

KENTUCKY UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY 2022

SECURITY COUNCIL ISSUES

At KUNA, the Security Council will address **3 Issues** pertaining to international security in a specialized debate format. This year's issues are as follows:

- **Internal Conflicts: Civil Wars and Beyond**
- **Military Overreach**
- **Women, Peace, and Security**

Each issue includes a resource guide with the following sections:

- **Background on Issue**
Summary and background information on the issue
- **Conflicts**
Summary of ongoing or recently concluded conflicts associated with the issue
- **Questions to Address**
Guiding questions/problems to address in position papers and resolutions
- **Sources**
Links to research, articles, and other resources on the issue

All Security Council members - both Middle School and High School - will prepare and submit a **Position Paper** stating the position of their country on each of these 3 issues prior to KUNA. You must submit a position paper, or your country risks losing its vote during Security Council debate.

Position Papers are submitted using the link below (NOT on your delegation's registration form), and are due by the registration deadline for your Assembly:

www.kyymca.org/kuna/security-council

The page above also includes links to the Security Council Resource Folder, which contains additional resources and templates for preparing for your role as a member of the Security Council.

At the Assembly, members of the Security Council will work together to draft, debate, and vote on **Resolutions** addressing each of the issues.

Our Security Council will also participate in a **Crisis Scenario**, which will be facilitated by the President of the Security Council President and YMCA Staff. Details regarding the scenario will be revealed at KUNA.

Security Council | Issue 1

Internal Conflicts: Civil Wars and Beyond.

Author: Sam Smith, Security Council President | HS KUNA 1

BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE:

Since the end of the Cold War, the prevention and ceasing of civil wars has become a prominent part of the work of the United Nations. Today, a significant portion of the conflicts on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council are civil wars. There has been a civil war on every continent in the last 100 years and the UNSC has done great work in trying to end these civil wars and prevent new ones. The security council has hosted peace talks, sponsored military actions and supplied humanitarian aid to many counties that are dealing with Civil Wars. Civil war also led to other major problems such as starvation, the violation of human rights and destabilization of entire regions of the world. An example of this is Yemen, which only has half of its healthcare facilities are running and even the ones that are working are very low on supplies and in the Mexican Drug War police are reported to have tortured, captured and made people disappear. No matter what the war is, they tend to cause massive problems for entire regions of the world as you will see in the three situations below.

The United Nations Security Council is a very unique part of the United Nations. The UNSC is the only part of the UN that can make binding resolutions to Member States, these can be carried out by sanctions, military actions and establishing peacekeeping operations. Though it may sound like a lot of power, remember that Peacekeeping forces are sustained from Member States and therefore member states get the final say on what their Peacekeeping forces do. Remember that UNSC is only one organ of the entire UN and that many organizations both within and outside of the UN have helped in these wars. It is your main duty to help create and maintain peace, resolutions should be trying to help stop or mitigate war, preventing death and helping spread the core values of the United Nations.

CONFLICT 1: Yemeni Civil War

Yemen, a small country in the Asian Arabian Peninsula, is home to one of the most gruesome Civil Wars raging in the world right now. The fighting has been going on since 2014 has become the Iran-backed Houthi rebels who overthrew the Yemeni government are facing an internationally recognized coalition led by Saudi Arabia. The conflict has displaced well over one million people and has created a host of disease outbreaks including cholera and Covid-19. There are also major medical shortages all across the nation and are "hurtling towards the worst famine the world has seen in decades" says David Gressly, the United Nation Humanitarian Coordinator for Yemen. Mr. Gressly has also called this "The worst humanitarian crisis in the world"

Yemen has struggled with religious and cultural differences within its borders since European Colonization, in 1990 North Yemen and South Yemen unified after being separated by the Cold War. However in 2014, the extremist group Houthi rebels took over the capital of Yemen, Sanaa. This has started what has now been a 7 year war. Saudi Arabia's role in this war has been a massive series of bombings, 20,000 in total and also housing the Yemen president Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. The UNSC has passed little meaningful resolutions in the past, with exception to UNSC resolution 2451, which created a cease fire in a major port in Yemen. This resolution also set up prisoner exchanges and humanitarian aid supply lines. Since the passing of the resolution in 2018, little else has been done by the UNSC.

CONFLICT 2: Somali Civil War

The Somali civil war has been going on since the 1990's and was started between a whole host of different Islamic extremist groups and the internationally recognized Government of Somalia which currently only controls the capital and a few surrounding small regions. The war was started with the fall of President Said Barre in 1991, this fall created a power vacuum that was never filled causing the whole country to shatter into regions being controlled by warlords, Islamic nationalists and other territorial leaders. Al-Shabab, today's main oppositionist, goal is to create an Islamic state in Somalia. In the areas that Al-Shabab controls they enforce their own harsh and twisted version of Sharia law which prohibits various types of entertainment, smoking, shaving of beards and most importantly the prevention of humanitarian aid.

The UN has had success in Somalia, sponsoring and leading two military missions in the 1990's called United Nations Operations in Somalia I or UNOSOM I and UNOSOM II for short. UNOSOM I/II were designed to bring humanitarian help and stability to the region through military force. UNOSOM I was not incredibly successful as local warlords stopped most troops from leaving the airports, UNOSOM II was partially successful as it helped distribute humanitarian aid but did not succeed on its overall goal of stabilizing certain parts of Somalia. Walter Clarke, who was Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Somalia during UNOSOM II concluded that "The intervention in Somalia was not an abject failure; an estimated 100,000 lives were saved. But its mismanagement should be an object lesson for peacekeepers on other such missions." The overall failure of these missions is what led the UNSC to take less military actions and more peaceful routes when dealing with the Somali Civil War and Civil Wars in general. This new strategy of keeping peace has included a host of peace talks, incentives through resolution (usually dropping sanctions), and other less militant ways of creating and maintaining peace.

CONFLICT 3: Mexican Drug War

For the past 15 years the Mexican government has been waging a deadly war against the Mexican drug cartels within its borders. This war, which has taken hundreds of thousands of lives- including politicians, students and journalists. The United States of America has teamed up with Mexico by providing hundreds of millions of dollars in support and military personnel. The Mexican drug cartels, also called transnational criminal organizations control a majority of the import and export of cocaine, fentanyl, heroin, marijuana and methamphetamine in the entire Western region of the world. One of the main reasons that the cartels prosper so well in Mexico is because they use portions of their vast profits to pay off judges, police and politicians.

The toll on human rights has been massive. Journalists and the general public have been criticizing the government for years, judging everyone from the military police to the corrupt government. The government and cartels alike have committed many human rights violations including torture, extrajudicial killings and forced disappearances. For a scale, over 66,000 people have disappeared both from the cartels and the government. The total number of deaths from the Mexican drug war will never be known but current estimates have the death count at over 120,000. The UNSC has not passed any resolutions about the Mexican Drug War.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN POSITION PAPERS (9)

1. What, in your country's eyes, is the most effective way to combat illicit drug trafficking trade while also not violating human rights?
2. How can the UNSC combat religious extremism?
3. What is your country's stance on Yemeni Civil War?
4. If your country has had a civil war in the past Century, how did it conclude?
5. Should the UNSC be more aggressive with its peacekeeping goals?
6. Should the UNSC be involved with the internal affairs of other countries, even if it does not have a global impact?
7. What should the UNSC do about countries who profit off of other countries' civil wars? (selling weapons, being paid to house important figures, ect.)
8. How can the UNSC prevent civil wars?
9. What, if any, effects have civil war caused to your country and/or region?

SOURCES (10):

1. [United Nations Security Council Resolution 794,](#)
2. <https://www.hks.harvard.edu/centers/cid/publications/fellow-graduate-student-working-papers/mexico-trade-war>
3. [UN humanitarian office puts Yemen war dead at 233,000, mostly from 'indirect causes'](#)
4. [The United Nations Security Council and Civil War: First ...](#)
5. <https://yemen.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>
6. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/yemen-crisis>
7. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14470.doc.htm>
8. <https://www.unicef.org/emergencies/yemen-crisis>
9. <https://ask.un.org/faq/15010>
10. [https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13643.doc.htm#:~:text=Adopting%20resolution%202451%20\(2018\)%20unanimously,a%20statement%20of%20understanding%20on](https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13643.doc.htm#:~:text=Adopting%20resolution%202451%20(2018)%20unanimously,a%20statement%20of%20understanding%20on)

Security Council | Issue 2

Military Overreach

Author: Ian VanSteenbergh, President of the Security Council | HS KUNA 2

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The premise of the UN Security Council is peace and security, and with that, the prevention of war. The Security Council is guided by those principles to facilitate diplomacy between nations and in turn prevent another large-scale, international war from beginning. While each nation has the right to develop, train, and operate its militaries, the egos of each respective country often interfere in international diplomacy. Yet, most nations fail to remember the atrocities and those egos that led to the biggest and deadliest war in history, World War II. Preventative mediation and diplomacy is a complex issue; but despite differing opinions from all nations, all countries can agree peace and diplomacy is necessary, especially with the complex weaponry and equipment now involved.

The problem with sustaining peace and security, other than the egos and yearning for power of the leaders of Member States, falls within military aggression, and in turn, military overreach. This is arguably seen when the majority of larger, wealthier countries use their power and militaries to be "world police". These larger countries are using their militaries in other portions of the world to enforce their own beliefs. Often, this is during times where a country is in its own internal civil war and outside countries will come in and support either the government or rebels. This could also be when Human Rights are being violated or disputed, and rivaling countries come into the country to enforce their own opinions. The peace and security of the world as a whole is being violated by the over-militarization.

The gross development of militaries in the world has been hurting the average person. The world spent almost \$2 trillion on military spending last year alone. This vastly surpasses the global spending on combating hunger, ending climate change, and most other issues. The United States of America spends \$778 billion a year on its military, The People's Republic of China spends \$252 billion a year, and India spends \$72.9 billion a year on their military. Most of this money is spent training soldiers, investing in wars outside of their borders, and putting on a military display of might.

The overall issue of over-militarization and military overreach covers and affects other issues within the nations. Often times soldiers in the military are prone to sexual violence with little to no punishment occurring, and the overall presence of deadly weapons increases the chances of civilian harm in some form or fashion. Not only that, but the outright dangerous "show of force" only increases tensions between feuding nations. It is also outside involvement that can cause a civil war within a country, such as the American-led intervention in Syria, causing the Syrian Civil War. Furthermore, there are ghastly negative environmental effects and oftentimes, human rights violations. Military overreach stems into more harm done than good.

CONFLICT ONE: The South China Sea

The People's Republic of China has been constructing artificial islands in the South China Sea, primarily as military bases, in order to establish its presence further in the region and to extend their boundaries. The almost 3,200 acres of island they have constructed has inflamed tensions in the region. Many of the around nine countries in the region have contested China's claim of land: Brunei,

Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam, specifically. This has also spilled over with the allies of these nations sending military services to these nations to protect themselves and show military force.

In fact, the United Nations International Court of Justice (ICJ) sided with the nations contesting China's right to the South China Sea. The ICJ ruled in favor of the Philippines and other neighboring countries, expanding their territory to the South China Sea. However, China has not followed the orders by the Court to cease their aggressive operations and artificial island-building. China profits not only off the military bases, but the \$3.7 billion that passes through and about 40 percent of liquified natural gas trade transits through the region of waters, which China wishes to oversee. The blatant disregard of the ICJ decision has inflamed tensions within the region, causing military overreach not only with China, but the other nations laying claims to the South China Sea and their allies.

CONFLICT TWO: Conflict in Ukraine

After the Ukrainian President failed to accept a deal between the European Union and Ukraine, intense protests broke out in the capital city of Kiev. After the internal political crisis, and the President of Ukraine fleeing the country, the Russian Federation had the opportunity they needed to invade Ukraine's Crimea Region. Russia armed their military and forcefully invaded the Crimea region, allowing little to no defense against the soldiers, tanks, and military might of Russia. Now, Russia claims the invasion was necessary to "protect the rights of Russian citizens and Russian speakers in Crimea and southeast Ukraine." If that was not enough, Russian-built missile systems shot down a Malaysian Airlines flight in Ukraine, killing all on board.

The entire conflict between Russia and Ukraine has caused more than 10,000 civilian deaths and has caused an estimated 1.5 million internally displaced people. The entire conflict has pulled in allies of Ukraine; the allied nations providing defense monetary aid and NATO deploying multiple battalions across Eastern Europe to prevent further Russian aggression. While it seems that the conflict's tensions have lowered, the further military operations against Ukraine by Russia, would provoke NATO's member countries to defend Ukraine, potentially sparking a worse conflict.

CONFLICT THREE: Conflicts in the Middle East

The Middle East has erupted into multiple conflicts and crises due to over-militarization. Syria, Israel and Palestine, Yemen, and Afghanistan are a few of the many countries where these conflicts are occurring. In Syria, an ongoing civil war is fueled by the Syrian government- backed by Russia and Iran- and anti-government groups- backed by the United States, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey. In Israel, a civil war of sorts between the Israeli and Palestinian governments has been heavily aided by countries such as Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. In Yemen, a Saudi Arabian-backed coalition and Iranian-backed rebels continue to fight for control of the government. And in Afghanistan, the conflict between the United States and rebel groups has subsided for the most part.

While all of the conflicts above have much more to them than what is presented in the paragraph above, all of them happen to have outside support, both militarily and monetarily. While most of the conflicts deal with governmental instability, terrorism, or human rights violations, the majority of the conflicts are still not over and have caused millions of people to be killed, displaced, or in need of assistance.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN POSITION PAPERS (5)

- 1) What other issues affecting your country could be tied back to the military? (i.e. Environmental effects, sexual violence, and civilian harm)

- 2) How has the military budget of your country affected its global influence and how it addresses global conflicts?
- 3) What are your country's rival nations and how does your country interact with them in terms of militarization?
- 4) What, if any, conflicts outside of your own country is your nation involved in? What is its role? Why are they involved?
- 5) Overall, how would your country respond to a resolution limiting military overreach? How would you work with countries with a differing view?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH (7)

1. <https://www.un.org/en/our-work/maintain-international-peace-and-security>
2. <https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2021/world-military-spending-rises-almost-2-trillion-2020>
3. <https://www.statista.com/statistics/262742/countries-with-the-highest-military-spending/>
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-53397673>
5. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/territorial-disputes-south-china-sea>
6. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-ukraine>
7. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-yemen>

Security Council | Issue 3

Women, Peace, and Security

Author: Sabreen Hussain, President of the Security Council | HS KUNA 3

BACKGROUND ON ISSUE:

The UN Security Council has championed the participation of women in peacekeeping and conflict resolution since 2000 when it passed Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security. Since then, it has adopted a number of resolutions pertaining to the same topic but most historically is a 2008 resolution that was the first of many regarding Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). CRSV includes, but is not limited to "rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict." CRSV resolutions are both a reactive and preemptive tool to ensure the crimes committed in the past cannot be repeated again. They have resulted in the development of Women Protection Advisors (WPAs) on peacekeeping missions and the establishment of monitoring and reporting agreements. In recent years, the Council has adopted a more responsive survivor approach that focuses on the needs of the victims following a conflict.

CRSV leaves long-lasting trauma on the victim through repeated humiliation as a form of terrorism or a means of control to gain political or economic power. In addition, it has been declared by the UN as punishable under International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law as it constitutes a war crime. It often results in communities being destroyed or permanently altered which can lead to displacement and prolonged conflict; all of which threaten peace and security. The use of CRSV as a deliberate terrorist tactic by State and non-State groups exacerbates conflict and increases discrimination based on gender identity and sexuality.

CRSV, as a form of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), impacts people of all genders; a significant number of those affected are women, of all ages, and is indicative of a larger system of patriarchal inequality that perpetuates the continuation of discriminatory and harmful belief systems. By addressing specific conflicts and issues like rape, sexual slavery, and more, the Council is also addressing a much larger belief system that values men in positions of power and actively subjugates and demeans women. In order to sufficiently respond to the root cause of CRSV, the social, economic, and political rights of women must be brought to fruition. Organizations like the Council, the UN General Assembly, WHO, and others have a responsibility to address CRSV and its impact on people of all genders, while simultaneously understanding that there is a larger framework that created CRSV as a concept and must be addressed.

CONFLICT 1: CRSV in the Tigray Region of Ethiopia

Conflict between Ethiopia and Tigray started in November 2020 when Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed sent troops to the region following an attack on a military base. Despite armed conflict only starting in 2020, tensions have been rising since 2018, when Abiy took office. Following his appointment, he created the Prosperity Party, under which the Tigray's People Liberation Front (TPLF) lost significant power. When Abiy decided to postpone election among COVID-19 concerns, Tigray opposed the decision and held elections. The resulting rejection of Tigrayan officials only served to increase tensions. Eritrea, a country bordering Ethiopia but specifically Tigray, was pulled into the crisis after

Tigrayan forces fired missiles into the country. Eritrea, having just finalized their peace with Ethiopia after a twenty year stalemate following the Eritrean-Ethiopian War, was quick to send troops across the border into the Tigray region. Most importantly, is the number of Ethiopians who have been killed as a result of the war, with casualties going past 50,000; This number doesn't include the over 60,000 Ethiopians that have fled to Sudan seeking amnesty as refugees.

Inside of Tigray, hundreds of thousands starve due to a lack of resources and constant danger. Sexual violence has been confirmed as being used as a tool of war in northern and central Tigray. The Council has received concerning reports of women being sexually assaulted by military or individuals being forced to rape their family in exchange for basic commodities. There are similar reports coming out of refugee camps throughout the region. Over 800 cases of sexual violence have been reported since conflict started, including girls younger than ten being targeted. Other reports include women held captive for days and subjected to sexual slavery at the hands of soldiers. It's estimated that even more cases of CRSV have gone unreported due to the stigma surrounding sexual assault within the country. Many of the reports were filed due to extreme physical injury, development of a sexually transmitted disease, or pregnancy. Both Eritrea and Ethiopia have denounced sexual violence and promised to punish the perpetrators but no charges have been pressed as of yet, leaving the victims without justice or closure.

CONFLICT 2: Enslavement of the Yazidi Women

In periods of conflict, militants often use trafficking to assert their power over an area by spreading fear to increase their economic and political power. Sex trafficking is one of the most common forms of this, with young girls being forced to marry men decades older than them or being sold as sex slaves as an incentive. One example of this occurred in 2014 when the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) attacked the Yazidi people due to their mixing of Islamic and pre-Islamic beliefs, killing thousands of men and women and enslaving over 6,000 women. These women, some as young as eight years old, suffered the injustice of being bought and sold like cattle, lived in nightmarish conditions, and gladly risked death for the chance at freedom.

While roughly half of the women managed to escape during their captivity with the help of smugglers, the rest were only freed when the last leg of ISIS fell in 2019. The use of CRSV on such a large scale has displaced thousands of people as the Yazidi try to resettle. In addition, it has continued to create tension as children born during captivity are not allowed back into Yazidi communities, leaving hundreds of orphans abandoned or resulting in the mothers leaving their family and being forced to search for amnesty elsewhere so as not to abandon their children.

CONFLICT 3: Sexual Assault in US ICE detention facilities

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was created in 2003 with the goal of preventing undocumented immigrants from entering the country or catching those already present. Under the Trump Administration, there was a large increase of immigration detention however there were no standards set for the detention facilities. Thousands of undocumented residents are forcibly taken by ICE to detention facilities where they are kept in cramped, unclean quarters, withheld from basic necessities, and not provided adequate medical care leading to illness and death. In addition, detainees are very rarely granted the right to any sort of legal representation, which makes reporting the conditions unfeasible.

In 2019, over 4,500 children reported cases of sexual assault. It was reported that most of the roughly 1,000 that were referred to the Department of Justice, were between detainees, but 178 cases involved ICE employees sexually abusing migrant children. While some of these cases were

dealt with appropriately, many I did not have enough evidence to prosecute. In 2020 at a Texas detention center it was reported that the guards were systematically raping the women in the facility, using the threat of deportation against them. In these situations, the victims of sexual assault are often left without closure with their attackers walking free.

QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS IN POSITION PAPERS (5)

- 1) What changes would your country suggest, if any, for improving the survivor-based approach?
- 2) How would your country respond to refugee victims of CRSV seeking amnesty within your borders?
- 3) What should the international standard for CRSV asylees be according to your country? How does it differ from the current standard?
- 4) What, if any, internal programs does your country have in place in the prevention and recovery of trafficking victims?
- 5) How would your country suggest handling reports of sexual violence within government-owned facilities?

SOURCES FOR RESEARCH (11)

- 1) <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2021-04/women-peace-and-security-5.php>
- 2) <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/conflict-related-sexual-violence>
- 3) <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/report/conflict-related-sexual-violence-report-of-the-united-nations-secretary-general/2019-SG-Report.pdf>
- 4) <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/internationallaw.aspx>
- 5) <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/DPO-DPPA-SRSG-SVC-OHCHR-Policy-on-Field-Missions-Preventing-and-Responding-to-CRSV-2020.pdf>
- 6) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/06/29/ethiopia-tigray-conflict-faq/>
- 7) https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2021_312.pdf
- 8) <https://www.reuters.com/world/special-report-health-official-alleges-sexual-slavery-tigray-women-blame-2021-04-15/>
- 9) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jul/25/slaves-of-isis-the-long-walk-of-the-yazidi-women>
- 10) <https://globalrightsforwomen.org/featured/violence-against-women-and-girls-ice-custody/>
- 11) <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/27/us/immigrant-children-sexual-abuse.html>