



UN DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Topic Guide

Chairs:
Michael
Papadopoulos
and David Wang

Contents:

- Letters from the Chairs 2
 - Topic: Combating Terrorism.....
 - Introduction 3
 - Topic History.....4
 - Current Situation..... 6
 - Country Policy..... 7
 - Questions to Consider..... 8
 - References.....9



Junior Academy Model United Nations

- THE FIFTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE -

SECRETARIAT

EMILY HASHEM
AARON
THAMMAVONXAY
*Directors of Internal
Affairs*

KAYLYN LU
CATHERINE PARK
*Directors of External
Affairs*

ETHAN
DONOVAN
ELLIOT LEE
*Directors of
Operations*

MARK KRAMER
ANDREA
BUCCINO
Faculty Advisors

MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS (Head Chair)

Dear Delegates,

My name is Michael Papadopoulos, and I am pleased to welcome you all to JAMUN V as the Head Chair of DISEC. Whether this is your first time doing MUN or your fifth, I hope to make this an incredibly enjoyable and memorable experience for you. Throughout this session, you'll all be able to discuss some of the most relevant issues in our current world. A few words about myself - I'm a sophomore in the Academy of Computer Science and Technology and an active member of the BCA MUN community. I decided to join MUN club in freshman year, and it is a decision I do not regret. Since then, I've been to Princeton, Yale, and Washington D. C. to compete in MUN, and I've enjoyed every single one of these trips. MUN as a whole is a great way to improve your skills in public speaking, cooperation, and teamwork, so I hope you come out of JAMUN feeling better about your MUN skills than you did beforehand. Even if you are completely new to MUN, we will do our best to make sure you have all the knowledge necessary to contribute and debate at the highest levels. DISEC is not an easy committee, and its topics can be addressed in a variety of ways, so you'll all need to come up with feasible and effective solutions as you work together. Once again, as your Head Chair, I will do whatever I can to make sure your time at JAMUN is the best it could possibly be. If you have any questions, just ask, and I will do my best to respond. Good luck!

Michael Papadopoulos, Head Chair, DISEC

micpap21@bergen.org

DAVID WANG (vice chair)

Dear Delegates,

Hello, and allow me to welcome you to JAMUN V, 2019. Allow me to introduce myself: my name is David Wang, and I am your vice-chair. I am a freshman in the Academy for Advancement of Science and Technology and have been a part of Bergen Academies' MUN program all year. This year, I have participated in AMUN XX and WAMUNC (and painfully regret not going to more conferences). I come from Fair Lawn, and because Fair Lawn's middle schools did not offer a MUN program, I had no idea what I was in for. Indeed, my very first conference was JAMUN IV, just one year ago! (Israel, cybersecurity. I had a blast!) As such, believe me when I say that everything is new for me and that I was just as scared, shy, and discombobulated as some of you presumably are. Rest assured that my partner and myself will do all we can to make this years' JAMUN experience as friendly to newcomers as possible. That is not to say that languishing around is encouraged, however! Given this years' incredibly sensitive and complex topic, namely combating terrorism and state-sponsored terror, it is vital to this years' JAMUN experience that delegates come in ready to discuss and debate innovative, practical solutions to a growing threat in our world. Feel free to ask hard questions; that's what MUN is about! I cannot wait to meet all of you, and until I do, I bid you all happy researching!

David Wang, Vice-Chair, DISEC

davwan22@bergen.org



Topic: Combating Terrorism

Introduction:

The First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the Committee on Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), was created under chapter IV of the UN charter, signed on June 26, 1945. Its purpose is to serve as a chamber to debate, advocate, and solve matters of disarmament and international security (hence the name). As a result, DISEC often deals with some of the most controversial topics, including the illicit drug trade, drone-strikes, human trafficking, chemical/biological weapons, etc. As the First Committee of the GA, all 193 member nations are granted representation in DISEC, and member nations send delegations to represent their stances and priorities on issues. However, as an organ of the General Assembly, DISEC is not capable of forcing individual states to take action, nor can it issue sanctions or armed intervention; this falls under the jurisdiction of the Security Council.



However, DISEC can recommend specific actions to be taken by the Security Council.

At the Junior Academy Model United Nations V (JAMUN V), the topic under discussion for DISEC is terrorism, with particular emphasis on combating terrorism and state-sponsored terror. In a post-9/11 world, and with groups like ISIS and the Taliban accruing ever-growing influence in their own respective areas, a spotlight must be shined on the atrocities these groups commit, and a dialogue must be started to discuss possible methods to dismantle these instruments of terror. Furthermore, one must consider the practical ramifications of the fight on terror, as many methods tried in the past have failed miserably, or heightened the conflict. The war on terror is, above all else, a human war, and the consequences for individuals caught in the cross-fire (i.e. collateral damage) must be taken into account. Given the nuance of the situation in the Middle East, one must also consider the political consequences

of a war on terror, as many of the countries who are the primary state-sponsors of terror are also incredibly powerful and influential on the world's' stage. Delegates should look into specific countries' policies as they consider their plans to tackle the complicated and painful issue.

Topic History:

As long as humans have existed, fear and violence have been used as tools to force individuals and populations into submission and obedience. From the early Hebrew Sicariis, who attacked their fellow Hebrews suspected of helping the Romans; to the Roman emperors Tiberius and Caligula, who exiled, evicted, or executed those who opposed their reign; through the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition, to the Reign of Terror of Robespierre, terror has always been with us. It is important to emphasize that, historically, not all terrorist groups are ragtag, nomadic, poor organizations. The secret police of many fascist



dictatorships could also be considered terrorists, as could individuals who act on hateful ideologies. However, the modern story of terrorism has been defined by the events of September 11, 2001, when the radical Sunni Islamic group al-Qaeda (al-Qa'ida) hijacked four planes, flying two into the World Trade Center in New York City, one into the Pentagon in Washington DC, and a fourth into a field in Pennsylvania. Following these events, numerous global conflicts were fought, and for better or worse, an all-consuming War on Terror has ravaged the Middle East. Numerous armed conflicts have been fought, from Iraq to Afghanistan, costing thousands of lives. The threat of terror has also been cited as justification for harsh measures against minorities, such as the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar, to the detainment of Uighurs in Xinjiang, China. Domestically, the United States, then under the presidency of George W. Bush, signed into law the “Authorization for Use of Military Force” Resolution, on 9/18/2001, opening

the door for the invasion of Afghanistan, establishment of Guantanamo Bay Prison in Cuba, and the surveillance of American citizens under Section 215 of the PATRIOT Act. The Department of Homeland Security was also established post-9/11.

State-sponsorship of terrorism has an equally complex history. In fascist, totalitarian regimes, terror has been used to pacify and control a population. Examples include the Gestapo and SS in Nazi Germany, the Soviet NKVD, and the Red Guards in Mao's China. Major world powers have also clandestinely given arms, funds, or other supplies to militant groups. Prominent examples include the Soviets giving funds and training to Communists in Cuba, and the US the same to Nicaraguan Contra rebels. This trend of sponsoring terrorist groups as proxies is not only limited to Cold War-era tensions; many Middle Eastern countries also fund terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda or Hezbollah, to manipulate as puppets for regional dominance.



Numerous countries also have lists of state-sponsors of terror, including the United States, who created theirs on December 29, 1979.

Current Situation:

Terrorism is an unrelenting issue, and in 2019 the state of terrorism has continued to evolve and change as it has done for the last few years. In 2017, 18,814 people were killed by terrorist activities. Of this amount, 83% of deaths came from five states, those being Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Nigeria, and Afghanistan with 25% coming from Afghanistan alone. This number is a significant improvement from 2016, with deaths dropping by 23%. This can most likely be attributed to the decline in power of terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria, with groups like Islamic State (ISIS) carrying out significantly fewer attacks and causing half as many deaths as they did the year before. This, however, does not mean that terrorism is self-solving; deaths in other countries have stayed constant or decreased only slightly, and in

Somalia, the number of deaths almost doubled. Rather than decreasing, the number of terrorist groups whose attacks resulted in deaths have increased from 127 to 169, and groups like the Taliban and Boko Haram are still responsible for thousands of deaths in their own countries and around the world. Terrorism has decreased because terrorist groups are being countered by military action, and the decrease in terrorism should not be a sign to take terrorism less seriously, but that action should be doubled down. However, campaigns against these groups have been costly for countries like the US, who spent over 1 trillion USD overall on the war against Afghanistan. On top of that, the rise of many new terrorist groups, many of which hold radically different ideologies, has made it more and more difficult to identify and combat terrorist activity locally, and the decrease in domestic power of many groups like ISIS has encouraged action on a global level, instead. It is necessary to come up with solutions that can adapt to how terrorism has changed in the last few years, to assure that any action has a long-lasting effect that



will help combat terrorism for decades to come.

State-sponsored terrorism has continued to be an issue in 2019 as well. As of this day, 4 countries have been recognized by the United States as sponsors of terrorism: The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea, DPRK), Iran, Sudan, and Syria. These countries participate in the actions noted above, funding other terrorist groups and contributing to the chaos going on in the Middle East. North Korea, in particular, was once removed from the list, but unlike other countries that were removed like Libya and Cuba, they were added back in 2017 due to their refusal to reduce state-sponsored terrorism and increasingly concerning actions involving nuclearization. While these countries have been the most recognized, many other countries have had accusations of supporting terrorist activities made against them recently, such as Russia and Turkey supporting jihadist groups in Syria, Saudi Arabia and Qatar inciting conflict between Iran and Syria, and even the U. S. itself supporting the Kurds in Syria. It is imperative to reconsider the

countries on this list and properly define what "state-sponsored terrorism" is, and then take proper action against these countries.

Country Policy:

United States of America

Historically, the U. S. has been one of the leading forces in preventing terror across the world. They have gone to war with countries that sponsor terrorism and take action to shut down anti-terror groups. They also maintain the most accepted list of states that sponsor terrorism. However, the U. S. has recently come under fire for these actions. Many accuse the U. S. of facilitating more issues and wasting money in their attempts to combat terrorism. Many also see the state-sponsored terrorism list as incomplete and believe it unfairly targets certain countries. Some even say that simply maintaining a list is a flawed method of recognizing which states are causing problems. Fixing these issues is imperative to your success, and persuading others to follow these "American" ideas will be equally important.



Somalia, Nigeria, Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, etc.

Your country is a central hub for terrorism. Thousands of people each year are dying due to NGO groups, or even other countries' attacks. Well, what are you going to do about it? You'll need to both get assistance from others and work on your own ability to counter domestic threats. Your country may be poor, or it may have resources. Use your status to your advantage - as the states that are in need of help and that have received help before, you'll have a good idea as to what will be effective and what won't. Most importantly, keep your country policy! Take actions that will push your goals and minimize how much you'll have to sacrifice to get the help you need.

State Sponsors of Terrorism

Your actions in the past, whatever they were, have caused your country to be seen as a major contributor to terrorism by the United States. Are you going to change? How much would you lose by changing? Are your people going to suffer or riot? Or maybe you believe your country was unjustly put on the list. Do your best to prove that you don't belong there!

Your goal, by the end of the session, is to get your country in a better position that it was previously. Whether that requires reforms to your country or reforms to the list is up to you.

Other Countries

In 2017, 67 countries reported at least 1 death from terrorism, and 92 reported at least 1 attack. Terrorism is a global issue, and each country must come up with its own method of shielding its people from terrorism. How will you recognize and counter terrorism? Will you take direct action, or will you focus on domestic protection? Do you have the funds or manpower to do anything? If you don't, how could you work with other countries to get the resources you need? Terrorism may be a threat across the world, but that also means that the war on terror is a global effort.

Questions to Consider:

Does your country have the resources necessary to tackle terrorism? If not, how can your



country assist in the war against terror (if at all)?
Are current measures effective at combating terrorism? If not, how can they be improved?
How can countries assist the states most damaged by terror (if at all)?
How can your country minimize domestic terror (if at all)?
Should countries attempt to tackle terror directly (i.e. by waging war)?
How can countries deal with state sponsors of terror? Is keeping a list of state sponsors of terror effective?

References:

Terrorism:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/06/world/middleeast/isis-global-terrorism.html>

<https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2018/12/05/deadliest-terrorist-groups-in-the-world/#32fa7doa2b3e>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/dominicdudley/2018/12/05/terrorism-in-decline/#12296dbe203c>

State-Sponsored Terrorism:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-changing-nature-of-state-sponsorship-of-terrorism/>

<https://www.lawfareblog.com/russia-is-state-sponsor-terrorism-but-dont-treat-that-way>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/20/us/politics/north-korea-trump-terror.html>

<https://energypolicy.columbia.edu/research/commentary/what-it-means-if-united-states-designates-venezuela-state-sponsor-terrorism>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran/in-unprecedented-move-u-s-names-irans-revolutionary-guards-a-terrorist-group-idUSKCN1RK1NY>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-iran-saudi/saudi-welcomes-u-s-blacklisting-of-iran-revolutionary-guards-idUSKCN1RLoJI>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/terrorism#ref217764>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-IDKdmN9Qg&has_verified=1

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veMFCFyOwFI>

