

Hilton 2020

Joint: Territories and Foreign Intervention & Disarmament

Committee Overview

Our committee will be run Harvard style, which means pre-written resolutions are not allowed. Resolutions written prior to the start of the committee will not be accepted and delegates who have them will not be considered for awards. We recommend delegates write at least one position paper so they are eligible for awards; however, they should have a working knowledge of all of the topics to make the committee more enjoyable. **Position papers must be emailed to the chairs two days prior to the conference.**

This committee focuses on both issues pertaining to territorial disputes as well as the proliferation of arms and weaponry. Delegates should be well informed on their country's policies on the topics and should stick to them throughout the conference. Remember to have some fun with this; Model UN is about more than just awards!

Committee Description

Crimean Conflict between Ukraine and Russia

Disarmament of Iraqi Rebel Forces

Restabilizing the Somali Region

Island Contestation in the Caribbean Sea

Chairs

Anna Fetter | af12239@student.mercyhs.com

Hello! My name is Anna Fetter and I'm a senior at Mercy. This is my 3rd year in Model UN and my 3rd time chairing. Beyond MUN, I like to run, ski, and whip in my minivan with my hound, Minnie. Alligator farms and Danish bike lanes have a special place in my heart I look forward to meeting you all!

Cooper Cohen | cohenc2022@365.bcsd.org

Hi, my name is Cooper Cohen, and I am a junior at Brighton High School. This is my 1st time chairing and my 3rd year in Model UN. I enjoy skiing, playing lacrosse, and spending time with my dog, Grover. I can't wait to be your chair for Hilton 2020!

Zach Hutkowski | zdhutkowski@gmail.com

Hello delegates! My name is Zach Hutkowski and this is my 2nd time chairing and my 2nd year in MUN. I am a senior at Pittsford Mendon High School where I also participate in Math League and play soccer. I'm looking forward to a great committee.

Sophie Zhou | sophiezy@gmail.com

Hello delegates! My name is Sophie Zhou. I'm a junior at Brighton High School and this is my 1st time chairing and my 4th year in MUN. Outside of MUN, I'm involved in GirlUp, Speech and Debate, and Play softball. I'm excited to meet you all!

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Crimean Conflict between Ukraine and Russia



On March 18, 2014 Russia illegally annexed the Crimea after a military occupation of this Ukrainian peninsula. Two days prior, a local referendum was held in which Crimeans were given a choice: either return to the 1992 Crimean Constitution, which gave the region significant autonomy from Russia and Ukraine, or join Russia. With Russian soldiers present, a reported 96.7% of voters agreed to join Russia, although that number has been questioned for legitimacy.

Russia had sovereignly held Crimea from 1783 to 1954. In 1954, The Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic had administratively given Crimea to Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in 1954. Russia stated that they wanted Crimea back to protect the ethnic Russians without sufficient evidence to support the claim. Since 2014, 140,000 Crimean Tatars and Ukrainians have fled the peninsula.

This seizure of Ukrainian territory by Russian troops violates the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which states that state borders should be inviolable and not changed by force, as well as other international agreements including the 1997 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Partnership between Ukraine and Russia and the UN Charter.

In 2018, the UN Human Rights Council orally discussed the violence going on in Ukraine, specifically Crimea, and how this conflict claimed lives, displaced people, and destroyed community infrastructure. 100 countries within the UN have also condemned the use of the unauthorized referendum used to annex Crimea and instead support Ukraine's territorial integrity. However, the situation in Ukraine remains largely the same since it started in 2014, aside from Putin's approval rating dropping further in Crimea and the economic suffering brought about by COVID-19 as the Crimean economy is heavily reliant on tourists, namely from Russia.

How can the UN aid in a peaceful resolution to the territorial dispute? How can the human rights of those living in Crimea be protected in this illegal seizure of territory? What measures should be taken to protect the sovereignty of involved nations going forward?

Sources:

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2020/03/17/crimea-six-years-after-illegal-annexation/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/03/18/six-years-20-billion-russian-investment-later-crimeans-are-happy-with-russian-annexation/>

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

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Disarmament of Iraqi Rebel Forces



In 2017, the Iraqi government, backed by the United States, retook the capitol from ISIL and ended the civil war. Since then, rebel forces, including ISIL and other terrorist groups, such as a group called White Flags, have wreaked havoc in Iraq, burning villages and using guerilla warfare practices on the Iraqi government. The Iraqi insurgency comes as a continuation of the Iraqi War (2014-2017), consisting of the Shia-led Iraqi government against Sunni rebel groups including ISIL, and al-Qaeda affiliated groups.

The rebel forces have taken advantage of areas throughout Iraq with rough terrain and low security forces and their operations have included assassinations, raids, ambushes, kidnappings, et. al. More than 13,000 civilians were killed as result of conflict between government and rebel forces in 2017, with annual totals of more than 10,000 for the last three years. Different “cells” have emerged more covertly than before and use their limited territory in the rural areas of Iraq to plan activities that undermine government authority and increase the cost of reconstruction and counter-terrorism.

While the Iraqi government, since taking Mosul in 2017, appears to have control over the threat of ISIL and other groups to regaining power, these rebel forces continue to terrorize civilians and cause harm, especially in rural areas where there is a lesser presence of Iraqi soldiers. In February 2020, a senior UN official described the threat of ISIL and other rebel forces to the Security Council saying that ISIL “remains at the center of the transnational terrorism threat.”

What can be done to disarm rebel forces and prevent them from regaining more influence? What can be done to prevent future terrorist groups from taking root in the region? How can we resolve the religious differences between the Iraqi rebel forces and government?

Sources:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056912>

<https://www.state.gov/reports/country-reports-on-terrorism-2019/iraq/>

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Re-stabilizing the Somali Region



Since the collapse of the Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991, the Somali government has struggled to maintain control in the East African nation. In 2011, the Islamic extremist group Al-Shabaab took advantage of the widespread political instability to take control of the Somali capital city as well as several major ports. Although Kenyan military forces were eventually able to drive them out, Al-Shabaab still controls much of rural Somalia and uses it as a base for coordinating large scale terrorist attacks throughout much of Eastern Africa.

The UN strategy thus far has consisted of focusing on state building methods, primarily aiding the Somali National Army (SNA) through training and monetary means. However, these UN missions have been largely unsuccessful as the SNA is incapable of defending against Al-Shabaab.

Many member states of the UN have acknowledged the failure of such tactics and have instead redirected their support to local militias, which are generally more effective. This is a significant concern for the international community, however, as many worry that nations will throw their support behind different militias based on geopolitical interests, further heightening conflict between rival militia groups. Also of concern is the political fragmentation caused by competing militias. Many worry that even after terrorism is no longer a threat, Somalia will be incapable of operating under a single cohesive government and will instead be entrapped in an endless cycle of civil bloodshed.

The weakness of the SNA has led many civilians to consider it ineffective and unreliable, and they instead turn to militias for protection. As power shifts to militias, more members of the SNA are incentivized to defect, leading to considerable conflict between regional militias and the national army. The internal conflict in Somalia has derailed many anti-terrorism campaigns, opening the door for pervasive influence of Al-Shabaab in the region. If Somalia is not stabilized, such conflict will threaten not only the safety of the millions living in Somalia, but the greater East African region as a whole.

How should the UN coordinate military aid to Somalia? What can be done to resolve internal tensions in Somalia arising from militia influence? How can the UN mitigate the possible destabilizing effects of militias?

Sources:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-problem-with-militias-in-somalia-almost-everyone-wants-them-despite-their-dangers/>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-somalia-security/clashes-break-out-in-somalia-slowing-fight-against-al-qaeda-linked-insurgents-idUSKCN20M1QU>

<https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/al-shabab-somalia>

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Island Contestation in the Caribbean Sea



Enacted in 1856 by the United States, The Guano Islands Act enables citizens to take possession of islands unclaimed by sovereign nations for the United States if they have Guano deposits. Before synthetic fertilizers were widespread, Guano was used as a fertilizer and was also a source of sodium nitrate which was used in gunpowder manufacturing. The Guano Islands Act has led to present day territorial disputes over islands as it still validates conquests of uninhabited islands if bird poop is present.

The Bajo Nuevo Bank, Navassa Island, and the Serranilla Bank are all claimed by the United States. Yet Colombia presently controls Serranilla with Nicaragua and Honduras also briefly stating claims. Nicaragua and Jamaica have partnered with the United States to dispute the legitimacy of Colombia's control and ownership of Bajo Nuevo. Since 1801, Haiti has stated that Navassa Island is its territory.

Despite these islands being largely uninhabited, the historical significance that these three islands hold links back to the imperial imbalances as the United States passed the Guano Islands Act in its territorial expansion efforts. The United States still conducts maritime law enforcement operations near Serranilla Bank and Bajo Nuevo, exhibiting their sovereignty claims.

In 2012, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that 7 islands, including Serranilla and Bajo Nuevo, were sovereign under Colombia, not Nicaragua by citing a 1928 treaty in which Nicaragua recognized Colombian sovereignty over these islands, which were included in the San Andres archipelago. This does not settle the United States claims to these islands, as the United States was not mentioned in this treaty. The United States still runs maritime operations surrounding these islands. The dispute over these islands need to be solved in order to clarify maritime control and make it clear which nation has the sovereignty over the guano.

How can the UN amend this existing ICJ ruling to settle U.S. claims to these islands without escalating maritime and territorial tensions? How should the UN encourage nations to proceed in future territorial disputes in the Caribbean Sea?

Sources:

<https://www.uncommoncaribbean.com/caribbean/navassa-island-serranilla-bank-bajo-nuevo-bank/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2012/11/426062-un-court-rules-colombia-has-sovereignty-over-islands-claimed-nicaragua>

<https://www.icj-cij.org/en/case/124>