BSMUNC United Nations Security Council

Boko Haram

Executive Directors

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Chair's Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

We would like to welcome you all, as members of your respective delegations, to this year's Bay Shore Model United Nations Conference, Security Council simulation.

A Crisis Committee

Having been selected to participate as a delegate of the Security Council committee, you are expected to be well-versed on Model UN Parliamentary procedure. The Security Council committee is the most advanced and fast-paced committee at this year's BSMUNC, and unlike a regular committee you will receive constant news reports to inform you about the developments of the issue/situation at hand; not only will you be dealing with a current global issue and be expected to formulate a feasible solution to the problem, but will also have to take immediate action on events that will be happening on —real time through Directives. There are three types of Directives:

Action Orders:

Action Orders are used to direct the actions of the committee. Action orders are sent in note format to the dais who will read them in

front of the council; every action order sent to the dais, (i.e. send 1000 UN troops to Egypt) must be voted on by the whole committee and it must gain 2/3 majority in order to pass; unless one of the permanent members vetoes the request.

Communiqués:

Communiqués are used in order to inquire about a country's position regarding a certain subject that does not require immediate action. For example, if China desired to ask Russia and France if they would agree on sending troops to Egypt in order to calm public protests, China would send a communiqué to France and Russia asking them about their individual policies in note form. Furthermore, if a delegate is unsure if their country would act a certain way in regards to the situation at hand, the delegate may send a communiqué to the dais inquiring about their own country's position or ask for action by that country's government.

Press Releases

Press Releases (PR) are used to make information public to the whole committee. For example, if the council chooses to take multilateral action as a committee, the council has the option to publish a Press Release about the action the Committee will

be taking. The Press Release is a way to inform the entire committee about any actions the committee has made.

Furthermore, crisis updates will be made public through press releases to the committee.

Lastly, taking part of the Security Council committee is a challenging task, thus we encourage you to not only research the topic we will be discussing to the best of your ability, but also take into account every aspect of your countries' foreign policies. This committee will demand you to serve as a true ambassador of the countries you will be representing.

For a more detailed guide on how to transcend the crisis committee, contact us through our website,

bsmunc.wix.com/bsmunc

Sincerely,

Your Executive Directors,

Kwaku Owusu Grace Hickey



Topic Background

Boko Haram, officially known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad ("People Committed to the Prophet's Teachings for Propagation and Jihad") is a radical islamic terrorist group founded by Muhammed Yusuf in 2002 in the northeastern region of Nigeria (Boko Haram | Nigerian Islamic Group"). In the same region where Boko Haram was created, the Maitasine uprisings of 1980 in Kano, 1982 in Bulumkutu and Kaduna, 1984 in Yola, and 1985 in Bauchi and the many other crises which followed all in some way have been driven by conflicts between religious groups brought about by poverty, political competition and inequality (The Boko Haram Uprising). The group was originally focused on opposing western education (the byname Boko Haram comes to mean "western education is sacrilege") through recruiting many like minded citizens in Maiduguri, the capital of the Borno state in Nigeria but as time went on, they began to become more radical in methods (Ibid.). Boko Haram became in clear public threat in July 2009, when members of the group were allegedly subjected to unnecessary force by the police which led to the group attacking police posts and other government buildings (Boko Haram | Nigerian Islamic Group"). Nigeria

created a Joint Military Task Force (JTF) to combat the threat, killing extrajudicially 700 members of Boko Haram including its leader Muhammed Yusuf and destroying the mosque they used as a base (Ibid). Incited by these attacks, Abubakar Shekau became the new leader in the summer of 2010 and vowed to avenge the deaths of those who had died. Following this the group became increasingly violent and executed a prison break in September in the city of Bauchi releasing 700 inmates (Ibid). Attacks that have followed include a suicide bombing of the United Nations Building in Abuja, coordinated attacks against the government in the city of Kano and attacks in Bama in April 2013 as direct defiance against the offer of amnesty towards a disarmed Boko Haram given to Boko Haram by Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan (Ibid.). The frequency and danger of the attacks, the often inadequate action taken by the Nigerian government against Boko Haram, and the unclear organization of the group all add up to make this a challenging situation to effectively combat.

Current Situation

The actions of Boko Haram have cause widespread damage to many areas of Nigeria, the group is now also spreading to

Chad, Niger, and Cameroon. As time progresses, factions of the group such as Ansaru, based in the Kano region, continue to form and act independently of Abubakar (Curbing Violence in Nigeria). In April 2014, a school in Chibok, Borno was attacked by Boko Haram and 276 of the students were kidnapped by militants (Nigerian Police Begin Documentation). Only about 52 of the girls have returned to freedom and even though the Nigerian Government has taken action to get them back, it hasn't been sufficient enough to recover the majority of these girls (Ibid.) May 2014 had the kidnapping of 10 Chinese workers from the border town of Waza and soon in July of the same year, Boko Haram attacked the home town of the Cameroonian Deputy Prime Minister and took more hostages, including his wife. These hostages were released in October but this was just the beginning of Boko Haram's more aggressive push into Cameroon (Boko Haram releases 27 Hostages, Culzac). With increased land gains in the Borno region in September due to the attacks on Gwoza, Shekau stated that Gwoza was now part of an Islamic Caliphate in Nigeria and went on to capture the town Bama which is about 45 miles from the capital city of Borno state (Nigeria and Neighbors Hold Talks). October also had the

progression of Boko Haram southward, where they had captured the town Mubi in the Adamawa state destroying any possible chance of peace talks. The Adamawa region is currently being reclaimed by very lightly armed Nigerian vigilantes working together with Adamawa soldiers but many citizens of Nigeria just see this as proof the military isn't doing a good enough job to face the situation (Boko Haram Crisis). In Late December, Haram moved into the Far North area of Cameroon and began operations there in an effort to increase the size of their caliphate. Boko Haram used tactics such as improvised explosive devices and multiple fronts of attacks to confuse the defenders. They attacked the cities Makari, Amchide, Limani and Achigachia and set up training camps there but were sent back into Nigeria after losing about 40 of their own by the Rapid Intervention Battalion of Cameroon (Cameroon says fights off Boko Haram attacks, Musa). Recently on the 3rd of January, Boko Haram once again attacked the town of Baga and this time took control of a key military base after razing and setting fire to many buildings in the town. Baga was one of the last areas in Northern Nigeria not under the control of Boko Haram but now the prospects for it are looking bleak (Boko Haram Massacres Thousands). Amnesty

Internation says that this attack has taken around 2000 lives but the Nigerian government, known to downplay deaths to make the Boko Haram threat seem less brutal than it is, claims that it at most has taken several hundred (Ibid.). Bombings have also taken place in the capital city of Maiduguri effected by young girl who have been made into suicide bombers, a technique which is not something new to Boko Haram (Nigeria: Bomb Blast Kills at Least 19). On January 18th, Boko Haram returned to Cameroon and kidnapped about 80 citizens, coinciding with the time that Chad was sending troops to assist Nigeria and Cameroon (Boko Haram Strikes in Cameroon, Chimtom). Boko Haram is ramping up the level of their operations all around the Niger Delta region, it is especially vital that international cooperation begins to increase as this problem is increasing in magnitude at a rate which Nigeria cannot handle by itself.

Committee Mission

The issue of Boko Haram presents a difficult, yet interesting challenge for Security Council. By observing all viewpoints and current situations on the topic, while also staying updated on recent developments regarding Boko Haram, this committee can take major steps towards

solving the problem and ensuring that the political and social sanity of the issue is taken in a serious manner in trying to solve it.

As with all topics addressed in the United Nations, this specific issue can be viewed from a social, political and economic perspective. While recognizing that each perspective is prominent to solving the issue at hand, it is important that delegates view the issue primarily from a social and political lens. This can be done especially by examining the social consequences of Boko Haram, especially the effect it has currently on the people near and surrounding the areas in which are being affected. Politically, this could be examined by the sealing of corruption in Nigeria and other issues that coincide with the problem at hand. Ultimately, this committee should pass a resolution that effectively takes into account all aspects politically, socially, and economically the entire situation of Boko Haram.

Possible Solutions

_____Within this new and rapidly expanding topic, there are many short, medium and long term goals in which could be achieved within this committee. A long

term goal that would be looked favorably upon is to resolve the crisis in Nigeria's nation-building process. Terrorism will ultimately stop altogether when Nigeria comes to see themselves as "one people and develop that sense of what Benedict Anderson calls "imagined communities"." (Anderson, Benedict). As far as short to medium-term goals, the "Nigerian government should adopt a combination of koboko (Hausa word for whip) and "pieces of the National cake" (a Nigerian phrase for "patronage") or "co-optation into the system")." (Anderson, Benedict) In "Western Terms", just like the carrot and stick strategies, such as:

- (i) "Allowing state governments in the north to lead the charge and be the faces of the fight against Boko Haram. This could, if anything, address the consipracy theory in the north that President Goodluck Jonothan's Administration is funding Boko Haram either to make Islam look bad or to depopulate the north ahead of the 2015 elections. It's important to underline that the conspiracy theories have made it more difficult to mobilize collective anger against Boko Haram." (Anderson, Benedict)
- (ii) Create a Ministry of Northern Affairs mirroring that of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs- to help recognize the numerous

challenges in the north, including but not limited to unemployment, poverty, illiteracy and radial Islam. This establishment would help gain popularity of the minds and hearts of locals and cool the corruption the Boko Haram produces.

(iii) "Exploring the option of offering amnesty to the more moderate members of the sects while side-lining the hardliners and finding means to effectively neutralize them." (Anderson)

Speaking from past experiences, there is no such thing as a quick fix to fighting terrorism anywhere in the world just as such examples from Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen and various other countries. However in the current situation that we are in, the advocated short, medium and long term goals pursued in trying to strategize and resolve this pressing crisis in Nigeria's nation-building processes, the Boko Haram terrorism can be contained and groups of terrorist will eventually be neutralized.

Research Questions

- 1. How has your country dealt with internal religious conflict in the past?
- 2. How have campaigns of violence acted out by Boko Haram affected the countries in which they are carried out?

- 3. What solutions does your country have to solve this problem?
- 4. How do you plan to involve yourself in trying to assist the people in need of assistance from Boko Haram?
- 5. What is your country's relationship to Nigeria and as far as terrorist groups?



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