

UN SECURITY COUNCIL
Intervention In Yemen



JACKRABBIT MUN V

L.B. POLY - MAY 20th, 2023

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CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Hello everyone! My name is Josephine and I am so excited to be one of your co-chairs for the Security Council this year. I am currently a junior and serve as one of the co-presidents for Poly MUN. MUN has allowed me to explore my interest in International Relations, and I love how every committee brings new ideas and new opportunities to learn.

Some of my hobbies include playing piano, playing viola in Poly's chamber orchestra, playing volleyball, and being involved in clubs including Speech and Debate, French Club, and Female Leadership Academy.

I have always really loved dual delegation Security Councils, so I could not be more thrilled to be co-chairing this committee. The UNSC has always fascinated me, and I had the pleasure of co-chairing last year's UNSC as well. The Security Council is dealing with very important issues right now, and it is so interesting to follow their work. Despite vetoes and failed resolutions, the Security Council furthers real change, and I know you all will come up with impactful solutions to the current conflict in Yemen. I look forward to meeting you all and seeing you in committee!

Sincerely,

Josephine Gore

UN Security Council | Co-Head Chair

josephineamabelgore@gmail.com



CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sienna and I will be your vice chair for this year's Security Council in 2023 Jackrabbit MUN. I am so thrilled to have this opportunity and hear all of your innovative solutions to this ongoing issue. MUN is something I really enjoy and my whole team has worked so hard to make this committee the best we possibly can! Hopefully you all will enjoy this conference with as much enthusiasm as your dias had creating it.

If you care to learn a little more about me some of my passions include Water Polo, Ukulele, Guitar, Violin, drawing, calligraphy, and Mixed Martial Arts. I have also been involved in clubs other than Model UN such as Surf Club and Green Schools Campaign.

This body has the very real potential to contribute solutions to solve real world issues that leave so many victims deprived of social liberties and personal safety. By no means is this an easy task but I believe there will be a great discussion nonetheless. I am eagerly waiting to meet you all and I hope to make this a great committee!

Sincerely,

Sienna Groves

UN Security Council | Co-Head Chair

siennagroves@gmail.com



VICE CHAIR LETTER

Dear Delegates,

Hello everyone and I am so excited to meet you all in committee! My name is Diana and I am currently a senior in high school. This is actually my first time vice chairing a committee and so, if I'm being honest, I'm a little nervous! However, from traveling to New York to partake in the National High School MUN Conference, to silly "Fun MUN" debates held at our school, the MUN program has definitely served as one of my favorite high school experiences. I hope you share a similar experience!

Outside of MUN, I partake in my school's Biomedical Research Program and lead the Long Beach Green Schools Campaign, which has worked with the Long Beach Unified School District to pass a 100% Clean Energy Resolution. This fall, I look forward to attending Cornell, where I will be majoring in Public Policy Analysis and Management.

As a first year in MUN, I know that nuances behind this type of debate can be quite intimidating. These challenges are incredibly apparent in the Security Council, where, for example, developing countries are grossly underrepresented. Despite these difficulties, I look forward to hearing all of your novel solutions to the very real and heartbreaking crisis occurring in Yemen. See you in committee!

Sincerely,

Diana Michaelson

UN Security Council | Vice Chair

dianamichaelson05@gmail.com



RAPPORTEUR LETTER

Hi delegates,

I'm Alice and I will be your rapporteur for the Security Council during JackrabbitMUN! It is my first year in MUN, (so don't worry noobies) but I've thoroughly enjoyed my limited time in the arena and look forward to assisting in hosting this conference.

Outside of MUN I like to surf, rock-climb, search and rescue, and occasionally read books. I'm currently a senior at Long Beach Poly and am attending UCSB in the fall.

Typically, conferences I attended in the past have been crises, so I am thrilled to hear the complex methods to navigate this dire conflict in Yemen. These resolutions that you guys will create could very well be solutions that members of the UN enforce to assist Yemen in the future, and I could not be more excited to be there while you guys make them! See you all soon.

Sincerely,

Alice Duch

UN Security Council | Rapporteur

alice.duch5@gmail.com



POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Wednesday, May 17** in order to receive feedback and be eligible for **research AND committee awards.**
- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Friday, May 19** in order to be eligible for **committee awards ONLY.**
- Position Papers can be submitted through the committee email:
 - **unscjackrabbit2023@gmail.com.**
- At the top of each paper, include your country's name, first and last name, school name, and committee.
 - United States
 - First Last
 - School Name
 - UNSC
- Papers should be emailed as a PDF file.
 - Paper content should also be copied and pasted into the body of the email so it can still be graded in the event of any technical difficulties.
 - Please name the file and subject line of the email [Committee_Country Name]
 - Ex. **UNSC_UnitedStates**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with any additional pages for citations.
- Papers should be single-spaced and Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
 - Background & UN Involvement
 - Position of your Country
 - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email your chair.

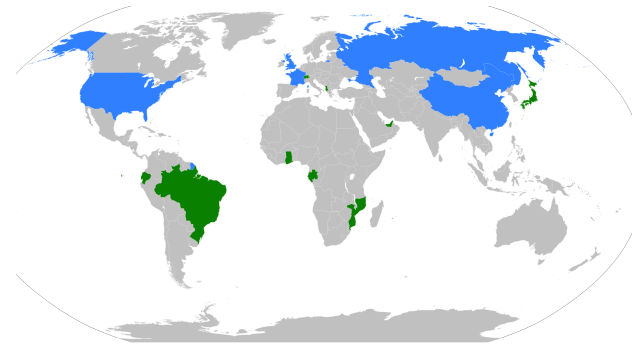


COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The United Nations Security Council is one of the most important organs in the UN. It is dedicated to de-escalating conflicts, orchestrating negotiations, and preserving international security. Founded in 1946, it contains ten elected and five permanent members. The P5, as these last ones are known, each possess veto power over resolutions and comprise the allies of World War Two: the United States, United Kingdom, French Republic, Republic of China, and Soviet Union. The People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation have since succeeded the latter two.

The remaining members are elected by a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly. Since 1965, these have been divided into regional groups, with three seats going to African countries, two to those in the Asia-Pacific region, one to Eastern Europe, two to Latin America and the Caribbean, and two to Western Europe and Others. At any one time a seat from either the Africa or Asia-Pacific group is held by an Arab country.

Though the Security Council intends to solve disputes peacefully, it is also the only UN body with the ability to impose binding measures on member states. These include sanctions and peacekeeping missions, used in case of grave human rights abuses and collapsing state authority. However, the ideological differences between the former allies of the P5 has served to hinder decisive action, with debate often ending in a veto from one or more members.



TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Though it is a conflict that many have heard about briefly, little is said about the civil war and subsequent humanitarian crisis that has plagued Yemen since 2014. This issue has sadly faded to the background of the international dialogue, but must be



addressed and resolved. As of December 2020, an estimated 130,000 Yemeni people have died indirectly from the civil war, and 23.4 million people are still in dire need of immediate humanitarian aid.

Houthi forces seized Sana'a, Yemen's capital, and have been demanding lower fuel prices and an entirely new government. With this ongoing armed conflict, it has been difficult to send humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people, but Security Council members will have to work together to try to bring a peaceful end to the war and transport necessary supplies to Yemen.

To what extent should other nations interfere in Yemeni domestic political affairs? How will aid be delivered when few routes are available, and how much aid should come from domestic and international sources? Will the agricultural land be able to recover with extreme droughts and floods, and how will other nations realistically be able to help? Delegates will debate all of these questions and more, and develop meaningful solutions on if and how the United Nations should intervene in Yemen to end their crisis.



BACKGROUND

The modern state of Yemen was formed in 1990 with the unification of the North Yemen Arab Republic and the Southern People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The



ruler of the former North Yemen, Ali Abdullah Saleh, then assumed leadership and ruled for 20 years.

Starting in 1994, just four years after Yemen had been unified, southern separatist movements began to sprout across Yemen territories along with movements against Saleh's government. In the early 2010s, a series of anti-government protests, uprisings, and armed

rebellions, starting in the North African country of Tunisia, began to spread across the Arab world. The 2011 uprisings in Tunisia, known as the Jasmine Revolution, which forced Tunisian President Zine al-Abidine Ben Ali out of power, inspired similar protests in cities across Yemen to call for president Saleh to step down due to the corrupt and autocratic government he was running.

Foreign Intervention

In 2012, Saleh stepped down from his position. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and Saudi Arabia, the most influential member of the GCC, oversaw negotiations to put Yemen's Vice President, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, in power. The GCC is a regional intergovernmental, political, and economic union composed of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. With the state of the government changing little under the new leadership of President Hadi, Yemen's factions, including the Houthis, a Shia Muslim minority from North Yemen, began



rising up against the government. Because the GCC sidelined both the former president Saleh and the Houthis when they placed Hadi in power, Saleh and the Houthis joined forces and took over the Yemen capital of Sana'a in 2014. This resulted in Hadi fleeing to Aden, Yemen.

In an effort to reinstate Hadi as the leader of Yemen's government, in addition to preventing further fragmentation of Yemen and minimizing the growing threat of Iran in the region, Saudi Arabia began a series of relentless airstrikes



targeting the Houthis. Unfortunately, while Saudi Arabia claims these strikes were exclusively aimed at the enemy, there are many accounts of bombings of schools and hospitals that resulted in the death of thousands of Yemeni civilians. Additionally, the Saudi-backed, internationally recognized government (IRG) claims that Iran is behind supplying the Houthi faction with weapons. While Iran publicly supports the Houthis, the country denies supporting the faction militarily. However, this conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which is being fought in Yemen, reflects a proxy war in which two major countries are backing opposite sides in a foreign territory.

The conflict between Iran and Saudi Arabia is part of a much larger Sunni-Shia divide¹. As a predominantly Shia force, the Houthis are largely supported by Iran, which is also predominantly Shia. Saudi Arabian Muslims, on the other hand, identify

¹ The Sunni-Shia divide refers to the schism between two branches of the Islam faith. Islam is one of the oldest religious faiths introduced to the world by Mohammed in 610 and spread across the Arabian Peninsula. Presently, Islam harbors the support of over 1.9 billion people with over 85% practicing the beliefs of the Sunni and 15% practicing the beliefs of the Shia. Initially, the schism occurred between the two main parties: the Sunni and the Shia. The Sunni initially elected Abu Bakr, a companion of Mohammed, to be the first caliph (leader of the Islamic community) over the objections of the Shia, who favored Ali ibn Abi Talib, Mohammed's cousin and son-in-law. The split was made between those who wanted the caliph to be appointed on blood relation over those who believe the bloodline to be of little concern in politics.



as Sunni. While Iran admits to supporting the Houthi movement, it is impossible to quantify how much of the Houthis success can be attributed to Iranian supports, especially when one considers that a huge portion of the Houthi arsenal has come from the absorption of the Yemeni military, as well as the looting of national army stockpiles, alliances with tribal militias, and purchases on the black market. However, Iran's delivery of increasingly advanced and lethal weapons has helped the Houthis gain power. At the same time, it is critical to understand that the Saudi-backed Hadi government is incredibly weak due to its incompetence, corruption, fragmentation, and illegitimacy among Yemen's population.



Humanitarian Crisis

Prior to the civil war, Yemen was already documented as the poorest Arab territory, suffering from a lack of consumable resources, rising political instability, internal conflict, and limited humanitarian rights such as education. Since 2015, more than three million people have been displaced. So far, 2023 has recorded over 21.6 million in need of humanitarian aid. With so many asylum seekers, healthcare institutions have been overrun, with a staggering 80% of the country struggling to access these clinics. Currently, there is an acute shortage of sanitary facilities to provide food, water, and shelter due to the economic blockades, natural disasters such



as the 2022 floods, the collapse of the Yemeni rial, and the COVID-19 pandemic, all on top of the presiding civil war.

In particular, women have faced a disproportionate amount of the adversities



that have only worsened during the war, reflected by the fact that $\frac{3}{4}$ of the population displaced since 2015 consisted of women and children. Yemeni women's deaths are largely due to poor birthing facilities and lack of aid. Maternal mortality rates are skyrocketing from causes that are very well preventable with the appropriate resources. Additionally,

many mothers that survive past childbirth are subject to malnutrition during the breastfeeding process, leading to stunted growth in children and deteriorated health of the mother. Girls have also become increasingly vulnerable to child marriage, human trafficking, begging and child labour, and those with disabilities face even greater risks.



UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

The United Nations supports and recognizes President Hadi and the IRG, and has taken action to strongly condemn and attempt to bring down the Houthis and similarly ‘rebellious’ groups.



Resolutions and Press Statements

Numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions have specifically addressed the crisis in Yemen. In 2015, Security Council Resolution 2201 was passed over this issue and encouraged negotiation between the two parties, a ceasefire, and the creation of a constitution. Seeing as Hadi was being held by Houthis at this time, the constitution urged the Houthis to release him and to leave Yemeni government facilities. Later that year, Resolution 2216 was passed, and it placed an arms embargo on the Houthis and placed “targeted measures (assets freeze, travel ban)...” on specific individuals involved with the Houthis and anti-Hadi groups. Many



additional resolutions were passed from the beginning of the conflict to the present, but the most recent resolution, Resolution 2675, was passed unanimously by the Security Council in February 2023. It renewed the aforementioned assets freeze on specific Yemeni individuals and entities, and also renewed a nine month travel ban until November 15, 2023.



The Security Council has also issued multiple press statements, which all request immediate action and urge both sides to come to a compromise. The SC/15054 statement expressed “deep disappointment” on the end of the truce, and many similar statements have been seen. The truce was one of the largest and most invasive actions the United Nations has taken in attempting to end the conflict, but it was unsuccessful and sadly short-lived.

UN-Mediated Truce

In 2022, the United Nations decided to take decisive action in Yemen in the form of a truce. It started on April 2, 2022 with a six month duration and plans to be renewed in October. The truce included an immediate halt of military conflict, a ceasefire, and better access to humanitarian aid for Yemenis. Although it did not completely stop all fighting, April and May 2022 saw the lowest fatalities from political violence since January 2015, with the rate being significantly lower than it had been without the truce in

effect. The truce, however, was not perfect by any means, and may have even allowed the Houthis to become stronger. They continued blocking roads and gathering weapons, and “a third of households



had to travel more than an hour to reach any kind of health facilities” (Ahmed). Despite



its weaknesses, the truce had provided hope for millions of Yemenis. Yet, in October 2022, the truce was not renewed, and Yemen fell into the devastating and unregulated cycle of conflict once again.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Yemen is the only nation from the Arabian Peninsula to sign the 1951 Refugee Convention and not only takes in refugees from nations like Somalia and Ethiopia, but the conflict in Yemen has also led to many new Yemeni refugees. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is the primary UN agency addressing these Yemeni refugees. They focus on providing humanitarian aid and assistance and also lead the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) program in Yemen.

Although this program extends beyond Yemen, the UNHCR focuses on improving the living conditions in refugee camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs). They have issued packages to provide aid to IDPs, and are currently serving 1,529,629 IDPs within their hosting sites, including 266,481 households. The CCCM has its main Yemeni office in Sana'a and works with virtually all of Yemen's 22 governorates and 333 districts. The UNHCR has been absolutely essential in providing humanitarian aid and funding to IDPs, especially through the CCCM.



BLOC POSITIONS

African Bloc (Gabon, Ghana, Mozambique): This bloc believes that peace should be achieved and humanitarian aid must be provided, and they do not support the Houthi forces. They recognize the IRG with President Hadi as its head, and urge a recommitment to the truce that ended in October 2022. Stability and peace are key aspects of the solution for this bloc, and they must be achieved urgently.

Asia-Pacific Bloc (China, Japan, United Arab Emirates): The United Arab Emirates has had a particular interest in this war, and has been working with Saudi Arabia against Houthi forces. China has not been directly involved in the conflict yet, but with their brokering of ties between Saudi Arabia and Iran, they could be essential in bringing peace. Japan has issued humanitarian aid and wants to bring a peaceful solution.

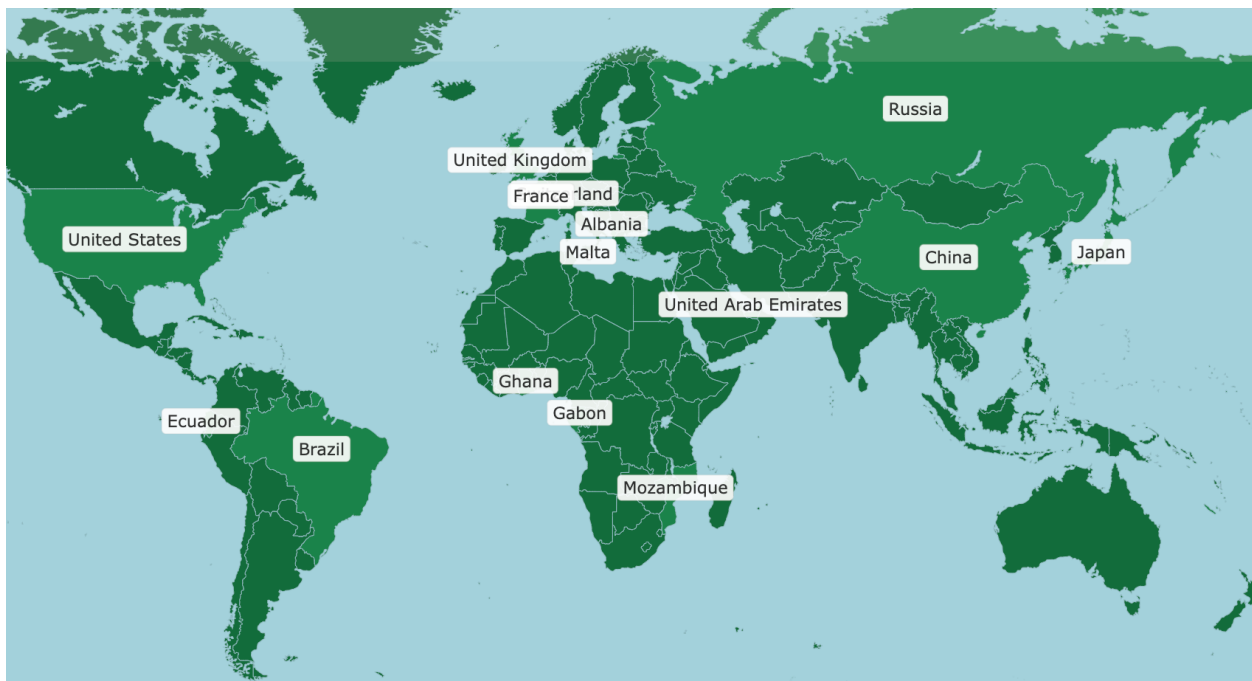
Eastern European Bloc (Albania, Russian Federation): Many of the Eastern European countries, such as Russia, have supported the Yemen Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen on several occasions and, in turn, established close relations with them. Additionally, many of these countries call for a Yemeni-led and Yemeni-owned political process to end the conflict. It is important to note the strain the recent Russia-Ukraine has had on exacerbating the preexisting Yemen food crisis.

Latin American and Caribbean Bloc (Brazil, Ecuador): There is a strong urge within this bloc to prioritize the human rights of Yemen citizens. Brazil has been indirectly involved in this war, mainly against the Houthi forces, with Brazilian private



companies contributing weapons to the Saudi-backed forces. Ecuador has focused on humanitarian aid, and supports Hadi's government.

Western European and Others Bloc (France, Malta, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States): The United States specifically has been involved in Yemen for the past century, but no longer aids Yemen militarily as of 2015. The United Kingdom and France have been indirectly assisting Saudi efforts through sales of arms. Switzerland has contributed financially toward humanitarian relief efforts, and Malta similarly supports peace and humanitarian aid efforts.



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What actions has your country taken to address the conflict within Yemen?
- Is it ethical for countries to intervene in Yemen militarily? Economically?
- What is your country's ideal solution for the conflict in Yemen?
- What prior solutions have been proposed by the international community?
- What solutions do the Yemeni people support? The Yemeni government?
- Should the Houthi leaders take control of Yemen, or should there be a government under President Hadi?
- How will the outcome of the civil war affect your country?



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