



# 37<sup>th</sup> Annual MVHSMUN Conference

*“Opus Justitiae Pax”*

The Work of Justice Shall be Peace

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Hi! My name is Sydney Gordon and I will be your head chair for this year's Model UN Conference at Mission Viejo High School. I am currently a junior here at Mission and have been in the MUN Program for 3 years now, and also am involved in Pep Squad, as well as many clubs here at MVHS such as NHS and CSF. When I am not doing MUN, I love hanging out with friends and spending time at the beach. I am excited to have a successful and motivating conference! If you have any questions, you can contact me at our committee email, [novice1stdisc@gmail.com](mailto:novice1stdisc@gmail.com). See you in committee!

Hello! My name is Ian Gross and I will be your vice chair for this year's Model UN Conference at Mission Viejo High School. I am currently a sophomore and have been in the MUN program here for two years now, though I also was in MUN in eighth grade. I am also in CSF and Drama here at Mission. I enjoy hanging out with friends, listening to musicals, and reading about random things when I'm not doing MUN. I am excited to help make this MVHSMUN conference the best one yet! If you have any questions, you can also contact me at [novice1stdisec@gmail.com](mailto:novice1stdisec@gmail.com), the committee email as listed above. I look forward to seeing you in committee!

## Topic #1: Terrorism in the Middle East

### I. Background of Topic

Terrorism has been an ongoing issue in the Middle East for decades. In the past years, terrorism had been a global issue many times looked over and not paid attention to. However, after the terriost attacks of 9/11 by Middle Eastern terrorism group Al Qaeda, more and more growing attention has been put on Middle Eastern terrorist groups, as well as the impacts they are having in the Middle East itself. In the Middle East, which includes the areas of Iraq, and Syria, terrorist groups have been heavily influential and violent to many aspects of these areas



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that it is now considered the “normal” of the Middle East, as terrorist attacks in these areas are seen almost daily, and has led to an array of physical damages of these territories. Specific effects of terrorism to the populations and countries of the middle east include a detrimental impact of the economy, due to the devastating loss of tourism specifically in Syria and Iraq, as well as these terrorist groups having a very harmful impact on one of the Middle East’s most important economic industries, oil. Another effect is the loss of important cultural and historical sites, as well as the robbery of ancient artifacts from these historical sites of the Middle East from attacks from terrorist groups in the area such as ISIS. In these Middle Eastern areas, many of the terrorist groups are affiliated with religion who use these attacks to try and help spread their beliefs to the whole of the Middle East, and are specifically aggressive and hurtful towards other religion groups they do not agree with. Overall, terrorism in the Middle East is breaking down these already unstable countries by having serious effects not only physically to the areas, but also culturally and economically.

On the topic of terrorism in the Middle East, directly involved in the issue would be terrorist groups still present in the Middle East today, especially in the areas of Iraq and Syria, such as Al Qaeda, as well as the populations of these Middle Eastern countries who are harboring these terrorist groups. This is a problem to the world as the issue of terrorist groups founded in the Middle East pose serious danger and damages to not only the populations and areas of the Middle East, but also other countries, most specifically the U.S. citizens who are at home but also in these areas of the Middle East as well. The UN is involved in order to try and



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help protect and find ways to support the damages made by these terrorist groups to the Middle East as well as the populations of these affected countries.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The UN has gotten involved in this crisis by speaking and debating about these topics during security councils and trying to find solutions for the areas ruined in terrorist attacks, as well building peace in these areas that are threatened and protecting the population currently living in areas where an armed conflict is taking place. Some ways they have thought to provide for these causes is by using organizations of the UN, incorporating peace committees, and adopting laws which can be used by other countries as well to help the member states of the UN unite together in this cause for finding a solution to the terrorism in the Middle East, while holding a special focus on the victims of terrorism and human rights that need to be preserved and distinguished to those in the Middle East.

Several organizations of the UN have tried to help make progress in this solution in the Middle East. The UNODC, or United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, have been helping parliaments in the Middle East to combat and discuss the dangers of conflicts caused by terrorism and the effects it has had in the Middle East. While the UNODC is the main UN source working to combat terrorism and its effects in the Middle East, another organization following that is the OIC. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation, another inter-governmental organization like the UNODC, follows the UNODC in trying to fight against terrorism, and specifically provide security for the Muslim world by working through the unity and cooperation of 57 member states.



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The United Nations has set up several peacekeeping forces to try and maintain, or rather establish, peace in these Middle Eastern areas. These peacekeeping forces include the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF,) the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO.) The goals of all of these peacekeeping organizations within the UN help support the goal of peace between internal conflicts with the Middle Eastern countries such as Israeli and Syrian forces.

The UN further established the need for safety and security in the Middle East in 2006, when the UN General Assembly adopted the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This strategy has 4 main pillars, which are: 1) Discussing what leads to the spread of terrorism, 2) using solutions to prevent and compete with terrorism, 3) trying to build the individual nations' strength to combat terrorism as well as strengthen the role of the UN, and 4) protect the rights of the population above all as a fundamental base for this strategy. This strategy is constantly being renovated by the General Assembly and is reviewed and looked over every two years, to add and manipulate certain variables in order to adjust to events revolving terrorism that have occurred in that time span.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

Some solutions which could be implemented to help resolve this issue would be to set up organizations which could be important to maintaining stability and peace in the populations of the Middle East. Currently in the Middle East, terrorism is posing serious dangers to the population of the Middle East. To aid these individuals in areas of danger setting up



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organizations to provide areas of refuge and areas where these individuals can stay if their homes have been damaged or destroyed. Another important issue that solutions could be posed to is the destruction of historical sites or artifacts by terrorist groups. For this issue, organizations can also be created in hopes of protecting these historical sites, as well as taking these precious artifacts and placing them somewhere safe until they can be released into the public safely again.

Another important issue that is in need of solutions are the effects these terrorism conflicts are having on the economy of the Middle East. As tourism was once a big component of their economy, the issues with terrorism have since detrimentally decreased the amount of tourism in this areas. A way to combat this would be by having fellow countries provide economic support for countries in the Middle East that are in need of help in their economy.

More solutions which could be implemented were to ultimately relocate these individuals in danger in the Middle East, which is a long term solution instead of short term. While establishing organizations that implement peace and also giving refuge to parts of the Middle East in danger and that have been harmed could be effective, an even more effective solution could be to ultimately relocate the population in danger. By setting up organizations of programs that can take individuals of areas that have been severely impacted or damaged by these terrorist movements to different, safer areas, either in or outside of the Middle East, this would be effective by giving these people safety and hope. This solution could be especially hard to implement as it calls for much organization and planning: such as where these areas of



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relocation will be, how the population will be transported, and who will be involved in the solution, however, if the situation continues to increase in danger this is a solution which could be implemented.

Finally, terrorism in the Middle East can be combated by countries working together to aide the Middle East by adopting UN laws or adopted strategies to combat the terrorism in the Middle East. By participating in UN Security Councils and General Assmeblies to discuss the crisis of this situation, member states are able to come up with new solutions and strategies by working together and disucssing, such as providing safety and security for these refugees from the Middle Eastern countries whose lives are threatened and in danger due to these terrorism attacks, as well as trying to combat terrorism by preventing the spread of it so it does not gain power by adopting their own laws in their country that can be used against, and place laws to fight, terrorism.

## **IV. Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** Asia has also recently suffered from terrorism rooting from hatred in territories of the Asian Pacific, such as New Zealand. Therefore, the Asian bloc is fully supportive of looking for ways to counter terrorism and find solutions, as well as solutions for the Middle East.

**Latin Bloc:** The threat of terrorism in Latin America is not as big as the regions hosting of major terriost groups that are a threat to other nations, and is home to one of the groups that is actually a threat to the Middle East: Hezbollah.



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**European Bloc:** The European Union has made several stands for and comments about the situation of terrorism in the Middle East during United Nation’s Security Council debates on the maintenance of international peace and security. The European Union has made the decision and statement of fully supporting the United Nations in their act of trying to establish peace in the Middle East and wants to counter terrorism by working together with other areas to try and fight against, as well as find solutions for, terrorism in the Middle East.

**African Bloc:** While the terrorism in Africa does not pose as serious of a problem as terrorism in the Middle East, all throughout Africa terrorism is still occurring which is also having harmful affects towards the population. Therefore, African bloc is open to finding solutions to protect the population and countries from terrorism both in Africa and the Middle East.

**Middle Eastern Bloc:** The Middle East is in dire need of solutions to help combat the aggressive and recent terrorism, and the populations in need are definitely open to finding ways to protect themselves and counter terrorism.

## **1. Guiding Questions**

2. What are the main effects these terrorist groups are having in the Middle East?
3. How long has this been a severe issue, and is anything being done to resolve it in the Middle East?
4. What influences has other nations or the UN had on the peacekeeping and search for solutions in this issue?



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5. What areas of the Middle East are these attacks majorly affecting? Are they a big source of population for the Middle East? Why is this significant?
6. How has this topic given more attention put on terrorism in the world? Has it influenced other countries safety and security?

Helpful links to use for research:

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2005/sc8301.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/where-we-work/middle-east>

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## Title: Nuclear Threats

### I. Background of Topic

Nuclear threats have been an issue in the world since the nuclear bomb was first invented. Nuclear threats are those caused by the use of weapons that involve nuclear reactions as a primary mechanism. Nuclear bombs were first developed in World War II, through the Manhattan Project, led by the US, and eventually used for the only times in history on Japan, twice, by the US, at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Afterwards, nuclear proliferation, the spread of nukes, started to occur, with the Soviet Union and the United States locked in an arms race for nuclear weaponry during the Cold War. Multiple countries would proceed to develop nuclear technology in the coming times, eventually leading to the Cuban Missile Crisis. This was when Soviets installed nuclear missiles on Cuba, close to the US, and was a 13 day standoff resolved by the US agreeing not to invade Cuba and Cuba losing the missiles. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was eventually made, to have countries not produce or help make any more nukes and slowly reduce their stockpile until total disarmament. It included non nuclear states and the nuclear states of the United States, the USSR, Great Britain, France, and China. Some countries that didn't sign it include South Sudan, Israel, Pakistan, and India, all but South



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Sudan having or suspected of having a nuclear weapons program and India being the first to test them outside of the NPT, while North Korea withdrew from the agreement after signing and now openly tests nuclear weapons. Every country is involved in this issue, but the countries with nukes or by the former are the most involved. This is a threat to humanity because nuclear weapons could render large areas inhospitable and and kill and destroy far more than conventional bombs. The UN is involved because these are the most dangerous weapons that currently exist and must not ever be used.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The UN has tried to eliminate nuclear weapons since it was made. The first resolution passed by the General Assembly in 1946 made a commission to deal with atomic energy. Since then, it has made several treaties, such as the NPT, the PTBT, the CTBT, and the TPNW, in addition to various other treaties, such as The Hague Code of Conduct against Ballistic Missile Proliferation. The Secretariat supports nuclear nonproliferation and elimination, and suggests concrete action to further their agenda on this. The UN established the UN Atomic Energy Commission for this issue, and later established the IAEA, or International Atomic Energy Agency to promote safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology. It also inspects places in order to ensure that nuclear material is not used for military purposes. The UN Conference on Disarmament has been made as a forum to discuss disarmament, passing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test Ban Treaty, and the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the



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UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation also support these efforts, whether generally, through outlines on the use of nuclear power sources in outer space in particular, and scientific data about radiation. The UN works to combat nuclear terrorism through the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The UN has also established Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones to help with efforts toward peace and improve norms of disarmament and non-proliferation, through several treaties such as the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Treaty of Rarotonga, the Treaty of Bangkok, the Treaty of Pelindaba, and the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia.

### **III. Possible Solutions**

Solutions to this problem could include expanding or refining nuclear disarmament. For example, more treaties could be honed to specific areas. Countries could also take action either economically, such as through trade, with sanctions or incentives, or militarily if absolutely necessary, to reduce nukes. More efficient nuclear disarmament programs could be created as well.

### **IV. Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** The Asian bloc has several Nuclear-Weapon-Free zones. Though this means that several countries are in support of non-proliferation, there are still some, such as North Korea, that aren't.



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**Latin American:** The Latin American bloc has almost its entirety as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free zone. They are in support of non-proliferation.

**European:** The European bloc does not contain a Nuclear-Weapon-Free zone. Several of its countries have nuclear weapons, despite being signatories of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It generally is ambivalent toward nuclear non-proliferation. While some countries work towards it, several countries in it have many nukes, including some of those of the US.

**African:** The African bloc has almost its entire area covered as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free zone. They are generally in support of non-proliferation, up to a country destroying all their nukes, even as some may economically fund proliferation indirectly.

**Middle Eastern:** The Middle Eastern bloc does not have a Nuclear-Weapon-Free zone. Several countries in this region test and/or have nuclear weapons, not being signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Several countries are working on their own nuclear weapons. Overall, they are more in support of nuclear proliferation.

## **V. Guiding Questions**

1. How will nuclear non-proliferation be enforced with uncooperative states?
2. What methods should be used in enforcing nuclear non-proliferation?
3. Are there any acceptable uses to nuclear weapons?
4. How will you prevent nuclear weapons from falling into the wrong hands?
5. How will nuclear disarmament be done?



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Helpful links:

<https://www.nti.org/>

<https://pulitzercenter.org/nuclear-threats>

<https://gsinstitute.org/dpe/ngo-links/>

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