1. **Short description of the topic and what happened in the Japan olympic**
	* An Algerian judoka has been suspended and sent home after withdrawing from the Olympics when his draw set him on course to compete against an Israeli competitor.
	* Before his suspension, Fethi Nourine, who was due to take part in the men’s under-73kg division, said his support for the Palestinian cause made it impossible for him to compete against Tohar Butbul, who he was due to meet in the second round.
	* “We worked a lot to reach the Olympics,” said Nourine, who was due to compete in the opening round on Monday. “But the Palestinian cause is bigger than all of this.”
	* The International Judo Federation (IJF) responded by suspending Nourine and his coach, Amar Benikhlef, who on Friday said: “We were not lucky with the draw.
	* “We got an Israeli opponent and that’s why we had to retire. We made the right decision.”
	* In a statement the IJF said the behaviour of both Algerians was “in total opposition to our philosophy”.
	* “The IJF has a strict non-discrimination policy, promoting solidarity as a key principle, reinforced by the values of judo.”
	* It added that a disciplinary commission would decide on further sanctions “beyond the Olympic Games”.
	* But for those who don't know what Judo is and why the situation happened, let me describe them shortly. First: What is Judo? and what is IJF?
2. **What is Judo?**
	* Judo was created in 1882 by Jigoro Kano, who initially created the martial art with purpose as self-defence, but as time has gone on, judo is recognised as a sport and as an educational discipline . Judo started to evolve as a sport in the beginning of the 20th century, when the western world got introduced to Japanese culture and the martial art itself started to spread through France, Germany and all Japanese emigrant communities. The first international event was held in Germany in 1932 and the first European championship was held in France in 1951 (ibid). The events of World War II held back the evolution of the sport, but after some time the world had somewhat healed, and judo was introduced as an olympic sport in the Tokyo Olympics in 1964. That was the first time weight classes were introduced in competitions and the amount of different classes has increased since then. The first time women`s judo was brought into international competitions was in 1988, and it has been an olympic sport since the 1992 Barcelona olympic games.
	* Judo is a tremendous and dynamic combat sport that demands both physical prowess and great mental discipline. From a standing position, it involves techniques that allow you to lift and throw your opponents onto their backs. On the ground, it includes techniques that allow you to pin your opponents down to the ground, control them, and apply various chokeholds or joint locks until submission.
	* The International Judo Federation (IJF) was founded in July 1951. The IJF was originally composed of judo federations from Europe plus Argentina. Countries from four continents were affiliated over the next ten years. Today the IJF has 200 National Federations on all continents. There are over 20 million people around the globe who practice judo, according to the IJF.
3. **But how did this one sport affect International Relations?**
	* As the the sport's international governing body has claimed, Judo acted as a catalyst in helping Israel establish diplomatic relations with the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
	* In an editorial piece, published a day after an agreement between Israel and the UAE to establish full diplomatic relations was announced, the International Judo Federation (IJF) cites a sequence of events at a World Judo Tour event in Abu Dhabi in 2018, as helping to inspire the agreement.
	* The IJF say that prior to the Grand Slam event there was an unwillingness to either sound the national anthem of Israel or wave its flag if one of its athletes were successful on the international stage.
	* In the build-up to the event, IJF President Marius Vizer and treasurer Naser Al Tamimi, of Emirati descent, negotiated and mediated to ensure the Israeli team received equal treatment and recognition during the competition.
	* Vizer and Al Tamimi negotiated with the Emirati authorities and Al Tamimi helping broker negotiations between the Emirati authorities and the IJF.
	* The pair's efforts were rewarded on October 28 2018 when Israeli judoka Sagi Muki won gold in the under-81kg category.
	* Organisers invited then Israeli Sports Minister Miri Regev to hand over the medal to Muki.
	* Regev accepted the invitation and in what the IJF reflects was "a historic moment" the Israeli anthem sounded in recognition of Muki's triumph.
	* The IJF describes the playing of the Israeli anthem as an "emotional moment" which reduced both Regev and Vizer to tears.
	* **To look** **at this issue from a political perspective** we can use the lens of realism. Realism is an International relations theory that highlights the cutthroat and competitive relations between countries.
	* If a country is to be considered a realist it has to follow these four principles:
	* 1. “The nation-state is the principal actor in international relations.” In other words, we can say that realism views the state as the main character that is the most powerful. Other states are viewed as side characters who the main state can influence in many ways, at least in theory. This can be widely seen in authoritarian countries like China or even Russia where the state holds absolute power over the people. They often try to threaten other states with their actions to remind them of their power. For example, the war between russia and Ukraine, or China trying to gain control over the South China Sea.[[1]](#footnote-1)
	* 2. “...the state is a unitary actor. National interests, especially in times of war, lead the state to speak and act with one voice.”[[2]](#footnote-2) The state is seen as a hivemind entity in which everyone sticks together and puts national interests above everything else, this is true especially if there is a conflict between states.
	* 3. in realism leaders need to make rational decisions in the interest of the nation, any decision that is not rational results in the weakening of the state and is thus deemed irrational.
	* 4. States want to live in the context of anarchy where no one is able to help them but themselves. Therefore, they start to make rational decisions that would only benefit themselves and not anyone else.
	* The Algerian judoka refused to fight his israeli opponent because he supported Palestine instead of Israel in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A conflict that has lasted since the mid-20th century.(source: wikipedia)
	* The IJF was against any political activities in the Olympics and issued a ban to the Algerian judoka.
	* The fact that the Algerian refused to fight the israeli on the tatami explains how realist Algeria is. He did not even consider fighting him based solely on political reasons - a hivemind entity. He viewed his state as the main character in the situation and believed that it can have an impact on other states.
4. **When and where were the Olympic games in Japan? At the time of our issue.**
	* The 29th summer olympics were supposed to be held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2020. The city edged out Istanbul and Madrid in the selection process and was set to host the games for the first time, since 1964. The outbreak of Covid-19 set the event back a lot and made a big impact on the event itself, and on events leading up to the Olympic games.
	* Many qualification events were held in different locations, and in the end, the event was postponed to 2021. There were many controversies regarding the postponement (rumors that the government wants to cancel the games), but at the end, the games were held behind closed doors and almost a million tickets had to be refunded by the Japanese.
	* The 2020 olympic games saw 5 new sports added into the competition. These sports were as follows: baseball/softball, karate, sport climbing, surfing and skateboarding. All of these events were included for these olympics only and have not yet been established as official olympic sports.
5. **The history of Israel and Muslim countries' relationship.**
Arab-Israeli relations should be considered based on the history of Israel's wars with Muslim countries
Arab-Israeli conflicts, Series of military conflicts fought between several Arab nations and Israel (1948–49, 1956, 1967, 1969–70, 1973, and 1982).

The first war (1948-49) began when Israel declared itself an independent state following the partition of Palestine by the United Nations. Five Arab countries—Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria—attacked Israel in response to this maneuver. Israel gained significant land as a result of the battle.

* + Egypt seized the Suez Canal in 1956, a crucial waterway connecting Europe and Asia that was dominated by French and British interests. France and the United Kingdom replied by reaching an agreement with Israel. Israel attacked Egypt's Sinai Peninsula in October 1956. The Israeli army conquered Gaza, Rafa, and Al-Arsh in five days, seizing hundreds of captives and occupying the majority of the peninsula east of the Suez Canal. The Israelis were then able to establish naval communications via the Gulf of Aqaba. Following the combined Anglo-French intervention in December, a UN Emergency Force was stationed in the region, and Israeli forces withdrew in March 1957.
	+ Arab and Israeli forces clashed for the third time June 5–10, 1967, in what came to be called the Six-Day War (or June War).Syria increased its bombing of Israeli settlements from bases on the Golan Heights in early 1967 Then, Egypt and Jordan signed a mutual defense treaty in May 1967. Israel responded to the seeming Arab rush to war with a surprise air strike, eliminating Egypt's air force on the ground. The Israeli triumph on the ground was crushing. Israeli forces drove Syrian soldiers back from the Golan Heights, seized control of the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and drove Jordanian forces out of the West Bank.Importantly, the Israelis were left in sole control of Jerusalem.
	+ Further fightings ended in the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1978, which resulted in Israel returning the whole Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for Egypt recognizing Israel's right to exist. Finally, the two nations established normal diplomatic ties.
	+ Increased Israeli-Palestinian tensions led in the Israeli bombardment of Beirut and southern Lebanon, where the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) held a number of bases, in 1982. The next day, Israel invaded Lebanon, and a few days later, ground troops had reached the outskirts of Beirut, which was ringed, but the Israeli leadership agreed to halt its advance and initiate talks with the PLO. The PLO fled the city under the command of a multinational force after significant delay and intense Israeli pounding of west Beirut. Israeli forces eventually withdrew from west Beirut, and the Israeli army had left Lebanon fully by 1985.
	+ Hezbollah(Arabic political party and militant group) conducted an operation against Israel in July 2006 in an attempt to pressure the government into releasing Lebanese captives, killing several Israeli troops and capturing two. To recapture the abducted soldiers, Israel launched an attack into southern Lebanon. The battle lasted 34 days but killed over 1000 Lebanese and displaced almost one million others.
	+ After all, a lengthy history of confrontations between Arabs and Israelis resulted in mutual national hate that persists to this day.
1. **What happened to each athlete and how did it affect the relations between Algeria and Israel?** The positive and negative impacts of refusing to fight in the Japan Olympics.

This incident had many consequences, and not all of them were negative. On the one hand, The IJF has been embroiled in battles to stamp out discrimination and support Israel’s right to compete in the sport in recent times. Nurin's position completely contradicts the philosophy of the International Judo Federation. The IJF has a strict policy of non-discrimination, promoting solidarity as a core principle, underpinned by the values ​​of judo,” the IJF said. The International Judo Federation (IJF) reacted sharply: they have already received a temporary disqualification, and an investigation has been launched. This implies that the federation does not support such aggression and, as a result, other countries may feel more protected from intolerance.

On the other hand, this incident also had a negative impact. Relations between these countries have been very tense for many decades and are full of conflicts and intolerance, but the actions of the Algerian athlete have aggravated the situation even more. This incident violated the sporting principles not only of judo, but also of the Olympics. Previously, such cases of manifestation of open intolerance in the world sports arena were and remain nonsense. “We trained a lot, prepared,” Nurin himself explained the decision to Algerian television. - The news about the draw was like a bolt from the blue. My decision is final. I'm not going to get my hands dirty. My support for the people of Palestine does not allow me to do so." In other words, the Algerian athlete has once again shown that sport can be used as a platform for protest and political propaganda. Some countries, such as Iran and Egypt, also expressed support for the actions of Algeria, which contributed to a further aggravation of relations.

1. https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/how-china-trying-dominate-and-control-south-china-sea-179092 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Op, cit. Sellest raamatust ja pole tegelt op cit sorry [↑](#footnote-ref-2)