

Hilton 2020

Security Council

Committee Description

The Security Council will function as a crisis committee, with three topics instead of the four seen by General Assembly and Plenary committees. As such, delegates in this committee will be expected to have a developed understanding of each topic. Delegates should spend more time understanding each topic and staying up to date on developments; events occurring on the day of or the days leading up to the conferences may factor into the crisis. In addition, delegates should be prepared to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. Keep this in mind as you begin your research.

The committee will be run Harvard Style, which means no pre-drafted resolutions, action orders, or operative clauses may be brought to committee. This includes bulleted lists or any other aspects that are associated with resolutions or action orders. Failure to comply with the aforesaid will result in disqualification from consideration for awards.

To be eligible for an award, delegates must submit a position paper on at least one of the committee topics, but is strongly recommended to write papers on all topics as a means of developing a strong understanding prior to the conference. **Position Papers must be emailed to the chairs two days prior to the conference.**

Delegates will represent the nations in the Security Council. If you have any questions regarding procedure- especially delegates new to this committee who are unfamiliar with it- feel free to email us at the addresses provided. We will be reviewing procedure on the first day if it is necessary, but do not hesitate to contact us about any concerns. Best of luck with your research!

Committee Overview

Brian Ferreira | brianferreira168@gmail.com

Greetings delegates. My name is Brian Ferreira and I am a senior at Warsaw Central High School. I've participated in Model UN since 6th grade and this will be my second time Chairing. I maintain my interest in politics year round, not just in Model UN, and I attempt to play Piano, Ukulele, and Tenor Saxophone. I can't wait to see you at Hilton.

The Situation in Venezuela

The Legal Status of Hong Kong

Aftermath of the Assassination of Qasem Soleimani

Chairs

Atharva Shaligram | shaligramatharva@gmail.com

Hello delegates! My name is Atharva Shaligram, and I am a junior at Brighton High School. This is my third year of Model UN and my first time as a chair. Along with MUN, I participate in FBLA and Science Olympiad, and enjoy playing tennis and doing karate. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to email me and my co-chairs. I am looking forward to meeting you all at Hilton!

Daniel Mao | daniel.y.mao@gmail.com

Hello delegates, my name is Daniel Yihan Mao, and I am a junior at Brighton High School. This will be my fourth UNAR Conference but the first as a chair. I participate in Science Olympiad, DECA, and also play the piano. If you have any questions at all, regarding topics, this committee, or anything else, do not hesitate to contact my co-chairs, or myself. I look forward to hearing all of your ideas and solutions to our topics during what will surely be a wonderful conference!

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The Situation in Venezuela



In March of 2013, the late president of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez, passed away. His vice president and successor, Nicolás Maduro, inherited a nation whose extensive social programs improved the quality of life, yet also placed a significant strain on the recently reformed economy. By the end of 2014, rising inflation had reduced the value of the Bolivar Fuerte by over 90%, resulting in supply shortages of various goods and falling living standards.

In February 2014, mass protests intending to “force deep government change” broke out in San Cristóbal near the border with Columbia, and spread throughout the country. Voiced criticisms include corruption of officials and the inability of the government to provide “even in normal

times milk or bread”, whereas others expressed resentment towards threats to their livelihoods due to competition from abroad. Minister of Defence Vladimir Padrino denounced the demonstrators as “a curfew imposed by terrorists” and ordered the streets cleared by military force, a move that drew condemnation from various members of the international community.

Considering the course of action taken by Maduro to be a violation of human rights, many nations placed sanctions on leading Venezuelan officials and organisations. However, the sanctions have been widely criticised for their negative impact on Venezuelan society as a whole, contributing to a growing humanitarian crisis. Meanwhile, protesters, both marching in favour of and against Maduro, persisted across Venezuela, hindering commerce and further diminishing social stability.

During the 2018 National Election, Maduro emerged victorious, yet his ruling coalition, the United Socialist Party, lost its majority in the National Assembly, which subsequently declared majority leader Juan Guaidó as president. The world became divided, as much of Western Europe and North America transferred recognition to Guaidó, viewing Maduro’s election as unfair and staged. Meanwhile, the majority of African and Asian governments continued to recognise Maduro, who retained the support of the four other branches of the national government, and continued to maintain control of the country, whereas Guaidó went into exile abroad.

Reforms aimed at liberalising the economy were introduced in Caracas early in 2020, resulting in a noticeable improvement in life amongst parts of the city. However, this move was opposed by many of Maduro’s most loyal supporters, who viewed it as a betrayal of Chavez’s reforms, which had aimed to eradicate poverty and inequality.

Though the former has returned to Venezuela, Guaidó and Maduro continue to dispute the presidency in a controversy that has resulted in increased international involvement. The United States has begun offering rewards for the detainment of high ranking Venezuelan officials supporting Maduro, whereas Iran and South Africa, along with other nations that had enjoyed close ties with Venezuela during Chavez’s presidency, have increased efforts to mitigate damage on the Venezuelan economy resulting from sanctions. These developments have only worsened the humanitarian shortages in Venezuela, and diminish the possibility of a return to stability.

Is it possible for the international community to help alleviate the humanitarian situation in Venezuela in an apolitical manner, and if so, how? What measures can be taken to resolve the political crisis and prevent further escalation? What role, if any, may the United Nations Security Council play in restoring stability in Venezuela?

Sources:

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/americas/article/2184833/venezuelans-brace-protests-counterprotests-maduro-suffers>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-36319877>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/ajimpact/venezuela-petrol-crisis-worsens-orders-supply-cuts-200408150330237.html>

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The Legal Status of Hong Kong



Since 1997, Hong Kong has been a part of China under the “one country, two systems” policy, and its status as an SAR (Special Administrative Region) is protected by the Sino British Joint Declaration until 2047. Although this policy has continued to grant the people in Hong Kong relative freedom and rights, the past few years have worried Hong Kongers over the protection of their autonomy and democracy.

The provisional legislature in Hong Kong is an institution under the direction of the chief executive, which is backed by the Chinese government. According to the Hong Kong Constitution, Article 15 permits the Chinese government to appoint the Chief Executive and the principal officials of the executive authorities of the Hong SAR. Therefore, China has

the ability to indirectly control Hong Kong and ensure that there is no retaliation against the Hong Kong SAR government. China has begun to hold a tighter grip over the island by proposing bills to Hong Kong’s legislature and passing laws for the region such as the 2019 Hong Kong Extradition Bill and the Hong Kong National Security Law, which have only led to retaliation and protests by the people of Hong Kong due to the violation of the treaty.

In 2014, the Umbrella Revolution’s goal was to protect the universal suffrage granted to Hong Kongers in the Basic Law. Although this had somewhat of an effect, the current protests in Hong Kong that have occurred since March 15, 2019, have been more aggressive. In Hong Kong, both protesters and police have become bitterly divided, with none of the parties revealing any sign of relenting in their demands.

The civilians’ fear over the extradition bill began the protests, but universal suffrage for legislation and Chief Executive elections have fueled them even further. China has angered the protesters more by passing a security law for Hong Kong, enabling China to end the protests faster by punishing protesters in an efficient manner. These protests have damaged Hong Kong’s economy severely and will continue to if not addressed in a better fashion. According to Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po, Hong Kong’s economy is predicted to shrink by 1.3% this year due to both protests and the trade war. Also, the island is socially divided as the Hong Kong police and protesters continue to attack each other on the streets, paralyzing streets and transport hubs. Change needs to be made in order to prevent the protests from creating any more collateral damage.

Some nations such as the United Kingdom and the United States have started to express their support for Hong Kong, but greater action needs to be taken by the international community to ease the tensions between Hong Kong and China and to come to an agreement over the future of Hong Kong. This problem needs to be considered from both sides, in order to prevent the infringement of national sovereignty. Unless the political situation in Hong Kong can be decided with a consensus from both Hong Kong and China, the island’s future will remain murky as protests will continue, creating political and economic turmoil.

How can the Security Council effectively come up with a solution to protect the legal status of the people in Hong Kong without infringing on China’s national sovereignty? How can the UN help prevent the protests from creating any further damage, while yielding to both China and Hong Kong’s demands? Is there any way the international community can encourage the upholding of the original treaty while easing the conflict between China and Hong Kong?

Sources:

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/11/15/asia/hong-kong-protests-explainer-intl-hnk-scli/index.html>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-hongkong-anniversary-china/china-says-sino-british-joint-declaration-on-hong-kong-no-longer-has-meaning-idUSKBN19L1J1>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-52900700>

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Political Instability in the Lebanese Republic



On January 3rd, 2020 Qasem Soleimani was assassinated by an American drone strike near an Iraqi airport. Qasem Soleimani was a top general in Iran and arguably the second most important man in the country. He led the nation's Quds Force, a special operations force specialized in unconventional warfare, a part of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corp of the Iranian Military. The branch receives direct orders from the Supreme Leader of Iran. Its purpose is to spread and maintain the Shiite Islamic ideology of the Iranian government in the local region. As head of the Quds Force, Soleimani was able to create a vast network of

Shiite Militias connected to the Iranian government across the nations of the Levant, Iraq, and Yemen.

Qasem Soleimani's importance in Iran and the middle east overall has made him a target for the United States and her Allies for many years. Although state sponsored attacks on members of foreign governments are certainly not unheard of, however this situation is notable because the target, the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a major regional power in the Middle East. Iran is not like the average target of extrajudicial attacks. Its economic and political power in the world is analogous to many so called developed nations than it is to what is traditionally thought of a nation of the global south. its military capabilities and its potential ability to produce weapons of mass destruction certainly set the nation apart. This was quickly observed as on the 8th of January, Iran attacked two U.S. military bases in Iraq by use of ballistic missiles.

The Coronavirus has largely distracted the two countries from their quarrels as both experienced a serious number of cases comparatively to many other nations. However, eventually the world will move on from the Coronavirus, but this moment will not be forgotten and the heightened tension in the region will continue. In June 2020 the Iranian government issued an arrest warrant on U.S. President Donald Trump. The Trump Administration is especially pertinent as just May 2018, American-Iranian diplomatic relations were soured when Trump pulled out from the Iran Nuclear deal.

What roll can the security council take in the Middle East to ease the tension created by the Assassination of Qasem Soleimani? How can the UN prevent further conflict and escalation in the Middle East between Iran and US allies? If even possible, what measures can be taken that both the United States and Iranian governments will agree to? How can the Security Council aid in reinforcing Iraq's national sovereignty in between giants?

Sources:

https://www.mei.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Vatanka_PolicyPaper.pdf

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/trigger-list/iran-us-trigger-list>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/01/world-reacts-killing-iran-gassem-soleimani-iraq-200103072643596.html>