**Research Report**

**Security council**

***The question on the situation between Syria and Isreal***

*Student Officers:*

*Amelie Koning and Vera Maarleveld*

**Introduction**

Israel and Syria have been in a state of tension and conflict since the mid-20th century. Syria does not recognize Israel as a state, and the two nations have no formal diplomatic relations. The conflict largely stems from disputes over territory, particularly the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria during the Six-Day War in 1967 and later annexed in 1981. Syria continues to claim the Golan Heights as part of its sovereign territory. Israel's military presence and airstrikes in Syria, as well as Syria's ties with Iran and Hezbollah, have intensified tensions in recent years.

In 2011, Syria descended into civil war, creating an environment of instability in the region. Israel has expressed concerns over the presence of Iranian forces and Hezbollah fighters within Syria, viewing them as direct threats to its national security. This has led to numerous Israeli airstrikes targeting Iranian and Hezbollah infrastructure in Syria. Syria, on the other hand, accuses Israel of violating its sovereignty and considers such actions acts of aggression.

Efforts toward peace, including indirect negotiations, have occurred at various times, but no comprehensive agreement has been reached. The role of international powers, such as Russia and the United States, in the Syrian conflict has further complicated the dynamics between Israel and Syria.



**The Committee**

The Security Council is the most powerful body in the United Nations and deals with questions regarding international security. The Security Council at MUNA will have one or two delegates representing each nation. MUNA always selects the countries that were present in the SC of the real UN in the year before the MUNA conference. The permanent members China, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the Russian Federation and France are always present. The permanent five have the power of veto.

**Keywords**

Golan Heights = A disputed region located along the Israel-Syria border. Israel captured the territory in 1967 and annexed it in 1981, but the international community does not recognize Israel’s claim to it.

Hezbollah = A Lebanon-based Shiite militant group and political party supported by Syria and Iran, considered a terrorist organization by Israel, the United States, and other countries.

Airstrikes = Military strikes using aircraft to attack specific targets, often used by Israel in Syria to counteract Iranian and Hezbollah presence.

Civil War = A conflict between factions within a country. Syria’s civil war began in 2011, involving the Syrian government, opposition forces, and extremist groups.

**Arguments**

 Here are the different points of views listed from the countries involved:

Israel maintains that its military actions in Syria are defensive and necessary to ensure its security. Israel perceives Iranian influence and the presence of Hezbollah in Syria as existential threats. Israel also continues to assert its control over the Golan Heights, emphasizing its strategic importance for national defense. Israel has repeatedly called on the international community to recognize its security concerns and address the growing influence of Iran in Syria.

Syria accuses Israel of repeatedly violating its sovereignty through military airstrikes and actions in the Golan Heights. Syria claims that the Israeli occupation of the Golan Heights is illegal under international law and calls for its immediate return. Syria also argues that Israeli military actions exacerbate instability in the region and contribute to the suffering caused by the ongoing civil war.

The United States supports Israel’s security concerns and has recognized Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights in 2019 under the Trump administration. The US has consistently condemned Iranian and Hezbollah activities in Syria. The Biden administration has continued to express support for Israel while also calling for de-escalation in the region.

Russia is a key ally of the Syrian government and has provided military support to the Assad regime since 2015. Russia has criticized Israeli airstrikes in Syria, arguing that they violate Syria’s sovereignty and contribute to regional instability. However, Russia has maintained diplomatic ties with Israel and at times acted as a mediator to prevent further escalation.

**Timeline of events**

* *1967* – Israel captures the Golan Heights during the Six-Day War.
* *1981* – Israel annexes the Golan Heights.
* *2011* – Start of the Syrian Civil War.
* *2015* – Russia intervenes in the Syrian Civil War to support the Assad regime.
* *2018* – Israel begins intensifying airstrikes against Iranian and Hezbollah targets in Syria.
* *2019* – The United States recognizes Israel’s sovereignty over the Golan Heights.
* *2020* – Israeli airstrikes target key Iranian installations in Syria.
* *2022* – Syria and Iran increase cooperation amidst continued Israeli military operations.

**Resolution**

This research report is a good starting point for your investigation. Consider ways to debate on the independence of the non-self-governing territories that benefit the most countries involved. Remember to pay attention not only to the less-developed countries involved in the issue, but also to the developed countries. Furthermore, keep in mind that different countries have different policies, as well as global differences. These differences may be economic, but they are also primarily cultural. Make sure to thoroughly research your country and remember that you are speaking as if you are representing that country. Therefore, before attending the conference, do some research on your country's policies.

For more information on resolution writing, please refer to the MUNA booklet on our MUNA site: <https://munalfrink.nl/>.

**Links and sources**

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golan_Heights>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel–Syria_relations>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-47043907>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/21/israeli-air-raids-target-iran-linked-groups-in-syria>

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/middle-east-north-africa/eastern-mediterranean/syria/israel-syria-shadow-war>

<https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-syria/>

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/topic/golan-heights/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-strikes-targets-near-damascus-syrian-media-says-2023-02-19/>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc15228.doc.htm>