

Cerritos Fall Conference 2019

African Union



Topic: Boko Haram Crisis

Director: Mona Suresh

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

African Union

Boko Haram Crisis

A Note From the Director

Delegates,

Hey! My name is Mona Suresh and I'm beyond excited to be your director for the African Union committee here at the Cerritos Novice Model UN Conference. I've been involved in MUN for 5 years, and it has truly made a huge impact on my life. I've enjoyed traveling to different areas to experience competitive debate in order to solve real-world problems. One of my favorite conferences was the NHSMUN conference in New York. In this conference, I gained knowledge on riveting topics such as Gender Based Violence and made new friends from across the world. Aside from MUN, when I'm not stressed over AP homework, I enjoy kicking back at the beach and strolling through Disneyland. I am currently President of Girl Up, an organization created towards the betterment of women's rights in developing nations, as well as our own community. Along with this, I serve as the Secretary of the You and Me club, a program dedicated to eliminating the stigma of disabled students on campus. My joys in life beyond school consist of my friends, Roscoe's fried chicken (the best), netflix, and most importantly, Bath and Body works products. In summary, I am a high school Senior with not enough sleep, a love for food, candles, and women's empowerment.

Throughout this committee session, I would like to see cohesive resolutions as well as substantive debate. My excitement and enthusiasm for debate cannot be contained, and I am looking forward to seeing everyone in committee. If you have any questions at all, you can email me, and I will happily answer any of them! With this, I wish you luck with your research and preparation, See you in October!

Sincerely,

Mona Suresh

Director, African Union

Committee Introduction:

The African Union, first established in 2002, was created with the intent of harboring an increase of collaboration by African led initiatives to achieve the aspirations of African people. The AU is comprised of the 55 member states, which make up the African continent. The African Union defines a terrorist act as “an event that encompasses threats to life, physical integrity, freedom or damage to public or private property, natural resources, environmental or cultural heritage with an express intention to force a government or an institution to act in a

certain way usually deemed favorable to the perpetrators of the act. (1)” In May of 1963, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established by the 32 independent African states. One of the major goals of the OAU was to eradicate all forms of colonialism in Africa. In September of 1999, the OAU reached a decision to form the African Union. The primary reason for this change was to shift from the OAU’s focus on decolonization, to increasing cooperation between African member states to promote economic development. The organs of the AU are each comprised of representatives responsible for different aspects of the Union; these organs include the assembly, executive council, Pan-African Parliament, and the Peace and Security Council. The major blueprint of the AU’s goals are outlined in the 2063 agenda, created in 2013. The goal of the agenda is to encompass a 50 year development within Africa’s peace and development agenda. The agenda’s main points include infrastructural developments, as well as poverty reduction.

Background:

Founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf, the Boko Haram emerged as a non-violent group with the motive to “purify” the practices of Islam in Northern Nigeria. The original name of the group is translated to “Association of the People of the Sunnah for Preaching and Jihad”; however, the group has commonly identified themselves as Boko Haram. The name Boko Haram directly translates to “Western education is a sin”, which falls in line with the group’s views on Westernized culture. The group blames the Western world’s influence on Nigeria’s widespread societal corruption. Boko Haram’s ability to successfully gain power lies in the lack of governance rooted in Nigeria, as well as the country’s lack of emergency response capacity, which would allow for disaster management.

Boko Haram first began gaining attention in July of 2009, in which the group was engaged in an armed rebellion against Nigeria’s Christian community, which eventually resulted in the usage of the police force as well as the military. This conflict left 700 Boko Haram members dead, including Mohammed Yusuf. Due to Yusuf’s death, the group began splitting into several smaller factions, with the largest being led by Abubakar Shekau. Following the incident, the group began to become increasingly involved in the conflict against the Nigerian government, with their attacks increasing in frequency and magnitude. The group became heavily engaged in deadly attacks, including the coordinated attacks within the city of Kano, which resulted in the death of over 185 individuals. Following these initial attacks, security reports were released claiming that the group was linked to several other terrorist organizations, including al-Qaeda and al-Shabaab. This combined military action between terrorist organizations has caused the group to dramatically expand their operations, especially in neighboring countries such as Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Despite military confrontation from the Nigerian government, all intervention against Boko Haram has been unsuccessful, due to the lack of distinction between group members and civilians. After several attempts at military intervention, in 2013 President Goodluck Jonathan of Nigeria submitted a proposal to Boko Haram, in which amnesty would be provided in return for the group’s disarmament. This proposal was soon denied by Shekau, who launched an attack on the city of Bama one month later, leaving over 100 civilians dead. This attack led President Jonathan to officially declaring Boko Haram to be a terrorist organization, which allowed for the government to prosecute any individuals providing aid to the group under Nigeria’s Terrorism

Prevention Act. Since then, the group has continued to pose a threat to Nigeria and all countries in which Boko Haram is involved. Vulnerable individuals, such as women and children, have been disproportionately affected and harmed since the group began their practices.

United Nations Involvement:

Several United Nations programs and organs have been heavily involved in attempting to find a viable solution to the ongoing crisis caused by Boko Haram. The United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa initially began their work in Nigeria in October 2014, after being called upon by the United Nations Security Council to work towards supporting the political, socioeconomic, and humanitarian aspects of the Lake Chad basin area. UNOCA has worked with a variety of other United Nations organizations as well as sub-region partners, such as the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, which resulted in the organization of multiple workshops which eventually established a regional strategy to combat terrorism and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa.

The United Nations Security Council has taken action against the terrorist organization as well, through the usage of sanctions. Following the kidnap of over 200 school girls in 2014, the UN Security Council added Boko Haram to the al Qaeda's sanction committee's list of designated entities, at the request of the Nigerian government. Although the group identifies separately from al Qaeda, it was determined that al-Qaeda affiliates were involved in an attack carried out by Boko Haram in the nation of Mali. The sanctions have closed off the group's avenues of funding as well as weapons.

The first resolution passed by the United Nations to formally address the issue was resolution S/RES/2349 passed in March 2017. The resolution addressed the displaced individuals within the Lake Chad basin area, which had been recently freed by Boko Haram. In order to provide rehabilitation to those in the affected region, the United Nations sent peacekeepers. The peacekeepers were able to provide medical assistance as well as food supplies. Although peacekeepers have been able to provide humanitarian assistance, they have lacked the ability to protect against any attacks by the terrorist group itself.

Basic Solutions:

Nigeria's police currently has an estimated 381,000 members, calling for relatively weak enforcement during a period of crisis. In order to directly combat Boko Haram's terrorist activities, a stronger National Guard or increased security personnel may be enforced. Throughout the international community, National Guards have been utilized in order to federally address external aggressors, including in situations regarding terrorism and warfare.

Military action against Boko Haram has been heavily emphasized as a means of combating the group; however, there has been a lack of prominence in solutions addressing social and cultural aspects of the issue. Currently, Nigeria is facing a severe crisis in its process of nation-building. Conflict between ethnic groups in Nigeria has become a recent uprising, as different groups have formed a large sense of nationalism. The ethnic conflict between groups has led to a weaker sense of national identity, allowing for Boko Haram to take advantage of the country's weakness. In order to alleviate these tensions between groups, the Nigerian

government should put a focus towards peace talks and conferences between leaders of opposing groups. By alleviating the internal tensions between the Nigerian population, they will be able to form a stronger force against Boko Haram.

Another solution that could strengthen Nigeria's economic vulnerabilities would be to form economic linkages with other nations, as well as seek assistance from bodies such as the World Bank. The conflict between the Nigerian government and Boko Haram has left the Nigerian government in extreme debt, as the country's economy has been unable to support reconstruction efforts. The World Bank stated in 2017, "We will be working closely with the government of Nigeria to determine the best way to support their priorities." Solutions in terms of economic development should be a key element, as in order to create comprehensive programs that will combat the group's terrorist activities, Nigeria must have the economic means to do so.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: The Western bloc has not been directly impacted by Boko Haram; however, countries within the bloc have provided assistance to Nigeria. In 2017, the United Kingdom provided Nigeria with a \$259 million emergency assistance package as well as counter-terrorism training programs. The British government has provided training to over 28,000 Nigerian military troops, as well as sent over 40 British troops to Nigeria for military assistance. The European Union has been more involved in the humanitarian aspect of the issue than any other regional bloc. The EU has engaged in food distributions, nutritional treatments, first-aid items, and temporary shelters for communities impacted by Boko Haram's attacks.

African Bloc: The African bloc is the only region directly affected by Boko Haram. The jihadist group is based in Northeast Nigeria; however, they have conducted attacks in several African countries, including Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. In 2014, Cameroon's foreign minister announced the establishment of African Coalition force. The force includes 3,500 soldiers from Berlin, Cameroon, Niger, Nigeria, and Chad. The coalition has been involved in active combat with Boko Haram. The group has been relatively unsuccessful in stopping the group's attacks; however, they were able to minimize the impact in several scenarios, including the Baga massacre and the attack in Borno. In 2012, the Lake Chad Basin Commission decided to address the security issues in the region by reactivating the multinational joint task force committee, which was initially established in 1998. The task force was provided pledges of financial and military support from several countries in the region, including Cameroon. Each country involved in the task force (Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger) has agreed to allocating 700 troops towards deployment at the MJTF's headquarters. Counter insurgency efforts conducted by the task force caused Boko Haram to be pushed further into the Far North region of Cameroon, the Lac region in Chad, and the south-eastern Diffa region in Niger. Many militants were killed or apprehended, forcing Boko Haram to increasingly resort to coerced recruitment in these areas.

Latin America and Caribbean Bloc: Latin America's involvement within the Boko Haram crisis has primarily been based upon assistance from a security aspect. In October 2015, Colombia sent a delegation of security experts to assist the Nigerian authorities and share expertise on security and counter terrorism. In January 2016, a delegation led by Lieutenant General Tukur Yusuf Buratai visited Colombia to exchange information in regards to the war against Boko Haram. The Latin American bloc has not been directly impacted by Boko Haram; however, the terrorist effects of ISIS have become an increasing threat. ISIS has begun to recruit many of their members from the Latin American and Caribbean bloc, with the promise of financial benefits in return for their membership and combat. Despite this, the bloc as a whole has taken minimal efforts to combat the terrorist group's presence. One of their largest efforts to combat the issue is the anti-ISIL coalition, which consists of countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, and Chile. Although the coalition isn't solely focused in Latin America, the region has partaken in several of the coalition's efforts, such as helping plan strategies for military force against the terrorist organization.

Asian-Pacific Bloc: The Asian bloc has been relatively inactive in the Boko Haram crisis; however, China has pledged to work closely with the Nigerian government in its fight against Boko Haram. Premier Li Keqiang has stated that China would provide "any useful information acquired by China's satellites and intelligence services." Despite the bloc's involvement in the Boko Haram crisis, the region has developed their own anti-terrorism strategies and protocols. The primary regional organization in Asia where bloc peace and security issues are raised is SAARC, includes India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan. SAARC has adopted a Regional Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism that calls for cooperation among its member states on information exchanges to address "terrorist acts." In 1995, SAARC also established a Terrorist Offences Monitoring Desk, which works to support the gain of information on terrorist offenses, tactics, strategies, and methods. Cooperation on combating terrorist financing was then included as an addition to the convention in 2002, and a SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance was approved at the SAARC summit in August 2008.

Questions to Consider:

1. What legislation and past actions has your country taken to prevent international terrorism?
2. In what ways does Boko Haram disproportionately affects vulnerable individuals such as women and children?
3. What methods should the Nigerian government take to eradicate Boko Haram while protecting innocent civilians?
4. What methods should be taken to strengthen local governments to prevent them from being overtaken by Boko Haram?
5. What rehabilitation services should be implemented in order to provide aid to those affected by Boko Haram's terrorist activities?

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