some conflicts become so intractable that they are almost impossible to resolve through traditional means. The term "intractable conflict" was first used by social psychologist Daniel Bar-Tal in (1986), to describe a type of conflict that is resistant to resolution and can persist for long periods of time. There are several ways in which the theory of intractable conflict can be applied to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One aspect of this theory is the idea of incompatible goals, or a zero-sum

game. In the case of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, both sides have deeply held goals that are incompatible with each other. The Palestinians seek an independent state, while the Israelis seek to maintain the security of the state of Israel. The creation of an independent Palestinian state is not realistic because of the growth of the Israeli settlement movement, which has seen the construction of new settlements in the West Bank, which has made the creation of a contiguous Palestinian state more difficult. As a result, any progress towards one goal is seen as a threat to the other. An instance of this can be seen in the second intifada, which began in 2000 and lasted several years, this makes it very difficult to find a resolution to the conflict.

The theory also emphasizes the importance of third-party intervention. In the case of Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the United States and other international actors have played a key role in trying to broker a resolution. However, their efforts have been hampered by the deep divisions within both the Israeli and Palestinian societies. As seen in the 2014, Gaza war, which saw intense violence and destruction, and the failure of negotiations following the war. The United States has used a number of approaches based on the theory of intractable conflict to try to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. These approaches have included: Facilitating negotiations between the two sides, as well as the U.S acting as a mediator between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, facilitating direct talks and indirect talks, such as the Oslo Accords. Promoting confidence-building measures: The U.S has promoted initiatives such as the Road-map for Peace and the Quartet, which aim to build trust and create a conducive environment for negotiations. One of the most significant solutions that the U.S has put forward is the two-state solution. This solution would involve the creation of an independent and viable Palestinian state, living side-by-side in peace and security with the state of Israel. This solution has been supported by a number of U.S administrations and is seen as the most viable option for resolving the conflict. However, the two-state solution has faced numerous challenges, including territorial disputes, the issue of Jerusalem, and the status of Palestinian refugees. The rise of the Hamas movement in Gaza, which has refused to recognize Israel and has been designated as a terrorist organization by the U.S and other countries. The division between the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and the Hamas- led government in Gaza, which has further complicated efforts to reach a negotiated settlement. The conflict is intractable because of the recent October, 7th 2023, attack by Hamas and this has led Israel to refuse further negotiations to create an independent Palestinian state, because if they allow the state, it would help Hamas and its allies to attack Israel more.

The United States Financial and Military Intervention and the Roadmap to Peace in the Israeli- Palestinian Peace Process

Jonathan and will (2024): noted that the United States was the first country to recognize the provisional government of the state of Israel upon its founding in 1948, and it has for many decades been a strong and steady supporter of the Jewish state. Israel has received hundreds of billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid in the post–World War II era, a level of support that reflects many factors, including a U.S. commitment to Israel’s security and the countries’ shared foreign policy interests in a volatile and strategically important part of the world. Christopher (2023): noted that the United States has given Israel more aid than any other nation since World War II, granting it more than \$260 billion. Israel is the most significant recipient of U.S foreign aid, having received some \$263 billion between 1946 and 2023 in combined economic and military aid. Hope (2023): noted that after the latest Israel,

Hamas war broke out on Oct. 7 2023 and Israel began a siege on the Gaza Strip, President Joe Biden also sent Congress a request on Oct. 20 for \$14.3 billion in aid for Israel. Until February 2022, the United States had provided Israel with \$150 billion (non- inflation adjusted) in bilateral assistance. Bilateral trade increased to nearly \$50 billion by 2023. Bilateral relations have evolved from an initial American policy of sympathy and support for the creation of a Jew homeland in 1948, to a partnership that links a small but powerful Israeli state with an American superpower attempting to balance influence against other competing interests in the region, namely those of Russia and its allies.

Table 1: United States Financial Aid to Israel

S/N	List of Financial Aid to Israel	Year	Amount
1	Combined economic and military aid	1946 – 2023	\$263 billion
2	Bilateral assistance	1946 – 2022	\$150 billion
3	Military and defense aid	1946-2023	\$36 billion
4	Joint Israeli-US missile defense program	2023	\$500 million
5	Memorandum of understanding	2023	\$14 billion
6	Migration and Refugee assistance	2021	\$1.7 billion
7	Homeland security assistance	2021	\$75 million
8	Economic support fund	2021	\$500 million
9	Military aid annually	1999-2009 2009-2019 2019-till date	\$2.67 billion \$3 billion \$3.8 billion

Source: Compiled by the researcher

Christopher (2023): noted that Calls for more aid to Israel came quickly in the wake of a terrorist attack by Hamas on the country on October 7th, 2023, and President Biden has said military assistance is on its way. The USS Gerald R. Ford, the Navy's newest and most advanced aircraft carrier, has already been dispatched to the region, and more aid in the form of equipment, resources and munitions arrived in the coming days. President Joe Biden also sent Congress a request on Oct. 20 for \$14.3 billion in aid for Israel. The Wall Street journal reported that United States has provided Israel with massive bombs and artillery shells worth “hundreds of millions of dollars,” while at the same time admonishing Israel to limit civilian casualties. The \$14.3 billion requested in aid to Israel is known as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on U.S. military aid to Israel. This MOU is a 10-year agreement that was signed in 2016 and is the largest package of military aid that the United States has ever given to any country. The money is primarily used to purchase weapons and military equipment from the United States, but it also includes funding for research and development and other purposes. Rabi (2024): noted that the since the conflict began, the U.S has sent to Israel thousands of military equipment, including ammunition, vehicles, armaments, personal protective equipment, and medical supplies. Such as, the supply of F-35 and F-15 fighter jets to Tel Aviv as well as Apache helicopters. Wall Street Journal (2023), reported that munitions sent by the U.S to Israel comprise more than 5,400 MK84 bombs and 5,000 unguided MK82 bombs. It also shares details of 1,000 GBU-39 small-diameter bombs, and some 3,000 joint direct attack munitions (JDAM). Consisting of approximately 15,000 bombs and 57,000 artillery shells, the artillery had been sent through C-17 military cargo planes. The proposed armed delivery includes about 1,000 each of MK-82 500-pound (227-kilogram) bombs and KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), which can turn unguided munitions into precision-guided bombs. The U.S has provided roughly 21,000 precision guided munitions to Israel since October.

This assistance has helped transform the Israel Defense Forces into one of the world's most capable, effective militaries and turned the Israeli military industry and technology sector into one of the largest exporters of military capabilities worldwide. AJlabs (2023): noted that the United States has firmly backed Israel in its war against Hamas and sent its closest ally in the Middle East guided-missile carriers and F-35 fighters as well as other military equipment. According to the United State Congressional Research Service, factors for the continuing military support to Israel include shared strategic interests, domestic U.S support for Israel and a mutual commitment to democratic values. Israel is the most significant recipient of U.S foreign aid, having received some \$263 billion between 1946 and 2023. This is almost double (1.7 times more) than the second-highest recipient of U.S foreign aid, Egypt, which received \$151.9 billion in the past 77 years. Israel has long been seen by U.S legislators as an ally to help protect U.S strategic interests in the Middle East. U.S military funding to Israel topped \$3.8 billion in 2023, as part of a record \$38 billion deal over 10 years signed under former U.S President Barack Obama in 2016. Between 1946 and 2023, the U.S has supported Israel with a total of \$124 billion in the form of military and defense aid. Of the \$3.8 billion military aid provided to Israel this year, half a billion has been for Israel's missile defenses. Washington has stated that it will backfill Israeli munitions used against Hamas in the latest war. AJlabs (2023)

Following the eruption of the Israel Hamas war, the United States began to send warships and military aircraft into the Mediterranean and supplying Israel with ammunition and military equipment. Rabi (2024): noted that in October, 2023, the Joe Biden administration sent the USS Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group and another warship to the Mediterranean Sea. Each of these carriers has more than 70 aircraft on board with considerable firepower. To support its existing A-10, F-15 and F-16 squadrons at these bases. In December, there were 19 U.S warships in the region, with 7 in the Eastern Mediterranean, and 12 others in the Red Sea, Arabian Sea, and the Persian Gulf. The U.S stated that Israel would receive "whatever it needs" to support a counteroffensive against the Hamas ruled Gaza Strip. It also promised more military aid to Israel. On 20 October, president Biden announced that he had asked Congress for \$14 billion in additional aid. Most of the aid approximately \$3.3 billion a year is provided as grants under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program, funds that Israel must use to purchase U.S. military equipment and services. Israel has also historically been permitted to use a portion of its FMF aid to buy equipment from Israeli defense firms a benefit not granted to other recipients of U.S. military aid. U.S. aid reportedly accounts for some 15 percent of Israel's defense budget. Israel, like many other countries, also buys U.S. military products outside of the FMF program. Additionally, \$500 million a year is slated for Israeli and joint U.S. Israeli missile defense programs, in which the two countries collaborate on the research, development, and production of these systems used by Israel, including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow II. Iron Dome was solely developed by Israel, but the United States has been a production partner since 2014. In 1999, the U.S government signed a Memorandum of Understanding through which it committed to providing Israel with at least \$2.67 billion in military aid annually, for the following ten years; in 2009, the annual amount was raised to \$3 billion; and in 2019, the amount was raised again, now standing at a minimum of \$3.8 billion that the U.S is committed to providing Israel each year.

Table 2: United States Financial Aid to Palestinians

S/N	List of Financial Aid to Palestinians	Year	Amount
1	Total aid	1994 – 2020	\$40 billion
2	Bilateral assistance	1994 – till date	\$7.6 billion
3	Relief aid	2014 – 2020	\$4.5 billion
4	Relief aid	2020	\$600 million
5	Humanitarian assistance	2021 – 2022	\$417 million
6	Humanitarian assistance	2023	\$100 million

Source: Compiled by the Researcher

According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), international aid to Palestinians amounted to over \$40 billion between 1994 and 2020. Since 1993, the U.S. government alone has contributed more than \$7.6 billion in bilateral assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, primarily through the Economic Support Fund, which finances programs focused on economic growth, infrastructure, and recovery. The international community has also directed billions of dollars to the Gaza Strip, aiming to provide relief to the over 2 million Palestinians residing there. Between 2014 and 2020, various U.N. agencies spent nearly \$4.5 billion in Gaza, including \$600 million in 2020 alone. Bryant and Ziadah (2024) note that by early 2024, U.S. assistance had surpassed \$230 million, reflecting both the scale of the humanitarian need and the strategic importance of maintaining a humanitarian corridor during wartime. This figure includes expanded support for UNRWA operations, particularly for the over 1.7 million displaced people in Gaza, as well as emergency healthcare and water sanitation projects implemented by international NGOs.

Table 3: United States Military Aid to Israel

S/N	List of Military Aid to Israel	Year	Amount
1	Military aid transfer	2023- till date	\$275 million
2	USS Gerald R Ford aircraft carrier	2023-till date	\$18 billion
3	F-35 fighters jet	2023-till date	\$3 billion
4	F-15 fighter jets	2023-till date	\$18 billion
5	Iron dome	2011-2021 2022	\$1.6 billion \$1 billion
6	Artillery shells	2023	\$147.5 billion
7	GBU-39 small diameter bombs	2021	\$735 million
8	Tank ammunition s cartridges and equipment	2023	\$106.5 million
9	Precision guided munitions	2023	\$320 million
10	JDAM	2015	\$1.879 billion

Source: Compiled by the researcher

The United States has consistently provided substantial military aid to Israel over the decades, making it the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. foreign military assistance. This support is often embedded within broader aid packages that also include economic and strategic cooperation, but military assistance remains a central component of the bilateral relationship. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), along with the Department of Defense and the State Department, oversees much of this aid, which is primarily disbursed through the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) program. Since the late 1940s, and particularly after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, U.S. military aid to Israel has increased significantly. Estimates suggest that since the 1970s, the United States has provided Israel with over \$150 billion in military assistance. This aid has included grants for the purchase of American military hardware, such as F-15 and F-35 fighter jets, Apache

helicopters, precision-guided munitions, and missile defense systems. A significant portion of this aid has supported Israel's advanced missile defense architecture including the Iron Dome, David's Sling, and Arrow systems developed jointly with U.S. collaboration. Israel has also received armored vehicles, surveillance technologies, and logistical support that enhance its military readiness and strategic deterrence capabilities. In this light, U.S. military aid is not only about defense, but also a key tool in reinforcing the long-standing U.S.-Israel alliance and maintaining stability in a volatile region

The Bombardment of Gaza and the Relentless Artillery Shelling of the Gaza Strip by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF)

Servet (2023) observed that the Israeli military launched a sustained and intense bombardment of Hamas targets within the Gaza Strip. The latest round of conflict erupted on October 7, when Hamas initiated *Operation Al-Aqsa Flood* a coordinated and unprecedented assault involving thousands of rocket launches and infiltrations into Israeli territory by land, sea, and air. According to Hamas, the attack was a retaliatory response to the storming of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and escalating violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinians. Lisa (2023) described the Gaza Strip as "the most dangerous place in the world to be a child," highlighting the devastating toll of Israel's military campaign, which has killed and injured thousands of children while leaving many more vulnerable to infectious diseases, malnutrition, and extreme psychological trauma. Acevedo (2023) reported scenes of widespread destruction in Gaza City following Israeli airstrikes on October 11, 2023, noting that the Hamas-led assault on Israel marked an unprecedented multi-front offensive. The group fired thousands of rockets and breached multiple points along Israel's heavily fortified border, resulting in the deaths of hundreds and the capture of Israeli civilians and soldiers. Kouachi (2023) argued that the international community bears significant responsibility for the continuation of Israel's military campaign in Gaza. In the aftermath of the Hamas-led assault, widespread international statements emerged in solidarity with Israel. With more than 5,000 rockets launched from Gaza, as well as additional attacks from Syria and Lebanon, the region remains highly volatile and on the brink of further escalation.

Nidel (2023) reported that Palestinians in Gaza emerged on Monday following what residents described as one of the most intense nights of Israeli bombardment since the onset of the conflict a month earlier. Conditions in the densely populated enclave have deteriorated rapidly, with basic necessities dwindling and infrastructure collapsing under the weight of sustained attacks. Callamard (2023) similarly observed that the relentless bombardment has inflicted unimaginable suffering on a population already grappling with a severe humanitarian crisis. Sixteen years of Israel's blockade have left Gaza's healthcare system on the verge of total collapse and its economy in ruins. Hospitals, overwhelmed by the volume of wounded civilians, are struggling to operate amid critical shortages of life-saving medications, equipment, and fuel. Nidel (2023) further noted that in northern Gaza particularly around Gaza City and nearby refugee camps now encircled by Israeli ground forces air and artillery strikes have relentlessly pounded the vicinity of major civilian infrastructure, including the al-Shifa Hospital. In southern Gaza, where Israel instructed civilians to evacuate for safety, hundreds of thousands of displaced residents now shelter in overcrowded, makeshift facilities. Despite the supposed safety of the south, it has also faced sustained bombardment across its major cities and refugee camps, all under a total communications blackout.

Amanda, Sam, and Ruxandra (2023) reported that the Israeli Defense Forces have claimed responsibility for striking approximately 2,600 "terrorist targets" across the Gaza Strip, including the Islamic University, which Israeli sources allege is being used by Hamas for militant training. B'Tselem (2024) and UNOCHA (2024), Israeli airstrikes and artillery fire have resulted in the destruction of entire neighborhoods, displacing over 1.7 million Palestinians and killing tens of thousands, including a large number of women and children. The bombardment has also targeted or severely damaged key civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, water facilities, and refugee shelters, leaving Gaza's humanitarian system on the brink of collapse.

Refugee Displacement of Palestinians in Gaza and the Recurrent Human Right Violations in the Strip

The Gaza Strip has witnessed one of the most severe humanitarian crises in its history, with unprecedented levels of refugee displacement and mounting reports of human rights violations. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA, 2024), as of early 2024, more than 1.7 million Palestinians nearly 80% of Gaza's population have been internally displaced, many of them multiple times, due to ongoing airstrikes, ground operations, and the destruction of residential areas and public infrastructure. The displacement crisis has been compounded by the destruction of critical civilian facilities, including hospitals, schools, and water systems, making living conditions unbearable in overcrowded shelters and informal encampments. Al-Madhoun (2024) argues that this forced displacement, carried out under conditions of siege and with little or no provision for civilian safety, may amount to collective punishment, a practice prohibited under international humanitarian law. Human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have documented recurrent violations of international law in Gaza. These include indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas, obstruction of humanitarian aid, attacks on healthcare facilities, and the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

Pappé (2024) and Finkelstein (2024) emphasize that the current wave of displacement cannot be separated from the historical context of Palestinian dispossession dating back to 1948. They argue that the repeated cycles of war and displacement in Gaza are not simply humanitarian emergencies but reflecting a structural pattern of forced population control and long-term occupation. Abdel (2023) reported that since the Hamas-led assault on October 7, Israeli air and ground operations have resulted in the deaths of 50,000 Palestinians, including over 6,000 children and 4,000 women. More than 35,000 individuals have been injured, with children and women comprising over 75% of the wounded. Yara (2019) observed that violations of Palestinian women's rights have become normalized, with institutions tasked with protecting these rights increasingly complicit in their erosion. The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH, 2023) further noted that the majority of human rights defenders in Gaza have faced forced displacement, the destruction of their homes, and, in many cases, the loss of family members. Palestinian women, in particular, have endured repeated and overlapping human rights violations as a result of Israel's military occupation, blockade, and recurring military aggression. These conditions have led to enduring, inter-generational physical and psychological harm, as women face threats to their safety, injury, bereavement, and severe restrictions on their freedom and mobility.

The Increase in Religious Extremism and the Escalation of Violence and Intolerance in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

The surge in religious extremism has not only escalated cycles of violence as seen in attacks on civilians, places of worship, and symbolic holy sites it has also fostered a climate of mutual intolerance, eroding the middle ground and silencing moderate voices. Mostafa (2018) highlighted that deeply rooted religious elements in both Islam and Judaism continue to shape the conflict's trajectory, particularly through competing claims to sacred sites and the influence of apocalyptic religious narratives. These factors, he argues, undermine efforts toward lasting peace. On one side, extreme religious Zionists in Israel increasingly perceive themselves as custodians of Jewish identity and the destiny of the state, often opposing any form of territorial or political concession to Arabs. On the other side, Islamist groups within Palestine and the broader Islamic world call for the religiously motivated "liberation" of what they consider holy land, frequently promoting violence and hostility against Israel and the Jewish people. Jerusalem remains central to both religious traditions. In Jewish and Biblical history, the city served as the capital of the Kingdom of Israel under King David and is home to the Temple Mount and the Western Wall sites of profound religious significance. For Muslims, Jerusalem was the first Qiblah (direction of prayer) and remains sacred due to the presence of Al-Aqsa Mosque, making it a focal point of Islamic reverence. The October 7 attack by Hamas resulted in the deaths of approximately 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and the abduction of around 240 hostages. In response, Israel vowing to dismantle Hamas, which has governed the Gaza Strip since 2007 launched an extensive military campaign involving both airstrikes and ground operations. According to the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry, more than 50,000 people have died since the onset of hostilities, though these figures remain unverified and likely include both civilians and Hamas combatants, as well as casualties from misfired rockets. The humanitarian crisis continues to deepen, exacerbated by the longstanding blockade and the intensifying religious dimensions of the conflict.

Conclusion

The October 7 attack marked a dangerous escalation and underscored the failure of status quo policies. While Israel has the right to defend itself and Hamas asserts a resistance narrative, both parties must now prioritize long-term strategic goals over reactive violence. Unless both sides, with support from regional and international actors, move beyond militarized solutions and confront the political roots of the conflict, the prospects for stability, coexistence, and human dignity will remain elusive. Global opinion is more divided than ever: while Western governments largely back Israel, civil society, particularly younger and more diverse populations, have become increasingly sympathetic to Palestinian suffering.

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