





DIRECTORS'  
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the organizers, the Advisory Board, and the Executive Board of AUSMUN 2019, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual AUSMUN Conference. With over 900 delegates registered from more than 40 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance for their research. It will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics of their respective committee. After a short letter that gives the chairs a chance to welcome their delegates, a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue, and the latest developments of the issue will be presented. In the summary, delegates will have their first quick briefing on the issue where concerns will be defined. Followed by that, the guide delves into the root causes of the issue by identifying its history. Then, a discourse section will look into the issue with further scrutiny by presenting both sides of the topic's debate and examining some of its challenges and influences. Finally, it will aim to provide delegates with the latest activities in regards to the matter and any progressions in its respect. At the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research, and references that they can use for further relevant information. However, it is important to point out that depending solely on the guide will not be sufficient enough to prepare delegates for the conference. It is highly encouraged for delegates to look at the Delegate Handbook on the AUSMUN website and to view the "How to Research" video created by AUSMUN.

The theme of this year's conference is youth empowerment. This is very important as we are the children of tomorrow. Even if delegates are not necessarily planning on pursuing an occupation in the field of law or politics, MUN is an enriching experience to all. MUN is supposed to teach more than just details on a certain crisis, it educates them to work harder, to think on their feet, to learn from others and from themselves, to fall and to fail, and to break free from their fears. It dares them to be without hesitation. It dares them to add to the world. To Speak. To act. To know. We all understand how difficult it is to be a delegate. It requires a suspicious load of work and consumes most of one's energy. But we want delegates to give it their all and to get what they came here for.

Finally, I would like to conclude this letter by extending my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this background guide in any way or form. It is the collaborative work of the chairs, the AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, we truly hope that you find this background guide of great help and use.

All the best with the conference and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Nada Nassereddin  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2019



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
HIGH SCHOOL



Youssef Khalil



Haya Ojel

Razan Hudhud

# MODERATOR'S WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates,

It is our absolute pleasure to welcome you to the 12th American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN). This year, the United Nations Security Council committee's agenda is aiming to tackle and resolve critical issues through your interaction, cooperation, and communication, during and prior to our committee's debate.

The United Nations Security Council was founded in 1945 with the aim of promoting and maintaining peace and security. It is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is comprised of five permanent Member States, those of which are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Furthermore, it consists of ten non-permanent Member States, which are elected on a two-year term by the General Assembly.

The objective of the committee sessions is to draft solid resolutions that will aid Member States and non-state actors in overcoming current conflicts. Some keys to consider while researching the topics should include your country's national capabilities and limitations, the mitigation of conflict, as well as the oversight and monitoring mechanisms of the situation. Moreover, due to the nature of these topics, the delegates' research and resolutions must be very detailed in nature and focus on the operationalization of concepts. Finally, due to the divisive nature of the majority of the topics discussed in the committee, the most effective ideas should focus on international cooperation.

However, we primarily believe that the target of the conference is to ascertain that all delegates learn new information, improve their skills, and enjoy their time. We urge all delegates to contribute to the debate and engage in productive conversation with other delegates. Enjoy your time, do not be stressed, connect with others, and build friendships. If you need any further information or assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us at [ausmunsc19@gmail.com](mailto:ausmunsc19@gmail.com).

Regards,

The UNSC Chairs.

## TOPIC 1

### *Rohingya Genocide in Myanmar*

#### SUMMARY

In the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar), formerly known as Burma, one of the several minorities residing there are the Rohingya people. As of the beginning of 2017, the Rohingya population in Myanmar were numbered at around one million. Not only do the Rohingya have their own culture and language, but they also represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in the Rakhine province ('Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis', 2018). However, the government of Myanmar, which is a predominantly Buddhist country, refuses to acknowledge the Rohingya as a people. Therefore, they were excluded from the 2014 Myanmar Population Census, they were denied citizenship and instead, they began to be regarded as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh ('Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis', 2018). In the last few years prior to the crisis, many Rohingya made their ways out of Myanmar to dangerous journeys, in the hopes of escaping communal violence and abuse faced from security forces.

On the 25th of August 2017, the most recent exodus began where some Rohingya militants launched fatal attacks on more than 30 police posts as a form of response to years of persecution. Groups backed by local Buddhist mobs retaliated by burning their villages and killing civilians. In the month following the incident, at least 6,700 Rohingya, including 730 children under the age of five, were murdered; the Myanmar military also raped and abused Rohingya women and girls ('Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis', 2018). The genocide against the Rohingya has resulted in the "world's fastest growing refugee crisis" as thousands of Rohingya attempt to escape Myanmar and move to other countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Bangladesh. The international community has condemned the actions of the Myanmar government, but no definitive measures, such as the imposition of sanctions, have been taken.

#### HISTORY

The Rohingya have existed in the Buddhist majority country, Myanmar, for centuries. It was estimated that 1.1 million lived along the Bay of Bengal in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. Myanmar was known as Burma during the period between 1824 and 1948, under the British rule. In 1945, Burma gained its independence and passed the Union Citizenship Act which listed the 135 "indigenous" ethnicities to Myanmar. However, the Rohingya were not considered one of the official ethnic groups.

The situation worsened after the 1962 coup d'état which was led by the Bamar, currently the dominant ethnic group in Myanmar. With time, people of Myanmar were required to obtain registration cards, where the Rohingya were only given foreign registration card. Moreover, the new citizenship law in 1982 also prevented them from receiving full citizenship, making most of them stateless.

Beginning in 2016, the Myanmar's armed forces and police started a major crackdown on the Rohingya people. By the end of 2017, an estimated 625,000 refugees crossed the border into Bangladesh. However, this was not the first crackdown faced by the Rohingya people, others include crackdowns in 1978, 1991-1992, 2012, 2015, and 2017-2018. Consequently, the Rohingya have been described as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world (Amnesty International, 2017). Furthermore, the Burmese army has been accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide by several governments, by minority rights NGOs, and by several officials from different countries. Not only are the Rohingya people deprived of the right to citizenship, but they are also denied their rights of free movement, higher education, and freedom of religion. Therefore, the Rohingya population are not protected by the government against issues of discrimination due to them not being considered Burmese citizens. Also, they face obstacles and struggles to practice their religion freely. Consequently, all the Rohingya who remained in the Rakhine State continue to live under a system described as "apartheid", where the government in Myanmar discriminates against them, segregates them from the rest of the society, and violates their rights to participate in public life.

## DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

On an international basis, the genocide is a humanitarian crisis that the government of Myanmar has been accused for. Aung San Suu Kyi, a State Counselor of Myanmar, has appeared recently in the World Economic Forum answering briefly about the issues faced by the Rohingya. She publicly responded by stating that the issue could not have been handled any "better" ("Aung San Suu Kyi on the Rohingya crisis and jailed Reuters journalists", 2018). However, the Rohingya genocide still occurs and still violates many of the articles stated in the Human Rights Declaration published by the General Assembly.

Majority of the Rohingya people fled to Bangladesh in an area with no shelter, no food, and no basic human rights. This refugee crisis has greatly affected Bangladesh as it had to accept a huge number of refugees, which eventually has led to many economic, political, and security challenges. According to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director of Bangladesh, Said Fahima Khatun, "The Bangladesh government has estimated that \$434 million has been spent on some 80 million Rohingya till then. And 74% of that expense has been borne by the agencies, but the rest have been accumulated by our government".



Furthermore, the Myanmar's military continue to launch attacks on the Rohingya in an attempt of "ethnic cleansing". In conclusion, this issue is critical and it is the role of delegates to determine if Member States should subscribe to the UN Charter and to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) to ensure the safe return of the Rohingya to their ancestral land in the Rakhine state and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

## PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

As of 2017, multiple global humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have called for urgent access to Rakhine in order to provide humanitarian aid to the Rohingya as only the UN bodies, the European Commission, and the Red Cross have been given access since the start of the crisis. Some of these NGOs include the Care International, the Relief International, and the Save the Children, where they all aim to provide the persecuted population life-saving food and nutrition, medical services, and shelter. However, it is important to know that there have been instances where even UN aid agencies were refused access, in particular to northern Rakhine.

It is also important to understand how the UN has tackled the issue thus far. The UN appointed an independent international fact-finding mission to Myanmar and its findings showed that Myanmar's top military officials must be investigated and prosecuted for genocide and crimes against humanity. The UN recognizes that this is a genocide and the crimes committed were murder, rape, torture, sexual slavery, persecution, and enslavement in accordance to the fact finding organization that were deployed in Myanmar who interviewed hundreds of Rohingya refugees who fled the country. Consequently, the UN calls upon the International Criminal Court (ICC) to refer to the current situation in Myanmar.

However, despite the efforts done, the UN has not been very successful in improving the conditions for the safe return of the Rohingya, as stated by António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the UN, on August 2018. During the same meeting in August, he also called for the Security Council to work on the Crisis with the government of Myanmar in order to end the "horrendous suffering" of the Rohingya (United Nations, 2018).

Since then, there have been plans by the government of Bangladesh to repatriate more than 2,200 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, however, said refugees threatened to suicide if they are to be forced to return (United Nations, 2018). This emphasizes the terror they have been subjected to in their home country. Moreover, this also means that, now more than ever, the Security Council has to act. With that being said, it is vital to know that on the 24th of October 2018, the Security Council met and the situation in Myanmar was set as the Provisional Agenda of the meeting. However, Member States differed on their stances on whether the issue needs to be discussed or not.

## QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- Are the actions of Myanmar considered genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity?
- How shall the Security Council deal with the crisis? Do aforementioned crimes of Myanmar call for further humanitarian interventions, military interventions, or sanctions?
- Should the Security Council consider creating a mission, like the UNAMA, for the sole purpose of dealing with the Rohingya Crisis?
- How should the Security Council hold the government of Myanmar accountable?
- Would discussions between the government of Myanmar and the Rohingya be effective in solving the crisis? If yes, how could both parties be brought together?

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- The Stances of Member States of the Security Council.
- The Legal Status of the Rohingya and the People's Right to Self-Determination.
- Operation King Dragon of 1978, Operation Clean and Beautiful Country of 1991, and Operation Clearance of 2017.
- The National League for Democracy and Union Solidarity and Development Party.

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## TOPIC 2

### *: Limiting the Spread of Extremist Groups*

#### SUMMARY

The last few decades have seen the vast emergence of extremist groups across the world. These groups have committed some of the worst crimes against humanity ever witnessed. UN designated terrorist groups such as the Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, the ISIL, and Boko Haram amongst others have been terrorizing the global peace and security. Despite multiple interventions and resolutions by the UN and its Member States, these organizations have still been receiving funds in terms of finance, weaponry, and manpower to carry on with their missions. The multiple on-going humanitarian crises, especially in the Middle-East and the African continent, set an immediate responsibility to create solutions that combat these problems. Therefore, a consensus needs to be reached amongst Member States to provide a solution to limit the spread of these extremist groups.

#### HISTORY

The number of terrorism-related incidents has been fluctuating throughout recent years, reaching approximately 16,000 from the 1970's till 2016. Furthermore, the number of terrorist fatalities by region have had a significant increase in the past years as well. The focused regions in the 1970s and the 1980s were Central America & the Caribbean. However, this recently changed as the increasing regions became the Middle East and North Africa. In 2016, roughly 75 percent of dread related fatalities were in the Middle East and Africa, just under of one-quarter in South and Southeast Asia, around one percent in Europe, and under 0.5% in the Americas ("Terrorism", 2018).

Many countries have been facing drastic consequences due to these extremist groups. For instance, the UNHCR (2018) states that nearly 6.6 million Syrians have been internally displaced as of April 2018 with civilian casualties reaching up to hundreds of thousands because of terrorism. Other countries that have been facing similar humanitarian crises due to terrorist activities include Iraq and Yemen.

## DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

Extremism has been discussed time and again on various platforms. While it is a global phenomenon that has affected nearly every nation in the world either directly or indirectly, there has been no general agreement on what constitutes the notion of terrorism or extremism. Furthermore, despite multiple attempts to fight these groups, the UN and its Member States have been unable to prevent the spread of these extremist groups. The Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, the ISIL and other groups have been actively fighting against the member nations' coalitions. It is important to prevent the spreading of these groups because they aim to take over certain governments, to enforce their ideals on society, and to attack those who do not agree with their standards and expectations. Not only do they infringe upon the human rights of civilians, but they also halt developments in society. Therefore, the battle against extremism and the groups that spread terror must be fought unanimously by all countries.

## PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy which aims at improving the national and international strategies in the fight against terrorism. With the adoption of this agenda, two committees that are the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) were created to implement the agenda. This treaty is reviewed by the UNGA every two years to keep updating the need for counter terrorism tactics (United Nations, 2006). After the 9/11 attack in 2001 in the United States of America, a committee known as the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was formed by the UNSC under its resolution 1535 (2004) with the purpose of overseeing the compliance of the Member States to the resolution 1373 (2001) in combatting terror threats within their countries. Since then, the UNSC has passed several resolutions such as Resolution 1624 in 2005 and 2178 in 2014, to counter the incitement of committing terrorist acts and the involvement of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) (Security Council, 2001). Moreover, in July 2016, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 70/291 that discusses the strategy to prevent the further spread of the terrorist groups. There have also been other counter-terrorist groups to assist the UNSC and CTC in their agenda. The UNSC must now review and examine the plans that are already in place and make editions to them so that they are more effective in the fight against terrorism.

## QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- How can the current strategies be improved to combat terror on a global level?
- In what ways can Member States share Intel and data with each other so that there is transparency yet security of the plan of actions?
- How can strategies be implemented without hindering the sovereignty of the Member States?
- How are terrorist organizations receiving funding and how can that be restricted?

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- Current Scenario of the War on Terror in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.
- Involvement of the NATO and other International Alliances in Combatting Terror.
- Countries Accused of Providing Funds to Terrorist Organizations.
- The Role of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF).

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