Disarmament & International Security

Berkeley Model United Nations

LXIII

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

Nate Parke
Sarah Yue
Paul Lee
Sita McGuire

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to DISC! My name is Nathaniel Parke but I usually go by Nate. I am a sophomore here at Berkeley and I am originally from Southern California. I am studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and love to talk about Berkeley. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions you may have about this awesome school. I have been doing MUN for 6 years now and actually attended BMUN as a delegate for three consecutive sessions. BMUN was the best conference every year and I cannot say how lucky I am to be making a similar experience for you guys. I am incredibly excited for conference this year as I get to chair the absolute best committee there is. Our topics are very relevant to our current world, which makes them very approachable to you, the delegates. I chose Cyber Warfare as the first topic because it is becoming an increasingly prevalent problem in our technologically advanced world. I am hoping that this topic will give some perspective on the power that computers grant to individuals and the results they have had on international diplomacy. Our second topic is the Rise of Islamism and Sectarian Violence in the Middle East. I hope that these topics will stimulate interesting debate and inspire novel solutions. Please remember that this topic synopsis is only the beginning. There is so much information on both of these topics that it would be impossible to write an encompassing introduction. It is up to you to dig deeper and understand the intricacies of each of these topics. I encourage you to go to the library and rent books, use Google Scholar and find interesting knowledge that will facilitate debate. Also look out for the committee blogs that will be published and contribute to them. Those are where you can start to build the relationships that will be key during conference.

I look forward to spending BMUN 63 with you this year. GET EXCITED!!!!

Best,

Nathaniel Parke

Sarah Yue:

Hi Delegates! My name is Sarah Yue and I'm currently a sophomore pursuing a dual degree in Molecular and Cell Biology and Economics. Being a part of BMUN has been a huge part of my college experience and a wonderful addition to my day-to-day life. I have

been a member of Model United Nations since my freshman year of high school, and while I originally participated in conferences as a delegate, I am now part of the secretariat of BMUN and am able to host our conference! I am originally from the East Coast and I absolutely love traveling and eating. I will try anything once! I'm so excited to meet all of you and can't wait to see you this February!

Paul Lee:

Paul is majoring in Business Administration and is a junior here at Berkeley. He has been in BMUN for 3 years and participated in MUN in high school. He is a hip-hop choreographer and represents Cal's student government as an ASUC senator.

Sita McGuire:

Sita is a freshman here at Cal and is studying Political Science as well as Swag Mastery. She was a delegate all four years of high school and is exceedingly excited to be in the BMUN secretariat. Some interesting facts about herself are that she can't cook but loves to eat. She likes to sleep but she can never find the time. She describes herself as "basically a living contradiction".

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Cyber Warfare

Topic Background

The past century has seen an explosion of technology that has transformed global politics and the methods through which countries are governed. Two world wars created a climate that allowed nations to come together and build miraculous technologies that would come to define the latter half of the twentieth century. In 1936, Alan Turing published a paper titled *On Computable Numbers* that postulated a so-called "Turing Machine" which would perform mathematical calculations and solve any computable problem that that could be described though an algorithm. This revolutionary paper built the architecture that would allow scientist to facilitate the movement to the modern day computer. Computers have allowed for a boom in information collection and storage that is unprecedented. As we move deeper into the silicon age, information has become a larger commodity for countries and individuals alike. Anything from trade secrets to national intelligence can be considered valuable information and its importance to the owners has grown and likely will continue to grow. As with anything of value digital information is at risk of being stolen, which is how cyber warfare has become a relevant concern to many nations. Cyber warfare is the use of electronic attacks to obtain protected information from a target with the intent of using the stolen information in a malicious manner. This definition is necessary because it will come to define the discussion on this issue.

In the modern day intellectual property in the scope of individuals and corporations encompass patents, copyrights and trademarks, which are recognized by most governments as assets that can be owned. The importance behind patents is that they assign ownership to intangible assets and therefore imply that these assets have value. In the modern context this assignment of ownership means that information stored in electronic form also has an inherent value. This is especially true for intelligence held by national governments. Most governments use electronic devices in some way or another to transfer or store valuable information. The use of electronic devices opens up vulnerabilities that are exploited by malicious users to steal the information on these devices. Cyber warfare can be seen as a type of espionage depending on how the stolen

information is to be used and whether or not it would harm the owner of the information. This becomes an essential distinction as espionage is generally frowned upon as a diplomatic tool.

Past UN Involvement

The United Nations addressed the issue of privacy in the digital age in November of 2013 in the Social Cultural and Humanitarian Affairs Committee. The delegations from Germany and Brazil introduced a draft resolution that addressed the privacies that should be protected online. It called upon all states to "To review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law"(Right to Privacy). This draft resolution, although never passed, opened the discussion of human rights laws being violated in the digital age. While it did not specifically address the issue of targeted cyber attacks it prompted questions that are also raised when considering our issue. By investigating possible humanitarian violations that could occur in a digital space SOCHUM laid a framework for what the United Nations considered to be permissible actions online. This framework would be a logical starting point when considering cyber warfare.

Many nations detest the use of espionage and have outlawed within their countries. Such an example is the United States law, *The Espionage Act of 1917*, which defines espionage and criminalizes any act of espionage within the United States (Espionage Act). Cyber warfare certainly fits into the United States' description of espionage: "the purpose of obtaining information respecting the national defense with intent or reason to believe that the information to be obtained is to be used to the injury of the United States, or to the advantage of any foreign nation"(Espionage Act). Although it is clear that this law would apply to cyber warfare, there has been little precedence relating to electronic espionage.

Case Study

China and United States

Tensions are high between the United States and China because of the differences in their cyber warfare policy. Early in May of 2014, a United States grand jury in Pennsylvania charged five members of the People Liberation Army with indictments regarding alleged attacks on American corporations. These hackers were only the most recent perpetrators in what the United States government claims has been a decade long bout of cyber attacks aiming to breach U.S. government and corporate computer networks. China has remained incredibly enigmatic about it's cyber warfare, both in policy and actions. China has vehemently denied numerous times that it has not conducted any breach of security or obtained any state secrets from other nations, and yet, multiple sources have traced attacks to Chinese computers. The People's Liberation Army has been accused of espionage on both private corporations and government agencies in the United States, South Korea, Taiwan, and Canada (Gertz). China has encouraged private, patriotic hackers, which operate independent of the Chinese government, and are effectively a mercenary army with no accountability. Most recently, the US Department of Justice has alleged that PLA Unit 61398 has been the source of numerous cyber attacks against the United States from China (economist.com). Hong Lei, a spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry responded by saying that "groundless criticism is irresponsible and unprofessional, and it will not help to solve the problem."

The US has taken action to provide information about their cyber abilities in order to increase transparency, but the Chinese have not responded in a similar manner (washingtontimes.com). While the United States continues to push for a liberated Internet that is free from governance by any international body, the Chinese government has strict filters on the Internet provided in the country (thediplomat.com). China's claims of abstinence from cyber attacks and its restrictive policies have intensified its tensions with opposing nations, such as the United States and South Korea. Individual policies between the US's freedom of the internet and China's restricted internet use draws the debate in the direction of where the line between the government and it's people lie over jurisdiction of a "free" space.

The U.S. has used the *Computer Fraud and Abuse Act* (CFAA) to protect its government and financial institutions computers and individuals would be in violation of Federal Law if this law was broken. The US government has formally not chosen any policy to deal with these so-called "Patriot Hackers"; however, most of the domestic court cases tried in the United States concerning cyber crimes have resulted in harsh punishments indicating the United States would not allow for this type of action. The word harsh is used because in a lot of cases the sentences given to cyber criminals are disproportionately long when compared to similar physical crimes. This may be an important point to investigate further. The United States also aims to take on a more defensive stance to combat cyber attacks with the Obama administration recently encouraging a strong defense and investigative tools to find and eradicate all threats and attacks.

Questions to Consider

1. How do cyber rights relate to current human rights legislation? Should they be considered the same?
2. How should international intellectual property theft through electronic means be dealt with?
3. What efforts can be taken to curb the use of cyber attacks?
4. Should the Internet be a free space? Should it have some governance?
5. How should countries respond to cyber attacks?
6. What are the peripheral consequences of cyber attacks? What unforeseen consequences might be caused as results of cyber attacks?
7. Should nations be held accountable for hackers not affiliated with their governments? Or should non affiliated hackers be dealt with separately?
8. How can this issue be discussed on international forums without turning into accusations?

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The Rise of Sectarian Violence and Islamism in The Middle East

Topic Background

The Middle East has been home to the birth of three of the most prominent religions practiced in the world today. Religion being the divisive issue that it is has split the region into many states that are polarized due to religious heterogeneity. Being a region with many divided factions has been a central theme of the Middle East for a large part of history and it is one that is still seen today. The rise of sectarian states, political institutions that align themselves with particular religions, cause much contention between many of the region's divided nations. The Arab spring has served to divide nations into unstable states that have yet to establish a steady government while also proving integral to shedding light on the grievances of Middle Eastern citizens. This instability has many causations, the most recurring and prevalent of the modern era being the division of the region by religious lines. This topic will be a look into the rise of Islamism and sectarian politics in the Middle East that has created a climate for rebel groups to gain influence.

The history of the Middle East is all but calm. It has been home to many of the world's richest cultures that have brought many new ideas into popularity. Judaism, Christianity and Islam were all spawned from the Middle East and all claim certain areas as sacred ground. Much of the religious history surrounds the modern city of Jerusalem which all three of these religions claim holy. Judaism being the oldest religion was the first to claim it as a holy site, building their original temple on the location of the modern day Temple Mount. Christianity and Islam's main prophets both spent time in Jerusalem preaching their new religions, which ordained the site as holy to those religions as well. The ties that all these religions have to specific holy grounds have been the cause of many conflicts that date back thousands of years. The political control of the region has been long disputed since the middle ages of European history (around 5th century to 15th century). The crusades were a result of these disputes and can be viewed as the some of the earliest examples of sectarian violence.

Despite political boundaries being stable, the Middle East is a fractured region divided by the varying religious sects. Sectarian politics has recently played a large part in defining the conflicts that have erupted in recent years. An example of this is the internal conflicts within Iraq that caused United States intervention in 2003. Iraq was under the alleged secular regime of Saddam Hussein who was a Sunni. The term alleged was used because it was not in fact very secular. Saddam Hussein used his affiliation with the Sunnis to gain political power and influence and in doing so divided the state along religious lines. These divisions often created friction within the country as the mostly Arab Sunni leadership "viciously suppressed the Shiite Arab majority and the Kurdish minority "(Singal). Saddam despite claiming to be a secular leader often played to these divisions and fostered the growth of Sunni power within Iraq. Upon his deposition from power a large sectarian insurgency grew that eventually escalated into a civil war in 2006. The largest motivation behind this was the repression of the Shia minority for the years under Hussein's rule. A similar situation has grown in more recent years in Syria.

Past UN Involvement

The United Nations is taking a very active stance in combatting sectarian violence. The UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) is a UN sponsored group that aims to provide assistance and facilitate stability within Iraq. In the summer of 2013 the UN reaffirmed their dedication to providing support to Iraq through Security Council resolution 2110 (2013)("Security Council"). The resolution outlined the importance of stability within the Middle East and specifically Iraq. The rise of the militant Islamist group ISIS has also been the subject of debate within the UN recently. The Security Council recently blacklisted top ISIS militants as well as threatened sanctions against any state that supports the rebel group's actions ("UN Security"). The United Nations have also outlined ISIS' many human rights violations and war crimes. As the movement continues to grow there is bound to be more UN action that specifically pertains to ISIS.

Case Study

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria

A transnational Sunni Islamist jihadist group in Iraq and Syria, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), has drawn increasing international concern from its violent

campaigns to dominate northwestern Iraq and northeastern Syria. Led by Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, ISIS recently imposed its vision of the caliphate, the creation of an Islamic state nearly 600 miles wide, to demand the allegiance of all Muslims under sharia law (Blanchard). This declaration calls upon the ruling of all Muslims internationally under a single political and religious leader led by Baghdadi; however, many Muslims and other jihadist groups such as al-Qaeda have dismissed this claim. Nonetheless, from their publicly declared reports online, they currently claim to have over 10,000 operations in Iraq in 2013 with organized, violent plans such as 1,000 assassinations, 4,000 explosive devices, and prison escapes of radicals. In that same year, over 8,000 civilians in Iraq died, according to Financial Times ("Selling Terror").

On the local level, ISIS attacks prompted investigation by the Human Rights Watch (HRW), which revealed inhumane attacks intentionally targeted at civilians. For example, in May alone, the HRW has documented over 10 summary executions, multiple kidnappings and taxes imposed on local businesses. Despite their divergence from other anti-Assad organizations such as al-Qaeda, ISIS is positioned to remain a dominant threat to international security for several factors. In particular, its capture of Iraq's second largest city Mosul has fueled its growth financially by funding their attacks and expanding its caliphate vision publicly ("Iraq").

With the primary effort to throw off the Iraqi government and claim governing control, the capture of Mosul was a strategic move that heavily funded its operations, instilled a strong public message, and captured geographical advantage. It is estimated that over $400 million USD was taken from the Iraqi central bank to fund not only vehicles and weaponry but also a pervasive marketing campaign to influence public thought ("How Stable"). This increase in funding is in addition to foreign funding from the Gulf Region and extortion of businesses, which netted approximately $8 million USD monthly. More importantly, the capture signals ISIS' message of further expansion beyond Syria into possibly Turkey or Jordan, creating a serious threat through increasing recruitment of jihadists and foreign backers. The following quote illustrates ISIS' recent conquests to establish the caliphate: "According to officials, the rebels now control two airports, three airstrips and 30 military bases across the country, including ones once well-known as centers of the American occupation"("Mosul Bank Robbery"). However,

the central issue that fuels ISIS' operations is not of financial means. Iraqi and Syrian public sentiment of ISIS is deeply rooted in the Sunni frustrations of a perceived Shia-dominated government led by Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

While the security and humanitarian situation continues to worsen, it is imperative to recognize the jurisdiction, limitations, and types of action the United Nations can take in this issue. While past solutions to this issue have included economic sanctions against countries currently trading oil with ISIS, there still are multiple ways the ISIS can still be funded. As part of the First Disarmament and International Security committee, one should consider as many alternative solutions available to achieve the committee's objective to achieve stability through lower armament and international cooperation.

Questions to Consider

1. Is a secular Middle East feasible?
2. How can a body such as the United Nations address cultural divides to help provide political stability?
3. What measures can be taken by countries in Middle Eastern governments to limit the influence that sectarian politics plays in their governance?
4. What is Islamism and how does it relate to rebellious groups such as ISIS?
5. Would secularism in Middle Eastern governments bring stability to the region?
6. What are the differences between stable Middle Eastern Islamic states such as Saudi Arabia and Iran and non-stable states such as Syria?

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