

Forum:	Special Political and Decolonization Committee
Issue:	Preventing the spread of religious-based extremism in Africa and the Middle East
Student Officer:	Marso Markesini
Position:	Co-chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Marso Markesini and I am honored to serve as the one of the two Co-Chairs of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, also known as the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly. I was also present in the last year's PS-MUN and I am thankful to have been accepted as a Student Officer at this year's conference.

First of all, I would like to welcome you all and deeply congratulate you for your participation. By taking the initiative to sign up for the conference, you are preparing yourself not only to meet new friends from various parts of the world or become better delegates, but also to be better citizens of the world. Model United Nations is an amazing place of opportunities, especially offering the chance to become more globally aware of the various situations going on in the world we live.

I hope this Study Guide will be a valuable first introduction to the topic. However, it is my firm belief that you should conduct further research on the topic as well and have a strong understanding of your country's position on the issue. I wish all delegates the best luck in writing their resolution and please do not hesitate to contact me at marsomarkesini@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns. I honestly hope that this PS-MUN conference will be an unforgettable experience for everyone!

I am looking forward to meeting you all.

Best regards,

Marso Markesini

INTRODUCTION

According to the most widely-accepted definitions, the Middle East constitutes a region consisting of the following states or territories: Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Iran, Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, Jordan, Egypt, Sudan, Libya, and the various states and territories of Arabia proper (Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Yemen, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the Trucial States, or Trucial Oman now United Arab Emirates). For many decades those countries have been plagued with several terrorist groups such as Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Such groups spread fear in national and international level. However, none of them has been so remarkable, known and terrifying as the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). To top it all, the recent violent activity of the religious extremist group ISIS, which aims to seize control of the entire region and form an Islamic state ruled by Sharia law, has drawn the attention of the International Community to an alarming predicament: how can we preserve international peace and security when today's most fervent terrorist groups are based and mobilized in the Middle East, one of the most turbulent and unstable regions in the world?

The international community is eager to take any measures needed to resolve the issue. However, an agreement on the strategy to be used has not yet been reached. Numerous legislatures, including the one of the United States of America, are wary of utilizing ground troops against the Islamic State, after the enormous human expense of the attacks in Iraq and Afghanistan. A coalition, led by the United States of America, has besieged the Islamic State over and over again in Iraq and Syria. This however is not a clear arrangement as the Iraqi and Syrian governments still endure numerous losses and the war against the Islamic State proceeds as at no other time. The Middle East is ablaze and the results are greater than any time in recent memory.

KEY TERMS

Jihad: It literally means a sacred struggle or effort rather than an armed conflict or fanatical holy war. Although a jihad can certainly be manifested as a holy war, it refers more correctly to the duty of Muslims to personally strive “in the way of God”. This is the primary meaning of the term as used in the Quran, which refers to an internal effort to reform bad habits (such as alcohol consumption) in the Islamic community or within the individual Muslim. The term is also used more specifically to denote a war waged in the service of religion.

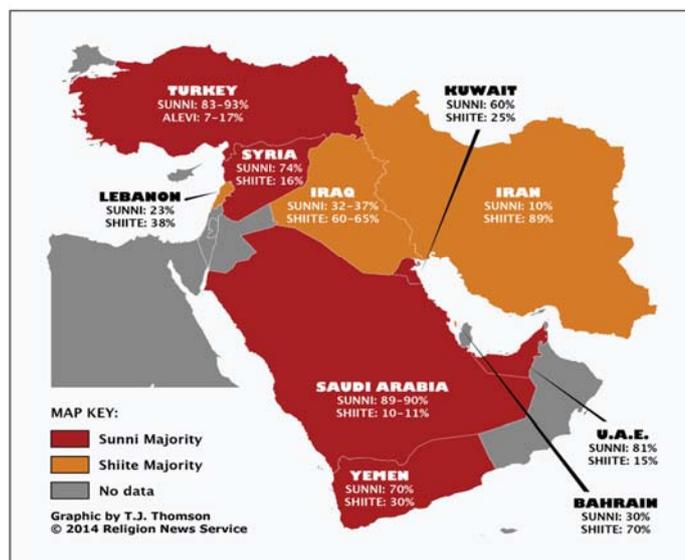
Extremism: Belief and support for thoughts that are exceptionally a long way far from what the vast majority consider right or sensible.

Religious-based (Islamic extremism): Islamic extremism refers to two related and in part covering additionally distinct aspects of great understandings and for pursuit Islamic belief system:

- An extremely conservative view of Islam, which does not necessarily entail violence (**fundamentalism**)
- The use of violent tactics such as bombing and assassinations for achieving perceived Islamic goals

Mujahedeen: Are those who engage in armed jihad and they are considered as holy warriors. Mujahedeen who receive martyrdom by being killed in the name of the faith are supposed to find great satisfaction in paradise where they will find everything they have imagined such as rivers of milk and honey, beautiful young women and eventually reunion with their families.

Picture 1: religious majority in Middle East



Historical information

Throughout the centuries, there have been several religious terrorist cases, not only in Middle East and Africa but also in the entire world where people were committing horrible crimes in the name of faith. Not only Islamists but other believers tortured or brutally killed millions of people to reassure their faith and promote their systems. Some religious terrorists are inspired by defensive motives, others seek to ensure the predominance of their faith while others are motivated by an aggressive amalgam of these tendencies. After the assaults of the 11th of September 2001, the United States of America attacked Afghanistan that year and Iraq two years after the fact, in 2003, to topple the Taliban government in Iraq and keep the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) by Saddam Hussein, who ruled Iraq tyrannically. A specific man, named Abu Masab al-Zarqawi, vowed dependability to Osama Bin Laden, the pioneer of al-Qaeda, an association framed amid the Russian control of Afghanistan close to the end of the twentieth century. Abu Masab al-Zarqawi framed the al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) in 2002, which later made a sub- association called the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI). After a previous US detainee named Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi took control of ISI, long after Abu Masab al-Zarqawi's passing in 2006, the association quickly developed in size and numbers and joined the side of the dissidents amid the Arab Spring in 2013. Whilst battling President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi assumed power in Iraq and Syria and established the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which later changed to the Islamic State(IS). Towards the end of 2013, the Islamic State began to attack Iraqi and Syrian urban areas and in June 2014 controlled urban communities like Kobani, Mosul and Raqqa. That month, the gathering declared itself to be an around the world caliphate and to have religious, military and political control over all Muslims. Right now the Islamic State has a populace of more than 10 million individuals, has been surrounding Baghdad quickly and fringes Turkey in the north.

Countries involved in the issue

United States of America:

The United States of America currently contributes in the fight against ISIS only with air strikes. No ground troops actively fight against ISIS on Iraqi or Syrian territory but US military personnel provides aid the Iraqi military with training and materials. After the US troops left Iraq in 2011, Iraqi society immediately broke down. Religious minorities, who were abused amid the rule of Saddam Hussein and generally were kept under control by the American armed force, defied the administration. After the Arab spring which began in Syria in 2011, numerous gatherings battled the legislature savagely, including the terroristic Al- Nusra front and later the Islamic State. After a cry of assistance from the Iraqi government in 2014, the United States of America and the United Kingdom began with the besieging of the Islamic State with automatons -unmanned vehicles (UAVs). Ground faculty likewise traveled to Iraq in little adds up to survey Iraqi powers and the danger postured by IS. The United States of America has additionally been supplying the Peshmerga with weapons and nourishment since the annihilation of the Peshmerga in August 2014. That month, the United States of America started besieging IS positions in Iraq and began dropping helpful guide for the nonmilitary personnel escaping IS. There has been commentator on the United States of America by various sides. Others have been stating that the main way IS can be immediately vanquished is the intercession of the United States military via land. They have, in any case, not done as such in light of the fact that they would prefer in order not to add to an intrusion on such an enormous scale like the one in 2003. The United States of America might likewise want to cease from paying such enormous aggregates of cash and human life, as they did in the Iraq war.

Russia Federation:

As the Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov underlined in September: “Terrorist threats must be eliminated and terrorists liquidated. We have repeatedly suggested to the US, the EU and leading European states to realize the extent of this threat. We have called on the UN to resolutely condemn terrorist attacks staged by Islamists in Syria. But we were told that it was Bashar Assad’s politics that gave rise to terrorism, and that denouncing such acts was possible only alongside with the demand for his resignation. In Moscow’s view, this represents a double standard and an attempt to justify terrorism. Up until the Syrian conflict, Russia and the West were unanimous that terrorism cannot be justified no matter what motive was behind them. But in the case of Syria the West had a different, twofaced stance. It was only when the terrorism threat which originated in Libya crept to Lebanon and then Iraq that Western countries realized it was time to deal with that. Having admitted it with a huge delay, western partners for some reason think that this threat should be eliminated on the territory of Iraq, while on the territory of Syria it might be left to

the consideration of those who conduct the operation. There are reasons to suspect that air strikes on Syrian territory may target not only areas controlled by Islamic State militants, but the government troops may also be attacked on the quiet to weaken the positions of Bashar Assad's army. Not a single country should have its own plans on such issues. There can be only combined, collective, univocal actions. Only with this way can a result be achieved."

Unlike the USA, the Russian Federation does not believe that spending copious amounts of money on air attacks against IS in the region is helping or gaining any positive result, even though Russia is currently increasing its troops and military expenditure against IS. The Russian government says that they are increasing their military presence in the area so that if an attack does occur then they can counter attack, however, the government also denies the idea that they may be working to build a military air base in the region. Russia has also now proposed talks with the USA regarding how the two states should proceed in this matter; these talks were allegedly proposed as a response to Washington's concern over the Russian Federation's increasing military presence - as mentioned earlier. The government has claimed that so far attacks that have been made against IS have been "very modest" in their outcome so they don't believe that the USA's current method in combating extremist militant forces in the region is helping to end the spread of terror. The Russian government claims that by supporting Assad they are helping to fight ISIS forces within the state, the US agrees on this and believes that supporting smaller Syrian organizations will prove more beneficial to the war against extremism in the area.

EU:

Following the EU Foreign Ministers meeting in Luxembourg this past October, High Representative Catherine Ashton declared: "We remain extremely concerned about the security and humanitarian situation in Iraq and Syria. And we all agreed on the fact that the actions of ISIS are totally unacceptable and we need to do all we can to contribute to the international efforts to defeat such terrorist groups." Among the conclusions reached by the participant ministers were the following: "EU is committed to tackling in a comprehensive and coordinated manner the regional threat posed by terrorism and violent extremism and addressing the underlying instability and violence which has given ISIS and other terrorist groups a foothold. The EU supports efforts by more than sixty States to tackle the threat from ISIS, including military action in accordance with international law. It notes that military action in this context is necessary but not sufficient to defeat ISIS and it is part of a wider effort comprising measures in the political/diplomatic, counter-terrorism and terrorism funding, humanitarian and communication field. The EU calls on all partners to enforce relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, including 2170 and 2178 and to step up efforts at national level to deny ISIS the benefits of illicit oil sales and other goods. As a consequence of its policies and actions, the

Assad regime cannot be a partner in the fight against ISIS. EU reiterates its firm commitment to counter the serious problem of foreign fighters who have joined the ranks of ISIS and other terrorist groups. The Council endorses the EU counter terrorism / foreign fighters strategy, which is an integral part of the response to the August 2014 European Council Conclusions and to United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2170 and 2178.”

Arab League:

Various states have been complimented by the worldwide group and additionally criticized intensely. Albeit never demonstrated or conceded, numerous individuals trust some of these states have financed terroristic bunches like IS and Al-Nusra generally out of contempt towards the Syrian government. The refugee crisis, brought about by the IS and the continuous war in Syria, has prompted a large number of transients. Not few however have been accepted into nations such as the UAE, Saudi Arabia and Qatar prompting huge feedback, particularly from European governments. Those administrations at present manage around 6000 displaced people day by day and have requested that different nations take in more outcasts. The United States of America reacted and will take in 6000 displaced people, however a considerable lot of the previously stated nations took in almost no to none. These nations however have supplied different nations like Lebanon and Jordan, where at present a huge number of displaced people have fled to, with no less than 800 million USD in type of compassionate and money related guide. A hefty portion of these nations are a piece of the United States drove coalition that uses air strikes against IS. These nations likewise decline to utilize land drives and are to a great degree tired of helping the Syrian regime or the Peshmerga in any capacity. They do however give the nations that join in the coalition with spots to arrive and refuel their planes and coalition boats are permitted to enter regional waters of these nations.



Timeline of events

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT
1932	Iraq becomes independent
1979	Saddam Hussein becomes president of Iraq
2001	Terrorist attacks in United States → President George W. Bush declares 'war on terror'
2002	Abu Masad al-Zarqawi forms Al-Qaeda
2003	The invasion of Iraq by the United States led coalition ends Saddam Hussein's rule
2006	The formation of a new democratic government in Iraq, led by Nouri al-Maliki
2009	The United States announces it will have withdrawn all of its troops by the end of August 2010.
2010	Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi takes control of ISIL
2011	All United States led troops have left Iraq.
2012	Massive Sunni protests against Shia-led government in Iraq
2012-2014	ISIS utilizes the civil war to rapidly expand in Syria and Iraq
2014	<p>1) June: The group declares itself a caliphate, with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as caliph (head of the caliphate)</p> <p>2) September: The group declares itself a caliphate, with Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as caliph (head of the caliphate)</p> <p>3) October: An Islamist gunman kills a soldier in Ottawa, Canada.</p> <p>4) November: According to Iraqi officials al-Baghdadi was injured in an air strike.</p>
2015	<p>1) Multiple terroristic attacks take place in France killing more than a dozen people (Charlie Hebdo) One of the terrorists mentions in a video his attack was in the name of IS.</p> <p>2) A combination of Shiite militias, US air strikes and Iraqi troops reconquer the strategic city of Tikrit.</p> <p>3) The Islamic State captures Palmyra, an ancient city in the middle of Syria. Later, the group proceeds to destroy many ancient ruins and artifacts found there.</p>

4)	claims responsibility for a terrorist attack that happened in Tunisia, where 38 people died, and a suicide bombing on the same day in Kuwait, which killed 25 Shiite worshippers.	ISIS
5)	ISIS claims responsibility for terror attacks in Paris, France that left 130 dead and 352 injured, including at least 99 seriously. Seven terrorists were killed in the attacks, six of them blew themselves up and one was killed by French police.	

UN involvement: relevant resolutions and events

- 1) Security Council Report (S/PRST/2014/14) – 28 July 2014
Security Council prohibits illicit oil trade with terrorists in Iraq and Syria, to minimize their source(s) of income.
- 2) Security Council Resolution 2170 (S/RES/2170) – 15 August 2014
Security Council condemned the recruitment of foreign soldiers by terrorist groups.
- 3) Security Council Resolution 454 (S/2015/454) – 18 June 2015
Seventyone member states that stated the situation in Syria is getting worse, sent letter to the Security Council to state their outrage at the use of weapons such as barrel bombs.
- 4) Security Council Resolution 2178 (S/RES/2178) – 24 September 2014
Improved the terrorist framework while also obliging UN member states to take the necessary counter-terrorism measures.
- 5) Human Rights Council Resolution 29/L. 4 (A/HRC/29/L.4) – 2 July 2015
Human Rights Council resolution on the terrible humanitarian situation in Syria.
- 6) French Resolution to the Security Council (S/2014/348) – 22 May 2014
Draft resolution by France to refer Syria to the ICC. It was co-sponsored by 65 member states and vetoed by China and the Russian Federation. All other Security Council members voted in favor of the referral.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Violent extremism leading to religious terrorism is now more real than ever. Recent terrorist activity in one of the most economically and politically destabilized regions in the world, the Middle East, constitutes solid proof that terrorism has an international dimension which can readily compromise international peace and security, seeing that terrorist organizations have developed clear geopolitical ambitions. For these reasons, the need for the international community to effectively tackle this threat has emerged as imperative and the role of the United Nations Security Council must be determining.

There are many various ways we can solve the religious-based extremism problem. Note that part states' perspectives on the issue are to a great degree different and thusly it is critical for all member States to achieve an agreement. In any event all P5 states do concur on preventing IS as quickly as time permits, however how and what comes after is an entire distinctive matter. IS could be vanquished ashore with the assistance of remote fighters, which is by all accounts the strategy of the Russian Federation of late, however the way the universal group will handle the administration of Assad and the huge waves of displaced people is a vital matter. A rundown of distinctive issues that need to do with IS amid the session of the Security Council include:

- the universal exile emergency
- the carrying of weapons
- the funding of terrorism
- young Muslims going to the Middle East to become Jihadists

Universal co-operation is the key to solve such a big issue. All of these problems could be resolved quickly if states imply strict border control and other methods to

imply control on their citizens. In the legal space, the fundamental systems for the foundation of universal participation and coordination of endeavors are shared mutual legal assistance, extradition, transfer of prisoners, transfer of proceedings, assistance in obtaining evidence, confiscation and asset recovery. In a more extended approach, States must create expanded data sharing with the end goal of distinguishing outside terrorist warriors, sharing and selection of good practices too as a reinforced participation with INTERPOL. Moreover, strengthening participation among States can be demonstrated to a great degree essential in fighting violations that may be joined with terrorism, for example, drug trafficking, unlawful arms exchange, cash washing and arms pirating. At long last, the cooperation between States and the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Association for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons could pave the way towards a powerful reaction to the financing of terrorism and the obtaining of Weapons of Mass Destruction for the benefit of terrorist groups. Besides, it is important to mention that preventing the direct or indirect supply, sale or transfer to terrorist groups of arms, weapons, ammunition, military vehicles and paramilitary equipment as well as technical advice, assistance or military training should also be taken into account.

Right now it is valuable to underline that in spite of the viability of the above-mentioned suggestions, no counter-terrorism strategy can be totally successful unless it addresses the main roots of terrorism, which on account of religious terrorism are condensed in vicious fanaticism. Subsequently, the prevention of radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups, mainly through the removal of extremist material from the Internet, must emerge as a priority. Furthermore, as the UNSC has previously proposed, States must engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors to address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism through enabling the young, families, ladies, religious, social and training pioneers, receiving customized ways to deal with countering enlistment and advancing social incorporation and attachment.

After all, as the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stated: “The education sector has an important role to play. Member States must strengthen their education systems to promote tolerance and mutual understanding among our children and youth, and to foster a global alliance of civilizations. Stronger civil society participation is equally necessary.”

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<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52041#.Vo0kqPmLQ2w> 'Growing threat of violent extremism demands unified response, UN chief tells summit'

MULTIMEDIA RESOURCES

- 1) <https://youtu.be/vOGLesXQ4Tc> 'what is ISIS and what they want in Iraq'
- 2) <https://youtu.be/PeQjxXnN12g> 'Richard S. Park | Preventing Religious Extremism'
- 3) <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11637.doc.htm> 'Secretary-General Urges World to Unite against Extremism at General Assembly Thematic Debate on Promoting Tolerance, Reconciliation'