



20th and 21st of March, 2017

General Assembly

1) *Combating the threat of Islamic State Sleeper Cells*

Background Information:

The Islamic State is a militant group which aims to follow and uphold the fundamental beliefs and principles of the Sunni Islamic faith. The terrorist organization has been present since 1999 but only became a power in 2004 upon its pledge of allegiance to al-Qaeda. The key to Islamic State international threat is its sleeper cells; which has dormant members blend into society until called upon to attack. The main advantage is that allows for numerous independent attacks, minimizes the threat of detection and if any are detected it protects other cells from detection. With Islamic States increase in attacks outside of its home countries, it became the number 1 most dangerous terrorist organization. As such, it is necessary for the UN to work with all countries to combat this threat.

History:

Since 2014, the Islamic State has conducted or inspired over 140 terrorist attacks in 29 countries outside Iraq and Syria.

- **Rebranding of ISIS/ISIL (Apr. 2013)**
- **US starts bombing Iraq (Aug. 2014)** - Undoubtedly the greatest military presence against Islamic State, US continues to survey and run airstrikes against Islamic States strongholds and key military bases
- **ISIS invasion of Iraqi Cities (Jun. 2014)** - ISIS takes control of Iraqi cities Mosul and Tikrit. In this same month, the UN announced that over 1 million Iraqis have been displaced.
- **Jewish Museum of Belgium Shooting (May. 2014)** - A gunman opened fire at the Jewish Museum of Belgium in Brussels.
- **US starts involvement Syria (Sep. 2014)** - This involvement includes multi-national airstrikes, arming and training of rebels and aerial surveillance.
- **Yemen Mosque Bombings (Mar. 2015)** Suicide bombings in 2 Shi'a mosques, 142 killed and 351 injured.
- **Russia starts bombing (Sep. 2015)** - Russia forms a coalition with Iraq, Iran and Syria, and with their approval began its air campaign.
- **Turkey Ankara Bombings (Oct. 2015)** - Suicide bombing, 103 dead and 400+ injured.

- **Metrojet Flight 9268 Bombing (Oct. 2015)** - flight from Egypt to Russia bombed, 224 dead.
- **Paris Attacks (Nov. 15, 2015)** - A series of attacks killing 130 people, and injuring 368. Possible Islamic State boldest attack on a 1st world country, sparking media outcry and starting the global fear. This attack was carried out by sleeper cells
- **UN resolution (Nov. 20, 2015)** - UN security council resolution 2249 was unanimously adopted; calling all member states to redouble their efforts against ISIL.
- **Libya Zliten Truck Bombing (Jan. 2016)** - Suicide truck bombing, 60 killed and 200+ injured.
- **Brussels Bombing (Mar. 2016)** - Suicide bombers attack a metro station and an airport, 32 killed and 340 injured.
- **Orlando Nightclub Shooting (Jun. 2016)** - Terrorist attack/hate crime in a gay nightclub, 49 killed and 53 injured.
- **Baghdad Bombings (Jul. 2016)** - 2 bomb attacks in Iraq, 325 killed and 225+ injured.
- **Nice Attack (Jul. 2016)** - Cargo truck driven into crowds, 86 killed and 434 injured.
- **US Statement (Feb. 2017)** - The US special Operations Head states that the Us and its allies have eliminated more than 60,000 fighters

UN Involvement

The United Nations views the fight against Islamic State as a very precarious one, as any military action could result in death of civilians and cause a refugee crisis. However, based of the atrocities Islamic State causes and carries out, United Nations Security council resolution 2249 was unanimously adopted calling all member states to take all necessary measures to prevent and supress the terrorists. Another resolution, 2253, was also passed in December 2015 to impose economic sanctions on ventures involved with Islamic State in an attempt to reduce their finance and funding's. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism strategy put in place in 2006 is also continually working to prevent and respond to terrorist acts along with its subsidiary bodies of the ISIL and Al-Qaida committee. The United Nations does not currently have peacekeeping units in Syria or Iraq as fighting Islamic State on the ground is extremely dangerous. Under the UN's authority and approval multiple states and coalitions (mainly the US and Russia) continue to strategically bomb Islamic States stronghold in an attempt to fight it.

Topics for Debate:

- i. How can the UN work together to stop Islamic State; both at its roots and preventing international attacks

- ii. Sleeper cells are such an effective structure for a terrorist organization, how could its affects be diminished

Guiding Questions:

- How will Islamic States sleeper cells affect your country? Have you been attacked by them before or are a likely target? If yes, you are more involved and have a vested interest to solve this issue
- What has your country done to stop Islamic State or other terrorist groups, do they have a policy on combating terrorist organizations?
- What are the effects of Islamic State (Hint: its more than just death) and how can you combat these other affects?

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Resources:

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

Terrorist Sleeper Cells: How to Detect and Evade

<http://en.articlesgratuits.com/terrorist-sleeper-cells-how-to-detect-and-evade-id1955.php>

2) Combating Xenophobia and Protecting the Rights of Refugees and Asylum-Seekers in Europe

Background Information:

Europe is currently in a state of a refugee crisis, with over 1 million people seeking asylum and refugee from their war-torn countries, primarily from the middle East. Xenophobia is the intense dislike or fear of people from other countries (associated with racism); something that is prominent in Europe and is an issue with an increasingly diverse population. Xenophobia and any actions taken against them violates many of their human rights such as “a right to equality” and “freedom from discrimination”. Apart from that under the human rights set by the UN everybody has a “Right to Asylum in other Countries from Persecution”. The UN must work to try and alleviate the irrational fear of xenophobia and protect the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe.

History:

In the past 2 years, Europe has experienced the greatest mass movement of people since WWII. Over 1 million refugees and migrants have travelled to EU countries, most of them fleeing from war torn countries such as Syria.

- **2011 - 2014** - The European refugee crisis started with applications for asylum status in Europe steadily started growing from 290,975 in 2011 to 1,222,925 in 2014.
- **2014** - Amnesty International released a document called “The Human Cost of Fortress Europe” criticizing the EU for security around Europe preventing refugees from entering
- **April 2015** - the EU held an emergency meeting to discuss migrant crises; funding for rescue operations was tripled and several EU states offered ships as well as other resources. They also agreed to try and prohibit smuggler boats and deploy immigration services to non-EU nations.
- **May 2015** - The EU proposed to have a quota scheme for taking in refugees. The reactions were mixed.
- **July - November 2015** - Hungary, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Austria and Slovenia all started sealing and building barriers along their border. This shows the rising tensions as a result from the refugee crisis and countries potential unwillingness to have more refugees.
- **July-August 2015** - More capsizing boats off the coast of Libya rescued by the Italian coastguard. In August, one occasion involved over 20 vessels and about 4,400 migrants were rescued. This demonstrates the risk that refugees undertake and the human rights violation while in transit.
- **September 2015** - Thousands of migrants gathered in Budapest, Hungary to protest after the police sealed off the terminal to stop them from traveling through the EU. Later on hundreds had broken through the police lines.

- **September 2015** - Tens of thousands took part in public demonstrations to support refugees/migrants in multiple European cities (London, Sweden, France, Austria, the Netherlands etc.)
- **October 2015** - The UN human rights commissioner accused the Czech Republic of a systematic violation of the human rights of migrants in order to deter them from entering the country
- **November 2015** - The Paris attacks sparked international outrage at Islamic State. However, it also increased the 'fear factor' around Muslims and refugees in Europe.
- **2016** - Most EU states such as Germany and Turkey became stricter with their control over incoming refugees/migrants.
- **January - March 2016** - Multiple protests and pro-migrant parties performed demonstrations to show further support.
- **May 2016** - European Commission declared that countries that did not take their quota of asylum seekers would be heavily fined.
- **June 2016** - The United Kingdom voted to leave the EU with a primary argument being that it allows the UK to stop taking in refugees. This led to accusations that the UK was xenophobic and made refugees in UK wary and feeling unwanted.
- **January 2017** - EU states that member states can deport refugees and migrants back to Greece starting in March. This faces serious scrutiny due to Greece's over-filled refugee facilities which leads to poor human rights.

UN Involvement

The United Nations Human Rights Committee is continually involved with any human rights issues in the world, with particular interest being paid to the refugee crisis in Europe. The UN works in conjunction with the EU to distribute the annual refugees reaching up to 1.3 million into the 28 member states in Europe. General Assembly resolution 11820, the 'Declaration for Refugees and Migrants' acknowledges a shared responsibility to manage large movements of refugees and migrants in a humane, sensitive, compassionate and people-centered manner. The UNHCR also further provided a recommendation to the EU of '6 steps towards solving the refugee situation in Europe'.

Topics for Debate:

- i. What rights do refugees and asylum-seekers have in Europe, and how can they be upheld throughout Europe?
- ii. What measures can be put in place to stop Xenophobia taking place in Europe

Guiding Questions:

- Is your country directly involved by either being a country in Europe or a country creating the refugees? If yes, you are more involved and have a vested interest to solve this issue
- Does your country let in refugees and what are they're stance on it?
- What actions has your country taken to alleviate xenophobia and fight against racism?

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Suggested Sites:

Rights of Refugees

<http://www.unhcr.org/publications/brochures/3b779dfe2/protecting-refugees-questions-answers.html>

Potential Xenophobia

<http://www.euractiv.com/section/global-europe/news/un-refugee-chief-worrying-climate-of-xenophobia-in-europe/>

UNHCR's recommendations

<http://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2016/3/56d96de86/unhcr-6-steps-towards-solving-refugee-situation-europe.html>