

Committee: UNODC

Topic: Combating Terrorist Attacks Targeting Places of Worship

Report of the Chairs

I. Theme of the Conference

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

II. Rationale

Throughout history, terrorism that targets places of worship has inhibited feelings of safety and peace for those who practice religion. Likewise, terrorism continues to instill fear in practitioners of all religions, and ravages the hearts and minds of faithful victims who simply wish to worship peacefully. The rise of terrorist attacks on places of worships seems inevitable on a global scale, and all nations are advised to be conscious of these attacks.

Delegates should work to construct solutions that are not motivated merely by fear of being attacked, but they should instead truly synthesize their ideas in order to foresee a future free of religiously motivated terrorism.

III. Background of the Topic

Terrorism takes on many forms, some more noticeable than others; however, despite variation in weaponry, loss of life, and media coverage, these acts always work to intimidate a certain population in pursuit of a political agenda⁶. Every corner of the world has known the affects of religiously motivated terrorism, but such terrorism is most prevalent within the Middle East, Southwest Asia, and Europe, who has fallen victim to 65 such attacks on its soil in 2018¹.

Victims in Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Syria made up 78% of all victims affected by terrorism in 2014³.

Heightened awareness of such attacks has raised alarms in many UN member states, causing the implementation of stricter security measures⁸. In addition, many countries have adopted a “closed border” policy, hindering the population’s ability to get into those “closed” countries, all the while tearing children from their families⁴. These same “closed borders” increase trade tensions between countries, bringing global coalescence to a halt. Since 1998, this committee has adopted counter-terrorism measures, but many more may be proposed by delegates⁸.

IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic

Recently, religious terrorism has become a more urgent global issue, with roots primarily in the Middle East, Africa and Asia³. Despite this, many religiously motivated terror attacks, regardless of region, have one thing in common: the attack is used as a means for publicity and recruitment for the terror group⁶.

Months ago, the UN adopted a resolution titled “Combating Terrorism and Other Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief” that sought to address this pressing issue⁷. This committee strives to capitalize on that political momentum and continue the push for a solution that is mutually beneficial for all nations and curbs this type of terrorism.

V. References and Research Resources

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3. Hanley, Michael. (Nov. 17th, 2015). “Which Countries Have Had The Most Terrorist Attacks.” Retrieved September 6th, 2019 from

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/11/which-countries-have-had-the-most-terrorist-attacks/>

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5. Institution for Economics and Peace. (2016). "Global Terrorism Index". Retrieved September 5th from <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/02/Global-Terrorism-Index-2016.pdf>
6. Olaimy, Al Leena. (July 27th, 2017). "Terrorist Don't Kill for Their Religion. It's Something Else Entirely." Retrieved September 5th, 2017 from <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/07/terrorist-extremists-dont-kill-for-islam-or-christianity/>
7. UN. (April 2nd, 2019). " "Resolution Condemning Violence Targeting Individuals Based on Religion, Beliefs." Retrieved September 5th, 2019 from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12133.doc.htm>
8. UN. (September 6th, 2008). "UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy." Retrieved September 5th, 2019 from <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings, delegates. We, the UNODC Chairs, would like to thank you for choosing the UNODC Committee. We hope you find our topics interesting, complex, and opportune for debate. If you have any questions about the topics or anything MUNSA-related, feel free to contact us at the emails below.

Aaron Cruz - acruz2715@stu.neisd.net

Kyren Stephenson - kstephenson2636@stu.neisd.net

VII. Director General Contact Information

Joseph Ruelas - jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net

Dana Marion - dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net