

**CCB MUN XVIII**

## **COMMISSION GUIDE**

**DISEC**



**CCB MUN XVIII**

**Disarmament and International Security Committee**

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**DISEC**

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## 1. Presidents' Letter

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) in the eighteenth version of CCBMUN. We are Gustavo Góngora and Nicolás Madriñan, Colegio Colombo Británico students who are currently in 12th grade. In the DISEC commission, our delegates will focus on issues that threaten international security, and that involve the utilization and management of weaponry, both in national and transnational armed conflicts.

The aim of this commission is to find viable solutions for issues such as the impact of Syrian hostilities in the Idlib province in the Middle East, and the involvement of outside agencies in the Yemeni civil war. In this model, delegates will be able to debate these issues by defending their government's perspective on the issues, forming alliances with nations that share their perspective, and discussing viable solutions for the issues.

In order to reach consensus between the different perspectives regarding these issues, delegates are expected to do some in-depth research and analysis of their nation's position about the topics. They should also be well informed of the perspectives of other nations that could act as their allies or opponents. At the same time, delegates are required to use their creativity and knowledge of the topic to seek novel solutions that could potentially represent alternative solutions to these global issues in the real world. Also, we encourage our delegates to use their speaking and debating skills as best as they can in order to express their nation's opinion and to persuade other nations to reach a solution that would bring an end to these armed conflicts and security issues. We want our delegates to see this model as an opportunity to get involved in the international community, to get to know and understand what is happening in the world, to develop their skills, and to work towards solutions to global problems.

As your presidents, we are available to answer any questions and deal with any concerns you may have. Feel free to contact us at [disecc@ccbcali.edu.co](mailto:disecc@ccbcali.edu.co) at any time, we will be glad to help you with any of your needs. One of our duties in this model is to ensure that you feel comfortable and motivated, and we will seek to help you give your best.

Best regards,

Gustavo Góngora and Nicolás Madriñan

## 2. Commission Information

### i. History

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), originally known as the First Committee, was one of the six core organs of the United Nations, which was established after World War 2 with the purpose of avoiding another international armed conflict. The purpose of the First Committee was to manage atomic weapons and nuclear technology, such as that utilized in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is important to note that, originally, the Committee focused on both security and political issues, but after a topic reorganization between committees, it changed to focus to disarmament and international security.

DISEC is a forum in which all the country members of the UN get to debate the main issues and complications regarding disarmament and international security on equal terms.

“Our interconnected world will make significant progress if the security, peace and stability exist for all peoples in all regions. We must intensify our efforts, as no obstacle is insurmountable.”

- Desra Percaya, Ambassador of Indonesia



UN Affairs. (2012, December 27) (Image and quote)

The First Committee has developed an important role in ensuring international security and leading towards disarmament. For instance, in 1970, the Disarmament and International Security Committee passed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which was ratified by 191 nations. The NPT is the biggest and most important nuclear disarmament treaty as it is ratified by 98.9% of the UN country members, including the five nuclear-weapon states<sup>1</sup>. This is a clear example on how effective the Committee can be if the members work collaboratively at a diplomatic level.

Later, in 2017, the Committee adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, voted by 122 nations. The Arms Trade Treaty is another example of the crucial role that DISEC has played in the history of the United Nations, as with this treaty, which came into being in 2014, the international trade of weapons has been supervised and

adjusted to meet with security standards. The UN Programme of Actions in small arms and light weapons, and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, are other examples of the important role that DISEC has played in maintaining international security and advances in disarmament.

## ii. Structure

United Nations get to debate international security and disarmament issues in a completely fair and equal environment. No country has a superiority or advantage regarding other nations, unlike the Security Council, where five nations have the power of veto over any decisions that are made.

The Committee takes on every issue regarding international security or disarmament within the scope of the UN charter, or regarding any of the United Nations organs. DISEC has close ties with UNDC (United Nations Disarmament Commission) and the conference on disarmament (Geneva-based). However, out of all these disarmament entities, DISEC is the only General Assembly main committee.

A first committee session, is divided on 3 main stages:

- 1) General Debate
- 2) Thematic Discussion
- 3) Action on drafts

This method is really useful to optimize session time, and to allow nations time to find possible solutions and improvements on the issues promptly and effectively.

Finally, if the Security Council requires it, a request can be made for some counselling from DISEC in order to solve the problem being debated.

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### 3. **Topic 1:** *The impact of Syrian hostilities in the Idlib province of the Middle East*

#### i. **History**

**Note: Contextualization will be the background of the current Idlib crisis and the history of the Syrian Civil War, before the conflict turned almost exclusively towards Idlib in about 2018 (the Idlib crisis is part of the Syrian Civil War). The current situation will take into account the events from 2018 until the present.**

The Syrian Civil War is an armed conflict that has lasted for almost 10 years and has implicated different nations from all over the world. At first, Syrian political ideals were divided into the regime of Bashar Al-Assad and the rebels that represent the regime's opposition. However, the conflict has escalated to a point where influencing nations from all over the world, such as the US, Russia, Turkey, and others, have been implicated in the Syrian Civil War and in the crisis that is currently taking place in the Idlib province. To understand the crisis and how it is affecting the regional security of the Middle East, it is important to understand the rest of the Syrian Civil War.

The political division in Syria started with what is known as the Uprising, a series of protests against the Assad regime by the Sunni majority. The Uprising and the unconformity of the Syrian people with the regime was caused by economic, political, and environmental reasons. In the first place, the Sunni majority was completely against the authoritarian government of Assad and desired a more democratic and modernized Syria. Secondly, the liberal economic system of Syria benefited the rich allies of the regime and caused poverty to millions of Syrians. Lastly, a drought that started in 2006 caused poverty in the agricultural sector and the migration from rural areas of thousands of people. At the same time, the violence with which the regime responded to protests intensified the tensions and finally to an armed confrontation between the regime and the rebels. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, n.d)

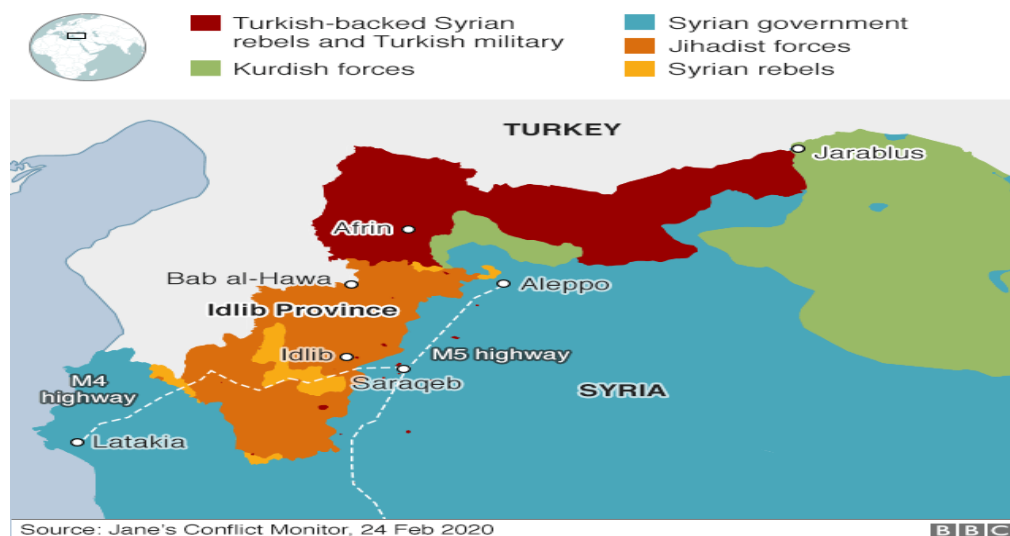
As previously mentioned, there were several nations and factions implicated in the conflict. For instance, the opposition of the regime would at first receive the support of the U.S, France and United Kingdom financially and militarily. The United States specifically supported the Syrian Democratic Forces, a group of Kurdish<sup>1</sup> Syrian rebels, with the purpose of fulfilling their anti-terrorist objectives in Syria and the Middle East. Additionally, Turkey provided the Syrian rebels with military support, partly with the objective of maintaining Kurdish influence away from its territory. At the same time, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Qatar got involved in the Syrian Civil War conflict and offered help to the rebels with the purpose of avoiding the military entrenchment perpetrated by Iran, long a rival of these three nations.

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1. Kurdish: Ethnicity of people between Turkey and Syria that fight to legitimize some territory from both countries into their own country, Kurdistan.

On the opposite side, the Assad regime is being supported by Iran and Russia, both financially and militarily. Other nations that support the regime are Yemen, Lebanon, Afghanistan and Iraq. Jordan, Egypt, North Africa and most of the EU would eventually become involved in the conflict, as it would cause millions of people to migrate to these regions (BBC, 25th February 2019). It is important to note that not all of the rebels and the nations that supported them were in agreement with each other, as a significant portion of the rebels consisted of the Islamic State, Jihadist forces, and terrorist organizations such as HTS<sup>2</sup>

## Idlib province



BBC News. (2020a, February 18)

The armed confrontations between rebels and the regime started in September of 2011. Both in November 2011 and April 2012, the Arab League and the United Nations tried to peacefully end the conflict, but failed to do so. After the failed negotiations to stop the armed conflict, international diplomacy in relation to the crisis started to develop. In 2012, two regime opposition groups emerged as leaders in the revolutionary movement, which were recognized by the international community. These were the Syrian National Council and the National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces<sup>3</sup>, the latter being more successful and internationally recognized.

At first, the rebels were successful, capturing vast amounts of land and territory in the north of Syria. However, as resources and armaments became scarce within both sides of the conflict, the supporters of each side started to get more involved in the conflict. One of the tensest situations in the armed conflict at an international level was the utilization of chemical weapons, supposedly attributed to the regime in 2013. This political and military tension resulted in no direct military action, but instead an agreement to retrieve all chemical weapons from Syria.

2. HTS: Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. Insurgent organization

3. Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces:



After this agreement, which seemed to be a triumph for international security and disarmament, a new complication arose: the formation of new terrorist organizations such as ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant), that represented a threat to both parties in the conflict and also to international security. As mentioned, the US would support the Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces, in order to end with this terrorist organization. In the same way, hostilities from both sides continued for the next couple of years, including chemical aggressions by the regime and air strikes by the French, British and American.

Furthermore, in the next couple of months, tensions between nations such as Israel and Iran would intensify within the context of the Syrian Civil War; consequently, the majority of military bases Iran had in Syria were destroyed by Israel, and the tensions between these two nations grew. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, n.d.) Later, Russian support of the regime would be intensified and Russia would begin to play one of the most important roles in the armed conflict because of the dependency of the regime on Russia's financial and military aid.

In relation to Idlib during this period, it is important to highlight that the province was the region where the protests and uprisings were more intense. Then, Idlib became the base of operations of the opposition after the rebels took the city. However, in April 2012 the regime of Assad recuperated Idlib and dissolved the rebel territory. Once again, the rebels managed to capture the city in the second Battle of Idlib in March 2015, and this became the base of the internationally recognized National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces (Ruth Sherlock, March 2015).

The Syrian Civil War has had terrible effects on the regional security of the Middle East and on the wellbeing of Syrians. For instance, by 2013 100,000 people had been killed and by 2014 3.2 million people were forced to leave Syria and go to neighbouring nations such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. Also, more than 7 million had to migrate internally because of the conflict; this has caused a sudden increase in the population of northern cities near Turkey such as Idlib. To illustrate the negative effects this has had on other nations, Jordan had received 600,000 migrants by 2014; this has caused overpopulation and an unexpected demand for health, education and sanitary services. Therefore, the education and health systems have been affected, the energy and water treatment sectors have been negatively impacted, and clashes between refugees and locals have arisen because of unemployment. Similar scenarios happened in Lebanon, which received 1.1 million refugees, and in Turkey. (Ghada Talhami, 2014)



BBC News. (2019, February 25)

## ii. Current Situation

As of February 2020, Idlib was mainly controlled by the insurgent organization known as HTS. It is speculated that this organization has up to 15,000 armed men as well as the support of Chinese militants and Turkey-supported factions. At the same time, as of this date, HTS has forced part of the regime's opposition to leave to Afrin and Aleppo (BBC, February 2020).

It is important to note that some of the nations and factions involved in the conflict have changed their position and their methodology of support since the beginning of the Syrian Civil War, whilst some have even radically changed their stance over the last year. For instance, due to the large number of terrorist organizations present in the rebel groups, nations such as France and the UK have changed their position from militarily backing the rebels to non-lethal assistance (BBC, February 2019).

After Turkey's attack on Kurdish groups in Syria, with the purpose of creating a safe zone for refugees and weakening the PKK<sup>4</sup> (Kurdish political group on Turkey), the Kurdish groups changed their position by allying with the Syrian regime. Turkey was one of the nations that most radically changed its position, as they opted for direct confrontation with the Syrian government after they were attacked by the regime (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2020). Hence, the United States decided to support Turkey, its NATO ally. The Secretary of State of the US ratified this position in the statement: "The United States is engaging with our Turkish Allies and reviewing options to assist Turkey against this aggression as we seek to prevent further Assad regime and Russian brutality and alleviate the humanitarian suffering in Idlib," (Jen Kirby, March 2020)



BBC News. (2020a, February 18)

Various nations participating in the conflict have an interest in Idlib that goes beyond supporting the different sides in the Syrian Civil War or ending the conflict. As an illustration, the United States aside from having the objective of ending the conflict through a political process under the supervision of the United Nations, has two other objectives. These objectives are to defeat the terrorist organization ISIS and to force Iranian troops to leave Syria.

Another example of the additional interest nations and organizations have, is the intentions that the Syrian regime has. It wants to retake Idlib in order to take advantage of the extremist

elements found there, weaponizing them to use against different nations in the Middle East, with the intention of destabilizing regional security. On the other hand, Iran has a specific objective that could be reached through the retake of Idlib by the regime; to continue expanding and establishing Iranian influence throughout Syria and forcing the US military to withdraw from the Middle East (Dana Stroul, March 2020).

Two years ago, the Assad regime had successfully retaken various provinces and territories previously taken by the rebels, and was winning the armed confrontation. For this reason, the opposition accepted a deal in which their southern forces would surrender so that the regime and its supporters would let the northern rebel forces get to Idlib without armed confrontation. This way Idlib, the last rebel-controlled province, became the focus of the Syrian Civil War. It was at this moment that Turkey decided to get even more involved in the conflict by increasing its support to the rebels with the purpose of blocking the Syrian forces from retaking Idlib. Due to the increased tension between Turkey and the Russian backed regime, a buffer zone was agreed so that heavy weaponry and direct confrontations could cease temporarily. In this agreement, the Turkish government had to take care of the problem of rebel organizations such as HTS that had refused to follow the agreement. (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d.)

Soon after the agreement was reached, the Turkish government decided to attack Kurdish forces for the reasons explained earlier. In addition, it is believed that one of the main reasons why Turkey is so involved in the conflict is its rivalry with Syrian Kurdish groups and its relation with the PKK, and the threatening possibility of Kurdish people destabilizing Turkey. In the process, Turkey-supported rebels and other rebel factions retook Saraqeb, near the province of Balyun. Consequently, the Russian-backed forces undertook a bombardment in this region, assassinating 33 Turkish soldiers in the process (BBC, February 2020). According to the Russian government, the Turkish soldiers were collaborating with jihadist members and the Turkish government hadn't notified the presence of the soldiers in this region. Turkey stated that Russia was informed and that the soldiers weren't near jihadist members.

In response to the Syrian attack, Turkey activated Operation Spring Shield, in which the Turkish forces have assassinated 2000 regime soldiers, taken down two warplanes, and taken down tenths of rocket launchers and tanks. As an explanation, Turkey said that this attack and its direct involvement has the purpose of relieving the migrant situation and of avoiding more massacres perpetrated by the regime. However, it is believed that Turkey is directly confronting Syria and fighting at Idlib because of specific interests, such as stopping the migrant situation that is causing economic, political, and security issues in Turkey and preventing massacres on its border. Furthermore, the United States has supported Turkey fully in the Idlib crisis. However, it is important to mention that both Turkey and the US have said they do not aim to have a confrontation with Russia (Jen Kirby, March 2020).

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BBC. (2020, February 28)

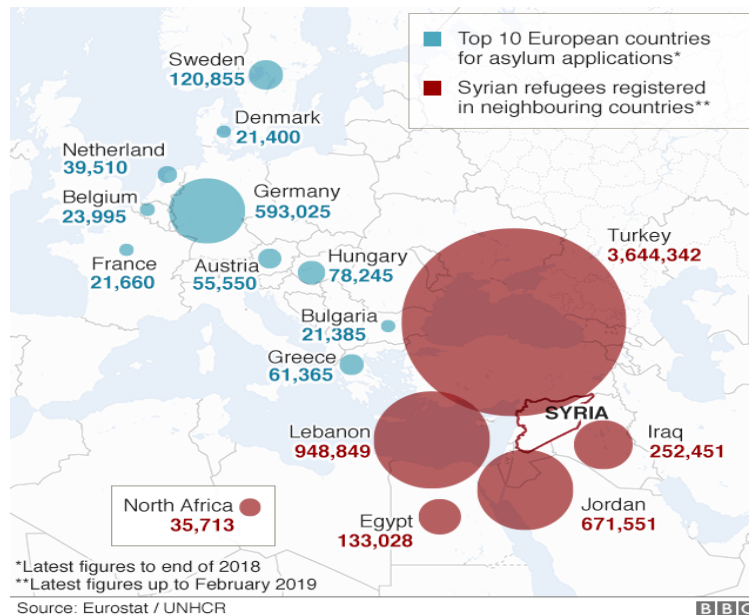
On March 5, a second ceasefire was agreed between Turkey and the Russian-backed forces. Up to now, the ceasefire has been maintained; despite this, it is known almost for certain that the conflict in Idlib will start again soon. It is believed by International Crisis group analysts, the Washington Institute, amongst other organizations, that the crisis will continue. This belief is based on the fact that the humanitarian crisis continues despite the agreement, the unresolved problems, the violations to the ceasefire, and the desire of Assad to recuperate absolutely all the territory of Syria from the rebels, including Idlib. (Dana Stroul, March 2020) (Lyse Doucet, April 2020)



BBC News. (2020a, February 18)

The current crisis in Idlib has had various negative consequences. For example, there are currently more than 5.7 million Syrian refugees in neighbouring Arab countries and Europe. Furthermore, there are 6.2 million Syrians internally displaced. European nations such as France, Germany, Greece, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Hungary, Bulgaria, Denmark, and Sweden are being affected by the millions of refugees that leave Syria and head to Europe. The security, economic, and political situation in these European nations could be affected by the migrant situation. Thus, the EU decided to grant Turkey 6 billion dollars for refugee aid in order to avoid refugees passing to the rest of Europe. In addition, in Syria the situation has worsened; there are 13 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance and 1.5 million with permanent disabilities. Also, 500,000 people, including civilians, have been murdered in the confrontation. In recent years, 1.5 million people have arrived at Idlib and are now part of the 3 million population that is in danger of being collateral damage. (BBC, February 2019)

## Where have all the Syrian refugees gone?



BBC News. (2019, February 25)

In order to deal with the security issues caused by the Idlib crisis, the US government released the Caesar act, which involves economic sanctions to people that support the Assad regime. The purpose of this act is to cause Assad to leave the presidency and therefore, cause Syria to return to a peaceful and secure state where there are no constant armed confrontations, which many times have included chemical attacks and violations of International Humanitarian Law. These sanctions had the objective of applying pressure on the Assad regime and of weakening their forces. Nevertheless, this could cause negative effects on Syrian civilians as it would worsen the difficult economic situation that Syria is already in. Additionally, representatives of Syria, China, and Russia have said that these sanctions violate international law and worsen the COVID situation, which makes the actions of the US inhumane. (Jeremy Bowen, June 2020)

### iii. Key points of the debate

- The implications of the direct confrontation between Turkey and its supporters and the Russian backed regime.
- The battle between the Syrian government against the rebels for the recuperation of Idlib, and the regime's objective of recuperating all of its territory.
- The different methods to deal with the Syrian refugee crisis and how it is socially and economically affecting Turkey, nations of the European Union and nations of the Arab League.



- The use of chemical weapons and violations of ceasefire by the Assad regime and the devastating effect that the armed conflict at Idlib is having on millions of civilians.
- The use of sanctions such as the Caesar Act to the Syrian regime in order to cut their resources and end the conflict.
- The unresolved problems of the current ceasefire.
- Solutions to deal with the jihadist rebels present in Idlib and their supposed collaboration with the Turkish government.

#### iv. Participating Organisms

- North Atlantic Treaty Organization
- National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces
- Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF)
- Arab League
- Human Rights Council
- HTS (Jihadist rebels)

#### v. Guiding Questions

1. Is your delegation a supporter of the Assad regime or is it a supporter of Turkey and the Syrian rebels? Why does it take this stance?
2. How is your nation being impacted by the current Idlib crisis? Is your delegation implicated in the refugee crisis?
3. What is your delegation's opinion regarding the involvement of jihadist groups in the Idlib crisis?
4. In which way has your delegation participated in the Syrian civil war or Idlib crisis? Has your delegation provided lethal or non-lethal assistance to the parties involved?
5. Is your delegation planning to undertake specific actions to cause a de-escalation of the conflict? What measures has your delegation taken to lessen the impact of the conflict or to entirely end it?

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## 4. Topic 2: *The effects of outside agencies on the Yemeni crisis*

### i. Contextualization

In the year 2014, there was an attempted coup d'état<sup>1</sup> on the Yemeni president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi. Since then, the country has been plunged into a prolonged civil war. This conflict is mainly fought between the Yemeni government and the Yemeni rebels, also known as Houthis. Both sides of the conflict receive foreign belligerent aid; the rebels from some other rebel groups from Saudi Arabia, the Chiita and the Iranian, whilst the Yemeni government is supported mainly by the Saudi government, which has invested highly in weaponry to fight the conflict.



<https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/11/02/saudi-arabia-is-also-losing-its-yemeni-allies-over-khashoggi/>

In 2012, during the Arab Spring, the Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, was forced to resign his position as head of state<sup>2</sup> and was replaced with the vice-president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi. From that moment, Saleh felt betrayed and his interests were against al-Hadi and the GCC<sup>3</sup>. Consequently, when the Yemeni civil war started in 2014, he made a truce with



Manifestation during the Arab Spring

<https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2011/10/20111010142425419849.html>

the Houthi, who had been the main reason for his dismissal in the first place. This arrangement was very ironic and unforeseen. The deal was based on Saleh making use of some soldiers from the Yemeni military that were loyal to him in exchange for the chance of regaining his position.

1. Coup d'état: A overthrowing of the government either violent or non-violent
2. Head of state: Ruler or leader of a country (may vary depending on the countries political system)
3. GCC: Gulf Cooperation council. Supranational organization conformed by six middle east countries with similar interests



This truce was extremely fragile, as both sides had different purposes, but it somehow managed to last for three years, until the day that ex-president Saleh said on live television that he was interested in discussing some terms with al-Hadi and the Saudi-coalition. This made the Houthis really angry and two days later, on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, Ali Abdullah Saleh was murdered.



<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20191007-coalition-strikes-on-yemen-decrease-after-houthi-truce/>

Since World War II, the United States of America and Saudi Arabia, have become close allies. Their alliance relies mainly on military, intelligence, and tactical resources from the US in exchange for some influence in the Middle East from the Saudis.



<https://english.almanar.com.lb/195853>

Since the GCC, led by Saudi Arabia, started intervening in the Yemen conflict by backing president Hadi, the US and other allies like France and UK have been selling weaponry to the belligerent Saudi government. The Saudis, with their immense wealth, are becoming militarily more powerful by the day, and this has impacted Yemen greatly, as the Houthi rebels have control of a lot of territory, including Sanaa (Yemen's Capital). Because of this, there is constant warfare in many populated areas resulting in reported casualties in schools and universities, at weddings, funerals and other civilian events which, unfortunately, were just besides an airstrike.



[https://www.netclipart.com/isee/ibjohRh\\_gulf-cooperation-council-gcc-logo/](https://www.netclipart.com/isee/ibjohRh_gulf-cooperation-council-gcc-logo/)

In 2014, the Houthi rebels started an expansionist campaign that concluded on the control of a large amount of territory including Yemen's capital, Sanaa. This forced president Al-Hadi to flee to Saudi Arabia.



<https://insidearabia.com/saudi-us-alliance-is-more-than-complicated/>

## ii. Current Situation

Currently, in Yemen, the situation has worsened, taking into account that apart from having constant warfare, it's considered to be the world's worst humanitarian crisis as two thirds of the population do not have access to clean water. To make matters worse, the humanitarian aid that has been provided by many organizations has not entered the country, as Saudi Arabia has a militarized border on land, air and sea. However, the little aid that manages to enter Yemen is commonly used or even destroyed by the Houthi rebels. This situation has made living conditions in the country intolerable; the level of malnourishment within the population is so high that it is estimated that out of the 29 million people living in Yemen, 25 million need humanitarian aid to survive.

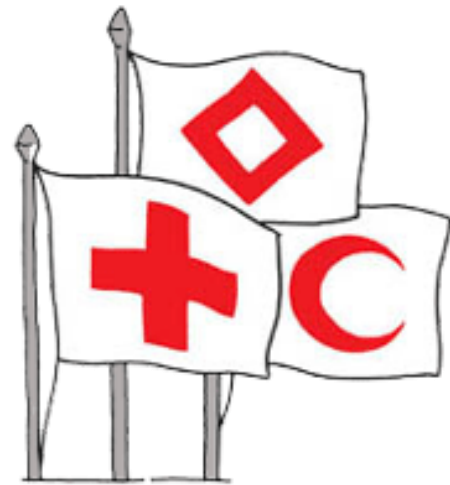
Inside Yemen, there are many other insurgent groups like the Houthis. It is presumed that these groups are backed militarily by Iran (US and Saudi intelligence affirms this, but Iran denies any involvement), Al Qaeda, ISIL, among others. Their presence in Yemen only makes the conflict worse, because it doesn't only involve another fighting entity, but it also involves the USA. This is partly due to the World Trade Center incident in 2001, for which Al Qaeda was responsible. Al Qaeda's presence in Yemen caused the USA not only to start sending weapons to the Saudis, but also getting involved directly in the conflict, with the aim of destroying the insurgent organization.



<https://stableseas.org/rule-of-law/yemen's-war-against-houthis-has-always-been-about-ports-and-sea>

As much of the conflict has occurred in civil areas, many civilians have been killed due to missiles hitting the wrong target or simply by getting caught up in bombings or airstrikes. With this in mind, and applying what is known as *jus in bellum*<sup>4</sup> (IHL), attacking or killing civilians is constituted as a war crime. As both sides have committed these atrocities, when the conflict enters a *jus post bellum* stage and peace is finally signed, the International Court of Justice will probably become involved in the judgement of these war crimes.

Delegates should keep in mind that the conflict and humanitarian crisis have been deeply influenced by external agencies, such as Saudi Arabia and the United States, which have directly and indirectly affected the conflict and sovereignty of Yemen. This intervention not only affects the nation critically, but it also provides a stalemate to the conflict, as no peace will be acquired until these external agents stop intervening in the nation's crisis.



[http://derechosfundamentales20091.blogspot.com/2009/04/el-derecho-internacional-humanitario\\_14.html](http://derechosfundamentales20091.blogspot.com/2009/04/el-derecho-internacional-humanitario_14.html)

Also, it is critical to bear in mind the crimes committed during the conflict, and their implications in the aftermath of the crisis. The aim of this commission is to help find a ceasefire or armistice, in which both parties are able to find common ground and settle for genuine peace.

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4. Jus in bellum: Another way of referencing the International Humanitarian Law

### iii. Key points of the debate

- War crimes committed in Yemen, and their effects on the conflict and its combatants
- The presence of Al Qaeda in Yemen and the response of the US
- The effects of malnourishment on combatants
- The humanitarian crisis, and its implications on Yemen's sovereignty
- International relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran and its effects in the Yemen conflict
- The blocking and hijacking of the humanitarian aid (provided for the civilians) by both sides of the conflict
- The political, economic and geographical interest of both the US and Saudi Arabia in Yemen

### iv. Participating Organisms

- GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)
  - Saudi Arabia
  - United Arab Emirates
  - Qatar
  - Kuwait
  - Bahrain
  - Oman
- Houthis
- United States of America
- NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)

### v. Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's position with regard to the Yemeni crisis?
2. How is your nation being impacted by the current Yemen situation?
3. What is your delegation's opinion regarding the Saudi weapons business and its involvement in Yemen?
4. In which way, if any, has your country been involved in the Yemeni civil war? (For example, by selling weapons to Saudi Arabia, by backing rebel groups or by providing humanitarian aid)
5. Is your delegation planning to undertake specific actions to cause a de-escalation of the conflict? What measures has your delegation taken to lessen the impact of the conflict or to end it?

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