

MADMUN XV



Security Council

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Letter From the Chairs:

Dear Delegates,

The chance to chair at MADMUN is a thrilling experience we can't wait to participate in. We look forward to witnessing engaging debates about controversial topics where delegates truly dive into their positions, views, and desires. MUN conferences present the perfect occasion for students to take a stand on what they believe in and how they plan to execute their plans. This breaks the streak of the general public being afraid of expressing their political opinions, making MUN a phenomenal way to gently pressure students out of their comfort zones.

As chairs we expect delegates to embrace the challenge of their positions and fight for what they believe in. Our topics are heavy and full of unspoken atrocities but we hope to witness students coming together to present an approach that helps solve these issues. Delegates should make the *why* of their speeches the center of attention. Focusing on impacting the world with plausible solutions is key to this committee. We hope to see delegates willing to compromise to meet the final goal.

We are so excited to meet you all in person at MADMUN XV! You are welcome to email us at 26english757@sasd.net and daniel.martin@edgewoodhs.org if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Julia English and Daniel Martin

Committee Overview:

The Security Council was established after the end of World War Two in order to prevent another World War from breaking out. The council is composed of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. Traditionally, the five permanent members have veto power, but that is not true for this committee. The five permanent members were the Allied forces of WW2: the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China. The ten non-permanent members are composed of UN member countries in good standing, distributed evenly in order to represent all regions.

The Security Council is responsible for maintaining international security and peace. The Security Council determines where threats to peace exist and decides how to deal with any problems that arise. In a best-case scenario, the Security Council mediates disputes between countries in order to avoid violence. In most scenarios, the Security Council decides punitive measures to stop or deter violent action. Some of these punitive measures could be economic sanctions, the use of a UN peacekeeping mission, etc.

The powers of the Security Council fall under Chapter VI and Chapter VII of the UN charter. Chapter VI empowers the Security Council to act as an arbiter for disputes between two nations or groups within a nation. Chapter VII gives the Security Council the ability to take stronger actions. The Security Council can decide to create economic sanctions or cut diplomatic ties. If these measures are not enough, the Security Council is then allowed to authorize military action by member states. It is strongly suggested that non-military action is attempted before any authorization of military action.

Historically, the Security Council has taken action many times. Early on in its history, the Security Council authorized the invasion of Korea after the Soviets boycotted the council. The

Security Council has authorized dozens of other peacekeeping missions, with varying degrees of success. The Security Council has been criticized for its failure to stop the Rwandan and Bosnian genocides.

Topic 1: Child Soldiers/Children in Conflicts

Background

Child soldiers are defined as any person under the age of 18 associated with an armed group. Nation-states are prohibited from drafting children below the age of 18, but children older than 15 are allowed to voluntarily join the armed forces of nation-states. Non-state actors are prohibited from recruiting any child under the age of 18. Child soldiers may be serving in combat or non-combat roles. Some children are abducted and physically forced to fight, while others are manipulated or joined out of desperation. Not all child soldiers are male and female child soldiers often face gender-based violence. Being a child soldier often leads to psychological damage in addition to physical injuries and high rates of death. The use of child soldiers is a war crime.

The UN typically enforces the ban on child soldiers through Action Plans. An Action Plan is an agreement with an offending group to reduce the use of child soldiers or stop other violations. Action Plans are typically issued after the Security Council imposes a punitive measure such as economic sanctions. Action Plans are a set of concrete steps a group must take in order to stop the punitive measure. Until the Action Plan is completed, the nation or group will continue to face the punitive measure. An Action Plan for child soldiers typically is a list of measures that are designed to stop current use of child soldiers, stop recruitment processes for child soldiers, create programs to reintegrate child soldiers into civilian life, and measures to stop future use of child soldiers.

Child soldiers were first prohibited after WW2 in the Geneva Convention. The 1949 Geneva Conventions set the age minimum for soldiers at 15 years old. Reform came after Graca

Machel's report in 1996. In response to Machel's report, the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict was passed, which raised the minimum age to 18. Child soldiers have been a problem in nearly every conflict in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, even after the Geneva Convention.

Current Situation

Child soldiers are actively participating in many armed conflicts throughout the world. In 2023, the UN verified 32,990 violations against 22,557 children. The highest figures in the last 10 years (<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15745.doc.htm>). There are currently 10 countries with active action plans for reducing the use of child soldiers: the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The Security Council will not be able to address every area, so delegates will have to determine where the Security Council should focus. Position papers do not need to cover every conflict.

The Central African Republic

The Central African Republic has had numerous coups and civil wars since it gained independence in 1960. Most recently a majority Muslim group, Seleka, overthrew the government in 2013. The Seleka are currently fighting coalitions of Christian fighters. There is often spillover into the nearby Sudan Civil War, as CAR fighters frequently join groups in Sudan. Both sides of the conflict are believed to have committed war crimes including but not limited to the use of child soldiers.

The Democratic Republic of Congo

Violence in the DRC most recently flared up after the violence surrounding national elections in 2023. The military is currently fighting two insurgent groups, M23 and the ADF. M23 is an ethnically Tutsi group tied to the Rwandan and Ugandan governments. The ADF is an ISIS affiliate. Conflict in the DRC first began in 1996 after the Rwandan Genocide, where an ethnic group called the Hutu committed genocide against the Tutsi ethnic group. Conflict is ongoing, and child soldiers have been frequently used.

Iraq

Conflict in Iraq has been ongoing in some form since the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein. After the death of Hussein, militant groups have been battling the US-supported Iraqi government. The largest of these groups is ISIS, which continues to have a presence in Iraq even after they were significantly beaten back in 2017. At the root of the Iraq conflict is Sunni-Shiite Muslim religious tension. After the Israel-Hamas conflict began after the October 7th attacks, Iran-backed militias have increased their attacks in Iraq. Child soldiers continue to be an issue in the militia and terrorist groups in Iraq.

Mali

Conflict in Mali arose in 2012 after the government was overthrown by Islamist groups primarily of the Tuareg ethnicity. Mali has faced repeated uprisings from the Tuareg group after Mali became independent of France in 1960. Conflict between rival militias and armed groups has continued off and on since 2012, with child soldiers being used by many groups.

Myanmar

The underlying tension in Myanmar comes from the religious conflict between Buddhist and Muslim groups within the country. Violence has been frequent, including the persecution of the Muslim Rohingya ethnic group by Buddhist Nationalist forces. The democratically elected

government was overthrown by a military junta in 2021, resulting in ongoing fighting between junta forces and pro-democratic militias.

Somalia

Current fighting in Somalia is primarily between the Somalian government and Al-Qaeda affiliate Al-Shabab. The UN has a peacekeeping force in Somalia that has been actively fighting since the 2000s. Child soldiers are frequently used by Al-Shabab.

Sudanese Conflict

The civil war in Sudan recently broke out again in 2023, after the civil war had been believed to be resolved. The country is divided culturally between a more developed and wealthy majority Muslim North and a less developed, majority Christian South. In 2011, South Sudan seceded from Sudan, restarting the decades-long civil war (1983-2005). After talks for a ceasefire broke down in 2023, fighting has continued.

Syria

Conflict in Syria began during the Arab Spring when President Bashar Al-Assad's government began fighting anti-government militia groups. Assad's government is backed by Russia and Iran, while some militia groups were backed by the US and allies, notably Turkey. ISIS emerged in 2013, and still controls some portions of Syrian territory, but is nowhere near its peak territorial control. Turkey is fighting against Kurdish groups including the PKK. The Kurds are an ethnic group in Turkey, Syria, and Iraq that wants to form its own independent nation. Child soldiers have been used by militia groups, including ISIS.

Yemen

War in Yemen started in 2014 when Iran-backed Shiite insurgents called the Houthis seized the capital and overthrew the government. A coalition of Arab states led by Saudi Arabia

and backed by the United States conducted airstrikes and created a naval blockade around Yemen. Yemen is considered a proxy war between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran. Fighting within Yemen has been mostly quiet but the Saudi blockade has created a humanitarian crisis. The Houthis have used child soldiers since the beginning of the conflict and continue to do so.

Conclusion

Child soldiers are a difficult issue to solve. Multiple conflicts using child soldiers are unlikely to be easily resolved. Delegates will need to decide where to focus their efforts in order to reduce or eliminate the use of child soldiers, though not necessarily eliminate conflicts themselves. The use of child soldiers is a very difficult issue to deal with, and delegates will be expected to discuss the issue with maturity. We do not expect delegates to be experts on every conflict, but to be aware of them and prioritize actions based on the interests of your country. The Security Council has the power to influence the use of child soldiers in a significant way if the delegates work together and act wisely.

Questions to Consider

1. How is your country most connected to the issue of child soldiers?
2. Where should the Security Council focus its efforts to be most impactful on the issue of child soldiers?
3. What measures are appropriate for enforcing rules on child soldiers?
4. Should the minimum age for designation as a child soldier be changed?
5. When is the use of military force by UN member states justified, if ever?

6. Is it just to allow a government that has used child soldiers to operate, even if it means ending a conflict?

Topic 2: Discussing Ethnic Cleansing

Background

Ethnic cleansing is a topic of conversation often avoided due to it being a dark, violent part of the world today. While it is not genocide, it is still a crime against humanity and often results in similar endings. The technical definition of genocide is “the mass expulsion or killing of members of an unwanted ethnic or religious group in a society” (Oxford). Unfortunately, the lines between displacing a group and genocide are often crossed and left blurred for law enforcement. Millions have died with their calls for help being left unanswered because of the heavy involvement necessary to put an end to situations involved with ethnic cleansing.

Genocide is often confused with ethnic cleansing due to both referring to brutality on a certain ethnic group. Genocide is the actual destruction of a certain group while ethnic cleansing is the deportation of a certain group. Nearly every conflict begins with the campaign of ethnic cleansing but the original intentions are abandoned and quickly result in mass genocide. Mutual ethnic cleansing also exists when two groups each target segments of the other's population within their territories. This often leads to all-out wars and even more death. Powerful countries consistently turn a blind eye to these battles in order to stay out of it.

The official term first entered the modern dialect in the 1990's. Coined by the perpetrators in the Yugoslavian Wars, the euphemism failed to soften the harsh conditions placed upon the victims. However, the antecedent of the term was first spoken throughout Alexander the Great's first Greek conquests. Because of its broad nature, ethnic cleansing is not included in an international crime treaty, but it is considered a crime against humanity. Regrettably, not all wars

are addressed by the United Nations and many crimes go unpunished. Many figures speak out against the lack of legal redress involved in these crimes.

Current Situation

Despite the advancement of society today, ethnic cleansing still takes place. Many countries face leaders with intentions to wipe out entire races. Every decade more than 63,000 die because immigration processes are halted which is initiated by ethnic cleansing. The millions affected face threats such as physical torture, and sexual abuse, and many are forced to watch their families get murdered. Every decade there is an average of around 13 cases of ethnic cleansing around the world taking place. Countries such as Ethiopia, Sudan, Burma, and Azerbaijan all face ethnic cleansing while Myanmar, Iraq, China, Syria, and Yemen continue to battle mass genocides. Again, due to time, the Security Council will be unable to discuss every area so delegates should determine where to focus on. Position papers are not required to address every issue.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia's northern region, a small area named Tigray faces constant fear due to local authorities and Amhara forces taking out Tigrayans. The Tigrayans must leave and these military forces have been given word to use any means necessary. This has been going on since the November 2, 2022 truce, which was created in the hope of ending the ethnic cleansing of Tigrayans. In 2021 there are reports of hundreds of thousands of Tigrayans being displaced due to these security forces. Ethiopia has shown no attempts at putting an end to the conflict and in May of 2023 Ethiopia hid many of the atrocities that were going on in Tigray. Unfortunately, the United Nations is struggling to find concrete evidence to be used for accountability.

Sudan

With almost 400,000 killed and millions displaced in West Darfur Sudan faces a tremendous issue. The conflict began in 2003 and war has been raging on and off. Serious health conditions are becoming worse and worse and the health care system in Sudan is in shambles. With little to no resources, the citizens of West Darfur try to flee the violent oppression. Nearly half of the Sudanese people are without jobs and the economy continues to worsen. Along with this comes the massive number of 18 million people with food insecurity and poor shelter. Groups such as the IRC have been helping Sudan through the crisis but right now Sudan is in its darkest period yet.

Burma

The Rohingya Muslims face the scary reality of losing everything. Burma authorities and Arakanese have been persistent in their mission to rid Burma of all Muslims. The ongoing humanitarian crisis began in October of 2012. Numerous mass displacements and massacres have taken place since then yet the claims from the Burmese government remain the same; they are illegal immigrants. However, the children were never given a chance to become citizens therefore they are grouped with the rest and face the same fate.

Azerbaijan

In just under 24 hours in September of 2023, the Azerbaijani government was able to overtake the Armenian government sparking the immediate displacement of 120,000 civilians from their lifelong homes. Only a couple dozen Nagorno-Armenians remain, as of November 2023, as 99% of the Nagorno-Armenians have been forced to flee. The claims of the Azerbaijani government remain that the victims have been safely reintegrated yet no further proof has been offered.

Myanmar

The Rohingya Genocide is an ongoing genocide leaving more than 50,000 dead. The Myanmar war is known for its place as one of the top fifty most violent wars. Beginning in 2016 the war had killed 25,000+ by 2018. Conflict paused for a short period but it soon resumed as Myanmar entered a deadly civil war in 2021. The U.S. along with many other countries have spoken on their participation in the Genocide Convention and have accused Myanmar of genocide against Rohingya. The lack of citizenship puts Rohingyains in a precarious place because it does not offer them protection from the government. This only increases the fire of war as they refuse to gain citizenship. This is the second genocide of the Rohingya people and it is pertinent it is soon stopped for Myanmar to fix its economy and to end the never-ending war. Both the past genocide and the current have left millions displaced forever from their home.

Iraq

Headlines in newspapers around the world today are reporting on solid evidence of an armed militia called the Islamic State launching a force with the task of systematically ethnically cleansing minorities in Iraq using any means necessary. Several mass killings have taken place with hundreds being left dead. Many are missing and cries for help can be heard everywhere.

China

The year 2014 marked the beginning of the purge of the Uyghurs in China. Not permitted to leave, around 2 million Uyghurs are currently being detained in China. The indoctrination processes at the camps include a multitude of forms of torture from waterboarding to mass rape. Turkey is currently home to the largest population of Uyghur refugees with around 50,000 people. The ones in China who have yet to be put into camps are under constant surveillance.

Unfortunately, all attempts to put a stop to the abuse have failed and the Uyghur people face the consequences.

Syria

The war in Syria has caused many ethnic groups to seek refuge in smaller areas closer to their people. Ever since the war began smaller and smaller population growth was being recorded and it has gotten to the point where the ethnic cleansing is visible for the world to see. Rather than focusing on one group, the Syrian forces have been forcing away all the minorities. The civil war has yet to be resolved and the ethnic cleansing is threatening Syria's sense of unity. Outsiders believe the unrest will only increase tensions and slow the war down.

Yemen

Yemen's state of extreme poverty has increased the amount of desperation leading to a civil war. As of 2022, 4.1 million people have been displaced since the war began in 2015. Middle-eastern Jews consist of a huge part of this faction. Blatant denial of the Yemenis actions from surrounding nations has only made conditions worse. The United Nations World Food Program is currently sending 100,000 metric tons of food each month to lessen starvation. Alas while the food is helping, the UN has conducted no peacekeeping actions in the war.

Conclusion

Ethnic cleansing and all the problems that come along with it will not be solved in a day. Millions more will die and even more will be displaced. Delegates should focus on how to prevent this and what steps should be put in place for a plan of action when conflicts like these are started. Again, this is a hard and mature topic to discuss, delegates need to remember what they stand for in and out of the conference room. This conference is an incredible opportunity

for delegates to push out of their comfort zones and become aware and involved in the pressing issues the Security Council faces today.

Questions to Consider

1. Has your country faced ethnic cleansing before?
2. Is immigration an issue?
3. What prevents major powers from stepping in?
4. How can the United Nations address these countries facing ethnic cleansing?
5. What evidence is necessary for the United Nations to act? What should the United Nations do with concrete evidence?
6. Are there programs to help the victims of ethnic cleansing?
7. Who should be blamed? How should they be punished?
8. What can be done to prevent ethnic cleansing from escalating into genocide?
9. How can all-out wars be avoided while justice is carried out?

Positions:

China

One of the allied powers following WW2, China was a large part of the foundation of the UN and the Security Council. During the Chinese Civil War the Republic of China lost control of China to the People's Republic of China, eventually, the ROC was erased by the One-China Policy during the Cold War. This Replacement was opposed by the US and its allies.

Russia

After the fall of the Soviet Union the Russian Federation succeeded to the Soviet Union's seat. The Soviet Union was a communist government member of the Allied parties in WW2. However, the fall of the Soviet Union showed promise of a Russia that was Allied with the West. Recent actions such as attempts to reclaim the land from the old "Soviet Empire" have shown a Russia that is very resistant to the West.

France

Following WW2, France was one of the founding members of the UN and Security Council. Since the American Revolution, France has considered itself as a close ally to the US. With the two democracies growing alongside each other, France has constantly backed the Security Council as the 6th largest contributor to the UN's regular budget.

United Kingdom

Another founding member of the UN, the UK is the 5th largest investor in the UN's budget. It even contributes to British English as an official language of the United Nations. Following the American Revolution, the UK and the US have remained close allies. The two economies and militaries work alongside each other.

United States

United States

The US was one of the original members of the Security Council. Dedicated to the protection of democracy. Being a part of the allied powers has allowed the United States to hold a permanent position within the Security Council. But shifts in power between the US and other permanent members have created tensions within the council.

10 non-permanent Members:

Algeria

The addition of Algeria to the Security Council happened in June of 2023. Algeria has stated that its mission is to promote the empowerment of women and the involvement of youth. They have pledged to advocate for their strengthening in the framework of the Security Council.

Ecuador

Ecuador's goal within the Security Council is to address transnational crime as stated in recent press conferences. The goal is to build on Previous Latin American work. With long-standing diplomatic relations with the US, they are often thought of as a close ally.

Guyana

Guyana Joined the Security Council in January of 2024. Guyana has been in high tension with Venezuela. The Council has urged that peace be maintained in Latin America.

Japan

Japan was a member of the Axis powers in WW2, following which it became a very close ally to the United States. Japan often acts as a symbol of the US in the Pacific Ocean. Being relatively close to China has put it in the middle of conflicts between China and the US.

Malta

In April Malta organized a briefing on children in areas of conflict. The goal was to address conflict and denial of providing humanitarian aid to children.

Mozambique

Mozambique joined the Security Council in January of 2023 and sat as president in March of 2023. They aim to maintain global peace and security specifically in Africa.

Republic of Korea (South Korea)

Joining the Security Council in 2023, the Republic of Korea is another strong ally of the United States. They are Geographically Located near China, Russia and Japan, Serving as another symbol of the West in Asia.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone Joined the Security Council in January of 2024. Sierra Leone has been absent from the Security Council in the past due to civil war and poor governance. But now hopes its return can help uphold peace in Africa.

Slovenia

Slovenia joined the Security Council in January of 2024. Being a former Soviet State Slovenia has moved to cut ties with Russia in order to promote its progression. But in recent years Russia has claimed that they want that land back under their control.

Switzerland

Switzerland is known for being a neutral Country. In the past, this has protected it from being invaded. They even avoided joining the UN in fear of no longer being seen as neutral. But nowadays they use seats such as that in the Security Council to promote peace in Europe.

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