

# Hilton 2021

## Security Council

### Committee Overview

Russian Invasion of the Crimea (The Russo-Ukrainian War)

Defecting Boko Haram in West and Central Africa

Resolving the Tigray War in Ethiopia

### Committee Description

This committee will be run Harvard Style, meaning that resolutions may not be written prior to the conference. It is strongly recommended that all delegates write at least one position paper, as doing so is **required** to win an award. Delegates may either email their papers to the chairs OR physically submit them on the first day of the conference—**no papers will be accepted after the committee opens**.

All delegates are expected to come to the first day of the conference with a working knowledge of all or most of the topics as well as the policies of the countries that they represent. As part of the Security Council, it is essential to always maintain international peace and security as well as decide when and where UN Peace Operations need to be deployed. Above all, remember that Model UN is not a competition, so get to researching and try to have a little fun!

### Chairs

Vinay Pendri | [vzpendri@gmail.com](mailto:vzpendri@gmail.com)

My name is Vinay Pendri, this is my third year in MUN, and this is my first time chairing. I am a junior at Pittsford Mendon High School where I enjoy running in my school's Track and Field Team as well as participating in the Masterminds Club and organizing my school's annual TEDx events. Feel free to shoot me an email for any questions or concerns, and I look forward to meeting you all in a fantastic conference!

Sammy Deol | [simratpal.deol@icsd.k12.ny.us](mailto:simratpal.deol@icsd.k12.ny.us)

Hey, everyone! My name is Sammy, and I'm a senior at Ithaca High School! I've been doing Model UN for four years, and this is my third time chairing a committee. Beyond Model UN, I'm the president of both Key Club and Medical Careers Club at my school, and I'm on the editorial board of our newspaper. Please don't hesitate to email us, as we're here to make Hilton the best conference possible! I'm looking forward to meeting you all!

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### Russian Invasion of the Crimea (The Russo-Ukrainian War)



The Russian Federation annexed the Crimean Peninsula in March 2013, helping lead to the ongoing Russo-Ukrainian War. The Russian Federation's military has intervened in Ukrainian affairs and has established a growing military and political presence in Ukraine. Over 24,000 have been left injured and 10,300 killed by the violence between the Ukrainian military and Russian-backed separatist forces.

In July 2014, the conflict gained international attention when a Malaysian Airlines flight was shot down over Ukrainian airspace, killing all aboard. Further investigation revealed that a Russian-built surface-to-air missile shot down the plane.

In response to these developments, the 2014 Minsk Accords, led by France, Germany, Ukraine, and Russia, attempted to broker a cease-fire, though the effort has been unsuccessful so far. The National Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has deployed four battalions to Eastern Europe to deter Russian spread into vulnerable regions.

However, this issue is more multifaceted than it appears. Due to Ukraine's long history with Russia and areas such as Crimea being former Russian territory, Ukraine faces a growing divide among its citizens. For example, almost 95% of Crimeans voted to leave Ukraine and rejoin Russia in a 2014 referendum, creating a situation where the Ukrainian government is fighting internal and external threats.

In 2018, Ukraine joined NATO and other countries such as the United States to conduct a series of large-scale air exercises in Western Ukraine. Ukraine and NATO made this decision after Russia conducted the largest military exercises in September 2018, the largest since the fall of the Soviet Union. On April 13, 2021, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shogui accused NATO and Ukraine of "threatening actions." In response, Russia has sent two armies and three formations of airborne troops to the Ukraine-Russia border. The troops conduct regular military exercises, causing many concerns about another possible act of aggression by Russia.

A sensitive approach to this issue is needed to adequately address the many sides of the issue at hand, without further escalating tensions between the international community.

*How can the UN ensure that the rights of Ukraine are respected without infringing on national sovereignty? What can be done to address the separatist militant groups fighting the Ukrainian military? How should we limit the extent of Russia's control over Ukrainian territories and prevent further intrusions?*

#### Sources:

Council on Foreign Relations: Conflict in Ukraine: <https://microsites-live-backend.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>

BBC: Is Russia going to war with Ukraine and other questions: <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-56720589>

The crisis in Crimea and eastern Ukraine: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Ukraine/The-crisis-in-Crimea-and-eastern-Ukraine>

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## Security Council

### Defeating Boko Haram in West and Central Africa



Boko Haram, a terrorist organization whose name translates to “Western education is a sin,” continues to wreak havoc in parts of Western and Central Africa. Nigerian Preacher Mohammed Yusuf founded the group in 2002 with the intent of establishing a purified Islamic government in the country. After years of regular clashes with the Nigerian government, Boko Haram staged an unsuccessful national insurgency in 2009, leading to the death of Yusuf and hundreds of additional fighters.

The organization violently rebounded the following year under the leadership of Abubakar Shekau, who coordinated civilian attacks with much greater frequency. In 2011, Boko Haram took responsibility for a suicide bombing outside of a United Nations building in Abuja, killing 21 in the Nigerian capital. The group also made international headlines in 2014, when it kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from a school in Chibok. Over a hundred of the girls remain in captivity, and the group has repeatedly taken children as hostages since.

Though Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in 2015, internal disputes led to the formation of two separate factions: the Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wa'l-Jihād (JAS), led by Shekau, and the Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP). Both groups have retained thousands of members, and it is generally estimated that the parent group has killed 35,000 civilians and displaced over 2.5 million since the initial 2009 insurgency. A recent estimate from the United Nations placed the indirect death toll at 350,000 during this time frame.

Shekau was killed in a 2021 battle against his ISWAP rivals, leading to speculation about the future of terrorism in Nigeria and neighboring countries. Although thousands of fighters from Shekau’s faction have surrendered since the defeat, experts believe that ISWAP, which has more economic power due to its ties with the Islamic State, will expand its influence in the region with little contest.

Existing instability within the Nigerian military, not to mention those in other nations, has prevented the government from successfully fighting Boko Haram on its own. Thus, the delegates of the Security Council must convene to discuss how to keep West and Central African civilians safe from extremist militant groups.

*Should the international community intervene in the region to stop the spread of JAS and ISWAP? How can nations best protect the millions of civilians displaced by the years of conflict? How can the UN control the flow and/or cheap production of arms supplying African militant groups? To what extent can foreign powers act in West and Central Africa without infringing on the sovereignty of local nations?*

#### Sources:

**Boko Haram - General Profile:** <https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/mappingmilitants/profiles/boko-haram>

**Why has Nigeria failed to defeat Boko Haram?:** <https://www.aljazeera.com/program/inside-story/2020/11/30/why-has-nigeria-failed-to-defeat-boko-haram>

**Nigeria's Boko Haram militants: Six reasons they have not been defeated:** <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-57117296>

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## Security Council

### Resolving the Tigray War in Ethiopia



When Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed rose to power in 2018, he was seen as a harbinger for peace in a country otherwise embroiled in political disputes. Abiy quickly ended a 20-year war with Ethiopia's neighbor, Eritrea, a move that landed him the Nobel Peace Prize. Just three years later, however, Abiy now oversees the deadliest conflict on the planet.

The Ethiopian government had previously been dominated by Tigrayans, an ethnic group from the namesake Tigray region of northern Ethiopia. The ethnicity's main political leaders, all part of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF), were frequently criticized for their authoritarian tendencies—opposing figures were imprisoned and allegedly tortured, and elections were seen by the public as being rigged.

The animosity between Tigrayans and other ethnicities heightened when Abiy, an Omoro, formed the Prosperity Party, meant to unify the country's ethnic groups under one political faction. Skeptical of Abiy's ambitions, the TPLF refused to join the alliance. Tensions further escalated when the Ethiopian government delayed the 2020 general election due to

the COVID-19 pandemic; Tigrayan officials responded by holding their own election, after which the central government cut federal funding off from Tigray.

The conflict officially began when Tigrayan troops attacked an Ethiopian military base last November. Because the Ethiopian government has blocked internet and journalism access from affected areas, it has been difficult for non-governmental organizations to reveal the true damages of the fighting. As many as 50,000 have been killed, according to some estimates, and over a million remain displaced in the region.

More recent reports have claimed that Abiy's forces are committing horrific crimes on their opponents, using rape as a means of subjugation and massacring civilians. Abiy has allegedly formed an alliance with Eritrea, sparking fears that the conflict may grow into an international crisis.

As a result, the delegates of the Security Council must respond to these rapid developments in order to contain the war and any resulting humanitarian disaster.

*What can the Security Council do to prevent the conflict in Ethiopia from escalating into a global situation? How should the international community respond to the humanitarian crisis unfolding in the region? What can be done to shed light onto the war crimes committed by the belligerents? To what extent are foreign powers obligated to step into the war?*

#### Sources:

Tigray conflict: How Ethiopia's rising political tension led to an internal war (via Global News): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXtq2-SRQdg>

Breaking through the blackout to expose Tigray's 'crimes against humanity': <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/terror-and-security/six-months-of-ethiopia-shadow-war/>

Why Is Ethiopia at War With Itself?: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/11/05/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-explained.html>