

UGAMUNC XXIV

GA 1

Dear Delegates,

Howdy, and welcome to UGA’s 24th Model UN conference, UGAMUNC XXIV. We’re so excited to have you here in Athens to show off how much you have learned in preparation for this conference. Throughout this conference, you and your colleagues will have the time of your lives debating crucial geopolitical issues, practicing parliamentary procedure, and becoming more proficient global ambassadors. Within this committee in particular, General Assembly 1, also known as Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), we will be exploring topics relating to ethnic territorial claims in India, the resurgence of an infamous terrorist organization, and an inconspicuous revolution occurring in South America. But before we get into the nitty-gritty regarding the committee, I should introduce myself.

My name is Jack Harrison White ([jack.white@uga.edu](mailto:jack.white@uga.edu)) and I am a freshman Economics and Romance Languages double-major here at the University of Georgia. I’ve competed in Model UN ever since I was in the 6th grade, so you could say it is quite a passion of mine. I’m originally from Chattanooga, TN, but I attended an international school in New Mexico to finish my high school career. When I’m not avidly practicing parliamentary procedure or reading Bloomberg, I enjoy playing squash, playing FIFA, and enjoying the great outdoors. Outside of Model UN, on campus I’m actively involved in the Alpha Beta chapter of Alpha Tau Omega and I also serve on the media team for UGA Miracle. After college, my main goal is to finish becoming fluent in Spanish and Portuguese, and to become a foreign service officer on behalf of the U.S. State Department. I’m confident that the skills and lessons that Model UN has taught me will benefit me for the best and help me achieve these goals!

I have the distinct privilege of introducing my Co-Chair, Connor Rahbany ([crr59609@uga.edu](mailto:crr59609@uga.edu)) and he is a freshman Political Science and International Affairs double-major at the University of Georgia.  He is from Little Rock, Arkansas. Connor attended Little Rock Catholic High School for his freshman and sophomore years, before transferring to the North Little Rock High School to finish out his high school career.  Connor is very passionate about all things politics.  He has worked on various campaigns, and advocated for several policy proposals throughout his high school and college career.  He loves to play and to watch sports, especially football and basketball.  His favorite hobbies include hanging out with his friends, tweeting, snap-chatting, playing basketball at Ramsey, or watching the news. Connor is involved with Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle’s campaign for governor, and also with the UGA Student Government Association’s Freshman Board. Connor is a great guy, and a total asset to the team.  He hopes this committee goes smoothly, and he will work tirelessly to ensure that it does.

Connor and I are so pumped to finally meet you all and see how much hard work you've been putting in to make sure you come out as the Best Delegate. If you have any questions regarding our background guide, feel free to reach out to either me or Connor about anything. It is important to note that the more research that you put into your country’s position, the better this committee will be. The research you conduct should be comprehensive and thorough in order to ensure a healthy, flowing debate within our committee. I am confident in all of the delegates’ abilities to become top-notch ambassadors, and I cannot wait to see what you all have prepared for us come February! Once again, welcome to the show, and welcome to UGAMUNC XXIV!

Hunker down,

Jack Harrison White

Chair, GA 1

**History of the UN General Assembly, 1st Committee:**

**Disarmament and International Security**

In 1944, the “Allied Big Four” which consisted of the Soviet Union, China, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom, the idea and concept of the United Nations was first formed at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference in Washington, D.C. Shortly thereafter, in 1945, fifty governments and a handful of non-governmental organizations established the first UN Charter in San Francisco.

The First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations discusses disarmament, global challenges, and threats to tranquility that impact the international community and it helps to find answers to the problems in the international security regime. DISEC involves “all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the [Charter](http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml) or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.”

The Committee works in conjunction with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva based Conference on Disarmament. DISEC is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage. The First Committee sessions are structured into three stages: 1.) General debate, 2.) Thematic discussions, 3.) Action on drafts. Throughout the past several decades, there have been many proposed changes to assist in facilitating the work of the Committee, reorganize the agenda, and improving organization of the work.

1. **Kashmir and Jammu: India’s Himalayan Nightmare**

**Introduction**

The fifteenth article of the United Nations’ Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that everyone has the right to a nationality and that no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality[[1]](#footnote-2). This brings about an interesting dilemma where there is no set protocol on what is to occur when a majority of the inhabitants of a particular region feel unattached to their current nationality and wish to become a part of a different one. Enter the region of Kashmir and Jammu in the northernmost area of the Republic of India.

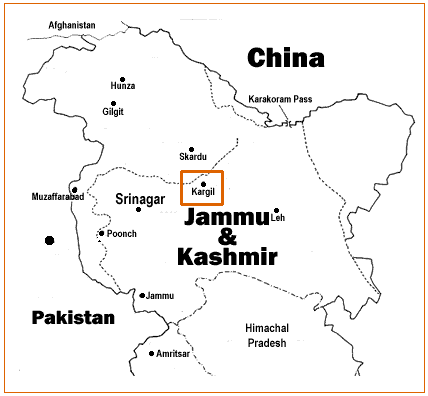
**A Brief History of Kashmir and Jammu**

The Republic of India was officially founded following the departure of the British colonizers in 1950, however, the division of British India, also known as the Partition, was devised in 1947. This Partition divided the British Raj into two dominions: the Dominion of India and the Dominion of Pakistan. The Dominion of India eventually became the Republic of India and the Dominion of Pakistan eventually became the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. The boundary separating the two dominions became better known as the Radcliffe Line[[2]](#footnote-3). The Radcliffe Line was thought to be an effective solution in order to divide the countries into two socio-cultural dominions, however, it created a horrid refugee crisis with more than 12 million displaced peoples seeking to crossover into the dominion that they best saw fit for themselves and their families. Indian Muslims and Pakistani Hindus traversed and navigated their way across the Radcliffe Line in hopes of finding a more hospitable area, picking up and leaving everything that they have ever known behind. Amongst this journey of resettlement, widespread violence, looting, and general chaos occurred in a horrific fashion which still haunts both of the countries involved to his day.

Tensions between the Hindus and Muslims of the region has always been a topic of international security concern. The two-nation theory, or the idea that Hindus and Muslims should live in two distinct nations, was a major part of the Pakistan Movement and a leading factor in the 1947 Partition of India.[[3]](#footnote-4) The Pakistan Movement was the religious political movement from the 1940’s that occurred around the same time as the Indian independence movement that led to the creation of the Pakistani state. While the two ethnic groups were at odds with each other, the two movements progressed alongside each other. In the end, the movement was successful in reaching it’s goal, but it led to a more divisive and hostile subcontinent. Following the Partition and the creation of the Muslim state, Hindu-Indian nationalistic groups arose and often called for the expulsion of any and all Muslims from India. The creation of such groups led to even more tension between the two newly-created states.

For years following the Partition, many of those who felt like they were “behind enemy lines,” continued to migrate and move across the land. As the foundation and stability of the Muslim Pakistani state grew, religious persecution in the area increased. Many Hindus fled to Rajasthan and still, to this day, continue to migrate. In fact, in 2013, it was reported that over 1,000 Hindu Pakistanis moved to India.[[4]](#footnote-5) This sort of oppression faced by the Hindu Pakistanis is the same kind of maltreatment that the Muslims who were living in the region of Kashmir and Jammu felt. Kashmir and Jammu has historically been a region populated generally by Muslims, but ruled by a Hindu leader. Many of the Muslims dwelling in the area felt as if the Hindu leaders in control did everything possible to keep the Muslim population uneducated and underfunded, summoning them to the depths of the social ladder and oppressing an entire group. The ruler in charge of the region during the tumultuous time of the Partition made a series of decisions that ultimately led to the increase of tensions between the two ethnic groups in the region.[[5]](#footnote-6)

Hari Singh was the last ruling Maharaja of the state of Kashmir and Jammu. Following his uncle’s death in 1925, he came into power of the state with a decorated military history. While Singh made a number of executive decisions that led to the betterment of the state, such as prohibiting child marriage and opening up places of worship to lower caste members, his declaration of the Instrument of Accession will be what he is forever known for. In 1947, during the Partition and independence movements, it was widely believed that the rulers of the princely states would respect the wishes of the general population on whether to join one dominion or the other. However, being a Hindu leader of a Muslim majority, many were sure that Hari Singh would choose to transfer power over to India instead. Yet, with no official decision made, a group of Pashtun tribesmen from Pakistan invaded Kashmir and Jammu. Seeking help, Hari Singh called on the assistance of India who sent troops in order to fight off the invasion and resistance, which in turn led Lord Mountbatten to advise Singh to transfer power over to India given that it was an emergency situation. This led to the official signing of the Instrument of Accession of Kashmir and Jammu to the Dominion of India.[[6]](#footnote-7)

Obviously, the Instrument of Accession didn’t exactly sit well with the Muslim majority and thew newly independent state of Pakistan. Which is why, shortly following the transfer of power, the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947 was commenced. Pakistan held that the Accession was invalid and obtained through “fraud and violence”.[[7]](#footnote-8) The first skirmish of the war occurred at Thorar on October 4, 1947. Both sides began to quickly mobilize troops and organize operations in order to gain control of the region. The war itself lasted over a year, and was finally brought to a ceasefire when the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan adopted a resolution on August 13, 1948.[[8]](#footnote-9) This ceasefire required Pakistan to withdraw all of its forces and it allowed for India to remain in basic control of the region. In the end, over 6,000 Pakistanis and 1,104 Indians perished in the battles.[[9]](#footnote-10)

Following the 1947 war, tensions between the two countries remained escalated. It would be shortly later in 1965 that the two countries would find themselves battling it out again. Conflict resumed when a dispute arose regarding an area of land in Gujarat known as the Rann of Kutch. Under the leadership of General Ayub Khan, Pakistan believed that India was currently in a vulnerable state and that now as the time to take back the land they felt was theirs. The Indian army was able to defend against multiple invasions and operations led by the Pakistani army targeted primarily at the region of Kashmir and Jammu. The attempt to take control of the state was largely unsuccessful on the part of Pakistan, but the war was one of the bloodiest due to the advancements of technology at the time. By the time that the United Nation’s Security Council issued Resolution 211[[10]](#footnote-11) on September 20, 1965, bringing a ceasefire to the war, over 8,200 Pakistanis and 5,529 Indians had either died or gone missing.[[11]](#footnote-12)

Public Domain of U.S. Navy

While the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 is certainly an important conflict of note, the next major war as it relates to Kashmir and Jammu was the Kargil War of 1999. Kargil is a significant area of importance to the region of Kashmir and Jammu as it sits almost relatively on the Line of Control between Pakistan and India. The time period was also plagued by the new wave of weapons of mass destruction as both countries had tested their nuclear capabilities in 1998. The conflict began when shepherds in the Kargil area reported instances of Pakistani intrusion into the area. This in turn led to the mobilization of an Indian army patrol, and five of the troops were captured and tortured to death by Pakistani belligerents. The aforementioned circumstance led to heavy shelling from both sides and general chaos. India managed to remain in control of the conflict. In the end, around 500 troops from each side perished in the war.[[12]](#footnote-13) Due to pressure from the international community and the general lack of success in the conflict, Pakistan pulled out of the war and India remained in complete control of the region.

**Kashmir and Jammu: Today**

All of this conflict and built-up tension eventually leads us to the current day. Pakistan and India are still at odds with each other despite multiple ceasefires and treaties, and as of recently, it seems as if the two countries may be heading towards another major-scale conflict. This present-day conflict dates back to 2015 with the influx of Islamic militarization within the Kashmiri Muslim population. Hizb-ul-Mujhaideen is one of those Kashmiri separatists organizations that has one of the biggest presences in the region. Hizb-ul-Mujhaideen is known as a pro-Pakistan militant group, which is known as a terrorist organization to India, the European Union, and the United States of America. Hizb-ul-Mujhaideen was known to recruit a different breed of terrorists: young, educated, middle-class men who were bold and confident in their political leanings. Their commander at the time, Burhan Wani, met all of these characteristics. Following a confrontation with Indian forces in July of 2016, Burhan Wani was shot and killed. It was a planned operation carried out by Kashmir and Jammu police as well as the Rashtriya Rifles, a branch of the Indian army. The assassination aggravated thousands, with general unrest occurring immediately afterwards and over 50,000 attending the funeral of the fallen commander. Violent protests broke out throughout the area and a large part of the government was temporarily shut down. The protests and unrests continued until November 16, 2016, when a two-day hiatus was announced. Since then, the unrest has still continued to rage, only taking breaks for holidays and other events of that nature. At the current time of writing, over a hundred people have been killed and thousands more have been injured or arrested.[[13]](#footnote-14)

There have been several topics of concern apart from the unrest that has arisen as well, mainly relating to suppression of other’s opinion. First, mobile internet services were blacked out following the death of Burhan Wani in order to suppress rumors and talk of the incident.[[14]](#footnote-15)The services were eventually restored by the end of the month, but there continues to be periods of services blackouts. In relation to print, the Kashmir Reader, a prominent newspaper in the region, was banned by state authorities for publishing material that allegedly inciting violence.[[15]](#footnote-16) After three months of being banned, the restrictions were lifted and publishing resumed. Another topic of concern was the detainment of a Kashmiri human rights activist named Khurram Parvez. Parvez is outspoken regarding the perceived injustices committed by Indian forces in Kashmir, and was detained by Indian authorities in New Delhi’s airport while he was on the way to attend a United Nation Human Rights Council session in Geneva. After being detained for 76 days, he was finally released from prison.[[16]](#footnote-17)

**Responses to the situation**

The United Nations has reacted to the situation occurring in Kashmir and Jammu by offering joint mediation between Pakistan and India to resolve the issue of unrest. The United Nations Human Rights Commissions asked the Indian government for permission to investigate potential human rights abuses in the region, but they were denied access by Indian officials.[[17]](#footnote-18) Both the United States and the European Union have offered their condolences to the civilians that have been killed, and have pleaded for Pakistan and India to work together to resolve the issue at hand. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation has taken a more offensive take on the issue, calling for the investigation of human rights violations and stating that this is an issue of international concern, saying “ The situation in Kashmir is heading towards a referendum. No one should be afraid of a referendum and the solution should be through the United Nations resolutions.”[[18]](#footnote-19) China has chosen to taken a position that sides more towards Pakistan and the Kashmiri protestors, saying, “We support Pakistan and will speak for Pakistan at every forum.”

**Questions to consider**

1. What should the international community’s response be to the current unrest in Kashmir?
2. Should sanctions be placed on India for not opening up their borders for human rights investigations?
3. Should a referendum come into effect in order to re-divide borders?
4. Should the United Nations become fully involved or should this debacle be worked out internally by India?
5. To what degree would a ceasefire be effective?
6. What humanitarian actions should be taken?

**Suggested readings**

1. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/04/kashmir-unrest-protesting-students-clash-police-170417091027547.html>
2. <http://www.firstpost.com/tag/kashmir-unrest>
3. <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/04/unrest-in-kashmir-surges-once-more/524412/>
4. <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>
5. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/50/ares50-172.htm>

**II. Hamza bin-Laden: The Resurgence of Al-Qaeda**

**al Qaeda’s Exteremist Beginning:**

al Qaeda is the most recognizable terrorist organization in the world. Al Qaeda was the main antagonist in the war on terror, and the group has caused exorbitant amounts of casualties. al Qaeda can trace its beginning back to the decade long conflict that tore apart Afghanistan from 1979-1989. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan sparked an Islamic holy war. Afghani Islamic extremists rallied support from various young Muslims from around the world, and they declared Jihad on the Soviets. Perhaps, the most important of these Muslims was a 23-year-old Saudi Arabian named Usama bin Laden. Bin Laden, the son of a very wealthy construction tycoon, had been infatuated with the fiery religious calls of Abdullah Azzam. Azzam was a Palestinian and he was a follower of Sayyid Qutb. Bin Laden participated in few actual battles, but he was respected and praised for his very generous funding of the jihadis against the Soviets. Bin Laden did not just have an eye for the boarders of Afghanistan; he envisioned a worldwide jihad. He began to set up a financial support network that he called the “Golden Chain.” This “Chain” was backed mainly by wealthy patrons from Saudi Arabia and Persian Gulf states. Utilizing this large new revenue, Bin Laden and his mentor Azzam, developed a “Bureau of Services.” This “Bureau” recruited and developed young Muslims for the Afghani jihad. Saudi Arabia and, quite ironically, the United States spent billions of dollars into secret support to the Afghani rebels. This assistance allowed the Afghani jihad against the Soviets to constantly grow.[[19]](#footnote-20)19

In 1989, the Soviet Union retreated from Afghanistan. In spite of this, Bin Laden and Azzam agreed that their newly formed organization should not break apart. They set up a base as the potential future main headquarters of the future jihad. Base in Arabic is Qaeda, so al Qaeda translated from Arabic to English means “the base.” Bin Laden, now the clear figurehead of al Qaeda, and Azzam had different views on how the organization should proceed, and where its objectives should be focused. Bin Laden wanted al Qaeda to be a worldwide network capable of striking anywhere, while Azzam preferred to continue the battle in Afghanistan, until there was a true Islamic government. Azzam died in 1989. Bin Laden was then able to take full control of the al Qaeda organization. Shortly after his succession to the top of al Qaeda, bin Laden was banished from Saudi Arabia. After his banishment, he moved himself, and his “base of operations for al Qaeda” to Sudan. Sudan was a sanctuary for bin Laden. From there, he was able to recruit extremists from organizations all across the Middle East and norther Africa. It was in Sudan where he developed his strategy for attacking the West. Bin Laden began his crusade against the West by calling for “a fatwa against the United States’ deployment to Somalia.” Bin Laden would plan and fund various attacks against the United States. It was reported, but not confirmed, that two al Qaeda trainees assisted in the downing of the two Black Hawk helicopters during the Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia in 1993. Al Qaeda and bin Laden also confirmed their involvement in the World Trade Center bombing of 1993, and the car bomb that detonated right outside of a Saudi-US shared facility used to train members of the Saudi National Guard, in 1993.

Sudan being pushed by increasing international outcry, exiled bin Laden to Afghanistan, where he had various issues regathering his vast terrorist network. There were several years during the 1990’s where al Qaeda was an essential nonfactor on the world stage. Then, the Taliban happened. The Taliban is a Sunni Islamic fundamentalist political movement in Afghanistan. They rose to power in 1996, when they controlled approximately 75% of Afghanistan. They advocated for a strict interpretation of Sharia law. Sharia law is the Islamic law highlighted by complete adherence to the Koran. Once the Taliban assumed power in Afghanistan, bin Laden had very fertile recruiting ground. The Taliban endorsed al Qaeda, and many young Muslims in Afghanistan were enamored with al Qaeda’s goals. Two years after the initial Taliban surge, and after heavy recruiting, bin Laden and al Qaeda had a great enough conviction to announce a second fatwa against the United States in 1998. During this tumultuous period, the al Qaeda terrorist organization had completed a merger with the dangerous “Egyptian Islamist Jihad, headed by Ayman al-Zawahiri.” Al-Zawahiri would eventually assume the second command of al Qaeda behind bin Laden. After the consolidation of both groups, al Qaeda assumed the reigns as the lead agent for international terrorism. Pre-1998 al Qaeda attacks were not solely executed by al Qaeda. Al Qaeda just provided the funding and other forms of assistance to various groups to plan and carry out attacks. After the 1998 fatwa, and with the protection of the Taliban in Afghanistan, al Qaeda was able to rise to another level. Al Qaeda was now able to plan, fund, and execute any attack it wanted to anywhere in the world.[[20]](#footnote-21)20 Al Qaeda was known internationally, but after the 1998 attacks on the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, they were thrust into the spotlight. The attacks occurred on August 7, 1998. On that morning, two trucks loaded with explosives detonated at both embassies simultaneously. Those attacks killed 224 and wounded more than 4,000. The attacks directly resulted in bin Laden being placed on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s ten most wanted fugitives list. The embassy attacks were funded, planned, directed, and executed exclusively by al Qaeda. Two years later, in 2000, al Qaeda struck again, this time in Yemen. On the morning of October 12, 2000, a small boat laced with explosives detonated by the port side of the Navy guided-missile destroyer the USS Cole. The attack resulted in the death of 17 American soldiers, and 39 more injured. This attack once again brought al Qaeda to the forefront of the American consciousness.[[21]](#footnote-22)21 Neither of those two attacks can compare in the scope, scale, and utter significance of the most infamous act of terrorism in world history, the repercussions of which caused a war of massive destruction and cost, and fundamentally changed the American security apparatus, and the American psyche. On the morning of Tuesday September 11, 2001, 19 extremist Islamic zealots, members of al Qaeda, hijacked four passenger airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against various targets in the United States. Two of the planes target New York City. They were flown into the World Trade Center, the symbol of the financial prosperity of the West, which eventually caused both towers to collapse. The third plane was flown into the Pentagon, the symbol of the American military might, in Arlington, Virginia, right outside of Washington D.C. The fourth plane crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Its target was the U.S. Capital Building in Washington D.C., the symbol of the American government. These attacks were deliberately carried out against various symbols in American culture. Nearly 3,000 individuals lost their lives in the attacks. 6,000 more were wounded. This attack led to an incredible amount of change in the United States. The United States subsequently declared a global “War on Terror.” The U.S. effort removed the Taliban from power in Afghanistan, and greatly weakened al Qaeda. The 9/11 attacks also contributed to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. The War on Terror is still raging in the Middle East; costing several trillions of dollars, it is the longest war in U.S. history, and also the costliest.[[22]](#footnote-23)22 Due to the war in Afghanistan, al Qaeda slowly but surely lost ground. Many of al Qaeda’s senior leadership fled Afghanistan for the Hindu Kush mountain range. Al Qaeda became decentralized due to its leadership in hiding, and thus they became less influential on the world stage. On May 1, 2011, Usama bin Laden, the mastermind of al Qaeda was killed by U.S. Navy SEALs in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

**al Qaeda Reborn:**

The recent rise of ISIL (The Islamic State of Syria and the Levant) has left al Qaeda as an afterthought. Many worldwide intelligence agencies have simply overlooked al Qaeda. This seemingly unwise overlooking stems from the death of Usama bin Laden, and ISIL controlling vast swaths of territory in the Middle East, staging violent attacks all over the world, and generally being extremely violent. However, very recently, U.S. intelligence agencies have unearthed unsettling information. This intel points to al Qaeda planning to conduct large-scale terrorist attacks all across the globe. Another reason for this recent resurgence is the apparent ascension of Hamza bin Laden, Usama bin Laden’s son, to the top of the al Qaeda hierarchy.

Hamza bin Laden was born to Usama bin Laden’s 3rd wife, Khairia Sabar. Sabar was Usama bin Laden’s favorite wife. Sabar was known for her cool demeanor and sage advice. It is said that she helped bind al Qaeda together when forced exile, and the increasing threat of Usama bin Laden being captured or murdered, would have destroyed the organization. Hamza quickly rose to become one of bin Laden’s favorite sons. He appeared in several propaganda videos throughout his youth. He underwent training with al Qaeda fighters, and gave passionate addresses. In 2000 at his brother’s wedding at the age of 11, Hamza recited a poem that mesmerized the guests present. After the 9/11 attacks, Usama bin Laden knew that he would be hunted with the full force and fury of the United States military. In order to spare his wife and child of constant life on the run, Usama bin Laden sent Hamza and his mother to Iran. From 2001-2011 they lived as virtual prisoners in Iran. Usama bin Laden sent Hamza and Sabar to Iran, because he knew that it would be the one place in the Middle East where they would both be safe. Hamza, after living for a few years in Iran, eventually grew impatient with waiting. Hamza longed to be with his father, who travelled throughout the Middle East to avoid detection eventually settling in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and yearned to follow in his footsteps as the leader of the global jihad. It wasn’t until early 2011 that Usama bin Laden felt comfortable with allowing Hamza to join him in Abbottabad. By the latter part of April in 2011, the plan was in full swing to sneak Hamza into Abbottabad. However, the plan never came to fruition. Usama bin Laden was killed on May 1, 2011.[[23]](#footnote-24)23 Hamza was not able to rejoin his father. From 2011-2015, Hamza stayed silent. He allowed several events around the Middle East, such as Ayman al-Zawahiri taking control of al Qaeda, Syria and Iraq devolving into utter anarchy, and the rise of ISIL to transpire, and suck up much of the news coverage, while he formulated his next move. Then, somewhat randomly, in August of 2015, an audio recording was disseminated in which Ayman al-Zawahiri presented “a lion from the den of al Qaeda.” That lion was Hamza bin Laden. He sang the praises of the martyrdom of his father and his brother. He also lauded the leaders of al Qaeda in Syria, Yemen, and North Africa, and he commended the Fort Hood attack and the Boston Marathon bombing. He then issued a call to arms of jihadis to “take the battlefield from Kabul, Baghdad, and Gaza to Washington, London, Paris, and Tel Aviv.” Hamza issued further statements in 2016, which pushed the U.S. State Department to place him on its list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists. Instead of attacking targets on battlefields in Muslim worlds, Hamza insists on attacks in the West and against Russia. He calls these attacks “more vexing and severe for the enemy.” Hamza knows that attacks on Western soil will result in physical damage, but more importantly psychological trauma. That is the goal of terrorism, after all: to cause as mental and emotional trauma just as much if not more as physical damage. In a May 2017 address, Hamza sets up a priority list of bullseyes to hit, leading with those people and institutions who “transgress” against Islam, that category is followed by Jewish interests, the United States, other NATO members, and finally, Russia. Hamza also advocates for the overthrow of the Saudi Arabian government.

It is quite clear that Hamza bin Laden is the clear heir apparent to assume full control of al Qaeda. He has all of the attributes, and he plays to his advantages. Hamza has the pedigree, the bloodline, the connections, and the birthright. He is a Persian Gulf Arab. He has been featured in various al Qaeda propaganda videos from a young age. He was very close to his father. He has the full backing of the al Qaeda senior leadership. He is in a terrific position to pull in large donations from man patrons across the Middle East. Hamza, differing from senior al Qaeda leadership, never once denounces or criticizes ISIL, and in turn, ISIL never criticizes, or mentions Hamza. Therefore, the potential is great for Hamza to become the unifier of the two closely related, but different sects of international terrorism. Unlike the post Usama bin Laden al Qaeda strategy, it seems like Hamza will use the full force of the now quite formidable al Qaeda network to attack the West. There are various al Qaeda affiliates that have grown in strength, with one of the more staggering being the Syrian franchise boasting more than 20,000 militants. Whether we like it or not, all signs point to Hamza bin Laden following his father, and becoming the leader of the largest international terrorist organization in the world.[[24]](#footnote-25)24

Questions to Consider

1. What should be the response of the United States, and the world as a whole to the recent resurgence of al Qaeda?
2. Should the international community work to root out al Qaeda through military force?
3. Should international forces work to apprehend Hamza bin Laden?
4. Should there be pressure on Middle Eastern countries, such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, etc. to actively search for and eliminate al Qaeda militants?
5. If al Qaeda were to, God forbid, attack the United States, or Europe in a very large-scale manner, should there be an effort, such as the one to eradicate ISIS in Syria and Iraq to totally dismantle al Qaeda?
6. Would the United States benefit from keeping boots on the ground in the Middle East to potentially thwart any al Qaeda recruiting?
7. How serious of a threat do you believe that this new wave of al Qaeda is?
8. Do you think that Hamza bin Laden can take the al Qaeda organization to new heights not previously seen since the September 11th attacks?

Suggested Readings

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41840864>

<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2017/11/cia-releases-video-of-hamza-bin-ladens-wedding.php>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5042999/Al-Qaeda-s-prince-seen-adult-time.html>

<http://www.newsweek.com/irans-secret-funding-al-qaeda-exchange-attacks-us-targets-exposed-bin-laden-699370>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/iran-osama-bin-laden-al-qaeda-before-september-11-terror-attacks-cia-documents/>

**III. Red Scare in La República: Insurgency in Paraguay**

**Introduction**

"Insurgency is best defined as an organized movement aimed at the overthrow or destruction of a constituted government through the use of subversion, espionage, terrorism and armed conflict.” - H. Thomas Hayden.[[25]](#footnote-26)25 While it is relatively unknown, deep in the small South American nation of Paraguay, a low-level armed conflict has been occurring. While it is not a topic of the international community’s concern quite yet, this situation has all of the characteristics that makes it a potential hotbed for violence and a threat to international security.

**Background**

This conflict can find its roots in the collapse of the dictatorship of Paraguay’s former ruler, Alfredo Stroessner, in 1989. Stroessner was a profound anti-communist, and along with other South American leaders at the time, had direct connections to the United States of America who supported his reign. Stroessner was wildly unpopular due to the fact that he kept the country in a constant “state of siege” and often tortured or killed his political rivals.[[26]](#footnote-27)26 Following a bloody coup d’état led by General Andres Rodriguez, Stroessner was ousted and fled to Brazil. With Stroessner out of the picture, this enabled previously banned, left-wing political groups to come back to life and begin spreading their propaganda. One member that felt the impact of the message of these political groups was Ovideo Britez, one of the current leaders of the Paraguayan People’s Army. After being expelled from university, Britez became interested in political change through revolutionary armed struggle and founded the Partido Patria Libre, a precursor to the Paraguayan People’s Army which follows ideologies relating to Marxism and anti-imperialism. Shortly after founding the political party, Britez and one of the co-founders received military training from a like-minded organization in Chile called the Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front. Following the completion of the military training, the Partido Patria Libre began to carry out operations in Paraguay in order to achieve their goals as an organization.

Mikelelgediento. "Zona de Insurgencia armada

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In 1997, the Partido Patria Libre carried out it’s first act of expropriation in the town of Choré. A group of six robbers unsuccessfully attempted to rob a bank, and all involved were arrested and given three-year jail sentences. Following the release of the robbers in 2000, the Partido Patria Libre began to create widespread recruiting campaigns and began kidnapping people and demanding money as a way of generating income.[[27]](#footnote-28)27 The kidnapping was not just to make money to support their organization, but to also send a message to the population that they were not to be messed with. There have been a plethora of kidnappings related to the Partido Patria Libre, but one of the first major ones was the kidnapping of María Edith Bordón. Bordón’s husband was a wealthy businessman who paid the $1,000,000 ransom to free her, a significant amount of that helped to give the organization a solid base.[[28]](#footnote-29)28

Another high profile kidnapping that the Partido Patria Libre conducted was the 2004 abduction of Cecilia Cubas, the daughter of the former President of Paraguay Raúl Cubas. Although the organization received a ransom of $300,000, the abductors still murdered Cecilia Cubas.[[29]](#footnote-30)29 This event led to the Partido Patria Libre being completely taken apart by Paraguayan security forces in 2005, however, several of the former members decided to band together and form a new group with the same goals and mindset, promptly becoming the Paraguayan People’s Army. The Paraguayan People’s Army’s manifesto was written by Ovideo Britez while he was in prison, and contains elements of Marxism-Leninism and Bolivarism.

**An insurgency begins**

The actual date of the Paraguayan insurgency is said to have started on August 27, 2005 after a policeman was killed following a skirmish with the Paraguayan People’s Army. This is the instance in which the government of Paraguay began to take the threats from the Paraguayan People’s Army more seriously. Since then, numerous kidnappings and other crimes have been committed by the organization. One significant kidnapping in recent history which highlights the organization’s Marxist leanings is the abduction of a rancher named Fidel Zavala. Zavala was kidnapped on October 15, 2009, and a $5,000,000 ransom was demanded. The negotiations were long and harsh, but eventually the rebels agreed to a $550,000 ransom and the condition that Zavala’s family must deliver 30 cattle to poor communities in the area. This forced distribution of wealth helps to accomplish the organization’s Marxist goals while remaining in the spotlight and becoming a sizable threat to the government.[[30]](#footnote-31)30

Another example of the crimes and injustices committed by the Paraguayan People’s Army are the extortions and robberies conducted. According to ranchers and farmers in the area that the Paraguayan People’s Army controls, the rebels often extort money and call it “revolutionary taxes”. On top of extortion, they often steal cattle from the ranchers for food and rob small businesses for an influx of cash. In relation to extortion and robbery, while there are no direct links connecting the Paraguayan People’s Army to drug trafficking, according to Luis Rojas of Paraguay’s anti-drug agency, the SENAD, Paraguayan People’s Army material was found in the area where 1.8 tons of cocaine was seized, suggesting that the Paraguayan People’s Army may be either trafficking the cocaine or providing protection fro the traffickers.[[31]](#footnote-32)31 Rojas also believes that the Paraguayan People’s Army has moved onto the production of marijuana, basing off the fact that the organization has many camps near marijuana plantations.

One worry of the Paraguayan government concerning the crimes of the Paraguayan People’s Army is how the ideology has continue to spread and and become supported throughout the region. While the insurgency started with simply the Partido Patria Libre, it has now evolved to the Paraguayan People’s Army, the Armed Peasant Association, the Army of Marshal Lopez, and allegedly the FARC and Manuel Rodríguez Patriotic Front. The Armed Peasant Association is a splinter faction of the Paraguayan People’s Army, and while the group is mainly defunct at the moment, it has goals of becoming involved in drug trafficking and kidnapping. The Army of Marshal Lopez is another splinter faction that split off from the Paraguayan People’s Army but is still considered a part of the cause as a whole. This faction is relatively young, being founded in 2016, and appears to be steadily recruiting in Paraguay in order to advance their agenda.[[32]](#footnote-33)32

On the other side of the picture, it is important to note the strength of Paraguayan government in the situation and the subsequent lack of action to squash the insurgency. The Paraguayan army currently has around 3,500 soldiers deployed with over 20,000 in its reserves. Additionally, local vigilante self-defense groups in the threat of the revolutionaries. In relation to international assistance, Paraguay is currently supported by Colombia and the United States of America in their efforts of dismantling the insurgency. With this being said, the Paraguayan government has drawn criticism to the fact that they have allowed such splinter factions as the Armed Peasant Association and the Army of Marshal Lopez to form. Many believe that the government has not been effective or serious enough in eliminating the threat of the rebels.

Since the conception of the insurgency in 2005, over 72 people have been killed by the belligerent’s violent and hostile actions. People of all walks of life from Paraguay - whether they be ranchers or members of the government - have fallen victim to the actions of the Paraguayan People’s Army and its constituents. How will the international community address this issue and move forwards for a more peaceful Paraguay?

**Questions to consider**

1. Should the international community become involved with the insurgency in Paraguay?
   1. If so, should the involvement be humanitarian-based or should their be physical intervention?
2. How can the international community learn from previous interventions in order to react more efficiently to the situation in Paraguay?
3. Is the Paraguayan government capable of dealing with the insurgency on their own?
4. Should the Paraguayan government remain in control of the proceedings regarding the elimination of the rebels?

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