

Hilton 2021

Disarmament

Committee Overview

Terrorism in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Presence of Al Shabaab in Mozambique

Effect of Explosive Weapons on Civilians in the Middle East

Committee Description

This committee will be run Harvard style, meaning that delegates cannot write resolutions or clauses before the committee opens. Additionally, we encourage delegates to come to the conference having written at least one position paper as that is the minimum requirement to be considered for an award. If able, please bring printed copies of position papers or email them by the night before the start of the conference.

Disarmament, the UN's First General Assembly Committee, focuses on issues regarding international security, particularly the proliferation of arms and weaponry. Delegates should come to committee with a good understanding of each topic as well as their individual country policies.

Chairs

Arjun Patel | PatelA2023@365.bcsd.org

Hello Delegates! My name is Arjun Patel and I am a junior at Brighton High School. This is my first time chairing and my third year in Model UN. Other than MUN, I play basketball and participate in speech and debate, GirlUp, and the Brighton firefighters explorers program. I'm excited to meet you all and have a great conference!

Cooper Cohen | CohenC2022@365.bcsd.org

Hi Delegates! My name is Cooper Cohen and I am a senior at Brighton High School. This is my fourth year of Model UN and my third time chairing. I participate in FBLA, Trapezoid, BBYO, and I enjoy skiing and spending time with my Golden Retriever, Grover. I am very excited to be your chair and look forward to seeing you all!

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Terrorism in the Democratic republic of Congo



After the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, Hutu génocidaires fled and formed armed rebellion groups, which opposed Tutsi, also causing other rebel groups to arise. The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was not able to put down all of the groups, resulting in war.

Despite a peace deal agreed upon in 2002, violence from the armed groups against civilians has not stopped. Over 100 armed groups are terrorizing communities while controlling weakly governed areas. Estimates state that there are 4.5 million internally displaced people and 800,000 refugees in other countries. The conflict started in part because of the country's massive resources, especially minerals. The country's massive mineral wealth, which is estimated to include \$24 trillion of untapped mineral resources, plays a large part in fueling violence. Due to

the rebel groups controlling weakly governed areas, they have access to many of these resources, which they sell and use for arms. Many countries, such as the US, have passed legislation to not buy minerals from these rebel groups, but since supply chains in the Congo are complex, many multinational corporations have stopped buying these resources from the DRC in total, causing miners to lose work and even join the armed groups to survive.

Including the loss of many jobs, the continued terrorism by these armed groups as well as weak governance has led to poverty, widespread rape, and human rights violations. This violence in the DRC may also affect the countries neighbors, such as Uganda and Burundi, which also have struggled to address terrorism and rebel groups themselves.

How should the UN coordinate military aid to the DRC? What can be done to resolve internal tensions in the DRC? How can the UN mitigate the effect of terrorism on civilians? How can the UN prevent this conflict from spilling onto neighboring countries?

Sources:

<https://www.hrw.org/blog-feed/democratic-republic-congo-crisis>

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/islamic-state-congo-what-now>

<http://www.esisc.org/publications/briefings/the-evolution-of-the-terrorist-threat-in-dr-congo>

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Presence of Al Shabaab in Mozambique



An Islamic revolt by Al-Shabaab in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, against the Mozambican government and forces has caused 700,000 civilians to leave their homes. The revolt group has stated that they are in alliance with the Islamic state, but there are other factors driving the conflict, such as grievances. Human rights violations and displacement of people are driving more local people to join the revolt. Corruption is also prevalent in government officials and police officers, who have been corrupted by people participating in illegal activities.

The militants that are causing corruption are also attacking projects to harvest the large amounts of natural gas in the region, which is needed for the development of Cabo Delgado's government as well as the country's economy. The large volume of natural gas in Cabo Delgado could also help turn around the economies of many other African nations and 3rd world countries.

These 3rd world countries and other South African governments are sending troops to deter the conflict, but other rebel groups in the area have joined forces in the insurrection. Instability in Mozambique may spread along the East Coast of Africa making the area vulnerable to control by ISIS and other terrorist organizations.

How can the UN aid civilians affected by the terrorist groups? What can be done to protect Cabo Delgado's natural resources without infringing on national sovereignty? How can the UN help reduce corruption in the state? What can be done to solve internal stress in Mozambique?

Sources:

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/southern-africa/mozambique/303-stemming-insurrection-mozambiques-cabo-delgado>

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/05/pathways-peace-mozambique>

<https://www.plataformamedia.com/en/2020/10/11/who-are-al-shabab-militants-terrorising-northern-mozambique/>

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Effect of Explosive Weapons on Civilians in the Middle East



Since 2011, tens of thousands of civilians have been killed or injured by explosive weapons in the Middle East. In countries such as Yemen, Syria, and Afghanistan, millions are put at risk due to explosive weapons, especially in urban settings. The Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) found that 90% of casualties were civilians when explosive weapons are used in populated areas". Explosive weapons are mostly used by terrorist groups as well as Middle Eastern governments. The weapons also cause major damage to infrastructure, resulting in people leaving their homes and lacking humanitarian necessities. For example, the destruction resulted in 2.1

million children out of school as of 2019 and an increase of infectious disease outbreaks since 50% of the attacks affect the sewage systems.

Action from countries is mandatory to resolve the explosive weapon crisis in the Middle East as it violates International Humanitarian law. The United Nations signed a joint statement with 50 countries about the need for limiting the use of explosive weapons on civilians and has begun to develop standards for the issue; however, the civilian death percentages by explosive weapons continue to rise.

How can the United Nations decrease the use of explosive weapons in this region? What actions can be taken to deter countries from exposing these weapons to civilians? How can the UN stop the destruction of Middle Eastern countries due to explosive weapons?

Sources:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/06/explosive-weapons-devastating-civilians>

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2021/may/25/explosive-weapons-used-in-cities-kill-civilians-91-of-time-finds-study>

<https://www.unocha.org/es/themes/explosive-weapons-populated-areas>