



# **Security Council**

## **Chairs:**

**Tom Colicci**

**Keegan Steele**

## **Committee Topics**

- 1. Denuclearization of North Korea**
- 2. Oppression and Violence Against Minority Religions in the Middle East**

## **Chair Biographies**

Hello, I'm Keegan Steele. I am currently a senior at Whitesboro. I have been in my the Model UN club since my freshman year. Outside of Model UN, I take part in school activities such as Student Council and Political Debate Club. In addition, I play lacrosse. When I am not in school, I enjoy outdoor sports like hunting, hiking, and fishing. This year I will be both a member of Secretariat (USG of Finance) as well as a chair (for the second time) in Security Council. I am really excited for my last year of Model UN, especially having the opportunity to take on two different roles at this year's conference . If you have any questions please send me an email at [keegan.steele.4@gmail.com](mailto:keegan.steele.4@gmail.com) and I will reply as soon as possible. Good luck with your research and papers. I look forward to seeing you on conference day and in Security Council for UMVMUN 2017.

Hi, I'm Tom Colicci. Like Keegan, I am also a senior at Whitesboro. I have been a part of my school's Model UN club for three years. I have also participated in various other sports and clubs, both in and out of school. These include Political Debate Club, Track and Field, Cross Country, and Science Olympiad, to name a few. When not at school, practice, or work, I enjoy camping and fishing. While I have been a delegate in Security Council in the past, this will be my first experience chairing, and I am looking forward to the opportunity. If there are any questions or concerns feel free to contact me at [thomasjcolicci@gmail.com](mailto:thomasjcolicci@gmail.com). Good luck with your research and I look forward to seeing you all in committee for UMVMUN 2017.

## **Social Media**

UMVMUN makes a conscientious use of social media to promote attendance at our conference, share news and resources, and engage with delegates who plan on attending. Last year, we introduced a UMVMUN Snapchat filter for delegates' use during lunch breaks. We plan to continue this practice at UMVMUN 2017. We strongly encourage all delegates to follow our Twitter and Instagram handles [@UMVMUN](https://twitter.com/UMVMUN), make use of the #UMVMUN hashtag, and confirm your attendance on our Facebook event page [Upper Mohawk Valley MUN 2017](https://www.facebook.com/UpperMohawkValleyMUN2017). In the weeks leading up the conference we will even have our chairs post valuable resources that will serve to guide delegates in their committee research!



## **Committee History**

One factor that can be attributed to the failure of the post-WWI League of Nations is its lack of strength. In other words, it had no way to reinforce its decisions. This is one of the important separations between the League of Nations and the United Nations; the UN added the Security Council to its variety of committees. The Security Council has the responsibilities of maintaining “international peace and security and the other purposes of the Organization,” under the United Nations Charter established in 1945.



## **Special Committee Notes**

Security Council at UMVMUN will be run in Harvard style. Delegates should bring two copies of their position papers for the chairs, and as many as needed for themselves. All delegates are encouraged to e-mail position papers to their chairs before conference day, but this is not required by the conference. Delegates involved in crisis committees should know that the bulk of the time spent in committee is not spent on resolutions, but with documents known as directives, communiques, press releases, and portfolio powers. Directives are generally small, multi-sentence statements about what to do with the situation. Communiques are direct communications to a nation or person not in the Council, and unlike press releases, go to that nation alone. Portfolio powers are not expected to make that big of an appearance in this committee, but they are actions done by one delegate directly without going through the Security Council. Four signatories will be needed to have a directive or press release presented. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the characteristics of the UMVMUN award system in advance to the conference. Details of the awards system can be found on our website. The delegates who are the most *well rounded* will win the awards.

## **Topic 1: Denuclearization of North Korea**

### **Definition of Key Terms**

*United Nations:* Created after WWII as a means of keeping international peace and avoiding large wars.

*Denuclearization:* Gradual integration of less and less nuclear weapons within a country.

### **General Overview**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has become a major headline in today's global news, as it continues to threaten the region with unprecedented aggressive training exercises. These exercises include the constant testing of ballistic missiles and the development of North Korea's nuclear program. Attempts to resolve the situation in the past have seemed fruitless, and denuclearization of North Korea does not seem likely or even possible in our current world. Tensions between the international community (mainly larger powers and neighboring countries) and North Korea have only increased after North Korea's defiance to oblige to United Nations resolutions such as resolution 1718 in 2006, and, most recently, resolution 2371 on August 5, 2017. Our goal is to learn from these seemingly unsuccessful resolutions and pick apart what worked and what did not, and try to work towards de-escalation of the situation, especially to the point where denuclearization may become possible. Please bear in mind that this chair letter is written well in advance to the conference, and that this issue is constantly evolving. What happens after the chair letter is published is your responsibility to know about, but we will be updating you through UVMUN's social media accounts by posting relevant links to this topic.

North Korea's continued noncompliance with efforts from the international community to de-escalate the situation has become a major issue. Currently, North Korea is continuing to increase the volume and substantiality of their threats. Examples of this include the recent threat towards the U.S. island territory of Guam. This is not to say that directly calling out and involving the U.S. would escalate the conflict, as any eruption would involve world superpowers anyways. This committee must not only achieve its goal, but also do so as peacefully as possible. That said, the situation could escalate to the point of military involvement. Delegates should bear all of this in mind when writing position papers as well as when making resolutions and directives.

Leading the efforts to resolve the issue is the United States, with President Donald Trump making numerous remarks on the issue, including that he is leaving "all options on the table," which does not exclude an all-out war between the two nations. However, some believe that these reactions are only making the situation worse instead of solving the issue. Other world leaders like Xi Jinping, the President of China, urged Trump to remain calm and to not escalate the situation any further than it needs to be.

Yet, with ever-increasing threats from North Korea, it has become increasingly difficult for the international community to not escalate the situation without backing down. For example, North Korea recently launched a missile directly over Japan, with Japan's missile warning system going off after official statements from the Japanese government to take shelter immediately. It is difficult to keep the situation from getting out of hand

without North Korea's cooperation. It is also abundantly clear that even the condemnations of the Security Council mean nothing to North Korea, so new and untried solutions are necessary to resolve the issue or else the cycle of warnings and noncompliance will continue.

**Major Countries Involved**

**North Korea:** The main perpetrator of all tension. Every year, North Korea lessens their cooperation and continues to threaten the well-being of the region. Since the early 1990s, North Korea has tested new long-range ballistic missiles. Recently, they have increased the frequency and ambition of each test. They now have the capabilities to back up threats to strike the island U.S. territory of Guam.

**South Korea:** After breaking away from North Korea in 1950, South Korea became the target of invasion by North Korea and then a battleground between the U.S. and North Korea. Since then, South Korea has worked with the U.S. and other countries to neutralize the situation.

**United States:** After the invasion of South Korea, the U.S. sent troops to fight on the behalf of South Korea. This was all in the name of containing communism. In the meantime, they tried to work out a treaty between the North Koreans while remaining careful of their actions so as not to involve other major communist nations in the area, such as China.

**Russia:** A regional and powerful nation with a communist past. Although they strayed away from it as the years went on, and were involved in negotiations known as the Six-Party Talks, their current relationship with North Korea is blossoming.

**China:** Another regional and powerful nation that is still generally communist, and was also involved in negotiations known as the Six-Party Talks. China has a stronger relationship with North Korea than most nations.

**Japan:** As a nation close to Korea, Japan has been a constant victim to North Korea's constant threats. Japan was also involved in the Six Party Talks.

**Relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

**Ceres:** Mission Statement - "Ceres is transforming the economy to build a sustainable future for people and the planet." This NGO achieves this goal by working through sustainability issues and human rights abuses, the latter of which is relevant to this topic.

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace:** Mission Statement - "Advance the cause of peace through analysis and development of fresh policy ideas and direct engagement and collaboration with decisionmakers in government, business, and civil society."

**Timeline of Key Events<sup>1</sup>**

As a crisis committee, and specifically with this topic, it is very important to stay up-to-date with all information pertaining to the situation.

*1945* Following World War II, Japan exited Korea and Soviet troops occupied modern North Korea and US troops occupied modern South Korea.

*1946* North Korea's Communist Party, otherwise known as the Korean Workers' Party, gained power. Soviet-supported leaders were put into position such as Kim Il-sung.

*1948* Kim Il-sung, the new leader, proclaimed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea became independent with the departure of Soviet troops.

*1950* South Korea declared independence, resulting in an invasion from the North.

*1953* Armistice ended Korean War.

*1972* North and South Korea issued a joint statement on peaceful reunification, which would remain in effect until 1998.

*1985* North Korea joined the international Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, stopping them from producing nuclear weapons.

*1991* North and South Korea joined the United Nations.

*1998* North Korea fired a multistage long-range rocket which flies over Japan and landed in the Pacific Ocean, well beyond North Korea's known capability.

*2003* North Korea left the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, starting the Six-Party Talks which included China, the Koreans, the US, Japan and Russia.

*2016* Donald Trump was elected President of the United States.

*2017* Tension rose in a war of words with US over the North Korean threat to fire ballistic missiles near U.S. Pacific territory of Guam. North Korea launched a missile directly over Japan and into the Pacific. The U.S. Travel Ban instituted on September 1, disallowed travel to or through North Korea. President Trump addressed the U.N., noting the issue of "Rocket Man."

**Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

Since the end of the Korean War, the international community has tried different tactics to peacefully neutralize threats from North Korea. The most common method of doing this has been the passing of resolutions in Security Council. Each resolution condemns the recent aggressive actions of North Korea, with a list of demands that outlined how North Korea was supposed to demilitarize. However, seeing that a number of these resolutions have passed to no avail, they were not effective. These resolutions include resolutions 1718, 1874, 2087, 2094, 2270, 2321, and 2371.

Another way the international community attempted to resolve the situation was the Six Party Talks. These were a series of meetings involving North Korea, South Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and the U.S. The nations worked out a peaceful solution to North Korea's nuclear development program after North Korea had left the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty. After four years of small progress, North Korea discontinued

---

<sup>1</sup> As events unfold leading up to the conference, we will post important information on our Twitter page @UMVMUN. Please follow us so you don't miss out on these updates!

the talks and undid the progress started there. They continued their nuclear development program and expelled nuclear inspectors from the country. There were mentions of re-opening the talks multiple times between 2007 and now, but none were successful.

**Possible Solutions**

Some considerations while resolving this issue would be maintaining a rational sense throughout the day. This is important because an escalated response from the Security Council will only provoke North Korea, as seen multiple times in the past. Delegates must think of generally unusual ways to solve the problem, like finding a way to entice North Korea into communicating. Once that is accomplished, consider normalizing relationships with the nation to start solving the issue like a normal conflict instead of the tense crisis the world presently observes.

**Appendix**

[Six Party Talks](#)

[UN Security Council Resolutions](#)

[Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#)

**Bibliography**

Barney Henderson; Julian Ryall; Neil Connor; Chris Graham. "All options are on the table: Donald Trump says world has received North Korea's message 'loud and clear' after Kim Jong-Un fires missile over Japan." The Telegraph, Telegraph Media Group, 28 Aug. 2017, [www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/28/north-korea-fires-missile-japan-warns-citizens-take-precautions/](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/28/north-korea-fires-missile-japan-warns-citizens-take-precautions/). Accessed 5 Sept. 2017.

"Fact Sheets & Briefs." UN Security Council Resolutions on North Korea, [www.armscontrol.org/print/5653](http://www.armscontrol.org/print/5653). Accessed 5 Sept. 2017.

"North Korea profile - Timeline." BBC News, BBC, 17 Aug. 2017, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15278612](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15278612). Accessed 5 Sept. 2017.





## **Topic 2: Oppression and Violence Against Minority Religions in the Middle East**

### **Definition of Key Terms**

*United Nations:* Created after WWII as a means of keeping international peace and avoiding large wars.

*Arab Spring:* series of anti-government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across the Middle East

### **General Overview**

Religions such as Christianity and Judaism are under attack in the very region that was once considered their homeland. Due to the sharp rise of extremist Jihad in the Middle East, these minority religions are under attack in the extremist effort to create a cleansed Islamic state.

There has been a long history of violence between religions in the Middle East, beginning with the Crusades, and becoming aggravated with just over 100 years ago with the Sykes-Picot Treaty of 1916. However, in the more recent past - around the time Israel was founded - to present day, there have been innumerable attacks within the Middle East, specifically targeting Jews and Christians. The Jewish people have been targeted in the Middle East dating back to the time of Muhammad, in which Jews had to pay certain taxes and had certain rights revoked, along with the fact that Jews were forced under Islamic law to dress in specific, identifying clothing. Other minority Muslim sects within the region have also fallen victim to violence claimed in the name of religion. Since 2003, the Christian population has fallen from 1.5 million to about 275,000 in Iraq alone. A major cause of this decline is thought to be the Arab Spring circa 2010, which lifted minority-protecting laws following the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi in Libya. In this span, terror attacks on Egyptian Coptic Churches, predominantly Jewish and Christian centers, and other churches and synagogues have become increasingly more commonplace.

Aside from two of the majorly practiced religions globally in Christianity and Judaism, the Yazidis of Iraq have been widely targeted by ISIS and horribly protected by the Kurdish forces in the fight for Sinjar. The killings and sexual enslavement endured by the Yazidis have been labeled a genocide by the international body. However, there has not been much action taken to protect the Yazidi people.

It is during a time like this that the international community must come together and vow to help those fleeing persecution and terror (i.e. refugees), along with those subject to it without an outlet to safety (i.e. Internally Displaced Persons). It is the duty of the United Nations Security Council to ensure the safety for all religious minorities in the Middle East and the tranquility of the region as a whole. It is up to the international community to take the correct course of action and utilize the resources at the UN's disposal to achieve a greater international peace and prosperity.





**Major Countries Involved**

Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen: These countries have the highest rates of religious persecution in the Middle Eastern region.

Israel: As it is heavily populated by the Jewish people, Israel is the center of attacks on its religious minority from surrounding nations. In addition, they have been increasingly condemned by the international body for reciprocating oppression of Arab citizens in Israel.

Palestine: Territory known for repeated aggression towards Jewish people.

**Relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)**

Amnesty International: Non-profit, independent international organization that works to protect human rights around the world.

International Association for Religious Freedom (IARF) : Working for freedom of religion and belief globally.

**Timeline of Key Events**

*May 19, 1916* The Sykes-Picot Treaty is established. This was a secret 1916 agreement between the United Kingdom and France, to which the Russian Empire assented, the agreement defined spheres of influence and control in Southwestern Asia.

*May 14, 1948* The state of Israel is established.

*July 15, 1958* Lebanon's Christian and Muslim factions engage in civil war.

*June 5-10, 1967* The Six-Day War is fought between Israel and the Arab states.

*March 2, 1974* Four Syrian Jewish girls found dead in a cave by authorities in Damascus. The bodies were found raped and mutilated, the remains of two Jewish boys were also found.

1989 Al-Qaeda was formed by Muslim extremists.

*September 21, 1990* The Taif Accord balances power in Lebanon's executive branch between Christians and Muslims, ending the 25-year civil war.

*December 18, 2010* Arab Spring revolts begin, Gaddafi overthrown in Libya

**Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

While many nations in the Middle East do not have laws that persecute others for their religion or beliefs, they also do not have laws that protect their citizens from religious persecution by other citizens. The growth of extremist groups in the last half-century (the Taliban, Al-Qaeda, ISIS, etc.) have facilitated the increase in torment of various religious minorities, especially on the local and regional levels. Aside from the work of the IARF, the counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism efforts of countries such as the United States have worked to stop these radical groups.

**Possible Solutions**

With the implementation of UN resources and NGOs, such as Amnesty International and the IARF, the international community must be able to work together to help bring religious minorities peace and safety in the Middle East. To achieve this, there may be a focus on diverging and eliminating the immense threat of



Islamic terrorism in the region. Another aspect of this solution could be providing refuge for such religious minorities. Providing refuge is something that would require sound structure and should be given serious thought for this topic.

**Appendix**

[Christian Persecution in Middle East](#)

[The Most Persecuted Religion in the World](#)

[Religious Freedom in the Middle East](#)

[Yazidi Genocide](#)

**Bibliography**

Tanner (2017). *Christian persecution: How many are being killed, where they are being killed*. [online] Fox News. <http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2017/04/14/christian-persecution-how-many-are-being-killed-where-are-being-killed.html> [Accessed 1 Sep. 2017].

HuffPost. (2017). *The Most Persecuted Religion in the World*. [online] [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-james-clark/christianity-most-persecuted-religion\\_b\\_2402644.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kelly-james-clark/christianity-most-persecuted-religion_b_2402644.html) [Accessed 1 Sep. 2017].

Aljazeera.com. (2017). *UN: Yazidi genocide in Iraq still ongoing, unaddressed*. [online] Available at: <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/08/yazidi-genocide-iraq-ongoing-unaddressed-170803162047238.html> [Accessed 13 Sep. 2017].