

The Security Council

Hi,

My name is Noah Burton and I will be the chair of the Security Council. I am a sophomore political science major here at St. Bonaventure University and I am an Army ROTC Cadet. I enjoy the Model UN and think of it as the ultimate learning experience. I urge you to do all you could to benefit as much as you could from this great learning opportunity, as I did myself.

I strongly advise you to research your own country and to familiarize yourselves with rules and procedures. I am a laid back person but when it comes to rules, procedures, and knowledge of issues under discussion, I am usually attentive and detail-oriented. That does not mean you will not have fun in the conference; it will be fun with learning! The Security Council stands as the most important council of the United Nations tasked with dealing with the most pressing issues of our times and I expect all of you to act like you are actual members of this body. I look forward to seeing you in the spring.

The Islamic State in Syria and the Levant (ISIL)

The United Nations has held ISIL responsible for human rights abuses and Amnesty International has reported ethnic cleansing by the group on a "historic scale". The group has been designated as a terrorist organization by the international community. In June of 2014 the group declared itself an Islamic caliphate attempting to create a new Islamic empire. ISIL poses major security concerns for UN member nations due to its international recruiting efforts, possession of weapons and territories. ISIL has made a call for all Muslims to join the global jihad encouraging them to join the fight in Syria and Iraq. This raises concerns that citizens of member nations will travel to these areas and then return to their own countries and carry out terrorist acts. There is credible evidence that the terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo in France were committed by members who travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight alongside other Islamist fighters. ISIL's ability to recruit individuals to its cause and to capture American, Iraqi, and Syrian military equipment has given the group the ability to gain and hold large tracts of territory in Iraq and Syria, with both countries lacking the ability to regain that territory. Consequently, the United States, Canada, and other countries have committed troops and airpower to combat ISIL, contain it and bring it down.

Questions

What/who is ISIL?

Where does it operate?

What are its objectives?

Who supports it?

What interest/s does your nation have with Iraq, Syria, and the region?

What (if any) action should be taken by the UN?

*How does your nation support the rebuilding of Iraq?
What is your country's position on the civil war in Syria?
Does your nation support military action against ISIL?
Does your nation provide humanitarian assistance to Iraq or Syria or to refugees?*

Resources

United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq

UN Security Council Resolution 2169

UN Security Council Resolution 2110

UN Security Council Resolution 2107

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/pomegranate/2013/07/violenceiraq?zid=308&ah=e21d923f9b263c5548d5615da3d30f4d>

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/pomegranate/2013/08/iraqikurdistan?zid=308&ah=e21d923f9b263c5548d5615da3d30f4d>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/images/map-isis-2014-06-10-4.jpg>

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/18/iraqi-civilian-death-toll-5500-2014-isis>

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been plagued by civil wars since the mid-1990s. Some most recent estimates claim that anywhere from 900,000 to 5.4 million people have been killed during this long conflict. There have been reports in the DRC of child soldiers and the use of rape as a weapon. The UN has been very active in the crisis and has already issued over 5 resolutions in the last 3 years. The United Nations has been strongly promoting Peace, Security, and Cooperation in the DRC. UN Security Council Resolution 2098 has approved an offensive combat forces to “neutralize and disarm” violent rebels. This is one of the first actions that the UN has taken in an offensive manner. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported that approximately 500 children soldiers have been freed since March, but UNICEF still reports that over 1,500 remain in the armed forces. The UN offensive has been focused on the M23 rebel group and was the strongest in 2013. Some peace talks have begun with the M23 rebels, but few accomplishments have been made. The UN’s goal is to ensure peace and security throughout the DRC. While the Security Council has been very productive trying to accomplish this goal, more still needs to be done. Even in 2014 rebel attacks are still occurring in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and citizens still suffer.

Questions

Does your country have any direct or indirect interests in the Democratic Republic of Congo?

Does the DRC conflict impact your country? How?

Did your country intervene in the DRC conflict (supporting the UN, sending money, other forms of humanitarian aid....)”?

What (if any) action should be taken by the UN?

What type of humanitarian action (or other forms of intervention) would your country support?

*How can the UN ensure that humanitarian resources do not fall into the wrong hands?
What action should be taken against those who use rape as a weapon or child soldiers?*

Resources

UN Security Council Resolution 2147 (2014)

UN Security Council Resolution 2098 (2013)

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2013/9/5/untests-combat-brigadeindemocraticrepublicofcongo.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo#Civil_wars

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sc10964.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=45824&Cr=democratic&Cr1=congo#.UjEAR T8hsg8>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/M23_rebellion

<http://www.unicef.org/appeals/drc.html>

Russia/Ukraine Crisis

Beginning in 2013 with pro-democracy protests in Kiev, which led to the ousting of sitting President Victor Yanukovich, the situation quickly escalated as the Russian Government realized its strategic interests in the region were threatened. The protests began as the Yanukovich government – which had been in negotiations with the European Union for years over an economic partnership agreement – decided to walk away from the negotiating table. This occurred shortly after Moscow approved a \$15 Billion aid package, which came to be seen as a naked bribe to the Ukrainian government—so that Ukraine does not sign an agreement with the EU and instead remain within the Russian sphere of influence. The European Union had offered Ukraine an association agreement and trade pact that would have provided tangible mechanisms of integration with the EU, shifting Ukraine’s strategic orientation to the west. However, Ukraine’s President pulled out of the deal to forge closer ties with Russia. He did this because he had another offer, from Moscow. Russia wants Ukraine to join its Eurasian Customs Union, which already includes Belarus and Kazakhstan. This struggle reflects a political and cultural divide between Ukraine’s eastern region, which maintains close ties with Russia, and its central and western regions, which consider themselves part of Europe, away from the control of Russia. Putin has made restoring his country's international prestige the overarching goal of his foreign policy. He has embraced military force as the means to do so. His goal is to keep Ukraine within the orbit of the Russian sphere of influence. He wants to keep NATO away from Russian borders and EU away from Russia. He claims that Russia will stop at nothing to prevent NATO membership for Ukraine.

There is a bitter history between Russia and Ukraine. Some Ukrainians accuse Russia (Soviet Union back then) of causing the famine in the 1930s that killed millions of innocent Ukrainian civilians. The parliament of Ukraine as well as the US recognizes this famine called *Holodomor*

as an act of genocide. According to some Ukrainians, the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin caused this famine. This is a bitter history that has left its toll on current relations.

The region of Crimea was given to Ukraine in 1954—when both Ukraine and Crimea were part of the Soviet Union. Eastern regions of Ukraine, specifically Donetsk and Luhansk, proclaimed independence movements, with the sitting officials defecting to the Russian side explicitly. The new government in Kiev declared them illegitimate, and the fighting is still going on to this day. Resolution of this situation can only come from a concert of the powers involved. Peace is needed if we were to avoid another Balkan civil war situation. We will debate this Russian-Ukrainian conflict and figure out its repercussions on European and international security. We will also discuss the question of self-determination and secession. We will talk about the pro-Russian population in Ukraine and what exactly the UN Security Council can do to ensure the safety and human rights of the peoples involved.

Questions

You need to have a solid understanding of the conflict—how it started, how it evolved, the major actors, etc...

Is your country a member of the EU?

What are your countries economic ties to Russia?

Does your country believe that the Crimean region belongs to Ukraine or to the Russian Federation?

What can be done to help solve this issue?

What are the security implications for your country? Economic implications?

Resources

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-28969784>

<http://www.summer.harvard.edu/blog-news-events/conflict-ukraine-historical-perspective>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/news/russia-ukraine-conflict/>

<http://news.yahoo.com/ukraine-cheers-us-vote-military-aid-russia-outraged-205849643.html>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30414955>