

TMUN 2018

United Nations Security Council: Aliqyan Tapia, Cynthiya Gnanaseelan



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council at the 2018 Toronto Model United Nations Conference!

My name is Aliqyan, and I am one of your chairs for the security council. I have taken part in Model UN for the last 4 years, and have had an amazing experience in all of the conferences I have attended. As your chair, I hope you all have a blast at our conference, simultaneously I am excited for all of the ideas that you will bring to this conference!

My name is Cynthiya and I am your other chair for the security council. I sincerely look forward to this year's conference and guiding you all through some interesting discussions. I remember my first time at a Model UN conference and the thrill I got from being able to express my own ideas and hear more about what others had to say. I look forward to welcoming you all to the TMUN conference and listening in on your thoughts throughout the committee sessions!

The topics under discussion for the security council are:

- 1) The Rohingya Refugee Crisis
- 2) Combating International Terrorism

The Security Council is one of the main bodies of the UN and the only body in the UN system whose decisions are legally binding. Being in this committee will allow you to engage with pressing issues and the most complex topics in peace and security, and to work towards a resolution.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at: aliqyan.tapia@torontoia.org or cynthiya.gnanaseelan@torontoia.org

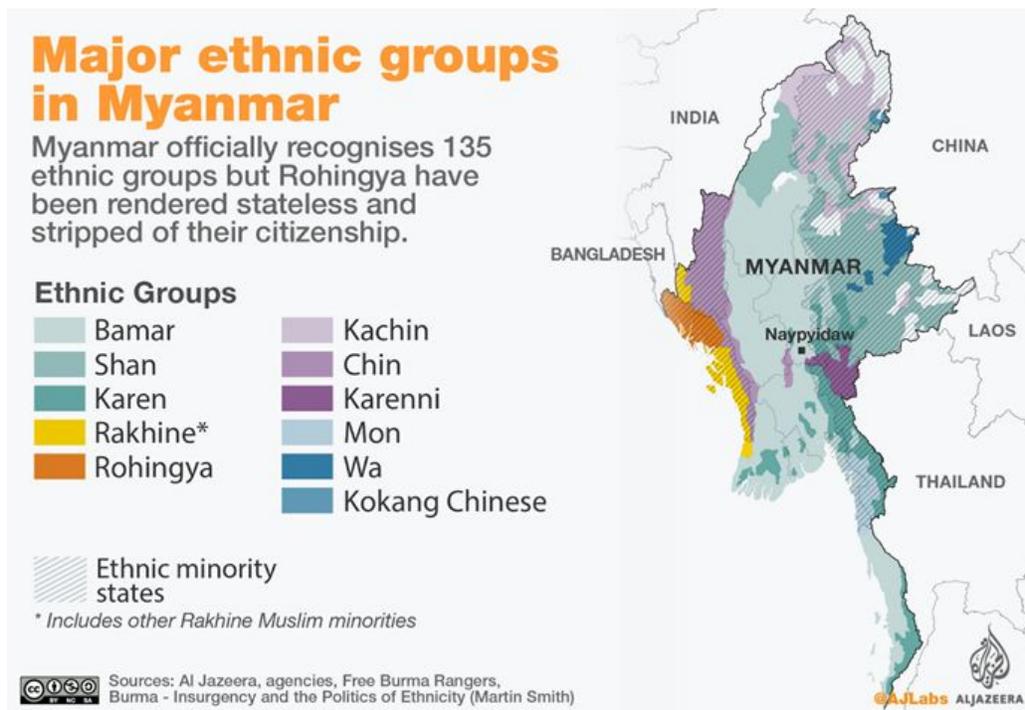
Sincerely,

Aliqyan Tapia and Cynthiya Gnanaseelan

Topic 1 : Crisis in Myanmar

Intro

The Rohingya are an ethnic group, comprising of mostly Muslims, living in the Rakhine state of Myanmar. With a population of 1.1 million, the Rohingya makes up 2% of the national population, whilst the Bamar make up 67% of the population and rest are comprised of over 130 different ethnic groups. (“Myanmar profile - Timeline.”) Due to the great ethnic diversity, over the past centuries Myanmar has been plagued by ethnic strife, refusing to acknowledge the Rohingya as citizens of Myanmar; committing grand human right violations such as murder, rape and, leading them to being known as the “most persecuted minority in the world”.



Background

This Rohingya conflict can be traced back to the origins of Myanmar, when it was called Burma under the occupation of the British. In the 1800s and the early 1900’s the British had

colonized most of southeastern Asia. During the British rule, as Britain classified Myanmar and many other countries as 'India', allowing any migration within this area to be considered internal migration. Thus, there was a significant migration into Myanmar from modern India and Bangladesh. The population of Myanmar, predominantly Buddhists, viewed the migration of labour in a negative light, later calling the migration illegal.

In July of 1947, Myanmar gained its independence from Britain, becoming a parliamentary democracy. ("Myanmar profile - Timeline.") Shortly after, they passed the 'Union Citizen Act' formalizing their independence, and acknowledging the various ethnic groups of Myanmar; leaving behind the Rohingya from this formal acknowledgement. However, the government allowed families that could trace two generations of lineage in Myanmar to apply for identity cards. Although they were not recognized as citizens the Rohingya still had basic rights and were able to represent their interests in the parliament. ("The most persecuted people on Earth?")

The Democracy in Myanmar was relatively short lived, ending in 1962 with a military coup led by Ne Win; aiming to establish the country as a socialist state governed by a one party system controlled by the military (Aung-Thwin, Michael Arthur, and David I. Steinberg.). Ne Win further strained the already fragile relationship by forcing all the citizens of Myanmar to obtain national registry cards, whilst allowing the Rohingya to get foreign identity cards only. This policy limited the education and job opportunities for the Rohingya. The citizenship law act of 1982 further reduced the rights of the Rohingya preventing them from voting, running for office, seeking education or health care, and marriage.

The Near Future:

In 1990, the people of Myanmar called for an election. Aung See Kyi the daughter of the ‘founding father of Myanmar’ won 90% of the vote, inspiring confidence that the country could be set back upon a democratic route, winning a Nobel peace prize. However the military quickly dismissed these results locking the victor into house arrest for nearly 20 years. During this time, nearly one million Rohingya fled from the country from fear of persecution of the crackdown of the army. (“The most persecuted people on Earth?”)

As of 2012, Myanmar’s government has experienced democratic reform. The Militaristic, Junta, no longer control the entire country through the government. Instead Aung San Suu Kyi, leads the country as the State Chancellor as the Junta created a clause prohibiting her from becoming the president. Upon the transition of power, the world was hopeful for change in Myanmar, following its long history with oppression and brutality; viewing Aung San Suu Kyi amongst the ranks of great peace advocates like Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela.

However, the Military Junta still is active in Myanmar. The military acts autonomously, setting its own military budget, and is not subject to regulation by Aung San Suu Kyi, or the government. In addition, the military still holds control of the government as it selects 25% of the MP’s, and the army appoints the Defense Minister, foreign relations minister, and Border Affair Ministers. Thus although the Myanmar appears to be in the transition into democracy, the junta still retains a lot of power.(Farmaner, Mark)

Atrocities committed in Myanmar:

The United Nations Human Rights Chief has said, “The situation [in Myanmar] seems a textbook example of ethnic cleansing,” As mentioned earlier, Myanmar’s army has long clashed

with the Rohingya due to their different cultures and their belief that the Rohingya are immigrants to the country. According to the Human Rights Watch, fleeing Rohingya have shared " that Burmese government security forces had carried out armed attacks on villagers, inflicting bullet and shrapnel injuries, and burned down their homes. They described the military's use of small arms, mortars, and armed helicopters in the attacks." ("Burma: Rohingya Describe Military Atrocities.") These stories have further been corroborated by satellite imagery showing the intentional burning of Muslim Rohingya settlements.(“Burma: Satellite Images...”)

Meanwhile the government counters this claim by stating that the Rohingya are setting their own homes on fire. (“Burma 'makes proposal' ...”) In addition there have been numerous reports and allegations of rape committed by personnel in the military against the Rohingya (“Burma.” *Human Rights Watch*). Furthermore, the UNHRC have found that the army has been responsible for placing landmines along the Bangladeshi border, as the Rohingya attempt to escape persecution (“UN human rights chief points...”). Clearly, Myanmar has broken International Humanitarian Law time after time, as the law explicitly mandates “the protection of those who are not, or no longer, taking part in fighting;”

Government's Response

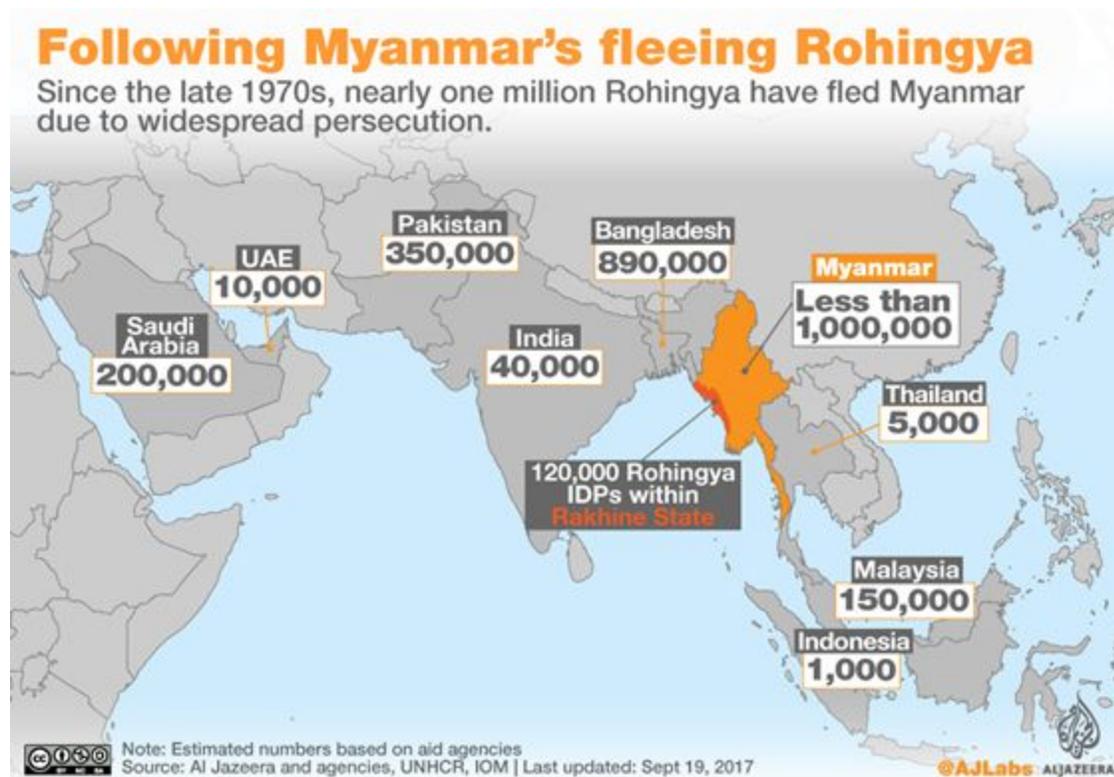
In response to the atrocities committed, the government has stayed silent, even portraying themselves as the victims. On numerous Aung San Suu Kyi has disappointed many of her early supporters by not speaking up for the Rohingya abuse by the military.

“We know very well, more than most, what it means to be deprived of human rights and democratic protection, So we make sure that all the people in our country are entitled to protection of their rights.” – Aung San Suu Kyi

In addition to the denial of any abuse, government officials have been calling the Rohingya abuse as ‘fake news’. Government officials like Zaw Htay the spokesperson for the Government have tried to turn the situation on the Rohingya by claiming that Muslim militants aren’t getting enough attention.(Koutsoukis, Jason, and Kyaw Thu.)

Many of Aung San Suu Kyi’s earliest supporters are disappointed by her lack of actions. However, others have noted that the reason Aung San Suu Kyi has not defended the Rohingya is because of her tough position. David Dapice a fellow of the Myanmar Program at the Harvard Kennedy School has said “The more she condemns the excesses in Rakhine, the more she weakens her public position and the NLD.” Others have speculated that she cannot publicize the Rohingya crisis because of the ethnic strife between the Bamar and the Rohingya, and the Military’s power.

Result: Mass Exodus



Due to the ethnic clash, and the numerous human right violations in Myanmar, many Rohingya have been forced to flee the country. Mass migrations of the Rohingya first started to occur with the declaration of the new citizen's act. The Infographic below shows the locations of these refugees.

Currently Bangladesh, the country with the most Rohingya refugees, has “hundreds of thousands living under plastic sheeting in forests without sanitation, medical support, or running water” (Oliphant, Roland.). The influx of refugees from Myanmar have made it increasingly difficult for countries to support the growing refugee population, leading to horrible environments in the refugee camps. As a result, countries like Bangladesh and India have called upon Myanmar to allow the Rohingya back into their country.

What happens when they go back?

As the Rohingya are not legally considered citizens in Myanmar, it is impossible to predict their treatment upon returning. It is extremely likely that their land the government will take their land will continue on its path of 'ethnic cleansing'.

UNSC current involvement:

To this date, the United Nations Security Council has not created any resolution concerning the Rohingya.

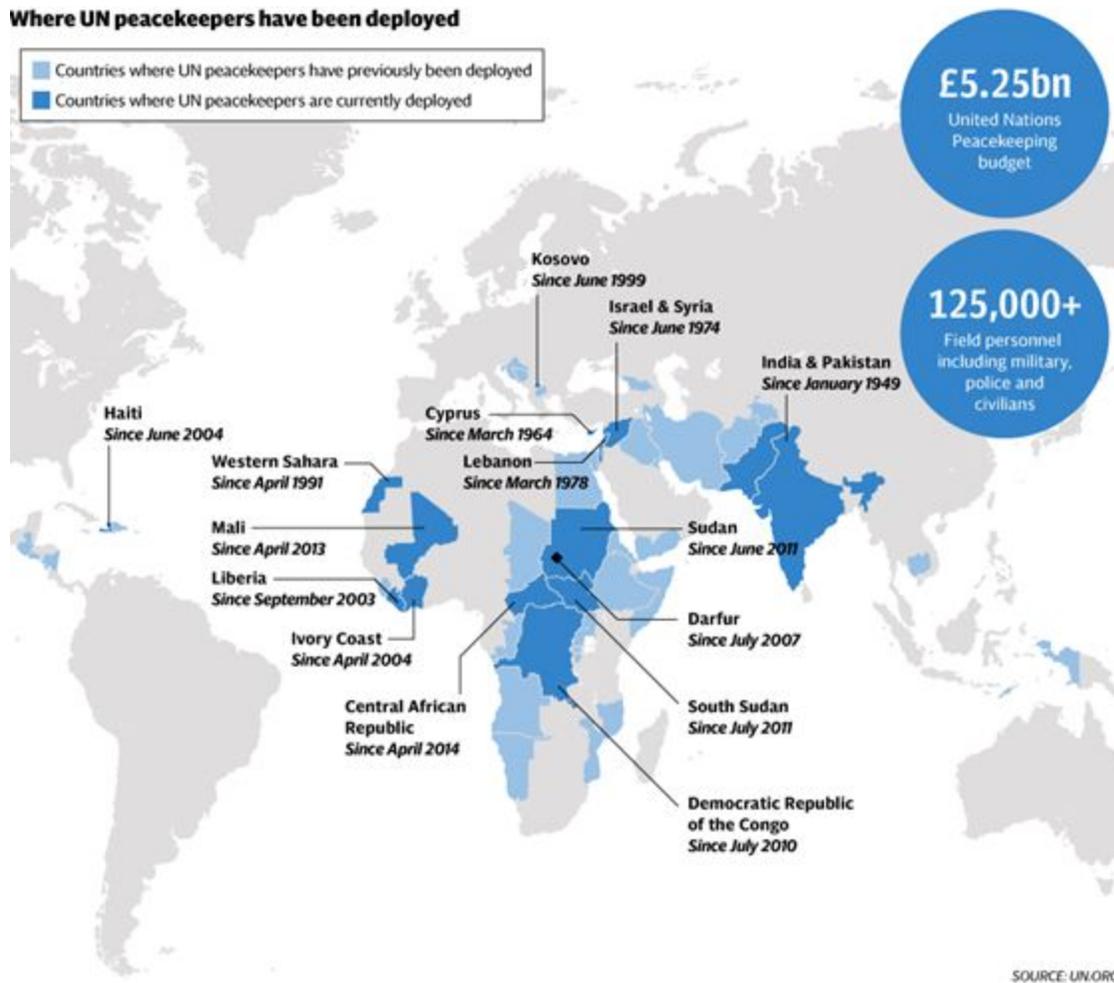
Possible Idea #1: Maintain Status Quo

The first solution for the Security Council is to do nothing, by maintain the status quo, leaving the government in self-autonomy, free to rectify the problem however it sees fit. Nevertheless, as explained earlier the government has done nothing to aid or protect the Rohingya, not even admitting that the Rohingya are in a crisis. This strategy has been used in the past by the United Nations Security Council, and has led to perilous results, the most well known example being Rwanda.

The Rwandan genocide took place in 1994, after the death of their president. This combat occurred between two ethnic majority groups, the Hutu and Tutsi. Over the course of the 100 day genocide, nearly 1 million Tutsi and moderate Hutu were murdered. ("The Rwandan Genocide.") Although the UN had tried to intervene, they did not acknowledge the crisis as a genocide, and some of the members argued against sending in peacekeeping forces, a move that could have minimized the casualties.

Possible Idea #2: Peacekeepers:

If the Security Council decided to send peacekeepers into Myanmar, they could be tasked to protect the Rohingya settlements from Myanmar's Army, and further report any crimes against humanity.



Currently, the Security Council has 15 peacekeeping missions around the world. Many of these peacekeeping operations are looked back on as grand successes, most notably Sierra Leone and Burundi.

Nonetheless, there have been great failures and costs to sending in peacekeepers, a prime example being Somalia. During the early 1990's, several armed factions began competing against each other to gain power. When the United Nations intervened, the Somalis responded with hostility, killing peacekeepers and parading dead bodies across the street. (Henderson, Barney.) Thus when choosing whether to send in peacekeepers actions both sides of the benefits and consequences must be considered.

Possible Idea #3: Sanctions

One of the key powers of the United Nations Security Council is the ability to place sanctions, penalties for refusal to comply with international laws. There are different types of sanctions, each utilized for different purposes, such as, military, diplomatic and economic sanctions. The implementation of sanctions against Myanmar would ideally incentivize the government and military to a new course of actions.

Many organizations, such as Amnesty International, have voiced the opinions that military sanctions should be placed upon Myanmar. Going a step further, some have argued for an arms embargo against Myanmar, effectively blocking the Myanmar Army from acquiring more weapons. As a result of an embargo, the Security Council could send a message of disapproval, limit the military's potential from further inflicting damage.

Nevertheless, just like other solutions there are always drawbacks. When analyzing the sanctions placed on Myanmar by America, the consequences of sanctions become apparent. In the late 1980's when Myanmar's military began its abuse against the civilian population, America responded by placing sanctions on Myanmar. Although America intended

for the sanctions to incentivize the democratization of Myanmar, it had the polar opposite result, causing Myanmar's army to grow more aggressive and repressive.(Early, Brian)

Pertinent Questions:

Questions and Considerations:

- 1) Where is the 'line' between interfering with a nation's sovereignty and protecting the rights of human beings occur? How can nations protect the Rohingya from persecutions without adding "fuel to the fire"?
- 2) To what extent is the government of Myanmar to blame for this situation? (keep in mind the power struggle between the government and the Military)
- 3) As the possible methods listed above, all have flaws in them, what methods/activities could best help the Rohingya? How can the Security Council help create short term and long-term peace? How does your country/delegation change your stance on the necessary approach?

Topic 2 : Combating International Terrorism

Introduction :

International terrorism is an issue that nations around the world have faced for the past several years and continue to face today. Thus, it is essential that together, all nations work towards an effective solution to this issue. Nations must work in cooperation with one another to avoid any future attacks, and most importantly, eradicate terrorist organizations, to maintain international security and safety.

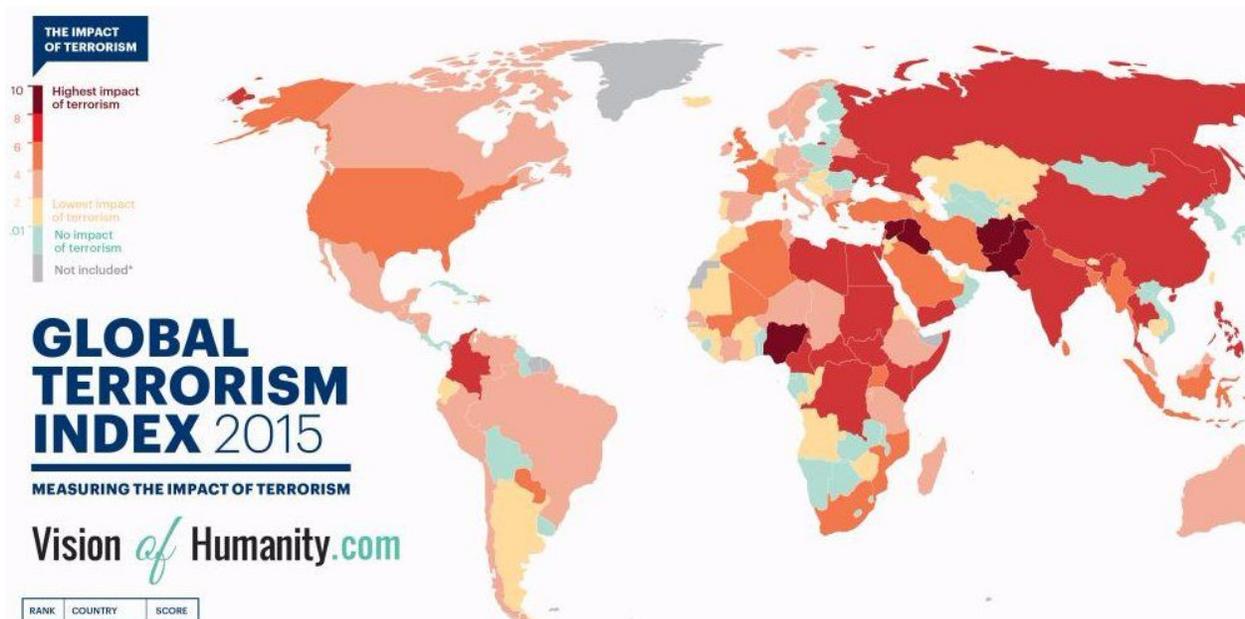


Figure 2 : The above map is a measure of the impact of terrorism internationally. Africa, the Middle East, and Asia are more affected by terrorist attacks than the Americas and Australia. This map is an indication that many countries are affected by terrorist attacks, making it one of the biggest threats to international security. Source : Business Insider

International terrorism is a major threat to international security and it is the responsibility of the UNSC to tackle the issue in the most efficient way possible. In the past decades, the world has seen several terrorist groups attack such as Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, Boko

Haram, ISIS and the Lord's Resistance Army. Terrorist groups have led great numbers violent attacks that have resulted in mass casualties. These groups have gained strength in numbers through active recruitment over the past few years due to the advancements of technology. However, terrorism is not only limited to groups as there are cases of terrorists who have acted alone without the help of a group. These individuals are commonly referred to as lone wolf terrorists. (Worth, 2016)

Terrorism was first addressed by the United Nations in 1972 and is a common topic discussed within the council to form preventative policies and discuss new measures to resist international terrorism, as it is one of the most prominent threats to international security. While the United Nations has made progress towards solutions, there is still a need for further measures to be decided upon to more effectively counteract the issue of international terrorism. As of now, a universal definition for terrorism does not exist. Every country defines terrorism in a different way, and the lack of a universal definition, has resulted in no effective measures put in place to completely eradicate the presence of terrorism globally. Currently, the UNSC defines acts of terrorism as :

“Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitute offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.” United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1566 (2004)

Although it has not been adopted by all nations globally, a large number of nations define terrorism in similar manner. However, to effectively counteract the issue of international

terrorism, it is integral that all countries are able to come to common consensus for the definition of the word 'terrorism.' Only by doing this, which is quite a simple task, will the UNSC be able to tackle the more complex issue of solving the problem.

As of recently, we have seen several attacks take place, in Somalia, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Egypt. These attacks that have occurred in the span of two weeks, indicating the immediate threat and fatality of terrorism. Terrorism is arguably one of the worst horrors experienced by mankind and is a common occurrence globally as terrorist groups continually attack innocent civilians. Yet, countries have different stances on the threat of terrorism, leading to inefficient attempts for a solution. (Council on Foreign Relations, 2011) To eliminate the threat of terrorism, it is essential that the UNSC, fully understands terrorism, monitors all committee nations to ensure they adhere to previous resolution, and ensure international cooperation from all nations to identify effective measures that must be taken to eliminate the existence of terrorist groups.

History of the Issue :

Terrorism was first addressed by the UN in 1972. However, modern terrorism has been in existence since the late 18th century. The word itself was adopted into European languages during the French revolution. Early in the revolution, the governments in Paris used violence to ensure order amongst citizens and put laws into place. (Roberts, 2002)

There are two types of terrorism; state terrorism and non-state terrorism. State terrorism is associated with states attempting to use terror to achieve certain objectives within the nation. Non-state terrorism is acts of terrorism carried out by groups that have no association with the

government, and they use violence to achieve certain aims and gain attention. For the purpose of this guide, we will focus on non-state terrorism, as currently, it is a more relevant threat globally than state organized terrorism. An early example of non-statement terrorism is the assassination of Franz Ferdinand, an Austrian Archduke in 1914. This act of terrorism was committed by a Serbian Gavril Princip, as a rebellious act for Austria's oppression over Serbia. In this incident, a powerful individual was targeted, whereas after World War II, terrorists focused less on powerful individuals, and shifted their aim to mass groups of innocent civilians. Through these massive attacks, which often target specific locations and events, terrorist groups are able to create damage and devastation on a larger scale, thus gaining global attention from governments and civilians alike. (Roberts, 2002)

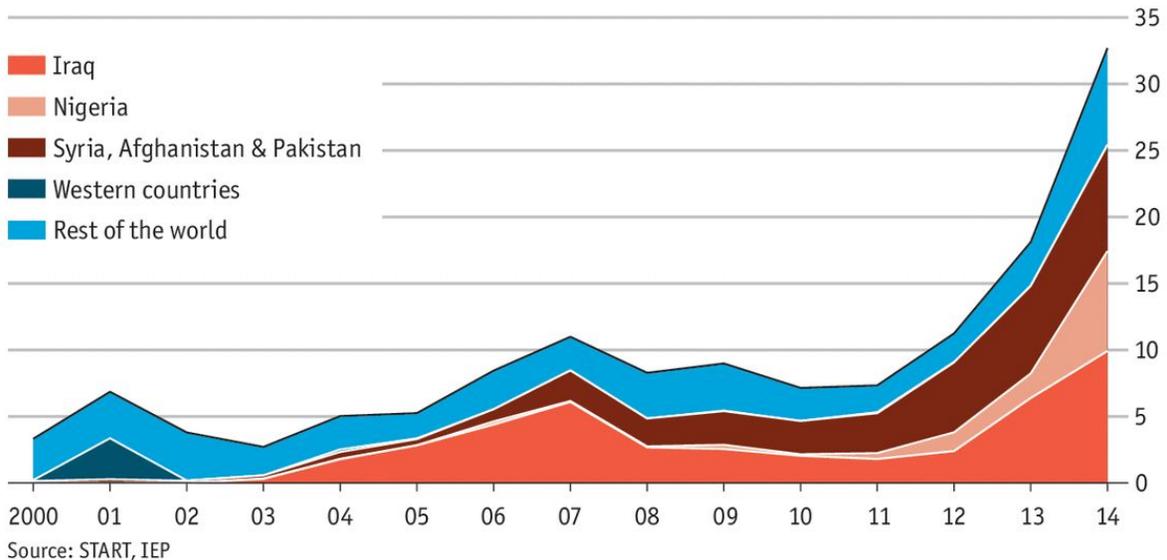
There are many causes to the beginning of modern terrorism by non-state groups. The actions of many of these groups is a result of their political, social, economic and religious motives. Terrorists believe they are victims of injustices and use violence as a way to draw attention to themselves and their beliefs. Their unified mindset, results in the group committing terrorist acts. This 'group mentality', results in a lack of regret over their actions, as they believe they are justified in their actions. (Deangelis, 2009)

The Emergence of Terrorist Groups in the Last Two Decades :

Terrorism has changed much since the earlier years. Terrorism has shifted away from state organized to non-state groups, that use mass violence against innocent civilians to bring forth further damage and devastation within a nation.

Global deaths from terrorism

'000



Economist.com

The recent emergence of many terrorist groups has led to an increase in global deaths from terrorism with a sharp rise from 2011 to 2014. After the year of 2002, deaths from terrorism became more concentrated in the Middle East and Africa in comparison to the rest of the world. Source : The Economist

Al Qaeda

In the 1990s, Osama Bin Laden became leader of an Islamic movement that called themselves Al Qaeda. The group originated after the Russo-Afghan War. (McCormick, 2014) They were a movement that practised religious extremism, and were hostile to the US and Western dominance and influence in the Middle East. The group attempted to eliminate western dominance and influence in Muslim countries, by killing hundreds in bombings of US embassies located in Africa in late 1998. This group evolved to become one with a strong purpose,

expanding beyond simply one state, with constituents willing to commit suicide in support of their cause as they did in the 9/11 attack. (Roberts, 2002) September 11, 2001 came across as a shock to nations around the globe. The immediate threat of terrorism was witnessed internationally, as nations were made aware of the extreme threat posed by terrorism. With the development of technology, terrorism had changed, and the mass casualties that resulted from the 9/11 attack, devastated the United States of America as they dealt with the horrors. The international community had realized the potential of terrorist groups. The 9/11 attacks have been the most influential in history, gaining the Al-Qaeda international recognition, as well as resulting in increased security measures internationally to prevent the threat of terrorism in other nations. The Al Qaeda have expanded to countries across Africa and Europe, and despite the death of their leader, Bin Laden, they continue to be an influential terrorist group and continue to be a group that is present on the terrorist agenda for the United Nations. As a group with such a vast network of followers, it has been difficult to target the centre of the organization to eliminate their existence due to the group's complexity and vast network. (Farrall, 2011) Since the 9/11 attack, terrorist groups have continued to grow larger in numbers through recruitment, and have been able to obtain the funding needed to finance their attacks. Technological developments have lead to more large scale attacks that are unexpected by nations.

Boko Haram

Boko Haram is another terrorist group that attacks at a more regional level, unlike the Al Qaeda that also attack at an international level. The group was founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, a Nigerian. His initial aim was to oppose the spread of Western education. In 2009, Abubakar Shekau took over the leadership of the group leading to more radical militarization.

Boko Haram mainly attacks northern Nigeria, in an attempt to establish Islam law and eliminate Western influence in Nigeria. As Boko Haram is only active within Nigeria, and foreign countries are not involved in these acts of terrorism, countries often do not step up to find solutions to this group. However, the United States has offered a 7 million dollar award for the leader of Boko Haram's head. (Karimi and Carter, 2014)

The Islamic State of Iraq

The Islamic State of Iraq, also known as ISIS controls large areas of land in Western Iraq and eastern Syria, and have a vast network of connections to other radical Islamic groups. They have struck globally with various attacks, from Baghdad to Beirut, to Russia to Paris. Not only have they attacked as a group, but they have also been an inspiration for lone wolf attacks in Ottawa and Sydney. (Cassis, 2015)

ISIS was established in the early 2000s by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi of Jordan. Zarqawi had rejected the al Qaeda and sought to set up his own group. After the US invaded Iraq in 2003, Zarqawi set up Jama'at al-Tawhid w'al-Jihad (the Party of Monotheism and Jihad). Zarqawi's ideas were similar to that of Osama bin Laden, however unlike bin Laden, Zarqawi targeted the Shiite Muslims. Zarqawi's hatred towards stemmed from, the Shiites replacing Sunnis in government after the fall of Saddam Hussein. (Ghosh, 2014)

Zarqawi's suicide bombings made him a prominent figure in the jihadi movement, and as a result he joined his group with bin Laden, naming the new group Al Qaeda in Iraq. However, his death came soon after. In the wake of his death, the US returned to Iraq in an attempt to create peaceful dialogue between the two groups of Muslims. However, the Prime Minister

Nouri al-Maliki and the Shiites wanted the Sunni punished. Resented from the Sunnis increased tremendously. (Ghosh, 2014)

In 2011, once US troops withdrew completely, the AQI returned and was run by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. They had also change their name to the Islamic State of Iraq. The Shiites continued to be the group's targets. Baghdadi continued Zarwaqi's missions by sending out suicide bombers and extended his reign of terror into Syria as well. As well, the group renamed themselves "the Islamic State," to represent their goal of ruling the region from the Gulf to the Mediterranean. (Ghosh, 2014)

ISIS continues to spread their message around the globe over social media. They have caught the world's attention and continue to be responsible for a number of high-profile attacks globally, such as in Sousse and Paris. Their ultimate goal is to implement Sharia Law, from the eighth century mirroring the past society of the region which they occupy. At the end of 2016, they controlled 23,320 square miles of land. They have institutionalized slavery and rape with more than 3500 slaves from the Yazidi community and profit off of oil production and ransoms among other things. As ISIS, continues to wreak havoc in the Middle East and internationally it is essential that the international community works as one to attempt to eliminate the existence of ISIS and assist the communities affected by ISIS. (CNN Library, 2017)

International Efforts

In 2006, the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The purpose of this strategy is to improve regional, national and international efforts in counteracting terrorism. The strategy is reviewed every two years to make any

necessary updates. The most recent revision of the strategy happened on July 1, 2016. The resolution can be divided into 4 pillars; addressing the spread of terrorism, taking the necessary measures to counteract terrorism; building individual state ability to counteract terrorism; ensuring human rights as the basis for counteracting terrorism. (UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, 2006)

Another international effort, is the Counter-Terrorism Committee, a subcommittee of the United Nations Security Council was established shortly after the 9/11 attacks, as part of resolution 1373. The committee works to enhance the ability of the United Nations and its member states to prevent terrorist attacks within their land. The committee works alongside the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, in the decision of policies as well as provide assistance to countries. (United Nations, 2005)

Pertinent Questions:

1. Consider a possible universal definition of the term ‘terrorism.’
2. What methods can be used to effectively eradicate the existence of large organizations with such vast networks?
3. How is your country affected by terrorism?
4. What can your country do to eliminate terrorism within your own borders as well as to assist other nations in preventing attacks within their own borders?
5. What additions or improvements can be made to the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy?
6. What can the UNSC do to prepare countries with little resources and expertise to deal with the aftermaths of a terrorist attack and prevent one?

7. What can the UNSC and member states do to resist the development of new terrorist organizations?

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