



HARVARD MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2011

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

HUNTER M. RICHARD, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

TOPIC AREA SUMMARIES

Security Council

Aparajita Tripathi, Director

Topic Area A: **Human Trafficking in East Asia**

The United Nations defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of persons by the means of the threat of the use of force” or other coercive tactics. It is precisely this open-ended nature of the definition that has complicated the effectiveness of legal instruments in tackling human trafficking violations across the globe. Nowhere has the issue of human trafficking manifested itself as visibly as in East Asia. High population growth rates and rapid modernization coupled with unequal distribution of wealth have increasingly rendered this social menace an enticing and lucrative business.

According to the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, East Asia accounts for an alarming 56 percent of the total count of persons in forced labor due to trafficking (ILO, Forced Labour Statistics Factsheet 2007). Women and children are particularly at risk as the primary victims of sexual exploitation. This issue can no longer be analyzed as being confined to isolated incidents; rather, human trafficking is a deeply entrenched global phenomenon that compromises the immediate security of persons in industrialized and impoverished societies alike. Yet, human trafficking has slipped under the radar of national and international security apparatuses. Why, for instance, do the leaders of human trafficking rings continue to escape with impunity despite the existence of legal instruments and repeated efforts by security agencies to address this very issue? What are the institutional shortcomings of previous resolutions proposed by the Security Council and similar bodies? What are some novel approaches to achieving a sustained and effective solution to this problem?

Topic Area B: **Paramilitary Violence in Latin America**

During the 1960s, small militia groups, many of whom were initially backed and financed by the United States, mobilized in Latin America to conduct counterinsurgency operations against Soviet influences during the Cold War. While the Cold War concluded two decades ago, these organizations have endured and have become an even more potent threat to human security. In Latin America’s case as in others paramilitaries contribute to state destabilization and securitization as paramilitaries’ engagement in corruption, terrorism, organized crime, and illegal trade have burdened state institutions. The absence of an effective state has in turn caused such groups to proliferate. The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) has received much attention in the global media pertaining to the topic of paramilitary violence in Latin America, but it is by no means the only body that demands the Security Council’s attention. Mexico, Cuba, and Venezuela have also become breeding grounds for similar organizations. Furthermore, one must keep in mind that paramilitaries are in themselves highly adaptive bodies: that is, while government measures—under President Uribe in Colombia, for example—have caused violent paramilitary activity to enter into remission, insurgent groups have adapted and will continue to adapt alongside state actions in order to perpetuate themselves. As such, what steps can the Security Council take to ensure proactive conflict-resolution in the region? In light of weak Latin American institutions, what alternative implementation strategies should the Council consider?

Historical Security Council, 2002

Eva Harvey, Director

Topic Area A: **Combating Terrorism**

Until the 1990s, terrorism was almost entirely dealt with by the General Assembly, which approached the issue as a general problem of international law rather than one relating to specific events or conflicts. The lack of consensus among member states about the definitional issue meant that the United Nations failed to take a central role in combating terrorism. Events in the late 1980s and 1990s caused the Security Council to respond to acts of terrorism by imposing sanctions against states such as Libya, Sudan and Afghanistan. Although, these sanctions helped in the prevention of state terrorism by Libya and Sudan; they were ineffective against the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and other groups, as such organizations operate outside of the international system. Therefore, the Security Council’s approach radically changed following September 11, 2001. The council endorsed mea-

asures ranging from approval of the use of force in self-defense to requiring member states to undertake comprehensive measures against terrorism, including changes to national legislation. (As seen in Resolutions 1368 and 1373) Resolution 1540 was much more controversial and unsettled some member states as well as international lawyers by again calling upon states to enact national legislation intended to prevent the procurement of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors.

This issue allows for extensive substantive debate on the nature of the UN Security Council's role in the fight against terror and raises the perennial issue of how to implement effective laws to govern international issues while being mindful of national sovereignty.

Topic Area B: **The Situation in Iraq**

The debate over Iraq during this time period reflects the nature of power and how it manifests itself in the world organization. The attack of a superpower by a non-state actor and the Security Council's struggle over resolutions is relevant to assessing the role of international law and the UN. Also relevant is the United States' and Great Britain's taking forceful action without UN authorization and the US declaration of a goal of "regime change" in Iraq. The US invocation of self-defense against terrorism in response to September 11 and its military campaign in Afghanistan were both approved by the council. However, the United States was unsuccessful in persuading the council that military action was required. The council was in agreement up to a point, demanding Iraqi compliance with previous disarmament resolutions and stating in resolution 1441 that serious consequences would follow non-compliance. Ultimately, however the UN did not maintain a tough line following Iraq's failure to disarm; a fact that the US used to its advantage. All in all, it was evident as it was on the question of Kosovo in 1999, that the Security Council could not present a united front regarding Iraq in 2002 and 2003. The invasion raised the question of the continued viability of the UN for maintaining or restoring international peace and security.

The following committees run in continual crisis. A special application for those wishing to participate will be due in September 2010.

Federal Reserve Board

Thomas Hwang, Director

Samuel Himel, Crisis Director

Delegates with general knowledge of economics preferred. A special application/supplement is required for those wishing to participate.

As the global financial crisis of 2008 reached its climax, with the cascading failures of investment and commercial banks, insurance giants, and automakers, the epicenter of the economic wreckage may have been on Wall Street but the focal point of recovery and beacon of hope was the towering white marble building on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. housing the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. Never before in its recent history has the Federal Reserve, the central banking system of the United States, been as critical in the national discourse on economic policy. From mainstream media to policymaking circles, the Federal Reserve and its role in the modern economy took center-stage. Certainly, the decisions of the Fed's Board have immediately visible and long-term effects on market behavior across the world. Upward movement in the federal funds rate or pessimism of the country's recovery can nearly instantaneously depress stock values traded in New York, London, Tokyo and Hong Kong markets.

As the smoke from the economic implosion clears, the Federal Reserve vis-à-vis the government has been given tremendous ownership stakes in the country's economic activities. At the time of writing, financial regulatory reform legislation is currently and contentiously being debated on Capitol Hill. Does the Fed stand to gain from the new legislation or will its scope and jurisdiction be severely curtailed, as some legislators hope? Will the Fed continue to play a pivotal, central role in determining the country's economic and monetary policy, or will authority be parceled out to the other federal agencies jockeying for influence?

The nineteen delegates on the Board, 7 governors and 12 regional bank presidents, will debate these very questions – the Federal Reserve's mandate and jurisdiction, the future of the banking industry, consumer protections, and the relationships between the Fed and foreign authorities – at a landmark moment in the agency's, and the world's, history. The international economic climate remains decidedly uncertain and fragile. With the collapses of Iceland, Greece, and the near-death episode of Dubai, renewed fears of instability have upended political processes (as governments deemed insufficiently aggressive were voted out of office), stoked social and civil unrest, and disrupted the lives of the billions of workers dependent on the intricately interwoven fabric of the global economy for survival. When the Federal Reserve Board of Governors convenes this winter for an unprecedented special session, the delegates will fashion a new financial architecture for the twenty-first century. The fate of the global economy hangs in the balance.

Queen Elizabeth's Privy Council, 1580

Ana Choi, Director

Kevin Liu Huang, Crisis Director

Queen Elizabeth has reigned for nearly thirty years, and under her fearless leadership, England has grown into a prosperous and powerful nation. However, the queen and her Privy Council face several challenges that are looming on the horizon. In order to help Elizabeth maintain the security of her throne as well as ensure that England does not fall prey to fierce power struggles between European nations, the Privy Council must carefully consider all of the available options in its pressing situation and decide upon the most prudent course of action.

England has belatedly entered the race to stake out a claim in the New World, but so far, the results have been discouraging. Sir Walter Raleigh's first attempt at establishing a settlement in America has already failed, and the fate of his second attempt now depends upon whether or not Elizabeth and her advisors think it worthwhile to continue pursuing this venture. However, Elizabeth face far larger problems. Mary, Queen of Scots, has been deposed by the Scottish nobility and is currently under the protection of Elizabeth. Should Elizabeth continue living with the dangerous possibility of Mary inciting a domestic rebellion in order to take over her throne, or should she risk going to war against Spain and other Catholic nations by disposing of Mary? This question is particularly consequential since ongoing hostilities between England and Spain have already pushed the nations to the brink of war. It is true that England has grown stronger under Elizabeth's leadership, but it may be too soon to challenge Spain and its invincible Armada. A single misstep could drag England into war, whether civil or against a foreign entity; therefore, the peace and safety of the realm, as well as England's future status as a major power, lie in the hands of Elizabeth's Privy Council.

Fatimid Caliphate, 1167

Courteney Smith, Director

Willow Latham, Crisis Director

The Arab Fatimid Caliph rules over Egypt, a kingdom of unparalleled wealth plagued by unparalleled dangers. The Caliphate has long since lost its primacy over the Mediterranean, but remains a major power of the Middle East: the civilized world. The Advisory Cabinet to the Caliph Al-Adid is in power at a critical point in the history of the Fatimid Caliphate—never have internal struggles reached such a climax, never have the threats posed by sometimes friendly, sometimes lethal neighbors been so immediate. Immensely wealthy but militarily impotent, Fatimid Egypt commands the strategic Red Sea and is a tempting target for conquest. The Advisory Cabinet, made up of religious, academic, military, and political leaders, will guide the vizier Shawar towards the preservation of Fatimid Egypt: at least for as long as it suits their purposes.

The major threats are posed by the Syrian Nur-al-Din, the Crusader kingdom of Jerusalem under Amalric, the Sasanid Turks, the fading but great Abbasid Empire, and even Crusaders from Europe. Having already suffered through one invasion by Shirkuh, Nur-al-Din's greatest general, and Amalric himself, Egypt's leaders must balance these two deadly vipers and use them against one another. As the Cabinet struggles to balance these many uncertain alliances, ideological struggles within the state among the ruling Shias, the powerful Sunnis in Alexandria, and the partly Christian bureaucracy may pose an even deadlier hazard. All groups are frustrated with the ineffective and corrupt nature of the government and may prove restless if changes are not made to control the masses.

Will this year mark the sunrise of the new and vibrant Fatimid Caliphate or the bloody sunset of the old? Will Egypt fall to occupy a position as vassal state to some foreign power or rise to lead the Mediterranean and the Muslim world?

Japanese Kantei, 2016

Luke Yarabe, Director

Charlene Wong, Crisis Director

The Japanese Kantei, or the Office of the Prime Minister is the executive branch of the government of Japan and its highest governing unit. The Prime Minister leads a cabinet of 14 each responsible to certain aspects of government affairs, known as Ministers of State. In 2016, Japan will be confronted with the toughest domestic and international challenges since WWII. Six years after having passed a record \$1 trillion dollar budget through the Diet, Japan's long-stagnant economy will be on the verge of self-destruction, burdened in part by social security and pension payments to an increasingly older population. The Diet holds general elections in 2017, always in the back of the mind of this committee, leaving the weight of domestic calamities on the shoulders of the ruling DPJ, which must pacify Japan's 125 million people in order to stay in power. In 2016, issues regarding the infamous Yakuza and its grip on Japanese society, US-Japan Relations, and general tensions in the East Asia region will undoubtedly test the leadership and abilities of the Japanese Kantei.

Will future domestic problems mark the downfall of Japan as a world power? Will domestic elections in 2016

be enough to pacify a tense and increasingly nationalistic Japanese public? What role will the Yakuza play on the domestic and international scene? Will political, nuclear, and economic pressures from the US, PRC, and DPRK be too much for the Kantei to handle? It will be up to the 14 valiant members of the Japanese Kantei 2016 Committee to utilize prudent, decisive, and creative decision-making to guide their country out of disaster and into the next great chapter of Japanese history.

Joint Cabinet Crisis: Border Tensions

John Sigmier, Senior Crisis Director

Samir Patel, Crisis Director

Karti Mital, Crisis Director

These two committees will interact and run in continual crisis mode. They have a special application for those wishing to participate.

United States

Chris Lehman, Director

Today the United States faces a formidable array of daunting challenges, both at home and abroad. However, this specialized, joint-cabinet crisis committee will evaluate the increasingly complex relationship between the United States and Mexico. In no other areas are the domestic and foreign spheres of US policy so interconnected and so heavily debated. From an American perspective, by far the most media-dominated area of the relationship between the two countries is immigration. Immigration, however, is only the beginning. Delegates in this committee will also explore international trade between the US and the rest of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Finally, this committee will explore the darker side of globalization: the trade of illegal narcotics and firearms, and other items that has contributed to the destabilization of politics and daily life in Mexico over the last half century.

Delegates will be expected not only to work amongst themselves to devise innovative solutions for existing issues, but also to cooperate with their Mexican counterparts across the border and to respond quickly to new developments at home, across the border, and in the larger international scene. How does the United States wish to conduct its affairs with its neighbor across the border? How effective is NAFTA? What can be done to prevent the smuggling of illegal items and persons across a increasingly securitized border?

Mexico

Kidus Asfaw, Director

Convening in one of its worst droughts in decades, the Mexican government has painfully learned that the rainy season won't be arriving as soon as they had hoped. The countryside is now in drought with water reservoirs reaching their lowest levels in decades. The coming year is looking grim as the wheat and corn crops are now wilting. Peasants who have been the most affected by the droughts are calling for help. Relocation projects are underway, but the fields to which thousands of Mexican citizens are being relocated are not fertile as their previous lands. Unrest is imminent.

Adding to these concerns, Mexico continues its drug war with Mexican drug cartels and their networks in the Southwestern United States. Corruption and inefficiency in government, a struggling economy, and a growing divide between rich and poor all occupy the members of the Mexican governing council to which the Mexican public demands swift action. To make matters worse, a weary United States is convening to discuss illegal immigration, NAFTA, and a securitized border. How will this committee respond to such pressing issues and improve the Mexican economy, the lives of its citizens, and of its posterity?

Ad Hoc Committee of HMUN 2011

Zach Osborn, Director

Tracy Vo, Crisis Director

The topic areas of this committee will be announced at a later date. It will run in continual crisis on an exciting and creative contemporary topic.