



SECURITY COUNCIL
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

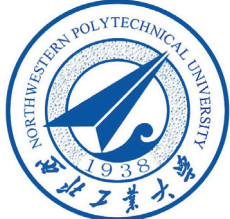
Written By: Daniel Leyva, Jr., Director



NMUN·CHINA

nmun.org/nmun_china12.html

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Message from the Director-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2012 NMUN-China Conference

At the 2012 NMUN-China Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee assignment. Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference.

Delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. NMUN/NCCA will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism. In this regard, the NMUN-China Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incidents of plagiarism to the Secretariat.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample position paper below this message for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion, as well as how to best construct a position paper. All papers must be typed and formatted in the same manner as this example. The following format specifications are required for all papers:

- Length must not exceed two single-sided pages (use standard size for your home region: A4 or 8.5x11).
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for the whole paper.
- Font must be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Body of the paper must be single-spaced.
- Country/NGO name, school name, and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.
- Agenda topics must be clearly labeled in separate sections.
- National symbols (headers, flags, etc.) are deemed inappropriate for NMUN position papers.

To be considered for awards, position papers need to be submitted by e-mail in .pdf or .doc formats by **1 November 2012**. As proof of submission, include yourself as an e-mail recipient. Please use the committee name, your assignment, and delegation/school name in both the e-mail subject line and in the filename (example: CSustD_Cuba_Mars College).

Send one complete set of all position papers for each of your country assignments to the Director-General at dirgen.china@nmun.org. If you have any questions, please email the Director-General.

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents.
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints.
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations.
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide.
- Outline of official policy aims within the committee's mandate.

Sincerely,

Sarah Tulley
Director-General
NMUN-China

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. Papers may be no longer than two single-sided pages. Only the first two pages of any submissions will be considered for awards.

Delegation from
Canada

Represented by
University of Jupiter

Position Paper for General Assembly Plenary

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary are: Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict; the Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy; and the Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa. Canada is dedicated to collaborative multilateral approaches to ensuring protection and promotion of human security and advancement of sustainable development.

I. Breaking the Link between Diamonds and Armed Conflict

Canada endorses the Kimberly Process in promoting accountability, transparency, and effective governmental regulation of trade in rough diamonds. We believe the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) is an essential international regulatory mechanism and encourage all Member States to contribute to market accountability by seeking membership, participation, and compliance with its mandate. Canada urges Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2007 Kimberley Process Communiqué to strengthen government oversight of rough diamond trading and manufacturing by developing domestic legal frameworks similar to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We call upon participating States to act in accordance with the KPCS's comprehensive and credible systems of peer review to monitor the continued implementation of the Kimberley Process and ensure full transparency and self-examination of domestic diamond industries. We draw attention to our domestic programs for diamond regulation including Implementing the Export and Import of Rough Diamonds Act and urge Member States to consider these programs in developing the type of domestic regulatory frameworks called for in A/RES/55/56. Canada recognizes the crucial role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the review of rough diamond control measures developed through the Kimberly Process and encourages States to include NGOs, such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada, in the review processes called for in A/RES/58/290. We urge Member States to act in accordance with A/RES/60/182 to optimize the beneficial development impact of artisanal and alluvial diamond miners by establishing a coordinating mechanism for financial and technical assistance through the Working Group of the Kimberly Process of Artisanal Alluvial Producers. Canada calls upon States and NGOs to provide basic educational material regarding diamond valuation and market prices for artisanal diggers, as recommended by the Diamond Development Initiative. Canada will continue to adhere to the 2007 Brussels Declaration on Internal Controls of Participants and is dedicated to ensuring accountability, transparency, and effective regulation of the rough diamond trade through the utilization of voluntary peer review systems and the promotion of increased measures of internal control within all diamond producing States.

II. The Promotion of Alternative Sources of Energy

Canada is dedicated to integrating alternative energy sources into climate change frameworks by diversifying the energy market while improving competitiveness in a sustainable economy, as exemplified through our Turning Corners Report and Project Green climate strategies. We view the international commitment to the promotion of alternative sources of energy called for in the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Control (UNFCCC) as a catalyst to sustainable development and emission reduction. Canada fulfills its obligations to Article 4 of the UNFCCC by continuing to provide development assistance through the Climate Change Development Fund and calls upon Member States to commit substantial financial and technical investment toward the transfer of sustainable energy technologies and clean energy mechanisms to developing States. We emphasize the need for Member States to follow the recommendations of the 2005 Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference to strengthen domestic policy frameworks to promote clean energy technologies. Canada views dissemination of technology information called for in the 2007 Group of Eight Growth and Responsibility in the World Economy Declaration as a vital step in energy diversification from conventional energy generation. We call

upon Member States to integrate clean electricity from renewable sources into their domestic energy sector by employing investment campaigns similar to our \$1.48 billion initiative ecoENERGY for Renewable Power. Canada encourages States to develop domestic policies of energy efficiency, utilizing regulatory and financing frameworks to accelerate the deployment of clean low-emitting technologies. We call upon Member States to provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy in order to fulfill their commitments to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Canada urges States to address the concerns of the 2007 Human Development Report by promoting tax incentives, similar to the Capital Cost Allowances and Canadian Renewable and Conservation Expenses, to encourage private sector development of energy conservation and renewable energy projects. As a member of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, Canada is committed to accelerating the development of renewable energy projects, information sharing mechanisms, and energy efficient systems through the voluntary carbon offset system. We are dedicated to leading international efforts toward the development and sharing of best practices on clean energy technologies and highlight our release of the Renewable Energy Technologies Screen software for public and private stakeholders developing projects in energy efficiency, cogeneration, and renewable energy. Canada believes the integration of clean energy into State specific strategies called for in A/62/419/Add.9 will strengthen energy diversification, promote the use of cogeneration, and achieve a synergy between promoting alternative energy while allowing for competitiveness in a sustainable economy.

III. Implementation of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Canada views the full implementation of the treatment and prevention targets of the 2001-2010 International Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Especially in Africa, as essential to eradicating malaria and assisting African States to achieve Target 8 of Goal 6 of the MDGs by 2015. We recommend Member States cooperate with the World Health Organization to ensure transparency in the collection of statistical information for Indicators 21 and 22 of the MDGs. Canada reaffirms the targets of the Abuja Declaration Plan of Action stressing regional cooperation in the implementation, monitoring, and management of malaria prevention and treatment initiatives in Africa. To fully implement A/RES/61/228, Canada believes developed States must balance trade and intellectual property obligations with the humanitarian objective of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health. We continue to implement Paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health into our compulsory licensing framework through the Jean Chrétien Pledge to Africa Act. We urge Member States to support compulsory licensing for essential generic medicines by including anti-malarial vaccines and initiating domestic provisions to permit export-only compulsory licenses to domestic pharmaceutical manufacturers, similar to Canada's Access to Medicines Regime. Canada calls upon Member States to establish advanced market commitments on the distribution of pneumococcal vaccines to developing States in cooperation with PATH and the Malaria Vaccine Initiative. We emphasize the need for greater membership in the Roll Back Malaria initiative to strengthen malaria control planning, funding, implementation, and evaluation by promoting increased investment in healthcare systems and greater incorporation of malaria control into all relevant multi-sector activities. Canada continues to implement the Canadian International Development Agency's (CIDA) New Agenda for Action on Health to reduce malaria infection rates among marginalized populations in Africa, increase routine immunizations rates, and reduce infection rates of other neglected infections. Canada will achieve the goal of doubling aid to Africa by 2008-2009 by providing assistance to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We urge Member States to increase donations to intergovernmental organizations and NGOs that support malaria programming in Africa, exemplified by CIDA's contribution of \$26 million to the Canadian Red Cross. We continue our efforts to provide accessible and affordable vector control methods to African States through the Red Cross' Malaria Bed Net Campaign and the African Medical Research Foundation Canada by supplying insecticide-treated mosquito nets and Participatory Malaria Prevention and Treatment tool kits.

I. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

“The Napoleonic War and the French Revolution put an end to the era of limited warfare. Thereafter, wars were fought by nations in arms. The Entire population was mobilized for the war effort, blurring the distinction between combatants and civilians, putting great strain on the customary law of war.”¹

Introduction

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* guarantees the right to “life, liberty, and security.”² The protection of civilians is a concept rooted in international humanitarian law, which seeks to minimize the harm to civilians and civilian property during times of conflict; more fundamentally, it is meant to protect civilians from violence in all its forms.³ From 1991-1995, during the Bosnian War, 39,309 civilians were killed during conflict.⁴ In Rwanda in 1994, it is estimated 800,000 people were massacred during the Rwandan Genocide.⁵ In Sierra Leone, from 1991-2001, rebels dismembered 30,000 civilians, including children, an estimated 215,000 women were victims of sexual violence, and from 1998-2000 some 6,300 civilians were killed during the fighting.⁶ Following these incidents, coupled with the failure of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers and other international forces to alleviate the damage inflicted on innocent civilians, the UN Security Council (UNSC) began to include within the mandates of peacekeeping missions the “protection of civilians from imminent violence” as a key aspect of peacekeeping missions.⁷

Role of the United Nations Security Council

Beginning in 1998, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in *A/52/871- The Causes and Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa*, deemed the protection of civilians a “humanitarian imperative.”⁸ After what Annan deemed a failure on the part of the United Nations to protect the innocent during the above-mentioned atrocities, Annan made it clear that the United Nations would make it a priority to prevent these kinds of atrocities from taking place ever again.⁹ To start, Annan began an inquiry into the UN’s failure to halt the 1994 Rwandan Genocide.¹⁰ In 1999, the first formal statement was made by the President of the UNSC regarding the protection of civilians. In this statement, the UNSC called upon the Secretary General to give recommendations on how to improve the protection of civilians and the role the UN could play.¹¹

While the statements by Kofi Annan and the President of the UNSC were important for the concept of protecting civilians, *S/RES/1265* was the first legitimate action taking by the UNSC to protect civilians during armed conflict.¹² *S/RES/1265* expanded on the concept of “humanitarian imperative.” This was the first resolution to explicitly condemn the deliberate targeting of civilian populations during times of war and conflict.¹³ Furthermore, *S/RES/1265*, specifically Article 8, “emphasizes the need for combatants to ensure the safety, security and freedom of movement of United Nations and associated personnel, as well as personnel of international humanitarian organizations...”¹⁴

In 2003, the President of the UNSC issued a statement to the council, which laid out a 10-point action plan to alleviate the harm brought to civilians during conflict. Key aspects of the plan of action are: strengthening the capacity of local police and judicial systems, facilitating safe and unimpeded access to vulnerable populations,

¹Solf, *Protection of Civilians Against the Effects of Hostilities Under Customary International Law and under Protocol I*, 1985

²United Nations, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948

³Oxfam International, *What is the ‘Protection of Civilians’ Principle?*, 2012

⁴Research and Documentation Center Sarajevo, *Human Losses 91-95*

⁵United Human Rights Council, *Genocide in Rwanda*, 2012

⁶Nigerian Muse, *Humanitarian Intervention: Exploring the Number of Civilian Casualties in Conflict Zones Where Peace-Enforcement Missions and Peace Keeping Missions have been Utilized*, 2009

⁷Oxfam International, *What is the ‘Protection of Civilians’ Principle?*, 2012

⁸United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa*, 1998

⁹BBC News, *UN Plan Rwanda Failures Inquiry*, 1999

¹⁰BBC News, *UN Plan Rwanda Failures Inquiry*, 1999

¹¹United Nations Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council*, 1999

¹²United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1265*, 1999

¹³United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1265*, 1999

¹⁴United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1265*, 1999

prioritizing and supporting the immediate protection needs of displaced persons and civilians, strengthening the role of women and constructive actors, and addressing the specific needs of women for assistance and protection.¹⁵ In 2004, Secretary-General Annan released another report, *S/2004/431 – Report of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, which reviewed the progress made by the UNSC in regard to protection of civilians. This report identified several shortcomings of the UNSC in moving towards protection of civilians. In this report, the Secretary-General identified nine areas where the mission to protect civilians failed on the ground and at headquarters, including humanitarian access, security of humanitarian personnel, assistance to and protection of refugees, issues relating to women and children, disarmament and rehabilitation, small arms and light weapons, impunity and compliance, responsibility of non-State armed groups, and “forgotten emergencies” (situations in where no action is taken unless violence significantly escalates).¹⁶ While progress was highlighted, the report stressed the need to move forward and rectify these shortcomings in order to make real progress.

After the UNSC held its first open debate in early December 2006, where the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) became a core principle, they adopted *S/RES/1738*, which called for broadened protection during armed conflict to journalists and associated personnel.¹⁷ Furthermore, *S/RES/1738* condemned intentional attacks on journalists and media, while also calling for these people to be under the umbrella of the definition of “civilian” so that they are offered the same rights and protections during an armed conflict.¹⁸

In July 2007, the UNSC authorized the deployment of a joint UN-African Union peacekeeping operation in Darfur.¹⁹ This operation, which was authorized under Chapter VIII of the *UN Charter*, allowed the mission to take any action deemed necessary to provide access to humanitarian organizations, as well as to protect these workers and to protect civilians during the violence.²⁰ Even though the UNSC was taking action, the October 2007 report by the Secretary-General, *S/2007/643 – Report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, emphasized the lack of access and free movement of humanitarian organizations and personnel in giving aid in conflict areas.²¹ However, the Secretary-General did note the progress made in expanding the role of peacekeepers, as well as a more developed role for regional organizations, and positive movements to combat impunity.²² Continuing areas of concern included the protection of journalists, the impact of conflict on older persons and persons with disabilities, and most notably sexual violence.²³

In 2010, with sexual violence being one of the major areas of concern for the Security Council, the Secretary-General released another report, *S/2010/579*, on the implementation of resolutions *S/RES/1820* and *S/RES/1880* which directly addressed the threat of sexual violence in conflict areas; the report itself called for an oversight to assess sexual violence in areas of violence.²⁴ Subsequently, the UNSC adopted *S/RES/1960*, which established a mechanism for analysis, reporting, and monitoring of sexual violence.²⁵

Current Debate in the Security Council

In 2008, Desmond Tutu declared: “the Responsibility to Protect will be exercised not after the murder and rape of innocent people, but when community tensions and political unrest begin. It is by preventing, rather than reacting, that we can truly fulfill our shared responsibility to end the worst forms of human rights abuses.”²⁶ While Tutu’s words seem simple, the debate in the UNSC continues to focus on when exactly to react, how to react, when to use UN force, and with whose primary responsibility does protection reside.

¹⁵ United Nations Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council*, 2003

¹⁶ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2004

¹⁷ United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1738*, 2006

¹⁸ United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1738*, 2006

¹⁹ United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1778*, 2007

²⁰ United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/1778*, 2007

²¹ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2007

²² United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2007

²³ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2007

²⁴ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2010

²⁵ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2010

²⁶ Tutu, *Taking the Responsibility to Protect*, 2008

In November 2011, the UNSC held an open debate on the protection of civilians and while all members find agreement in that the international community has an obligation to protect innocent people from harm during armed conflict, the execution varies from state to state. The President of the Security Council at the time stated that the Council, more than ever, has the instruments and capacity to protect civilians.²⁷ While this sentiment was echoed throughout the open debate on the topic, there was concern over the issue of sovereignty. However, while broad consensus was met on most issues regarding this topic, Li Baodong of China related the areas of concern that need to be addressed before complete consensus can be met. He noted that, in their opinion, it is the primary responsibility of the relevant government to protect citizens during conflicts.²⁸ He also reiterated China's belief that action taken by the Security Council must be exercised with extreme caution, and if action is necessary and is taken, compliance with UN standards and international law is of the utmost importance.²⁹ These sentiments emphasize the fact that it is imperative to not practice double standards when discussing R2P and that when it comes to the protection of civilians, equal importance should be given to all situations brought before the UNSC.³⁰

Regardless, all members of the UNSC have noted the responsibility of protecting civilians and its importance during times of conflict. One take on the R2P debate, put forward by Brazil, focuses on the concept of the Responsibility While Protecting. In a letter dated 11 November 2011, it was outlined by the Brazilian delegation that the Responsibility While Protecting concept must evolve with the concept of Responsibility to Protect, exhausting all peaceful means before using force, authorizing force means limiting a force in its operational and temporal elements so as to keep an end in sight, and that in the event the use of force is authorized, it is judicious, proportionate and limited to only the objectives deemed necessary by the UNSC.³¹ The idea of Responsibility While Protecting was welcomed by many delegations to be further evaluated during the open debate of the same year.³²

After the November 2011 open debate, the Secretary-General issued another report outlining progress on the issue. The report of May 2012 notes the failures of parties to abide by international humanitarian law and to respect the rights and obligations they have to civilians during conflict.³³ Secretary-General Ban specifically noted the situations in Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan, the Gaza Strip, and Syria as places of concern where the UN as a whole is failing in its mission to protect innocent people and get humanitarian assistance to areas that need it most.³⁴ While identifying areas of concern, noting the weak points in the UN responses, a new concern has arisen: the use of unmanned aerial vehicles for attack. The report specifically states:

"I remain concerned by the continuing use of unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones, for targeted attacks, including in situations of armed conflict because it is unclear in those situations whether all persons targeted are combatants or are directly participating in hostilities. This raises questions about compliance with the principle of distinction. Drone attacks also reportedly have caused hundreds of civilian casualties, raising questions about compliance with the principle of proportionality. Ensuring accountability for any failure to comply with international law is difficult when drone attacks are conducted outside the military chain of command and beyond effective and transparent mechanisms of civilian or military control."³⁵

While this development was grazed over, during the November 2011 open debate, it was stated that: "Let us not be under any misconceptions when it comes to so-called high-precision weapons in the context of the protection of civilians. They are painless only for those who fire them."³⁶ In this respect, the move forward in the debate could go toward the advancement of technology and how the international community may deal with technology that doesn't specifically denote who made an attack on a civilian population (the way an unmanned drone does).

²⁷ United Nations Security Council, *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2011

²⁸ United Nations Security Council, *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2011

²⁹ United Nations Security Council, *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2011

³⁰ United Nations Security Council, *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2011

³¹ United Nations, *Letter Dated 9 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General*, 2011

³² United Nations Security Council, *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2011

³³ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2012

³⁴ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2007

³⁵ United Nations Security Council, *Report of the Secretary General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2007

³⁶ United Nations Security Council, *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, 2011

Conclusion

While the end of the Cold War indicated a drop in actual conflicts around the world, this trend is not likely to continue.³⁷ A 2007 report estimated that 46 countries with a total population of 2.7 billion will face the threat of violent conflict because of the “double headed risk” that exists due to climate changes exacerbating traditional security threats, like the gross inequality between groups that can be exploited by extremists.³⁸ This phenomena means that with a world that is ever changing, the threat for conflict moving forward is as great as ever. With this revelation, the concept of protecting civilians during times of conflict is as important today as it was in the 1990s (if not more important).

In 2010, 2,777 civilians in Afghanistan were killed, a 15% increase from 2009.³⁹ In Somalia, at least 7,600 civilians were reported weapons related injuries, with at least 2,100 of them in Mogadishu alone, and in Iraq, the civilian death toll was over 4,000, which despite a three year regression, still made it the state with the most civilian casualties.⁴⁰ These deaths are also not a result of simple crossfire from two opposing forces; in the Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, where there is widespread sexual and gender based violence, women and children are being targeted for sexual exploitation and are being stripped of their human rights.⁴¹ Additionally, sexual violence, rather than being a by-product of a conflict, is being used as a tool of conflict.⁴² Furthermore, displacement of civilians continues to be a concern in regions of conflict. In 2009, Sudan had the highest level of overall people remaining internally displaced.⁴³ Other grave dangers civilians face, in addition to sexual violence and displacement, include forcible recruitment into a conflict, looting, and destruction of property.⁴⁴

Since 1998 the debate on protecting civilians has evolved tremendously. The debate started on how to simply protect civilians, to how to get them aid during times of conflict, to stopping violence against women and children, to monitoring and halting sexual violence, to responsibility while protecting, to the advancements in technology that allow easier attacks on any type of population. This evolution is a major step in the right direction, but it will be important to analyze your countries position on the issue as well as raise questions that would be relevant to the debate itself. At what point does the UNSC have to intervene during a conflict? How are international legal instruments supposed to be enforced when it comes to protecting civilians? On a logistical level, how do you ensure the free movement of humanitarian aid in conflict areas? How does the UNSC address the fact that no conflict is the same? How does the UNSC approach this when one solution does not necessarily translate into a universal solution for all conflicts? How does the UNSC deal with the advancement of technology when drones and unmanned air vehicles assault civilian populations? The information and questions presented simply graze the surface of this issue. It will take time and effort to really draft quality work for this issue. Good luck with all of your research for this topic.

II. The Situation in the Middle East, Including Syria

“For a challenge as great as this, only the united international community can compel both sides to engage in peaceful political transition. But a political process is difficult, if not impossible while all sides – within and without Syria – see opportunity to advance their narrow agendas by military means. International division means support for proxy agendas and the fueling of violent competition on the ground.”⁴⁵

Introduction

The Middle East has a rich history entrenched in war, bloodshed, and civil strife. Since December 2010, there have been uprisings and demonstrations that have spilled over the most of the region. In January 2012, at least 25 were killed in Syria by bombings, the second bombing in as many weeks in Syria.⁴⁶ Furthermore, in Iraq, a wave of bombings has swept the country since the United States troops left in December 2011. In January 2012, at least 72

³⁷ Cairns, *For a Safer Tomorrow*, 2008

³⁸ Cairns, *For a Safer Tomorrow*, 2008

³⁹ Oxfam, *Protection of Civilians in 2010*, 2011

⁴⁰ Oxfam, *Protection of Civilians in 2010*, 2011

⁴¹ Oxfam, *Protection of Civilians in 2010*, 2011

⁴² Oxfam, *Protection of Civilians in 2010*, 2011.

⁴³ Oxfam, *Protection of Civilians in 2010*, 2011

⁴⁴ Oxfam, *Protection of Civilians in 2010*, 2011.

⁴⁵ Annan, *My Departing Advice on how to Save Syria*, 2012

⁴⁶ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Bombs, More Bombs, and Peace Talks*, 2012

people died in coordinated bomb attacks in the country.⁴⁷ In Libya, also in January 2012, gun fights erupted in Tripoli between former rebel factions that resulted in the death of four militia members and five others who were wounded.⁴⁸

To further highlight the strife going on in the region, on August 23, 2012, “renewed clashes broke out in Lebanon’s northern city of Tripoli between Sunnis and Alawites, despite a ceasefire brokered. Since fighting erupted four days ago, fifteen people have died, and nearly one hundred have been injured.”⁴⁹ In Egypt, there have been clashes in the town of El-Arish.⁵⁰ The militant forces fired on a police station where hundreds of troops entering the town were fired upon and sixteen border guards were gunned down and killed as they were breaking their daily Ramadan Fast.⁵¹ As of August 2012, the Syrian conflict has gone on for 17 months, and there have been as many as 22,601 opposition deaths, approximately 20,958 civilian deaths, about 1,754 children deaths, and as many as 1,746 deaths to the opposition military.⁵²

These types of numbers do not occur every year, but it does paint a fair representation of the kinds of conflicts that trouble the region. While the United Nations and the Security Council (SC) have worked on creating a consensus on how to deal with this region, one has yet to be reached.

The “Arab Spring” and International Impact

The term “Arab Spring” was coined after the United States led invasion of Iraq in 2003.⁵³ The idea was that if the Saddam Hussein led regime was to topple in Iraq, it would create a domino effect of democratic uprisings throughout the region, leading to democracy spreading throughout the Middle East.⁵⁴ While the Iraq war itself was considered a failure by the standards set by the United States, the “Arab Spring” did eventually blossom in 2010. Countries throughout the Middle East and North Africa saw sweeping grass-roots movements, which sought to replace dictatorial and authoritarian regimes.⁵⁵ Some movements proved more successful than others, and the future of some of these countries remains uncertain.⁵⁶

Beginning on 18 December 2010, 17 countries in the Middle East and North Africa experienced some sort of uprising.⁵⁷ Rulers were forced out of power in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen.⁵⁸ Civil uprisings began in Bahrain and Syria. Major protests broke out in Algeria, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, and Sudan, and minor protests occurred in Lebanon, Mauritania, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Djibouti, and the Western Sahara.⁵⁹

Not every uprising can be attributed to the same problem, but for the most part, these uprising can be attributed, in part, to economic conditions, demographic trends, and social and political influences.⁶⁰ While these uprisings did have to do with factors other than security, the United Nations and the international community can look at some of the factors that led to these uprisings, including the lack of employment, the lack of investors to supply capital to the region, and, as noted before, political unrest. For example, in early 2011, the average citizen in one of these countries was relatively young, around the age of 18, and fairly well educated, particularly in fields of science and technology.⁶¹ However, with unemployment high in the region, people, even those with an education, took to protesting their government for the lack of jobs, which meant lack of daily resources, and this led to lack of daily humanitarian needs to feed a family.⁶²

⁴⁷ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Bombs, More Bombs, and Peace Talks*, 2012

⁴⁸ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Bombs, More Bombs, and Peace Talks*, 2012

⁴⁹ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Lebanon Erupts, Syria Boils, and Egypt Builds Up*, 2012

⁵⁰ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Lebanon Erupts, Syria Boils, and Egypt Builds Up*, 2012

⁵¹ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Lebanon Erupts, Syria Boils, and Egypt Builds Up*, 2012

⁵² Danin, *Syria By the Numbers II*, 2012

⁵³ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁵⁴ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁵⁵ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁵⁶ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁵⁷ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁵⁸ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁵⁹ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁶⁰ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁶¹ Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

⁶² Global Issues in Context, *Arab Spring*, 2012

Since the “Arab Spring”, one of the major sources of capital for the region, oil, has decreased because of the unrest.⁶³ The Middle East and North Africa supply 40% of oil and 20% of natural gas traded internationally.⁶⁴ The countries in the region hold some of the largest, if not the largest, reserves of oil and natural gas in the world.⁶⁵ When the instability in the region began in December 2010, the price of oil per barrel increased \$20.⁶⁶ The uprisings also lead to decreases or halting of production, which has contributed largely to unemployment in the region, as oil production signifies a large portion of revenue and jobs.

Middle East Case Study – Syria

While the Arab Spring prompted violent uprisings, notably in Egypt and Lebanon, the worst and longest of these uprisings is currently taking place in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Syrian Uprising while not officially declared a fully fledged civil war began in March 2011. The two main combatants are the Syrian Armed Forces and the Syrian Opposition, most notably the Free Syrian Army. The uprising has gone on for 17 months, and as noted above, has resulted in the deaths of opposition forces, the Syrian Army, and, most notably, large numbers of civilians; the conflict has also displaced many civilians as refugees into Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey.⁶⁷ During the uprisings, there have also been reports of widespread torture by the Syrian Army on opposition protestors in government prisons.⁶⁸ Other human rights violations have been confirmed to have occurred, including sexual abuse of prisoners.⁶⁹

While the uprising is said to have begun in March 2011, the protests began in January 2011.⁷⁰ In March 2011, the state security forces in Syria responded, after two months of protest, with violent repression of the protestors.⁷¹ A month later, in April 2011, the Security Council’s open debate on Protection of Civilians included discussions pertaining to the situation in Syria.⁷² While the open debate did address issues in Syria, the first formal action the council took was to release a press statement, in July 2011, after an attack on the French and United States Embassies in Damascus.⁷³ In August 2011, another debate was held, this one being an open debate on the Middle East, and once again the situation in Syria was addressed.⁷⁴ After the debate, the UNSC released a Presidential Statement that addressed the deteriorating situation in Syria.⁷⁵

After a draft resolution in October 2011, and another press statement in November 2011, the High Commissioner for Human Rights addressed the SC and briefed the council on grave human rights violations going on in Syria.⁷⁶ In response to a terrorist attack in Damascus, the Security Council issued another press statement that condemned the attacks in January 2012.⁷⁷

While the Security Council issued press and presidential statements, they did not adopt resolutions that would have enabled them to take action. However, the General Assembly itself took action. In February 2012, the General Assembly adopted *A/RES/66/253*, which called for the Secretary-General to appoint a special envoy, in conjunction with the Arab League, in order to facilitate the peace process in Syria.⁷⁸ After this resolution, former Secretary-General Kofi Annan was appointed as the Special Envoy to Syria.⁷⁹

⁶³ Ratner, *Middle East and North Africa Unrest: Implications for Oil and Natural Gas Markets*, 2011

⁶⁴ Ratner, *Middle East and North Africa Unrest: Implications for Oil and Natural Gas Markets*, 2011

⁶⁵ Ratner, *Middle East and North Africa Unrest: Implications for Oil and Natural Gas Markets*, 2011

⁶⁶ Ratner, *Middle East and North Africa Unrest: Implications for Oil and Natural Gas Markets*, 2011

⁶⁷ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Annan’s Resignation, Syria’s Escalation, and Egypt’s Plodding Government Formation*, 2012

⁶⁸ Courier Mail, *UNICEF Says 400 Children Killed in Syria*, 2012

⁶⁹ Courier Mail, *UNICEF Says 400 Children Killed in Syria*, 2012

⁷⁰ Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

⁷¹ Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

⁷² Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

⁷³ United Nations Security Council, *Security Council Press Statement on Embassy Attacks in Damascus*, 2011

⁷⁴ Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

⁷⁵ United Nations Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council*, August 2011

⁷⁶ Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

⁷⁷ United Nations Security Council, *Security Council Press Statement on Damascus Terrorist Attack*, 2012

⁷⁸ United Nations General Assembly, *A/RES/66/253*, 2012

⁷⁹ Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

In March 2012, the Council issued another Press Statement which supported the Special Envoy's Six-Point Plan for Mediation.⁸⁰ The following month, *S/RES/2043* was adopted, which created and deployed the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), a mission comprised of 300 unarmed military observers.⁸¹

In June 2012, the Action Group for Syria issued a communiqué which called upon all parties to commit to the Six-Point Plan mapped out for a peaceful political process.⁸² In August 2012, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on the security situation in Damascus and also offered recommendations to the Council on the future of UNSMIS.⁸³ On 2 August 2012, the same day as the briefing, Mr. Annan stepped down as special envoy. Mr. Annan served out his term according to the Security Council Mandate and decided not to renew his position at the end of this mandate, and Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has already sought his successor.⁸⁴

Mr. Annan, however, did offer some advice on moving forward in Syria. Mr. Annan stated in an op-ed piece in the Financial Times that:

“While the Security Council is trapped in stalemate, so too is Syria. The government has attempted to suppress, through extreme violence, a popular and widespread movement that, after 40 years of dictatorship, has decided it can no longer be intimidated. The result has been an increasing loss of control on the ground, and the opposition has turned to its own military campaign to fight back. Yet, it remains unclear how the government can be brought down through force alone.”⁸⁵

Mr. Annan's resignation signifies the complexities involved with the situation in Syria. To date, since the fighting began, more than around 20,000 to 30,000 (and rising) deaths have been calculated, and refugees fleeing to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq total 122,253 and rising.⁸⁶

Conclusion

The timeline of current events in the Middle East highlight the intricacy involved in the region. The Arab Spring itself showed that the region is ready for reform, even if it means the removal of a leader. The world saw that in Libya, Egypt, and Tunisia. Furthermore, the situation in Syria represents the complex nature of conflict and reaching international consensus. The council, while administering statements and the UNSMIS, has yet to reach consensus to solve the situation in Syria. Mr. Annan's statements after his resignation from special envoy note how it is imperative to the future of Syria for the international community, especially the Security Council itself, to cooperate and work to save the state.

It will take a solid understanding of current events, in Syria and the region as a whole, to come up with good policy prescriptions for your country. Shallow analysis of events will not suffice. A grasp of the reasons for uprising (the ones not explored here) will be integral to your research.

Annotated Bibliography

I. Protection of Civilians during Armed Conflict

BBC News. (1999). *UN Plan Rwanda Failures Inquiry*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/301503.stm>

In 1994, Rwanda suffered one of the most horrible genocides in human history. As a result, then Secretary-General Kofi Annan made it a priority to never again let genocide happen when it can be prevented; Annan

⁸⁰ United Nations Security Council, *S/PRST/2012/6*, 2012

⁸¹ United Nations Security Council, *S/RES/2043*, 2012

⁸² United Nations, *Final Communiqué of the Action Group for Syria*, 2012

⁸³ Security Council Report, *Historical Chronology – Syria*, 2012

⁸⁴ Danin, *Middle East Matters This Week: Annan's Resignation, Syria's Escalation, and Egypt's Plodding Government Formation*, 2012

⁸⁵ Annan, *My Departing Advice on how to Save Syria*, 2012

⁸⁶ Danin, *Syria by the Numbers II*, 2012

felt it was a fault of the United Nations and the inaction itself that caused so many lives to be lost. The United Nations, as a result, created a Rwanda Failures inquiry to learn from this mistake.

Cairns, Edmund. (2008) *For a Safer Tomorrow*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from

<http://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/for-a-safer-tomorrow-0809.pdf>

This report outlines four major areas the international community should take bold steps in to protect civilians. The first is to make the protection of civilians an overriding priority. While protecting civilians is an important issue for the international community, it is mixed in with many other issues the world is dealing with. Secondly, adopting a zero tolerance of war crimes needs to be implemented. Third, act quickly to conflicts that threaten new or prolonged conflicts. And lastly, make sure there are collaboration at all levels from the United Nations itself, to the local communities.

Nigerian Muse. (2009). *Humanitarian Intervention: Exploring the Number of Civilian Casualties in Conflit Zones Where Peace-Enforcement Missions and Peace Keeping Missions have been Utilized*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from <http://www.nigerianmuse.com/20090707065955zg/nm-projects/africa-projects/humanitarian-intervention-exploring-the-number-of-civilian-casualties-in-conflict-zones-where/>

This study looks addresses whether or not the mandate of the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions need to be reassessed. The study mainly looks at the difference in the number of causalities where militaries have been deployed versus where they have not been deployed.

Oxfam International.(2012). *What is the 'Protection of Civilians' Principle?*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from

<http://www.oxfam.org/en/campaigns/conflict/protection-of-civilians>

In order to understand this issue, one must first understand the fundamentals of the issue. Oxfam does a good job of giving a brief introduction to Civilians in Armed Conflict the concept of "Protection of Civilians." Furthermore, it poses questions such as who is responsible, and also looks at Oxfam's mission in this area. Oxfam's mission in protecting civilians is a good starting point to build off.

Research and Documentation Center, Sarajevo. *Human Losses '91-95'*.Retrieved July 29, 2012 from

http://www.idc.org.ba/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&id=35&Itemid=126&lang=bs

For four years in Bosnia, there was a civil war that caused the loss of many human lives. This site shows the statistics from 1991-1995. It outlines regions where there was loss of life, nationalities of casualties, as well as how many were civilians, soldiers, women, or children.

Solf . A Waldemar. (1985). *Protection of Civilians Against the Effects of Hostilities Under Customary International law and under Protocol I. American University Journal of International Law and Policy*. 117-135

At the time of this publication, the Cold War between the Soviet Union and United States was still going on. What makes this interesting is the quote used at the beginning of this guide. It shows that before the transformation of international politics at the end of the Cold War, the nature of war and conflict was already changing.

Tutu, Desmond. (2008) *Taking the Responsibility to Protect*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from

www.ihf.com/articles/2008/02/19/opinion/edtutu.php

Archbishop Desmond Tutu oversaw the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the end of the South African Apartheid. While he is now retired, his voice still is one that is heard throughout the international community. This article first appeared in 2008 and what was notable was the fact that while we as an international community have a responsibility to protect, we must not use this principle as a justification for military intervention. The notion, frequently repeated in the UNSC, is the state has the first line of responsibility to protect its citizens.

United Human Rights Council. (2012). *Genocide in Rwanda*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from

http://www.unitedhumanrights.org/genocide/genocide_in_rwanda.htm

This document gives documentation into the events of the Rwandan Genocide. Furthermore, it gives a timeline of how the events that went down, and how different states reacted to the genocide. This genocide was one of the most atrocious in modern history, and this document gives a good introduction to the events taken place.

United Nations General Assembly. (1948) *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the foundation for any study on the subject. Furthermore, most, if not all, documents relating to the protection of civilians is based off principles found in this document. This should be the cornerstone of research when evaluating Human Rights.

United Nations General Assembly/Security Council. (2011). *Letter Dated 9 November 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General (A/66/51-S/2011/701)*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from <http://www.un.int/brazil/speech/Concept-Paper-%20RwP.pdf>
The Brazilian delegation to the United Nations agrees with the concept of the Responsibility to Protect. However, also with this requires the Responsibility While Protecting. This notion means that while there is an obligation to protect, a state must maintain the priority to protect while they're also protecting and not cause more harm during a conflict.

United Nations Security Council (2011). *Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/PV.6650)*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/POC%20S%20PV%206650.pdf>
The open debate on the Protection of Civilians took place in November 2011. The members of the Security Council outlined their policies to one another and one of the main aspects was that the state has the first priority to protect its civilians. This open debate is important because it is recorded dialogue that outlines the policy of each member of the Security Council regarding this topic. Furthermore, it serves as a document that can be used to compare/contrast policies among members of the Security Council.

United Nations Security Council. (17 September 1999). *Resolution 1265*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/files/SC_Res_1265_POC.pdf
S/RES/1265 was the first resolution adopted by the Security Council that addressed the Protection of Civilians. The resolution first condemned the deliberate targeting of civilians. Furthermore, it emphasized the importance of prevention to either not let a conflict arise, or continue.

United Nations Security Council. (1998) *Report of the Secretary-General on the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa (A/52/871 – S/1998/318)*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from http://www.un.org/africa/osaa/reports/A_52_871_Causes%20of%20Conflict%201998.pdf
This report from Secretary General Kofi Annan was the precursor to S/RES/1265. This report was named and mostly about sustainable development in Africa. However, in this report, the protection of civilians was first addressed, and Mr. Annan called the protection of civilians a “Humanitarian Imperative”.

United Nations Security Council. (1999). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/1999/6)*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Civilians%20SPRST19996.pdf>
This was the first report that directly addressed the Protection of Civilians. The report laid out several recommendations including taking special attention to kids, women, and peacekeeping personnel. Furthermore, it sought to strengthen physical and legal protection of civilians.

United Nations Security Council. (2003). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2003/27)*. Retrieved July 29, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Civilians%20SPRST200327.pdf>
This Presidential Statement was created a 10 Point Action Plan to protect civilians. Issue such as the protection of children and women were addressed. Also, it looked at the role of journalists during armed conflict, and training of security and peacekeeping forces.

United Nations Security Council. (2004) *Report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2004/431)*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/files/SC_SGReportontheProtectionofCivilians_28May04.pdf
This was the first report since the publishing of the 10 Point Action Plan. This report outlined performance achieved in the realm of protecting civilians. This report also identified short comings of the work from the United Nations itself. Furthermore, this report also noted the lack of a regional approach, and the lack of inclusion of guarantees for the protection of civilian in peace processes.

United Nations Security Council. (2006). *Resolution 1738*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Civilians%20SRES1738.pdf>

This was the first resolution that directly addressed the protection of journalists during armed conflict. Even though they are in a conflict zone on their own accord, they are still independent and not a part of the fighting during a conflict. Therefore, this resolution afforded them the same rights and protections as any other civilian during armed conflicts

United Nations Security Council. (2007) *Report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2007/643)*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Civilians%20S2007643.pdf>

This report from the Secretary General noted that there were many large-scale abuses going on in various parts of the world. There were violations of international humanitarian law, and the UN was failing to prevent these atrocities. At the time of publication, it named the most affected places in the world: Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, Darfur, the DRC, and Myanmar.

United Nations Security Council. (2007). *Resolution 1778*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/N0751615.pdf>

Through Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the UNSC approved a UN Mission in the Central African Republic. This mandate included security forces training, and increases in camp securities. This was done in conjunction with the European Union.

United Nations Security Council. (2010) *Report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2010/579)*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/POC%20S2010%20579.pdf>

This report highlighted areas for concern, and areas that are encouraging. The Secretary General noted that the council made enhances in child protection, and helping to alleviate sexual violence. However, Mr. Ban noted that there are five areas that the United Nations faces: 1) enhancing compliance, 2) enhancing compliance by non-state armed groups, 3) protection by UN peacekeepers, 4) providing humanitarian access, and 5) enhancing accountability.

United Nations Security Council. (2012) *Report of the Secretary-General on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2012/376)*. Retrieved July 28, 2012 from <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N12/328/94/PDF/N1232894.pdf>

The most recent report from Mr. Ban named three areas where the threat for civilians is grave: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia. This report also reiterated the five core challenges outlined in the previous report from Mr. Ban.

II. The Situation in the Middle East – Including Syria

Annan, Kofi. (2012). *My Departing Advice on how to save Syria*. Financial Times. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/b00b6ed4-dbc9-11e1-8d78-00144feab49a.html>

The Former Secretary General (Kofi Annan), who also served as the special envoy to Syria during this strife, offered direction on how the UN and international community should move forward. However, Mr. Annan left his post as special envoy. In this editorial, one of Mr. Annan's main points was regarding the Security Council and the need to reach consensus in order to properly solve the situation in Syria.

Courier Mail. (2011). *UNICEF Says 400 Children Killed in Syria*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from: <http://www.couriermail.com.au/news/breaking-news/unicef-says-400-children-killed-in-syria/story-e6freonf-1226265280318>

One of the condemnations of the Security Council has been grave human rights violations in Syria. The Syrian Government, according to the story, was performing acts of torture within the prisons, which housed opposition forces. Furthermore, acts of sexual abuse and acts of violence against children were also noted.

- Danin, Robert. (2012). *Middle East Matters This Week: Annan's Resignation, Syria's Escalation, and Egypt's Plodding Government Formation*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://blogs.cfr.org/danin/2012/08/02/middle-east-matters-this-week-annans-resignation-syrias-escalation-and-egypts-plodding-government-formation>
This entry was the first after the resignation of Special Envoy Kofi Annan. Mr. Annan resigned after the mission's mandate was terminated. To add, Ban Ki-Moon expressed that the UN would still seek to advance peace and use the "Six Point Plan" he proposed. Mr. Annan, also, pointed out that the difference of opinions within the Security Council would make establishing peace in Syria difficult.
- Danin, Robert. (2012). *Middle East Matters This Week: Bombs, More Bombs, and Peace Talks*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://blogs.cfr.org/danin/2012/01/06/middle-east-matters-this-week-bombs-more-bombs-and-peace-talks/>
This blog covers the Middle East. In this particular week, it highlighted bombings in Syria, violence in Iraq, Israel/Palestine, and Iraq. Furthermore, the entry also noted trouble in Libya. The blog also covers happenings in U.S. Foreign policy pertaining to the region, as well as other significant policy moves from other countries that affect the Middle East.
- Danin, Robert. (2012). *Middle East Matters This Week: Lebanon Erupts, Syria Boils, and Egypt Builds Up*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://blogs.cfr.org/danin/2012/08/23/middle-east-matters-this-week-lebanon-erupts-syria-boils-and-egypt-builds-up/>
This entry detailed the further escalation of the troubles in Syria, as well as troubles in Lebanon and Egypt. Of significance, this was one of the first to address the issue of Syria since the resignation of the Special Envoy (Kofi Annan).
- Danin, Robert. (2012) *Syria by the Numbers II*. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://blogs.cfr.org/danin/2012/08/01/syria-by-the-numbers-ii/>
This site covered the numbers relevant to the violence in Syria. It shows the numbers of deaths to civilians, opposing forces, and also notes how many refugees have been displaced. These numbers will increase as the conflict is still occurring as of present.
- Global Issues in Context. (2012). *Arab Spring*. Retrieved September 5, 2012 from: <http://find.galegroup.com/gic/docRetrieve.do?searchPageType=BasicSearchForm&inPS=true&prodId=GIC&userGroupName=23mbss&docId=CP3208520388>
The Arab Spring was a phenomenon. The amount of protests, mixed with some violence, was unique. This site gives a detailed overview of the Arab Spring. Furthermore, it offers a timeline of events and gives insight on what sparked protests and why people were upset in the region.
- Ratner, Michael and Neelash Nerurkar. (2011). *Middle East and North Africa Unrest: Implications for Oil and Natural Gas Markets*. Congressional Research Service. Retrieved on September 5, 2012 from: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/R41683.pdf>
One of the main sources of capital coming out of the region is oil. During the Arab Spring, oil prices were affected around the world. Furthermore, because companies were uneasy with the unrest in the region, the global oil market did take a hit because of the turmoil.
- Security Council Report. (2012). *Syria Historical Chronology*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/syria.php?page=1>
This site outlines all of the events in the Syrian Uprising. Most notably, this timeline assesses all of the action by the United Nations and other international bodies—most notably the Security Council itself. This gives an in depth view of what the international community as done to help Syria amidst this violent uprising.
- United Nations. (6 July 2012). *Final Communique of the Action Group for Syria*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Syria%20S2012%20522.pdf>
This is an imperative document to analyze. It outlines steps, approved by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, on how to alleviate strife in Syria. Furthermore, the document did call for a halt to all violence and move forward the peace process and the political transition in Syria.

United Nations General Assembly. (21 February 2012). *Resolution 253*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Syria%20A%20RES%2066%20253.pdf>

The inaction of the Security Council regarding Syria prompted action from the General Assembly. While their work is not legally binding, the General Assembly all but made the Security Council create a special envoy to monitor and address the situation in Syria. The envoy was appointed by Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon.

United Nations Security Council. (21 April 2012). *Resolution 2043*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Syria%20SRES%202043.pdf>

This resolution created the UNSMIS. The special envoy appointed was to be Kofi Annan. The initial period was to be 90 days with up to 300 unarmed military observers. The mission was to be deployed expeditiously due to ongoing strife in Syria.

United Nations Security Council. (12 July 2011). *Security Council Press Statement on Embassy Attacks in Damascus*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2011/sc10321.doc.htm>

In July 2011, the French and United States Embassies were attacked in Damascus. This was the first formal step taken by the council addressing the violence in Syria. The statement used strong language to stress the urgency of the matter.

United Nations Security Council. (6 January 2012). *Security Council Press Statement on Damascus Terrorist Attack*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sc10513.doc.htm>

In January 2012, a terrorist attack occurred in Damascus. The President of the Council was South Africa. Furthermore, this attack killed many deaths and injuries to forces and civilians.

United Nations Security Council. (3 August 2011). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2011/16)*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Syria%20%20SPRST%202011%2016.pdf>

While the press statement through the UN's Department of Public Information was the first formal move by the Council, this statement by the President of the Council signaled a step into the direction of alleviating the horrors in Syria. The strong language called for both sides to cease violence and stop attacks on state institutions.

United Nations Security Council. (12 March 2012). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2012/6)*. Retrieved September 10, 2012 from

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Syria%20S%20PRST%202012%206.pdf>

This presidential statement supported the Joint Special Envoy's Six-Point Plan for Mediation to the Syrian Crisis. The plan outlined a peaceful political transition and was the key plan to bring peace to the state. The plan is still to be executed at present moment.