

Hilton 2019

Disarmament

Committee Overview

This committee will be run Harvard Style. This means that pre-written resolutions are not permitted and will disqualify delegates from awards. In order to be eligible for an award, delegates must submit at least one position paper to the chairs by the end of the first day of committee. We prefer submissions to be in paper form, but sending through email is also acceptable. We encourage all delegates to write at least one position paper, and to come prepared with research on all topics. Delegates are expected to be knowledgeable of their countries' policies as well. Disarm's mission is to promote nuclear peace and non-proliferation and the strengthening of the disarmament regimes in respect to other weapons of mass destruction, chemical and biological weapons. The chairs are looking to see a good amount of friendly debate and discussion on the topics presented, and for delegates to have fun!

Committee Description

Addressing the Threat of Asymmetric Warfare
Combatting Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa
Ensuing Civil Conflict in Libya
Growing Regional Tensions in Tibet

Chairs

Suyash Sau| Suyash1011@gmail.com

Greetings delegates! My name is Suyash Sau, and I am excited to being one of your chairs for Disarm. Currently, I am a senior at Pittsford Mendon High School. This is my fourth year participating in Model UN, along with my second time chairing a committee. Outside of Model UN, participate in various clubs such as Math League, Science Olympiad, and Student Council, and am a part of the varsity tennis team. I also volunteer at Unity Hospital. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns. I look forward to a great conference!

Samuel Johnson| menlosam@gmail.com

Hello delegates! My name is Sam Johnson and I am excited to be you chair for disarm! I am a senior at Pittsford Sutherland High School. This is my first year as a chair, but my 4th year participating in Model UN. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to email me. I'm looking forward to our committee!

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Addressing the Threat of Asymmetric Warfare



Asymmetric Warfare is a type of war in which casualties are higher as two nations or opposing forces fight in combat with significantly different military power, tactics, and strategy. This type of warfare is most commonly seen between professional armies, and a resistance force that does not have any other option but to fight in an uncharacteristic manner which leads up to increased deaths in combat on both sides.

In the past wars such as the American Civil War, American Revolutionary War, Phillipine-American War, World War I, and World War II all were some of the most severe wars in terms of casualties due to asymmetric warfare. The American Civil War showed a rise of asymmetric warfare in the Border States, and on the US Western Territorial Border after the Kansas-Nebraska Act of

1854. Attacks during this war were extremely violent and chaotic as both sides had immensely different battle techniques.

Another war in which asymmetric warfare was seen to affect casualty outcome was the Vietnam War. In the Vietnam War, the Vietnamese fought with tactics known as guerilla warfare, which differed completely from the American opposition. Estimates of the number of Vietnamese soldiers and civilians killed vary from 966,000 to 3.8 million. Over 275,000–310,000 Cambodians, 20,000–62,000 Laotians and 58,220 U.S. service members also died in the conflict, and a further 1,626 remain missing.

“Peace operations today increasingly face asymmetrical threats from violent extremist and terrorist groups that specifically target peacekeepers”, Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson claims. The United Nations has had some debate regarding asymmetric warfare, however, a solution in which national sovereignty is maintained has not been established yet. We must enact resolutions for these pressing issues to minimize potential risk of immense casualties in war.

What actions can committee take to prevent Asymmetric Warfare? How can we prevent wars such as the Vietnam War from happening again? How can we aid communities most affected by Asymmetric Warfare? How can we find a resolution while maintaining national sovereignty?

Sources:

<https://nationalinterest.org/feature/america-prepared-battle-china-asymmetric-war-23260>

<https://www.rand.org/topics/asymmetric-warfare.html>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/asymmetric%20warfare>

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Combatting Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa



Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram all constitute the greatest threat to Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa. They are all terrorist groups in nature but reports of their close links and coordination are premature. These organizations are mostly focused on activities in Algeria, Somalia and Nigeria and pose neither the strength nor the means to establish cooperation.

The US, which conducts counter-terrorism operations in Africa, and to a lesser extent the EU, which is engaged in assistance and humanitarian activities in the continent, could play a positive role in combating these organizations. Terrorism has been less frequent because dissidents in the region can still rely on 'coups d'etat', insurgencies and guerrilla activity to achieve political power; thus, they do not have to rely on terrorism as a primary technique. The decline in total fatalities owes much to the decline in fatalities caused by Boko Haram, which nevertheless remains the deadliest terrorist operation in sub-Saharan Africa, and as the ACSS concludes, shows the group's continuing resiliency.

Although the situation seems to be improving, terrorist incidents in sub-Saharan Africa appear to have been underreported in the media and under recorded in the existing database. This situation results in part from the fact that media coverage of events in other parts of the world has been greater. Media outlets in Africa are fewer and less well-funded. It also has been dangerous to cover groups involved in terrorism. Some data is unreported because conventional definitions of terrorism exclude activities sponsored or tolerated by governments that should be included for the region.

The United Nations has debated upon this topic previously. Resolutions have been passed but the issue still seems to be on the rise. Gabon's President, Ali Bongo Ondimba, lauded the establishment of the G5 Sahel force. "It is a question of multi-dimensional long-term battle which demands inter-State cooperation and solidarity with the victims of the atrocities," he told the Assembly. The G5 Sahel Force was implemented by the United Nations but hasn't been effective. We must develop resolutions in committee to combat this issue.

How can the citizens of Sub-Saharan Africa be protected? What can the United Nations do in order to eliminate terrorist groups in this area? How can areas already affected by these terrorist attacks receive aid?

Sources:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/09/566222-un-assembly-african-leaders-call-more-support-fight-terrorism-sub-saharan-sahel>

<https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/news/region/africa/>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/world-coming-sub-saharan-africa-where-united-states>

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Ensuing Civil Conflict in Libya



Libya has struggled to rebuild state institutions since the oust and subsequent death of former leader Muammar al-Qaddafi in October 2011. Libya's transitional government ceded authority to the newly elected General National Congress (GNC) in July 2012, but the GNC faced numerous challenges over the next two years, including the September 2012 attack by Islamist militants on the U.S. consulate in Benghazi and the spread of the Islamic State and other armed groups throughout the country.

In May 2014, Haftar launched Operation Dignity, a campaign conducted by the LNA to attack Islamist militant groups across eastern Libya, including in Benghazi. To counter this movement, Islamist militants and armed groups—including Ansar al-Sharia—formed a coalition called Libya Dawn. Eventually, fighting broke out at Tripoli's international airport between the Libya Dawn coalition, which controlled Tripoli and much of western Libya, and the Dignity coalition, which controlled parts of Cyrenaica and Benghazi in eastern Libya, and a civil war emerged.

The United Nations supports the Government of National Accord, also known as the GNA. Recently, they declared that Libya is in a state of emergency, especially within the city capital known as Tripoli. In May of 2018, French President Emmanuel Macron convened a meeting between Haftar, GNA leader Fayeze Seraj, and parliamentary leaders to discuss an end to the conflict and future elections. Though the rival groups agreed to hold elections in December 2018, UN Special Envoy to Libya Ghassan Salame said elections would be postponed until the spring of 2019.

The battle for control over Libya crosses tribal, regional, political, and even religious lines. Each coalition has created governing institutions and named military chiefs—and each has faced internal fragmentation and division. In an effort to find a resolution to the conflict and create a united government, UN Special Envoy to Libya Bernardino Leon, followed by Martin Kobler, facilitated a series of talks between the Tobruk-based HoR and the Tripoli-based GNC. The talks resulted in the creation of Libyan Political Agreement and the UN-supported GNA. The GNA has continued to face obstacles in creating a stable, unified government in Libya. Taking advantage of the widespread political instability, armed Islamist groups, including Ansar al-Sharia—the terrorist group allegedly responsible for the attack on the U.S. consulate in 2012—and the Islamic State, have used the country as a hub to coordinate broader regional violence, further complicating efforts to create a united government.

This is quite a pressing issue for neighboring countries in agreement to aid Libya. We must develop an effective solution to help the citizens of Libya.

How can the GNA be supported in order to create a stable government in Libya? What can Disarmament do in order to save the affected community? How can Libya avoid further spread of terrorism?

Sources:

<https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-libya>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html>

<http://www.eip.org/en/news-events/understanding-conflict-libya>

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Growing Regional Tensions in Tibet



In March of 2008 Tibet broke out in widespread protests all over the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) as well as in the ethnically Tibetan areas of neighboring provinces. Some of these protests were peaceful, but others turned into riots and violence — including the burning and looting of stores owned by Han Chinese, China's majority ethnic group. When violent rioting broke out in the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, on March 14, 2008, after four days of peaceful protests, businesses owned by Chinese were looted and burned. At least 19 people were killed, most of them Han Chinese.

Ten years after riots raged across parts of China with large Tibetan populations, there are now few signs of ethnic tension. Since Chinese troops suppressed unrest in both the Tibet Au-

tonomous Region and neighboring Qinghai Province in 2008, stability, or at least the appearance of it, has returned. Notably, acts of self-immolation to protest Chinese rule have become rare. At the Taer Monastery, a holy place for the predominant Yellow Hat sect of Tibetan Buddhism located in a suburb the Qinghai provincial capital of Xining, many people were recently offering their services to visitors as "guides."

The China-Tibet conflict is often viewed as an ethnic and/or religious conflict. This is understandable, given the prominence of ethnicity and religion in the conflict. First, while the native inhabitants of the Tibetan plateau are Tibetans, the majority ethnic group in China is Han Chinese. The Chinese government is made up mostly of Han Chinese, and it does not have a strong record of dealing with China's ethnic minorities — like Tibetans — in a fair way. Secondly, virtually all Tibetans are Buddhists, while ethnic Han Chinese are generally not.

Moreover, the Chinese government has a history of persecuting religious movements, especially those which draw large numbers of followers and which have the potential to transform into political movements that could potentially threaten the regime's hold on power. Tibetan Buddhism has this kind of following and has transformative potential. For these reasons, headlines from the Tibet conflict often paint a picture of intense religious and ethnic conflict. While these are some aspects of the conflict, they are better described as residual causes.

There is no inherent reason that ethnicity or religion must cause violent conflict — in Tibet or anywhere else. Rather, the primary sources of conflict in Tibet are history and geography; Chinese security and sovereignty concerns; and the policies of the Chinese government in Tibet. While many bring attention to ethnic and religious differences between Tibetans and Chinese, these factors are what really drive the conflict in Tibet. We must find an effective solution to this dire issue.

How can we ease the tensions amongst China and Tibet? How can we resolve the religious aspect of the issue? What can the countries themselves do to aid in the resolution of this problem?

Sources:

<https://www.cnn.com/2016/12/29/asia/china-tibet/index.html>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-14533879>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/world/asia/2017/03/10/china-vows-strike-separatism-anniversary-tibet-uprising>