KWMUN IV

United Nations Security Council
~ Background Guide ~

Welcome Letter

Welcome to KWMUN IV! On March 23, you will have the opportunity to debate, resolve, engage with and discuss some of the most pressing topics in modern international diplomacy. The United Nations plays an essential role in the cooperation between countries around the world and the resolution of diplomatic disputes in the modern world. We are so excited begin the process of resolving the pressing issues outlined in this background guide.

Our names are Jie-Soo Park and Oscar Judelson-Kelly and we are your co-chairs for KWMUN IV this year in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). In the conference, there are also numerous faculty advisors, other members of the KWMUN Secretariat (including the Crisis Committee dais and the United Nations Human Rights Council dais) and the Secretary-General, Oscar Judelson-Kelly.

This year in committee, the UNSC will be discussing the humanitarian crisis and ongoing civil war in Yemen, as well as the threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist attacks. As you may be aware, these topics are of paramount importance and have repercussions around the world concerning every nation should they not be adequately taken care of. It is our hope that the conference will shed light on to various perspectives surrounding these issues and to come to a safe and effective resolution to these issues.

The purpose of this document is primarily to provide background guidance, information for delegates and to narrow the scope of the discussion at KWMUN IV. Use this guide as a model for the topics that will be discussed at the conference and use the guiding questions and resources to dictate your research.

Delegates should read the entirety of this background guide and use the information included to conduct their own research into their country's position, past actions and proposals for the amendments of the various topics being discussed at this year's conference. Delegates are expected to have a basic understanding of their country's allies, adversaries and other information that will allow delegates to accurately and precisely represent their country during the conference.

Position papers are a requirement for all delegates to complete should they want to be considered for awards at the end of the conference, and are recommended for all delegates. However, regardless of whether delegates a submit position paper, you are nevertheless expected to be prepared for the conference. In order to be prepared for the conference, delegates must research the topics outlined in this document (as they are the topics that will be discussed at the conference) and their country's position regarding these topics. Again, delegates should use the guiding questions and sources on this document to aid in the preparation process. Delegates should also research views and opinions, regional interests, actions taken and actions they would like to see happen of your given country.

We firmly believe that the UNSC plays an invaluable role in the remedy of modern international issues, and hope that the conference will serve as an example that the future is in responsible and peaceful hands. We urge you to suggest a combination of creative, old, new and effective solutions to these problems to eventually ensure a better life for all humans.

Please feel free to contact us before March 23, 2019 if you have any questions or concerns! Good luck in your preparation!

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Committee Overview

On October 24, 1945, shortly after the end of the Second World War, a collection of nations, including China, the USSR, the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom, collaborated to establish the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The purpose of the UNSC was to maintain international peace and security. All member states of the United Nations must abide by the decisions made by the UNSC. In addition, the UNSC is in charge of laying the foundation of dispute settlement between UN member states. The UNSC has the authority to implement sanctions against a state, or even to intervene by way of force. Finally, the UNSC is responsible for the admittance of new UN member states to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the appointment of the Secretary General, and works in parallel with the UNGA to elect new justices to the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The UNSC has historically been involved in diplomacy throughout the world including (but not limited to) intervention in Iraq, South Africa, South Korea, Cyprus, Kuwait, Libya, Kosovo, North Korea, Pakistan, and Syria. The UNSC is also one of the six main organs of the UN, with the mandate of preserving international peace and security as declared by the UN charter. The UNSC must also adhere by and base itself around the four main principles of the UN: maintaining international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, cooperate in solving international problems and harmonizing the actions of nations.

Note from the chairs: the UN charter and the UN Declaration of Human Rights are the two statutes which are the core around which UNSC discussion is centered. Delegates should be familiar with these two texts and should review them to see how the policies and wording in these documents differ from the countries represented by delegates.

Topic 1: The Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

Overview

The Arab Spring was a set of political uprisings which began in 2010 all over the Middle East in Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, Morocco, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Sudan, Djibouti, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Western Sahara and Palestine. Each of the uprisings had different success rates: some succeeded in overthrowing the government leadership, whilst others simply caused domestic civil unrest. In Yemen, the Arab Spring uprising took the form of violent anti-government protests in January of 2011. The protests were centered around Yemeni distaste for domestic unemployment rates, Yemen's constitution, and domestic economic/humanitarian conditions. The President of Yemen, Ali Abdullah Sale, had been facing internal opposition from some of his closest advisors in addition to other political parties and as a result of these political factors and violent anti-government protests around the country did not seek a further presidential term in 2013. Over the course of his presidency he had to face the issues of Southern separatism, food security, jihadi attacks around Yemen, governmental loyalty to Saleh, government and military corruption and comprehensive domestic unemployment. However these protests did not stop after Saleh announced that he would not seek a further term in office. Intermittent protests soon became sparks of violent urban conflicts between Saleh sympathizers/loyalists and Hashid Tribesmen/army defectors.

Saleh pretended to sign a Gulf Cooperation Council plan to allow him to resign his post in exchange for legal immunity, but he backed out of this multiple times. After various assassination attempts, Saleh fled to Saudi Arabia for refuge, and instated his Vice-President, Abd al-Rab Mansur al-Hadi, who continued to develop and advocate for the same policies that Saleh wanted. After several more protests against his regime, Saleh resigned, and a presidential election with one candidate (Haidi) was on the ballot. However this regime was soon overthrown by Houthi rebels which prompted the start to a civil war which is ongoing to this day.

The Houthi movement was founded in order to rebel against the Yemeni Government and President Saleh. Since Saleh was politically and militarily weak in the north, the Houthis took the Province of Saada and its surrounding areas as its home base. Through the spread of anti-government and anti-Saleh propaganda, the Houthi movement gained support around Yemen and were able to take

the Sana'a, the capital of Yemen. Both the Houthis and Saleh supporters attempted to stabilize the country, which was under Haidi's rule, and gain control over all areas of Yemen, but this ultimately lead to more violence and caused Haidi, who was the lawful president of Yemen, to flee in a similar manner to Saleh a few years prior.

An international coalition composed of Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UK, the USA and France have collaborated and made steps towards reinstating Haidi as the rightful ruler of Yemen. Saudi Arabia on the other hand predicted that the war between the Houthis and the Saleh supporters would last only for a few weeks, however there has been a military stalemate for over four years. Coalition troops intent on restoring Haidi back into office landed in the southern port city of Aden which was designated as the temporary capital of Yemen since Sana'a was taken by the Houthis. They have endeavoured to drive up Houthi forces into the north, where their base is. What further complicates matters is that ISIS forces and Al Qaeda have taken territory in the southern regions of Yemen and have proceeded to inflict attacks of Yemeni civilians and international coalition forces. President Haidi remains in political exile and the majority of Yemen citizens lack basic humanitarian and security needs. Recently, the coalition has been working towards stopping the smuggling of weapons to rebels, overseen by Iran. Although Iran has vehemently denied this accusation, economic sanctions and tariffs have been placed on Yemen, giving rise to the inflation of food prices which ahs consequently inflicted a famine in Yemen. Additionally, coalition forces have tried to capture the essential port city of Hudaydah. A ceasefire was implemented in Hudaydah beginning in December 2018 and ending in mid-January 2019.

Approximately 6,800 civilians have been killed and 10,700 injured since the fighting began. Most of these casualties stem from Saudi-led coalition airstrikes. The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project believes that over 60,000 people have been killed since 2016, including civilians and fighters, however this cause of death is not simply due to airstrikes. Malnutrition, famine, disease, poor health and a lack of fundamental human infrastructure have increased the death toll in Yemen.

Over 20 million Yemenis are short of food and over 10 million Yemenis are severely short of food leading the government to declare half the country is in a state of emergency, a label one step less severe than a famine. 2 million children are malnourished and over 85,000 children have died between 2016 and 2018 due to malnutrition. Additionally, 16 million people lacking basic health care and over half of the 3,500 healthcare clinics are shut. The Yemen Civil War is responsible for the

world's largest modern outbreak of cholera. There have been 1.2 million cases since April 2017 and 2,500 deaths. Finally, 3 million people have fled their homes and 2.3 million people still displaced.

Houthi fighters wanted to take control of the capital on 7 December, 2017. On this date they also announced that the former president Saleh was killed. Consequently, separatists formed an alliance with Hadi's men to ensure that Houthi did not gain control of the port city of Aden. However, later the separatists accused Hadi of mismanagement and called for his removal. In this, the separatists tried to gain control of building fighters with varying degrees of success.

In general, the USA politically and militarily aligns with the separatists and Saudi Arabia aligns with Hadi. Calls for a peaceful uprising against the current government were called for in the fall of 2018, however tensions between Hadi, Houthi and separatists remain a constant and the majority of Yemeni civilians still struggle for food, shelter and a good quality of life.

The Yemen Civil War can be considered a proxy war between Iran (the Shia) and Saudi Arabia (the Sunni). Additionally, since oil passes through the Red Sea, Yemen is considered to be a vital strategic, economic and military location.

May 1990: Yemen unites into the Republic of Yemen, however tension between former states remains.

May-July 1994: President Saleh declares state of emergency and fires Vice-President Ali Salem al-Beidh among other officials. These officials declare the secession of the south and are afterwards defeated by the Yemeni military.

February 2001: Violence occurs in the lead-up to municipal referendums and election, which dictates the extension of the presidential term.

February 2002: Yemen expels over 100 foreign Islamic leaders in an attempt to stop al-Qaeda.

October 2002: al-Qaeda attacks oil tanker MV Limburg in the Gulf of Aden. THere are 13 casualties and costs Yemen millions in lost revenue.

June-August 2004: Hundreds of Yemenis die when the military fights members of a Shia insurgency led by Hussein al-Houthi in North Yemen.

March-April 2005: Over 200 Yemenis are killed in a fight between the Yemen military and Houthi supporters (Houthi was killed by the Yemen government).

January-March 2007: New rebel leader Abdul-Malik al-Houthi accepts a ceasefire.

January 2008: Combat begins between the Yemen military and the Houthis.

September 2008: An al-Qaeda attack on the American embassy in Sana'a kills 12 people.

August 2009: The Yemeni army starts an offensive against Houthi rebels in the northern province of Saada. Many civilians are displaced as a result of the combat.

September 2010: Thousands of civilians are forced to flee their homes when a government offensive against separatists begins in the southern Shabwa province.

September 2011: American forces kill Anwar al-Awlaki, leader of al-Qaeda in Yemen.

November 2011: President Saleh hands power to his deputy, Hadi, after heavy protests. A unity government with an official opposition is formed.

February 2012: Hadi inaugurated as president after an uncontested elections, but is unable to counter al-Qaeda attacks in the capital throughout the year.

February 2014: A presidential panel approves Yemen to become a six region federation in order to accommodate Houthi and southern grievances.

August 2014: President Hadi fires his cabinet and overturns a fuel price increase following weeks of anti-government protests.

September 2014: Houthi rebels take control over Sana'a and reject a compromise drafted by the government.

February 2015: The Houthis appoint a presidential council to replace President Hadi, who flees to a stronghold in Aden.

March 2015: ISIS carries out its first attack in Yemen. Two suicide bombings targeting Shia mosques in Sana'a, kill 137 people.

June 2015: Arabian al-Qaeda leader Nasser al-Wuhayshi is killed in an American drone strike.

June-November 2017: An outbreak of cholera kills 2,100 civilians and touches 900,000 others.

December 2017: Former president Saleh is killed in fighting in Sana'a.

January 2018: Southern Yemeni separatists seize control of Aden with the help of foreign aid from the United Arab Emirates.

November 2018: America calls for a cease-fire after months of fighting around Hudaydah and a mounting domestic humanitarian crisis.

Major Parties and Key Players

Republic of Yemen
- Divided into groups supporting Haidi, Saleh, Houthis, the Separatists, the Rebels, al-Qaeda and ISIS
- The democratically elected president (Haidi) is not in charge of the country anymore
- There is an ongoing humanitarian crisis including the displacement of Yemenis, famine and the outbreak of disease

United States of America
- A significant contributor to the international coalition
- Wants Haidi reinstated as the leader of Yemen, however recently has begun to align more with the Separatists
- Has soldiers stationed around the Middle East and provides key intelligence from Yemen to the rest of the Western World

Islamic Republic of Iran
- A member of the international coalition
- Has been accused of smuggling weapons to Yemeni rebels
- The Yemen Civil War can be considered a proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran

Sultanate of Oman
- Border nation with Yemen
- Had Arab Spring uprisings of its own
- Has not unduly suffered from the consequences of Yemen's civil war

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- A border nation with Yemen, had Arab Spring uprisings of its own and is part of the international coalition in Yemen
- Responsible for harbouring Saleh when he fled Yemen
- Started airstrikes against all groups who do not align with Haidi in their attempt to win the Yemen Civil War for Haidi (against Iran in the context of the proxy war)

French Republic
- A member of the international coalition
- Have soldiers stationed around the Middle East
- Have forcibly attempted to reinstate Haidi as president

Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's stance on the Yemen Civil War? Which group do they support?
2. Is it more important to stop the fighting or to stop the famine and work towards fixing the humanitarian crisis? What are some methods that either of these goals can be achieved?
3. How can progress be made on either front (military or humanitarian) without imposing on or worsening the other front?
4. What are some short term solutions to the humanitarian crisis?
5. What are some long term solutions to the humanitarian crisis?
6. Should the United Nations intervene with peacekeeping forces?
7. What do other countries that geographically or politically align with you country believe?

Topic 2: Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Attacks

Overview

According to the United Nations (UN), terrorism poses an imminent threat to global peace and international security. Terrorist incidents have risen to an all-time high in recent years. Recent attacks carried out around the world in different capacities have made counterterrorism a priority for the UN. The acquisition of advanced weaponry combined with different methods for carrying out the attacks has continued to weaken the attempts to diffuse terrorism as tactics and strategies among terrorist groups continue to advance. It is important to note that many highly accessible items are used as weapons. For example, trucks have been used by terrorists as weapons in London, Barcelona and Nice.

In addition to the increase of terrorist attacks, the number of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) has increased over the previous decade in the intensity of conflicts and terrorism continues to become more complicated to diffuse. The UN does not have an official definition for terrorism, however, it is generally agreed upon that terrorists are non-state entities who act with the ideological purpose of causing terror and violence. Member States may have different definitions for terrorism and different priorities may emerge when allocating different resources to combating terrorism.

Modern terrorism in the world has accelerated in recent years with the rise of nationalist movements after the Second World War. Early movements acknowledged the ability of terrorism for its power to affect government policy. Those who used terrorism as a means of influencing local conflicts then used those same tactics on a larger scale. This would eventually lead to the development of international terrorism in the 1960s.

Over half of the deaths caused by terrorists can be attributed to three groups; Islamic State, the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. The Islamic State (ISIL) emerged in 2004 with its main goal to remove Western occupation in Iraq and replace it with a Sunni Islamist government. ISIL then moved to Syria and continues to occupy the region. ISIL also claims responsibility for many terrorist attacks in the Western world such as the Paris attack and the Manchester attack. The Taliban was formed in 1994 with its main goal to establish social order in Afghanistan. The Taliban allowed Afghanistan to be a

haven for Islamic militants including Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda. The refusal to extradite bin Laden initiated a military conflict between the United States and the Taliban and the Taliban were drive from power. Despite the lack of power in Afghanistan, Taliban insurgents have continued to fight against US and NATO forces, funded by the opium trade. Al-Qaeda was founded in 1988 with its main goal on turning Afghanistan into an Islamist government government. When its original leader, Abdullah Azzam, was assassinated in 1989, Osama Bin Laden took over with the aim of eradicating foreign influence in Muslim countries. The actions of al-Qaeda have devastated the United States and the "War on Terror" was launched as a direct retaliation to the September 11 attacks. While al-Qaeda has been weakened by the death of Osama Bin Laden, their influence on other terrorist groups such as ISIL and the Taliban is still evident.

The Acquisition of Weaponry

An increased number of weapons are found in the hands of terrorists and the UN is increasingly concerned with the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons in many regions of the world continue to pose threats to international peace and security. Member States are encouraged to prevent and disrupt procurement networks for such weapons, systems and components between ISIL (also known as Daesh), al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities. The extended usage of improvised explosive devices (IED's) in terrorist attacks is another great concern of many nations. Other advanced weaponry can also be acquired through trade with various terrorist groups and through other illicit methods. The systems in which weaponry is distributed in Member States are vulnerable to attack from differing terrorist groups. The increase of stolen weapons from governments poses a grave concern to the UN.

Foreign Terrorist Fighters

Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) are individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict. There has been a concerning increase of FTFs and their damaging effects on conflicts as they increase the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts. FTFs are continually being recruited by prominent terrorist groups through different sources of communication, including the internet. Terrorists are exploiting these sources of communication in order to recruit more FTFs from different countries and expanding their operations. Threats to international peace and security should be combated in accordance with the Charter of the UN and

the threats posed by FTFs should also be taken into consideration. Nations should also take into considerations the prevention of individuals becoming FTFs and the rehabilitation of such individuals.

The security council recognizes two UN bodies that are the lead in coordinating the effort to prevent the recruitment of FTFs and the rehabilitation and reintegration of FTFs in their original country of origin. These bodies are the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT). Both bodies strongly encourage international cooperation in order to prevent the recruitment of FTFs. A database run by Interpol also exists in order to assist in the tracking of FTFs however, it should be noted that as of 2018, almost 50% of FTFs remain unrecorded and efforts to expand the database are strongly encouraged by many member nations.

Major Parties and Key Players

United States of America
- Involved in international anti-terrorism efforts
- Recipient nation of major terrorist attacks

Islamic Republic of Iran
- Theocratic government
- Strong presence of ISIS, al-Qaeda and the Taliban

Islamic Republic of Pakistan
- Theocratic government
- Strong presence of ISIS, al-Qaeda and the Taliban

Islamic State of Afghanistan
- Theocratic government
- Strong presence of ISIS, al-Qaeda and the Taliban

Syrian Arab Republic
- Theocratic government
- Strong presence of ISIS, al-Qaeda and the Taliban

French Republic
- Involved in international anti-terrorism efforts
- Recipient nation of major terrorist attacks

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Involved in international anti-terrorism efforts
- Recipient nation of major terrorist attacks

Guiding Questions

1. How can the UN counteract issues regarding communication between these terrorist groups via the internet without infringing on the freedoms of citizens?

2. When taking into consideration the increasing numbers of FTFs, what measures can your country take in order to prevent people from traveling to join terrorist organizations?

3. What kind of legislation has your country implemented in order to prevent terror attacks? How effective are they?

4. How can the UN adapt its current policies on counterterrorism in order to properly to deal with the ever changing landscape of terrorism?

5. What kind of positions does your country hold in regards to counterterrorism?

Resources

1. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14704951
2. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423
3. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/09/yemen-the-forgotten-war/
4. https://news.un.org/en/focus/yemen
5. https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism
6. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2249%20%282015%29&referer=http://www.un.org/en/documents/index.html&Lang=E
7. https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-1/key-issues/UN-designated-terrorist-groups.html
8. https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12938.doc.htm
9. http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2370

UN Charter: http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/

UDHR: http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/