

GLOBAL  CONFLICTS

# PALESTINE



**Mission Sheets**

# Mission Sheet - Mission 1: Military operations

This document provides you with a short introduction before playing mission 1.

- Read this mission sheet.
- Play mission 1 about a military operation.
- Discuss mission 1 and answer the questions from the worksheet.
- Write a follow up article based on the article template.

You can find the material online at <http://learning.seriousgames.dk>

## Background

Military operations are a part of everyday life for the Palestinians and the Israeli Defense forces. The military operations have since the founding of the modern state of Israel in 1948 been a constant source of controversy. Usually the Palestinian side will argue that basic human rights are constantly violated. The Israeli side will argue that they have strict rules of engagement and that the operations are necessary to maintain the security of Israel. According to Israel the military operations are important to stop terrorism against Israel.



The intensity and frequency of the military operations varies greatly and can be triggered by a number of events like terror attacks on Israel or new political leadership in Israel.

## Terms

**Geneva Convention:** Four treaties that set down the international law for humanitarian behavior.

**IDF:** This is the abbreviation used for the Israeli Defense Forces.

**Legitimate:** Refer to whether something is justified.

**Moderate physical pressure:** Often used to describe mild forms of torture that are sometimes argued to be within in the law given extreme threats like imminent terror attacks.

**Occupied territories:** This is used to describe the areas Gaza and the West Bank.

## Mission Sheet - Mission 2: Checkpoints

This document provides you with a short introduction before playing mission 2.

- Read this mission sheet.
- Play mission 2 about checkpoints.
- Discuss mission 2 and answer the questions from the worksheet.
- Write a follow up article based on the article template.

You can find the material online at <http://learning.seriousgames.dk>

### Background

The checkpoints have been part of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for many years. Israel sees the checkpoints as crucial for security whereas the Palestinians see them as harassment and violation of their human rights. It is not unusual with attacks on the checkpoints with knives, bombs or guns. Checkpoints are also often the scene of harassments and beatings of Palestinians. So, although the checkpoints stop terror attacks they also alienate a lot of innocent Palestinians.

The checkpoints have large consequences for the everyday life of Palestinians who are unable to visit relatives, keep a job and go to school as checkpoints are randomly closed. The checkpoints are used both to control movement within Gaza and the West Bank as well as the movement into and out of the areas.

#### Quick statistics

27 permanent internal checkpoints in the territories, where everyone crossing is checked.

54 other checkpoints that may sometimes be closed down if IDF find it necessary.

Source: B'TSelem

### Terms

**Hezbollah:** An organization that controls most of South-Lebanon and regularly attacks Northern Israel. It is described as a religious/terrorist/political/social organization supported strongly by Iran.

**Hamas:** A religious/terrorist/political/social organization that is increasingly gaining power among Palestinian in favor of the previous dominating organization Fatah.

**Separation barrier:** Israel is currently constructing a wall to make it harder for unwanted Palestinians to cross into Israel. However, the barrier has cut off Palestinian villages, and is in some regions built on Palestinian soil.



## Mission Sheet - Mission 3: Settlements

This document provides you with a short introduction before playing mission 3.

- Read this mission sheet.
- Play mission 3 about settlements.
- Discuss mission 3 and answer the questions from the worksheet.
- Write a follow up article based on the article template.

You can find the material online at <http://learning.seriousgames.dk>

### Background

Settlements are closely ingrained in Israel's self-understanding. They are seen as crucial to the founding of the state of Israel and its very soul. Settlements were used to cultivate land, and also served as defensive structures. The first settlements came in the late 1880s, where Jewish settlements were established in Israel/Palestine.

However, today settlements refer to the illegal construction of settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. The settlements in Gaza were dismantled in 2005. The settlements receive privileged access to roads and water as well as other benefits making it attractive even with the continuing security risks.

Most settlers are armed and there are regular clashes with Palestinians often over land, but also direct unprovoked attacks from both sides.

#### Quick statistics

The estimate of Israeli settlements (and settlers) depend on the source:

270.000 in 150 settlements.  
(Source: Jewish Library)

390.000 in 198 settlements  
(Source: Palestine Monitor)

### Terms

**Expropriation:** A government overtaking property by paying compensation but against the owner's will. The compensation is often limited when Israel takes over property due to security concerns.

**Geneva convention:** Four treaties that set the international law for humanitarian behavior.

**IDF:** This is the abbreviation used for the Israeli Defense Forces.

**Occupied territories:** This is used to describe the areas Gaza and the West Bank.

**Palestinian national authority:** Established after peace talks in 1992 to govern Palestinian affairs in the self-rule areas within the West Bank and Gaza.

**Torah:** Refers to all Jewish religious literature, law and teaching that guide the right way of living.

## Mission Sheet - Mission 4: Martyrs

This document provides you with a short introduction before playing mission 4.

- Read this mission sheet.
- Play mission 4 about martyrs.
- Discuss mission 4 and answer the questions from the worksheet.
- Write a follow up article based on the article template.

You can find the material online at <http://learning.seriousgames.dk>

### Background

Martyrs have a special place in the Palestinian society, where they to a large extent serve as role models. You regularly see posters of martyrs on the streets and in people's homes there are often small shrines for martyred family members.

Martyrs (shahids) are victims in the resistance whether by choice or chance. The children killed by stray bullets are martyrs just like the suicide bombers killing innocent civilian Israelis.

Israel has a hard time digesting the fact that suicide bombers are heralded as heroes. However, for some Palestinians the martyrs have given the ultimate sacrifice and for that are rewarded a place in paradise. The use of suicide bombs and the support of the bombers by some Muslim religious leaders regularly spark controversy and discussions.

#### Quick statistics

Since late 2000 Israel has killed more than 3.500 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, including 600 children. In the same period militant Palestinians have killed 1.000 Israelis both in Israel and the territories.

Source: Mideastweb.org

### Terms

**Expropriation:** A government overtaking property by paying compensation but against the owner's will. The compensation is often limited when Israel takes over property due to security concerns.

**Geneva convention:** Four treaties that set the international law for humanitarian behavior.

**IDF:** This is the abbreviation used for the Israeli Defense Forces.

**Occupied territories:** This is used to describe the areas Gaza and the West Bank.

**Palestinian national authority:** Established after peace talks in 1992 to govern Palestinian affairs in the self-rule areas within the West Bank and Gaza.

**Torah:** Refers to all Jewish religious literature, law and teaching that guide the right way of living.

## Mission Sheet - Mission 5: Hamas

This document provides you with a short introduction before playing mission 5.

- Read this mission sheet.
- Play mission 5 about Hamas.
- Discuss mission 5 and answer the questions from the worksheet.
- Write a follow up article based on the article template.

You can find the material online at <http://learning.seriousgames.dk>

### Background

The Palestinian organization Hamas aims to establish Palestine as an Islamic state. Hamas is set on the destruction of the State of Israel and finds that it is impossible to make peace as Palestine must be reunited (including current Israel). The struggle against Israel includes the use of terrorism, most noticeably suicide bombs. Hamas was founded in 1987 in connection with the first Palestinian uprising (Intifada). It originated in Gaza and its support remains strong in the area. This was evident in the recent violent takeover of power from Fatah in Gaza. From the founding Hamas has been strongly involved in providing education and social welfare.

#### Quick statistics

Hamas won the Palestinian election in 2006 with 74 seats. The ruling party Fatah got 45 seats.

Source: New York Times

### Terms

**Islamic state:** This refers to a state built after the principles set down in the Koran that bring unity and leadership to the Muslim world.

**Zionism:** Zionism is an ideology (mindset) laid down in the late 19th century that seeks to establish a Jewish homeland.

**PLO:** Short for Palestinian Liberation Organization that for many years have led the struggle for a Palestinian state and the the destruction of Israel. Today PLO increasingly seeks peace with Israel.

**Fatah:** One of the major Palestinian political parties, which remains the backbone in PLO.

**EU:** Abbreviation for the European Union, this is a group of European countries that collaborate especially to further trade and economy in the European region.

**Martyrs:** People who die in the fight against Israeli occupation whether by choice or chance.

**UN:** The abbreviation used for the United Nations. The UN is an international organization who aims to facilitate cooperation on social development, international law & security, and human rights.

## Mission Sheet - Mission 6: Media's Role

This document provides you with a short introduction before playing mission 6.

- Read this mission sheet.
- Play mission 6 about media's role.
- Discuss mission 6 and answer the questions from the worksheet.
- Write a follow up article based on the article template.

You can find the material online at <http://learning.seriousgames.dk>

### Background

The media plays a large role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a second battleground. Both sides try to influence the media to tell their side of the story, and bring stories to the front pages around the world that further their interest. The conflict's complexity makes it hard for journalist to always present an accurate and nuanced picture.

There have been a number of incidents where the coverage from major media outlets has been heavily criticized. This can relate to the use of pictures that are used to present one thing, but in reality is quite another thing. Or the coverage may be influenced by the personal perspective or opinion of the journalist.

#### Quick statistics

A critical analysis of the Associated Press' coverage of the Israeli and Palestinian deaths show a remarkable difference. Israelis deaths were covered 131% whereas Palestinian deaths were covered 66%.

So when 10 Palestinians died only 6,6 of them were reported in media, whereas 10 Israeli deaths resulted in the reporting of 13,1 Israeli deaths.

Source: [ifamericansknew.org](http://ifamericansknew.org)

### Terms

This mission is played after the five others, and necessary terms should be covers in other mission sheets.



I come bearing an olive branch in one hand, and the freedom fighter's gun in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand.

- PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat

Israel has an important principle: It is only Israel that is responsible for our security.

- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

Americans admire a people who can scratch a desert and produce a garden. The Israelis have shown qualities that Americans identify with: guts, patriotism, idealism, a passion for freedom. I have seen it. I know it. I believe that.

- US president Richard M. Nixon



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