



# HoMMUNC

Disarmament and International Security  
Committee (DISEC)

Chair: Ethan Klaris  
Moderator: Anne Rosenblatt

Delegates of the General Assembly,

It is my privilege to be your chair for the 29<sup>th</sup> session of the Horace Mann Model UN Conference (HoMMUNC). Back in freshman year, HoMMUNC was the first conference I ever attended and I have been a MUN fanatic ever since. As one of the Secretaries-General of the Horace Mann MUN team, I have had a hand in organizing every part of this conference; however, DISEC has a particularly special place in my heart because when I participated as a delegate in HoMMUNC during my freshman and sophomore years, DISEC was my committee.

Model UN introduced me to the world of politics and international relations and I have developed a deep interest in those career fields. This past summer, I interned for U.S. Senator Charles Schumer doing casework in his New York City office. I have also worked at the United Nations Press Corps, the office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, the World Bank, and the Christine Quinn Mayoral Campaign.

Outside of the world of MUN and government, I love backpacking and mountaineering. I spent thirty days in the Wind River Range of Wyoming last summer with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) and went to Washington State this August to climb Mount Baker, a 11,000-foot glaciated volcano. This is my fourth year playing on the varsity squash team and rowing for the varsity crew team at school.

Anne and I chose these topics because of their extreme pertinence in light of recent world events. We hope that delegates will bring to committee knowledge of their country's policy, global consciousness, and solution ideas in equal part and that debate is lively and collaboration-focused. I am so looking forward to meeting all of you and hearing how you plan to solve some of humanity's most pressing issues.

Best,

Ethan Klaris

## **Committee Background**

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the General Assembly First Committee of the United Nations. DISEC serves the purpose of maintaining international peace and security and deals with all global disarmament and security issues under the domain of the United Nations Charter or related organizations of the UN.

DISEC is comprised of all 193 United Nations member states and all additional General Assembly observers. As DISEC is one of six main General Assembly committees, all member states have equal representation.

In committee, your goal is to draft a resolution that aligns with the purpose of DISEC by promoting international security and preventing weapon proliferation. As a General Assembly committee, DISEC cannot authorize sanctions or interventions but rather serves to establish a consensus among the international community and outline international law. However, resolutions passed by DISEC are able to propose actions to be implemented by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). This committee will follow standard parliamentary procedure. A simple majority (a vote of 50% + 1) is needed to pass a resolution.

## **Topic A: Drone Warfare**

### **Overview of the Problem**

A drone is defined as an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that is controlled by onboard computers or remotely by a pilot on the ground. Drones are most often used for targeted military strikes and aerial surveillance. In the past decade, drone use has increased exponentially. However, there still exists a wide gap in international law regarding the case of drone use in

warfare. Minimal international regulation exists on the use of drones and a global lack of transparency regarding drone use causes many to question the legality of the weapon.



Figure I: Image of an Armed MQ-9 Reaper drone

### *Legality of the Issue*

In particular, the legal issues or questions regarding drones have surfaced concerning the case of drone use in extrajudicial killings and executions. Extrajudicial killing, also referred to as targeted killing or selective assassination, is defined as the killing of an individual or multiple individuals by governmental authorities without the judgment of a court. Under international law, targeted killing is legal during armed conflict if the target is classified as a “combatant,” someone participating in combat.<sup>1</sup> Outside of armed conflict and during peacetimes, international law becomes much stricter. Extrajudicial killings clearly violate the principle of due process. However, every nation has the right to act in anticipatory self-defense against an imminent threat, even during times of peace; killing is legal if such threat cannot be stopped by any other means.<sup>2</sup> While the United Nations along with

various Non-Governmental Organizations

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<sup>1</sup> David Kretzmer, "Targeted Killing of Suspected Terrorists: Extra-Judicial Executions or Legitimate Means of Defence?," *European Journal of International Law*, last modified 2005, <http://www.ejil.org/pdfs/16/2/292.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Kretzmer, "Targeted Killing of Suspected," *European Journal of International Law*.

(NGO's), most notably Amnesty International, have made and continue to make efforts to minimize the practice of extrajudicial killings, nations continue to carry out targeted executions under the justification of self-defense. With unclear international law and standards, unregulated use of drones during peacetimes continues without repercussion.



Figure II: Image of Aftermath of US 2012 Yemen  
Drone Strike

Drones are frequently used in targeted killings due to the lack of risk – the individual or group that controls the drones faces no physical threat, as the weapon itself is unmanned. However, the very essence of the drone presents additional legal and ethical dilemmas. Without risk, governmental authorities can carry out drone strikes much more readily and without sufficient safety or security precautions. In the past 5 years, United States drones alone have killed an estimated 2,400, targeting “suspected terrorists and militants.”<sup>3</sup> Due to the lack of transparency surrounding drone use, the number of non-combatant civilian casualties is difficult

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<sup>3</sup> Matt Sledge, "The Toll of 5 Years of Drone Strikes: 2,400 Dead," *Huffington Post*, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/obama-drone-program-anniversary\\_n\\_4654825.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/23/obama-drone-program-anniversary_n_4654825.html).

to assess. Still, research and media sources have speculated that civilians account for hundreds of these U.S. drone strike deaths.<sup>4</sup>

Additionally, the United States has been criticized for using its “double tap” method, in which two simultaneous drone strikes are carried out to hit the same target in a period usually ranging from 10 to 20 minutes.<sup>5</sup> This method helps ensure that the mission is successful; however, it prevents any medical aid from approaching the targeted area and increases the likelihood of civilian casualties, posing serious humanitarian concerns.

Today, the morality and legality of drone use has been put in the spotlight, labeled as a “hot-topic” issue by media sources. As the drone-related death count continues to multiply, increased pressure has been put on the international community to clarify international law on drone use, reduce the number of civilian casualties, and halt the proliferation of weapons. It is necessary for DISEC to address these gaps in international law and to establish an international consensus on the regulation of drone use in order to maintain global security from “drone wars,” expand international laws of war to modern technologies, and prevent humanitarian abuses from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV’s.)

## **History of the Problem**

### *The First Drones*

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<sup>4</sup> Sledge, "The Toll of 5 Years."

<sup>5</sup> Chris Woods and Mushtaq Yusufzai, "Get the Data: The Return of Double-tap Drone Strikes," The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, last modified August 1, 2013, <http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2013/08/01/get-the-data-the-return-of-double-tap-drone-strikes/>.

The first documented development of an unmanned aerial vehicle was the United States' "Aerial Target" in 1916.<sup>6</sup> While considered to be a success, the Aerial Target was developed too late for its intended purposes as a U.S. weapon in the First World War. Still, the Aerial Target proved the potential of UAV weapons and opened a new door for research on drones and new weapons technologies.

While the history of unmanned aerial vehicles can be traced back to the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the modern and evolved drone is a relatively new invention. The Vietnam War marked the first significant use of drones in warfare. South Vietnam launched 3,435 Ryan Firebees, target drones originally developed in 1951 that would go on to become one of the most highly used drone of its kind, supplied by the United States for use over the North Vietnam area.<sup>7</sup> Still, drones were not considered to be reliable or a weapon of significant threat; this attitude towards drones only shifted in 1982 when the Israeli Air Force successfully utilized drones to shoot down their enemy's aircraft and defeat the Syrian Air Force.<sup>8</sup> Israel's victory turned international attention towards drones and the potential of UAV's. Since, drone research and development has been a constant process, and drones have gained a global reputation as one of the most serious, threatening, and valuable weapons world-wide.

### *The History of United States Controversy*

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<sup>6</sup> "Drones: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Always Afraid to Ask," Mother Jones, <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/03/drones-explained>.

<sup>7</sup> "Drones: Everything You Wanted," Mother Jones.

<sup>8</sup> John Sifton, "A Brief History of Drones," *The Nation*, <http://www.thenation.com/article/166124/brief-history-drones#>.

In the past two decades, drones have gained significant media attention largely related to the United States. On February 4, 2002, the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) first used an unmanned aerial vehicle in a targeted killing.<sup>9</sup> The drone strike occurred in Paktia, Afghanistan; 3 adult men were killed.<sup>10</sup> Speculation surrounding the event suggested that Osama bin Laden might have been the intended target. The U.S. government only released information that their targets were "legitimate," providing no other explanation.<sup>11</sup> The United States originally started flying drones over Afghanistan after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. Their UAV use is closely linked to the US' "War on Terror." The United States CIA and United States Air Force are often cited to use General Atomics' "MG-1 Predator" drone and others similar to it.<sup>12</sup>

Since 2004, the United States has largely focused its international military drone use on Pakistan. Most targets are located along the Afghan border in Northwest Pakistan. On June 18, 2004 the U.S. killed 5-8 people in the first documented drone strike in Pakistan. Drone strikes have continued since 2004, and more recently on June 12, 2014, 16 were killed by two U.S. drone strikes in the Dargah Mandi village and Dande Darpakhel area in North Waziristan.<sup>13</sup>

In January 2014, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (BIJ) released "January 2014 Update: U.S. Covert Actions" with estimates regarding U.S. drone strikes. Estimates included: total drone strikes at 381, total deaths 2,537 - 3,646, total civilian casualties 416 – 951, and total

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<sup>9</sup> Sifton, "A Brief History of Drones."

<sup>10</sup> Sifton, "A Brief History of Drones."

<sup>11</sup> Sifton, "A Brief History of Drones."

<sup>12</sup> "Drones: Everything You Wanted," Mother Jones.

<sup>13</sup> Sifton, "A Brief History of Drones."



injured 1,128 - 1,557.<sup>14</sup> Geographically, the BIJ released a tally of deaths from drone strikes since 2004 at: between 475-891 in Pakistan, 72-178 in Yemen, and 11-57 in Somalia.<sup>15</sup> The BIJ estimates claimed that only 1.5% of the total number of deaths by drones could be classified as “high-profile targets.”<sup>16</sup>

In addition to the adverse reaction received for killing thousands of foreigners, the United States has experienced a large domestic backlash for killing its own citizens by extrajudicial execution. On September 30th 2011, two U.S. Predator drones took off from a secret U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, crossed into Yemen and located their target: Anwar al-Alaqi, an American-born member of al Qaeda.<sup>17</sup> Within minutes, he was dead. Al-Alaiqi was a known member of al Quada, a terrorist organization, and for many reasons he posed an imminent threat to the US. So, while controversy surrounding the event strayed from the more typical question of international legality, American citizens criticized its government for disregarding its own laws regarding its own citizens.

## **Current Situation**

### *Countries Involved*

Currently, the United States, United Kingdom, Israel, China, and Russia are all confirmed to possess armed drones. Other countries such as France, Germany, India, Italy, Iran, Pakistan,

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<sup>14</sup>Jack Serle and Alice K. Ross, "January 2014 Update: US Covert Actions," The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, last modified February 3, 2014, <http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2014/02/03/january-2014-update-us-covert-actions-in-pakistan-yemen-and-somalia/>.

<sup>15</sup>Serle and Ross, "January 2014 Update: US Covert," The Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

<sup>16</sup>Serle and Ross, "January 2014 Update: US Covert," The Bureau of Investigative Journalism.

<sup>17</sup>Sifton, "A Brief History of Drones."

and Turkey are thought to be armed as well.<sup>18</sup> At least 23 countries are in the process of developing armed drone systems. However, a definite count on the number of countries that possess armed drones is nearly impossible given the lack of information shared on drones and weaponry. A July 2012 report by the U.S. Government Accountability Office claimed that 76 countries have UAVs of some kind.

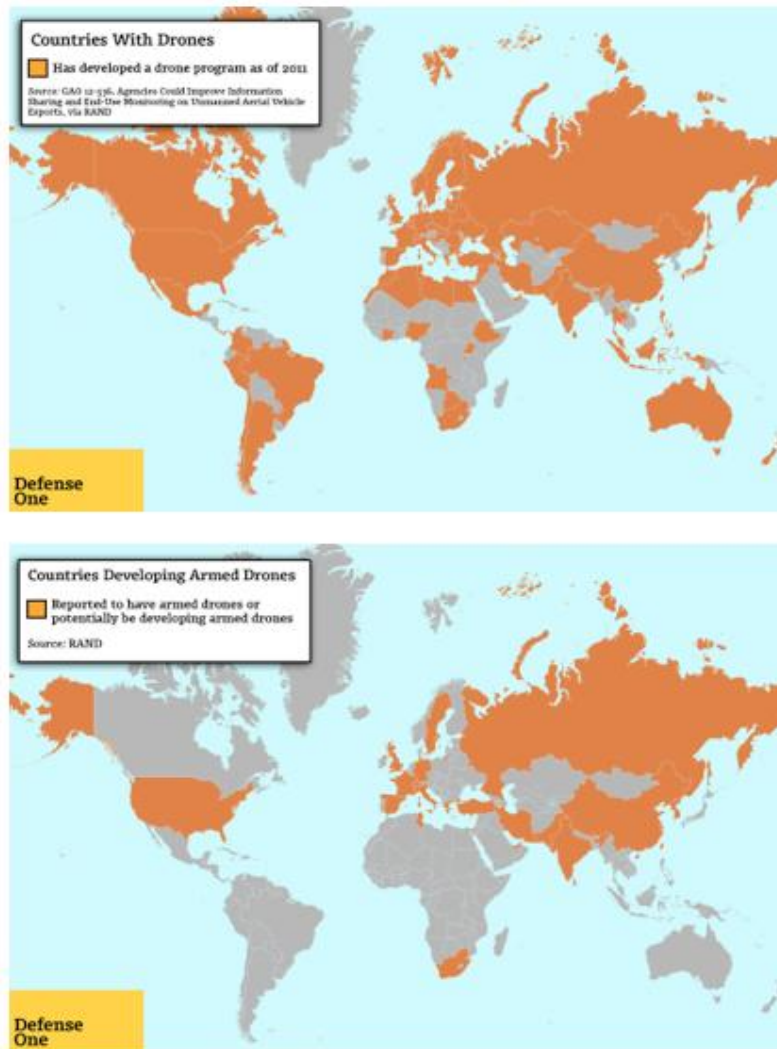


Figure III: Image of Countries Suspected to Possess Drones

<sup>18</sup> Maya Shwayder and Lisa Mahapatra, "Drones: Which Countries Have Them For Surveillance And Military Operations?," *International Business Times*, <http://www.ibtimes.com/drones-which-countries-have-them-surveillance-military-operations-map-1264271>.

While the number of countries that possess or do not possess armed drones is unclear, one thing is: drone technology is becoming more and more widespread. Patrick Tucker, a writer for *Defense One* news source, predicted “Virtually every country on Earth will be able to build or acquire drones capable of firing missiles within the next ten years.”<sup>19</sup> While Tucker’s statement is only a prediction, it is clear that drone technology is advancing and becoming more prevalent every day.

### *Multiple Purposes*

While controversy surrounding drone use often focuses on UAV’s in terms of military and surveillance operations, it is important to remember that UAV’s have a variety of uses outside of this realm. Drones have extensive potential in fields such as domestic policing, conservation, forest fire detection, and search and rescue missions. For example, unmanned aerial vehicles have been extremely useful in preventing poaching and prosecuting poachers in countries such as South Africa, Niger, and Malaysia.<sup>20</sup> Damien Mander, founder of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation, commented on the use of UAV’s outside of the military realm, “Having real-time intelligence greatly increases operational capabilities when reacting to poachers... Conservationists must now be given the capacity to embrace the same technology that is made available to the military.”<sup>21</sup> While drones are a controversial topic and restrictions on the use of drones must be discussed by the member states of the United Nations, it is important that any regulation of drones does not hinder the use of UAV’s for other beneficial practices. Rather,

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<sup>19</sup> Patrick Tucker, "Every Country Will Have Armed Drones Within 10 Years," *Defense One*, <http://www.defenseone.com/technology/2014/05/every-country-will-have-armed-drones-within-ten-years/83878/>.

<sup>20</sup> "License to Kill," *Nouse*, <http://www.nouse.co.uk/2013/01/22/license-to-kill/>.

<sup>21</sup> "License to Kill," *Nouse*.

the international community must strive to promote the peaceful use of UAV's and utilize this technology to its highest potential.

### **Proposed Solutions**

Regulation of drones can come in many forms. It will be the job of DISEC to decide whether more regulation needs to be set in place and if so, in what form. Perhaps the clarification of international law would set stronger restrictions on drone use. The best form of regulation might be to target the selling and buying of drones, aiming to make the exchange a more transparent process. Similarly, regulation could come in the form of focusing on the manufacturing of UAV's. Outside of regulation, solutions could promote a more peaceful use of UAV's by coordinating the sharing of peaceful drone technology within the international community and establishing safeguards for illicit research. Regardless, it will be important for DISEC to establish an international consensus on the regulation and legality of unmanned aerial vehicles and to set in place plausible solutions to maintain global security and limit the proliferation of weapons.

### **Bloc Positions**

#### *United States, Israel*

The United States is the most prominent user of drones internationally. The U.S. defends its use of drones as a means of self-defense and while perhaps promoting the peaceful use of UAV's, the U.S. does not seek to strongly restrict the use of drones in warfare. Israel has also notably used drones in warfare for purposes of self-defense. Israel, the United States, and various

other nations that possess armed drones or are developing armed drones will likely overlap in official stance on drone warfare.

### *European Union*

Most nations of the European Union possess UAV's (both armed or unarmed.) European countries have largely used drones for surveillance, but continue to develop drones for military purposes. Overall, while the EU largely forms a middle ground on drone regulation issues, most European nations ultimately sympathize with the views of their United States ally.

### *Latin America*

Drone use is becoming increasingly popular in Latin America nations. Most often, these drones are not used for international military purposes. Rather, due to the problematic presence of drug cartels across Latin America, governments are interested in the value of drones to prevent domestic terrorism and to aid in domestic policing.<sup>22</sup> Latin America benefits most from the more peaceful uses of unmanned aerial vehicle.

### *China, Russia*

China and Russia have both been labeled as “up and coming” players in the drone industry. Both nations wanting to be at the front of the weapons race, China and Russia have been noted for placing significant attention and financial support towards the research of drone technology and the development of new drones.

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<sup>22</sup> Shwayder and Mahapatra, "Drones: Which Countries Have."

## *Middle East and Northern Africa*

The Middle East has been the target of almost all United States drone strikes. As the negative aspects of UAV's have outweighed any benefits for most nations located in the Middle East and Northern Africa (MENA) region, most MENA nations do not support the use of drones in warfare. Specifically, Pakistan has publicly condemned the use of drones in military operations and protested drone strikes as an infringement of national sovereignty. While some countries in the Middle East are developing armed drones, governments usually cite these drones for purposes of self-defense in a world where drone use is becoming a norm.

### **Questions to Consider**

- What is your country's domestic policy on drone use? Has your country's government used drones in the past for reasons other than surveillance?
- Is your country in possession of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles? Are they armed or unarmed?
- Should international law on drone use be reformed to regulate use of the weapon or should regulation remain the same?
- How can transparency be promoted between nations on the selling and using of UAV's?
- Should the United Nations take a firmer stance on extrajudicial killings and executions? If so, how can regulation or oversight be carried out?
- How can we promote peaceful usage of unmanned aerial vehicles?

**Sources** <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2012/aug/03/drone-stocks-by-country>  
<http://www.ibtimes.com/drones-which-countries-have-them-surveillance-military-operations-map-1264271> <http://www.defenseone.com/technology/2014/05/every-country-will-have-armed-drones-within-ten-years/83878/>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_drone\\_attacks\\_in\\_Pakistan#2004.E2.80.932007](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_drone_attacks_in_Pakistan#2004.E2.80.932007)  
<http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2014/02/03/january-2014-update-us-covert-actions-in-pakistan-yemen-and-somalia/>

<http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2013/08/01/get-the-data-the-return-of-double-tap-drone-strikes/> [http://www.ipon-philippines.info/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Observers/Observer\\_Vol.2\\_Nr.2/Observer\\_Vol.2\\_Nr.2\\_PoliticalKillings\\_4.pdf](http://www.ipon-philippines.info/fileadmin/user_upload/Observers/Observer_Vol.2_Nr.2/Observer_Vol.2_Nr.2_PoliticalKillings_4.pdf)  
<http://www.ejil.org/pdfs/16/2/292.pdf>  
<http://www.thenation.com/article/166124/brief-history-drones#>  
<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/03/drones-explained>

## Topic B: Anti-Terrorism in Post-Conflict Regions

### Overview of the Problem

In the modern world, civil wars, revolutions, and warfare are not scarce. Nations' leaders are often changing and governmental structures can crumble and reform spontaneously. However, with conflict and instability in government comes great vulnerability. In regions experiencing conflict, terrorist-run organizations can easily infiltrate governments or build an unofficial presence in communities.



Figure IV: Image of United Nations Security Council

To ensure global security, it is necessary that the international community focuses on peace building and democracy-building efforts to thwart terrorist organizations' agendas in regions having recently experienced conflict. However, while counter-terrorism is a global effort supported by nearly all, controversies easily arise and those aiming to promote peace are faced with challenges that stir debate among members of the United Nations. For example, when targeting leading businesses for ties to terrorist organizations, post-conflict reconstruction can



often interfere with local and national economies. Additionally, the motives of counter-terrorism often stray, as nations can intervene in foreign affairs for their own personal agenda under the guise of global security and counter-terrorism.

Hence, many controversial questions arise on the topic of anti-terrorism activity.

What measures can be taken towards the disarmament of terrorist groups and the impediment of weapons trade among terrorist groups? When is international intervention in conflict needed? At what point should the line be drawn on international presence in regions of conflict? By reviewing case studies, nations must evaluate which measures have succeeded and failed in the past to answer these questions and develop a thorough agenda on counter-terrorism in post-conflict regions.

## **History of the Problem**

While the term “terrorism,” loosely defined as “the use of violence and intimidation in the pursuit of political aims” first appeared towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, terrorism itself cannot truly be dated back to a specific origin date.<sup>23</sup> There have always existed organizations and individuals whose actions have fit under our definition of terrorism since the beginning of organized government.

Today, modern terrorism is considered one of the most imminent threats to global security and peace. Plane hijackings, airport shootings, bombings, and events such as the Munich Olympic Massacre in 1972 and the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City have taken the lives of thousands.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> "Terrorism," Dictionary.com, <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/terrorism>.

<sup>24</sup> Mark LeVine, "10 Things to Know about Terrorism," AlterNet, [http://www.alternet.org/story/11647/10\\_things\\_to\\_know\\_about\\_terrorism](http://www.alternet.org/story/11647/10_things_to_know_about_terrorism).

Historically, terrorist-run organizations have found power and grown in post-conflict regions; the instability of these areas makes them an easy target for terrorist organizations to seize power. In order for the international community to maintain global security, support new democracies, and halt the growth of terrorist groups, it is necessary to protect these areas of vulnerability from terrorist activity.

### *Forms of Terrorism*

Modern terrorism exists in many forms. The United States' Law Enforcement Assistant Administration classifies terrorism into four groups: civil disorder – violence interfering with general security, political terrorism – violence driven by political motivations, limited political terrorism – violence driven by political motives but not with the intentions of controlling a state or region, and official or state terrorism – nations' whose government or leaders carry out acts of terrorism and instill fear in the nation's people for political purposes.<sup>25</sup> Other classifications of terrorism note religious terrorism as a form of violence motivated by religious beliefs, often with the purpose of forcing a specific faith or belief on others.

While creating international standards and goals regarding counter-terrorism, it will be important to be aware of all forms of terrorism. While certain forms of terrorism and violence may be a more imminent threat than others and command specific attention, it is the job of DISEC to ensure global security in all forms. Solutions should specifically address anti-terrorism in regions experiencing or having experienced conflict; still, they will no doubt overlap in other sectors of counter-terrorism.

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<sup>25</sup> LeVine, "10 Thing to Know," AlterNet.

## **Relevant United Nations Actions**

The United Nations has already made a wide range of efforts towards counterterrorism. On September 28, 2001, following the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center, the Security Council passed and adopted resolution 1373, which targeted the financial aspect of terrorist organizations and established a United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee.<sup>26</sup> Since, the United Nations has continued to work towards counter-terrorism efforts. The General Assembly has adopted five main anti-terrorism resolutions: the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel, the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.<sup>27</sup> A list of all United Nations resolutions on counter-terrorism can be found here: <http://www.un.org/en/terrorism/resolutions.shtml>. While the United Nations constantly works to diminish terrorism, terrorist organizations continue to grow. In the case of terrorism in post-conflict regions, there exists a lack of specificity in UN resolutions and agendas. Especially considering the severity of current global events, further elaborated on below, it is important that UN agendas continue to adapt to address terrorism in every form.

## **Case Studies**

### *Arab Spring*

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<sup>26</sup> "Terrorism," United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/terrorism/>.

<sup>27</sup> "Terrorism," United Nations.

The Arab Spring was a series of uprisings and protests in the Arab World by citizens against their governments that began in Tunisia in 2010 and still continues in many ways today. Nations where major uprisings have occurred include Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Sudan, and Kuwait. Most uprisings have been fought against political corruption and human rights violations and have sought for a regime change, often seeking democracy. Specifically, Tunisia, Egypt, and Libya, have been successful in overthrowing their governments, and Yemen successful in ousting its leader.



Figure V: Image of Arab Spring Protests

While the overthrowing of the Tunisian, Egyptian, and Libyan governments marked a success for these nations' citizens, it left the nations themselves in extremely instable and vulnerable states. Islamist militants groups and terrorist organizations certainly looked to exploit this situation.

In January of 2011, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was ousted. On October 23, 2011 elections were held for a constituent assembly, and on March 3, 2011, the results of the election were released. The Ennahda party, which labels itself as a “moderately Islamist” group,

won the largest number of seats: 89, 37% of the total 217 seats.<sup>28</sup> While the Ennahda party is officially “moderate,” many still worry that the party will embrace more extremist Islamist views, calling for a secular government.<sup>29</sup>

The presence of extreme Islamist groups and potential threats of terrorism is much more evident in the case of the Egyptian revolution. Egypt experienced a similar series of events as Tunisia, as President Hosni Mubarak was ousted in February of 2011 following uprisings across the nation. During the time of protest, the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist organization, which has historically supported terrorist activity and has been designated as a terrorist organization by multiple nations, publically supported the ousting of Mubarak. The Muslim Brotherhood, which had previously been banned in Egypt as a designated terrorist group, was legalized following the 2011 Egyptian Revolution and went on to succeed in many elections.<sup>30</sup> In 2012, Mohamed Morsi, member of the Muslim Brotherhood, was elected President.

However, Morsi and the Muslim Brotherhood’s rule soon came to an end. An evident abuse of power by the Muslim Brotherhood, including Muslim Brotherhood supporters’ violence against nonviolent protestors, the unlawful imprisonment of Egyptian citizens, and Islamist attacks on minorities, led Egyptians to protest again against their new ruler. On July 3, 2013 Morsi was overthrown. In the past year, the Muslim Brotherhood has again become illegalized as a terrorist group (December 25, 2013.) The current Egyptian court is in the process of

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<sup>28</sup> "Tunisia Country Profile," BBC News, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14107241>.

<sup>29</sup> "Tunisia Country Profile," BBC News.

<sup>30</sup> "What's Become of Egypt's Morsi?," BBC News, <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24772806>.

imprisoning all Muslim Brotherhood members: 529 Muslim Brotherhood members have been put to death and at least 16,000 imprisoned so far.<sup>31</sup>

Today, controversy still surrounds the Muslim Brotherhood with a global debate on the classification of the organization as a terrorist group. Regardless, the Egyptian Revolution of 2011 and the sudden rise to power of the Muslim Brotherhood in post-revolution Egypt prove how easily the vulnerability of post-conflict regions can be exploited for political purposes.

Outside of government, terrorism has grown in Arab-Spring regions as well. Ali Omar, a reporter for *The Daily News: Egypt*, noted an increase in violence and terrorism in these nations stating, “Egypt and Tunisia in particular saw a spike in terrorist attacks in 2013. Attacks in Tunisia increased from 21 in 2012 to 72 in 2013, while attacks in Egypt increased from 63 in 2012 to 431 in 2013.”<sup>32</sup>

### *Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS)*

The Islamic State, previously known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and often referred to as ISIS, is an extremist Islamic terrorist and militant organization that aims to establish a “pure” Islamist state in Iraq, Syria, and other parts of the Levant territory.<sup>33</sup> In the past, ISIS has associated itself with terrorist group Al-Qaeda; however, the terrorist groups are now completely separate organizations with both groups criticizing the other for their choices of

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<sup>31</sup> "History of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt," Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Muslim\\_Brotherhood\\_in\\_Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Muslim_Brotherhood_in_Egypt).

<sup>32</sup> "Terror Attacks Spike in Arab Spring Countries," Daily News Egypt, <http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2014/02/14/terror-attacks-spike-arab-spring-countries-2013/>.

<sup>33</sup> "Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant," Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic\\_State\\_of\\_Iraq\\_and\\_the\\_Levant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_the_Levant).

action. ISIS is responsible for numerous attacks on the governments and militaries of nations in the Levant regions and for the killings of thousands of Iraqi and Syrian civilians.

In April of 2013, ISIS made huge successful territorial gains in Northern Syria, controlling a large part of the nation; Syria, a nation post-civil war and still in constant turmoil, had little means to defend itself. In June of 2014, after fighting a large-scale offensive in Iraq, ISIS seized control of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, and took control of all governmental and political aspects of the region.<sup>34</sup> These territorial successes provoked the organizations' change of name to "Islamic State" to proclaim its success in officially establishing a caliphate— an Islamic state led by a supreme religious ruler (Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.)<sup>35</sup> ISIS currently controls an extremely large territory in both Syria and Iraq, which can be seen below.

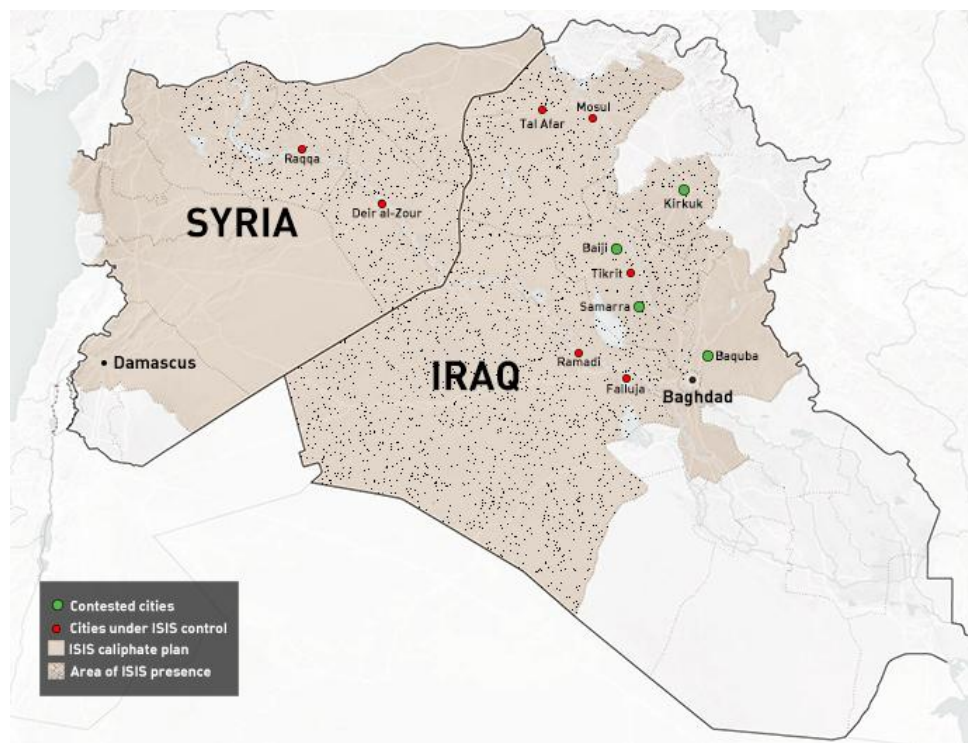


Figure VI: Image of ISIS Occupied Regions

<sup>34</sup> "Islamic State of Iraq," Wikipedia.

<sup>35</sup> "All You Need to Know about ISIS," RT, <http://rt.com/news/166836-isis-isil-al-qaeda-iraq/>.

After the sudden territorial claim by ISIS over Iraq, many questioned how such a rapid invasion and occupation was possible. Iraqi military in the region consisted of approximately 30,000 U.S. trained troops, estimated to be significantly more than twice the size of ISIS.<sup>36</sup> Iraqi troops had even been equipped with advanced U.S. military weapons. Still, the region fell rapidly to ISIS with hardly any resistance. Iraqi troops lacked proper confidence and morale. Clearly, enough precautions were not taken in the post-occupied nation following the United States' military withdrawal from Iraq in 2011. The sudden eruption of hostilities following U.S. military withdrawal and the eventual overthrow of parts of the nation by a designated terrorist and militant organization clearly mark the failures of both the United States and the international community in stabilizing a nation post-conflict.

## **Proposed Solutions**

When dealing with foreign presence in vulnerable nations to combat terrorism, it is important to look for sustainable long-term goals. While immediate short-term relief or action may be necessary in certain scenarios, sustainable agendas will create a stable basis for which the nation can grow on its own and form domestic counter-terrorism agendas in the future.

One possible solution could include establishing measures for transparent elections and voting. Another might focus on educating citizens on regional issues and different plausible solutions so that citizens can make educated decisions rather than looking to terrorist-linked groups for solutions. Perhaps, another solution could focus on working with leaders of a vulnerable nation to implement domestic peace-building strategies. Overall, it will be important

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<sup>36</sup> "All You Need to Know," RT.



to tackle counter-terrorism from more than one angle, looking to improve stability and decrease vulnerability in post-conflict region in different forms.

## **Bloc Positions**

### *Western Bloc*

In the past, most Western nations have taken a pro-interventionist stance on issues dealing with foreign terrorism. The United States has taken notable foreign action citing the U.S. “War on Terror.” In the case of terrorism, western nations are more likely to take the stance that when dealing with terrorism, stability in terms of foreign presence supersedes more insignificant issues of national sovereignty, putting global security above all.

### *Middle East and Northern Africa*

The MENA region is the largest site for terrorist organizations, especially Islamist radical groups. While no nation is in support of terrorist activities, certain nations in the MENA region would be more likely to accept more moderate organizations with terrorist ties, as many times these ties are linked with religious motives. However, MENA nations often take the most aggressive stance against terrorist groups as well to prevent instability in their own region. Still, these efforts remain largely domestic. Many countries located in the MENA regions have historically been exploited through foreign intervention and are wary of Western or foreign presence in their nation, regardless of terrorist activity.

### *China, Russia*

China and Russia both take an intermediate stance on the issue of intervention in post-conflict regions for the purpose of counter-terrorism. While neither country in any way supports terrorist activity or terrorist organizations, both nations are wary of foreign intervention if not explicitly needed. Both nations, however, are key players in existing anti-terrorism efforts and have firm domestic counterterrorism laws and agendas set in place.

### **Questions to Consider**

- What preventative measures can be taken to reduce the vulnerability of regions post-conflict?
- How can transparency and democracy be promoted in elections?
- Should procedures be established for regional anti-terrorism security measures? If so, what standards should be set in place?
- What measures should be taken to impede the transfer of arms to terrorist groups and work towards the disarmament of such groups?
- When is foreign presence or intervention appropriate in regions of conflict or post-conflict to combat terrorism?
- Should standards on counter-terrorism in post-conflict regions remain the same when dealing with different forms of conflict, or should different situations be treated differently? How can inconsistencies be addressed?

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