



SIMUN X

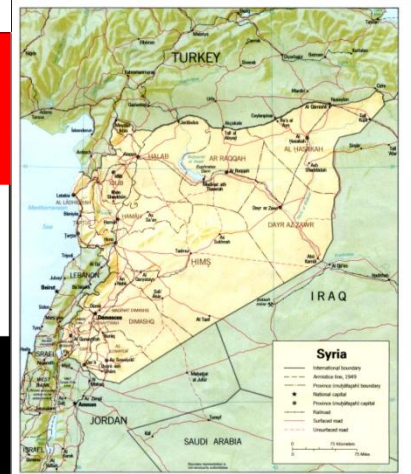
St. Ignatius Model United Nations

Tenth Annual Conference

Security Council

November 5, 2011

St. Ignatius College Prep | Chicago, IL



United Nations Security Council

SIMUN X: 2011

Chair: Billy Fitzsimmons **Political Officer:** Chris Gallo
Vice Chair: Christopher Scott



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Saint Ignatius College Prep and welcome to SIMUN X.

My name is Billy Fitzsimmons and I am a senior at Saint Ignatius. I joined freshman year, took a break my sophomore year, and became very involved my junior year. I love every minute of Model UN, and I am currently on the Model UN Exec Board at Saint Ignatius. I will be your chair for the Security Council and I am thrilled for the conference. I want to see delegates who can think outside the box, have substantive debate, and work with others to create strong resolutions. Outside of Model UN, I am on the Crew team, which practices year round. I am also on the Scholastic Bowl team and Liturgy Council.

My name is Chris Gallo and I am a senior here, at Saint Ignatius. I started participating in Model UN my sophomore year and have enjoyed every minute of it. Model UN at Ignatius is a great community and a great place to grow as a student and as a person. I am your Political Officer for SIMUN X in the Security Council and am extremely excited to see what kind of potential talent we have in our area. Get ready for some great debate and an awesome conference! Outside of Model UN I am extremely involved in the Ignatius community. I am a Director on the Saint Ignatius Student Council Executive Board as well as an Executive Board member on Pack Pride (our school Pride club). I write an article for the school newspaper, I am a member of the Pro Life Club and I have played Volleyball since freshman year.

My name is Christopher Scott, and I am a Sophomore at Saint Ignatius. I joined Model UN last year and it has been an excellent experience. To me, Model UN is a fantastic way to meet people and learn about current events at the same time. I am your Vice Chair, and I am also looking forward to seeing your debate and speech skills as well as your knowledge of foreign politics. At Saint Ignatius, I am a writer for the newspaper, a member of the Speech team, and a lector for the Liturgy Council.

The United Nations Security Council was created after World War II with five permanent members. The United States, Great Britain, Russia, France, and China all hold permanent membership and are able to veto any propositions. There are also ten non-permanent members elected every two years. These include, Germany, India, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gabon, Brazil, Lebanon, Nigeria, Portugal, South Africa. The Security Council is tasked with maintaining peace and security internationally. You must research your countries' positions on the following issues and take a stand.

Thank you all for participating in our conference. We are all truly excited to see what all of you have to bring to the table. We want you to learn and further your experience as a student of the UN so please speak up and speak often. We want you to learn and we will be glad to help you in any way possible. If you need anything pre or post- conference you can contact us through our school Emails. They are as follows:

william.fitzsimmons@students.ignatius.org

christopher.gallo@students.ignatius.org

christopher.scott@students.ignatius.org

Good luck and enjoy SIMUN X!

Your Chair, Political Officer, and Vice Chair

Security Council Background Guide

Topic 1: Situation in Syria 2011

After decades of living under oppressive conditions, citizens of many Middle Eastern countries have risen up and taken a stand against their authoritarian leaders. Rebellions started in Tunisia, when citizens became tired of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's 23 year reign. His repressive regime, coupled with high unemployment, food inflation, corruption, and lack of political freedoms, pushed the citizens of Tunisia to the limit. On December 17th, a Tunisian citizen, named Mohamed Bouazizi, had his unlicensed produce cart confiscated by a female police officer. After attempting to pay the fine, the officer slapped him, spit in his face, and insulted his deceased father. Bouazizi later doused himself in gasoline, lit himself on fire in front of a government building, and the incident was placed across the internet. Public outrage grew and protests occurred across the country. Twenty eight days later, Ben Ali was removed from office. The Tunisian rebellion inspired actions across the Arab world. It spread to Egypt, where Hosni Mubarak was removed from office. Uprisings and protests have occurred in Syria, Bahrain, Yemen, Algeria, and Libya. The situation in Libya was a unique one because it was the only rebellion supported by the west. At the start of the conflict in Libya, Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi responded violently to the protests by ordering soldiers to shoot at protestors. Soldiers who refused were executed. Eventually western nations intervened and froze Gaddafi's assets and The United Nations Security Council declared a no fly zone in Libya. Shortly after, NATO aircrafts and tomahawk missiles destroyed air and ground defense systems. While the UN has taken action in Libya, the current conditions in Syria are not far off.

The current President of the Syrian Arab Republic is Bashar al-Assad. Bashar al-Assad became president in 2000 following the death of his father, Hafez al-Assad, who ruled for 29 years prior. Under Bashar, there have been numerous human rights issues. Amnesty International, has details that the secret police, under Bashar, regularly tortured, imprisoned, and killed political opposition. Websites such as Youtube, Facebook, and Wikipedia Arabic were banned under Bashar from 2008 to February 2011. Syria frequently uses travel bans, and is the worst offender among Arab States. These travel bans are illegal under international law.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) stated that as of July 31 2011, 1,500 civilians and 350 security personnel have been killed since March. Along with that 12,600 people have been imprisoned and 3,000 people are reported missing. While BBC has stated that 1,500 civilians have been killed, news sources differ because foreign news sources are not allowed in the country. Also amidst the violence, the Syrian government continues deny the brutality and accuses foreign backed extremists and armed criminal gangs for stirring up trouble. Throughout the various protests, citizens demanded political reform, reinstatement of civil rights, and an end to the state of emergency which was being going on since 1963.

The protests in Syria began on January 26th, and were influenced by the numerous protests in other countries across the Middle East. On the 26th Hasan Al-Hasakah set himself on fire as a protest to the Syrian government, in the same way Mohamed Bouazizi did in Tunisia. Later on February 3rd, a "Day of Rage" was called from February 4th-5th on Facebook and Twitter. On February 17th, a protest broke out in Damascus, after police beat a local shop keeper. 1,500 protestors arrived on the scene, but secret police and government officials dispersed the situation. On March 12th, 500 SUVs traveled from Syria to Libya with weapons and ammunition. On March 25th, one of the largest protests occurred on what was called "Friday of Glory". Hundreds of thousands of people gathered in cities across the country and a statue of Hafez al-

Assad in the city of Daraa. On July 31 2011, tanks rolled into the city of Hama and killed over 100 people, and hospitals were overwhelmed with the wounded. From March until August, various protests have seen violent responses from the government, and thousands have fled from Syria to Turkey.

Foreign response to the situation has been limited. On May 18th 2011, U.S. President Barack Obama put sanctions into effect against Bashar al-Assad. Obama stated that the sanctions are in order “to end its use of violence against its people and begin transitioning to a democratic system that protects the rights of the Syrian people.” On May 23rd, European Union foreign ministers agreed to freeze al-Assad’s assets and place travel bans on him. The UN Security Council has met to discuss the topic of what should be done, but nothing major has been passed. In terms of country’s policies, while the EU and US condemn Al-Assad’s regime, Russia has continuously supported Al-Assad.

The Syrian regime faces three interrelated problems. First, the people of Syria have realized that they do not have to put up with the problems that they have grown accustomed to. Awareness has grown in the country as a result of the other protests in the region. Secondly, there is a long list of grievances that the people are demanding to be solved. These include unemployment, corruption, rise in cost of living, and falling state services. Another contributing factor is the rise in Kurdish Nationalism and Islamic Fundamentalism. Thirdly, the regime has many enemies who are taking advantage of the current situation. Political enemies, Islamic jihadists, and Kurdish nationalists are taking action. While the regime faces these problems, Bashar al-Assad is still very much in control of the situation, unlike Mubarak and Gaddafi who quickly lost a great deal of power.

The conflict in Syria is a complex one. While there seems to be agreement in western nations that al-Assad’s actions are extreme, there is debate over what should be done. There is fear that the Islamic brotherhood or a more radical leader may eventually seize power, who may hate the west. On the other hand, some believe that al-Assad will take control of the situation, and western countries should not further anger him.

The Security Council needs to take a stance in order to stop the deaths of innocent civilians, while securing long term stability in the nation. They must discuss what should be done about the current leaders and keep in mind the multitude of social/economic problems that plague the nation. The Syrian Arab Republic is a crucial country within the Middle East, and what is done now, will affect surrounding Islamic Nations in the future.

Debate Questions:

What is the best course of action to resolve the issue? Who should be supported the rebels or Al-Assad? Should Assad be overthrown?

How can the Security Council maintain the long term stability of Syria?

Bibliography:

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/08/08/syria-conflict-descends-into-war-attrition/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2011/sep/15/syria-stalemate-civil-war-assad>

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syria-claims-security-forces-killed-by-protesters/2011/06/06/AGJuYNKH_story.html

Topic 2: The Question of Ethnic Minorities in China

The People's Republic of China is the largest country in the world with 1.3 billion citizens, 91.9% of which are Han Chinese. There are several other ethnic groups that live in China, such as the Zhuang (16.1 million), Manchu (10.6 million), Hui (9.8 million), Miao (8.9 million), Uyghur (8.3 million), Tujia (8 million), Yi (7.7 million), Mongol (5.8 million), Tibetan (5.4 million), Buyei (2.9 million), and Dong (2.9 million). While most of these groups have co-existed with the Han Chinese, the Uyghurs (also spelt Uighur) and Tibetans have been regularly mistreated by the Chinese government.

The region of modern day Tibet was originally inhabited by nomads, but was unified by Songtsan Gamp when he ruled from 604-650 AD. Over the next several Tibetan Kings, Buddhism began to take hold as the region's main religion and the empire expanded into Tang Dynasty China. In 763 AD, The Tang Dynasty of China pushed back the Tibetans with the help of the Uyghur Khaganate. The Uyghurs were also a powerful empire that ruled in modern day Mongolia and Northern China. In 1240 AD, Tibet was conquered by the Mongolian Yuan Dynasty. The Yuan Dynasty ruled modern day Mongolia and China. In 1578 AD, Sonam Gyatso became the first officially recognized Dalai Lama (technically the 3rd). In 1724 AD, The Qing Dynasty established control in Tibet once again. After 1912, the Qing Dynasty was toppled and the Republic of China was formed. The Republic moved troops out of Tibet and apologized for its actions, and the 13th Dalai Lama declared himself ruler of Tibet. Tibet had to continue fighting China for territories that were ethnically Tibetan. In 1950, the newly formed People's Republic of China claimed Tibet as its own. The Tibetans were not happy with Chinese rule and rebelled during the 1959 Tibetan Uprising. Since then Tibet has been continually abused. During the Great Leap Forward, an estimated three hundred thousand to one million Tibetans died and an estimated 6,000 Buddhist temples were destroyed during the Cultural Revolution. From a historical standpoint, Tibet has been ruled by China several times, but it is still ethnically separate.

Large protests have recently seen a resurgence in Tibet, particularly in 2008 during the Tibetan Unrest. In March 2008, riots began in Lhasa and spread to several other Tibetan controlled regions. In the riots, 18 civilians were killed, and 382 civilians were injured. The Chinese government sent troops in to secure the region. They also blocked off Tibetan access to the internet and social media sites, so they could not organize themselves. Currently there are no major protests, but there are periods of unrest. The situation the Tibetans are in is not far from the situation of the Uyghurs.

The Uyghurs are a Turkish Ethnic Group that lives in Central and Eastern Asia. They are mostly practicing Muslims. They primarily live in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in Eastern China and the Hunan province in central China. Uyghur unrest began in the 1990s when Han businessmen began developing Uyghur areas. As the areas were developed, more Han Chinese moved into the area and began diluting the Uyghur population. The Uyghur people began protesting the Han Presence in their areas for years. Like the Tibetans, protests began making headlines in 2008 because the world was watching China for the Olympics. On March

18th 2008, and Uyghur woman detonated a bomb on a bus in Urumqi. Protests began in different areas, from March up until the Olympic games. While both Chinese authorities and Uyghur protestors have been killed, the total number of killed protestors has not been released. There is also speculation that China is skewing stories in their favor or even suppressing other stories. Every time a Chinese police officer is killed, it makes the headlines, while many of the protests are not revealed.

China is a world power and one of the most economically powerful countries in the world. There is debate among western nations about whether or not they should be pushed harder to fix their human rights issues. Many countries are economically dependent on China and they would rather not spur tension. China is a permanent member of the council and is against intervention and many western nations are fearful to intervene. The UN Security Council must take a stand and show that abuse will not be tolerated, while being sensitive of the fact that China is trying to secure its country.

Debate Questions:

The People's Republic of China often considers ethnic tensions to be internal issues and refuse to allow foreign access to the disputed territories. What aid can the United Nations provide for minority ethnic groups within China especially when the CPC often refuses to admit NGOs for such purposes?

What course of action can be pursued by the Security Council without infringing on the sovereignty of China, yet still manage to alleviate future ethnic tension?

Bibliography:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2009/03/10/tibet-uprising-50th-anniv_n_173396.html

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2010/07/19/china-witnesses-lift-veil-abuses-security-forces-tibet>

<http://www.aolnews.com/2010/03/10/dalai-lama-says-beijing-out-to-kill-buddhism/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8487724.stm>

<http://roomfordebate.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/07/08/what-should-china-do-about-the-uyghurs/>