

Israel-Gaza War: Future of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Perspectives on Negotiations

Foreign Policy Dialogues

April, 19th 2024

Jordi Maragall Room, CIDOB. Elisabets 12, 08001 Barcelona

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Given its magnitude and devastating consequences, the ongoing Israel-Hamas war undeniably marks a turning point for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for the entire region. Israel's military response to coordinated attacks by Hamas, resulting in nearly 1,140 deaths, mostly civilians, and the abduction of around 240 Israelis, has killed over 33,600 Palestinians, with nearly 70% being women and children. Additionally, more than 80% of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been forcibly displaced from their homes and lands.

As the war continues in the Gaza Strip, violence in the West Bank has reached to levels not seen since the Second Intifada. Clashes between Israeli settlers and Palestinians, coupled with increased Israeli military raids in the West Bank, have already claimed the lives of more than 460 Palestinians. Furthermore, the feared regionalisation of the conflict has become a reality. While relatively contained to specific areas, the clashes between the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) and Hezbollah do not rule out a potential escalation of violence. Emerging tension points in the Red Sea, Syria, Iraq and Jordan have drawn the United States and a few allies into confrontation with armed groups aligned with the "axis of resistance". The recent Iranian attack on Israel, in response to an Israeli strike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus, could have unpredictable consequences for the whole region.

Regardless of the outcome of this conflict, one thing is certain in Israel, the Palestinian Occupied Territories, and the Middle East: there will be no turning back. While calls for a ceasefire in Gaza go unanswered, and despite the failure of various negotiation attempts between Israel and Hamas, some international actors are cautiously starting to call for peace. At the EU level, The High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the Commission Josep Borell outlined a 12-point peace plan in January 2024. While the practical conditions for its implementation seem challenging at present, the underlying idea of the plan enjoys consensus within the international community: the resolution to this conflict must involve the establishment of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Amid ongoing conflict in Gaza and escalating violence in response to this war, is it credible to discuss peace? What does a political solution in Israel and Palestine demand? More importantly, what factors would contribute to the success of negotiations? To tackle these questions, this year's edition of the Foreign Policy Dialogues will serve as a platform to assess the current conflict's magnitude at local, regional, and international levels, and to explore the conditions under which we could envision credible negotiations for a political resolution of this conflict.

Programme

- 10.00 – 10.05 **Welcome and objectives of the Foreign Policy Dialogue**
Antoni Segura, President, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
Moussa Bourekba, Research Fellow, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
- 10.05 – 10.15 **Opening remarks**
Pablo Pérez Guerreira, Deputy Director General for the Middle East, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation
- 10.15 – 11.30 **Examining the War's Impact and Peace Prospects in Israel and Palestine**
Moderated by **Moussa Bourekba**, Research Fellow, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
- Initial inputs* **Mariam Barghouti**, Policy analyst and journalist (*online*)
Yossi Mekelberg, Associate Fellow of the MENA Programme, Chatham House
Leila Seurat, Researcher, Centre arabe de recherche et d'études politiques de Paris
- What are the consequences of the war in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories? How can these consequences affect the prospect of escalating violence or the prospect of a settlement of this conflict?*
- 11.30 – 12.00 **Coffee break**
- 12.00 – 13.30 **Impact Beyond Borders: Assessing Regional Ramifications and Pathways for Post-War Engagement**
Moderated by **Karim Makdisi**, Associate Professor of International Politics, American University in Beirut
- Initial inputs* **Julien Barnes-Dacey**, Director of the MENA Programme, ECFR; Associate Senior Researcher, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
Alaa Tartir, Senior Researcher and Director of the MENA Programme, SIPRI
- What are the spillover effects of this war on the neighboring countries? How will this conflict impact the regional order? What are the possible outcomes of the recent escalation between Iran and Israel on the prospects of negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians?*
- 13.30 – 14.30 **Lunch**
- 14.30 – 16.00 **Prospects of peace and de-escalation: What Role for the European Union?**
Moderated by **Michelle Pace**, Professor of Global Studies, Roskilde University
- Initial inputs* **Eduard Soler**, Associate Professor of International Relations, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Associate Senior Researcher, Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)
Zaid Amali, Public Discourse and Communication Programme Director, MIFTAH
- How has the war affected the perceptions of Israelis and Palestinians towards global powers? Under what conditions is de-escalation possible in Israel and the OPTs? What role can the European Union play in resolving this conflict?*
- 16.00 – 16.15 **Wrap-up and next steps**

List of participants

- **Amali, Zaid**, Public Discourse and Communication Programme Director, MIFTAH (Ramallah, Palestine)
- **Amirah Fernández, Haizam**, Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute (Madrid, Spain)
- **Arco, Inés**, Researcher, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Bargués, Pol**, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Barghouti, Mariam**, Policy analyst and journalist (Ramallah, Palestine) (*online*)
- **Barnes-Dacey, Julien**, Director of the MENA Programme, European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR); Associate Senior Researcher, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Bourekba, Moussa**, Research Fellow, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Burguete, Víctor**, Senior Research Fellow, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Cohen-Hadria, Emmanuel**, Director of the Euro-Mediterranean Policies Department, European Institute of the Mediterranean, IEMed (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Ezzamouri, Akram**, Researcher, Istituto Affari Internazionali, IAI (Rome, Italy)
- **Florensa, Senén**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean, IEMed (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Garroum, Gabriel**, Postdoctoral Researcher, Research Group in International Public Law and International Relations, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Gervasoni, Luca**, Founder and Director, NOVACT – International Institute for Nonviolent Action (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Ghilès, Francis**, Senior Research Associate, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Makdisi, Karim**, Associate Professor of International Politics, American University in Beirut (Lebanon)
- **Mekelberg, Yossi**, Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House (London, UK)
- **Monterde, Oscar**, Professor at the Department of Economic History, Institutions, World Politics and Economy, University of Barcelona (UB) (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Pace, Michelle**, Professor of Global Studies, Roskilde University (Denmark)
- **Pérez Guerreira, Pablo**, Deputy Director General for the Middle East, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (Madrid, Spain)
- **Saba, Claudia**, Adjunct Professor of International Relations, Blanquerna-University Ramon Llull (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Schöppner, Fabian**, Researcher, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen (Giessen, Germany)
- **Seurat, Leila**, Researcher, Centre arabe de recherche et d'études politiques de Paris (Paris, France)
- **Segura, Antoni**, President, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Soler, Eduard**, Associate Professor of International Relations, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Associate Senior Researcher, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Tartir, Alaa**, Senior Researcher and Director of the MENA Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Stockholm, Sweden)
- **Vidal, Lurdes**, Professor of International Relations, Institut Barcelona, d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI) and Blanquerna-Ramon Llull University (Barcelona, Spain)
- **Vilanova, Pere**, Emeritus Professor of Political Science and the Administration, Faculty of Law, University of Barcelona (UB); Associate Senior Researcher, CIDOB (Barcelona, Spain)

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