King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

Arab League

Chair:

Co-chair:

A letter from your Secretary General

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to welcome you to the sixth annual King'sMUN conference. Since our debut in 2013, King'sMUN has provided an environment to foster and nurture aspiring Model UN enthusiasts. From our tutorial to our advanced committees, delegates of all levels of experience will be able to participate and grow in their MUN abilities.

Model United Nations is an internationally recognized forum for debate that invites students from thousands of schools around the world to participate in conferences. Delegates are encouraged to debate on and attempt to resolve pressing issues that affect the global community. Through these simulations, students are able to develop and refine their skills in diplomacy, negotiation, compromise, research, public speaking, critical thinking, and writing amongst other practical skills that will be extremely useful in all facets of their education and life in general.

At King's Christian Collegiate, I have come to recognize the significant positive impact that Model UN has had on our students, so I have dedicated myself to growing our own club and spreading my knowledge and passion to surrounding schools and communities. Through developing my awareness regarding international and geo-political relations, I have been able to deepen my insight into some of the world's most compelling issues and encourage mature and fruitful discussion around these topics.

I am so proud of how inclusive, supportive and dedicated our group has become and cannot wait to see King'sMUN continue to grow exponentially in years to come. I love sharing my experiences regarding Model UN with others and I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can and hearing your individual stories.

I am once again immensely excited to welcome Grades 7-12 at the fifth annual King'sMUN conference. I look forward to seeing you on Saturday, February 22nd, 2020.
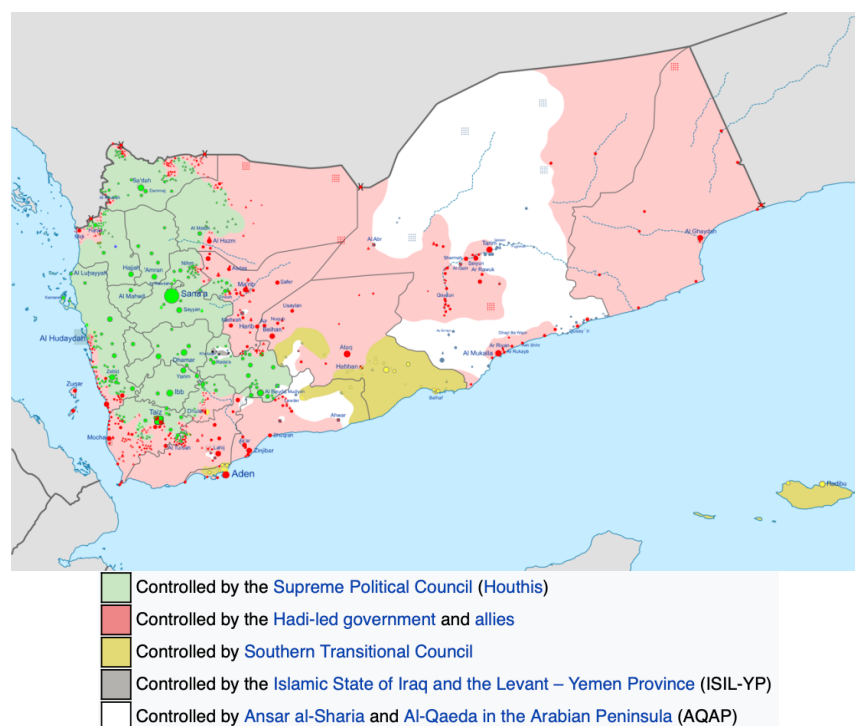
Sincerely,
Alice Gales
Secretary General, 2019/2020
King'sMUN

Topic 1: Resolving the Conflict in Yemen

For the past 5 years, Yemen, a rather poor Arab country with a population of approximately 23.6 million people, has been engulfed in a bloody war between the Houthi rebels and supporters of Yemen's internationally recognized government, led by Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Both claim to constitute the government of Yemen. The Houthis and the "Hadi" Yemeni government have battled on and off since 2004, but much of the fighting was limited to the Houthis' stronghold, northern Yemen's poor Sa'dah province. The conflict escalated in September 2014, when the Houthis took control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, and proceeded to push southwards towards the country's second-biggest city, Aden. In response to the Houthis' advances, in 2015, a coalition of Arab nations initiated a military campaign to defeat the Houthis and restore Yemen's government.

This conflict has involved many Arab nations. The 2015 coalition of Arab states intending to defeat the Houthis in Yemen was led by Saudi Arabia. The coalition includes Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, Sudan and Senegal. Several of these countries have sent troops to fight on the ground in Yemen, while others have only carried out air attacks. The US, along with other western powers such as the UK and France, have also supplied the Saudi-led coalition with weapons and intelligence. Iran has denied arming the Houthi rebels, but the US military said it intercepted arms shipments from Iran to Yemen, claiming it was the third time in two months that this had occurred. Iranian officials have also suggested they may send military advisers to support the Houthis.

Figure 1: Military situation in Yemen on 28 July 2019

Controlled by the Supreme Political Council (Houthis)

Controlled by the Hadi-led government and allies

Controlled by Southern Transitional Council

Controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant – Yemen Province (ISIL-YP)

Controlled by Ansar al-Sharia and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)

The war between the Houthi rebel movement and the Saudi-led Coalition began in March of 2015 and has become more devastating than ever, after the world's largest cholera outbreak swept across the country, resulting in more than 1.2 million suspected cases. Yemen has suffered repeated bombings that have ruined bridges, hospitals, factories, homes, and many other establishments, yet all the money Yemen receives from its allies are spent funding the war effort while civilians starve and die of sickness. To make matters worse, enemies have closed the international airport preventing antibiotics and aid from reaching the civilian population. As Yemen can't acquire the money and medicine needed to help civilians, there is little hope for those living in Yemen. Save The Children estimated at least 85,000 children died since the beginning of the war, an average of 50 every day. As of November 2019, an estimate of more than 100,000 people has been killed due to the war. Those death numbers include all types: disease/sickness, starvation, casualties, and death from fighting. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), estimates that more than 3 million Yemenis have fled their homes to elsewhere in the country, and 280,000 have sought asylum in other nations, including Djibouti and Somalia. Despite more than three years of inconclusive fighting, several UN-organized efforts to negotiate a peace deal have failed. The United Nations also says that Yemen has the worst humanitarian crisis on the planet.

Questions to help you get started:

• How can other Arab nations support displaced and in need refugees?

• What role are the Arab nations playing in the resolution of this conflict?

• Is it possible for Arab nations to facilitate peace talks with the intent of de-escalating the conflict?

References:

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Topic 2: Extremism in the Arab World (& protecting religious minorities)

Till now, there is no internationally agreed definition as to which groups constitute minorities. The "United Nations Minorities Declaration" refers to minorities as groups based on national or ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic
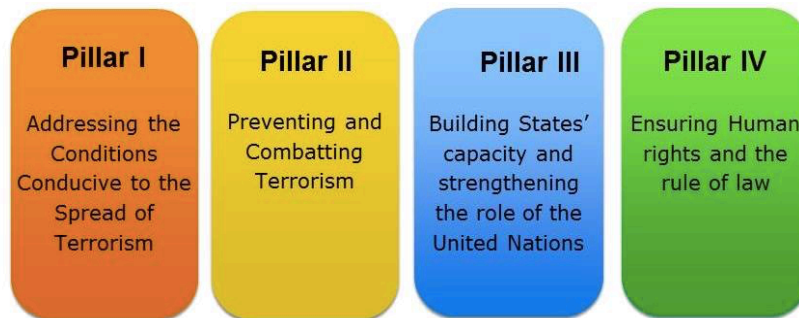
Minorities in the Arab world, like in all regions of the world continue to face serious threats, discrimination and racism and are frequently excluded from taking part fully in the economic, political, social and cultural life available to the majority in the countries or societies where they live. Minorities in the Arab world are not only religious; there are ethnic, linguistic, tribal minorities forming a mosaic of ethnic, national and religious communities in each state. The fate of minorities in the Arab region is one of the important problems that face Arab states since the Arab Uprisings which led to civil wars and the rise of extremism and terrorism. However, this problem is not new; minorities have been subjected to injustice, discrimination and forced displacements for more than four or five centuries ago. Nearly a century after they rose on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire, Arab world states have failed to unite their communities and form nations with common goals and aspirations. Through all their history, those societies have been torn by ceaseless internal and external troubles, political and economic discrimination, revolts, civil wars and military deposition.

Most of the publications about minorities in the Middle East or the Arab world in general try to tell about the hard conditions they are living, their status; as well as their exodus after the massacres done by Jihadists like Al Qaeda, ISIS, Al- Nusra front and others. Little - if any- tried to seek how people belonging to minority groups see their future, what are their aspirations, and which type of political systems they prefer. No one has ever asked them about their perceptions towards what has been published or leaked as solutions for the states' crisis in the region.

Arab nation-states share many characteristics; they were subjected to Ottoman rule, and all - except Lebanon- have a wide Muslim majority, with diverse communities and minorities. Politically, Palestine suffers from occupation, Jordan is a kingdom that has an extensive Palestinian refugee population, and Lebanon has its unique style power-sharing system based on religious and sectarian balance. Before 2011, Syria was ruled by Alawites' minority much resented by the Sunni majority. Syria is now witnessing a bloody civil war, which caused 250,000 deaths and leading over 3 million to flee the country, plus 6.5 million are internally displaced within Syria. In Iraq, the Sunni minority which ruled until the fall of Saddam Hussein was not ready to concede power to the Shia majority which emerged after US occupation on 2003, leading to civil sectarian strife between 2006- 2008, then to a resurgence of Islamic extremist groups like Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State of Iraq. Persecutions of Iraqi Christians started in 2003; lead to their exodus and seeking refuge in Syria and Lebanon.

As a result of the chaos caused by extremist ideologies, The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism was established 15 June 2017. The Office of Counter-Terrorism has five main functions:

- provide leadership on the General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General from across the United Nations system;
- enhance coordination and coherence across the 38 Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact (former CTITF) Task Force entities to ensure the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

Pillar I	Pillar II	Pillar III	Pillar IV
Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Spread of Terrorism	Preventing and Combatting Terrorism	Building States' capacity and strengthening the role of the United Nations	Ensuring Human rights and the rule of law

- strengthen the delivery of United Nations counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States;
- improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for United Nations counter-terrorism efforts; and
- ensure that due priority is given to counterterrorism across the United Nations system and that the important work on preventing violent extremism is firmly rooted in the Strategy.

The Office will aim to have a close relationship with Security Council bodies and the Member States, strengthening existing and developing new partnerships through regular travel and attendance at counter-terrorism-related meetings.

Questions to help you get started:

- Who are the minorities in the Arab world? How can we define their collective history?

- How did their conditions change with the continuous chaos in the region?

- Extremism/Terrorism is an ideology that has always been there, but what caused it to arise suddenly during the 21st century? How can we prevent this idea from expanding?

References

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