

## **Middle East Summit**

### **Topic 1: The Civil War in Yemen**

While the world has been engulfed and horrified by the tragedies in Syria, another civil war in the Middle East has, unfortunately, not received the attention it so very much deserves and needs. The Yemeni Civil War has been raging for two and a half years now and there is no end in sight. What started as protests between the Houthis and Sunni tribes in the streets of Sana'a has now developed into a full fledged war that has claimed over 10,000 lives and has displaced over 3 million people.

The war has brought more instability and violence to a region already struggling with multiple conflicts, and now involves multiple major players including the United States of America, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and allegedly the Islamic Republic of Iran. The war has also allowed terrorist organizations such as Jama'at Ansar al-Shari'a/al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) to capture and control large stretches of the country. Furthermore, the war has created a massive humanitarian crisis in Yemen as food, medicine, and supplies have reached critically low numbers. This has caused starvation to ravage the country as well as a cholera outbreak that has infected over 600,000 people. With no end in sight the countries of the Middle East Summit must now decide what steps to take to ensure a peaceful and productive end to the conflict.

There are a various approaches the world can take towards dealing with this civil war. Countries can use military force, provide aid to the combating sides and/or the civilians, pursue peaceful negotiations between the warring parties, or refuse to get involved at all. Delegates must research their country's views on the war and decide how they will approach this multifaceted conflict. Delegates should follow the news regarding the war and stay up to date on on the most recent developments coming out of Yemen and the surrounding area. Useful resources can include articles that delve into the many sides of the war, relevant United Nations resolutions, articles that explain Yemen's history, and public statements and memos released by the involved countries related to the issue.

Delegates should consider the following when researching and writing topic papers. You are not expected to cover every issue in the topic paper but all of these issues will eventually come up in committee:

1. What should the MES prioritize when dealing with this issue? The war itself? The humanitarian aspect? The rise of AQAP and ISIL? Something else entirely?
2. What type of forces/how much aid should countries commit to ending the war and why?
3. How can the MES bring the war to end that ensures all parties are satisfied and will agree to the solution?
4. What will the MES do about the lack of food, water, and medicine in the country?
5. How will the MES react to war crime accusations against various parties involved in the war?
6. How will the MES ensure that the displaced people of Yemen are not left behind and forgotten about now and in the aftermath of the war?

7. How will the MES react to the rise of AQAP and ISIL in Yemen?
8. Should this issue be used as a springboard for finding solutions to other Middle Eastern issue (Syrian Civil War, ISIL, Saudi Arabian-Iranian proxy war) or should they be dealt with separately?

These topics are to be used as a starting point for our upcoming discussion and are by no means a comprehensive list of what can be covered in the committee. I urge you to research Yemen and your countries in depth so you can be prepared for the complex discussions we will be having.

**Please remember that while sub-committees and sanctions can be helpful they will not solve the problem on their own.**

Please be sure to present your country's position and be familiar with the guidelines enumerated in the YUNMUN Student Handbook, particularly those concerning plagiarism. All position papers will be scanned for plagiarism through turnitin.com.

Sam Gelman  
Chair, Middle East Summit