Forum: Security Council

Issue: End the fighting in Yemen between government forces and the Houthi rebels

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Introduction

The Yemeni Civil War is one of the bloodiest conflict in the 21st century. In just a few years, more than 10,000 have died while 3,000,000 more have been displaced. The war between the Houthis and Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi's government is caused by the division between northern and southern Yemen, whose competition for influence in government causes tensions to grow.

Apart from geopolitical tensions, religious difference between Shiites and Sunnis has also caused the rift in the country to grow. In fact, the two major belligerents of the conflict, the Houthis and Hadi government, belongs to different religious sects. However, the division in the country has already pre-existed in the Soviet era, when Yemen was divided into north and south. After uniting, the government did not divide power between the two regions equally, allowing the north to gain advantage and dominance in government. This has brought the country into constant conflict, which deteriorated after the Arab Spring, when the scale of the conflict elevated.

The Yemeni Revolution began in 2015. Since then, the skirmish between the Houthis and Hadi government has been ongoing. The chaos Yemen has fallen into has allowed both the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) to gain control over parts of the country. The strengthening of such Islamic extremist groups poses a security threat to the world, bringing Western countries such as the United States into the conflict. In addition, this civil war poses a regional threat to the Middle East, as regime changes that result from the war can shift the power balance and increase the tension between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Definition of Key Terms

The Houthis

The Houthis is a religious movement based in northern parts of Yemen. This group practices Zaydi Shi'ism, a sect of Shi'ite Islam. Although it is a minority in Yemen as a whole, Houthi's faith is dominant in Northern Yemen; this explains the religious division between the Shiites and Sunnis in Yemen. Having fought against Yemeni government since 2004, the Houthis (backed by Iran) are partnering with Ali Abdullah Saleh, the ex-President of Yemen, to seek political control in Yemen.

Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula

The Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula, also known by the acronym AQAP, is considered by many experts to be the most threatening branch of al-Qaeda. In 2000, this group has demonstrated its extensive capability as a terrorist organization by bombing USS Cole, which killed almost 20 and injured dozens more. AQAP has gain a stronger footing than ISIL in Yemen, as it has penetrated thousands of local tribes, wielding a massive amount of influence in the country. This Sunni extremist group has gained strong support among other Sunni tribes due to the threat from Houthi, a Shiite militia.

The Hadi government

The government lead by President Abed Rabbo Mansour al-Hadi is officially recognized by most countries as the legitimate governing force of Yemen. Although it has been overthrown by the Houthis in 2015, when Hadi left Yemen and went into exile, the Hadi government was able to regain control of the southern parts of the country with the help of Saudi Arabia-led coalition. With a de facto capital in Aden, the Hadi government is the opposing force against the Houthis supported by Iran and Ali Abdullah Saleh, the ex-President of Yemen.

Ali Abdullah Saleh

Ali Saleh was the President of Yemen since its founding in 1990 to 2011, when facing massive protests, he signed the power transition deal. This document drafted by the Gulf Cooperation Council legally transferred his power to Hadi, the then vice president of Yemen. Although Saleh ceded his power in 2011, he still wields significant influence in the country due

to support from loyalists. In the Yemeni Civil War, Saleh has sided with the Houthis with the wish to restore his presidency.

Yemeni Revolution

The Yemeni Revolution begin in 2015 as a war between the Houthis and Hadi government. More than 10,000 have died from this armed conflict, which has turned into a proxy war between the Houthis (backed by Iran) and the Hadi government (backed by Saudi Arabia with indirect support from the United States). Many peace talks have failed as compromise has rarely been reached due to the staunch, trenchant position each side holds.

Background Information

A Divided Past

The Yemeni Civil War can be attributed to the country's deep division, where tension and rivalry lead to Houthis' rebellion against Hadi's government. Such division, however, is historical. Prior to North and South Yemen's unification in 1990, Yemen has never in history been a single state. Imam Yahya, the descendent of Prophet Mohammed, unified Northern Yemen in 897 AD under what is known today as Zaydi Shi'ism. For more than a millennial, Yahya and his descendants ruled the region, until 1962 when Northern Yemen was established during a wave of Arab nationalism.

On the other hand, due to low population density, Southern Yemen has only been ruled briefly by the Ottomans and Ayyubid Dynasty. It is only in the 19th century, when Britain wished to use Yemen as a harbor for ships traveling to India, was it settled and developed. In 1839, the British conquered Aden, an important port city that later became British crown colony in 1937. By 1963, the rest of what will later be known as South Yemen has been annexed by Britain, which turned it into a protectorate named the "Federation of South Arabia." After Yemenis' 4-years-long revolt successfully kicked Britain out, the National Liberal Front (NLF) consisted of Arab Nationalist took control of the country and formed People's Republic of Yemen. Soon afterwards, however, the NLF was infiltrated by Marxists, who turned Southern Yemen into a Soviet Satellite named People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Over the years, North and South Yemen have maintained friendly relationships, although

border clashes occur occasionally. In 1990s the two Yemens united, thus establishing modern day's Republic of Yemen. In the unity agreement, Northern Yemen's president Ali Abdullah Saleh was to become the president of the new Yemen while Southern Yemen's president Ali Salim al-Beidh become the vice president. However, the country quickly turned into chaos due to food shortages and marginalization of the South. In 1994, Yemen entered a short but bloody civil war where the south fought for independence but lost. President Saleh's control over Yemen was hence strengthened.

Arab Spring and Power transition

By 2011, the Arab Spring protests have spread to Yemen. Peaceful protestors called for Saleh's resignation because of his corrupt, undemocratic two-decade-long rule. Failing to appease the protestors after multiple bargains that will shorten his term, Saleh was injured in June 2011 by a car bomb attack. After returning, he soon legally transfers his power, via Gulf Cooperation Council's power-transition deal, to his vice president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi. On February 27th of 2012, Saleh formally stepped down from power.

After the 2014 conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference (NDC), where the political future of Yemen was drawn according to the power-transition deal, Yemen was to become a federation divided into six regions. During this period, however, the growth of poverty undermines the stability of Yemen. World Bank's estimation put Yemen's poverty rate in 2009 at 42% and 55% in 2012. This is because little economic development has been achieved during the transitional process while Yemen's major source of wealth, oil, was running out. In July 2014, tribesmen blew up the country's largest oil pipeline, thus disrupting its supply. By this time, anti-governmental protests have grown, many of which are organized by the Houthis. Yemen fell into armed conflict in a matter of weeks as Houthis fought its way to the capital. In The Yemeni capital of Sana'a was captured in September 2014.

Key Issues

Security threats

The conflict between the Houthis and Hadi government threaten security in Yemen. Besides brutal war crimes and heavy civilian casualties produced by both sides, instability also allows extremist groups to thrive.

Civil war and war crimes

The security of many are at risk in the civil war. This is due to the indiscriminant attacks by both the Saudi-coalition and the Houthis, both of whom conduct airstrikes and rocket-attacks without ensuring that only military personnel are targeted. Since the Saudi intervention in March 2015, almost 3,000 civilian deaths have been produced. According to the Guardian, one-third of all Saudi airstrikes have hit civilian sites. The high civilian casualty rate can be attributed to coalition forces' use of cluster bombs in densely civilian populated areas. Cluster bombs have been banned by the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), but are repeatedly in coalition air strikes. This is confirmed by the spokesperson for Saudi-coalition General Ahmed al-Asiri's statement in mid-December that they would cease the use of UK-made BL-755 cluster munitions. In addition, banned anti-personnel mines were laid in Eastern and Southern Yemen by the Houthis, breaching international war laws. According to Human Rights Watch's deputy Middle East director Joe Stork, the Houthis have also been "taking part in indiscriminate rocket and mortar attacks on civilian neighborhoods," which may one day bring them to war crime trials. This involve firing mortar shells and artillery rockets, both of which are difficult to target with accuracy, into densely populated neighborhoods that have "no evidence of military installations or other military objectives that would constitute legitimate targets." The prevalent skirmishes between the government and rebels have also put Yemen in constant security threats. The security and stability of Middle East may be at stake after the civil war, as regime change will tip the balance of regional power.

Islamic insurgencies and religious extremism

Instability in Yemen allows jihad groups to strengthen, gain foothold, and be in shape to carry out terrorist attacks in Yemen and abroad. ISIL's car bombings of Zaydis mosques in Sana'a, which killed more than 50 people, is an epitome of such threats. As AQAP and ISIL gain more territory, they may one day have the capability to attack the West. So far, American, Italian, and British embassies in Yemen have already shut down due to threat from AQAP. Furthermore, bombs disguised as printer inkjets by AQAP have been found on cargo planes bound for the US, bringing further implication about

the degree of threat posed by extremist groups' thrive in the region. This also demonstrates how Yemen is the ideal place to plan and carry out terrorist attacks. Apart from attacks, a ground takeover by jihadist groups will also be disastrous. As a major port city of Yemen, Aden's takeover by extremist group will affect trade because vessels passing through the Gulf of Aden will be prone to terror attacks. In the past, the Yemeni port has suffered from the dramatic reduction in the number of ships using the harbor due to AQAP's bombing of USS Cole in 2000 and French oil tanker Limburg in 2002.
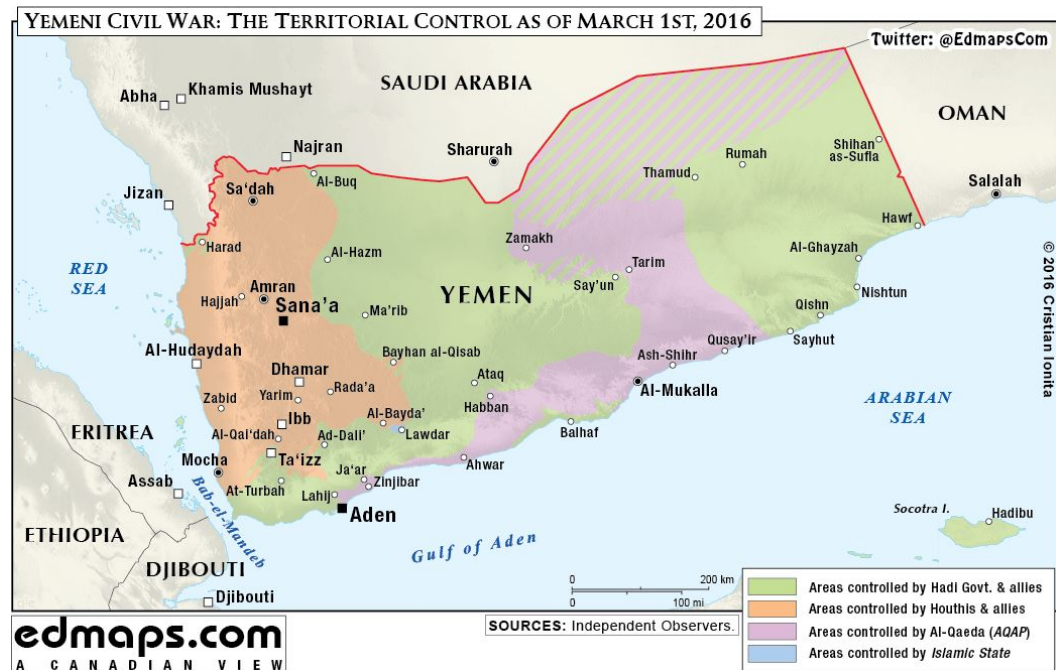
Caption #1: Map of territories controlled by belligerents in the Yemeni Civil War

Humanitarian crisis

Conflict in Yemen has put the lives of many innocents at risk. Apart from the lack of basic human needs, civilians' rights are infringed upon as both sides commit war crimes.

Humanitarian concern

Apart from security threats, there have also been many humanitarian concerns in the Yemeni Civil War. Not only have famine occurred, but hospitals and many other

civilian areas have also been deliberately attacked by belligerents. Furthermore, many were denied humanitarian aid while the brutal war prevented humanitarian aid to be sent into Yemen. For example, the Houthis have been found to be confiscating basic human needs from civilians including food and medical supplies. Denial of such aid lead to the deaths of countless children who have died due to lack of proper healthcare and nutrition. According to Stephen O'Brien, the UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, 2,000,000 in Yemen needs emergency food aid while child malnutrition has risen to 63%. In addition, most in Yemen lack basic supplies of water, food, medical aid. The war has also displaced more than 2.8 million, most of which have fled to Somalia and Ethiopia.

Human rights violation

Human rights violation is also a major problem in the Yemeni Civil War. For the past few years, civil war in Yemen has torn apart the lives of many. Many have died from airstrikes, which often hit civilian areas, such as hospitals and schools. A notable example is when a hospital in Northwestern Yemen supported by Doctors Without Borders (MSF) was hit by a Saudi-led coalition airstrike, killing more than ten. As cases similar to the aforementioned repeat prevalently, the infrastructure in Yemen has been obliterated, leading to loss of more than 14 billion USD. Furthermore, many war crimes have been conducted. According to Abdulsrasheed al-Faqeeh, the executive director of an organization that documents war crimes committed in the Yemen Civil War, "All the participants of this war have committed a wide range of human rights violations." For example, the blockade introduced by Saudi-led coalition have prevented civilians from gaining access to medical aid. On the other hand, pro-Houthis have been holding civilians hostages to gain ransom. Hrights violations from both sides also encompass recruitment of child soldiers, kidnap and forced disappearance of hundreds, and siege on civilian areas.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

2,708,957 refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs

Country	Refugees	Asylum Seekers	Total
Somalia	253,547	-	253,547
Ethiopia	5,707	9,233	14,940
Iraq	3,406	138	3,544
Syria	3,043	612	3,655
Other	1,972	1,121	3,093
Yemen (IDPs)	-	-	2,430,178
Total	**267,675**	**11,104**	**2,708,957**

Caption #2: UN's statistics of Yemeni refugees

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is the main supporter of the Hadi government. After President Hadi left Yemen and went into exile for eight months, Saudi Arabia provided Hadi the support to return to Yemen and regain control of its southern regions. Due to fears that the installation of an unfriendly government in Yemen will threaten their national security, Saudi Arabia and eight other mostly Sunni Middle Eastern states have conducted airstrikes in the country against the Houthis. Saudi Arabia's strategy is to keep Yemen weak, but not to the extent that jihadist groups and insurgencies flourish. Many human rights groups have been critical of Saudi Arabia's indiscriminant attacks that puts civilian lives at great risk. Furthermore, the coalition-appointed Joint Incidents Assessment Team (JIAT), whose job is to investigate war crimes committed by coalition forces, have also received criticism for nontransparent investigation which produce conclusions that differ dramatically from those produced by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations, and Mwatana, a Yemeni human rights organization.

United States

The United States is only assisting Saudi Arabian-led airstrikes by providing logistical and intelligence support. In Yemen, US is also conducting drones strikes against al-Qaeda, ISIL, and other terrorist groups. Having suffered from multiple terror attacks, from the bombing

of USS Cole to the 9-11 attacks plotted by an affiliated organization of al-Qaeda, US remains precautious of the growth of jihad in the region. United States' main goal in the region is to prevent extremist groups from gaining too much ground in the country, since an unstable Yemen provides terrorists the best location to train for and plot attacks. United States has continued its arms sale to Saudi Arabia despite Human Rights Watch's claim that American-made bombs and other arms have been used by Saudi-led coalition in a manner that violates humanitarian laws.

Iran

Iran is the most important supporter of the Houthis, having provided it weapons, artilleries, and even Hezbollah fighters. Such close relationship can be attributed to shared geopolitical interests. Iran wishes to challenge Saudi and American dominance in the region while the Houthis oppose the Saudi and U.S. backed Hadi-led government in Aden. Since 2009, five years after Houthis begun its armed conflict against Yemeni government, Iran has provided Houthis with modest arms support, from automatic rifles to cash in millions of dollars. After Houthis' successful takeover of Sana'a in September 2014, Iran has stepped up its support by establishing training camps for the rebel groups, staffed by dozens of officers from Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) with the assistance of Lebanese Hezbollah. It has been mistaken that Iran's support for Houthis is due to their Shi'ite ties; although both belong to the Shi'ite faith, their strong ties is not formed solely by religion as the two sects diverge significantly. Rather, Iran's regional interest to develop an ally on the southern border of Saudi Arabia lead it to invest modestly in the Houthis. Hence, it is appropriate to say that Iran has been bandwagoning on the Houthi's success in Yemen.

Houthi rebels

The Houthis, also known as Ansar Allah, are a minority Shiite sect based in Northern Yemen that has been rebelling against the Yemeni government for decades. It practices Zaydi sect of Shi'ite Islam and was founded by Hussein Bader Addian al-Houthi in the early 1990s as a theological movement that preached tolerance and peace. However, in 2004, it begun to arm itself as a form of what it claims to be self-defense in the war against then Yemeni President, Ali Abdullah Saleh. Over the years, Houthi have become a major political force and militia in Yemen, officially overthrowing the Hadi government in January 2015. Currently fighting against

Saudi-backed Hadi government, the Houthis have received massive amount of assistance from Iran and have control and support of northern region of Yemen. The objective of the Houthis is to gain political control of Yemen.

Hadi government

The Yemeni government, lead by Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, is backed by Saudi Arabia and its coalition. Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi become Yemen's President after Ali Abdullah Saleh gave up his presidency amid angry pro-democracy protests that was part of the Arab Spring. As the internationally recognized government of Yemen, it has regained control of southern part of the country after Hadi returned from exile. With a de facto capital in Sana'a, a major port in southern Yemen, the government is trying to regain its control of the rest of Yemen. Hadi currently has the support from the majority of Sunni tribesmen who fear against Houthis' Shi'ite rule. His objective in the Yemeni Civil War is to regain control of the whole Yemen and prevent Saleh and the Houthis from gaining political control and legitimacy of the country.

AQAP

This is the most threatening branch of the al-Qaeda group. In 2000, it has sunk USS Cole, while later on successfully executed the Charlie Hebdo attack. AQAP has gained strong local influence through its close relationship with the tribes. Although it has a similar agenda with ISIL, these two jihadist groups are competing over recruitments. As of today, AQAP is stronger in Yemen because ISIL is considered by to be foreign to the region.

Human Rights Watch

Human Rights Watch (HRW), a non-governmental organization that uses investigative journalism to promote human rights, has published many reports that charge both the Saudi-led coalition and Houthis for war crimes and human rights violation. In a summary of Yemeni events in 2015, Houthis and Hadi government are accused of indiscriminant airstrikes, unlawful placement of landmines, and attacks on humanitarian workers. The NGO concluded that "The coalition has unlawfully attacked homes, markets, hospitals, schools, civilian businesses, and mosques." Human Rights Watch have also issued an open letter that questions JIAT's investigative methodology on the "17 coalition attacks involving internationally banned cluster munitions and 61 apparently unlawful coalition airstrikes that caused civilian loss of life and

property, including attacks that may be war crimes." On the contrary, HRW has also claimed in October 2015 that the Houthis have been consistently and unlawfully confiscating food, water, medicine, and cooking supplies of civilians.

United Nations

Throughout the conflict in Yemen, the United Nation's stance has remained consistent. Apart from condemning the Houthis for its takeover of Yemen, the UN has also sponsored peace talks between the rebels and government. Although most Security Council resolutions that pertain to Yemen involve rebukes against the Houthis, Saudi-led coalition has been blacklisted by the United Nations for killing children in Yemen for the past few months. UN has verified more than 325 attacks on schools, health facilities, markets, roads, bridges and even water points. The destruction of Yemen's public infrastructure has produced humanitarian crisis that according to the UN, has left more than 14 million people food insecure, half of whom are severely food insecure. The United Nations has partnered with European Union to provide agricultural support to Yemen in the face of a likely famine in 2017. UN's humanitarian chief, Stephen O'Brien, has urged Saudi coalition to end its blockade and shutdown of Sana'a Airport as it has caused a "disproportionate impact" on civilians according to him, by preventing the delivery of medical aid and access of special medical treatments abroad. Since, the beginning of the conflict, UN has called for ceasefire and peace talks, none of which has yet succeed. As of now, a fresh round of peace talks between both sides have been agreed to be held at the Jordanian capital of Amman.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
February 2012	Ali Abdullah Saleh hands his power over to his vice president, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. At the same time, a unity government is established.
August 2014	The congress was dismissed by Hadi as deadlock was reached. Most who were dismissed are legislators from southern Yemen. This illustrates the divide that Yemen suffers from.
September 2014	Sana'a is now mostly under the control of Houthis after battles and skirmishes.

February 2015	After rejecting draft constitution in January, a presidential council is appointed by the Houthis to replaced president Hadi. As a result, Hadi flees to southern Yemen and leaves the country promptly.
March 2015	With two suicide bombings, ISIL begin its major offense in Yemen. Both attacks targeted Shiite mosques of Zaydi sect.
June 2015	American drone strikes kills the leader of AQAP, Nasser al-Wuhayshi.
September 2015	Hadi returns to Yemen, with a de facto capital in Aden, after returning from his eight-month-long exile in Saudi Arabia.
April 2016	UN sponsored peace talks between the government and Houthis begin.
May and June 2016	ISIL conduct multiple attacks in Yemen and claimed responsibility for them.
January 13, 2017	Human Rights Watch releases and open letter questioning the methodology that JIAT investigates and evaluates war crimes conducted by Saudi-led coalition.
January 2016	Fresh round of peace talks between both sides to be held at Jordan's capital, Amman.

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

● Security Council Resolution 2216 (S/RES/2216) "This resolution demanded the Houthis to withdraw from all seized areas and to relinquish all seized arms, and established an arms embargo on the Houthis and forces loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh."

● Security Council Resolution 2201 (S/RES/2201) "This was a resolution that strongly deplored the Houthis' actions to dissolve parliament on 6 February and take over government institutions and urged the acceleration of negotiations to reach a consensus solution regarding the political impasse."

● Security Council Resolution 2140 (S/RES/2140) "This resolution expressed the Council's strong support for the next steps of the political transition and established sanctions against those threatening the peace, security or stability of Yemen."

- UN sponsored peace talks begin on April 2016

Possible Solutions

Disarming the region

In order for a viable ceasefire between the two sides to take place, the region has to be disarmed to reduce the number of violent armed conflicts. Local disarmament can be achieved through programs that trade in weapons for supplies such as farm equipment. Concurrently, the monitoring of small arms and light weapons (SALW) trade can provide further information on the flow of weapons. This is valuable intelligence that can help undermine weapons black markets that allows local militias to have access to munitions, which help fuel armed conflict.

End the Proxy war

One of the most important factor that caused the situation in Yemen to deteriorate over time is the proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. As both nations fight for regional interest in Yemen by intervening with airstrikes and provision of weapons, the scale of the conflict increases. However, no side appears more victorious, since the intervention of Saudi Arabia and Iran from opposite sides cancel out any progress in the war. Hence, conflict remains in stalemate. Therefore, Saudi Arabia and Iran has to end their intervention in the region because international cooperation and solidarity is needed for progress to be made. For example, war crimes have to be suspended, such as the use of cluster munitions. Doing so not only ends the negative spiral driven by proxy war, but also reduces the intensity of the conflict which can increase the chance that negotiations end in success.

Shared power

The political future of Yemen can be quite difficult to shape due to the division already present in the country. To resolve the issue of geopolitical division, a power sharing government can be established between the Houthis and the Hadi-led government. Unlike previous power-sharing schemes, this new version involves making the northern and southern regions of Yemen more autonomous. This does not mean that the two regions grow independent; instead, the increase in "self-rule" allows greater freedom of governance for regional government to fit the different political climate and ensure peaceful development. This power-sharing system can

resolve the current issue, where regional differences make governance by any region, north or south, unviable due to resulting dissent from the side that does not govern. Hence, as power sharing government can allow the north and south to have a say in their regional affairs, it can help keep the country together in the long term.

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Forum: Security Council

Issue: The Nascent Crusade: Combatting the global jihadi network in North Africa and Europe

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Introduction

North African nations remain divided on the issue of terrorism. Although the African Union (AU) does have a framework in place for dealing with terrorism, it hasn't been enough to unite nations behind a common fight against terrorism. The AU does have a variety of legal and operative frameworks to deal with terrorism, which isn't as applicable to current levels of terrorist activity. Most of these frameworks were created in the 1990s or the early 2000s, thus it was created in a time when North African terrorism wasn't as organized and dangerous.

It is the lack of leadership that is the root cause of the disorganized attempts by African governments to deal with the threat. There has not been one African nation that took a decisive stand against terrorism. Instability in the region that is caused by terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram limit the already unstable reach of African governments

The other aspect of the problem is the lack of European initiative to help address the threat. Although the UK among other nations have given their support, other nations like Germany have instead closed their doors to refugees seeking asylum. Since the series of terrorist attacks that occurred in 2015 and 2016, Europe has become less open for support. Overall, the international community has remained fairly uninvolved in addressing the jihadist terrorist network in North Africa. Most of international focus remains heavily concentrated on the Middle East while Africa continues to face the effects of terrorism without much assistance.

Definition of Key Terms

The "Nascent Crusade"

The "Nascent Crusade" represents the beginning of an international campaign against terrorism. Nascent by definition means just coming into existence and beginning to display signs of future potential. Crusade by definition means a vigorous campaign for political, social or religious change. Various countries in Europe, North Africa and other member nations have already begun combine forces and take part in the Nascent Crusade.

Jihadi

Jihadi refers to a person involved in a jihad, in other words an Islamic militant. Usually a jihadi, or jihadist believes that an Islamic state governing the entire community of Muslims must be created and that this necessity justifies violent conflict with those who stand in the way.

Internet Radicalization

Internet Radicalization is a strategy used by Islamic militants and other terrorist groups in an effort to increase the spread of Islamic ideology. These terrorist groups use propaganda such as social media, chat rooms, or instruction manuals to influence and recruit potential followers.

General Overview

History & Development

Terrorism in Africa isn't a new issue. Although acts of terrorism in the past were not as well organized or far-reaching as groups like Boko Haram and other small groups of extremists. African nations have resorted to using military force to combat these groups without much success while outside western influences merely encourage anti-Western sentiment.

Origins

Like many terrorist organizations before, Africa's terrorist groups like Boko Haram, Al Shabaab, and Ansaru, took advantage of Africa's lack of political stability to set their roots. Despite the fact that they fight under different banners, most terrorist groups share similar ideologies and a common enemy. Anti-americanism that developed from US intervention in Libya and Mali seems to fuel most of these extremist groups.

Africa's history with Europe in which many of Africa's rich resources were taken advantage of, also has an influence on the anti-western views held by these extremists.

Current Expansion

The problem with fighting terrorism in Africa is the fact that even if a terrorist group is dismantled, it is not completely eradicated. This is an issue that African governments have been restrained by. Terrorist groups in Africa share similarities with ISIS in the sense that it is more of ideology than a fighting force. Because of that, terrorist ideologies that originate in Africa has been spreading and influencing people, thereby, sustaining it.

Caption #1: An image of Boko Haram soldiers

Geopolitics

United States

Ever since the 9/11 attacks in 2001, the United States has been deeply committed in fighting in the War on Terrorism. In an effort to combat terrorism, the US has led various coalitions on terrorist groups such as ISIS with the cooperation of other member nations. The United States has agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism that

work towards combatting terrorism domestically and internationally. The United States is also part of other organizations such as the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF).

European Union (EU)

With increased terrorist activity within Europe, European countries such as France, Germany and Turkey have been targeted by terrorist groups. In effort to combat terrorism in Europe, countries within the European Union are committed to jointly fighting terrorism and providing for the best possible protection for its citizens. In 2015, the EU developed a counter-terrorism action plan focused on four pillars: prevent, protect, pursue and respond. Since then, the EU has worked on revising and reforming the action plan with the EU revising the strategy for combatting radicalization and recruitment in 2014 and adopting new rules to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing in 2015.

Egypt

As ISIS continues its brutal campaign in the Middle East, Egypt has stepped up its own war on terror, not only dealing with an escalating jihadist insurgency in its own territory, but calling for a joint Middle Eastern anti-terror force to combat terrorist groups throughout the region. Initially inspired by Al-Qaeda, the Sinai group - which emerged after the 2011 Egyptian revolution - has now pledged itself to ISIS, sharing not only ideologies but resources as well which is used to battle the Egyptian army. As a member of the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the GTCF, Egypt plays an active role in the counter-terrorism process internationally.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
1994	Organization of African Unity (OAU) adopts a declaration that rejects all form of extremism as a criminal act
1999	OAU Convention adopts legal framework regarding terrorism

2002   Boko Haram is created

September, 2002   African Union (AU) Plan for Combatting Terrorism

September, 2016   ISIS begins to expand into Africa

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Besides passing various resolutions, treaties and events, the United Nations also has a committee within the Security Council dealing with counter-terrorism named the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. With the adoption of the Global Counterterrorism Strategy in 2006, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has been actively working on implementing this strategy. The UN Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) also provides capacity-building assistance to member states and carries out counter-terrorism projects around the world.

- UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) Creation of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC)
- UN Global Counterterrorism Strategy 2006
- UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (September 2014)
- UN Security Council Resolution 2195 (December 2014)
- UN Security Council Resolutions 2255 & 2253 (December 2015)

Possible Solutions

In the issue of combating the global jihadi network in North Africa and Europe, there lies various possible solutions that should address all aspects of the issue. The first solution would be to prevent the illicit trade of resources and weapons between terrorist groups and potential supporters by cutting off the trade and supply line between terrorist groups and any potential suppliers in order to prevent the circulation of weapons, information, and resources. To do this, increasing the frequency and effectiveness of security checks in trade areas, black markets, and ports as well as security on weapon storage would all be crucial in preventing terrorists from gaining access to weapons. Delegates should think of ways to incentivize member nations, corporations, and any potential weapon suppliers against the illicit trade of weapons.

Seeing as the one of the global jihadi network's main focus is to increase recruitment and internet radicalization, delegates must think of ways to combat this aim. Ways to do so may include raising awareness of the situation at hand by utilizing counter-propaganda on social media and shutting down chat groups used by terrorist groups. Increasing censorship on propaganda used by terrorist groups is yet again another solution. One must also take into consideration of those living in conflict areas and how the international community can prevent terrorist groups from forcibly recruiting children or refugees. In combatting against terrorist groups, besides the use of propaganda, military action is also another possible method. Deploying or extending already existing mandates of UN peacekeepers or creating coalitions, especially between countries in Africa would be another way to increase regional stability and cooperation between countries.

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