



## **2009 - 2010 Model Arab League**

### **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**Council on Palestinian Affairs**

**ALL Regional Model Arab Leagues**

(i.e., not the National University or National High School MAL, Spring '10, in Washington, DC)

**[www.ncusar.org/modelarableague](http://www.ncusar.org/modelarableague)**

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



## **1. Establishing means for ensuring the fair distribution of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including food, money, medical resources and workers**

### **What is the Issue?**

This topic deals with two main issues. The first is ensuring that these resources can make it into Palestine through Israeli Security Forces. Delegates must establish a means for this, taking care to consider the unique challenges facing the transport and access of goods and services to the West Bank & Gaza Strip. The second issue is ensuring that once the resources reach Palestine they are fairly distributed to the Palestinian People. Historically there have been numerous incidents of resources never reaching their destination or not being fairly distributed.

### **Questions to Consider -- *from your nation's unique perspective***

- What are obstacles to getting resources into Palestine?
- What are obstacles to moving resources between Gaza and the West Bank?
- What are the current problems with fair distribution of resources?
- What has been proposed in the past and what were the results?
- What is the role of International Non-Governmental Organizations?

### **Resources to Review**

American Humanitarian Aid Website:

<http://www.anera.org/>

Article: Corruption in the Palestinian Government:

[http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2006/02/06/700m\\_reported\\_missing\\_from\\_palestinian\\_coffers/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2006/02/06/700m_reported_missing_from_palestinian_coffers/)

Article: Denial of Humanitarian Aid by Egypt:

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1231167274651&pagename=JPost%2FJPostArticle%2FShowFull>

## **2. Fostering dialogue and reconciliation between the Palestinian Authority and other Palestinian factions with the goal of strengthening the Palestinian state and legitimizing domestic political processes**

### **What is the Issue?**

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) had been the solely recognized legitimate authority of the Palestinian people, largely led by Fatah. In the January 2006 elections, Hamas won the majority of seats (74 of 132) in the Palestinian National Authority, and in March formed a new government excluding Fatah. However, most nations including the Quartet (United Nations, European Union, United States and Russia) refused to acknowledge the legitimacy of Hamas as they were deemed a terrorist organization. This created a roadblock to not only political processes, but to much of the aid normally sent from various nations.

These events led to deteriorating living conditions in the Gaza Strip and West Bank as well as increased violence among factions and with Israel. In February 2007 Hamas and Fatah signed the Mecca Agreement, which formed a unity government including both Hamas and Fatah in an attempt to appease international actors. In June 2007 Hamas seized control of Gaza and President Mahmoud Abbas (Fatah) dissolved the unity government and Fatah gained control of the West Bank. In March 2009 Egypt began hosting dialogues between Hamas and Fatah to reconcile the factions. Delegates should discuss the areas of dissent and propose solutions to these disagreements.

### **Questions to Consider** -- *from your nation's unique perspective*

- What are the areas of dissent between the Palestinian factions?
- What is your nation's view on the various factions and the factions' current political positions?
- What solutions have been instituted in the past and what were their results?

### **Resources to Review**

Palestinian National Unity Government:

<http://unispal.un.org/UNISPAL.NSF/0/8670EE789BE79869852572C10058759A>

Article: Egypt's Current Role in Peace Negotiations:

<http://weekly.ahram.org.eg/2009/969/eg4.htm>

### **3. Developing an Arab League response mechanism to incursions into Palestinian territory, violations of Palestinian human rights, and destruction of Palestinian lives and property**

#### **What is the Issue?**

When Palestine's territory is invaded, which occurs semi-frequently by Israel, the Palestinian people suffer. As the topic denotes they suffer violations of human rights, destruction of lives and destruction of property. Though Israel is frequently condemned for their actions, no actions are taken against Israel. Such examples are UN Security Council Resolutions 106, 237, 446, 452, 465, 468, 469, 471, 484, 592, 605, 607, 608, 641, 672, 681, 694, 726, 799, 904, 1073, 1322, 1397, 1402, 1403, 1435, 1544, and 1860. The Arab League has also condemned such actions; however they generally do not have much influence when they do so.

Delegates need to approach this topic from two perspectives. The first is to propose ideas that will create a response mechanism that will be in place so that when an incursion occurs, there will be a reaction from the Arab League immediately. The second perspective is to propose ideas that will gain more influence with the Quartet (United Nations, European Union, United States and Russia) and other important international actors.

#### **Questions to Consider -- *from your nation's unique perspective***

- What constitutes an incursion?
- How will a response mechanism operate?
- What can be done that will garner positive attention and have an effect?

#### **Resources to Review**

UN Security Council Resolutions:

<http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm>

Article: Amnesty International – Palestinian Water Needs

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/report/israel-rations-palestinians-trickle-water-20091027>