Message from the Director of the Security Council

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the XXVII Dayton Model United Nations (UN) Conference! My name is Christian Cooper and I will be your Director for Security Council (SC) during DAYMUNC XXVII.

The SC was created in the UN Charter and serves primarily to maintain peace and security throughout the world. The SC holds several duties in maintaining international peace and security and is the only branch of the UN that can pass binding resolutions, meaning Member States must uphold and follow the direction of the resolution. This makes the SC one of the most important bodies of the UN. The SC is made up of fifteen Member States, with five being permanent members and the other ten serving two-year terms that represent every region in the world.

This background guide will help serve as an introduction to the topics on the agenda for SC. The topics are relevant to current issues and are greatly affecting the world. Please stay up-to-date on your Member State's policies that relate to international security and peacekeeping. It is *crucial* that you are well-versed in your State's policy. In SC, *anything can happen at any time*. Lastly, DAYMUNC is a learning conference, so please do not be afraid to approach the Dais and ask questions if you have any. My staff and I are eager to help Delegates prepare for the upcoming National Model UN Conference.

The topics before SC are:

1. The Situation in Hong Kong
2. Protecting Women from Religious Extremism and Violent Non-State Actors

I am excited and looking forward to what you all will bring to committee!

Sincerely,

Christian J. Cooper
Director of Security Council
DAYMUNC XXVII

I. The Situation in Hong Kong

Introduction

Political unrest and the rise of democracy is unfolding across the international community. One of the most recent areas undertaking political unrest is Hong Kong, China. Until 1997, Hong Kong was a British colony, and was sent back to the possession of China under a "one country, two systems" approach.[1] This system shows Hong Kong as an administrative region of China, as evident in Figure 1 from the Council on Foreign Relations.[2]

Figure 1. Administrative Regions in China's Periphery

Under this approach, Hong Kong obtains a different legal and economic approach than mainland China, which eventually was enacted in Hong Kong's Basic Law.[3] This law also illustrates that Hong Kong possesses freedom of religion and the press while China controls their diplomacy and defense.[4] Since China maintained territorial sovereignty over Hong Kong in 1997, many disputes have arose countering China's communist rule. The current situation, which is based off an extradition bill proposed by the Hong Kong government, made rise to the largest protests and most dangerous situation in Hong Kong in the last 50 years.

Protests began in the streets of Hong Kong when the Hong Kong government proposed the Fugitive Offenders and Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Legislation (Amendment)

[1] https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/democracy-hong-kong?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIzcTNl4vH5QIV8IFaBR1Ziw79EAAYAiAAEgJ5xPD_BwE
[2] Ibid.
[3] https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/hong-kong-protests-explained/
[4] Ibid.

Bill 2019 in March.[5] This bill allowed extraditions to be made to mainland China, something the people of Hong Kong are highly against.[6] Some protests have garnered as many as 2 million people.[7] Nonetheless, these protesters are demanding that five points occur:

1. The Extradition Bill pulled from consideration,
2. Retract the protests as being "riots,"
3. Independent investigation into the use of the police force,
4. Release of those arrested during the protests, and
5. Universal suffrage to vote for Hong Kong's leaders.[8]

Out of these five demands, only the Extradition Bill was pulled from consideration.[9] Protesters are still demanding that the other four points are met. Out of the remaining four demands, the most important goal to achieve is the independent investigation into the police for their interactions with the protesters.[10] The police force in Hong Kong have reacted violently to these protests. Although no one has been killed by the police, almost 2,000 people have been injured and around 2,600 people have been arrested.[11]

Existing Framework

As a relatively new situation that just happened in 2019, the UN Security Council has yet to consider the situation in Hong Kong as a necessity for SC intervention. The Hong Kong government is not giving into the protesters four remaining demands. Thus, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, issued a statement calling for the Hong Kong authorities to investigate "protests where these may not conform with international standards."[12] Furthermore, the Office of the High-Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) called on police forces to "act with restraint" and treat the protesters with respect.[13]

When it comes to existing framework, Article 19 and Article 20 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) allows the basic human rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.[14] Article 39 of Hong Kong's Basic Law put into effect the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (1966), which gives basic civil and political rights citizens of States who have adopted it.[15] However, with these protests, there is a possibility that the Hong Kong government is not upholding the basic human rights as they should be.

[5] https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr18-19/english/bills/b201903291.pdf
[6] https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2019/09/hong-kong-protests-explained/
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ibid.
[10] https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/08/05/hong-kong-protests-broaden-despite-police-crackdown?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIzcTNl4vH5QIV8IFaBR1Ziw79EAAYASAAEgLA0PD_BwE#
[11] https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/i-will-die-with-the-city-a-young-womans-chilling-message-from-hong-kongs-front-lines/2019/10/24/9f51a35e-f0b3-11e9-bb7e-d2026ee0c199_story.html
[12] https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/08/1044141
[13] Ibid.
[14] https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf
[15] https://www.basiclaw.gov.hk/en/basiclawtext/images/basiclaw_full_text_en.pdf

As stated, there are not any SC resolutions addressing the political unrest in Hong Kong. Nonetheless, there are some SC resolutions that address political unrest and protesting in other States that are similar to those occurring in Hong Kong. SC resolution 134 (1960) called on the Union of South Africa to bring equality of racial situations.[16] The SC adopted this resolution due to large-scale peaceful protests of the people of South Africa. Likewise, SC resolution 560 (1985) condemned the South African government for arresting members of protests groups who were protesting peacefully.[17] Finally, SC resolution 765 (1992) urged the government of South Africa to halt their violent reactions to mass demonstrations and peaceful protests.[18]

In regard to the other four demands not being met by the Hong Kong government, the most significant to the international community is the human rights' violation of arresting peaceful protestors. In Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 15/21 (2010), the HRC implores Member States to report violations such as threats of violence and intimidation to peaceful protests.[19] Furthermore, this resolution also urged States to work with the OHCHR and other bodies of the UN to implement mechanism like The Civil Human Rights Front, which organizes and maintains peaceful protests.[20]

Conclusion

When it comes to considering attacks towards peaceful protests and mass demonstrations, the UN and the SC have done little to address it, with the exception being South Africa. The protests in Hong Kong give rise to a delicate situation in general; how should a State who has territorial jurisdiction over it react to mass demonstrations and protests? Being a special administrative State to China, Hong Kong is limited to what it can do in regard to handling these demonstrations and protests. Nevertheless, the situation in Hong Kong is topic that needs to be address accordingly and solved before the protests escalate into something more violent like in South Africa.

Questions to Consider for Future Research

1. How does your State resolve issues regarding mass demonstrations and protests?

2. Would your Member State endorse the idea of a State re-establish its political authority over a region they formally controlled?

3. Would your State support self-determination?

4. How would your Member State react to one of your territories requesting independence or statehood?

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[16] https://undocs.org/S/RES/134(1960)
[17] https://undocs.org/S/RES/560(1985)
[18] https://undocs.org/S/RES/765(1992)
[19] https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/166/98/PDF/G1016698.pdf?OpenElement
[20] Ibid.

II. Protecting Women from Religious Extremism and Violent Non-State Actors

Introduction

With the rise of religious extremism, women are extremely vulnerable to fall victim to physical, mental, and sexual violence, especially among violent non-state actors. On the contrary, some women join these groups as perpetrators because they are promised a better life and security. However, women get trapped in the treacherous ways of violent non-state actors. Women are most likely to fall victim to three current violent non-state actors: the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida, and Boko Haram.[21]

ISIL takes a daunting stance on how they use women within their caliphate. Many women who are brought into ISIL, whether it be voluntary or involuntary, are sexually assaulted by the leaders of ISIL. When ISIL captures cities, the women living there feel like they only have two options: run or join. Furthermore, UN Women reports that once women are forcibly joined into ISIL, there is gendered messaging.[22] This gendered messaging includes excluding women from combat, segregation of the sexes, and sex slavery.[23] However, leaders of ISIL still use women as suicide bombers to prevent their combat fighters from doing so.[24] Figure 1 illustrates the number of women from each region of the world that are listed in a guesthouse registry for ISIL, which is a way ISIL keeps track of their sex slaves.[25]
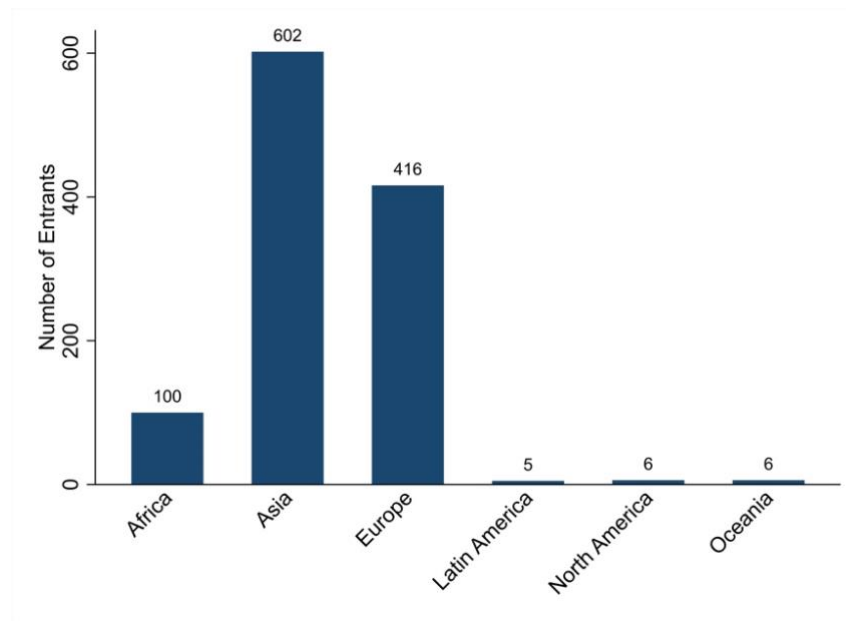

Figure 1. Number of Women per Region in Guesthouse Registry for the Islamic State

[21] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism
[22] https://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20arab%20states/attachments/publications/lahoud-fin-web-rev.pdf?la=en&vs=5602
[23] Ibid.
[24] https://icct.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ICCT-deLeede-Women-in-Jihad-Sept2018.pdf
[25] https://ctc.usma.edu/jihadi-brides-examining-female-guesthouse-registry-islamic-states-caliphate/

Nonetheless, ISIL is not the only violent non-state actor who misrepresents women in the way they run their organization. According to the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism, although the main purpose of a woman in Al-Qaida is to be a mother and a wife, they are used strategically by the leaders of the organization.[26] Some women who are associated with Al-Qaida are logisticians and facilitators, and are used to open bank accounts and be the official "bookkeepers" for the entire organization.[27] Furthermore, the leaders of Al-Qaida use them for social activities to persuade the public to view them in a positive and sympathetic life.[28]

One final violent non-state actor that does not get as much media attention, but their methods are just as violent and oppressive as ISIL and Al-Qaida, is Boko Haram, which is based in Nigeria, Africa. Even though many women have been rescued from Boko Haram, there is a fear that some women might return.[29] According to the International Crisis Group, women in Boko Haram were treated in two different ways: with terrible abuse, which is the more popular treatment, or a sense of belonging.[30] Those that escape find difficulty in adjusting to a life where they are not under captivity.[31] With that, some women return to Boko Haram due to their inability to find a life after Boko Haram. Boko Haram, even with the possibility of being abused, gave many women an opportunity to have at least a marriage and children to take care of.[32]

Existing Framework

There are several existing frameworks that address women in extremists' groups and non-state actors, with many SC resolutions addressing the topic in general. SC resolution 1325 (2000) condemned sexual violence and gender-based oppression and urged Member States to take appropriate measures to protect women from sexual-based violence.[33] Likewise, General Assembly resolution 70/674 (2015) established the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (2015), which pinpoints that women and young girls are most vulnerable to being influenced by extremist groups.[34]

When it comes to ISIL, the SC adopted resolution 2395 (2017), which called on Member States to gather gender-sensitive research and data collection focusing on what drives women to extremist groups, especially ISIL.[35] Furthermore, SC resolution 2379 (2017) acknowledged the forced marriages, rape, and sexual slavery within ISIL and encouraged an investigation team go into Iraq in hope to achieve a better understanding on why ISIL enslaves women and young girls.[36] In coordination with these resolutions, the International Centre for the Study of

[26] https://icct.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ICCT-deLeede-Women-in-Jihad-Sept2018.pdf
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/275-returning-land-jihad-fate-women-associated-boko-haram
[30] Ibid.
[31] Ibid.
[32] Ibid.
[33] http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1325
[34] https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674
[35] https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2395.pdf
[36] http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2379.pdf

Radicalization put forth recommendations for Member States to work with local and regional authorities to share intelligence on each other's' citizens, especially women and minors, when determining if they are affiliated with ISIL.[37]

In response to the violence perpetrated against women within Al-Qaida, the SC passed resolution 2396 (2017), emphasizing that women and children who are associated with the organization deserve special accommodations when going through prosecutions for crimes due to them most likely being forced to commit those crimes.[38] Nevertheless, the SC adopted resolution 2368 (2017), placing sanctions on many extremist groups, such as ISIL and Al-Qaida for not only their violent actions towards the international community, but towards women and young girls who fall victim to sexual violence within those groups.[39] This resolution also urged States to work with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, strengthening coordination among the international community on the actions and threats posed by extremist groups and violent non-state actors.[40]

Finally, the situation in Nigeria involving Boko Haram caused the UN SC to act quickly by condemning the organizations actions towards women. SC resolution 2349 (2017) noted the extreme human rights violations committed by Boko Haram, which included the abduction and rape of young girls, and implores States to assist in increased regional military operations to save these innocent girls.[41] Furthermore, regional partnerships have led to increased humanitarian efforts to save innocent girls from Boko Haram. For instance, the UN Regional Office for Central Africa initiated assessment missions to States under the influence of Boko Haram that work with other UN offices such as the UN Office for West Africa and the Sahel to combat the violence towards women and young girls within Boko Haram.[42]

Overall, the SC takes steps to ensure that women are protected from sexual violence and human trafficking committed by violent non-states actors. SC resolution 2647 (2019) addresses the issue of sexual assault and sexual violence by calling on Member States to coordinate in evaluating methods and tools with the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.[43] Nonetheless, SC resolution 2331 (2016) was the first resolution noting human trafficking as a dangerous consequence of areas where violent non-state actors hold or in conflict for.[44]

[37] https://icsr.info/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/ICSR-Report-From-Daesh-to-'Diaspora'-Tracing-the-Women-and-Minors-of-Islamic-State.pdf
[38] https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2396(2017)
[39] https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2368%282017%29
[40] https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/about-task-force
[41] https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12773.doc.htm
[42] https://unoca.unmissions.org/en/fight-against-terrorism-and-boko-haram
[43] https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2467.pdf
[44] http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2331.pdf

Conclusion

Although these violent non-state actors have decreased in its threat to international peace and security, women are still extremely vulnerable to joining them. Most women, especially young women, only know and understand life within an extremist group. They have no idea how to adjust to life once they are set free or voluntarily escape, which in turn cause some women to return to those organizations. All in all, protecting women from extremism and violent non-state actors is still an ongoing issue around the international community and must be resolved in order to maintain international peace and security.

Questions to Consider for Future Research

1. What rights do women have in your Member State?

2. Would your State approve in UN peacekeeping operations to rescue women held captive by violent non-state actors?

3. Should there be UN intervention in States that assist and aid in sending women to join extremist groups and violent non-state actors?

4. Should States that limit women's rights similar to those of extremist groups be held to the same international standard as extremist groups?