

SECURITY COUNCIL

Study
Guide
2013 -
2014



The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers, outlined in the United Nations Charter, include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action. Its powers are exercised through United Nations Security Council resolutions.

There are 15 members of the Security Council. This includes five veto-wielding permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—based on the great powers that were the victors of World War II. There are also 10 non-permanent members, with five elected each year to serve two-year terms. This basic structure is set out in Chapter V of the UN Charter. The current non-permanent members are Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Guatemala, Luxembourg, Morocco, Pakistan, Rwanda, South Korea, and Togo.

The United Nations Security Council "power of veto" refers to the veto power wielded solely by the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and United States), enabling them to prevent the adoption of any "substantive" draft Council resolution, regardless of the level of international support for the draft. The veto does not apply to procedural votes, which is significant in that the Security Council's permanent membership can vote against a "procedural" draft resolution, without necessarily blocking its adoption by the Council.

The veto is exercised when any permanent member the so-called "P5" casts a "negative" vote on a "substantive" draft resolution. Abstention or absence from the vote by a permanent member does not prevent a draft resolution from being adopted.

TOPIC I: THE INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION IN CIVIL WARS

A brief introduction

What should be the response of the international community in times of catastrophic human rights violations within a state, when heads of states themselves have abjured the responsibility to protect the rights of the people? This question has been the cynosure of many debates emanating from several conflicts of the 21st century.

Where does international law draw the lines between aid and breach of sovereignty? In order to prevent widespread death or suffering amongst the population, armed intervention on behalf of the international community in the internal affairs of a state against the wishes of the government of that state, is not a new one. Indeed, Imperial

Rome grappled with the same problems in Dalmatia and Judaea two thousand years ago, as the international community does in those same regions today.

This dilemma of intervention haunts us to this day with the many ongoing conundrums – the corollaries of post 9/11 ‘war on terror’, the conflict in Darfur and more recently, the civil war in Syria. In practice, these ambiguous standards of intervention are evidently lethal, with thousands dying each month globally from war-related disease and malnutrition as well as from continuing outright violence. Where international peacekeeping efforts have been manifestly inadequate, political settlement talks have been floundering. Individuals are intellectually, right at the intersection point of international relations, law, policy, ethics, human rights, and human security. They fall prey to large magnitudes of injustice which is an issue of utmost importance.

Since World War II, while interstate war has relatively rarely occurred, civil war has dramatically increased in frequency. In the late 1940s, the number of ongoing civil wars that had at least 200 casualties was less than 10, but it reached 54 in 1992. As civil wars erupt and threaten the security of individuals and states in both domestic and international areas, they have emerged as a major issue of international politics and have been targets for international intervention.

Origin

Recently, after a genocide that cost nearly 800,000 lives in Rwanda in 1994, and the slaughter of Bosnian people in Srebrenica in 1995, many people vowed that such atrocities should never again be repeated. When large-scale ethnic cleansing was carried out in Kosovo in 1999, the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution recognizing the humanitarian catastrophe. The UN could not agree on a second resolution to intervene, given the threat of a Russian veto. Instead, NATO countries bombed Serbia in an effort that many observers regarded as legitimate but not legal.

In the aftermath, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan created an international commission to recommend ways that humanitarian intervention could be reconciled with Article 2.7 of the UN Charter, which upholds member states’ domestic jurisdiction and sovereignties.

Article 2.7 of the United Nations Charter states that "nothing contained in the present Charter shall authorize the United Nations to intervene in matters which are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any state...", making it clear that non-intervention in domestic affairs is a fundamental principle of the UN. On the contrary, however, the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), which was put forward a different view. It argued in its final report of 2001, entitled "Responsibility to Protect" that state sovereignty implies that the responsibility to protect its people lies with the state itself, and that in cases when a state has not fulfilled this responsibility, then it is up to the international community to protect people suffering serious harm.

The RTP outlines three specific responsibilities of the international community: the responsibility to prevent, to react, and to rebuild.

- The responsibility to prevent is the duty to address both the root and direct causes that are putting populations at risk. This includes providing development aid, assistance to governance, human rights and the rule of law, and the promotion of dialogue and reconciliation.
- The responsibility to react is the duty to respond to situations of compelling human need with appropriate measures, which may include coercive measures like sanctions and international prosecution, and in extreme cases military intervention.
- The responsibility to rebuild is the duty to provide, particularly after a military intervention, full assistance to recovery, reconstruction, and reconciliation efforts, while addressing the causes of the harm the intervention was designed to halt or avert.

Much of the debate now focuses on how to ensure that such a framework is not abused and selectively implemented by powerful countries to further their own national interests at the expense of the sovereignty of Third World countries.

The commission concluded that states have a responsibility to protect their citizens, and should be helped to do so by peaceful means, but that if a state disregarded that responsibility by attacking its own citizens, the international community could consider armed intervention.

Legitimate intervention vs Legal intervention Legitimacy

The international community's responsibility to prevent is considered the single most important dimension of the 'responsibility to protect' and the Commission argues that prevention options should always be exhausted before intervention is contemplated, in which cases the intervention is considered legitimate in the political realm. The bar for legitimate military intervention here has been set deliberately high and tight and excludes many kinds of unconscionable behavior (e.g., imprisonment and torture of political opponents or overthrow of a democratically elected government) that would certainly justify other forms of coercive response (e.g., targeted sanctions). Criteria for legitimacy include:

- 1) *Just Cause: Is there "serious and irreparable harm occurring to human beings, or imminently likely to occur, of the following kind:*
 - a) *Large-scale loss of life, actual or apprehended, with genocidal intent or not, which is the product either of deliberate state action or state neglect, inability to act, or a failed-state situation; or*
 - b) *Large-scale ethnic cleansing, actual or apprehended, whether carried out by killing, forced expulsion, acts of terror, or rape."*
- 2) *Right Intention: Is the primary purpose of the proposed military action to halt or avert human suffering, whatever other motives may be in play?*
- 3) *Last Resort: Has every non-military option for the prevention or peaceful resolution of the crisis been explored, and are there reasonable grounds for believing lesser measures will not succeed?*
- 4) *Proportional Means: Is the scale, duration, and intensity of the planned military action the minimum necessary to secure the defined human protection objective?*

- 5) *Reasonable Prospects: Is there a reasonable chance of the military action being successful in meeting the threat in question, and are the consequences of action not likely to be worse than the consequences of inaction?*

The assessing motive behind this is that in order to be involved in a civil war, interveners make decisions on whether to be biased or neutral; whether to intervene through the UN or unilaterally; and whether to use military force. Note that interveners do not randomly choose intervention methods. They opt for intervention strategies that can justify their motives or are effective in achieving their goals. Therefore, we can expect that intervention methods, by reflecting interveners' motives and goals, are likely to make differences in intervention effects. Suppose that multilateral intervention is motivated by humanitarian concerns and unilateral intervention by self-interest. If so, we can expect that multilateral intervention having legitimacy is more likely than the unilateral approach to mobilize international assistance for recovery of war-torn states. In addition, each intervention method has its own mechanism functioning for intervener's goal. For example, while biased interveners try to alter the balance of power in favor of their protégé, neutral interveners attempt to maintain the current balance to facilitate a compromise between combatants. Biased intervention is therefore likely to have different effects on civil war outcome from neutral intervention. The reasoning that the motives and goals of intervention direct intervention methods and in turn lead to the consequences of intervention suggests that illuminating the underlying reasons for intervention methods can help solve the puzzle of interaction effects. When states seek their own interests, they primarily consider the benefits and costs of intervention and choose intervention types that are likely to increase their benefits. By influencing the future policy of target states, interveners can gain the benefits. On the other hand, when states are motivated by humanitarian concerns, they are likely to care about the norms and goals of humanitarian intervention. By engaging in multilateral intervention through the UN instead of unilateral intervention, they can legitimize the cause of intervention. The decision to be biased and whether to use military force may be relatively more complex decisions. If states primarily consider classic norms of intervention, they are likely to decide to undertake neutral intervention without using military force.

On the other hand, if interveners give priority to the ends of humanitarianism, saving lives at risk, they can justify biased intervention and the use of force to punish perpetrators and protect. The types of intervention reflecting interveners' goals can affect when and how civil wars end.

Legality

According to Chapter I Article 2.4 of the UN Charter:

All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations.

This law allows only two exceptions. The first being self-defense: "if an armed attack occurs against a member, until the Security Council has taken measures to maintain international peace and security".

The second is when the Security Council has voted and passed a resolution that "determined the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression" and considers measures other than the use of force have been or would be likely to be inadequate.

The Council may then take "such action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security". Such action is generally identified as Chapter VII action and referred to in the relevant Security Council resolutions with the phrase "all necessary means".

All entities of UN are party to this law except UN Peacekeeping - much the most frequent use of armed force under the aegis of the United Nations - falls into neither of these categories. Current UN Peacekeeping operations encompass a broad range of activities that include disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of former combatants in post-conflict societies, Security Sector Reform (SSR), elections, assistance to the rule of law, and the protection of civilians caught up in conflicts.

There is no explicit warrant for Peacekeeping in the Charter and it has had to be improvised on the hoof. But since 1948 a clear body of precedent has built up around it. The key features are:

- the more or less voluntary consent of all parties to the presence and activities of the mission;
- the peacekeepers' impartiality in relation to the parties;
- the minimum use of force, only in the last resort and only in self defense. They have no enemies and are not there to win.

Despite its contradictions, peacekeeping, as a concept of UN operations, is widely accepted and relatively uncontroversial. The same cannot be said of Chapter VII action where this involves the use of military force in a country without the consent of the government of that country (assuming that it has one), in order to prevent gross and continuing violations of the basic human rights of sections of the country's population.

In the past dozen years, at least ten interventions have been justified under the general rubric of 'Humanitarian Intervention'. In five of them there was some degree of consent and a Security Council mandate: Rwanda (French-led, 1994), Albania (Italian-led, 1997), East Timor (Australian-led, 1999), Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL, 1999, 2000) and Bunia, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (Operation Artemis, French-led, 2003). These barely count as interventions in the strict sense at all. The other five, all led by the US, were true interventions in the sense that there was no consent by the government of the country in which action was taken: Iraq (1991), Somalia (1992), Haiti (1994), Bosnia (1995) and Kosovo (1999). These deserve further discussion.

USA

The United States of America has always been very adamant when it comes to intervention. This is seen time after time in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and most recently with the development of the Syrian crisis. During the Syrian crisis America

has always supported intervention and this was clearly shown by the speech John Carey the Secretary of State has made after the death of 1400 people due to chemical attacks in Syria, the secretary of state said, “there must be accountability” and that the “US will respond to the attack.” 3 resolutions made by the United Nations have been declined by Russia and China due to the fact that the United States keeps adding a clause which would allow military intervention into Syria, which Russia and China are clearly against. America has actively been intervening since the 1900’s, and America also helped Kuwait gain its sovereignty back during the Gulf War in 1991 when Iraq Invaded.

Syria

Due to the ongoing Syrian Civil War the country has been divided into two groups, one being the followers of the Basher Al Assad and his regime, the others being the followers of the rebel groups. The rebel groups are in favour of intervention because they believe they are not being provided the freedom they deserve. However the civilians in Syria at the moment fear intervention more than Al Assad and his military because of what they have seen on the news about the conditions of Iraq and Afghanistan after America leaves the country. The civilians would rather have America provide more equipment rather than intervening and this can be seen by the statement an arab women in a refugee camp on the Syrian and Turkish border made, she said,” Tell Obama we don’t want him to intervene, we don’t want to be another Iraq.”



Effects and corollary in the past

Do outside interventions into civil wars contribute to war termination, or do they have the adverse effect of prolonging the conflict? The weight of the broadly empirical evidence suggests that outside military and economic interventions increase the duration and hostility levels and make the termination of civil conflicts less likely. This poses an empirical conundrum where the policy community anticipates one outcome from its actions, and the evidence suggests quite the opposite. The discrepancy between apparent expectations of the policy makers and the results from the scholarly community can be accounted for by a closer theoretical and empirical specification of models of third-party intervention, particularly the effects of mediation and the sequencing of different combinations of interventions on civil war duration. While foreign powers are involved in a majority of civil wars, the consequences of intervention are varied and deserve scrutiny.

Issues of focus

1. There remained the need to address the problem of legality. What if, taking into account all five criteria of legitimacy, a very clear case could be made for coercive intervention, but the Security Council—under the UN Charter the only source of authority for the use of military force except in cases of legitimate self-defense—simply would not vote to authorize it? This was exactly the issue that had to be confronted with Kosovo in 1999 when all the elements of a horrific new ethnic cleansing operation were falling into place, but Russia made clear it would veto any military intervention. **Why is intervention often legitimate and seemingly well-intentioned, but deemed illegal? How can we bridge the gap between legitimate and legality?**
2. In these cases a very real dilemma arises as to which of two evils is the worse: the damage to international order if the Security Council is bypassed or the damage to that order if human beings are slaughtered while the Security Council stands by. The commission's response to this dilemma is at a dearth of potency and the legality of interventions is ambiguous in these situations. **How can we assure a politically robust, legally binding framework of intervention that is immune to misuse? How do we bring to justice the imminent misuse of international law in the above context?**

Proposed solutions

As we can see intervention into a country with an active civil war is not an easy decision to make because you have to consider the economic factors and weigh them against the social factors. This is why military intervention isn't always used as a first option by the world. If there is an active civil war going on within a country you should start diplomatic talks as a neutral entity. If no result is being achieved from talks than other countries could process sanctions against the country with an active civil war. Nations could use economic sanctions and military sanctions so that the country will not be capable of a large scale attack on its own population, however this may not always be practical because the country may include resources that the world requires. The world could start disregarding the nation's opinion or ban them from

organizations to make them feel like outsiders, just like how the Arab League suspended Syria's membership because their president refused to step down. If all of these factors produce no results than nations should be allowed to consider a military intervention, however even then they should look for other solutions such as political or diplomatic pressure.

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Topic II: Women, Peace and Security

Introduction

Women make up 50 per cent of the population, how can you possibly attempt to create and maintain international peace and security when you're excluding 50% of the population?

Women and girls experience conflict very differently from men and boys. These differences are wide-ranging and complex. They arise largely from the often distinct roles that women and men perform in their communities and homes in times of conflict and peace, and their respective status in society. Increasingly, targeted gender-based violence is being used as a weapon of war, with women and children at heightened risk of such violence during and after conflict. It is important to recognize that women and girls are not a homogenous group. Just as women and men have differential experiences of conflict, conflict affects diverse groups of women and girls in very different ways. Women and girls may not only be victims in need of protection in the context of conflict. They are also frequently active agents in both perpetuating conflict and building peace. Even though women play such a major role in peace building they are still not used to their full potential by peace keeping organizations such as the UN and this is seen by their employee gender ratios. Less than three per cent of UN peacekeeping personnel are female, and only 2.5 per cent of signatories, 3.2 per cent of mediators, 5.5 per cent of witnesses and 7.6 per cent of negotiators are women.

The Red Cross says the health needs of women often are neglected and ignored in areas ravaged by conflict. While the war wounded are given priority, it says women's needs, and in particular the needs of pregnant mothers and their children, are often given little attention, pregnant women in war zones who face serious medical emergencies and need immediate care too often are unable to reach a health care facility because a women's mobility can be restricted during a conflict because of the threat of violence or the result of cultural restrictions. Not being provided with healthcare leads to the death of the mother.

Female infanticide is generally increasing in countries such as India and especially China due to the implementation of the one child policy. Female infanticide is the deliberate killing of female infants. It is also described as gender-selective killing or gendercide. This act is likely to have serious consequences on the balance of the sexes in the population, which can be seen with the population ratios of China. Gender-selective killing is also most often done because of social aspects such as the father wanting the family name to be continued, and economic factors specially in rural areas such as the father not wanting to pay Dowry in the future during the wedding of

their daughter or the father preferring a son because of his abilities of being able to earn and earn more outside than their daughter

Background

By 1993, the Zenica Centre for the Registration of War and Genocide Crime in Bosnia Herzegovina had documented 40,000 cases of war-related rape.

An estimated 23,200 to 45,600 Kosovar Albanian women are believed to have been raped between August 1998 and August 1999, the height of the conflict with Serbia. In 2003, 74 percent of a random sample of 388 Liberian refugee women living in camps in Sierra Leone reported being sexually abused prior to being displaced from their homes in Liberia. Fifty-five percent of them experienced sexual violence during displacement. During and following a rebel offensive launched in 1998 on the capital city of Brazzaville, in the Republic of Congo, approximately 2,000 women sought out medical treatment for sexual violence, 10 percent of whom reported rape-related pregnancies.

United Nations officials estimate that the real number of women who were raped in Brazzaville during this single wave of violence was closer to 5,000. Based on the outcomes of a study undertaken in 2000, researchers concluded that approximately 50,000 to 64,000 internally displaced women may have been sexually victimized during Sierra Leone's protracted armed conflict.¹⁹ 19 percent of 1,575 Burundian women surveyed by the United Nations Population Fund in 2004 had been raped; 40 percent had heard about or had witnessed the rape of a minor. Of a sample of 410 internally displaced Colombian women in Cartagena who were surveyed in 2003, 8 percent reported some form of sexual violence prior to being displaced, and 11 percent reported being abused since their displacement. Between October 2004 and February 2005, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) treated almost 500 rape victims in Darfur, Sudan. Since that time, incidents of rape have continued, and MSF strongly believes the number of women who have been raped is much greater than the number of those who have received medical care.

Women experience armed conflict in diverse ways as victims, survivors, leaders and peacemakers. Violence against women in conflict zones is often an extension of the gender discrimination that already exists in peacetime. Women and their dependents in conflict zones are likely to lose access to adequate healthcare, including safe contraceptive methods as a greater proportion of money is being directed into war. Armed conflict often leads to a reduction in formal medical or psychological support for home-based caregivers, most of whom are women. Most of today's conflicts take place within states. Their root causes often include poverty, the struggle for scarce resources, and violations of human rights. They have another tragic feature in common: women and girls suffer their impact disproportionately. While women and girls endure the same trauma as the rest of the population -- bombings, famines, epidemics, mass executions, torture, arbitrary imprisonment, forced migration, ethnic cleansing, threats and intimidation -- they are also targets of specific forms of violence and abuse, including sexual violence and exploitation.

Sexual violence against women during conflict is a tactic of war that has reached epidemic proportions. An estimate that is close to 90 per cent of current war casualties are civilians, the majority of whom are women and children, compared to a century ago when 90 per cent of those who lost their lives were military personnel.

Another type of violence that occurs on women is female infanticide. In China, every year, about a million female fetuses are aborted and tens of thousands of female babies go missing. In China, a historical preference for a male child has been exacerbated by the one-child policy, which was enacted in 1979. The strong cultural preference for sons is heightened by the one-child policy leading and cultural values results in serious consequences.

Studies verify the phenomena using sex ratio at birth (SRB, the ratio of boys born per 100 girls). The average SRB is supposed to lie between 104 ~ 106; however, the research has shown that in some provinces go well beyond 130.

It has been argued that by having a one-child policy, China has increased the rate of abortion of female fetuses, thereby accelerating a demographic decline. As most Chinese families are given incentives to have only one child, and would often prefer at least one son. Researchers have expressed concern that prenatal sex selection may reduce the number of families in the next generation. "Later legal concessions (including the permission to have a second child if the first one is a girl) reflect some official recognition of these problems."

Gender bias can broadly impact a society, and it is estimated that by 2020 there could be more than 35 million young "surplus males" in China and 25 million in India. Policy makers in China are attempting to provide financial incentives to parents who have a female to help balance the sex ratio.

Rwandan genocide

The Rwandan genocide that took place in April 1994 where over 800,000 people were killed was one of the most fatal massacres the world has ever seen. The dispute between the Tutsi and the Hutu tribes brought much carnage as many lives of men, women and children were brutally taken away by murderers. It all started when Hutu extremists within Rwanda's political office blamed the entire Tutsi minority population for the increase of Rwanda's social, economic and political pressures. The violence began after president Habyarimana was shot down. Up to 500,000 women were raped many at gunpoint. Of a sample of Rwandan women surveyed in 1999, 39 percent reported being raped during the 1994 genocide, and 72 percent said they knew someone who had been raped. Further, more than 75 per cent of displaced people are women and children. The recent commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the Rwanda genocide brought renewed focus on one of the many troubling aspects of those events: the deep trauma faced by Rwandan women who had survived the massacres after suffering indescribable humiliation, violence and sexual abuse. But today, as Rwanda moves gradually towards democracy, a lesser-known story is emerging: the vital role played by former victims in the efforts to build a new society. In the September 2003 parliamentary elections in Rwanda, women secured 49% of seats in the legislature – the highest number of women parliamentarians anywhere in the world, overtaking Sweden with 45% and way above the world average of 15 %. In May 2003, Rwandans ratified a new constitution allotting 30% of decision-making

positions to women, a step inspired by the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. However, the election results went beyond the prescribed quota, an outcome for which Rwandan women lobbied heavily. As the country undergoes a period of reconstruction, women are playing an ever more active role. With a cadre of women parliamentarians assuming leadership responsibilities, this praiseworthy development will need to be accompanied by sustained measures to promote democracy at all levels.

In conflict areas across the world, women's movements have worked with the United Nations to rebuild the structures of peace and security, to rehabilitate and reconcile societies, to protect refugees and the internally displaced, to educate and raise awareness of human rights and the rule of law. Within the Organization itself, the integration of gender perspectives in peace and security areas has become a central strategy. An Inter-agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security has been established to address the role of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and other activities.

While the plight of women in war often gets close media attention, what is often overlooked is the vital role played by them in negotiating peace and rebuilding societies.

While too often reporting of women in conflict situations shows them as powerless victims, the reality, often glossed over, is that in post conflict situations women are in the forefront when it comes to negotiating and building peace. As Secretary-General Kofi Annan has pointed out, "Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it. For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls." There are many stories that remain to be told about women from all walks of life who are making a quantum leap from lives in the private sphere to leading the way in reshaping their societies. Between 2000 and 2002, elections were held in 23 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with increases in the number of women parliamentarians in 14 of them. In most cases, significant increases have been achieved through the use of quotas.

At the peak of the crisis in Liberia, women of the Mano River region (Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone) came together to form the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET). So powerful was MARWOPNET's voice that it was invited to the ECOWAS-sponsored peace talks on Liberia in Akosombo, Ghana, and later was invited to be one of the signatories to the peace agreement. Now upon their return to Liberia, many of them will run for political office.

Women as torchbearers of peace are making a difference in hot spots of every region of the world. In Nepal, women who were victims of violence are seeking representation in peace talks between the government and Maoist rebels. Women's Peace Caravans venture into the most treacherous conflict-ridden interiors of Colombia to protest against the civil war and negotiate with the guerillas. Throwing themselves into peace processes with enormous courage and determination, women in politics, through their often unseen and unsung work, are bringing peace to many troubled countries.

On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (SCR 1325). The adoption of Resolution 1325 was historic and unprecedented and marked the first time the Security Council addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women, recognized the under-valued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building, and stressed the importance of their equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.

In response to persistent advocacy from civil society, the UN Security Council has so far adopted four additional resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. In addition to SCR 1325 (2000), these resolutions are: Security Council Resolutions 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1889 (2009); 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013). The six resolutions should be taken together as they comprise the Women, Peace and Security thematic agenda of the Security Council, and the international security policy framework. The obligation in the resolutions extends from the international to the local level, as well as from intergovernmental bodies, such as the United Nations, to national level governments.

Proposed Solution

The world has experienced a lot of violence in these many years amid the recent ongoing Middle Eastern conflicts. Women and children are vulnerable to such mayhem and they should be protected in every means necessary. In the case of an outbreak, women and children should be prioritised in evacuation plans and should be done immediately. Neighbouring countries should agree to reserve sites for refugee camps to inhabit these women and children. Food and water should be immediately provided along with medical experts and UN army for security. The welfare of women and children must be highly considered and their needs satisfied, even in times of war. Women should be given the right to education and labour. This is in regard to the UN Human Rights Charter, as all people have the right to their own and is also one of the Millennium Development Goals. Women should attend self defense classes in order to be capable of protecting themselves if something were to happen to them.

- General conclusions from an ICRC Study on Women and War

- Women should not be considered solely as “victims” or “vulnerable”
- Women experience armed conflicts in a multitude of ways
- International humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law afford protection according to the needs of women in situations of armed conflicts
- Women suffer in war today not because of an absence of law, but because of the lack of implementation of, and/or respect for, existing laws
- Sexual violence is unacceptable and not inevitable. There needs to be a much more comprehensive response to sexual violence
- It is important to involve women in the assessment, implementation and evaluation of programmes and activities carried out in their favour
- In its focus on women, the Women facing War study does not negate the needs of men

- In the waging of today's war, parties to armed conflict are more and more often not distinguishing between combatants and civilians.
- The blurring of this distinction risks an unacceptable spiral towards "total war" (i.e. any civilian, solely through their presence in an area where war is being waged, risks being targeted by a party to an armed conflict.)
- Access to victims and conflict-affected areas is absolutely essential in order to try to put a stop to violations and/or to try to bring assistance and protection to affected persons.

The Conclusion

Women are the pathway to the future generation of this world, women also provide the gentle touch needed during peace keeping negotiations which makes them vital to us and earth which is why they must be protected and be secured from violent and horrific crimes that occur on a daily basis such as sexual assault and rape. We need to provide all women with education so that we can use their brilliant minds to help us in improving the world we live in.

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Topic III: Maintenance of international security through stability and development in the Middle East and North Africa

The Statement of the Problem

What do we mean by stability?

The stability we wish for can be phrased in terms of political systems which are capable of managing conflict and change peacefully, and societies in which human rights and the law are respected, basic needs and fundamentals of life are provided, security established and opportunities for social and economic development are open to all. This type of political stability, is built on the will of the public, it is strong and flexible in the face of mayhem, and can evolve over time as the situation changes.

At present, the Middle East and North Africa region is battling severe unrest, conflict and protests in its States with the citizens contesting for a pro-democratic government. These protests, both violent and non-violent in nature, have had a damaging effect on the already weak economic position and humanitarian stature of the region. With the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals reaching sooner and sooner, the Arab community has to confront unemployment, humanitarian, water and political crises as well as get back on the road to recovery financially before the zone can become secure and work towards development of each separate nation.

The Arab Spring, a term summarising the numerous interior conflicts in the different states in the region, calls for redefining relations between neighbour states as well as implementing peace treaties between border nations in order to stabilise and construct peace in the region. Along with the on-going Arab Spring, the governments, citizens and international community also has to face economic instability, a potential water crisis and high rates of youth unemployment and underemployment. These issues have to be tackled for the states to develop into secure nations, politically as well as economically.

The strengthening of this region, in all aspects, is vital for the preservation of international peace and security. The present situation in Middle East and North Africa has a significant impact on international security and economy with the area's strategic geographical location as well as the zone containing a substantial amount of the world's oil supplies. Furthermore, Northern Africa also controls and owns the Suez Canal which is an important trade route for countries in Europe as it allows them to save lots of resources while transporting ships and good to the Middle East and Gulf. The region can become a emerging market through cooperation between states, especially between those that share a border and the resolving of long-standing conflict and divisions between the MENA states themselves.



Background – The MENA region

The MENA region is defined as the World Bank to be “an economically diverse region that includes both the oil-rich economies in the Gulf and countries that are resource-scarce in relation to population.” The World Bank states that the region’s affluent economy in the past quarter century has been heavily impacted by the price of oil and the remnant of the economic strategies that had been made to accentuate the leading role of the State. The region contains many Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs) as well as 6 per cent of the world’s population. The World Bank also states that 23 per cent of the zone’s population survives on a meagre \$2 per day.

Extreme poverty has declined in the MENA region from 6 per cent in 1992 to 2.4 per cent (8 million people) in 2010. While the region has achieved five of the MDGs, progress is still lacking or insufficient on the targets of primary school completion and access to safe water. Only 2 states are making sufficient progress on infant mortality and only 4 have met the MDG on safe water. At state level, progress varies between the 19 nations, inclusive of unstable and conflict affected states, which have either met or are making sufficient progress on poverty reduction.

The World Bank recognises the states in the MENA region to be Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, West Bank and Gaza, Yemen.

According to the Oil and Gas Journal (January 2009), the MENA region contains 60 per cent of the world’s oil reserves as well as 45 per cent of the world’s natural gas reserves. If the unexplored potential of this area is unlocked, it is possible for this area to become the driving force behind the growth of the world’s economy. However, for this to be achieved better cooperation amongst states as well as a strong government is imperative.

-The Arab Spring

The Arab Spring is a revolutionary surge of protests and demonstrations against the governments of the nations in the MENA region, both violent and non-violent in nature. The wave was sparked in Tunisia on December 17th 2010 when Mohamed Bouazizi, a graduate unemployed, had a quarrel with the police when he was selling vegetables on the street. In response, the man burnt himself to death. As the news spread to other parts of Tunisia as well as other MENA states, rallies and demonstrations against the government followed.

After weeks of mass demonstrations against the Tunisian government, on 14th January 2011, the Tunisian president, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, fled to Saudi Arabia after ruling for 23 years, marking a new beginning for the State. On 28th January, the Egypt protestors took over Tahrir Square as the wave spread into their state. This led to the fall in popularity of the Mubarak regime which later on led to the downfall of his rule. The demonstrations in Egypt inspired citizens of other MENA states, i.e. Yemen, Bahrain, Libya and Syria, where uprisings were soon occurred.

On the 14th of March, Saudi Arabian troops entered Bahrain to facilitate the Bahrain government against the uprisings against the Shia Muslims, the majority. Since then, the divide between the Shia and Sunni Muslims has grown to be more pronounced and the situation in the Gulf has started to become unstable. As tensions escalated, the regime in Libya was under attack and Tripoli itself was bombed on the 17th of March. Days later, on the 30th of March, after the first Syrian protests, President Bashar-al-Assad gave his first speech on the demonstrations where he announced them to be a part of a foreign conspiracy against his regime, which angered the protesters further.

On the 20th of October, the Libyan ruler, Col Gaddafi was killed, thereby ending his regime. On the 22nd of January 2012, the Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh stepped down and went to the United States. However, Yemen still faces many challenges, the most urgent of which being food scarcity, a water crisis and the lessening of oil, the staple of the economy. Two days later, President Mursi won the first free presidential elections and faced the daunting task of converging a split state..

The nations in the MENA region have all been affected by the Spring, directly or indirectly, and in the states border to those experiencing conflict, refugees have made resources more scarce than before. At present, there are approximately 1.9 million registered Syrian refugees in other states (UNHCR). There is a shortage of humanitarian aid for these citizens as well as economic deficiencies in the states.

Due to the feeling of insecurity and instability, most leaders and administrations in the MENA region started using force against the general public the most recent examples are Syria and Libya, this has led to even more riots and forced the people to raise arms against there own governments. Protests have caused a social divide within the population which has resulted in an ongoing civil war especially in areas like Syria where the army has been accused of using chemical weapons to bog down and defeat the rebels. However the Syrian army condemns the statement provided by the media and claims that Syrian rebel forces are using the chemical weapons on their own people to gain the sympathy of the Western world. However no one precisely knows who used the weapons, the United Nations report claims that 1400 people were killed due to these chemicals.

It is popular belief that the Arab Spring is the right path that has been chosen by the people for a secure future. The uprisings has brought about a cascade of change in certain states, for example Libya and Egypt, yet these states have still not recovered economically as well as politically from the impact of the protest. However, there are people who believe that a transformation in the regime is not enough to bring about even short-term stability and question the fulfilment of the promises made by the Arab Spring.

-The Arab League

Based on a similar ideology as the European Union, the Arab League is a forum for all Arabic-speaking nations to converge. The League aims to fortify relationships between states and direct all of them to a mutual aim. Founded in 1945, the League

has 22 member states, inclusive of Palestine, which it believes to be an independent state.

The League's main goal is to draw closer the relations between member States and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence, sovereignty and to maintain stability in Arab And Northern African countries by promoting economic growth, to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries and to allow the development of the Arab World, through institutions such as the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO) and the Economic and Social Council of the Arab League's Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the Arab League facilitates political, economic, cultural, scientific and social programs designed to promote the interests of the Arab world. It has served as a forum for the member states to coordinate their policy positions, to deliberate on matters of common concern, to settle some Arab disputes, and to limit conflicts such as the 1958 Lebanon crisis. The League has served as a platform for the drafting and conclusion of many landmark documents promoting economic integration. One example is the Joint Arab Economic Action Charter which sets out the principles for economic activities in the region.

The League also functions as a platform for the Arab States to congregate and decide on various issues in relation to the Arab world, although, the League's effectiveness has been considerably hindered by division between States. The Cold War saw the first of the split parties between the Arab League as some nations were in favour of the westerners while others in favour of the soviets. In a more recent international conflict, some nations were in favour of the United States of America moving into Iraq while others did not.

It is important to note that the League's decisions are only binding for a particular state if that state has voted in favour of the decision, furthering obstructing the League. Nevertheless, the League has shown a greater sense of perseverance since the start of the Arab Spring. It has supported the United Nations against the forces of Gaddafi and also suspended Syria from the League as it was in disagreement with the brutal treatment of its citizens by the Assad regime.

-United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM)

The United States Africa Command is one of nine Unified Combatant Commands of the United States Armed Forces, headquartered at Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany. It is responsible for U.S. military operations and military relations with 53 African nations – it manages and area of all of Africa except Egypt. the areas managed by the USAFRICOM are a responsibility of the United States Central Command. One of the main objectives of USAFRICOM is to promote stability and security within the region. It was formed in February 2007

The USAFRICOM was part of the military intervention into Libya which took place late in the year of 2011 which led to the end of the regime of Muammar Gaddafi

-Proposed Solutions

One of the biggest problems faced by Northern Africa and Middle East is education isn't given as high as a priority as it deserves, for example 14 million Egyptians out of the population of 80 million are illiterate, therefore they can't tell the difference between right and wrong. With proper education people will be capable of choosing their governments this is especially important for countries which have just gone through revolution such as Egypt, Libya and Tunisia. If people here are not educated they could be easily fooled by politicians which could lead to another revolution later on which would disrupt the peace and stability in the region. Without education you cannot have development. Stable governments are a necessity if you wish to maintain peace in the area, may that be new governments, democracies or monarchies, and you must have stable governments. If a country must go through with a revolution or political reform then both the government and the people should go through the reform peacefully without raising arms and weapons as these only lead to the destruction of their country and the stability of the region.

What has the United Nations done?

- During the Libyan crisis the United Nations condemned the violence in Libya due to Col Gaddafi's troops and also asked to immediately stop all violence, by passing the resolutions 1970 and 1973
- NATO led the military intervention into Libya which led to the downfall of the Gaddafi regime.
- The UN has provided Libya with more than \$200 million dollars in humanitarian aid.
- The UN has conducted chemical soil tests to determine if chemical weapons were or were not used.
- The United Nations has attempted to make 3 resolutions to try to stop the chaos that resides in Syria however they have been vetoed by Russia and China
- The United Nations passed resolution 660 which is why the Iraqi troops were forced to withdraw from the Kuwait region
- The United Nations passed the resolution 1929 to stricken the financial sanction of Iran and to forbid Iran's government from investing money on Uranium. Furthermore the United Nations passed resolution 1803 which states that UN members must inspect Iranian vessels and planes for any goods being transported in or out of the country which are not allowed by the sanctions imposed.

Conclusion

When violent conflict breaks out, the costs to the country and the international Communities are enormous. Lives are lost, people displaced, trade links cut, and Organized crime groups or terrorists are given an opportunity to take root, exacerbating instability Due to the Arab spring and unrest in the Middle East and Northern Africa more than 110000+ people have died, all because of civil war, instability and conflict within their countries.

In our interconnected world, the effect of violence in one region can spread to other more stable areas through refugee flows, terrorist activity, and organized crime groups, all of which can have an impact on the worlds security. Five countries all in the midst of conflict - produced 60% of the world's refugees in 2009. Conflict impacts on governance, accountability and the provision by the state of services such as security and justice. Chaos in countries like Yemen and Libya allows Al Qaida and other terrorist groups to recruit, train and organize, providing a launch pad for attacks on the world, which leads to the security of the world being undermined. Such poorly governed spaces also create platforms for organized crime groups which can use to cause terror throughout the world.

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