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Organization of Islamic Cooperation

Topic Bulletin

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Delegates,

Welcome to AMUN XIX! My name is Jessica Shi and I am very excited to be your head chair for the OIC this year. Currently, I am a junior in the Academy of Medical Science Technology (AMST), but I have found a passion in diplomacy and international relations as the icing on the cake for my love of medicinal advancements and helping others.

In my free time, I enjoy hanging out with my friends as well as reading about world issues in the news. I am an EMT with my town's volunteer ambulance corporation and I run cross country and track with our school team, the Bergen Tech Knights. I love to travel and document my experiences to show others and to keep a memory to look back onto forever.

I began participating in Model UN a year and a half ago, with my very first conference being AMUN XVII. I was an extremely shy delegate at my first conference, merely observing and comprehending the rush that the other delegates experience during the moderated and unmoderated caucuses passionately advocating for their country's respective position. Simultaneously, I felt quite terrified about the situation I had signed myself up for. Nevertheless, the seed that I planted within myself when I researched and prepared for my first conference has only grown and flourished since then.

Since then, I have attended various other conferences including Empire MUNC and WAMUNC, winning various awards. Model UN has taught me incredible life lessons, enlisting motivation to learn more about the issues that arise all throughout the world as well as



allowing me to develop my leadership skills, confidence, and public speaking ability. Creating resolutions and debating on international issues that pertain to the world that we live in is an amazing experience, and I am looking forward to sharing my endearment on this topic with each and every one of you. I wish you well in your preparation, and remember to enjoy your time here at AMUN and to meet and befriend other delegates that are just as passionate as you are. See you all in February!

Best regards,

Jessica Shi, Head Chair, OIC

Welcome to AMUN!! My name is Lauren Fisher and I'm so excited to be co-chairing for OIC this year and I hope you guys are just as excited to start debating! I am currently a junior in the Academy for Culinary Arts and Hospitality Administration (ACAHA), but I have become increasingly interested in business management and medicine.

Between school and other activities I stay pretty busy, however I try to make as much time as possible for spending with my friends and family. I also play volleyball with my school team, and for a club in the off season. I have just finished training to become an EMT and I try to ride with my ambulance corps as much as possible, which has really developed my passion for medicine and helping other people.

I first began participating in Model UN a little more than a year ago, and I've been loving it ever since. My first conference, I had no idea what I was doing, but I dove right in, and figured it out as I went along, and loved every second of it. Since then, I've competed in multiple conferences, from EmpireMUN to AMUN, right here at BCA, and have won a variety of awards. Model UN has motivated me to be more involved in politics, and has helped me to develop my public speaking skills to a whole new level.

I hope you all find the same excitement as I did beginning Model UN, and I hope you all find a passion for debating and working together to write resolutions. I wish you all well in your preparation and I can't wait to see you all in February!

Sincerely,

Lauren Fisher, Co-Chair, OIC

TOPIC A:

Terrorism in the Islamic World

Introduction to the Committee

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), formerly known as the Organization of the Islamic Conference, is considered to be the largest intergovernmental organization, after the United Nations. The OIC contains memberships over the spread of four continents with 57 states. The organization identifies as the collective voice of the Muslim world, promoting harmony and peace while protecting the interests of the Muslim world. The OIC was established by a decision created by the historical summit in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on September 25, 1969 post burning of the Al-Aqsa Mosque that was found in Jerusalem. Since the founding in 1969, membership of the organization has spread and grown from the established 30 members states and rose to the 57 states we have today in present day 2017. The OIC aims to strengthen member cooperation in terms of education, science, and culture ensuring that all curricula are based on the Islamic culture. Additionally, the contribution to the achievement of world peace and security stands with the organization.

Topic History

Throughout the world, there have been various situations relating to terrorism sprouting in various places with the events of September 11th, 2001 in New York City being a well known situation. However, what is imperative to keep in mind is that although every individual event or aspect in relation to terrorism is not broadcasted in news stations all around the world, this does not mean that terrorism does not affect people to extreme levels. Terrorism has been prevalent for a large period of time, however only recently has the public eye been exposed to such acts. Terrorism is different from islamic terrorism, with islamic terrorism being considered to be any act of terrorism, a term used to describe violence or intimidation with

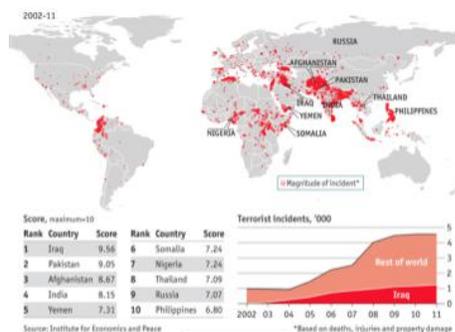


Figure 1 above.

political views as a certain goal, that is committed by people professing any aims for Islamic goals with actions occasionally justified through Quran or Hadith interpretations.

Terrorism takes root in the historical world, and is not necessarily primarily Islam based. Regardless, political movements and resistance are a large fueling factor for the causation behind these terrorist acts. The Sicarii Jewish terrorist group rose and founded in first century AD with intentions of overthrowing the Middle Eastern Romans. The Sicarii believed that God should only rule Jews as opposed to other additional religions through the influence of the Zealots, and that armed resistance was deemed to be

necessary toward the Romans. The Zealots, however, specifically targeted other Jews as opposed to other religions. Prior to the September 11th events, terrorism was primarily concentrated in Latin America and Asia. Post September 11th, however, the concentration of terrorist attacks shifted toward the Middle East and demotes the Latin American areas to a lesser intensity. Figure 1 displays this information through a world map from the years of 2002-2011 while figure 2 displays the increase of fatalities and injuries in Afghanistan in from early 1990-2004. 2015 shows a 650% increase in fatal terror attacks in big economic areas where people live from the November 13, 2015 attacks in Paris to various other attacks.

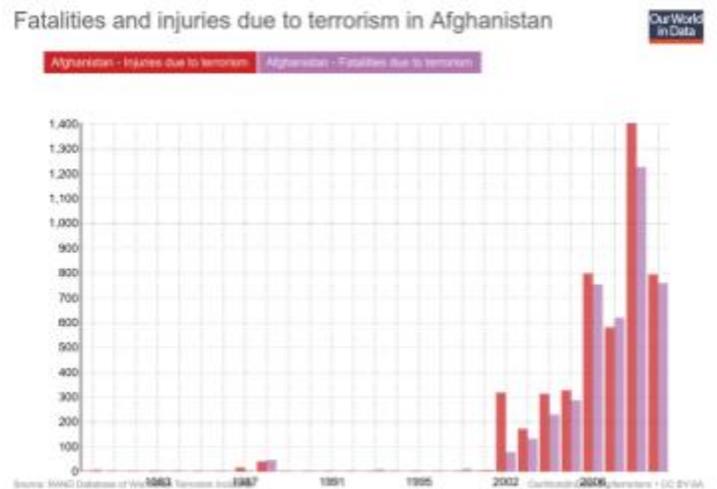


Figure 2 above.

Terrorism in the Islamic world has been around for decades, starting in the

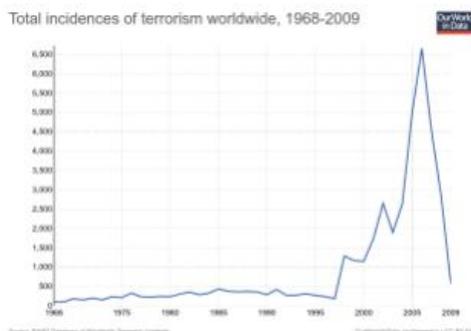


Figure 3 above.

late 1960s. During this time, movements throughout the Islamic and Arab world grew exponentially as a result of the colonial era and the creation of Israel. Various kidnappings, bombings,

hijackings, and shootings occurred one after another. The number of acts worldwide showed an increasing trend throughout the time period of 1968-2009 with the peak in 2008, finally showing a significant drop in 2009 as shown in Figure 3. The United Nations, throughout the various assemblies, has established committees and has placed the topic of terrorism onto the table in hopes of creating a potential reliable solution for this subject.

Current Situation

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda, and the Taliban are just 4 of the many Islamic groups that can be found in the world today. Insurgencies throughout the affected areas pertaining to these associations endlessly continue to build upon and increase the number of deaths that occur in the world. The NGO Human Rights Watch displays the statistics of Boko Haram's death toll count, which in 2014 exceeded 5,000 deaths over the span of a few years in time. In turn, this fuels various other issues such as an exponentially large number of refugees fleeing to other countries, contributing to human trafficking and demolishing any progress a certain country may have made in terms of human capital development or economic development. The situation in Islamic countries is becoming increasingly worse, and the civil wars going on are adding to the frequency of attacks, and the severity of them. The Global Terrorism Index originating from the Institute for Economics and Peace edition from 2014 statistically pronounces a 61% terrorist attack increase within one year. Civil wars make it easier for terrorist groups to gain followings, and avoid being arrested seeing as a government gripped by civil war may not be functioning properly. Explosives, biological threats, chemical threats, and nuclear threats are just some of the methods used by terrorists in the world today.

Countries alongside with the United States started utilizing the aspect of force against Iraq during March of 2003, contributing to the falling of Baghdad into the hands of the United States with allied forces of the Iraqi groups in April. Many countries around the world see Islamic nations as the root and reason for the increased amount of attacks, however these countries are just as much victims as

any other place. Although it is often not televised, and attacks are often not reported on, there are people who die at the hands of terrorist groups more in majority-Muslim countries than anywhere else. In fact, majority-Muslim countries are victims of 75% of terrorist attacks in the world despite that the normal citizen does not get a news headline in their everyday technology items.

The increased availability of technology has also heightened the levels of terrorism, as it has become much easier to recruit and train terrorists, without any sort of physical contact necessary. Cyber-terrorism has posed a major threat to not just Western countries, but to the entire world, and the internet has been used throughout Islamic countries to recruit members right from their homes, and plan attacks that can take down entire networks. Terrorism is a public act, with target spots for an attack intentionally being in the public eye. Especially with social media, the events and symbolism behind the event increases in the public eye. Taking the Boston Marathon terrorist attack as an example, this day was extremely important and captivated the eyes of thousands prior to the attack. Afterwards, however, social media quickly spread word and the act of the terrorists were well known to many. Simultaneously, however, the increased availability of technology through the means of social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc. can help open the eyes of the everyday John and Jane Doe in terms of how to help, how to act, and how to detect suspicious activity in areas they reside in.

Bloc Positions

What makes the issue of terrorism in the Islamic world unique, as with other issues debated by committees in the UN, are the controversial opinions on each topic. Certain countries may not be as concerned with the issue of terrorism as others, with certain stances favoring the authorization of military force to stop the support of terrorist groups. All throughout the world, there will always be people supporting terrorism and people who do not.

Middle East

Stances on the topic of terrorism may differ throughout countries located in the Middle East, with significant positive, negative, or mixed views. Especially in densely populated Muslim countries, numbers anywhere from one-third to one-fifth of the population express positive views toward terrorist leaders. Countries like Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar, and Bahrain are participating or supporting the United States led military action, with the US offering weapons and training.

Countries like Iran, Iraq, and Syria are slightly more military heavy in comparison. Delegates should keep in mind that while terrorist attacks may originate in the Middle East and branch outward, this fact does not mean that the Middle Eastern countries do not face the consequences of terrorist attacks as well.

South America

The question of whether or not terrorist groups similar to ISIS will strike Latin America is often questioned by many, however a definite answer can not be given. This does not mean there is no terrorism present in South American countries, seeing that terrorism is present. However, following attacks in the United States, Brussels, Paris, and Manchester, many Latin American countries are beginning to raise flags. During the 1990s, Latin America experienced terrorists originating from Iran exploding a Jewish community center as well as the Buenos Aires Israeli Embassy. However, what is significant to understand in these Latin American countries is the technological advancements place these countries at a slight disadvantage to other countries experiencing attacks. ISIS attacks in Brussels and Paris had easily identifiable terrorists through advanced technology, and faces were displayed on TV for the public eye to see. While the Middle East countries may have a priority on militarily stopping these attacks, other places such as South American countries may place a priority on advancing in terms of terrorism focus through intelligence agencies.

South Asia

Terrorist attacks from Jamaah Islamiya are frequent, originating by Indonesians in 1993 with a vision of the establishment of an Islamic nation enclosing Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, southern Philippines, and southern Thailand. Jamaah Islamiya is said to have relations with Al-Qaeda, and has not been shy with terrorist attacks with examples of suicide bomb attacks in Indonesia, and NBC (nuclear, biological, and chemical materials) attacks. Indonesia has the most populated Muslim-majority residing within the country. Various online resources are frequently updated to display to the public the doings of terrorists within if desired to be seen by the civilian.

Western Europe

Countries of Western Europe have the technological advantage over other countries such as the Latin American places. Through surveillance tapes, security,

and social media, Mohamed Abrini was introduced to the rest of the world. Europe does not have the FBI equivalent that can be found in the United States. This leads to the security forces that can be found within each individual nation to fend and fight terrorist groups that may interact with each nation.

As the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, we must address the issue of terrorism in the islamic world with the mindset of the future, the development, and security of each individual country. Delegates should identify issues that are already in existence, consider the events of the future, and base a working solution off of previous events and statistics to eventually pass.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the objectives that terrorist groups often have in mind when committing acts of terrorism?
2. What are some good examples of solutions after an attack, and what are some examples of bad examples of solutions after an attack?
3. Has the UN done anything for terrorism in the past? If so, what actions did the UN take?
4. How does your country play in the fight against terrorism? What are some actions that your country has taken to counter terrorism, if any?
 - a. Were these actions effective? What are some other countries that have taken effective (or non-effective) terrorism actions? What can you learn from these situations while drafting a resolution?
5. What position strongly resides with your country? How may this position differ from another country?
6. What possible solutions could be used to combat terrorism in your country and throughout the world?
7. What is your country's position on the topic of censoring and other methods of keeping the internet free of potential terrorist threats?
8. Does your country favor a strong military interference or not? How come?
9. What solutions have worked in the past for terrorist attacks? What has not?

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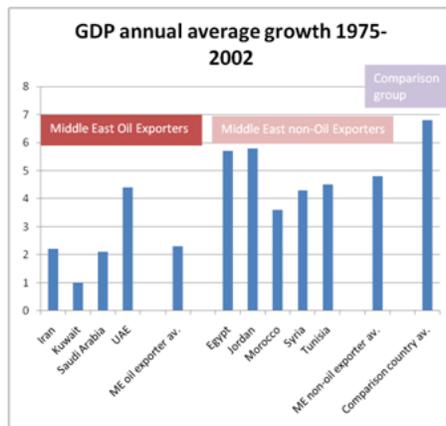
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TOPIC B: Economic Development in the Middle East

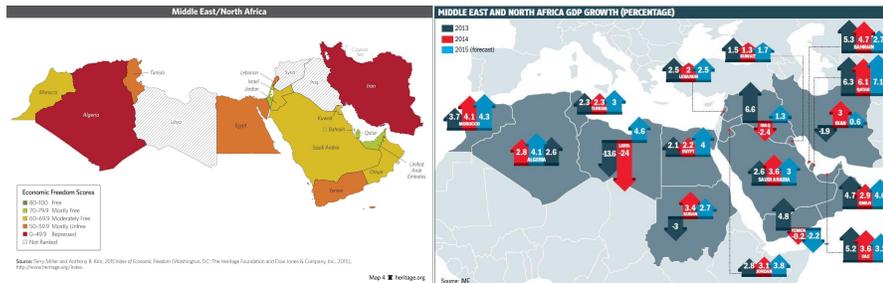
Topic History

In the past couple decades, there has been a worldwide trend towards globalization, and this has introduced the development of many countries throughout the Middle East, however the development of many of these countries does not compare to that of many Western countries. This region of the world has faced troubles for a long time in development, due mostly to the fact that its wealth and economy are based so heavily on the oil market. While many countries have tried to diversify their economies, many have been unsuccessful, and therefore are struggling to push forward on the front of development.



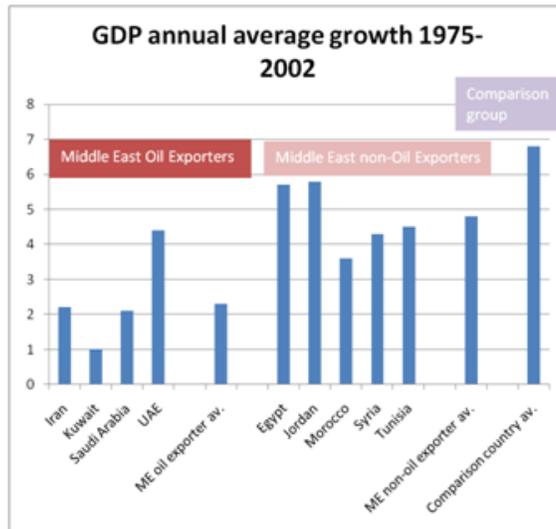
The concept of economic development developed in the post-war period, and was made more public in 1949 when Harry Truman made a call for action in his inaugural speech to aid undeveloped countries. Economic development can be defined as, “efforts that seek to improve the economic well-being and quality of life for a community by creating and/or retaining jobs and supporting or growing incomes and the tax base.” This essentially means that economic development promotes not only wealth, but long-standing knowledge and a base for the community. A big part of developing a country comes from the political system and how effectively it is running. If, for instance, a country has really high import or export taxes, that may make it difficult for them to trade, therefore putting a dent in their ability to grow. When trying for development, countries are generally shooting for high employment, price stability, strong currency, high literacy rates, and low poverty rates. Any or all of these improving can indicate a stronger economy,

however it is often hard for economies to grow while under rule of a political system that is not functioning correctly, or is not representative of the entire state. Many countries also fail because they try to go too big from the start. It is highly unlikely that any country will accomplish goals with free-trade zones or distributing vaccinations if they are unable to have basic security, or policing, or core service delivery.



The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) is the hub for UN activity in the Middle East, and is located in Beirut, Lebanon. This center focuses heavily on economic and social development for countries in and around the MENA region, as do the many other offices and agencies throughout the area. The UN has developed “17 Goals for Sustainable Development” that are intended to help underdeveloped countries, many of which are seen in this region. The UN has been working diligently through many assemblies and committees to create policies that help with economic development, however these have not been fully successful, as the current situation of many countries is still unideal.

In the past couple decades, there has been a worldwide trend towards globalization, and this has introduced the development of many countries throughout the Middle East, however the development of many of these countries does not compare to that of many Western countries. This region of the world has faced troubles for a long time in development, due mostly to the fact that its wealth and economy are based so heavily on the oil market. While many countries have tried to diversify their economies, many have been unsuccessful, and therefore are struggling to push forward on the front of development.



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create policies that help with economic development, however these have not been fully successful, as the current situation of many countries is still unideal.

Current Situation

The rate of growth in the MENA region has decreased over the past couple years, reflecting fiscal consolidation in some countries, and oil production restraints in others. The ongoing war on terror, and fighting throughout many states has caused not only a drastic loss of life, but also mass displacement, and destruction of infrastructure, which has highly damaged attempts at development. In countries like Egypt, the rate has slowed to a 4.3% growth in 2016, due to the slowing of the tourism industry and as foreign currency shortages hurt the manufacturing industry. Saudi Arabia is expected to have a 1.6% growth rate, which is down from historical levels, as is Algeria, at a 2.9% pace.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
GDP at market prices (2010 US\$)						
Algeria	3.8	3.9	3.6	2.9	2.6	2.8
Bahrain	4.4	2.9	2.0	1.8	2.1	2.4
Djibouti	6.0	6.5	6.5	7.0	7.0	7.0
Egypt, Arab Rep.	3.7	4.4	4.2	4.4	5.1	5.4
<i>Fiscal year basis (Egypt)</i>	2.9	4.4	4.3	4.0	4.7	5.4
Iran, Islamic Rep.	4.3	1.7	4.6	5.2	4.8	4.5
Iraq	0.1	2.9	10.2	1.1	0.7	1.1
Jordan	3.1	2.4	2.3	2.6	3.1	3.4
Kuwait	0.5	1.8	2.0	2.4	2.6	2.8
Lebanon	1.8	1.3	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.5
Morocco	2.6	4.5	1.5	4.0	3.5	3.6
Oman	2.5	5.7	2.5	2.9	3.4	3.6
Qatar	4.0	3.6	1.8	3.6	2.1	1.3

The high dependability on the oil market for both importers and exporters makes it harder to predict exactly how countries may rise or fall in upcoming years, and is one of the reasons many countries are devoted to economic development in the whole of the region. In 1965-1985 the region had a high level of growth and consistency, but this has faded over the years and the lack of now is

making it harder and harder for the countries to survive.

Saudi Arabia	3.6	3.5	1.0	1.6	2.5	2.6
Tunisia	2.3	0.8	2.0	3.0	3.7	4.0
United Arab Emirates	3.1	3.8	2.3	2.5	3.0	3.3
West Bank and Gaza	-0.2	3.5	3.3	3.5	3.5	3.6

The large levels of population growth throughout the MENA region have also contributed to the stresses placed on the countries since the highs of the 80s. The population is growing on an average of 3% each year, which has placed a tremendous stress on the resources, and employment availability throughout the countries. The unemployment rates in the MENA area can run from as low as 5.6% in Saudi Arabia, to 42% in Gaza. This goes to show how even slightly more developed countries have a greater ability to cope with the stresses of population growth, and how they are better set to provide for their citizens.

The political instability in many of these states has also been contributing to the low growth rates and poor economies of the area. In areas with high levels of conflict and terror, there is an additional layer to break through in order to get anything done, as it can be hard to get through policies and laws that may make huge changes in any country's economy. The ability to tax plays a huge part in development, and generally an unstable political climate does not promote the idea of taxation, or the collection of funds from citizens. The political stability in the region is proportional to economic stability, and therefore development, as it is very difficult to develop anything if there is not a stable base in place. The development often comes without being forced, simply when a country's economy becomes stable enough to support growth, which includes a decreased unemployment rate, higher literacy rates, and more advanced jobs.

Bloc Positions

Middle East

The production and exportation of oil is an industry that is well known in the Middle Eastern region. Impacting the entire area, this industry allows for labor movement and generation of wealth. Recently, databases have exhibited the fact that standard Middle Eastern growth has accelerated at roughly around four times faster than the rest of the world, with Iran and Turkey prime examples of such events occurring.

Europe

With nearly 800 million inhabitants, the economic development of Europe exceeds the economy of the US, obtaining the title of the largest and wealthiest economy in the world today and representing slightly more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the world's wealth. Increasingly, the issues that can be found rooted in the Middle East are breaking off into pieces and infiltrating the European circulation. Aspects that used to be primarily located in the Middle East, such as terrorism, nuclear policies, or migration tides, are slowly trickling into Europe. With recent terrorism acts in Europe, these two world regions seem slightly more similar than what many may believe.

Latin America

In contrast to the United States or Europe, Latin America has not played a large nor influential role with interactions with the Middle East. While many people of Middle Eastern origin have resided in Latin American countries, a definite connection between the two has not yet been established in terms of economic development.

Questions to Consider

1. What attempts has your country already made to develop?
2. What are factors that may be inhibiting your country's ability to develop?
How can your country overcome these factors?
3. What are priorities for your country (literacy rate, unemployment, etc.)?
What is unimportant?
4. What position resides within your country? How may this differ from other countries?
5. What are some solutions or ways to develop more stability in your country?
How can your country create more opportunities for solutions to be implemented?
6. What is your country's position on receiving aid from more developed countries?
7. Does your country have a strong infrastructure base?
8. What has the UN already done in an effort to help your country with development?

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