



Beaconhouse Margalla Islamabad  
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# Disarmament and International Security Committee

## Disarmament and International Security Committee

The UN General Assembly consists of 30 committees, the first of which is the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). DISEC deals with issues regarding the promotion, establishment, and subsequent maintenance of global peace while simultaneously working to prevent weapons proliferation. According to Article 26 of the UN Charter, its mandate is "to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources." Although DISEC is unable to impose sanctions, authorize armed intervention, or pass binding resolutions, DISEC has submitted recommendations to the United Nations Security Council and to the UN Secretariat on several occasions. Thus, DISEC is one the main UN actors currently playing a considerable role in the vision for global peace.

## Combatting the Threat of ISIS

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## **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, PAST RESOLUTIONS, AND THE ORIGINS OF ISIS/ISIL/IS**

Based on a renewed motivation, following the coordinated terrorist attacks in the United States of America on September 11 2001, the USA, has led the way for a strong global anti-terrorist movement. Since then, the United Nations Security Council initially has passed a resolution to that effect<sup>6</sup>. The aim of this resolution was to unify this anti-terrorist front, by urging all member states to share operational information and to fully cooperate in the eradication of terrorist forces, as well as cracking down on any suspected support of terrorist movements. Although this is not the first anti-terrorist movement, as indicated in earlier resolutions (Resolution 1189 from 1998), the '9/11' attacks certainly contributed towards a renewed motivation for an anti-terrorist movement.

Since '9/11', Western nations have been in constant conflict with various terrorist groups. In 2002, a Jordanian national, by the name of Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi created *Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad* in 2002. *Jama'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad* was a militant Islamist terrorist group that brutally murdered and beheaded a number of foreign nationals and local people in Iraq following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, and which subsequently made its leader Al-Zarqawi the most wanted man in Iraq. The creation of this organization significantly added to the already established Islamist terrorist movement in the Middle East. Two years later, after the US-led invasion of Iraq was well under way, the faction pledged loyalty to Osama Bin Laden and became Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). Soon after Al-Zarqawi's death, AQI created a more comprehensive organization called the Islamic State in Iraq (ISI). At this time, ISI was quite weak due to restrictions imposed on it by Al Qaeda as well as the presence of the American military. However under a new leadership in 2010, led by Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, the organization evolved quite considerably, and by 2013 the group had become a formidable force in Iraq, and also had joined forces with the Syrian rebels against Bashar Al-Assad in Syria. In 2014, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) was formed and over the course of the year, had slowly gained power and overtaken major parts of Iraq.

Their violent initiative to conquer parts of Iraq has added a new dimension to this organization, which has become infamous for their brutality as well as for their accumulation of wealth and land in Iraq. The United States began to regret its decision to leave the country unprotected and has initiated a coalition campaign against ISIS. However, the idea of a coalition has been met with debate, controversy, and hesitancy from the rest of the world. Although many countries agree that ISIS as a threat needs to be contained, there is a lot of talk about how exactly this containment can be achieved. There are still constant updates towards the collation and its respective members.

In recent months, the Security Council of the United Nations has met a number of times to discuss this issue, as well as the inherent questions and problems involved. The UN has addressed these issues by condemning the actions of ISIS as well as encouraging all member states to eradicate the terrorist group's violent actions. All relevant past resolutions within their respective subject areas can be found In the Security Council's 2170 (2014) resolution.

## **BRIEF HISTORY OF IRAQ**

In the aftermath of WWI the Ottoman Empire was divided by way of the treaty of Sevres. The League of Nations placed Iraq under British mandate. A Hashimite monarchy was established a Sunni Arab elite was appointed for government, disregarding Shi'ite and Kurdish claims of independence. In 1932, marking the end of the mandate, Iraq became independent, only to be occupied once again by Britain during WWII.

The Hashimite monarchy was overthrown in 1958 in a military coup led by Brig Abd-al-Karim Qasim and ColAbd-al-Salam Muhammad Arif. Thus, Iraq was declared a republic. In July 1979 the president, Ahmed Hasan Al-Bakr, was replaced by Saddam Hussein, his vice president. Saddam proceeded to purge his political rivals in order to secure his position and power.

In 1980, the Iran-Iraq war broke out. Saddam had no intention of deteriorating his relations to Iran and even welcomed the ascent of Ayatollah Khomeini. Nevertheless, as the Iranian Revolution threatened to spread across the border and territorial disputes arose, Saddam declared war on Iran. The war lasted until 1988 and brought about no territorial gains on either side, however an estimated one million lives were lost. 1988 marks not only the end of the war with Iran, but also the genocidal campaign conducted against Iraqi Kurds. The chemical weapons, such as mustard gas and sarin used in the process killed thousands.

## **THE INVASION OF US IN IRAQ**

During World War I, Iraq sided with Germany and eventually fell under British control after the war. After that, Iraq experienced several changes in government until in 1979, when Saddam Hussein came to power as President. At the time, the US supported Hussein. Due to the Iran hostage situation, the US was out of sorts with Iran, and therefore gladly sold Iraq millions of dollars' worth of US weapons, to back it in the Iraq- Iran war (1980).

In 1982, the US State Department, headed by President Ronald Reagan, removed Iraq from its list of states supporting international terrorism despite opposition by certain congress members. In 1990, Iraq invaded Kuwait. Iraq's economy was hurting at the time due to the recent war with Iran. It accused Kuwait of cheating it of its share of the Rumaila oil field and claimed to be aggravated by Kuwait's uncompromising attitude in negotiations regarding the islands of Bubiyan and Warbah, strategically situated near the Iraqi naval base of Umm Qasr. Hussein's invasion was successful, and he declared Kuwait to be a part of Iraq.

The UN strongly objected to this, and responded by creating a coalition of countries, and building up forces in Saudi Arabia. The First Gulf War began. Operation "Desert Storm" was primarily full of air attacks against Iraq, which lasted for 100 days, as Iraqi armed forces were destroyed very quickly, and they hastily retreated from Kuwait. Following Kuwait's liberation, the UN appointed a five-member boundary commission to demarcate the Kuwait- Iraq boundary.

In 1993, the CIA intelligence agency apparently discovered Hussein's covert plan to assassinate former President George H.W. Bush. As a result of this, US – Iraq relations turned cold, and the US launched an operation called "Desert Fox". The US started making several allegations against Iraq throughout the years, with special reference to Iraq's secret weapon laboratories and uranium acquisition, insinuating Iraq's stockpiling motives. In 2002, the UNSC passed resolution 1441, offering Iraq a —final opportunity to comply with its disarmament obligations.

Another factor that played a pivotal role in the invasion was oil. Oil was an issue because Iraq's oil revenues meant that Hussein would always have the resources to foment trouble in the region, would always be difficult to remove through internal opposition, and would always use petrodollar influence to undermine U.N. resolutions, spike world oil prices, or distort Western solidarity. However, many are certain that the invasion was planned with the ulterior motive of seizing Iraq's wealth of oil resources.



## **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN USA AND IRAQ**

The period during the US invasion of Iraq was not uneventful, to say the least. Rather than initially boosting the US public image, due to news such as grotesque abuses of Iraqi detainees by U.S. soldiers, the invasion undermined it, spiking domestic and foreign criticism of the US's decision to invade Iraq. The occupation forces were unable to thwart a wave of lawlessness and violence that destabilized Iraq in just weeks subsequent to Hussein's downfall.

The US's attempt to organize popular elections for a new government within 90 days failed miserably. Within months, the US faced a debilitating insurgency across Iraq. This seemed to come from three sources: the Sunnis, Shiite militias, and non – Iraqi Islamists who infiltrated Iraq due to their deep-seated hatred for the US. Suicide attacks, sniper fires, car bombs and roadside bombs were commonplace, and killed several US soldiers, more than those who had died during the invasion itself. The annual costs to the US treasury rose dramatically, and the security situation in the US itself worsened because of anti-US attacks.

The US established the CPA (Coalition Provisional Authority) to govern Iraq. The CPA transferred full governmental authority to the Iraqi Interim Government in 2004. In 2005, millions of Iraqis participated in a democratic election. There was a clash between the growing insurgency and the quest to democratize Iraq, which came to a head in 2006. President Bush, in a strategic initiative known as the "surge", increased the number of GIs in Iraq and ordered them to reform their modes of operation and engage in political initiatives designed to gain goodwill. US forces

used diplomacy, persuasion and aid to mobilize various factions to fight against insurgent groups.

By 2008, the surge seemed to succeed. The presence of US troops partially suppressed Iraq's internal political, military and economic challenges. Obama took office in 2009 and gradually concluded US military presence in Iraq. He ended combat operations in 2010, and according to a formerly signed SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement), withdrew them all in 2011.

## **SITUATION IN IRAQ AND SYRIA**

Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), a predominantly Sunni jihadist group, seeks to sow civil unrest in Iraq and the Levant with the aim of establishing a caliphate—a single, transnational Islamic state based on sharia. The group emerged in the ashes of the U.S.-led invasion to oust Saddam Hussein as al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), and the insurgency that followed provided it with fertile ground to wage a guerrilla war against coalition forces and their domestic allies.

Since the withdrawal of U.S. forces in late 2011, the group has increased attacks on mainly Shiite targets in what is seen as an attempt to reignite conflict between Iraq's Sunni minority and the Shiite-dominated government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Burgeoning violence in 2013 left nearly eight thousand civilians dead, making it Iraq's bloodiest year since 2008, according to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, in 2012 the group adopted its new moniker, ISIS (sometimes translated as Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL) as an expression of its broadened ambitions as its fighters have crossed into neighboring Syria to challenge both the Assad regime and secular and Islamist opposition groups there.

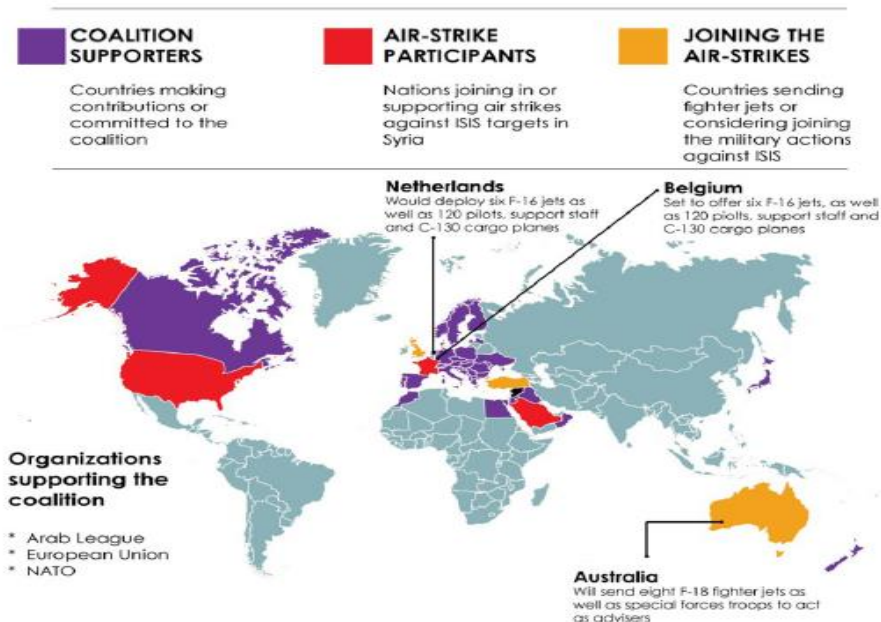
In the summer of 2014, ISIS took over a considerable part of Iraq, that of Mosul in the north of the country. The over-throw of the Mosul local government demonstrates the fragility of the country following the withdrawal of American troops, who had been present in the country for almost a decade. Before ISIS began to attack Iraq, they took over a number of cities in war-torn Syria. At the time, they did not receive a lot of media coverage specifically as they were considered as one of the many 'rebel Syrian groups'. Despite this, they were a remarkably strong threat and before they began posting their infamous beheading videos online, they would imprison them, or simply make their enemies disappear. Since the start of 2013, and possibly even before, they have been regarded as a considerable threat, but there was very limited information, if any at all, concerning ISIS before this period, as they were considered as a rebel group, as previously mentioned. By December 2013, they had already controlled a large number of Syrian cities.



Currently, ISIS controls many areas all around Iraq, including Mosul, its second-largest city, and Samarra, the first city captured overall on June 5 2014. At the time, the rest of the world had not as yet singled out ISIS, as it was widely reported that ‘Sunni Militants’ had taken over Samarra leaving around 6 dead. The next day, June 6, ISIS began their assault on Mosul and by the June 9 they controlled the whole city. Over the next few weeks, ISIS captured many more cities, including Deir el-Zour and Tikrit. They also attacked and destroyed a police station in Baiji. After a few more weeks, ISIS came to control more and more areas of Iraq (as shown in the image above). There have been several attempts to regain control of many of these cities by Bashar el Assad’s forces, as well as the US-led Coalition.

Inevitably, one might say in light of the prevalent doctrine of Responsibility to Protect (R2P), the United States of America fostered support and eventually forged a coalition determined to destroy the threat of ISIS. The list of supporters ranges from big contributors such as the USA and the UK to nations like Bahrain and Lithuania – the measures taken against IS are equally diverse, including air strikes and weapon shipments as well as intelligence sharing and internal bans of groups financially or organisationally supporting IS. Some successes have already been achieved by this multi-faceted approach, the Kurdish Peshmerga forces were able to secure the Mosul Dam and other parts of critical infrastructure, and religious minorities like the Yazidis have been defended more or less successfully.

## Countries in the anti-ISIS coalition



Only very recently, on 2nd October 2014, the Turkish parliament has agreed to join the US-led coalition. This is ground-breaking development because Turkey is now the first coalition-member to border the battle zone and could soon deploy troops to cross the border and relieve the flanks of both Kurdish Peshmerga and Syrian rebels. At the same time, Turkey has its very own interests in keeping the possibility



of a stronger Kurdish spirit as low as possible. Regardless whether one regards Turkey’s behaviour as ethically wrong or politically smart, it is a brinkmanship that all nations present in this Council need to take into account.

Furthermore, Iraq, one of the two states concerned by IS operations, is highly unstable and saw its armed forces disperse in the face of IS attacks. In doing so Iraq has abandoned a great deal of US military equipment, ranging from tanks over mortars to modern assault rifles. This weaponry, now in the possession of IS, has drastically increased the fighting power of the group. Crucial mistakes such as the inadvertent airdrop of supplies by the Iraqi Air Force to IS troops reveal that Iraq’s military is unreliable and consistently unorganized.



The idea of the coalition began when the United States of America wanted to confirm that it would not be the only country fighting against ISIS. For fear of repeating what some have deemed to be a grave error on the part of the U.S.A, the American government intends to gain international support from the world, and avoid criticism for their work in Iraq. Currently, many countries in the region are involved in the coalition, such as but not limited to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Turkey, Jordan, Egypt, Qatar and Bahrain.

However, the coalition’s strategy of using regional powers is not foolproof. There have been reports of Saudi Arabian pilots refusing to participate in air attacks against ISIS due to their support for the military group. The online popularity of ISIS must also be recognized. They have used social media to their advantage in ensuring that they gain popularity. Therefore, how successful can a coalition be if this popularity is ignored? In addition, the coalition has not mentioned any solutions to the problem of revitalizing Iraq and Syria after ISIS is defeated.

# **THE HUMANITARIAN CONSEQUENCES OF ISIS' ACTIONS**

ISIS is well known for its brutality, particularly its violent beheadings of hostages. Such crimes will have unbelievable consequences for Iraq and Syria. Former ISIS members, who are now in prison, have spoken at length about the brutality and inhumane actions of the ISIS militant group. Such brutality includes avoiding “easy kill[s]” and ensuring that people whom ISIS regards as enemies, are tortured and killed slowly. They refrain from using quick and easy bullets to the head, and instead are more prone to severing limbs, as well as beheadings. Former combatants of the group have claimed that they were given hallucinogens and various other drugs that would render them fearless and careless during battle. The same prisoner who made this claim also stated that women who did cover their faces would be beheaded accordingly. Some prisoners have stated that they have previously been paid to fight alongside ISIS. These claims are difficult to verify, but the brutal beheadings by ISIS on the other hand, can be verified, as videos demonstrating such acts have been posted on social media. Based on previous examples, many videos have shown hostages moments before being beheaded; the purpose of these videos appear to be two-fold.

ISIS is also affecting families. Children are actively being recruited into ISIS, and it has been confirmed that children under the age of thirteen are being trained and used in military operations. Many families in Syria worry that ISIS may recruit their children, when they gather local children together and give them speeches about the legitimacy of their movement and put on propaganda shows. It is not just Muslim families who are terrified at the prospect of ISIS, but also Christians. Generally speaking, many Christians in the areas they have taken over by ISIS are being given three choices: convert to Islam, pay the jizya, or be executed. They have been told that the jizya is a protection tax for non-believers. Around twenty-three Christian families in Raqqa have been asked to pay the jizya. This is just another example of the many reasons why families of all creeds in these areas are terrified by ISIS.

In addition to this, a large number of Kurdish students are living in fear at what may happen to them should they walk about the streets. A notable example of this was when 10 minibuses filled with approximately 180 students were captured on their way to an exam in Aleppo. These students, all boys aged 14-16 and originally from Kobani, located on the Turkish-Syrian border, were subsequently isolated from their families, placed in a school and forced to learn ISIS propaganda. Living in or near Syria is now becoming increasingly unsafe, and this has had significant consequences on neighboring countries.



Due to the fear of fighting between ISIS and Bashar EL Assad's forces, even more Syrians have fled to Turkey. ISIS's significant advances have led to an estimated 150,000 refugees fleeing in the last two weeks of September alone. These refugees cross the border from Syria into Turkey en masse in an attempt to flee the terror caused by ISIS. Turkey estimates that around 2-3 million refugees may enter Turkey if ISIS or Bashar Al-Assad attacks any more Syrian cities, such as Aleppo or the surrounding areas.

## **UN INVOLVEMENT**

In a recent speech US President Barack Obama stated that 'if you threaten America, you will find no safe haven'. Traditionally speaking, however, there has been little meaningful discourse within the United Nations with regards to terrorist acts, mainly because of the definitional question of what defines a terrorist and a terrorist act. As such, proposals for a Comprehensive Convention on International

Terrorism that would also tackle issues such as the illicit financing and support of terrorist groups have definitely been discussed since 1996, but to this day no agreement has been reached. Indeed, the very question whether IS is a 'terrorist army' or a competing player in the geopolitical game depends on the definition of these terms.

Against this background, the UNSC has remarkably passed resolutions that also concern IS. The two most recent resolutions are Resolution 2170 (2014) and Resolution 2178 (2014). The former includes the decision to freeze assets of six individuals within groups such as al-Qaida, IS, and the Al-Nusrah Front, and more generally interrupt the flow of financial support – it also paved the way to taking 'national measures to suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters'.

The latter more strongly focuses on the issue of foreign fighters in the ranks of terrorist groups, specifically advocating that particularly the states in the region should intensify co-operation to control borders. Furthermore, it includes sections for preventive behaviour, advising that member states should 'engage relevant communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative'.

Overall, UN involvement has not thus far resulted in tangible results – many decisions have been made outside the UN in multilateral agreements and international cooperation (See Past and Recent Developments) and as such the UN has been left to engage with topics that would only have less immediate effects, such as financing and border security.

The lack of visible results has not kept the political watch-dogs from scrutinising the current political agenda of the Security Council; the most recent 'anti-terror resolution' does, legally speaking, not only refer to ISIS and other groups like Khorasan, but has a broader scope that could be abused by different nations for different reasons. The notion that Russia, China, and various Western states could agree on an anti-terror resolution indicates that the framework is extremely broad, which in turn worried many political commentators that it could be abused for other state operations against undesired groups.

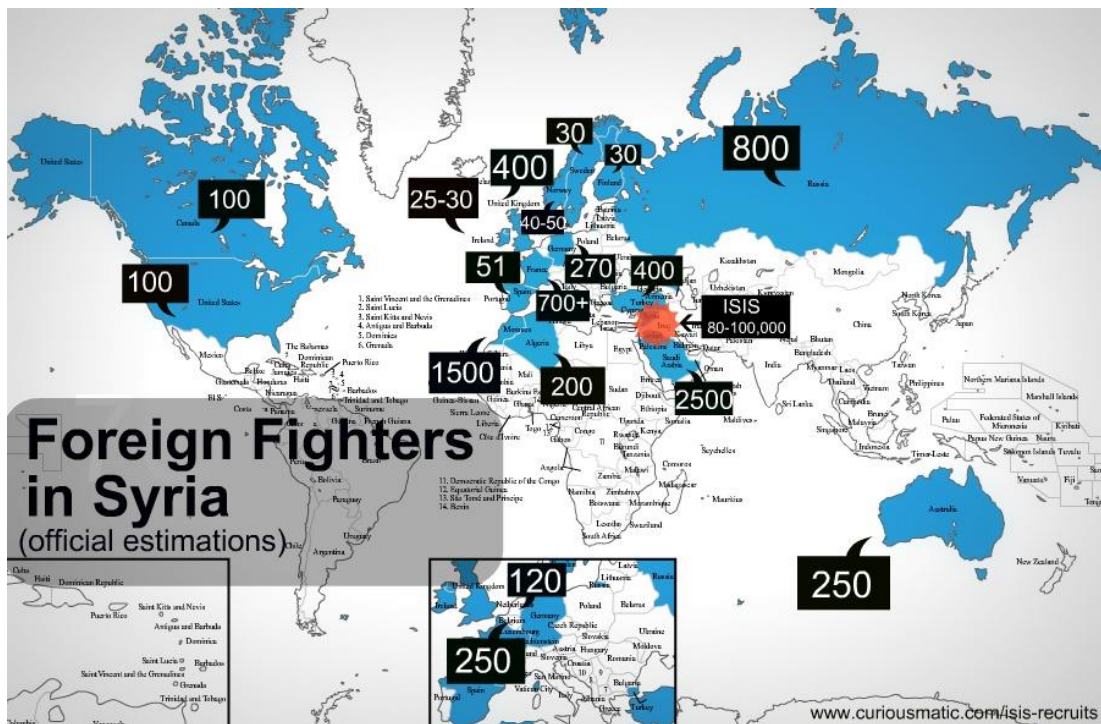
## **FOREIGN FIGHTERS IN IRAQ AND SYRIA**

Islamic State fighters - among them many foreign jihadists - have a reputation for brutality. Atrocities allegedly committed by those in the group's ranks include kidnappings, beheadings, crucifixions, and torture and summary executions. International investigators gathering evidence against Islamic State fighters have built up a detailed picture of how IS operates, with self-appointed leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi at the helm.

Directly beneath him are four advisory councils: Sharia (Islamic law); Shura (consultation); military and security. The latter two are the most powerful. This one-plus-four structure is then duplicated down the chain of command to local level.

The US Central Intelligence Agency believes IS may have up to 31,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria - three times as many as previously thought. Among them are foreign recruits - the number of whom has surged since IS declared itself a caliphate in the summer, international investigators say. Figures from the London-based International Centre for the Study of Radicalization and Political Violence (ICSR) and the New York-based Soufan Group show an estimated 12,000 fighters from almost 80 countries have travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight with extremist groups.





Some have travelled from as far away as China, Canada and Australia. Australian officials believe at least 60 of the country's citizens are fighting with jihadist groups in Syria and northern Iraq. Others suggest the figure could be as high as 250.

On 18 September, police in Sydney arrested 15 people and charged one with conspiracy to prepare a terrorist attack following armed raids across the city. It followed reports of a plot to carry out "demonstration killings" by Islamic extremists, including a public beheading.

## TIMELINE OF ISIS RELATED EVENTS:

April 2013:

- ISIS as an organization is officially established and introduced with the bombing of Iraqi Kurds

January 2014:

- ISIS begins making advancements in the Iraqi towns Fallujah and Ramadi in the Anbar Province.

June 2014:

- ISIS continues to spread and manages to capture Iraq's second largest city, Mosul.
- US sends troops to help protect American embassy in Baghdad
- Iraq asks US to conduct air strikes

- ISIS proclaims that it is establishing a caliphate and names their caliph as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

August 2014:

- President Obama authorizes air strikes to protect US personnel
- Video of the murder of American, James Foley is posted
- Make advancements in Syria including capturing a government air base

September 2014:

- Video of the murder of American, Steven Sotloff is posted
- Arab League condemns behavior of ISIS and similar terrorist organizations
- Video of the murder of British, David Haines is posted
- US launches more airstrikes

October 2014:

- Video of the murder of British, Alan Henning is posted
- November 2014:
- ISIS militants claim to have beheaded American hostage Peter Kassig in a video published to the Internet.
- December 2014:
- The Iraqi government and the leadership of the Kurdish Region sign a deal on sharing Iraq's oil wealth and military resources, amid hopes that the agreement will help to reunite the country in the face of the common threat represented by Islamic State.

January 2015:

- The US-led coalition against Islamic State is reported to have launched more than 900 air strikes against militant targets in Iraq since the campaign began.
- Posted online is a video of hostage Kenji Goto, holding a photo of beheaded hostage Haruna Yukawa.
- ISIS releases a video online showing the decapitated body of journalist Kenji Goto.

February 2015:

- Video and still images posted online by ISIS supporters apparently show Jordanian military pilot Moath al Kasasbeh being burned alive while confined in a cage.
- Jordanian fighter jets carry out airstrikes over Syria, reportedly hitting ISIS training centers and arms and ammunition depots in ISIS's de facto capital, Raqqa.
- U.S. President Barack Obama asks Congress to formally authorize use of military force against ISIS.
- "Jihadi John," the disguised man with a British accent who appears in ISIS videos as the executioner of Western hostages, has been identified as Mohammed Emwazi, a Kuwaiti-born Londoner.

March 2015:

- ISIS releases images of a man thrown off a building as punishment for being gay.
- Boko Haram, the Islamist militant group in northern Nigeria pledges allegiance to ISIS. ISIS accepts.
- ISIS takes responsibility for a suicide bombing that kills 137 people and wounds over 300 in Yemen.
- ISIS uses the town of Tataouine, a Tunisian town that inspired the Star Wars city of Tattooine, as a waypoint to cross into Libya.
- US-led coalition begins air strikes on the Iraqi city of Tikrit.

April 2015:

- Iraq declares victory over ISIS in Tikrit.
- Iraqi government declares Tikrit free of ISIS forces.
- Fighters in ISIS' Wilayat Khorasan province claim responsibility for a suicide bombing in Afghanistan that kills 33 people and injures over 100.
- ISIS produces a video showing the shooting and beheadings of two groups of prisoners, who are identified as Ethiopian Christians.

May 2015:

- It is reported that Al-Baghdadi is recovering in Mosul
- ISIS kills 300 Yazidi captives in Iraq.
- The group claims an attack in Garland, Texas, where two gunmen opened fire on a contest to draw the Prophet Mohamed.
- Abu Alaa Afri, the deputy leader of ISIS, is killed in US-led coalition air strike.
- US Special Ops kill Abu Sayaaf, a senior ISIS commander, and capture his wife.
- ISIS seizes the city of Ramadi in Iraq. Over 500 people are killed.
- ISIS takes control of the ancient city of Palmyra, Syria.
- The group claims it has seized the Libyan Air Force airport in Sirte.

June 2015:

- A militant posts a "selfie" online, which leads the US military to identify and perform air strikes on a compound, destroying it in the process.
- ISIS closes the gates of a dam in Ramadi.
- ISIS captures 10 Taliban militants in Afghanistan and beheads them.
- Syrian Kurdish fighters take the town of Tell Abyad from ISIS.
- Kurds take back a key base north of Raqqa from ISIS fighters. On the same day, a video emerges showing a group of hostages being split into three, before some are executed using a rocket-propelled grenade, others are drowned in a cage and the rest are beheaded using electrical charges. Militants begin destroying ancient monuments in the ancient city of Palmyra.

July 2015:



- ISIS released a video showing the execution of 25 Syrian regime soldiers on the Palmyra amphitheater stage.

## COUNTERING THE EFFECT OF ISIS/ISIL/IS IN THE NEW WORLD ARCHITECTURE

Countering the actions of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant cannot be achieved by only one nation. Although member states have particular interests within this topic and have paid particular attention to any pertaining issues, the coalition and efforts tackling the problem have become international issues. Any decisions regarding ISIS need to be made with a thorough understanding of the complexity and depth of the situation and the issues involved and there is no easy solution at hand. It requires a comprehensive understanding of the different positions involved as well as an assessment of any possible risks as a result of any particular decision. ISIS is not the same as Al-Qaeda; they are more organized and more brutal, they have outshone their parent group in many ways, and action must be taken with the tools of today, such as new technology and weaponry.

A prime example of the new tactics used by ISIS includes a heavy reliance on social media, and they are unparalleled in the use of propaganda. Not only do they use social media platforms to promote their ideals, but they have also used them to successfully recruit many people, including a number of US citizens like Douglas McCain from Minnesota who died in Syria last August. They have also attempted to recruit three teenage girls from Denver.



There must also be diplomatic solutions to the problem of ISIS, particularly in maintaining peace following their eventual elimination from the areas involved. These solutions and any subsequent questions will need to be answered by the world as a whole. This topic is the epitome of cross-border challenges, particularly as the issue includes the new land borders created by ISIS as well as the fact that many countries from around the world are involved in the fight against the organization. The borders created by ISIS are, of course, not recognized by any nation; mainly due to the fact no nation has recognized ISIS as a state. ISIS does not respect borders and is not operating within a single state, increasing the international element of this topic. Currently, many nations around the world are vigorously combatting ISIS as can be seen throughout this guide.

## **SUMMARY**

It is difficult to overstate the size of the challenge at hand; if IS is treated with inertia and a distinct lack of assertiveness, it could not only consolidate its stand in the region, it could also become a threat to the Kurdish people as much as to 'moderate' Syrian rebels. Conversely, if the UN decides to indulge in the dreams of R2P, this could further increase the Middle East's level of alienation towards the West and, again, destroy all previous efforts of sustainable state-building.

The issue per se is best described by the formation and development of IS; Ra-cial tensions, competing religious interpretations, economic depression, lack of central governance, and clashing interests of the global players have fuelled a fire that, thus far, proves to be difficult to extinguish. The attractiveness of IS to foreign fight-ers questions the very constitution of Western societies, touching upon notions of alienation, integration, and censorship.

Similarly, IS has shown its determination to engage in state-building by setting up a functioning government as well as active public institutions, offering a very strict, but ordered home to people who have previously had to fear sectarian clashes. IS has also been reported on having daily oil revenues of up to \$3 Million – in combination with external financiers a multi-prong approach has to be found to stop IS from gradually increasing its wealth and influence.

Despite the worldwide acknowledgement that IS is a threat to global security, basic questions about the strength of the group's military both in terms of quality and quantity are still disputed and strongly change from source to source. IS is very much an unknown variable, then, because no one knows what exactly it possesses and, more importantly, what it could further mobilise if it was brought in a position to do so.

## **Questions Delegates must answer:**

1. How can the UN come up with a general framework for military intervention in the current situation?
2. Is it possible to isolate the Iraqi Situation from the Syrian Civil War?
3. How can the UN prevent the free flow of weapons and money coming from individuals in other countries?
4. Acknowledging these transfers already exist in case of Syria and Iraq, how can the accountability be strengthened in order to avoid arming ISIS?
5. Are personal sanctions on these donors the best method to punish and avoid ISIS support?
6. Would any kind of foreign intervention be considered legitimate by: The UN / the public / the people who are ultimately affected in the region?
7. Can ISIS be defeated from inside? What can be done to rescue hostages from ISIS?
8. How can the UNSC address the humanitarian aspects of this issue?
9. What sustainable solutions can the UNSC implement to effectively confront this issue?
10. How can the online propaganda of ISIS be dealt with sufficiently?
11. What further involvement can countries take to eliminate the threat of ISIS?
12. What can countries do to rehabilitate Iraq and Syria after the elimination of ISIS?
13. What measures can member nations implement to ensure that ISIS is eradicated for good?
14. What regional and international contributions can be implemented in order to stabilize the Iraqi government?
15. In what ways can the root causes of ISIS be resolved from Iraq and Syria?
16. What precautions can be taken to ensure that a similar force like ISIS does not form?

## **SUGGESTED READINGS**

1. View the UN press statement on the resolution which includes the text of the resolution:  
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2001/sc7158.doc.htm>
2. See the debate about Turkey's position in the Coalition: <http://www.ibtimes.com/nato-coalition-against-isis-turkey-role-mostly-symbolic-1680708>
3. Resolution 2170 (2014):  
[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2170%20\(2014\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2170%20(2014))
4. Video report on international ISIS recruits: <http://cnn.it/1xxSWxj>

5. "A Visual Guide To the Crisis in Iraq and Syria":  
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