

ACADEMIC GUIDE



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Committee:

United Nations Security Council

UNSC

Senior

English

Topic A: Blue Helmets as a threat to
International Peace and Security

Topic B: Narcoterrorism in Developing
Countries

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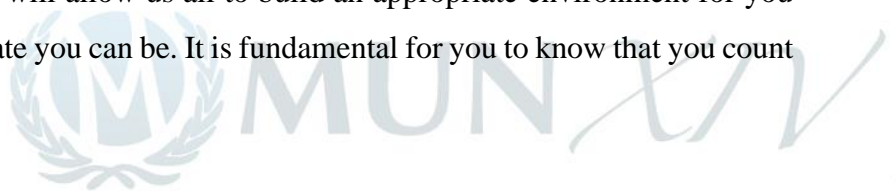
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Welcoming Letter

Esteemed delegates, it's a pleasure for us as your chair to welcome you to MMUN XIV. We are Shadia Morante and Samuel Villamil, and we will serve the role of presidents in the Security Council. Our experience and knowledge in MUN allow us to guide you in this experience, along with ensuring that everyone is able to do their best with the mere purpose of learning and becoming agents of change.

With this in mind, we would like to state that we are at your disposal for any questions that you may possess before or during the commission. Considering the rigorous level of the committee we do have high expectations concerning your performance during the three days of debate. As your chair, it's expected for you to conduct deep research, along with an impeccable preparation concerning procedure and topics, for you to succeed in the committee. Additionally, we encourage you to be respectful, honest, and diplomatic in every aspect of the committee. This will allow us all to build an appropriate environment for you to be the best version of delegate you can be. It is fundamental for you to know that you count



with our full support and attention. Please consider us as your guides, since we will do everything that is within our reach to make this experience unforgettable.

Finally, we wish you the best!

Sincerely,
Shadia and Samuel.

Introduction to the commission:

The United Nations Security Council was created the 25th of October 1945 after World War II, with the purpose of taking action towards the failures of the League of Nations, with the essential focus of maintaining peace and security at an international level. The first session of the council was held on the 17th of January 1946, but it was long-term interrupted by the Cold war. For fortune, it began authorizing peacekeeping missions in Cyprus and West New Guinea, which allowed the Security Council to gain relevance towards the resolution of international conflicts.

The UNSC is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, with fifteen members, permanent and non-permanent. Five of the fifteen members are permanent, those being: China, United States of America, United Kingdom, Russia, and France. The UN charter legislates over the council's decisions, meaning that all member states must comply with the imposed regulations by said charter. The Security Council acts upon the existence of threats to international peace and security, by adjusting the parties to the dispute in order to settle the conflict by peaceful means. The council's power considers the imposition of peacekeeping missions, sanctions, and military actions.

The legally binding mechanisms of the council are typically enforced by the UN peacekeepers which work in the following way: The member state voluntarily provides military forces with the purpose of serving a specific region that is in need of an intervention. In order for decisions to be taken into consideration under the jurisdiction of the Security Council, Article 16 of the Un Charter is implemented, along with rule 40 of the Provisional

Rules Procedure. Both of the stated documents regulate the decisions of the SC with an affirmative vote of nine members, where each one of the members has a single vote. The Veto Powers are essential factors under the constitution of the council. Said powers have the ability to influence the regulations implemented. With this in mind, Article 27 of the Charter mentions; ‘Decisions of the Security Council on all the matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring vote of the permanent members’.

*The Veto power refers to the specific privilege and power, given to exclusively five members of the modern United Nations. This power is given to the countries that are considered permanent members of the UN Security Council, being the United Kingdom, the United States of America, the French republic and the Russian Federation (originally the USSR), and the People's Republic of China. This power allows the named countries to avoid any resolution from coming to fruition. This means that a negative vote from their part for any substantive resolution or project will be rejected automatically.

TOPIC A: Blue Helmets as a threat to International Peace and Security

Introduction to the topic:

As the organ in charge of maintaining international Peace and Security, the UN Security Council has the authority of initiating Peacekeeping missions in vulnerable areas affected by conflict, whereas they are executed by the Blue Helmets. Notwithstanding, the UN secretariat is therefore responsible for developing an appropriate strategy for the mission to be successfully compiled. Peacekeeping missions strive for the protection of civilians, and the closure of warfare. Said peacekeeping missions constitute two main factors which legislate over their purpose of achieving peace. The first area aims to protect civilians *ex post facto*, through military force and police authorities, within a short term. When civilians have been greatly victimized by the conflict, the implementation of programs with the primary aim of addressing human rights needs, or the accomplishment of a peace agreement, take place, long-term. As it can be seen, the roles of the UN peacekeepers go further beyond what they can truly handle.

The UN member states involved in the decision of carrying out a peacekeeping mission on a specific region, are expected to supply military and police personnel under UN command,

meaning that they are later endowed from UN funds. The armed forces of various developing countries are greatly benefited regarding their source of income. The United Nations Peacekeeping missions follow three particular pillars which in some instances, the results of the implementation might not benefit the cause as expected. These pillars are; I. Consent of the Parties. II. Impartiality. III. Non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate.

Beyond any doubt, the missions help to achieve multiple goals that sustain the absence of conflict. However, Blue Helmets can be considered as a threat to international peace and security, as multiple events and actions made by the peacekeepers, place in question the reliability of their services. Certain critics have been made towards the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping missions, along with the individuals involved (peacekeepers), some of those being; It is questioned whether the peacekeeping missions are really compiling with their purpose, due to the inability to prevent acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, or in general, conflicts with attempt against basing human rights. A clear example of these failures being the Srebrenica and Rwanda conflicts. Another aspect where the missions are questioned correspond to the negligence of responsibilities. This alludes to the fact that the UN has not taken enough actions to “sanction” or intervene within the human rights abuses or misconducts by the peacekeepers. The inactive stance against armed groups by the peacekeepers, limits them from preventing, in an appropriate way, a circumstance of conflict. These are just some of the reasons why the peacekeeping missions might not be benefiting the international community as its expected, since they continue to fail while placing lives at stake.



Christ, K. (2022, April 30). *Beyond repatriation: Combating peacekeeper sexual abuse and exploitation*. Georgetown Journal of International Affairs.

<https://gija.georgetown.edu/2022/05/02/beyond-repatriation-combating-peacekeeper-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation/>

Key Concepts:

Peacekeepers: Civil, military and police operatives under the UN's authority, that work as a unit of protection for civilians and refugees in violent, unstable and unsafe areas. With the purpose of maintaining peace and ensuring security for all those involved. (*United Nations peacekeeping*, s. f.)

Peacekeeping: The UN's peacekeeping is a specific department of the United Nations that's focused on aiding countries under permanent and systematic warfare, with the objective of solidifying a stable status of peace. (*United Nations peacekeeping*, 2023)

Peacebuilding: The mission of the United Nations as an international government organization in the keeping of world peace. Aid for countries in active warfare or in the recuperating process of pacification. (*United Nations, PEACEBUILDING* /2023)

Ex post facto: The term Ex post facto is a latin term that refers to the phrase: After the fact. Legally it refers to a situation in which a law is applied to an action taken before it was enacted. (*Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia* (2023, February 10). *ex post facto law*. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/ex-post-facto-law>)

Historical Context:

It was 1948 when the ceasefire between Israel and Arab States emerged (Arab-Israeli Conflict), when an intervention towards the dispute was very much needed. The United Nations, guided by principles enshrined in documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions, and International Humanitarian Law, decided to take action by overseeing the ceasefire and becoming deeply involved in the matter. The UN's stakeholders decided to take action towards the conflict by overseeing the ceasefire, and being majorly involved in the matter. After this sequence of events, peacekeeping missions became essential in America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Evidently, the missions have helped preserve peace and security among vulnerable regions. It can be stated that the

peacekeepers have acted appropriately upon the difficult circumstances of conflicts which multiple nations have experienced.

Historically, significant failures have been made in the peacekeeping missions generating difficulties for peace to be achieved. Some of the failures concern: UNAMIR (1994) peacekeeping operation in Rwanda, when the peacekeepers were unable to respond to the genocide that was affecting the population. To make an image, it's important to note that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda was formed in 1993, before the great genocide happened. Rwanda had been a Belgian colony, a slave country to a European power, one that like in most of Africa, was filled with different ethnicities and tribes that were rivals even before the arrival of the foreign colonizers. The tensions rose during the Belgian occupation, when the European oppressors managed to empower one of these tribes, this being the Hutus, over the rest. So by the 20th century, most of the country's power was in the hands of these peoples. By this time, knowing the situation was dire, the UN sent military and diplomatic support to the region. That was the UNAMIR. But after the killing of 10 Belgian soldiers under their orders, the UN opted to retreat, taking 2500 soldiers from the country back to their respective reserves, leaving a heavily armed country, without the presence of an exterior organism to control the potential violence that could ensue after their retreat. This movement left the country at the mercy of the Hutu government, which following the assassination of Hutu leaders Juvénal Habyarimana, the president of Rwanda, and Cyprien Ntaryamira, president of Burundi. The tension led to death in 1994, between 500000 to a million people, men, women and kids of the Tutsi tribe, blamed for the murder were killed, abandoned by the UN's peacekeepers and blue helmets. UNPROFOR(1995). But that's not the only instance in which the blue helmets failed to keep the peace.

The Operation in Srebrenica, when the blue helmets didn't manage to prevent the massacre of Bosnian Muslims. UNAMSIL (1990) Sierra Leone, when the peacekeepers were constantly targeted by the Revolutionary United Front rebels, making them unable to protect civilians and prevent violence. UNSOM (1990) mission in Somalia where the mission's

Guiding Question: What is your delegation's history on colonial expansion? What was what agency did it have over other countries?

effectiveness was hindered with the deaths of 18 American Soldiers. As it can be seen, the peacekeepers have been historically unable to complete all of their missions without harming or sacrificing the lives of the innocent ones, which leads everything to the present day, where the so-called ‘‘peacekeeping missions’’, are questioned.

Current Situation:

The Peacekeeping missions have demonstrated how they lack effectiveness in various aspects resulting in the harming of human rights, fracture in morality, and conflict creation. An evident case of the lack of effectiveness of the Blue Helmets, is demonstrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the failures to comply with the missions, are leading to protest and complaints by its citizens. A spokeswoman for Monusco, the UN's peacekeeping mission in the country, was essentially banished from the DRC last week after reportedly making "indelicate and inappropriate" remarks that, according to the authorities, exacerbated tensions with the local populace (*Global politics, 2017*). Authorities declared that they intended to reevaluate the exit strategy for the peacekeeping deployment. In response to hundreds of protesters throwing rocks and petrol bombs, vandalizing and setting fire to UN installations, the peacekeepers have been accused of using force and, in some cases, live gunfire in retaliation.



Kirstin Wagner Research Fellow. (2023, January 20). *Sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers in DRC: Fatherless children speak for first time about the pain of being abandoned*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/sexual-exploitation-by-un-peacekeepers-in-drc-fatherless-children-speak-for-first-time-about-the-pain-of-being-abandoned-188248>

Guiding Question: What's your delegation's degree of control and agency over the military assets of the UN (blue helmets and peacekeepers)?

It's imperative to acknowledge how the Security Council decides if a region will receive the benefit of a peacekeeping operation, however, it is in the power of the UN secretariat to develop strategies for completing the missions successfully. Are the efforts done by the UN secretariat enough to complete these missions effectively? Is the secretariat taking the appropriate measures in order to combat all the transgressions made by the peacekeepers? Matters such as these ones, make the international community question the reliability of the peacekeeping missions. Peacekeepers operate in hostile zones where they face multiple obstacles that are an impediment for them to comply with their missions in an appropriate manner. The neutrality that they have to implement at all costs provides them a series of limited options regarding what to do to defend themselves. Peacekeepers constantly face armed interventions, ambushes, landmines and hydrogen bombs. A dangerous group in a vulnerable region will never consider peacekeepers as a threat, since they are not allowed to use any type of force unless it is to defend themselves.

Some peacekeepers lack the necessary resources to conduct a successful intervention, they might possess insufficient authority, monetary resources, personnel, equipment are also contributing factors for a mission to fail. The lack of cooperation within the parties involved in order to conduct the operation is a major limiting factor since, if one of the parties involved opposes a peacekeeping mission, as a consequence, it won't take place.

Relevant approaches:

Several approaches are imperative in order to address the situation from all the possible perspectives, those being;

Unlawful Sexual Intercourses by the ‘peacekeepers’

On the 12th of November 2015, a Peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic took place, where several allegations were made regarding male peacekeepers subjecting women to unlawful sexual intercourses. The head of the operation/UN representative; Parfait Onanga-Anyanga made his commitment of enduring justice towards the victims, while holding the perpetrators accountable for their actions, through immediate preventive and disciplinary measures. The UN has confirmed 63 allegations of sexual abuse during this

mission (*Smith & Lewis, 2017*). The Democratic Republic of Congo has the highest number of allegations of unlawful sexual intercourse by peacekeepers in the world. Although peacekeeping missions are credited with playing a critical role in defending human rights in times of war, the possibility of peacekeepers abusing or exploiting people who most need protection puts into question the morality and legality of sending peacekeepers.

There are now 12 peacekeeping missions running all over the world with more than 97,000 peacekeepers from more than 120 nations. Although it is the responsibility of all UN employees to protect and "do no harm," reports of sexual crimes against local civilians, particularly young girls, have been made wherever operations have been established.

The first reports of "peacekeeper babies" appeared when UN soldiers were stationed in west Africa and Timor-Leste, where it was alleged that they impregnated native women and girls before abandoning them without providing any kind of child support.

In a report submitted to the UN on March 25, 2005, it was suggested that troops be subjected to DNA testing to determine whether they had ever sexually assaulted women or girls and to make sure that anyone who had fathered children while serving on a mission would be required to pay child support. The plan is a response to growing anxiety over the enormous number of "peacekeeper babies" being abandoned, which is damaging the reputation of blue-helmeted U.N. soldiers in the communities they were supposed to assist. Investigations of sexual exploitation by U.N. employees in the Congo have brought the matter to light. The program is a component of a larger set of measures designed to stop a sexual abuse scandal from spreading to U.N. operations in the Congo, Liberia, Burundi, Haiti, and other countries.

Neutrality/Lack of force

Peacekeeping missions possess three main principles that might be counterproductive, those being;

I. Consent of Parties: The main conflict parties give their approval for the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces. The parties must agree to participate in a political process for this to

happen. They grant the UN the essential political and physical flexibility to carry out its designated tasks by agreeing to a peacekeeping mission.

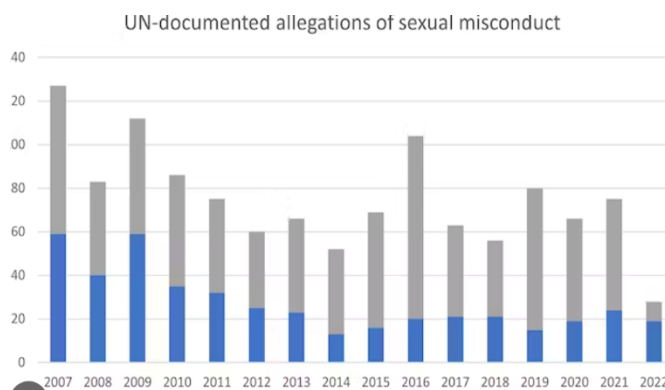
II. Impartiality: Being impartial is essential to preserving the primary parties' agreement and cooperation, but impartiality is not the same as neutrality or inaction. Although they should not be neutral in carrying out their mandate, United Nations peacekeepers should be impartial in their interactions with the conflict's participants.

III. Non-use of violence except in self defense and defense in other mandates.

UN peacekeeping missions are not a means of enforcing laws. However, if necessary to protect themselves or to uphold their mandate, they may employ force at a tactical level with the Security Council's approval.

The Security Council has granted UN peacekeeping operations "robust" mandates in some tense circumstances, empowering them to "use all necessary means" to thwart violent attempts to obstruct the political process, defend civilians from imminent physical attack, and/or support the national authorities in upholding law and order.

Are these principles truly essential for the peacekeeping missions to succeed? Is it worth it to conduct a peacekeeping mission while it complies with these purposes? Are these principles counterproductive?



Kamale, J.-Y. (2022, July 28). *Power line kills 4 at anti-UN protest in Eastern Congo*. AP News. <https://apnews.com/ee2331d95e7ef94eb09491f98c2ecbf8>



Block Positions:

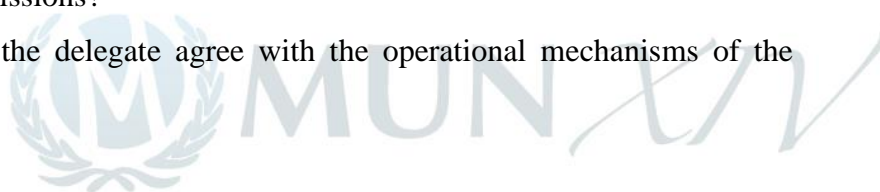
Two blocks may emerge along the committee. Depending on the current position that each of the countries possess regarding peacekeeping missions, delegates may adhere to two possible perspectives;

Delegates whose country has had significant contributions by the peacekeeping missions, or all those member states who have previously ratified the execution of certain peacekeeping missions. This block considered that peacekeeping missions are necessary to stop conflict, due to the fact that the way in which they chose to address conflicts, does not focus on stopping violence by generating more violence. This block agrees with the principles and provides fresh perspectives concerning possible measures that could be implemented so that the missions are compiled successfully.

The other block should consider those countries who have been greatly affected by the negative actions committed by the peacekeepers. The block should consider an alternative program or alternative actions in order to stop the abuse by the peacekeepers. This block may impose sanctions that address the unlawful actions committed by the blue helmets. The block may consider the mandate of the UN secretariat as inefficient, due to the "lack of strategic planning in order for the missions to succeed". This block should be aware of the transgressions of human rights that are taking place among this conflict while contemplating: Rome Statute, International Humanitarian Law, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Geneva Conventions, Montevideo Conventions, Vienna Convention, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, etc.

QARMAS

1. Has your delegation received any type of assistance from the UN peacekeepers? If so, which ones?
2. Has your delegation or any allies of your delegation been victimized by the failures of the peacekeeping missions?
3. To what extent does the delegate agree with the operational mechanisms of the missions?



4. In what position does the delegate stand regarding the neutrality concerning weapons (only as an act of personal defense) on peacekeeping missions?
5. To what extent does the delegate consider the peacekeeping missions as effective/ineffective?
6. What possible reforms, adjustments and strategic changes can be done to ensure the accuracy and correct management of the UN's peacekeeping missions?

Useful links:

United Nations, Peacekeeping Operations, 2008:

https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/capstone_eng_0.pdf

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<https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/rome-statute-international-criminal-court>

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The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer | Ozone Secretariat. (s. f.). <https://ozone.unep.org/treaties/vienna-convention?q=es/treaties/convenio-de-viena>

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - Manual for Human Rights education with Young People - www.coe.int. (s. f.). Manual for Human Rights Education with Young people. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/the-international-covenant-on-civil-and-political-rights>

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United Nations. (n.d.-a). *New allegations of sexual abuse surface against “blue helmets” in Central African Republic* / *UN news*. United Nations. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/11/515362>

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An assessment of corruption risks in UN Peacekeeping Operations - Home. (n.d.-a). <https://ti-defence.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/TIDS-CorruptionRisksinUNPeacekeeping.pdf>

Sabine Lee Professor in Modern History, & Susan Bartels Clinician-Scientist. (2022, November 4). “they put a few coins in your hands to drop a baby in you” – 265 stories of Haitian children abandoned by UN fathers. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/they-put-a-few-coins-in-your-hands-to-drop-a-baby-in-you-265-stories-of-haitian-children-abandoned-by-un-fathers-114854>

WP Company. (n.d.). The Washington Post. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64216-2005Mar24.htm>

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Kirstin Wagner Research Fellow. (2023, January 20). *Sexual exploitation by UN peacekeepers in DRC: Fatherless children speak for first time about the pain of being abandoned*. The Conversation. <https://theconversation.com/sexual-exploitation-by-un-peacekeepers-in-drc-fatherless-children-speak-for-first-time-about-the-pain-of-being-abandoned-18824>

Kamale, J.-Y. (2022, July 28). *Power line kills 4 at anti-UN protest in Eastern Congo*. AP News. <https://apnews.com/ee2331d95e7ef94eb09491f98c2ecbf8>

United Nations peacekeeping. (s. f.). United Nations Peacekeeping. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en>



TOPIC B: Narcoterrorism in developing countries

Introduction to the topic:

Narcoterrorism is by definition: the prolonged cooperation of illegal armed groups with local drug trafficking mafias.

It is not a secret that several countries in actuality, remain in development, and are incredibly susceptible to violent uprisings, insurgent factions and political distress within their own borders. The political and social unrest, seen everywhere within the sphere of what the international community defines as the: third world is a challenging moment to any nation that is still in the way of strengthening itself, with weaker governments, prone to corruption and tyranny, external influence and even manipulation from foreign countries that resonates with the colonial processes of the last few centuries, and an emerging military with an even newer and more fragile command line (Team, 2023).

It is in these circumstances that insurgent groups may form and gain strength, creating an uneasy and often violent power struggle with the current government. A tale as old as time, and it has been seen in Afghanistan with the Taliban uprising, the Boko Haram, Islamic faction of central Africa, and the ever-undying guerrilla conflict in Colombia, that has been active ever since the sixties.

But in order to fight a country's recognized government, and challenge the power scales to their favor, insurgent groups need heavy financing and support to keep fighting, weapons are not a rare commodity, but they are not easy to acquire either, especially when the ones that will be using them are a group outside of the law. That is when another of the third world's greatest issues comes to play: drug trafficking. The violent and destructive behavior of drug trafficking groups is a known trait, and when the opportunity presents itself, the two parties in this terrible scenario may form an alliance.

The creation of this type of alliances derives from the violence perpetuated at the national level in these countries in unresolved civil wars, and by the shortage of supplies for the armed

groups after years of conflict. By having the presence of drug trafficking mafias, these armed groups would become private armies, much more effective and with more coverage than the mercenaries frequented by said mafias. Creating even more heavily armed militias in direct rebellion against their institutional governments and giving these mobs an even more powerful and damaging enforcing agents.

This problem has become an immediate threat to the governments and institutions of their respective countries, seriously affecting the security of their citizens and putting populations in locations far from the arm of the public force and authorities at risk.

Key Concepts:

Drug trafficking: The illicit trade and manufacture of narcotics and other illegal substances which are subject to prohibition.

Insurgence: The act of rising in open revolt against the institutionalized authorities.

Terrorism: The unlawful use of violence and intimidation over a (predominantly civilian) group of population, for the acquisition of political influence or power.

Funding and financing: The source of monetary income for an organization, in this case, the source of monetary resources for illicit violent groups.

Institutional governance: Structures, processes, rules, and mechanisms that guide the behavior, and functioning of institutions within a society. These institutions can include government bodies, public and private organizations, regulatory agencies, and non-governmental organizations.

Definitions taken from: *Cambridge English Dictionary: Meanings & Definitions.* (2023).

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/>



Historical Context:

Narcoterrorism is a problem that has been damaging the structure of developing countries since the start of the cold war. For context, the cold war refers to the second half of the 20th century that created an uneasy tension in global geopolitics, as the two most powerful victors of the second world war, the Soviet Union and the United States began a period of technological and political rivalry, creating the well known strife between the traditionally capitalist western countries and the communist eastern bloc. This era of unprecedented tension led to the golden age of proxy wars, a series of conflicts in predominantly third world countries in which these two gigantic powers, each supported a faction or even entered the conflict themselves, upholding their respective ideology regardless of the damage that was being caused to the countries in question.

Several of the modern terrorist and insurgent conflicts suffered today are a result of such wars. Having for example the current Taliban Crisis in Afghanistan, a direct result of the islamic revolt against the soviet occupation of the country, the then muyahidin freedom fighters paved the way for the current occupiers. Or the conflict in Colombia, where several communist and left.wing guerrillas, each supported by their faction of the cold war, bloodied the country for years, a conflict that is still ongoing. The countries where these wars were fought were left with a weakened political structure, radicalized groups of people and heavily armed militias that kept fighting for control, long after the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

But lacking the constant funding of their respective patrons once the cold war ended in the early nineties, these freedom fighters had lost both their ideological and financial sustent, and they had to look for new ways to keep fighting their respective governments. (*AOTP. (s. f.). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*)

Guiding Question: Where did your country stand on the cold war spectrum?

Guiding Question: Research what has been done to suppress the uprising of militant groups by the UN and the Security Council.

In Colombia, during the eighties and nineties, just after the golden age of Colombian drug trafficking, the country's stability shook with the consecutive governments of presidents: Belisario Betancur, Virgilio Barco and Julio César Gaviria. These three were highly recognizable because of their constant fight with the drug cartels then active in the country. Prior to that, the national government had begun an uneasy truce with these cartels to fight the guerrillas, because of that, new paramilitary groups were created to "defend" national public, but mostly the interests of these drug mobs, during this time, paramilitary groups such as the: M.A.S (muerte a secuestradores, death to kidnappers) came to fruition as a sort of private army at the mob leader's disposal, creating their own armed group outside the reach of Colombian law, and for a time it was widely accepted as it was a useful tool against the already violent guerrillas. *(Las FARC-EP y el narcotráfico. (s. f.). Informe Final - Comisión de la Verdad.)*

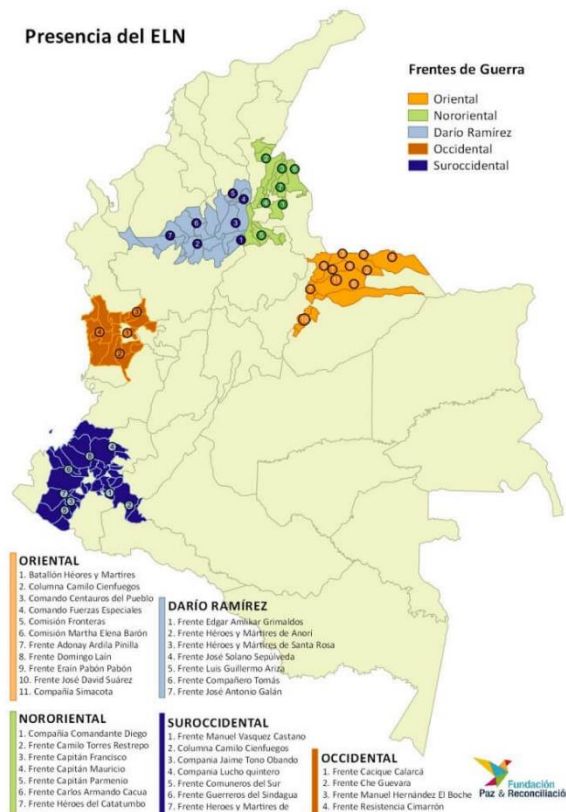
But when the Cartel of Medellín was finally recognized as a threat to the Colombian public, with the decadence of Pablo Escobar, the then president Belisario Betancur announced the reactivation of the extradition treaty with the US, which triggered a war with the incredibly powerful cartels and their private armies. In this case, there is an entirely symbiotic behavior between the mob and the armed group, being one directly at the service of another, creating a crisis in Colombia that would paint the country red until 1993, when Escobar was finally killed. But this was not the end to narcoterrorism, current guerrillas, and even the ones that have been pacified over the years, such as las FARC or The ELN still maintain drug trafficking operations in national grounds and Venezuela, and the remains of localized militias still employ drug production and trade as a primary source of income. *(Las FARC-EP y el narcotráfico. (s. f.). Informe Final - Comisión de la Verdad.)*

Like the Colombian case, there are several countries that suffer from the same kind of issues. The Taliban uprising of 1996 was financed by the heavy production of opium in the country, creating a drug trade operation that funds them to this day. The cartels in Mexico created their own private militias to fight against law enforcement, becoming a terrorist faction themselves. In Peru, the communist armada present in Peru: Sendero Luminoso, known for their excessive brutality, fighting since 1980, created their own web of drug trafficking to support their operations. *(France. (2021, 29 septiembre).*

Current Situation:

In actuality the symbiotic relationship between drug trafficking has become a staple of insurgent groups all over the world, and the use and commerce of illegal substances, the natural go-to for armed groups to profit off to continue their operations in their respective nations.

Current guerrillas in colombian soil still recur to this resource, with what remains of las FARC, financing their war in the same way as the broader guerrilla did back in the eighties and nineties. In the same way, the active ELN has taken to adopt these tactics as well, as recurring to illegal mining in the more helpless zones of the following regions:



Cinco regiones del país donde el cese al fuego con el eln puede ser frágil. (s. f.).

Pacifista. https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fpacifista.tv%2Fnotas%2Fcinco-regiones-del-pais-donde-el-cese-al-fuego-con-el-eln-puede-ser-fragil%2F&psig=AOvVaw18mPIW3PQv3qZMYV-cZOc5&ust=1702057741127000&source=images&cd=vfe&opi=89978449&ved=0CBEQjRxxqFwoTCOiRoq7x_YIDFQAAAAAAdAAAAABAD

Guiding Question: Try to inform yourself on other internal conflicts fed by narcotic mobs.

Being so thorough, as to defend their internal commerce of Narcotics in an all out war with the newer heir of the great colombian cartels: the gulf clan. Memoria, S. (2022).

In Afghanistan, even with the systematic destruction of poppy plantations by the Taliban, under their regime the drug economy of the country has been in extensive growth, according to Rupert Stone of the Atlantic council: “*Afghanistan’s drug economy expanded dramatically after the US- and NATO-led invasion in 2001. The amount of land under poppy cultivation almost tripled between 2002 and 2020, and the country also started to produce cheap methamphetamine using an abundant local plant—ephedra*”. Remaining groups of Sendero luminoso still practice the sale of illegal drugs in the so-called: Valley of drugs. And the common denominator of all these situations, and many more around the world, is the exponential increase of brutality, corruption, criminality and danger to public safety all over the sphere of the third world, a problem that is yet to be neutralized and is currently on its highest peak in decades. (*Matthew Levitt, 2020: Hizbullah narco-terrorism*)

Relevant approaches:

The main approach for this topic would consist of developing a trustworthy strategy to neutralize or diminish the damages caused by this threat to public safety, and what humanitarian and social interaction can be put into motion with every country to ensure the safety of their state and people. This can be analyzed in ten following ways:

Pacification of Insurgent Groups: How can these insurgent groups be pacified? What is needed to obtain a temporary or permanent peace with these groups, understanding the root of their cause. Addressing the socio economic cause of their rebellion and providing alternatives to diminish their influence and violent activity throughout their country.

Law enforcement and military action: What military and intelligence actions have to be done to ensure the safety of the citizens? Addressing the need for stronger and more effective law enforcement.

Social programs and rehabilitation: What can be done for the ex-members of drug mafias and extremist groups? Discussing rehabilitation and re-introduction to lawful society of such

individuals as an incentive for members to quit their ties with such organizations and ensure their safety after rejoining civilian life.

Cutting the economical source: What can be done to cut the flow of income for these groups? Defining strategies to limit the reach and strength of illicit substance trade and controlling and limiting the production of such.

Block Positions:

There are two blocks that may arise from the discussion, and they obey the paradigm created in the cold war. Since several countries, members of the UN but part of the eastern block of countries are alleged allies of some extremist groups, there might once again be division between the eastern and western blocks.

There might also be the case of another two types of blocks applying to the situation, one being the foreign powers that historically had a certain amount of influence over the said third world countries. Responsible for social, economical and military operations in such countries, in the frame of the cold war, or more recently, in the recent military activities of developed countries in their fight against insurgent movements all across the globe. Their influence being a strong cause for the creation and perpetuation of these groups existing in third world countries.

The second block would consist on the countries that have suffered from the constant attack or narco terrorist organizations and have been subject to the evolution of cold war ideological warfare to current narcotic trade in unison with those insurgent groups still in their territories, vouching for action by the same countries that helped cause these internal wars.

QARMAS:



1. What strategies have been employed by governments and international organizations to counter narcoterrorism?
2. Was your delegation implicated in a proxy war during the cold war?
3. What is your country's historical relationship with drug trafficking and terrorism, and how has it evolved over time?
4. How does your country contribute to international efforts to counter narcoterrorism? Are there specific partnerships, agreements, or contributions in order?
5. What is the stance of your county in the fight against Narcoterrorism? Is it seen as a domestic threat to your country?

Useful links:

Explanation of the cold war:

OverSimplified. (2019, 24 enero). *The Cold War - OverSimplified (Part 1)* [Vídeo]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I79TpDe3t2g>

OverSimplified. (2019b, enero 24). *The Cold War - OverSimplified (Part 2)* [Vídeo]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIYy32RuHao>

Colombian Narcoterrorism:

Memoria, S. (2022). La crisis: narcotráfico y terrorismo. *Señal Memoria*.

<https://www.senalmemoria.co/articulos/terrorismo-narcotrafico-crisis>

Latin America:

CNN Chile. (2023, 13 abril). *Crisis de seguridad y lucha contra el narcotráfico en América Latina / Conexión Global Prime* [Vídeo]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=siAmorKa7dM>

Middle East:

Matthew Levitt, 2020: Hizbullah narco-terrorism

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/media/3195>



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Miqbal. (2022). Afghanistan's drug trade is booming under Taliban rule. *Atlantic Council*.

<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/southasiasource/afghanistans-drug-trade-is-booming-under-taliban-rule/>

Las FARC-EP y el narcotráfico. (s. f.). Informe Final - Comisión de la Verdad.

<https://www.comisiondelaverdad.co/las-farc-ep-y-el-narcotrafico>

France. (2021, 29 septiembre). Los coccaleros peruanos, atrapados entre Sendero Luminoso y Los

Narcos. *France 24*. [https://www.france24.com/es/minuto-a-minuto/20210929-los-](https://www.france24.com/es/minuto-a-minuto/20210929-los-coccaleros-peruanos-atrapados-entre-sendero-luminoso-y-los-narcos)

[coccaleros-peruanos-atrapados-entre-sendero-luminoso-y-los-narcos](https://www.france24.com/es/minuto-a-minuto/20210929-los-coccaleros-peruanos-atrapados-entre-sendero-luminoso-y-los-narcos)

AOTP. (s. f.). United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime. [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/aotp.html)

[and-analysis/aotp.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/aotp.html)



