

Palestine: the never-ending conflict

July 2022

Palestine is potentially the most politically charged country in the world other than Israel, ironically. It is impossible to be able to outline the historical context of Palestine and Israel by extension. In fact, it is difficult to discuss Palestine without discussing Israel in the same breath. The two nations are intertwined and share an extensive, complicated and bloody history, with casualties and atrocities committed on both sides. Nowadays, it is rare



to find somebody who comes at this subject with a neutral standpoint. Any discussion about Palestine and Israel usually lacks nuance and can naturally get heated. The idea of a two-state solution continues to be setback due to both Israeli expansion and Gazan aggression. Whenever either action is taken, the goal of having peaceful co-existing states diminishes.

The country's situation has not really changed in the past couple of decades. For the past few decades, the two belligerents have been in a perpetual war with brief periods of "peace" until either side antagonises the other. The most recent of which happened in May 2021, when Palestinians in East Jerusalem began protesting over an anticipated decision of the Supreme Court of Israel on the eviction of six Palestinian families in the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. The protests quickly escalated into riots, which led to a brutal response from the Israeli police which led to rockets being initially fired by Hamas and then retaliated by Israel. Fortunately, the conflict ended within the month, but it has once again provided a setback in any peace proceedings.

The situation is not improved by foreign influencers who have direct interests in the region. The main perpetrators are the US, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The governing body of Palestine, Hamas, are backed by the Iranian regime which supply them weapons as well as funds. Both share the same goal when it comes to Israel and Palestine, which is the annihilation of Israel and replacing it with a Palestinian caliphate. On the other side, the US, and Saudi Arabia to some extent, are 'on the side' of Israel in this conflict. The US continues to sell weaponry to Israel and defends the country's right to exist. Additionally, depending on which President is in office, the US challenges Iran's right to nuclear capabilities.

The Saudi's also back the Israeli horse in this race. The Kingdom would support anyone who has Iran as their enemy. "The enemy of my enemy is my friend," and it could not be true with the Saudi's relationship with Israel. The strong supporters on both sides of this conflict have had both helped and worsened the situation between Palestine and Israel.

Domestically, the Gaza Strip is suffering from a dire economic and humanitarian situation. The imposition of the permanent blockade since 2007 has had a catastrophic impact on the economy and overall living standards of the Palestinian people. Unemployment is one of the worst in the world with 46.6% of the population currently without work and over 60% for youth unemployment. Currently, over half of the population of the Gaza Strip require food assistance. The infrastructure in Gaza not ideal to say the least. Water and electricity is scare and is heavily reliant on Israeli mercy and physical infrastructure is at risk of being hit by rocket fire. While the situation my be better off for those living in the West Bank, they unfortunately have to live with the constant threat of Israeli expansionism. The situation for the Palestinians shows little signing of improving significantly in the years to come.

KCS Group Europe - Strategic Intelligence & Corporate Security

A leading provider of security and intelligence services, we operate discreetly in some of the world's most difficult environments on complex cases of fraud, theft, corruption, or market dynamics. We gather intelligence through the discreet use of human sources to level the playing field and help our clients identify and deal with any risks, weaknesses and threats which could impact on their business, financially or reputationally.

Our key areas of expertise include:

Corporate Intelligence Services - New market or sector entry research - Know your customer screening

In addition, through our specialist team at KCS IS, we offer a unique service in the areas of Cyber Security and Cyber Risk. This covers penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, intelligence gathering and cyber security audits - providing unparalleled analysis, contingency planning, and implementation.

To find out more or to arrange a meeting to discuss your business needs, please email the team at info@kcsgruppeurope.com or call (00 44) 2072451191.
