



SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION (SPECPOL)

Chair: Jackson Knox

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee deals with a variety of subjects which include those related to decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and University for Peace. For more information, go to:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/fourth/>

REPORT: Gaza Strip

Introduction

The Gaza Strip is a territory claimed by the State of Palestine. It falls under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian National Authority but is governed by a Sunni-Islamic organization called Hamas. Gaza is bordered by Egypt to the southwest and Israel to the east. Conflict in the area is ongoing.

Key Terms and Acronyms

1. *Gaza Strip*- also called Gaza, territory along Mediterranean claimed by the State of Palestine.
2. *West Bank*- territory to the west of the Jordan River claimed by the State of Palestine.
3. *Hamas*- an acronym meaning 'Islamic Resistance Movement;' a fundamentalist Sunni organization that has governed the Gaza Strip since 2007. Hamas is considered a terrorist organization by many nations.
4. *Fatah*- nationalist Palestinian party; largest faction of the Palestine Liberation Organization.
5. *Palestine Liberation Organization*- sometimes referred to by the acronym *PLO*; a large nationalist organization recognized as a representative of the Palestinian people.
6. *State of Palestine*- Middle-Eastern state that claims the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Recognized as a non-member observer state in the United Nations.
7. *Palestine National Authority*- sometimes referred to by the acronym *PA*; governs Palestine territory in the West Bank
8. *Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine*- also known as Palestinian Islamic Jihad or the acronym *PIJ*; a large, recognized terrorist organization; second largest military group in Gaza.
9. *Sinai Peninsula*- vast area of Egypt that borders the Gaza Strip to the southwest; this region hosts a great deal of illegal militant activity.
10. *Oslo Accords*- a set of agreements between Israel and the PLO in 1993 and 1995 that created the Palestine National Authority in an effort to assist in Palestinian self-determination.
11. *Quartet*- the Quartet on the Middle East; diplomatic group of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States, and Russia.

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General Overview

Most international organizations regard Gaza as occupied by Israel. Currently, utilities infrastructure in Gaza is heavily dependent on Israel. Israel also has exclusive control over airspace above the Gaza Strip according to the Oslo Accords. Tension between Israel and Gaza is strong; the two groups engaged in a large-scale conflict in 2014. Gaza suffers from poor living conditions as a result of its tumultuous situation.

Major Parties

1. Hamas
2. Palestine National Authority
3. Israel

Timeline of Key Events

1994: Israel withdraws from Gaza Strip, surrendering control to PA.

2005: Unilateral Disengagement Plan; Israeli settlements in Gaza were dismantled, formally ending Israeli military occupation of the Strip.

2006: Hamas wins a plurality in Palestinian parliament, then refuses to acknowledge Israel and denounce violence, causing the Quartet to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority.

2007: Fighting erupts between Hamas and Fatah; Hamas eventually takes total control of Gaza.

2008: Israel and Gaza engage in a 22-day war resulting in the death of between 1,100 and 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis.

2014: Seven-week conflict resulting in approximately 2,000 Palestinian casualties.

Previous Resolutions

General Assembly Resolution 66/225; 28 March 2012

UN reaffirmed the right of the Palestinian people to their own natural resources, demanded Israel to cease exploitation of those resources, and recognized the right of Palestinians to claim restitution for rights violations.

Security Council Resolution 2334; 23 December 2016

UN decries Israeli settlement activity in Palestine territories.

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REPORT: Cyberterrorism and internet accessibility and privacy laws

Introduction

Because the technology itself is young and evolving, few international laws or organizations exist to regulate the Internet. Unified global powers may be able to work together to form Internet rules and regulations to combat acts of terrorism carried out through the Internet and to establish basic rights regarding Internet access and privacy.

Key Terms and Acronyms

1. *Internet*- a global computer network unified by the Internet Protocol Suite; the largest computer network in existence
2. *World Wide Web*- an information space existing through the Internet in which webpages written in Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) are interconnected by hyperlinks that locate information on the Internet using Uniform Resource Locators (URLs).
3. *Cyberterrorism*- i: the use of the Internet to coordinate violent acts of terrorism or ii: the deliberate and large-scale disruption of informational networks for the purpose of causing alarm.
4. *Internet Access*- the process through which individuals connect to the Internet in order to use Internet services such as email and the World Wide Web.

General Overview

1. Cyberterrorism - An expert group on cybercrime assembled by the United Nations defined Cyberterrorism in a January 2011 publication as the intentional use or threat of use of electronic information systems for the perpetration of terrorist acts inspired by certain motives (e.g., political, ideological or religious) with the aim to cause death or serious bodily injury, serious material damage, create a state of fear, compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act. Certain informational systems are vital to the societal order in many countries. The dismantling of something such as a banking system or telecommunications has dangerous implications. It is logically important for the international community to cooperate to address threats of cyberterrorism.
2. Internet Accessibility - Individuals can normally access the Internet through computers connected to the network. Some governments have restricted or cut off Internet access by controlling regional service providers.
3. Internet Privacy

Previous Resolutions

Human Rights Council Resolution 20/8; 29 June 2012

HRC recognizes that human rights, especially freedom of expression, must be respected online as well as offline and encourages the promotion of Internet access.

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Human Rights Council Resolution 32/13; 1 July 2016

Expands upon resolution 20/8 and recommends formulating Internet-related policies centered on universal Internet access.

Web Resources for Cyber Terrorism:

Combating Terrorism Center at West Point

<https://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/defining-cyberterrorism-capturing-a-broad-range-of-activities-in-cyberspace>

FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin:

<https://leb.fbi.gov/2011/november/cyber-terror>

InfoSec Institute

<http://resources.infosecinstitute.com/cyberterrorism-distinct-from-cybercrime/#gref>

UN Publications

https://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Use_of_Internet_for_Terrorist_Purposes.pdf

http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/ctitf/pdfs/ctitf_interagency_wg_compendium_legal_technical_aspects_web.pdf

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