Seton Hall University Model United Nations Conference XIX

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Background Guide

March 24th-25th
Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ

Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates,

My name is Devin Smith, and I'm very excited to be your chair at SHUMUN XIX! I'm a sophomore at Seton Hall University double majoring in diplomacy and modern languages, with minors in Arabic and French. I've been doing Model UN ever since I was in 8th grade way back in 2012, and I've held a strong passion for it ever since. This is my first time chairing, and I look forward to fostering the same kind of environment that I've enjoyed in various committees over the last seven years.

I chose two topics that I feel are both very relevant to society today. Human trafficking is a global problem, and as I mentioned in the background guide, the number of people entrapped in human trafficking is larger than the population of all of New York State. It's a huge problem, even in the United States, and I very much look forward to seeing how you guys plan to approach this problem. Similarly, piracy is an issue that has a large negative effect on the global economy that humanity has grappled with in various years for thousands of years. I look forward to your creative responses to this problem.

I have included many relevant sources in the background guide, and I trust that from there you all will be able to gather important information and develop strong positions on both topics. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to e-mail me at shumun.sec@gmail.com.

Best,

Devin Smith

Piracy in the Horn of Africa

Introduction

The Horn of Africa is defined as the easternmost extension of African land, bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Any ship that uses the Suez canal to travel either to the Mediterranean Sea or to the Indian or Pacific Oceans have to navigate through these bodies of water. The nation of Somalia, which makes up much of the coastal regions of the Horn of Africa, has lacked an effective government since 1991. The lawlessness and instability of the region allowed piracy off of the coast to increase exponentially, and opportunistic pirates began to hijack and attack commercial ships in numbers that have never been seen before. Delegates should focus on cooperating to come up with a solution to this piracy, as the financial damages of piracy in this region affects nations all around the world.

Background

In 2010 alone, pirates from Somalia took over 1,000 hostages and hijacked 49 ships. Leading maritime authorities have implemented a safety document called BMP4, BMP4 encourages vessels to register with the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa (MSCHOA) before entering the HRA, to report to a military liaison daily while in the area, and to implement protection measures such as lookouts and physical barriers to boarding. However, as piracy in the region has been relatively on the decline in the region in recent years, ships have begun to become lax with obeying the regulations outlined by the document. The document also carries guidance for routes and speed, such as remaining within the International Recommended Transit Corridor (IRTC) that is protected by military support vessels from the European Union Naval Force (EU NAVFOR) and NATO. However, just 77 percent of ships used the protected IRTC route last year, and only 34 percent used armed guards – significantly lower figures than previous year.

While complacency among ships in the region is among the leading reasons for piracy in the region, it is also important to note that the root causes of piracy have not yet been seriously addressed. There is still no effective central government in Somalia, and terrorist groups such as Al-Shabab wield much power in the region. Poverty, sectionalism, and violence run rampant in the nation, with the GDP per capita being a mere $434.

Recent Developments

May 23, 2017 — Iranian shipping boat is seized by pirates with the intent to use as a base to launch more hijackings and kidnappings

May 3, 2017 — 8 crewmen of the FV Siraj, an Iranian ship, are still in captivity after more than two years

October 26, 2016 — 26 crewmen were freed from captivity after more than 4 years

2016 — The economic cost of Somali piracy grows $400 million from 2015

2016 — 27 total reported incidents of attempted piracy in the Horn of Africa

2010 — Pirate attacks on ships worldwide hit seven-year high in 2010, with Somali pirates accounting for 49 of 52 ships seized.

2008 — The UN Security Council allows countries to send warships to Somalia's territorial waters to tackle pirates

1995 — The last UN peacekeepers leave Somalia, failing to achieve their mission

Questions to Consider

1. How does piracy in the Horn of Africa affect my nation? What have we done to combat it?

2. Is my nation willing to commit more money and resources to protect its shipping? Does it have the resources to do so?

Human Trafficking Rings

Introduction

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery that exists outside of the law. Trafficking is a multibillion dollar industry that entraps an estimated 21 million people worldwide, a number of people larger than that of New York state. Human trafficking is a worldwide problem, and occurs in many nations, both developed and undeveloped, including the United States. All victims of human trafficking have the freedom stripped away from that, and delegates should decide what to do about the root causes, the perpetrators, and the victims of human trafficking.

Background

Trafficking, piracy, and banditry are at a record breaking high in Eastern Africa and the Horn of Africa, aggravated by the conflicts resulting in refugee crises in the regional and surrounding nations. The Palermo Convention defines Human Trafficking as "illegal recruitment and movement of persons by means of force, threat, coercion, deception or abduction for the purpose of exploitation". Most victims from countries in or surrounding the Horn of Africa are trafficked to the Middle East, South Africa, and many locations across Europe. Transnational organized crime syndicates and extremist groups in the region often take advantage of the shortcomings in the transit system for refugees, as many are lost in the regions surrounding the horn of Africa while en route to their host countries. Domestic trafficking, trafficking that takes place within the country, is also on the rise in all HoA countries. The desolation caused by famine, conflict, and poverty create opportunities for trafficking rings to take advantage of the impoverished. Also experiencing heavy trafficking is Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific Regions, within in which reside the highest percentage of forced laborers in the world. Unlike the HoA, the trafficking is mainly contained within the region and centered in sex work, organ-harvesting, and hard labor, but there is still an influx of South Asian victims worldwide. Poverty, globalization, and military presence in this region are all cited reasons for the increase of sexual exploitation and organ harvesting in particular.

The ILO figure for the money made per year on human trafficking is over 150 billion dollars. Many victims end up in the trade as a result of being misled by a decoy job opportunity and a lack of documentation common among victims makes retrieving these victims nearly impossible. Around 24.9 million were taken in 2017; 25% of all victims documented thus far are under the age of 18. Economic depressions aggravate the demand for cheap labor, resulting in higher trafficking rates. However, higher trafficking rates cause increased worldwide economic depression as money circulates outside of the known global economy.

Timeline/Recent Developments

November 2017 — The Somali refugee crisis has displaced over 950,000 now taking refuge in camps in Kenya, Yemen, and Ethiopia.

May 2017 — Islamist militant group, al-Shabaab is believed to be behind recent kidnappings in the HoA

April 2017 — Hijacking of aid vehicles and supply shipments; since an incident in 2012 during which an attempted armed hijacking of an NGO vehicle occurred, many agencies have restricted incoming aid to the Dollo Ado camps.

June 2017 — Kidnapping of UN peacekeepers and aid workers; 13 have been taken since April 2017, the highest number in the region since 2011.

January 2017 — Area of Vulnerability; camps along the Burmese-Bangladeshi border due to large scale displacement of Rohingya, an ethno-religious minority of disputed origin

1/6 case reported in **2016** were victims of sex trafficking.

In **2015**, a trafficking ring operating along the Thai-Malaysia border was discovered by the provincial Thai Police

Questions to Consider

1. What preventative measures has your country taken regarding trafficking and banditry?

2. What are the implications of the kidnappings in the context of continued involvement of aid agencies in the region?

3. What threats does your country face? What attacks have taken place within your country? How did your country respond/what were the specific repercussions to your country?

Bibliography

1. https://intpolicydigest.org/2016/01/16/how-the-world-overpowered-piracy-in-the-horn-of-africa/

2. http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/25/africa/piracy-resurgence-somalia/index.html

3. http://oceansbeyondpiracy.org/reports/sop/summary

4. http://f3magazine.unicri.it/?p=524

5. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094632

6. https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=1&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0ahUKEwjAqvji5PjXAhUoSt8KHZPuALMQFggpMAA&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fglobal-development%2F2011%2Foct%2F17%2Fhorn-africa-kidnappings-rains-worsen-crisis&usg=AOvVaw04DHxOs3zD5hRi3c0So-DF

7. https://www.enca.com/africa/aid-worker-kidnaps-and-roadblocks-soar-in-famine-threatened-somalia

8. http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=40934#.WilybEqnE2w

9. https://reliefweb.int/report/kenya/refugee-camps-horn-africa-risk

10. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kidnapping_in_South_Africa

11. http://addisstandard.com/analysis-history-repeating-horn-africa-crime-darfur-replicated-eastern-southern-oromia-regional-state-ethiopia/

12. https://www.zeemaps.com/mobile?group=539725

13.https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_trafficking_in_Southeast_Asia#Nature_of_the_problem

14. https://www.humanrightsfirst.org/resource/human-trafficking-numbers

15. humantraffickingcenter.org/problem/

16. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2017/09/06/how-burmas-rohingya-crisis-went-from-bad-to-worse/?utm_term=.3465e48a717a