

**Model United Nations at UCSD** presents  
On Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, and Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**United Nations**

# **Security Council**



## **TritonMUN XI**



## Introduction

Greetings Delegates,

I am pleased to welcome you to TritonMUN XI and the United Nations Security Council! My name is VaishnaviPaudel, and I am excited to be your chair for this conference. I am a first year student at UCSD's Muir College studying Physiology and Neuroscience. I was a member of my high school's Model United Nations team for four years, and have always had an interest in international relations as I feel that it is important that today's youth stay informed about current events so that they can knowledgeably shape our future.

As the United Nations Security Council, our primary concern as a committee is to maintain international peace and security. In discussing the two topics for this conference, I look forward to witnessing diplomatic collaboration, as this is especially important in a committee that is discussing sensitive, and pressing matters. It is also important that we respond to the situations presented realistically, by doing quality research before the conference, and creatively, by addressing the problem differently than the United Nations has in the past.

My Vice Chair and I are very excited to work with you in committee, and wish you the best of luck in your preparation. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to e-mail me.

Sincerely your chair,

VaishnaviPaudel

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## Topic A: Increasing Aggression of Islamic Militants

### I. Background

History:

The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is a jihadist group that grew out of al Qaeda in 2013 with the goals of creating an Islamic state centered in the regions of Syria and Iraq. In 2006, this organization began as al Qaeda in Iraq, and was led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.<sup>1</sup> The United Nations reported that an average of more than 100 civilians were being killed per day due to violence in Iraq.<sup>2</sup> In response to this violence, the United States launched air strikes in the region, and killed Zarqawi. Abu Ayyub al-Masri replaced Zarqawi as the leader of AQI, and formally established the Islamic State in Iraq (ISI), under which Abu Omar al-Baghdadi was the leader. Abu Omar al-Baghdadi was killed in a joint U.S.-Iraq mission, and Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi took control of ISI in 2010. In 2013, during the height of the Syrian Civil War, ISI declared its assimilation of an al Qaeda backed militant group in Syria called the al-Nusra Front. However, the al-Nusra Front rejected the establishment of ties between their organization and ISI, and this caused increased violence in Iraq because of infighting. In the end, Bhagdadi was able to create the umbrella group ISIS by coercing his supporters in the al-Nusra Front and moving into Syria.<sup>3</sup> Near the end of 2013, ISIS refocused on controlling its territory in Iraq, and overtook the city of Falluja by taking advantage of a political stand-off between the Shia-led government and the Sunni civilian majority.

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<sup>1</sup>"ISIS Fast Facts - CNN.com." CNN. Cable News Network. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.

<sup>2</sup>"Iraq Profile." BBC News. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.

<sup>3</sup>"What Is Islamic State?" BBC News. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.



## Current Situation:

In early 2014, ISIS began to radically increase military aggression in regions of Iraq and Syria. ISIS captured 140 Kurdish schoolboys in Syria to teach them about radical Islamic ideology, and they seized the city of Mosul's airport, TV station's, and governor's office.<sup>4</sup> By June of 2014, ISIS captured the cities of Mosul, Tikrit, and Al-Qaim. As a result of the takeover of numerous Iraqi cities, about 1.2 million Iraqis have been forced to flee from their homes. Many of these refugees fled to Iraqi Kurdistan, however, due to the large influx of refugees fleeing from the fighting, this region had to close off its borders. In July of 2014, ISIS took over the Syrian city of al-Omar, which holds the country's largest oil field. ISIS currently earns most of its funding through the exploitation of this oil, the tax extortion of small businesses, and the illegal trafficking of goods.<sup>5</sup> United States' President Barack Obama authorized the usage of "targeted air strikes" in order to protect U.S. personnel in Iraq in August, 2014, and consequently, ISIS responded by releasing videos of the decapitation of two U.S. journalists, and one British journalist. The United States responded to these videos by launching airstrikes in Raqqa, Syria, and again, ISIS responded by threatening to kill other western hostages in Iraq.

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<sup>4</sup>"ISIS Fast Facts - CNN.com." CNN. Cable News Network. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.

<sup>5</sup>"How ISIS Is Using Taxes To Build A Terrorist State." Forbes. Forbes Magazine. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.



## II. United Nations Involvement

Initially, the United Nations' primary concern with the crisis in Iraq and Syria was delivering humanitarian aid to suffering civilians and refugees, and consequently, unanimously passed United Nations Security Council Resolution 2139 in February, 2014. This resolution calls upon all member nations of the United Nations and especially Syrian authorities to allow and expedite the delivery of humanitarian aid to those in need.<sup>6</sup> This resolution was passed in tandem with United Nations Security Council Resolution 2165, which further suggested that United Nations member nations facilitate the transportation of aid to the region. The United Nations' approach to the Syrian conflict is highlighted in Operative Clause 9 of the resolution, which, "Reiterates that the only sustainable solution to the current crisis in Syria is through an inclusive and Syrian-led political process with a view to full implementation of the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012".<sup>7</sup> While the United Nations seems to be solely concerned with the humanitarian aspect of this crisis, the Security Council has condemned the human right violations taken by ISIS and its counterparts, and has listed individuals affiliated with the recruitment of foreign fighters on the Al Qaeda sanctions regime. In order to address ISIS' capture and exploitation of Iraq's main oil sources, the President of the Security Council made the following statement which, "strongly condemns any engagement in direct or indirect trade of oil from Syria and Iraq involving terrorist groups. The Security Council also emphasizes that such engagement constitutes financial support for terrorists and may lead to further sanctions listings if those groups are listed by the Security Council 1267/1989 Sanctions Committee as

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<sup>6</sup>"Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2139 (2013) to Ease Aid Delivery to Syrians, Provide Relief from 'Chilling Darkness' | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." UN News Center. UN. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.

<sup>7</sup>"United Nations Security Council Resolutions." Security Council Resolution 2165. Web. 12 Jan. 2015.



associated with Al Qaida”. While sanction threats have been made to individuals and organizations that are offering economic or military aid to ISIS, none have been implemented.



## III. Bloc Positions

### **Western Bloc**

In response to the United States prolonged military presence in Iraq after 2008, President Barack Obama has urged that the international community aid the United States in diminishing the ISIS terrorist organizations and its counterparts. The United States has conducted over 150 air-strikes in Iraq against ISIS, many of which have succeeded in dismantling the leadership of the organization, and continues to call upon allied nations to send humanitarian aid into the region and halt the growth of this terrorist organization. The United Kingdom similarly expressed its faith in a “no boots on the ground” approach to the crisis in Iraq and Syria, and has supplied arms and humanitarian aid into the ailing countries. France and Germany have also offered their support by contributing ammunition and humanitarian aid into these countries.

### **Eastern Bloc**

Russia’s primary concern is the stability of the Iraqi and Syrian region, as it is close to its borders and has great trade significance to the country. In the past, Russia supported Assad’s Syrian regime and often provided economic and military assistance so that he could stabilize the region, however, as ISIS has further destabilized the region and weakened the regime, Russia has grown less supportive of the Syrian authorities.

### **Middle Eastern Bloc (Middle East, northern Africa):**

Turkey, a country plagued by Syrian and Iraqi refugees due to the crisis, has served as an important channel for both humanitarian aid for the suffering refugees and illegal arms and funds for the terrorists. The Turkish government has taken steps to halt the transfer of funds to ISIS,



and has denied the entry of thousands of foreign fighters through their country, as they were suspected to join the terrorist movement. However, Turkey has not ended oil exports from ISIS-held areas in Iraq. While most Middle Eastern countries, including Egypt, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, have contributed humanitarian or monetary aid to end ISIS' terrorist attacks, Iran's Ayatollah Khameni declared on Twitter that he suspected that the United States wishes to dominate this region, instead of help the refugees and end the terrorist attacks.





## IV. Questions to Consider

1. What distinguishes the crisis in Iraq and Syria from other crisis' during which the United Nations Security Council responded by sending UN Peacekeepers to the region?
2. Why has the United Nations Security Council hesitated in taking economic or military actions in this region and should this change given the increased violence in the region?
3. Should the United Nations address the root of the problem-the instability in the Syrian region due to civil war, or would addressing this problem be a violation of national sovereignty?
4. What supplemental organizations or NGOs can the United Nations call upon to provide military or monetary assistance to stabilize the region?



## V. Suggested Sites

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/syria/> - Security Council Report

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/08/world/isis-fast-facts/> - CNN

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/> - CIA Factbook

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/> - United Nations Security Council Official Page



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