

UGAMUNC XXI

General Assembly, First Committee Background Guide



Hello Delegates,

I would like to welcome you all to the University of Georgia's 2017 Model United Nations Conference, and to extend a personal welcome to those of you whom are new attendees to this conference. To those who are returning, I appreciate your continued participation in the study of current events. This year will be our twenty-third year hosting this conference, and I believe it has progressed with each passing year. Our conference has been witness to many bright young minds debating the current crises of our time, and this year will be no different. I hope you have an opportunity to not only tour the University of Georgia campus, but to also experience some of the culture that Athens has to offer. The University always appreciates applications from strong, passionate, and creative students!

In addition to welcoming you to our beautiful institution, I would like to introduce myself. I am Robert Cole McKeon, but my friends call me Cole, and I will be serving as your Chairman for General Assembly Committee One (Disarmament and International Security) also known as DISEC. If at anytime you have questions for me about our subject matter, please email me at cole.mckeon@gmail.com and I will gladly help with your inquiry. I am a senior majoring in International Affairs at the University of Georgia's School of Public and International Affairs. This will be my first year participating in Model United Nations. My family currently resides in Milton, Georgia forty-five minutes north of Atlanta. I graduated from Milton high school in 2012, and immediately flew to Cape Town, South Africa for almost three weeks of travel around the southern cape. When I graduate this spring 2017 I hope to pursue employment in Washington D.C. working for congressional staffs. Our co-chair, Adam David, is a sophomore at the University of Georgia. He is a Risk Management and Insurance major and hopes to work in the consulting field after graduation. He grew up in Atlanta, Georgia and attended Lakeside High School. In his free time, Adam enjoys watching football and playing video games. You can reach Adam at his email adam.l.david1900@gmail.com with questions as well.

Do not hesitate to contact either my co-chair or myself with questions regarding background guides, parliamentary procedure, or what our committee is about. For the position papers, I ask that every delegate bring a position paper that details their country's position on the three topics we will be covering. The writing should be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font, with one inch margins. I ask that you write between one to two pages on your countries position. Double delegations will submit only one background guide for their country, although I urge *both* delegates to collaborate on the document. Please turn in these guides to my email, (cole.mckeon@gmail.com) before the beginning of UGAMUNC, with your country name and UGAMUNC in the subject line. Be sure to bring strong questions and debate to the floor of the committee, and I look forward to hosting all of you!

History of the First Committee of United Nations

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was created immediately following World War II. It was formed to improve upon the failures and shortcomings of the League of Nations when dealing with international conflict. The committee was built as a general assembly, giving equal representation to each member nation. It focuses on promoting international peace and security through cooperation between member nations. Committee members work within the bounds of the UN charter to reduce the threat of international violence. The committee is designed to provide a public forum for member nations to discuss international security and other more specific topics, such as military budgets and weapons treaties.¹

This committee works closely with the United Nations security council. However, the committee does not have the authority to take military action. Instead, members of the committee work to ratify resolutions based on a majority vote. Sessions of the committee are divided into general debate, thematic discussions, and then action on drafts.² Once the committee has passed a resolution, it will then make a recommendation to the UNSC regarding potential actions.

This committee has developed and helped push many important resolutions through the United Nations. Perhaps the most important resolution was Resolution 1, which was passed in 1946. This resolution addressed the ongoing nuclear arms race between world superpowers. The first committee has also established the annual Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, as a way of promoting international security.³ Throughout the history of the committee, controlling and disclosing information regarding possession of weapons of mass destruction has been a major objective of committee members.

As international security threats develop, so does the committee. This general committee places a focus on science and technology in the scope of international security. The committee has placed great emphasis on controlling nuclear and atomic weapons as these weapons have become more advanced and readily available. The committee is constantly adapting to ever-changing security threats.

Over the years, the committee has taken an active role in international conflicts. The committee aims to expose potential international threats and prevent the situation from developing further. This committee is primarily used as a peacekeeping force and does not generally take an aggressive role in global politics.

¹ “United Nations Official Document.” UN News Center. Accessed October 25, 2016

² un.org. Accessed October 25, 2016.

³ unog.ch. Accessed October 25, 2016.

I. The Civil War in South Sudan

Introduction:

In July 2016, the day before the fifth anniversary of the youngest internationally recognized nation's independence, fighting erupted in South Sudan. The two warring parties represented different sides of a political and ethnic spectrum. On one side are loyalists fighting on behalf of the current president of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, and on the other are rebel forces led by the former vice president, Riek Machar. These two leaders have been bitter rivals in their pursuit of power over the country ever since its independence in 2011. Tensions in South Sudan culminated in the first Civil War, between December 2013 and August 2015, with both sides attempting to keep and maintain their own political power. A peace agreement was made on August 26th 2015 in which a transitional government was to be created for both sides to have representation in a new government.⁴ At the time there were fears the peace would not last due to kleptocratic officials who had more to gain from the violence.⁵ To the dismay of many, fighting broke out once again. In July 2016, there was a contingent of 12,000 United Nations peacekeepers in South Sudan attempting to protect the civilian population and provide stability for the region.⁶ In a release from United Nations Human Rights Office from March 2016, reports of widespread government sanctioned killings, rape, and pillaging have taken place in South Sudan.⁷ The current situation is chilling in that the leaders of these two opposing forces seemingly have little control over their respective forces. If stability is not brought to the country soon South Sudan faces the risk of becoming a failed state ruled by power hungry warlords, similar to what we see today in Somalia.

Brief Overview: South Sudanese History and Roots of Conflict

South Sudan is the world's youngest internationally recognized sovereign state. Sudan was once a colony of the British Empire and was ruled by joint control of Egyptians and British from 1899 until independence in 1956.⁸ Upon gaining



independence from the British Empire it took South Sudan fifty-five years to gain independence from the north and become a self-deterministic state. Civil war raged in the years between Sudanese independence from the British and South Sudan's independence between the government in Khartoum and the secessionist movements in the south. In the north, Islam is the

⁴ "South Sudan Signs a Peace Deal That Is Unlikely to Last." *The Economist*, August 26, 2015.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ "South Sudan Explodes Again." *The Economist*, July 12, 2016.

⁷ "South Sudan: UN Report Contains 'searing' Account of Killings, Rapes and Destruction."

⁸ "Sudan Profile –Timeline"

dominant religion with the majority of the population following the Sunni interpretation of Islam. Unlike their former statesmen in the north, South Sudan is a predominately Christian country and their leadership did not wish to be ruled by Islamic Sharia law.

Oil was discovered in Southern Sudan in 1978.⁹ The discovery of oil served to further exacerbate the conflict between the south and the government in Khartoum, because it served as a source of easy money in a region that does not produce much else. By 1999 Sudan began to export oil extracted from rich regions in the south to the global market.¹⁰ At this time, Sudan was effectively a rentier state. Oil became one of the major drivers of continued conflict between the north and south. The oil rich Abyei region is still an area of significant dispute between the two states. The government that controls the territory of Abyei has claim to all the spoils it may produce. When South Sudan gained independence in 2011 they gained control over three quarters of the total oil reserves in the region, but the infrastructure needed to export the oil was in the North.¹¹ South Sudan is the most oil-dependent country in the world with “98 percent of government revenues and about 80 percent of gross domestic product” coming from the sale of oil.¹² In 2012 South Sudan was producing approximately 500,000 barrels a day with oil the only significant export coming from the state.¹³

South Sudan is home to over 60 different ethnic groups, and is one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse countries on the continent of Africa.¹⁴ It is also said to be the 7th largest country in the continent of Africa.¹⁵ During the civil wars following independence from Great Britain, ethnic identity played a major role for southern secessionists to recruit soldiers. These soldiers were used to fight against the government in Khartoum to the north. The Dinka and Nuer tribes are the dominant ethnic groups in South Sudan. There have been strained relations between the two tribes during and immediately after British-Egyptian rule. These grievances were set aside to fight their common enemy, the government in Khartoum.¹⁶ After gaining independence, leaders from both the Dinka and Nuer tribes stoked the ethnic hatred to galvanize continued support for their respective cause. These ethnic groups would serve as a strongly motivated fighting force as a result of decades of hate speech about the other.

All forms of infrastructure in South Sudan dates back to the colonial days of British rule.¹⁷ The south was always neglected when it came to government expenditures. The electrical and septic systems also date back to colonial occupation. It is easier and more efficient to travel by air than to attempt to drive between cities and villages because of how decrepit the roadways are. During the first year of independence from Sudan approximately \$1.4 Billion in foreign aid was sent to the Republic of South Sudan, and was intended for infrastructure projects and public

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ “South Sudan.” *Natural Resource Governance Institute*, September 1, 2015.

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ “South Sudan Tribes.”

¹⁵ “South Sudan.” *Globalsecurity.org*

¹⁶ “South Sudan Tribes.”

¹⁷ “South Sudan.” *Globalsecurity.org*

services.¹⁸ However, because there were no conditions set as to how the money should be spent, almost none of it reached its intended purpose of developing infrastructure and public services.

The Crisis Today:

South Sudan is in the midst of another Civil War with the two sides once again divided along ethnic lines. The president of South Sudan, Salva Kiir, has the support of the Dinka tribesmen who make up the largest ethnic group in the country.¹⁹ The former Vice President, Riek Machar, is the leader of the rebel movement with support from Nuer tribesmen.²⁰ Initially there was a sense of control over these ethnic forces, because leaders could galvanize support for each respective cause by promoting ethnic hatred for the other group. Since the initial ceasefire to end the first civil war in South Sudan the situation has devolved past the point of politics.²¹ Now President Kiir and former Vice President Machar are unable to control their forces to ensure a continuous ceasefire agreement would be upheld. Both the Dinka and Nuer tribesmen have refused to stop fighting even after negotiations have been had between their leadership. There are many government officials who would not want to see the fighting stop anytime soon, as they have been able to profit significantly from the continuing bloodshed.



Oil has been a major driver of this continuous cycle of violence. The individual who controls the country politically also controls the rich oil fields. South Sudan is the most heavily reliant country on the production and sale of oil in the world, and needs this revenue in order to perform standard duties of the state.²² Oil is the only good that South Sudan produces for sale on the international markets. South Sudan is effectively a rentier state and cannot generate income in any other form due to the lack of diversification in their market. South Sudan has proven oil reserves estimated at 3.75 billion barrels placing them in 28th place among all oil possessing nations.²³ The last estimate in 2010 placed South Sudanese oil exports at 291,800 barrels per day putting them in 26th place among oil exporting nations.²⁴ With the recent collapse in the global price of oil South Sudan has not been able to prop up its economy as easily as it had in the past. The drop from long time averages of around \$100 per barrel to the current rate of around \$50 per barrel has put significant strain on the state. The State is even having a difficult time paying its employees. Reports of widespread “targeting of civilians for killing, rape, and pillage” have

¹⁸ “Why South Sudan Is Still at War.” *The Economist*, October 3, 2016.

¹⁹ *Ibid*

²⁰ *Ibid*

²¹ *Ibid*

²² “South Sudan.” *Natural Resource Governance Institute*

²³ “The World Factbook—Central Intelligence Agency”

²⁴ *Ibid*

occurred and are mostly attributed to actors representing the state rather than rebel forces.²⁵ Sources with significant credibility suggest, “groups allied to the Government are being allowed to rape women in lieu of wages,” while rebel forces are also taking advantage of the abysmal security situation in threatened regions.²⁶ The crisis in South Sudan has been described as “one of the most horrendous human rights situations in the world” where rape is being utilized as a weapon of psychological terrorism as well as a weapon of war.²⁷

Implications for the Future:

If the current humanitarian crisis in South Sudan continue indefinitely there is potential for it to become a failed state. The political leadership is profiting off the continued violence and instability provided by the conflict. When South Sudan falls to the status of failed state non-state actors, like the Islamic State, they may infiltrate the region to exploit the security disaster. The Islamic State maintains a foothold in Libya and has an alliance with Boko Haram in Nigeria. If radical groups are able to build strongholds in South Sudan the global fight against these groups will have taken a serious step backward. The attacks that are happening in Europe will continue and increase in ferocity and creativity. The current refugee crisis in Europe will get worse, because refugees will flood to North Africa to escape the conflict. Currently refugees from Syria are making headlines, but soon it will be those fleeing brutal conflicts in Africa. If Europe is to remain secure and stable they will have a serious vested interest in creating stability in North Africa. Europe will be the first region to take the bulk of refugees, but refugees will search for other wealthy counties to create a new life in. Anti-refugee sentiment will continue to rise in Western democracies, and may turn violent against those populations if nothing is done to stop the fighting. The threat to African regional security, and to the western developed world will continue for the foreseeable future.

Questions to Consider:

- What are the regional implications of a failed state in central Africa?
- How can institutions be strengthened in South Sudan?
- How can infrastructure be developed to provide growth to South Sudan?
- What can be done when the main perpetrator of systematic rape and violence is the state?
- What can be done to diversify the sources of income for South Sudan?
- What has the UN done so far and why have they not been successful?
- How can strong ethnic divisions that have been reinforced over time be overcome?

²⁵ “South Sudan: UN Report Contains ‘searing’ Account of Killings, Rapes and Destruction.”

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

Required Vocabulary:

- Kleptocracy
 - A government or state in which those in power exploit natural resources, and steal.²⁸
- Rentier State
 - Rentier state means a country that receives substantial amounts of oil or other types of revenues from the outside world on a regular basis. It is independent from its society, unaccountable to its citizens, and autocratic.²⁹
- Dinka Tribe
 - <http://www.everyculture.com/wc/Rwanda-to-Syria/Dinka.html>
- Nuer Tribe
 - <http://www.everyculture.com/Africa-Middle-East/Nuer.html>

Suggested Readings:

- The CIA World Factbook
 - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
 - Gives detailed information about countries in the world.
- The Charter of the United Nations
 - <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>
 - The text that created the basis for the United Nations to exist.
- Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations
 - <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vii/index.html>
 - “Action with Respect to Threats to Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression.”
 - Details what the UN can legally do when international peace and security is threatened.
- United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/>
 - Details what the United Nations is currently doing in South Sudan.
- United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS)
 - <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unmis/background.shtml>
 - Details what the United Nations is currently doing in Sudan. Also shows how the UN ended their mission in Sudan.
- Search Relevant News Articles from Reputable Sources
 - The Economist
 - www.economist.com
 - Wall Street Journal
 - www.wsj.com
 - The New York Times
 - www.nytimes.com
 - Reuters

²⁸ www.dictionary.com

²⁹ definitions.uslegal.com/r/rentier-state/

rate of 8% annually.³³ State oppression and complete dominance over religion in Uzbekistan has stirred discontent with the government. Uzbekistan is a majority Muslim country with 88% of the population practicing Islam; the Sunni interpretation of Islam is predominant group of the Muslim community. There are also a few different radical Islamic groups present in Uzbekistan. The most notable organization is the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU). Recently fighters from this group have gone to fight in Syria along side members of the Islamic State. They have been able to take advantage of the abysmal security situation in that region of the world, and are now battle-hardened soldiers. In early December of this year elections are to be held to see who will be the next successor to Islam Karimov. If the country does not have a peaceful transition of power, there is potential for significant violence and destabilization.

Brief History of Politics and State:

Uzbekistan is a former satellite state of the Soviet Union and was conquered by Russia in the late 19th century.³⁴ Uzbekistan served as a significant supplier of uranium to the Soviet Union until its independence in 1991.³⁵ By the end of Soviet rule the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) contamination left behind from the Cold War was remarkable. The Soviet Union left behind poorly maintained radioactive waste storage sites from decades of uranium extraction and experimentation during their pursuit of greater nuclear technology.³⁶ Many of these sites are located in areas with high risk of seismic activity leaving them vulnerable to natural disasters. The future security of these sites is also questionable in the event of a power struggle. Uzbekistan is the seventh largest supplier of uranium in the world and is continuing to expand production.³⁷ China is a significant trading partner with Uzbekistan. Chinese imports of Uzbek uranium are surpassed only by imports from Kazakhstan.³⁸

Islam Karimov rose through power structures present during Soviet rule and reached the position as “first secretary of the Communist Party of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic in 1989.”³⁹ When Uzbekistan gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Karimov took the seat as President of the newly independent Republic of Uzbekistan. His rule was characterized by brutal suppression to any form of opposition. During Karimov’s 26-year rule he detained and tortured thousands of individuals in political imprisonment, while also forcing millions, including children, to pick cotton against their will.⁴⁰ The state of Uzbekistan has maintained intense control and scrutiny over religion during Karimov’s rule. In the late 1990’s the state tightened control over independent Islam, because of extremism plaguing Tajikistan to the east. There were fears that this radicalization may spread into Uzbekistan and the government wanted to prevent this by any means. By 1998 the government of Uzbekistan

³³ Ibid

³⁴ “The World Factbook — Central Intelligence Agency.”

³⁵ “Uzbekistan Uranium - World Nuclear Association.”

³⁶ “CBRN Hazards in Central Asia.”

³⁷ “Uzbekistan Uranium - World Nuclear Association.”

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Avenue, Human Rights Watch

⁴⁰ Ibid

adopted legislation banning public or independent worship and put “mosques under de facto control of the state.”⁴¹ This legislation went so far as to regulate religious clothing.

Uzbekistan has been plagued with corrupt political and business practices for decades. This is mainly due to President Karimov’s insistence in maintaining a command economy.⁴² The country is divided between seven distinct clans based on different regions of the country. The largest and most dominant clans are the Samarkand, and the Tashkent.⁴³ These two clans comprise the dominant forces in the countries political system. Islam Karimov was a member of the Samarkand clan. He was able to maintain his rule by providing benefits to members of both clans to keep himself above clan politics and not play favorites.

The Current State of Uzbekistan:

Uzbekistan finds itself today in the midst of a potentially violent power struggle between the Samarkand and Tashkent clans. The Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev is currently presiding as the interim president of Uzbekistan until elections can be held later on this year.⁴⁴ Mirziyoyev is a member of the Samarkand clan and is expected to become the next president of Uzbekistan. The political process in Uzbekistan takes place behind closed-door sessions. It is hardly democratic and there is the potential for political opportunism during these elections. One individual may prove most capable to take power during this transition. This would be the head of the Uzbek National Security Service, Colonel-General Rustam Inoyatov. Inoyatov’s orientation between the Tashkent and Samarkand clans is not very clear, but he is well positioned to make a move with the wealth of information and resources he has at his disposal. He may arrest those who would oppose his rule, and steal the presidency.

The NATO campaign in Afghanistan has failed to rid the country of the Taliban and has led to even more significant developments in the country. The Islamic State gained a foothold in Afghanistan in 2014, but was fighting with the Taliban over control of territory and fighters in several provinces.⁴⁵ However, the two organizations have since come to an alliance of convenience and have stopped fighting each other. The Islamic State continues to bolster its strength in the region. The recent attacks in Quetta on a police training college in southwest Pakistan left 59 people dead and over 100 wounded when three gunmen wearing suicide vests stormed the barracks.⁴⁶ A senior Pakistani military commander, General Sher Afgan, has indicated that the attackers received instruction from Afghan based militants.⁴⁷ A senior research fellow Adzhar Kurtov of the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies has suggested in the past that the Islamic State “has been successful in recruiting from post-Soviet Central Asian countries.”⁴⁸

⁴¹ Ibid

⁴² “The World Factbook — Central Intelligence Agency.”

⁴³ “Uzbekistan: A Volatile Equilibrium Between the Clans.”

⁴⁴ “Uzbek PM Named Interim President in Interests of ‘Stability.’”

⁴⁵ “Taliban, Islamic State Forge Alliance of Convenience in Eastern Afghanistan.”

⁴⁶ “Islamic State Claims Attack on Pakistan Police Academy, 59 Dead.”

⁴⁷ Ibid

⁴⁸ “Uzbekistan and Its Future | New Eastern Outlook.”

The existence of terrorist organizations on the southern border of Uzbekistan continuing to gain strength may pose a threat to regional stability for the foreseeable future.

Implications for the Future:

The presence of violent extremist groups in the region along with their continued bolstering of strength is a significant threat to regional stability and international security. Should Uzbekistan show weakness as a result of political opportunism by the Tashkent leadership, namely Colonel-General Rustam Inoyatov, the potential for non-state actors obtaining radioactive materials could prove catastrophic for the international community. Even if Uzbekistan maintains political stability during this transfer of power the security of Uzbek uranium supplies threaten international security should the country succumb to crisis in the future.

Questions to Consider:

- How would the destabilization of Uzbekistan in Central Asia effect regional security?
- Why is stability in Central Asia important to global security?
- What countries would have a strong interest in ensuring a stable Uzbekistan?
- How has your country reacted to political power struggles in the past?
- How does non-state actors obtaining fissile material affect global international security?
- How can the UN help to better secure uranium storage facilities for the future?

Required Vocabulary:

- GDP
 - Gross Domestic Product. The total value of goods produced and services provided in a country over the course of a year.
- GDP Per Capita
 - The measure of total output by a country (GDP) divided by the number of people in the country.
- Sunni Muslim
 - One of the two major sects of Islam. Sunni Muslims are mostly in the western portion of the Middle East.
- ISIS
 - The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. A radical Sunni terrorist organization with strongholds in Iraq and Syria. They are currently the most significant threat to the region and global security.
- Samarkand Clan
 - People from the Samarkand region of Uzbekistan. Loyal to others from Samarkand. President Karimov was a part of the Samarkand clan.
- Samarkand Region
 - Located in central Uzbekistan
- Tashkent Clan
 - People from the Tashkent region of Uzbekistan. Loyal to others from Tashkent.
- Tashkent Region

- Located in the central northeast portion of the country. Tashkent is also the capital of Uzbekistan.
- SNB (National Security Services)
 - The nation's secret security and intelligence service. Very similar to the former KGB of the Soviet Union.⁴⁹
- Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan
 - Terrorist organization based in neighboring Tajikistan. They are a Sunni group who has recently moved toward allegiance to ISIS.⁵⁰
- Islamic Jihad Union
 - Terrorist organization in Uzbekistan. Not as powerful as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, but is still dangerous.⁵¹
- Insurgency
 - Conditions that favor insurgency
 - Political instability. Insurgents take advantage of a disunited enemy and attack. These attacks show how the government does not have control. This causes the insurgency to continue to gain power and legitimacy.
 - Regions that favor insurgency
 - Mountainous. Very difficult to ensure complete control and security over areas where troops cannot move efficiently.
- NPT
 - Non-Proliferation Treaties
 - Agreements to prevent the development and spread of nuclear weapons, and materials.
- IAEA: International Atomic Energy Agency
 - An intergovernmental organization meant to promote peaceful use of nuclear energy, while also inhibiting the military use of nuclear energy.
- Andijan Massacre
 - Government forces murdered thousands of peaceful demonstrators in order to keep and maintain dominance over the population.⁵²
- Kleptocracy
 - A government or state in which those in power exploit natural resources and steal.⁵³
- Oligarchy
 - A small group of people having control of a country, organization, or institution.⁵⁴
- CBRN
 - Chemical Biological Radiological or Nuclear.
- Command Economy

⁴⁹ Kalman, Brian, Afghanistan 2.0

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Ibid

⁵² Avenue, Human Rights Watch

⁵³ Dictionary.com

⁵⁴ Ibid

- An economy in which production, investment, prices, and incomes are determined centrally by a government

Suggested Readings:

- United Nations Charter
 - <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>
 - The text that created the basis for the United Nations to exist.
- The World Factbook: Central Intelligence Agency
 - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
 - Provides detailed information on issues for 267 world entities.
- Search Relevant News Articles from Reputable Sources
 - The Economist
 - www.economist.com
 - Wall Street Journal
 - www.wsj.com
 - The New York Times
 - www.nytimes.com
 - Reuters
 - www.reuters.com
 - The BBC
 - www.bbc.com
- Human Rights Watch reports on Uzbekistan
 - <https://www.hrw.org/europe/central-asia/uzbekistan>

III. Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines

Introduction:

Rodrigo Duterte was elected president of the Philippines in May of 2016. He ran on the platform of running a strict law-and-order campaign to rid the country of crime with a focus on the domestic drug trade. Once instated in office, Duterte began offering medals and cash rewards to Filipino citizens who killed drug dealers.



Iyengar, Rishi, Kimberly Dela Cruz, and Ramon Royandoyan. "The Killing Season Inside Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's War on Drugs." *Time*

Since then, over 2,000 people in the Philippine's alleged involved in the drug trade have been killed in the streets. There has been an average of 37 extrajudicial killings per day during Duterte's presidency. Duterte was reported saying to police officers, "Do your duty, and if in the process you kill 1,000 persons, I will protect you."⁵⁵ However, vigilante groups outside of the law have done the majority of these killings. Duterte's administration has required absolutely no burden of proof before the killing of a potential drug dealer or user is considered permissible. Drug users only have the options of surrendering themselves to the authorities or risk being killed in the streets.

The United Nations and other international human rights groups have condemned Duterte's actions as deplorable. Duterte responded to accusations by saying "I don't care about human rights, believe me." He has also threatened to pull his country out of the UN and impose martial law in the Philippines if any international groups obstruct his extreme anti-crime campaign.⁵⁶

The History of Extrajudicial Killings in Southeast Asia:

Southeast Asia has a history of performing executions for drug-related offenses. In 2003, there was a similar war on drugs in Thailand that resulted in over 1,200 deaths in the first month. Additionally, over 3,000 Filipino citizens were killed outside of the law in the name of justice while dictator Ferdinand Marcos was in power in the 1980's. Duterte has expressed his admiration for Marcos and the strict regime that he ran. Besides the Philippines, the only other countries with a reported history of drug-related executions on this large of a scale are Iran, Saudi Arabia, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, and Indonesia.



⁵⁵ Iyengar, Rishi, Kimberly Dela Cruz, and Ramon Royandoyan. "Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's War on Drugs." *Time* 188, 49. *Academic Search Complete*, EBSCOhost (accessed October 1

⁵⁶ Iyengar, Rishi. "The Death Toll From Philippine President Rod Has Exceeded 2,400." *Time Magazine*. September 5, 2016. Access <http://time.com/4478954/philippines-rodrigo-duterte-drug-war-vigilante-killing-deaths/>.

For a long time, the Philippines has been notorious for a lack of human rights awareness and advocacy. Front Line Defenders, a global organization tasked with protecting human rights groups has ranked the Philippines as the second deadliest country for human rights advocacy groups. As part of the United States State Department's yearly report, extrajudicial killings was identified as the most significant human rights problem the Philippines was facing.⁵⁷ This came out long before Duterte even took office. In June of 2016, Duterte replaced the previous president of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino III. Aquino left office with the broken promises of ridding the country of extrajudicial killings. During Aquino's presidency, there were roughly 300 documented extrajudicial killings in the Philippines. Along with the promise to completely end extrajudicial killings in the country, Aquino had promised his constituents he would promote economic growth and reduce poverty during his presidency. However, improvement in the Philippines seemed to be minimal during Aquino's presidency. After he left office, many Filipino citizens felt let down by Aquino. Duterte has capitalized on the general animosity towards Aquino during his young presidency.

Iyengar, Rishi, Kimberly Dela Cruz, and Ramon Royandoyan. "The Killing Season Inside Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's War on Drugs." *Time* 188, no. 14 (October 10, 2016): 46-49. *Academic Search*

Duterte and the Philippines in the Scope of the International Community

Many international experts and government officials believe that the Philippines pose a direct international threat, especially to the western world. Duterte has already engaged in peaceful and seemingly productive talks with the Chinese government about taking control of the South China Sea. These talks have been a sign of an improving relationship between China and the Philippines. Duterte has publicly worked to separate the Philippines from the United States, as he has received much criticism from the US.⁵⁹

China has been one of the only world super powers to refrain from condemning Duterte's regime and lack of human rights policies. Duterte looks to build relations with China while moving away from the existing relationship between the Philippines and the US. During his visit to China, Duterte spoke with Chinese government officials about reducing trade barriers as well as international investment and joint-oil ventures in the South China Sea. It seems clear that Duterte looks to decrease his country's economic dependence on the US.

This attempted separation has concerned many US officials because the US possesses and operates five different military bases located in the Philippines. The US depends on cooperation with the Philippines to maintain an active presence in East Asia. So far, Duterte has not revoked

⁵⁷ Ambay, Mark. "The Killing Fields: Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines." Truth-out.org. June 19, 2016. Accessed October 24, 2016. <http://www.truth-out.org/news/item/36481-the-killing-fields-extrajudicial-killings-in-the-philippines>.

⁵⁹ Perlez, Jane. "Rodrigo Duterte and Xi Jinping Agree to Reopen South China Sea Talks." Nytimes.com. October 20, 2016. Accessed October 21, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/2016/10/21/world/asia/rodrigo-duterte-philippines-china-xi-jinping.html?_r=0.

the international military treaty between the US and the Philippines, but he has explained that he will be reducing military cooperation with the US moving forward.

Duterte is traveling to Russia next to speak with Vladimir Putin. Duterte said that he will tell Putin, "There's three of us against the world."⁶⁰ China and Russia are both countries with fragile relationships with the US.

In addition to military and economic concerns, Duterte has set a precedent of complete disregard for international human rights policies and standards for decorum. Since representatives from the UN condemned Duterte's presidency and were met with complete resistance, little has been done in the region to alleviate the situation. Neither the United Nations nor any other human rights groups have stepped in to take action in the Philippines or publicly proposed any plan for the region.

Past UN Treatment of Human Rights Violations:

The phrase "human rights" is written in the UN's charter seven separate times. Upon the drafting of Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, human rights became regulated by international law.⁶¹ The UN takes human rights and human rights violations very seriously.

The UN has formed the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which has worked to promote and protect human rights in high-risk areas. This organization carefully examines the situation leading to a violation and often drafts resolutions to ameliorate the situation. The UN has also orchestrated and mediated many international human rights treaties among international regions.

In the past, the UN Security Council has stepped in to deal with egregious human rights violations, such as the use of child soldiers in Africa.⁶² This extreme action only occurs in highly volatile areas that require external intervention. It often requires some sort of military presence from the UN. The Security Council also has the power to impose economic penalties and embargos on countries in violation of international human rights laws.

Consequences of Action/Inaction:

If the UN takes immediate action and intervenes in the Philippines, the situation could deteriorate further. Despite all the international crimes that Duterte has committed, he still has very high approval ratings in the Philippines. If the UN harshly punishes the Philippines through

⁶⁰ Calonzo, Andrea. "Duterte Bids U.S. Goodbye With Embrace of China and Russia." Bloomberg.com. October 20, 2016. Accessed October 24, 2016. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-10-20/china-hails-deal-with-duterte-to-restart-south-china-sea-talks>.

⁶¹ "Protect Human Rights | United Nations." UN News Center. Accessed October 25, 2016. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html>.

⁶² "Global Issues at the United Nations." UN News Center. Accessed October 25, 2016. <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/humanrights/>.

international military intervention or economic sanctions, that may only encourage Duterte and the Philippines to distance themselves further from the US and the western world. The Philippines does not have a strong domestic military, but it is possible that international troops would be met with resistance.

However, if the UN does not respond to Duterte's disregard for human rights and the power of the UN, it would set a dangerous precedent of unchecked rebellion. Duterte has been very public about his lack of concern for international laws, and the UN's lack of direct action against him has been concerning to some international officials. The UN's power is centered on an international respect, and one leader's rebellion against that international entity threatens the foundation of the United Nations. Additionally, an unchecked alliance between the Philippines, China, and Russia could create serious economic and military problems for the UN member nations.

Questions to Consider:

1. Does the formation of an alliance between the Philippines, China, and Russia pose an immediate military or economic threat to the rest of the United Nations?
2. What would be the possible consequences of an international military presence entering the Philippines as a result of Duterte's actions?
3. Are Duterte's human rights violations serious enough to merit active United Nations intervention?
4. What are the potential economic implications for the rest of the world if Southeast Asian economies become more isolated?
5. Are there any internal, civil solutions for the citizens of the Philippines to peacefully and legally remove Duterte from office?

Required Vocabulary:

- **Extrajudicial Killing:** Extrajudicial killing is defined as a deliberated killing not authorized by a previous judgment pronounced by a regularly constituted court affording all the judicial guarantees, which are recognized as indispensable by civilized peoples.⁶³

Suggested Readings:

1. United Nations Secretary General Ki-Moon delivered an address to the United Nations Correspondents Association in June 2016. In this address, he explicitly condemns the actions of Duterte and makes the UN's stance on extrajudicial killings of any kind extremely clear.
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sgsm17831.doc.htm>

⁶³ "Extrajudicial Killing Law & Legal Definition." USLEGAL.com. Accessed October 24, 2016. <http://definitions.uslegal.com/e/extrajudicial-killing/>.

2. This section of the United Nations website describes the core principles and values behind the foundation of international human rights law. It also describes the history of international law protecting human rights.
<http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html>
3. The Filipino constitution, written in 1987, specifies national policies towards human rights. Article XIII, section 17 focuses on human rights.
<http://www.gov.ph/constitutions/1987-constitution/>