



# Security Council

Berkeley Model  
United Nations



**LXIII**  
SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

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*A big welcome to Security Council! My name is Brandon Doan and I will be your head chair for BMUN 63. As many of you already know, Security Council is typically one of the most challenging and dynamic committees in both the real United Nations and Model United Nations. Because its job description is to “maintain international peace and security,” the SC makes many of the United Nations’ most critical decisions that have very real and serious implications for the rest of the global community. Indeed, your job as delegates in the SC will be to form solutions that contribute to this international peace and are agreeable to all (or at least most) of the members. Understandably this is much easier said than done, which is why we hope to see creativity, persuasion, and solid knowledge of the facts and policies that will make for an even more interesting debate.*

*As for me, I'm a senior studying Human Physiology and Peace and Conflicts Studies. I've been involved with MUN for 8 years now and the main reason why I've kept up with it is for the way it helps students step out of their comfort zone and gain confidence with speaking and approachability – arguably some of the most important life skills to develop. There is also a lot to be said about how the research can enhance or challenge a person's perspective the more he or she learns about unexpected world issues, and that's definitely an environment we try to foster at Berkeley. That being said, my main areas of interest lie in the health field and I am currently pursuing a future in pediatric surgery. A personal experience that helped shape my goals was working with mobile clinics abroad and providing healthcare to Haitian refugees in the Dominican Republic after the 2010 earthquake. Closer to campus, I volunteer as a cancer and hepatitis counsellor and am also heavily involved with social work in the Bay Area as well. Outside of school, I love exploring music and going to concerts with friends, keeping up with tennis, and playing with my fraternity's new house dog. I'm really excited for conference weekend and hope to see all your hard work and preparation pay off. Remember we'll be looking for creativity, teamwork, personal growth, and most importantly, respect. Best of luck and send me any questions or concerns at [bdoan@bmun.org](mailto:bdoan@bmun.org).*

*A great addition to the team, Trevor Dowds is a second year Electrical Engineering and Computer Science major here at Cal. He has been involved in MUN for six years now and is especially excited to be chairing Security Council for you all this year. From his perspective, Security Council is one of the most challenging committees BMUN hosts, but the information you learn and the skills you develop will take you much farther than you can currently imagine. It is*



*for that reason he really looks forward to working with you all come conference weekend. As for his interests outside of Model UN, he is also involved in a consulting club on campus called Berkeley Consulting, and also does web development on BMUN's registration web app, Huxley. In his free time, he loves to play soccer, surf, ski, and play guitar. If you have any questions about the committee, Berkeley, or the College of Engineering, please feel free to reach him at [tdowds@bmun.org](mailto:tdowds@bmun.org)!*

*Also joining the dias, we have Zoe Brouns. She is a second year at Berkeley and has been participating in MUN for four years now, in both Europe and Africa. She's incredibly excited to be a part of this conference and has a lot to bring to our dias having unique international experience. Zoe is majoring in Political Science, and her goal is to be a diplomat. She is very involved in the student government at Berkeley, and her focus is improving the Greek system, currently in a sorority herself. She also loves playing soccer, reading, and going to concerts! As a chair, she will be looking for a positive attitude, innovation, and thoughtful leadership! Wishing you the best of luck, you can reach her with questions at [zbroouns@bmun.org](mailto:zbroouns@bmun.org).*



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## Topic Background

Capturing immense attention in recent media, a group known as the Islamic State (IS) has become the new face of terrorism. Based in Iraq and Syria, IS currently has a headcount of about 30,000 soldiers, up three times as much from the previous CIA estimate (Sciutto). However, it is not the group's manpower that sets IS apart as a formidable threat – it is the combination of jihadist radicalism, a solid core structure, and uncompromised funding that mobilizes the Islamic State to power.

To begin understanding the IS, consider the fundamental advantage as described by Islamic State spokesperson Abu Muhammad al-Adnani earlier in September 2014. According to Muhammad, the Islamic State supporters believe “being killed … is a victory. You fight a people who can never be defeated. They either gain victory or are killed” (Muhammad al-Adnani). Political scientist Shadi Hamid in a response to Muhammad adds, “ISIS fighters are not only willing to die in a blaze of religious ecstasy; they welcome it, believing that they will be granted direct entry into heaven” (Hamid). Both comments describe the far end of jihadist extremism that the common eye may naturally associate with terrorism in the Middle East. But when it comes to such radicalism, IS tactics are so brutal that Al-Qaeda disavowed it earlier in February 2014 (“Al-Qaeda Disavows ISIS in Syria,” 2014).

As the Islamic State continues to sweep westward from Syria into Central Iraq, accounts from civilians living in occupied territories underscore the terror of IS radicalism. In the Iraqi city of Mosul, for example, the Christian minority faced an ultimatum starting July 2014: to convert to Islam, pay a levy, or face execution. Just a month after IS took over Mosul, residents have seen the city’s Christian population shrink from just over 5,000 to about 200 (“Convert, Pay Tax, or Die, Islamic State Warns Christians,” 2014). It is important to note that Christians are not the only minorities systematically targeted by the Islamic State in Iraq; other communities like the Yazidis, Shabak, and Turkmen have similarly suffered under IS control in multiple other cities. On this larger scale, the United Nations Refugee Agency reports the Islamic State is responsible for 26,000 civilian casualties and the internal displacement of 1.8 million people in Iraq (“Iraq's Displacement Crisis Deepens as Civilians Flee Latest ISIS Offensive,” 2014). Ethnic cleansing, forced abductions, mass massacres, beheadings of minority women and children, and even of captured Westerners, list a few of the radical tactics used by the Islamic



State to conquer new territories. Additionally alarming are the “barbaric acts of sexual violence against women, teenage girls and boys belonging to Iraqi minorities,” including “savage rapes,” and submission of these minorities to sexual slavery and trafficking, as reported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence (SRSG) in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Nickolay Mladenov (“‘Barbaric’ Sexual Violence Perpetrated by Islamic State Militants in Iraq – UN,” 2014). Altogether, the Islamic State has accrued multiple serious counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, drawing strength from unyielding jihadist radicalism taken to a level that the UN and even other high profile terrorist organizations have publically condemned.

In combination with the extreme measures IS has taken to take to realize its cause, two other critical factors set it apart as one of the most threatening terror organizations. The first can be seen through the Islamic State’s impressive hierarchy of rule extending into every new territory it gains. Reports by the Terrorism Research Analysis Consortium reveal IS implants governing systems that secure basic social amenities like gas and food in the cities it takes over – a contrast to other terrorist groups which can solely force the security of their conquered sites through more lawless and violent approaches (Thompson and Shubert). This strategy has helped the Islamic State solidify its presence even while continuing to expand. And when it comes to success in expansion, IS especially benefits from its second distinguishing factor: unparalleled funding. The Islamic State currently operates on the largest budget ever seen in the history of terrorism at an estimated annual income of 2 billion; to compare, Al-Qaeda only makes about 100-150 million annually, according to estimates by Forbes (Yenko).

Clearly, the Islamic State has the determination, the organization, and the resources needed to continue expanding, undermining peace and security even on an international scale. The threat it poses reaches far beyond the cities it now controls in Syria and Iraq. In addition to torturing and publically behead foreign hostages, the group also recruits sympathizers and members globally. And through the official statement, “Rig the roads with explosives for them. Attack their bases. Raid their homes. Cut off their heads. Do not let them feel secure...” senior IS leaders have recently called for lone wolf attacks in the West (Levs and Yan). IS terrorism, having already caused so much human suffering, demands immediate attention and response by the international community.



## United Nations Involvement

Before the Islamic State separated from Al-Qaeda, the United Nations was significantly involved in the countries where IS now operates, and the UN's involvement in those nations has predicated their current response to IS. Within Iraq, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) created in 2003 by Security Council Resolution 1500 has "played a crucial role in providing significant support in the drafting of Iraq's 2005 Constitution, assisting in six elections, coordinating UN humanitarian efforts...and providing advisory support" ("Facts and Figures"). Furthermore, the United Nations has posed varying degrees of involvement in Syria ranging from a peacekeeping mission whose mandate was terminated in August of 2012 and several humanitarian investigations throughout the Syrian Civil War ("United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS)"). The culmination of the UN's involvement in these two countries has developed the framework the UN has adhered to ever since IS broke off from Al-Qaeda.

This framework can be broken down to two real means of involvement for the United Nations: direct support internally for countries affected by IS such as Iraq, and coordination and encouragement of other nations to take appropriate measures to dispel the situation. To demonstrate the UN's direct support internally, the Security Council in Resolution 2169 extended the mandate of UNAMI another 12 months in the hopes that greater progress can be met towards developing a more stable government ("United Nations Official Document." 2014). By developing a more stable government, the UN believes that it can remove the governmental instability that may have contributed to the ambitions of IS to develop its own state and form of governance.

Furthermore, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution on August 29, 2014 in which they requested "to dispatch a mission to Iraq to investigate alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law committed by...the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant" in order to accurately assess the gravity of the human rights violations occurring and coordinate aid and assistance to those affected by IS ("The human rights situation in Iraq", 2014). In addition, the United Nations has declared the humanitarian situation caused by IS to be a "Level 3 Emergency" to address directly the grave human rights violations that are occurring in Iraq and Syria because of IS ("UN Declares a 'Level 3 Emergency' for Iraq", 2014). According



to Nickolay Mladenov a Level 3 Emergency “represents the highest level of humanitarian crisis” and “will help trigger more resources and expedite administrative procedures for the response”, which demonstrates how enormous the human rights situation is in Iraq due to IS (“UN Declares Highest Level of Emergency in Iraq over ISIS Advance.”, 2014).

The other approach the United Nations has taken has been encouraging other countries to combat IS’s human rights abuses from an external angle. For example, the Security Council recently passed with a unanimous vote S/Res/2170 which “calls upon all Member States to take national measures to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters” and includes IS “on the Al-Qaida sanctions list” (Resolution 2170, 2014). IS has been heavily recruiting for fighters from throughout the world, and in response the UN has encouraged countries to tighten their borders. In addition the UN has issued a number of press releases to the international community as responses to military seizures conducted by IS and the beheading of James Foley to make the international community more aware of the UN’s investigation of the situation. Furthermore the President of the Security Council said that IS “is subject to the arms embargo and assets freeze imposed by Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 2083 (2012)” to demonstrate that the UN’s past involvement in countering terrorism will continue to keep the UN active (Statement by the President of the Security Council, 2014). Overall the role the United Nations has played in inhibiting IS’s spread has been ultimately to help consolidate a discussion of the situation and to garner a unified response from the international community to the outrageous human rights violations committed by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria.

## **Case Study | Derna, Libya**

ISIS has not been limited to Syria and Iraq. With their successful use of social media and publicized acts of terror, ISIS was able to garner enough support to expand into several other locations in the world. One such location is Derna, Libya. Because of the political turmoil in Libya, ISIS fighters were able to advance into this vulnerable area. In doing so, they were able to gain complete control of this city of over 100,000 with just 800 individuals (Cruickshank). As with the other locations that they have seized control over, ISIS has been able to utilize the geography and the citizens to have a successful expansion. There are multiple facilities across the Green Mountains where fighters are being trained to help support their cause (Cruickshank).



These new fighters supported the Shura Council for the Youth of Islam in Derna, a pro-ISIS faction, prior to being amalgamated into ISIS (Cruickshank).

With this advancement into Derna, a few conclusions can be drawn about ISIS. First, they are strategically selecting their expansion locations. Knowing that they had a substantial amount of support, ISIS judged that Derna was an ideal location to expand and seize control over. Second, they have developed an effective strategy to quickly integrate the society into their own culture. With their radical acts of terror, they are able to force the citizens into joining their side both politically and culturally. This allows them to quickly seize control over the education, judicial, and religious factions in the area. In order to ensure a successful expansion, the ISIS leader, Baghdadi, sends a trusted senior aide to these new locations; in the case of Derna, Abu Nabil al Anbari, an Iraqi ISIS veteran was sent to oversee the expansion progress (Cruickshank).

Clearly, ISIS has an effective expansion strategy, which is one of the key reasons why they are a large threat to the international community.



## Questions to Consider

1. Define cultural relativism and explain its relevance in regard to ISIS. Evaluate both sides of the argument and provide your insight on whether or not the claims of ISIS are legitimate.
2. Choose another terrorist organization (or historical empire) that has had some kind of success with starting a revolution. Compare and contrast their efforts with ISIS.
3. Provide a well-constructed argument for why ISIS uses social media as an outlet to show public acts of terror. (Your argument should have critical thinking involved. i.e. More than just to start an uprising.)
4. Choose a different issue that would be under the jurisdiction of the Security Council and explain why it should also be discussed during the BMUN conference.



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