



MODEL UNITED NATIONS AT  AMMAN ACADEMY

Amman Academy Model United Nations

**Topic 2 Brief- Drug Supply  
and Trafficking in Arab States**

## Introduction:

Drug trafficking is one of the many global issues and phenomena that the world is struggling with today, especially in Arab countries. This subject has a substantial influence on our globe in general and especially such Arab countries and states. It is an unlawful commerce that happens on a global scale and involves the cultivation, production, distribution, and sale of narcotics that are regulated by drug prohibition laws, which allow member nations to combat all forms of drug trafficking. Cannabis, opiates, cocaine, amphetamines, and ecstasy are among the substances that are often transmitted during drug trafficking.

Despite the Arab countries having some of the highest punishments for drug-related offenses, regional patterns are unlikely to change due to the lack of producers' alternatives to their current livelihoods, the effectiveness of demand-side measures, and the lack of cross-border cooperation. Drug trafficking and consumption have a symbiotic relationship with unstable regions and terrorist organizations, while being an expensive incubator of insecurity in and of itself. This worsens the already very turbulent political climate in the area and the security threat that the Arab states are experiencing and amplifies the security risk that the MENA region presents to the EU. Even though it is not a member of the MENA, Afghanistan is an essential factor in determining the dynamics of drug trafficking in the area since it is the primary supply of heroin.

The drug trade has a significant impact on the security of many citizens. In which the trade is done in many ways that are a threat to international security, for example, container shipping and yachts and small boats, light aircraft, and airline passengers as well as vehicle Traffic and post and fast parcels. the chance that young individuals will be radicalized and recruited by terrorist organizations, which pose an enormous threat to civilians and peace, is a significant issue that comes as a direct result of drug trafficking.

Over the course of the last few years, the drug trade in the Arab states has become much more obvious. In recent years, it has come to light that several nations, including Afghanistan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and a great number of other nations, comprise most the world's largest drug exporters. This problem is the result of a complex interplay of factors, some of which are political, some economic, and yet others social.

## Definitions of key terms:

1. Drug trafficking: global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws, therefore enabling member states to combat all forms of drug trafficking. Many people trade drugs because they are greedy, want to get rich or live opulent lives. Typically, they are not happy with what they have. As well as unemployment rates in which many jobless graduates are recruited into the drug trade.
2. Terrorist organizations: When a court determines that an organization is directly or indirectly involved in the act of preparing, planning, helping, or nurturing the commission of a terrorist act, such organization is referred to be a terrorist organization. or the legislation of the government that has categorized the group as a terrorist organization.
3. MENA: The phrase "Middle East and North Africa" (abbreviated as MENA) is an abbreviation that refers to a collection of nations that are in and around the regions of the Middle East and North Africa.
4. Arab states: Currently it gathers 22 Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
- 5.

## General overview:

Numerous investigations are focused on Arab regions, with global players and decision-makers monitoring conflicts, resources, and shifting alliances.

Territorial conflicts, sectarian tensions, radicalization, and proxies are typically seen as the main factors contributing to the region's overall instability and authoritarianism by security and economic concerns. However, drugs are a topic that unites all these problems and is usually disregarded.

Their production, use, trafficking, and criminalization raise serious international issues and are intimately related to the interactions between the state and civil society, permeable borders, armies, and hidden economies. However, this subject is still relatively understudied in Arab states and especially in the MENA area.

A rising collection of studies that are being conducted daily focuses on a wide range of drug-related issues, including their social ramifications, the racial undertones of the war on drugs, Latin American cartels, and smuggling routes. However, very few studies address the MENA or go beyond naming Turkey as a significant port and Afghanistan as a significant opium producer, as well as Saudi Arabia and UAE. This is unexpected and should be emphasized more due to its list of effects on the Arab world.

## Major parties involved:

### **Afghanistan:**

Afghanistan is yet one of the most important nations in terms of drug trafficking despite being the largest producer of opium in the world. Opium is produced in Afghanistan at a rate that accounts for three-quarters of the world's supply.

Injection drug usage and the spread of HIV are now associated with the opium trafficking route that passes through Central Asia. The nation is responsible for providing 90 percent of the world's illegal opium and heroin supply. Afghanistan is one of the main countries that are currently supplying the Arab countries and especially MENA.

### **Saudi Arabia:**

Saudi Arabia is now known as the drug capital of the Middle East, in which all drug operations are being set and implemented there. Due to an increase in these operations, shipments of millions of pills and drugs are being normalized.

Despite it having very strong punishments people are still doing it. Saudi Arabia is now supplying such drugs to countries that include, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon. This makes Saudi Arabia an entry point for drugs that are entering and leaving it.

### **United Arab Emirates:**

Because of its port and airport facilities, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) is a key center for drug trafficking. This makes it an entrance point for Europe, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, as well as countries that import the drugs to them including Afghanistan and Iran. This drug trafficking encourages other neighboring Arab countries to play part in it which hugely affects Arab states.

### **All Arab States:**

In general, all Arab countries are regarded to be a part of this issue, and they all participate in drug trafficking daily. This is a criminal activity in which illicit drugs are transported from one nation to another using covert routes. This has a tremendous effect on the Arab community as a whole since it is being abused in several ways, including overdose, etc... This type of drug trafficking is very illegal, and has a very long jail penalty

## Timeline of Key Events:

Time	Events
2014	Due to the large increase in drug trafficking in recent years, in 2014 many new routes were discovered, a southern route that begins in Afghanistan travels through Pakistan and southern Iran, passes through the Middle East and the Gulf States, and then continues along the coasts of East and West Africa, as well as South-East Asia, before arriving at final destinations in Asia and Europe, has emerged as border controls between Turkey and Iran have become more effective. Over the last several years, heroin seizures have significantly increased in several of the region's nations. As an example, heroin seizures in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, as well as Lebanon almost quadrupled in 2014 compared to 2013.
2015-2016	Saudi Arabia was declared as a top and main location and the biggest market for amphetamine that is smuggled into the nation in the name of fake Captagon pills via Jordan and Syria. During the years 2015 and 2016 there have been several reports of the substance being smuggled through containers and marine channels. In several Arab States and a sizable portion of Africa, the misuse of tramadol, a synthetic opioid not subject to international supervision or regulation, has become a grave concern. Which caused the UNODC to create resolutions regarding this issue.
2016	In 2016, the Taliban and other non-state entities in Afghanistan received around \$150 million through taxes on opium cultivation, processing, and trafficking. This yearly causes a disruption of economies in the Arab world which causes them to deteriorate.
2019	Studies were being conducted during this period, to study the increase of drug trafficking in Arab countries and the reasons behind it. "It found that 76 percent of young people in the Levant – which includes Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinian Territories – think drug use among the youth is on the rise. That is far higher than in the rest of the region, with 59 percent in North Africa saying that they are seeing an increased amount of drug-taking and 36 percent in the GCC." { HYPERLINK " <a href="http://www.thenationalnews.com">http://www.thenationalnews.com</a> " }
2021	War in Saudi Arabia drugs net over 37 tons, in which, Saudi Zakat, Tax and Customs Authority claimed that it captured more than 37,000 kg of illicit substances in 2021. It arrived as a result of the authority's mandate to safeguard society, boost the domestic economy, and enhance global commerce. The authority said that the smuggling of Captagon tablets, drugs, counterfeit goods, and other contraband posed a danger to the expansion of the economy as well as to the security and safety of Saudi society.

## Past Proposed Solutions:

The UNODC presented the Arab world and states with many past solutions, considers providing the Arab States with more financial and technical help so they can carry out the drug control plans and programs they develop. This request is for governments, international organizations, and regional bodies, to help.

Another solution that was presented mainly revolves around the availability of voluntary resources, to help their national drug law enforcement agencies and allow them to continue implementing their plans and programs for drug control.

And there are many solutions that mainly focus on the concept of helping such Arab states, in decreasing the rate of drug trafficking.

## Other solutions:

One example solution that can be implemented includes, passing law on penalties for the mass production of illegal drugs and its trafficking, as well as the follow up of this crime, to ensure that it instantly stops. As well as the implementation of extensive research multiple times a year on all pharmaceutical factories, that are taking advantage of the access to medicine for their own good, in all Arab States, and countries that help them get access to drugs.

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