

Forum: Disarmament & International Security Committee
Issue: Foreign intervention in Civil War
Student Officer: Mary Ioannidi
Position: Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Mary Ioannidi and it is a great pleasure for me to be the Main Chair of Disarmament and International Security Committee at 5th P.S.-M.U.N 2015.

I am a 2nd year student of Medical School at the University of Athens. I graduated from Platon School two years ago. The last five years I have participated in many M.U.N. Conferences as a delegate and as a student officer. The most significant moments of my M.U.N. career were the honors to serve as a Secretary General of 3rd PS-MUN and as a Deputy President of the General Assembly (DPGA) of 2nd PS-MUN. Participating in such a Conference gave me the opportunity to obtain deeper concern about world issues and human rights injustice. Also, it really helped me to unfurl my organizing and presenting skills, which seems to be of utmost importance in my present and near future career.

This year's agenda includes controversial, demanding topics which will require thorough research for you to be able to product a resolution full of realistic and feasible solutions. The first topic National Security Leaks has been a burning issue this year especially for USA. As far as Civilian casualties in military conflict concerns, this topic is incredibly intricate, and will prompt radically different views from the different states. The third issue you will be discussing, Foreign Intervention in Civil War, is one of the most debatable decisions facing modern great powers. How can the UN best serve countries that need help during an internal conflict and do single nations have the right to interfere in another sovereign nation's conflicts?

If you have any questions about the given topics or any kind of difficulty with your research or your country's policy, don't hesitate to contact me (ioannidimary@gmail.com). I would be glad to help you prepare distinctly for the forthcoming conference.

Best Regards,

Ioannidi Mary

INTRODUCING TOPIC

A civil war is a war between organized parties within the same state or republic. Foreign involvement in a Civil War refers to political, military, logistical, diplomatic and operational support to parties involved in the War from foreign countries. There is a demarcation between foreign interventions which refers to specific country's actions and international interventions which refers to international governing bodies, like the UN, to take part in existing conflicts.

HISTRORICAL ANALYSIS-UN INVOLVEMENT:

Since its creation, the UN has often been called upon to prevent disputes from escalating into war, or to help restore peace when armed conflict does break out, and to promote lasting peace in societies emerging from wars.¹ There have been 138 intrastate wars since the end of World War II, and foreign powers have intervened in almost two-thirds of them. Saving human lives from war motivated the founders of the United Nations. Since its creation, the UN has often been called upon to avert conflicts, or to help restore peace when disputes do break out. Also, promoting lasting peace in societies in need is another major goal for the UN. The main difficulty is that the UN finds no framework when it comes to in any kind of internal conflicts due to the fact that this organization was designed to handle international conflicts and to preserve peace and security. The only solution is individual resolutions from Disarmament Committee and Security Council which are not always efficient because there is a significant delay in producing and implement the recommended measures. This issue stands out when the UN attempt to solve internal security problems, such as the intervention in civil wars in the Congo, Indonesia and, most recently, in Syria.

In the following temple you can see some of the past and recent examples:

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/peacesecurity/>

Start Date	End Date	Name	Acronym	Purpose
1960	1964	United Nations Operation in the Congo	ONUC	Prevent a civil war, end the secessionist movement and remove foreign troops
1962	1963	UN Security Force in West New Guinea	UNSF	Monitor the ceasefire during Dutch withdrawal
1964	Ongoing	UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus	UNFICYP	Prevent conflict between Greek and Turkish Cypriots
1989	1990	United Nations Transition Assistance Group	UNTAG	Supervise Namibia's Elections and transition to independence
1989	1992	UN Observer group in Central America	ONTUCA	Monitor ceasefire in Nicaragua
1991	1995	UN Angola Verification Mission II	UNAVEMII	Enforce ceasefire in Angolan civil war
1991	1995	UN Observer Mission in El Salvador	ONUSAL	Enforce ceasefire in El Salvador civil war
1992	1993	UN Operation in Somalia	UNOSOM I	Enforce ceasefire in Somalia. Replaced by UNOSOM II
1993	1996	UN Observer Mission in Liberia	UNOMIL	Monitor ceasefire and elections in Liberia
1994	2002	UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan	UNMOT	Monitor ceasefire in Tajikistan civil war
1995	1997	UN Angola Verification Mission III	UNAVEM III	Monitor ceasefire and disarmament
1995	1996	UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia	UNCRO	Attempts to implement a ceasefire
1997	1997	UN Verification Mission in Guatemala	MINUGUA	Monitor ceasefire in Guatemala's civil war
1998	1999	UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone	UNOMSIL	Monitor disarmament and demobilization in Sierra Leone
1999	2005	UN Mission in Sierra Leone	UNAMSIL	Help stabilize and disarm Sierra Leone
1999	2010	UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	MONUC	Monitor ceasefire in the Democratic republic of the Congo
2011	Ongoing	UN Mission in the republic of South Sudan	UNMISS	Assist the new state of South Sudan in the Second Sudanese Civil War
2011	Ongoing	Assist the new state of Libya	UNSMIL	Assist the State of Libya in the Libyan civil war
2012	2012	UN Support Mission in Syria	UNSMIS	Monitor the ceasefire agreement in Syria

source: Vancouver Model United Nations- disarmament and international security mun (<http://vmun.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/DISEC.pdf>)

In the past 70 years UN has conducted 68 peacekeeping operations, which have ranged from direct military intervention to monitoring electoral integrity. Fifteen operations are currently ongoing in Western Sahara, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire, Sudan, Congo, South Sudan, Mali, Libya, Haiti, Kashmir, Afghanistan, Middle East, Lebanon, Golan Heights, Cyprus and Kosovo. Many of these were interventions into civil wars, and each has relied upon a resolution made specifically for the situation by the Security Council. UN peacemaking expanded in the 1990s, as the end of the Cold War created new opportunities to end civil wars through negotiated peace settlements. A

large number of conflicts were brought to an end, either through direct UN mediation or by the efforts of others acting with UN support.

Countries assisted included:

El Salvador, Guatemala, Namibia, Cambodia, Mozambique, Tajikistan, Sierra Leone, and Burundi. As the decade drew to a close, continuing crises led to new operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Central African Republic, Timor Leste, Sierra Leone and Kosovo.

Current peacekeeping operations:



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- MINURSO, Western Sahara
- MINUSCA, C.A.R.
- MINSMA, Mali
- MINUSTAH, Haiti
- MONUSCO, D.R. of the Congo
- UNAMID, Darfur
- UNDOF, Golan

²Photo from <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml>

- UNFICYP ,Cyprus
- UNIFIL, Lebanon
- UNISFA, Abyei
- UNIMIK, Liberia
- UNMISS, South Sudan
- UNMOGIP, India and Pakistan
- UNOCI, Cote d'Ivoire
- UNTSO, Middle East

UN Peacekeeping troops have specific guidelines that determine the scope of their mission. “UN military personnel can be called upon to: monitor a disputed border, monitor and observe peace processes in post-conflict areas, provide security across a conflict zone, protect civilians, assist in-country military personnel with training and support, assist ex-combatants in implementing the peace agreements they may have signed”³.

UN peacekeepers ought to act on specific and different types of charters. Therefore, the UN Security Council must approve any peacekeeping mission by the UN. There is Charter VI which is almost solely observation. Charter VII involves peacekeeping missions where the “state is unable to maintain security and public order”⁴ This causes them to have a more active role in security. Charter VII allows UN peacekeepers to help out in situations where other regional bodies are already involved (i.e. the African Union) in a conflict.⁵ The UN would supply them with workers under their regional command.

³ UN Peacekeeping; Peacekeeping Guidelines
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/military.shtml>

⁴ UN Peacekeeping; UN Peacekeeping Charter
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/pkmandates.shtml>

⁵ UN Peacekeeping; UN Peacekeeping Charter
<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/pkmandates.shtml>

NATIONS INVOLVEMENT:

Syria:

One of the most important issues that will be discussed is the Syrian civil war. The Syrian Revolution, is an ongoing armed conflict taking place in Syria. The conflict began in the early spring of 2011 within the context of Arab Spring protests, with nationwide protests against President Bashar al-Assad's government, whose forces responded with violent crackdowns. The armed opposition consists of various groups that were formed during the conflict, primarily the Free Syrian Army, and the Islamic Front formed in 2013. In 2013, Hezbollah⁶ entered the war in support of the Syrian army. In the east, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a jihadist militant group originating from Iraq, made very rapid military gains in both Syria and Iraq, eventually conflicting with the other rebels. In July 2014, ISIL controlled a third of Syria's territory and most of its oil and gas production, thus establishing itself as the major opposition force. As of April 2014 the death toll had risen above 190,000, International organizations have accused forces on all sides of severe human rights violations, with many massacres occurring.

Russia and China support Syria for significant trade and military reasons. To begin with, the Russian Navy's only port in the Mediterranean is leased from the Syrian government. Also, Syrian contracts in the Russian defense industry likely exceed \$4 billion, with a signed deal of \$550 million for combat training jets. The profit coming from Arms trade deals between Syria and Russia approach the astonishing number of \$162 million a year.

China is Syria's third largest importer. A 2010 report by the Jamestown Foundation, a Washington-based research and analysis institute, concluded that "Beijing's renewed interest in Damascus—the traditional terminus node of the ancient Silk Road ...indicates that China sees Syria as an important trading hub."

This comes to a complete contrast to the position of the US, France and the UK, who support the rebel groups in the war. France has provided material aid to the rebel groups, though this does not include lethal weapons. The UK as well has provided the rebel groups with material aid, and has condemned the Assad regime. In 2012, the United States, United Kingdom and France provided opposition forces with non-lethal military aid, including communications equipment and medical supplies.

Unlike Libya, where the Security Council imposed a no-fly zone and assisted rebel groups materially, Syria has received almost no support from the UN. The UNSC has made a considerable number of attempts to pass resolutions condemning the Assad regime, or demanding his killing actions and answer calls aimed at finding a Syrian-led solution to the conflict. However, vetoes from China and Russia have prevented them from taking any effective measure. This diplomatic impasse has meant that the only intervention that would be possible in Syria would be one-sided or NATO-led; but these would have no international legitimacy, and could be condemned as illegal

⁶ **Hezbollah** is a Shi'a Islamist militant group and political party based in Lebanon.

violations of a nation's sovereignty. A clear framework for UN intervention, which will be close to the UN's command to preserve international peace and security, would offer many solutions in this civil impasse. This kind of agreement would clarify the terms, conditions, and purposes of future civil missions of the UN.

Support for the Syrian government	Support for the Rebels
Russia	France
Iran	Britain
Lebanese Hezbollah	USA
Venezuela	Qatar
North Korea (DPRK)	Saudi Arabia
China	Croatia
Algeria	Sunni Arab states
Iraq	Turkey
Houthis	Israel
Lebanon	<i>Others(Free Iraqi Army, Mujahideen, Bandar bin Sultan)</i>
Other companies	

Europe and the United States:

The west has been at the forefront of military diplomacy. They have been involved with both UN military intervention and their own military intervention. They have a strong history of intervention. They have been pro-intervention within the UN in the past, in the General Assembly and on the Security Council.

United States is considered as the most important nation in this issues since it has demonstrated very interventionist tendencies, with Afghanistan and Iraq among its most recent operations. It is one of the few nations with the military to intervene effectively on a global scale, and the country has the political willingness to do so. In UN peacekeeping missions US has a major role since US provides 22% of the UN peacekeeping budget.

South America:

US occupied many South American countries in the 20th century. These countries feel that it is a violation of their nation's national sovereignty. While the Monroe Doctrine originally set out to decrease the intervention of "the autocratic Europe" and to increase US trade with nations in South and Latin America, by the mid-1800s it had become the precedent for US expansion in the region. This combined with the Roosevelt corollary, led to the occupation of many countries in the region.⁷

Middle East:

The Arab Spring supported that the conflicts in the Middle East should be solved without foreign powers intervening. However, they have been a variety of foreign and military intervention. The United Nations has multiple peacekeeping missions in the Middle East. The aid they receive from the United Nations is a very important to those in need in these countries.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS AND FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED:

This committee's purpose is the establishment of a clear and effective framework for UN intervention into civil conflicts. It must take into consideration many factors, which include elections, social reconciliation, military goals, reconstruction and more.

Ideally, a resolution would create a framework for UN interventions that would consider military, social and economic impacts of the conflict and the intervention. The submission of this kind of resolution is practically unrealized considering the variety of different countries policies and interests

Is an intervention justified?

This issue is very controversial since it rises a variety of extreme expressions from many states, such as China and Middle Eastern countries. As it has been already mentioned, UN's founding charter it is obligated to protect and promote international peace and security. If a civil conflict has an important impact to the global community (such as nuclear weapons, refugees fleeing the country) and reaches a point to threaten international peace, the UN must intervene. This however could define a huge number of conflicts as "international."

The other extreme would be if fighting actually spilled over into neighboring states. While this is definitely an issue where the UN would deem to be "international," it runs the risk of having already grown to a large scale where the UN would be hard pressed to intervene successfully, not to mention the immense loss of life and infrastructure damages that could have potentially been avoided. This could be

⁷ <http://msmun.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/DISEC-Background-Guide-RCMUN.pdf>

considered the most pressing issue the committee faces because should it not be resolved, future conflicts could be rendered ineffectual merely by the reluctance of certain key nations to intervene, as seen in the Syrian crisis.⁸

Disarmament and International Security Committee will probably supports an intervention that doesn't violate a nation's sovereignty in any form. Delegates ought to consider the degree of intervention and the point a military or economic (sanctions) intervention is justified.

One of the most important factors to be considered after a civil war is the reintegration of combatants into civilian society, as well as the reconciliation of the opposing parties.

Once the conflict is over, a government must be established. That's why UN ought to monitor and administer free and fair election elections in a post conflict state

Bloc Positions⁹:

Bloc positions can be divided among North-South lines. Members of NATO, as well as Major non-NATO allies of the US support the intervention. In most peacekeeping operations it is these nations that supply most of the funds and resources for the mission. Russia and its satellite states are typically skeptical of UN interventions. Finally, Middle Eastern Nations and China are extremely against of UN interventions. The African Union as expected can play an important role in conflicts in Africa.

North:

The North-South divide is a geopolitical divide. Generally, the North is defined to include the United States, Canada, Israel, Europe and parts of East Asia including Russia. These nations are generally wealthier, and in fact comprise four fifths of the world income despite having only a quarter of its population. Australia, New Zealand and South Korea can be considered part of the North for this example, despite their southern latitude. The Northern nations generally supports the intervention, though Russia is an exception to this rule, being less willing to interfere. These are the nations that most support intervention in Syria, and have traditionally supported intervening in past civil wars. Most recently, the conflict in Afghanistan has been dominated by troops provided primarily by northern countries. Delegates representing these countries should look towards a resolution that strongly supports foreign intervention.

South:

Southern nations, especially China and the Middle East, are generally the opponents of intervention since they lack the military and/or political stability to intervene in other nations. It could be mentioned that a vast majority of interventions take place in Southern Nations: many of them are therefore strongly in favour of a resolution

⁸ <http://vmun.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/DISEC.pdf>

⁹ <http://vmun.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/DISEC.pdf>

that would not allow any external intervention in a civil war unless requested by the host government.

African Union:

The African Union is an important player in peacekeeping in Africa. One of the AU's objectives is to "promote" peace, security and stability on the continent. In previous civil wars, such as the recent one in Cote d'Ivoire, the AU has sent in peacekeeping troops to monitor the transition. The AU could be an excellent negotiator if an African country be against a UN mission.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- How can the UN best serve countries that need help during an internal conflict?
- When is the UN allowed to intervene in a civil conflict, and when is the UN obligated to do so?
- What are the limits to UN mediation of a conflict?
- Do single nations have the right to intervene in another sovereign nation's conflicts?
- How will the UN monitor and protect refugees in a civil crisis, as well as ensure their return and establishment in a post conflict scenario?
- How will the UN monitor and administer elections and coordinate reconstruction in a post-conflict area?
- How will the UN manage social reconciliation in areas where conflict may have been happening for years?
- How will peacekeeping operations be coordinated in view of the wider issue of social and infrastructure reconstruction?
- Are the three Charters used by the UN peacekeeping forces efficient and do they need to be changed or expanded?
- How does national sovereignty affect peacekeeping missions?
- Could a regional military intervention plan be created for future internal conflicts?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- Details on every UN intervention to date, and information on UN peacekeeping <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/>
- Compares successes and failures of various interventions <http://unitingforpeace.com/resources/speeches/How%20effective%20is%20the%20UN.pdf>
- The Evergreen State College; American military interventions since 1845 <http://academic.evergreen.edu/g/grossmaz/interventions.html>
- UN Peacekeeping; Peacekeeping Guidelines <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/military.shtml>
- UN Peacekeeping; Current Operations <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml>
- UN Peacekeeping; UN Peacekeeping Charter <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/pkmandates.shtml>

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