



Background Guide

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Under Secretary-General Fezaan Kazi
Chair Neal Desai, Vice-Chair Gabriel Roach

IndianaMUNC VII

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A

Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates,

My name is Neal Desai and I will be your Chair for the UNHRC Committee. A little bit about myself is I am currently a sophomore in the Kelley School of Business studying Finance and Business Analytics. I am a huge soccer fan and participate on an intermural team at Indiana. I have a five-year-old dog who I love to spend time with and is a big part of my life. This is my second IndianaMUNC Conference and I am so excited to be coming back to it as a chair this year.

I am so happy that all of you chose to participate in Model United Nations based on the state of the world in the last 6 months. I hope all your families as well as you have been doing well and are safe. This is a very important time for public health so make sure you all stay as safe as possible during this pandemic. Besides that, a little bit about me is I have been a part of Model United Nations since I was a sophomore in High School, and I understand the commitment and time needed for such an activity. So again, thank you so much for taking the time to come and learn something about the world.

If this is your first-time doing Model UN, don't worry this should be a learning experience. Although this club can be competitive, I really want each and every one of you to really understand the takeaways and try to apply it in your life. The transferable skills are something that is invaluable to this club and will teach you a lot about some of the important real-world skills in any career path. I hope all of you take the next couple days to enjoy this committee and learn something and try to work with one another in a collaborative space to generate new innovative solutions to a real worldwide issue.

I am looking forward to meeting all of you during the conference day. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel to reach out to me at nealdesa@iu.edu. I would be glad to talk if there is anything you feel concerned about regarding the conference. With that in mind I wish you all the best during the conference and looking forward to meeting you all then!

Best,

Neal Desai

UNHRC Chair



A Letter from the Vice Chair

Hello Delegates,

I am very excited to welcome you to both IndianaMUNC VII and the United Nations Human Rights Council. My name is Gabe Roach, and I will be serving as your vice chair for this committee. Hopefully, this committee can bring out some heated debate among all of you. I am very excited to see what creative ideas you all have to help solve the crisis in Yemen.

A bit about myself. I was born in Greenwood, Indiana and am currently a freshman at Indiana University studying Law and Public Policy at SPEA. I have been involved with model UN for three years now, including my last two years of high school and this current year. Model UN has been a great experience for me, so I hope to do all that I can to pass that on to you all despite this year's circumstances.

Apart from school and model UN, I am a huge music lover and really enjoy music by Denzel Curry, Phoebe Bridgers, and Vampire Weekend. I am also a big fan of the Pacers and Colts. When I'm not listening to music or watching sports, I'm either hanging out with friends or playing my guitar.

I am very much looking forward to seeing what you all will do at the conference. If any of you have questions or concerns, feel free to email me at gabroach@iu.edu. With that, I wish you all luck for the conference!

Best,

Gabriel Roach

UNHRC Vice-Chair



Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Human Rights Council is a body of the United Nations that specializes in protecting human rights of all individuals in both developed and third world countries. The United Nations Human Rights Council was founded in March 15, 2006 and has its head base in Geneva Switzerland. This council since 2006 has been very effective in directing and enforcing solutions that have protected individual rights and freedoms across the globe.

The goal of this council is simple, to identify the humanitarian problems across Yemen, and create solutions that create both a feasible and effective means of protecting and prioritizing the rights of others. It is the job of this council to focus on the issues of the Yemen crisis that have occurred in the past decade and overall promote collaboration between nations as a means for generating highly functioning strategies to combat these existing dilemmas.

During the duration of the committee session, remember diplomacy and collaboration are of utmost importance. The committee will be moving through various points of interests over the course of the multiple sessions.

Topic 1 | The War

History

The Yemen Human Crisis is a large focus in the modernized world. The large part of this crisis is the war created between the Yemen government and rebellious groups. The war was a direct result of a failure in political transition. The previous authoritarian

President, Ali Abdullah Saleh handed his power over to his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi in 2011.

Yemen during this period was facing a catalyst of issues ranging from unemployment and food insecurity to attacks conducted by jihadists in Yemen. Though this being the case, the largest rebellion group that caused widespread terror within Yemen was the Houthi Movement which focused on a Muslim Minority.

It was known that during this presidential transition that Hadi lacked power in his position which resulted in the Houthis taking control of the Saada province in Northern Yemen.

The war caused such a large focus on the fight of power, that militant groups such as Al-Qaeda and the rival Islamic state group began taking control within southern Yemen.

In 2015 Hadi and his government chose to resign, but he rescinded his resignation 6 months later and returned to Aden to fight in the continued conflict. The issues began to expand that the UN intervened to try and broker peace between the government of Yemen and the Houthis. The peace became evidently impossible resulting in Hadi's exile within Saudi Arabia.

A surprising change occurred in July 2016 when former president Saleh announced his new formation of a political council to govern Northern Yemen. His governance was created on the foundation of an existing alliance between his council and the Houthi Union. However, in December 2017, Saleh broke the



alliance and called for his supporters to take up arms against the Houthis resulting in his defeat and death two days later.

During this period Iran has been a supporter of the Houthi forces supplying them a large amount of Iranian weaponry and overall support for the separatist regime.

This conflict has now excelled nations like the United States and other developed countries to support the Yemen government in this civil crisis.

Current Situation

The world has been tasked with an immense issue, and a goal to restore protection and security within such an overarching conflict.

With the government broken and in distress it has only caused more conflict and tragedy for the people of Yemen. The conflict has now been labeled has the “world’s worst humanitarian crisis. The United Nations took an estimate and has said that civilian causality tolls have exceeded 15,000 killed and 22 million Yemenis that are in need of support and assistance.

The largest is issue is the Blocking and Impeding of Humanitarian Access within the war. The Houthi rebellion has taken control of major ports inhibiting Yemen citizens from receiving resources, Fuel for power, and other humanitarian goods. They have even taken control of Sanaa International airport restricting air traffic for necessary resources for the Yemenis people. The UN have even started

investigations accusing the Houthis of stealing UN food aid.

The power of the Houthi rebellion has also jumped the violence against Women and Migrants. The Warring parties’ action have exacerbated the discrimination and violence against women and girls. Domestic violence has grown causing Women and Migrants to face torture and sexual violence during detention periods.

The War has caused a multitude of humanitarian struggles, as it has restricted Yemenis citizens from receiving the care they need and placing them large refugee groups struggling to receive their freedom and rights back as a people. The committee has to view these issues as a prime importance and has to understand the sum of ways the Yemen War has created a humanitarian crisis for the Yemenis Citizens. The ultimate goal is for this committee to collaborate effectively in generating solutions that combat and prevent more tragedy and escalation of this Yemenis crisis, and to overall minimize the effect of the war on the lives of innocent civilians.

Bloc Positions

It is strongly encouraged that all groups work together but this is a something that might not occur. Within the conflict factions have already been enabled and as a committee its something that must be focused on whether issues been Hadi’s Government and Islamic groups such as Al-Qaeda organize a peace or choose to pursue a more actionable approach to ensure governmental control.



Nations like Iran and Saudi Arabia are prime candidates that support both sides of the conflict and understanding their political and economic involvement in the conflict is key for coming to an effective resolution. Additionally, instituting policies will have to positively impact nations regardless if they are allied with Hadi or part of a separatist rebellion to ensure an effective solution among both parties.

The unification among all groups and nations is the prime focus and goal of this committee although it won't always be attainable this is a focus that should be kept in mind through the duration of committee.

Questions to Consider

- How can collaboration between first-world countries and third-world countries result in positive generation of solutions, while restricting their impact in Yemen's overall political affairs?
- How can solutions be generated to provide UN support in Yemen, with the existing control exhibited by Houthi forces?
- Should solutions for the conflict be geared towards purely humanitarian protection, or ending the conflict but resulting in a risk of escalating the issue?

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IndianaMUNC VII

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

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Topic 2 | The Famine

History

The War and conflict between both sides during the Yemeni Civil War is the crisis for this ongoing issue. The War has taken its toll on the innocent citizens within Yemen through various tragedies including the undergoing famine present in Yemen.

The situation has undoubtably had a negative effect resulting in over 85,000 children deaths in 2018 alone. The ongoing war has made both sides of the conflict, the Houthi Rebels and the government of Yemen, forge such a void that the lives of the innocent individuals have been ignored. The Houthi Rebels in 2018 continued to block imports to Yemen inhibiting access to food and resources, increasing the growing famine. The lack of resources has even come so far as to compound the outbreak of cholera in 2017.

The large increase of the Famine as mentioned occurred in 2017 due to opposing parties restricting resources and food. November 5th marked a dark day as Saudi Arabia launched a sea, air, and land blockade of Yemen controlling Al-Hudaydah port which is under control of the Houthi's. Later in November though the blockade was lifted to allow a small portion of humanitarian supplies through but although this was the case it still was not

enough to help the citizens in Yemen in a substantial way.

In 2018 though it was believed that the Saudi-led militia groups intentionally are targeting these areas to hurt the citizens of Yemen. In October the World Peace Foundation found ¹certain documentation showing the Saudi groups intentionally destroying food production and destruction within Yemen

The other factor is that in 2018 and 2019 it was revealed that nations such as the UK, US, and France continued selling arms and weaponry to nations such as Saudi Arabia and even directly helping the Saudi-led militia groups. In 2019 the UN released a report saying these 3 nations among others could be held responsible for war crimes and aiding and abetting these groups violates laws. That the selling of militant weaponry adds to the hunger, famine, and overall humanitarian crisis within Yemen.

This conflict has been described as the second worst humanitarian crisis in over a century. The issue continuing to get worse due to failure in governmental infrastructure based on these last few months dealing with COVID-19.

¹ "Overview." World Bank. October 01, 2020. Accessed November 28, 2020.
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/yemen/overview#1>.



Current Situation

The situation has grown and is this a large problem to Yemen's current social and economic status. In 2020 the UN estimated that 24.3 million people, this being 80% of the population, were "at risk" of hunger and disease.

As of March, UNICEF estimates, that 2 million children under the age of 5 are suffering from acute malnutrition. The large conflict has had a large effect on the children within Yemen. It is projected by the World Food Organization that acute malnutrition could expand and begin to affect up to 40% of Yemeni citizens by the end of 2020.

Low oil prices, and economic fallout due to the COVID-19 crisis's have overall deteriorated the socio-economic status within Yemen. The COVID Crises has caused more than 40% of Yemeni households to have lost their primary source of income. This has caused a large increase in the overall severity of the famine within Yemen.

Another issue is the humane representation of the Houthi and Saudi-led groups. Their lack of humane treatment of citizens has become an ongoing issue making it still difficult to send in humanitarian resources to help the ongoing famine within Yemen. The Houthi's ongoing mounted attacks to control the south have led to large widespread conflict and a large focus

on the war rather than the famine of the people.

Bloc Positions

The groups within this issue are a little more widespread regarding this humanitarian crisis.

The obvious inclusion is the Yemen government and the Houthi Rebels. This ongoing conflict between both groups has been the crux of the crisis and ongoing increase in famine within Yemen.

The inclusion of outside supporters is seen as a problematic issue. Direct Aid in the issue is coming from nations like Iran and mainly Saudi Arabia, that are dumping their resources into restricting aid and targeting the citizens of Yemen

One of the largely controversial groups is the assistance through indirect aid from other nations. Countries like France, UK, and the US selling arms are a large reason for why the conflict remains at large. Although it's clear these nations aren't intentionally trying to target the Yemeni's people, their greed for profits has caused them to contribute a lot to the continuation of this crisis.

The last group of actors are the Humanitarian groups such as the UN, UNICEF, World Food Program, etc that are intended to help the livelihood of these people. Their support

² "Crisis Overview." OCHA. March 12, 2020.
Accessed November 28, 2020.
<https://www.unocha.org/yemen/crisis-overview>.



of the Yemeni's people has helped save countless lives but due to the struggle and lack of real international support has caused there to be a limitation in the resources they supply.

Questions to Consider

- Although it would help with stopping the famine, would it ethically be right to launch a more offensive measure to stop the war?
- How can developed nations support these humanitarian groups to ensure supplies reach Yemeni Citizens.
- Should large nations be held accountable for supplying these militant groups, even if it was just an indirect means of gaining profit?

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Topic 3 | The Epidemic

History

The Yemeni Conflict has brought a negative light on the people around. The war has caused a large effect on the citizens who live in the area. The new epidemic that has plagued the nation of Yemen is the Cholera outbreak. The outbreak began in Yemen in 2016. The outbreak began specifically in October of 2016 and was determined that this virus was very unusual due to its rapid spread by the WHO regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean.

The earlier cases began more in the capital of Sana'a with some spread in the city of Aden. Although this was just the initial spread it began expanding to Al-Bayda, Al-Hudayah, Hajjah, Inn, Kahij, and Taiz by November. The issue has now begun to expand to all areas in Yemen creating a large epidemic.

A large part of the safety concerns is actually fueled by the war. The reason for this is that 77.7% of Cholera Cases and 80% of deaths have occurred in Houthi Control. While only 15.4% of cases and 10.4% of deaths have occurred in governmental control. The governments better initiative to its people has allowed for more safety regulations and helped the people in their resolve of such a issue. But areas controlled by Houthi forces remained not compliant in safety regulations affected the majority of citizens.

By the end of 2016 there were 96 deaths, as the Yemeni government through this would be the worst. But in April, 2017 there began a resurgence of cases within Yemen. The cases and effect of the virus began to expand showing a total number of 1614 of deaths by July of 2017.

December 2017 marked a dark point in Yemen as 1 million positive cases were marked within Yemen. This issue continued on killing children and elderly whose immune systems weren't strong enough to combat the virus.

The virus has continued to expand within 2019 and 2020, expanding the fatality rate to an all-time high of 0.11%

Current Situation

Currently the cases in Yemen are continuing to rise and causing and increasing death toll. As of August 19, 2020, the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Yemen reported that 18% of the cases are considered severe and that cases are increasing by around 2,200 a week.

Children under five represent 24% of the total suspected cases during 2020 alone. This issue is has had a large effect on children due to lack of affective medical supplies to the Yemeni citizens.

The main crux of this issue though is the Houthi Rebellion. Due to their impacting control over large bay areas and ports importing supplies has become increasingly more difficult. The medical supplies needed to help



the citizens of Yemen have not been available to them due to the conflict at hand.

Currently the World Health Organization is supporting the medical effort on a large scale, providing services to involve health authorities and certain partners to respond to the cholera outbreak. The organization is working tirelessly to fund laboratory investigations, hot spot mapping, and oral cholera vaccination planning.

Along with this epidemic the global pandemic has had an added effect. Due to the large amounts of inability to get resources, the virus has spread and affected the large amounts of individuals within Yemen. Making this period one of the worst for Yemen since 2016.

Bloc Positions

International organizations such as WHO are struggling to provide aid and are some of the groups that have intended ideas on helping the Yemeni Citizens. It is clear they have a great ambition to provide support and aid but are not able to because of the ongoing conflict.

The Houthi Rebellion is one that is the opposer in the conflict and causing large control in the port areas within Yemen. They are a prime cause of the inability to get resources due to their control in large parts of Yemen.

Questions to Consider

- What ways can developed nations provide support to these aiding organizations?

- What are some effective solutions to combat the importing issue because of the Houthi Forces?
- Innovative medical solutions that might combat this issue more effectively?

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IndianaMUNC VII

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