

Cerritos Fall Conference 2019

# 1st DISEC

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Topic: Terrorism in Southeast Asia

Director: Justin Santos

October 12, 2019

To Delegates of Cerritos Novice 2019 Conference

Dear Delegates,  
Welcome to Cerritos Novice 2019!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our annual novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host another year of this long-standing conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2019, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. With 31 high school committees and 2 middle school committees, CHSMUN 2019 will provide a quality experience for beginners to learn, develop, and grow as delegates.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2019!

Sincerely,

Brianna Roldan and Tess U-Vongcharoen

Secretary-Generals

# 1st DISEC

## Terrorism in Southeast Asia

### A Note From the Director

Delegates,

Hello everyone! My name is Justin Santos and I am very excited to be the 1st DISEC head chair for the Cerritos Novice Conference 2019. I am currently a senior here at CHS and this year will be my fourth year in MUN. Through MUN, I've been lucky enough to meet people who shaped me into the person I am today while also enjoying cherishable experiences such as traveling to UC Davis and New York City for conferences. Outside of MUN, I am one of three Commissioners of Spirit for ASB. In the past, I volunteered for the non-profit organization Forgotten Children, Inc. and J&P Homes in Buena Park. I love playing basketball, hanging out with friends, and riding my bike. When I'm not doing any of those or rooting for the Los Angeles Lakers, you can catch me listening to music in my humble abode. Having been in your shoes, I hope that this conference provides a learning experience to all delegates regardless of whether it is your first conference or not. Be confident in your speaking abilities! I can't wait to see you all and if you have any questions or concerns, please send an email my way!

Sincerely,

Justin Santos

Director, 1st DISEC

### Committee Introduction:

Emanated in 1946, the United Nations (UN) Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was the "First Committee" introduced in the United Nations General Assembly. The First Committee focuses on disarmament, threats to peace throughout the international community, and seeks solutions that ensure the security of nations globally. Initially created due to the rise of security issues and political tensions following the events of World War II, DISEC has worked towards solutions that impact military technology to prevent acts of violence from occurring once again. Due to many disastrous attacks from World War II, the need for an economic reform was at an all time high causing many states to rally together to create a more peaceful order. DISEC serves as a forum for representatives from each member state to talk about issues relating to the security and demobilization where correspondence prevails. According to the UN Charter, the main purpose of DISEC in the General Assembly is to provide "general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments" and also to give "recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security

Council.” In spite of the fact that DISEC does not have the ability to determine a decision made within the Security Council, under Chapter IV of the UN Charter, DISEC can make recommendations on which themes the Security Council should draw more attention to. Since its foundation, DISEC has worked to improve its efficiency by rearranging its agenda and enhancing cooperative endeavors. Aside from the General Assembly, the First Committee is also affiliated with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). Established in January 1988, UNODA works on disarmament at all levels - nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons - while also collaborating with DISEC through its work led in the General Assembly.

## Background:

In its current state, the danger of terrorism within Southeast Asia remains a concerning issue. With the muslim population in Southeast Asia being around 240 million, numerous muslim radicals have found this zone to be a popular destination. Following the events of 9/11, terrorism within Southeast Asia has been a worry with most attacks generally connected to al-Qaeda being a major issue within the region, partly due to Islamic militants associated with groups like ISIS and the Taliban returning to the region. Southeast Asia has seen successful in recent years in trade and estimates that \$1.06 trillion was made in the first six months of 2016 by countries in the region (about a quarter of what was made from nations in ASEAN). In any case, with this achievement came more fear based oppression, human trafficking, and violence. While it is hard to track, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the value of transnational crime is a \$1.6 trillion to \$2.2 trillion business. Likewise, within 2016 it was estimated that around 1,000 natives of Southeast Asia had traveled to the Middle East to become fighters with rebel and terrorist groups. With the emergence of an ISIS threat in Southeast Asia, it is clear that the threat of terrorism still lingers after over 15 years. With the recent “ISIS-inspired attacks” in Jakarta on January 14, 2016, the attacks on the Philippines security forces by claimed ISIS associates on April 9, 2016, and the surge of kidnappings in the southern Philippines, it serves as an important reminder to the international community of the persistence of ISIS forces within Southeast Asia. Based off of a recent study, no ISIS-aligned group is capable of causing catastrophic, massive amounts of killings and damage within Southeast Asia. Having gradually improved the security and laws of regions since the October 2002 Bali bombings, Southeast Asian governments have been able to “contain the threat posed by terrorist and jihadi groups”. However, several terrorist groups have arisen from the situation. One for instance is the Islamic State East Asia, otherwise called the ISEA. The ISEA’s essential goal is to build up an Islamic state under the Shariah law inside of the Philippines. In 2017, ISEA militants perpetrated various attacks that dismissed human rights. To complete its objective, the ISEA conducts terrorist attacks against the military and civilians using asymmetric warfare tactics. One of the principal recorded crimes by the ISEA was the beheading of two civilians on April 11, 2017, “mimicking a style of murder used by Islamic state.” Other attacks include executions, bombings, as well as mass murders of civilians and military officers. The leader of the Islamic State East Asia is Isnilon Hapilon. The Islamic State East Asia has been successful in its efforts because it has been exploiting “poor economic and social conditions in the Philippines”. One massive battle in Southeast Asia was the Battle of Marawi, which occurred on

the southern island Mindanao in the Philippines. During the time of battle, inhabitants within the region were compelled to evacuate. Civilians in Marawi were already in poverty when attacked, so when they were left without a home to return to, they kept on experiencing the detrimental effects of malnourishment. The siege ended after Hapilon and his brother Omar Maute were killed, but the city was left in ruins. Another issue that has emerged in Southeast Asia is the way that overseas money is financing terrorist groups in Southeast Asia. Between 2014 to 2015, it was assessed that \$763,000 was transferred from foreign investors to terrorist groups in Indonesia. Some have hypothesized that the money has originated from Hong Kong, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, and many more. This affirms that it will be a challenging task, due to the difficulties surrounding the tracking of this lost money.

## United Nations Involvement:

While the threat of terrorism has always been on the agenda for the UN, the occasions on September 1, 2001 provoked the Security Council to adopt resolution 1373, which established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC). In the five years to pursue the foundation of the CTC, all Member States of the UN would concur upon an organized system to combat terrorism and extremism: the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The procedure was implemented under the foundation of four pillars: “addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, building Member States’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in this regard, and ensuring the respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for countering terrorism.” At the time of the adoption of this strategy, the General Assembly also established the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which comprises of 38 entities of the UN to promote cohesion and cooperation among Member States when combating terrorism globally and providing assistance to them. In 2011, the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre was established to provide a capacity-building assistance for Member States while also working on projects supporting the four pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. With the rise of terrorism between the region, the UN had become more involved in suppressing violence within the region. In 2013, the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the UNODC launched a process that focused on effective central authorities in “requests for extradition and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.” A central authority is an agency or organization that is designed to play a key facilitating role in the implementation and operation of international judicial cooperation. Since then, two regional gatherings have been held on this theme, with a third meeting recently arranged in Asia.

## Bloc Positions:

**Western Bloc:** The western bloc has become one of the strongest participants in this war on terrorism. The United States has been a strong advocate and leader in forwarding the counterterrorism movement with its involvement in Middle Eastern countries such as Iraq and Afghanistan. In assessing the United States involvement with the terrorist group al-Qaeda, it is unclear whether the United States strengthened or weakened terrorist motives. Within Southeast

Asia, United States involvement can be largely categorized as the interaction with Japan, China, and India. Following World War II, the United States assisted with several independence movements in Southeast Asia in an effort to sever their connections with communism. The United States has several allies and trade partners in Southeast Asia and more recently has collaborated with the Philippines to establish a program which addresses violent extremism within the region.

**Middle Eastern Bloc:** Radical Islamist terrorism remains the most prevalent global issue to the safety and security of the international community, and most affiliates originate from the Middle East. Although al-Qaeda has been damaged through the killings of key leaders within their resolve, the terrorist network has evolved as regional affiliates and new terrorist organizations have begun to grow. The continuation of terrorism within the region has ultimately led towards its expansion within Southeast Asia. The governments of Middle Eastern nations are prioritizing the threat of fear based oppression within their own country to stop the spread of radical extremist influence.

**Latin American Bloc:** The Latin American bloc has been involved with terrorism for several years, being the epicenter of global terrorism from the 1980s and 1990s. In comparison to the terrorist attacks globally, the Latin American bloc withstood 17,293 terrorist attacks in comparison to the rest of the international community's 13,643. Countries within Latin America such as Colombia have collaborated with the United States in the past to establish counterterrorism initiatives that could help combat the prevalence of the FARC within their own country. In 2017, FARC militants were successfully disarmed and methods of demilitarization can be mirrored within Southeast Asia.

**African Bloc:** With the rise of non-state actors and asymmetric warfare within the African bloc, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), which are set to be completed in 2030, seem far from reach. Terrorism in the region threatens the success of this project, as several developing nations within the region are relying on the support they are provided to meet these goals. The influence of violent non-state actors within the region such as Boko Haram have spread to Southeast Asia. In an effort to reduce the flow of terrorism into Southeast Asia, African countries have expanded their efforts to develop regional counterterrorism solution that can be utilized elsewhere. In 2017, The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) increased cooperation with the United States to reduce the prevalence of terrorist groups internationally such as al-Shabaab. Simultaneously, countries such as Eritrea have co-sponsored UNSCR 2396 on returning and relocating identified foreign terrorists.

**Asian-Pacific Bloc:** The expansion of Islamic groups from the Middle East has threatened the security of Southeast Asia. In an effort to prevent further expansion of terrorism within the region, countries have attempted to implement stronger border regulations to prevent terrorists from getting inside of their respective countries. Furthermore, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has been pursuing terrorism and has made efforts to stop its tracks.

## Basic Solutions:

When addressing the prevalent issue of terrorism in Southeast Asia, delegates should consider the focus of the committee and be wary of straying away from DISEC's mandate. A feasible approach to combating terrorism within the region is through innovative solutions that have been successful in regions who have previously been affected by terrorism and violent extremism. Rather than addressing the social and humanitarian aspects of this issue, delegates within the committee should focus on issues that address the demilitarization of these terrorist groups such as access to arms (IEDS, firearms, etc.) border control, maritime terrorism, and the monitoring of terrorist groups. For example, one program which has contributed to the reduction of maritime terrorism within the region is the Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative, which is a security assistance program funded by the US Defense Department. Using the \$98 million provided to support this program, the Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative works to counter piracy, maintain access to waterways, while also preventing maritime trafficking. Proposed solutions should aim to benefit the entirety of the Southeast Asian region, as the security of one country can greatly influence another. Limiting the number of terrorist attacks within the Southeast Asian region would bring the international community closer to a safer and more secure society.

## Questions to Consider:

1. Has your country encountered an attack by terrorist organizations? Assuming this is the case, what was your country's reaction? If not, what safety efforts does your country have in case of an assault? Could any initiatives your country has executed be recreated in Southeast Asia?
2. What established efforts has your country made towards counterterrorism on a regional level? Is your country a member of a regional body such as NATO or ASEAN? Are there geographical factors that make your country more or less susceptible to different forms of terrorism?
3. What efforts has your country made to regulate arms and have they been successful? If not, what procedures can be taken to enhance them?
4. What counterterrorism strategies have your nation been included with both nationally and internationally? Which of those counterterrorism procedures demonstrated best in battling combating terrorist groups?
5. Has your country experienced internal conflict or strife that lead to violent extremism? Assuming that this is the case, how did your nation settle this contention? If not, what precautionary measures, arrangements, or actions have maintained internal peace?

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