

# GAICMUN 2015

GAIC MUN

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Chair Report

Committee: United Nations Security Council

Agenda 1: Ongoing Struggles Between Palestine and Israel

Agenda 2: Ways to Handle the Recent Crises Regarding the ISIS

Student Officers: Martin Jang, Jennifer Park

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## Committee Introduction

The *GAIC 2015 United Nations Security Council* explicitly deals with the most controversial issues. The committee is composed of 15 members, categorised as 5 permanent members (France, United Kingdom, United States of America, China and Russia), and 10 non-permanent members chosen every two years in the General Assembly. As of 2015, the 10 non-permanent members are Angola, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Malaysia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Spain, and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

Throughout the conference, the Security Council will discuss two major agendas. The committee's duty as a whole, is to find the ideal solution suitable for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, look upon the future and seek for the point where everyone, if not so the majority, can meet a conclusion and compromise.

It is extremely natural for the conference to turn into an active debate considering the sensitive agendas that the Security Council deals with. It is the top priority of delegates to actively participate in the debate and express their opinions regarding their nation's status quo, however not to go as far as undermining or galvanising others. The United Nations Security Council's presence is for ceasing and soothing the crises around the world, and in the long run, pursuing the better future of this planet and well-being of humanity. Contemplation and speculation will be expected from not only each and every single one of the delegates but the committee as a whole, and manners will *always*, be highly appreciated.



## Agenda 1: Ongoing Struggles Between Israel and Palestine

### 1. Agenda Introduction

#### (1-a) General Overview:

The detrimental ramifications of the second World War and the blood-stained Holocaust accordingly caused many Jews to desire a safe haven in an independent country of their own. Consequently, in 1947, the United Nations' General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 (also widely known as the UN Partition Plan) for Palestine. The resolution called for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, with the city of Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* (Latin for "separate entity"). This was considered by the Palestinian-Jewish community to be a legal basis for the establishment of Israel, yet it was rejected by the Arab community.

In May 1948, Israel declared itself independent, becoming the only Jewish state in the world. This encouraged Jewish people ubiquitously disseminate throughout the world to immigrate to Israel. The mass immigration resulted in a surge of population growth in Palestine, and resident Arabs were forcibly displaced from their villages by the onrush of Jewish population. Having become externally or internally displaced refugees, the Palestinians became a part of the mass exodus in which their population spread into other nations. Though the declaration of an independent Israel was nothing but a benediction for the Jewish, to the displaced Palestinians the event became known as "al Nakba" - the Catastrophe.

In the midst of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian hostility, one of the major issues in need of discussion and, if possible, a solution, is disarmament. While Israel allegedly possesses over 80 (estimations ranging from 75 to more than 400) nuclear weapons, it does not acknowledge said possession of arms, nor is it a part of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Currently, Israel possesses not only a multitude of missiles and aircraft, but also has a total estimated destructive power of up to 12 megatons (12,000 kilotons of TNT). Israel is maintaining a policy of "nuclear opacity", where it neither confirms nor denies the possession of nuclear weapons. Their pledge "not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons in the Middle East" implies Israel will not test or publicly declare the existence of its nuclear weapons.

Hamas (see *Key Terms*) in the Gaza Strip (see *Key Terms*) is consistently smuggling in a flow of armaments through illegal smuggling tunnels. While the tunnels are indisputably illegal in the eyes of Israeli law, they are a vital part necessary for the survival of numerous people currently residing in Gaza. The tunnels are used for not only the illegal smuggling of armaments, but also of necessary consumer goods and pharmaceutical drugs. According to the periodical, *Times of Israel*, Hamas has set up a network of Palestinian merchants within Israel to ship products and/or materials that can be used to help Hamas rebuild its terror infrastructure. Hamas has also developed its own weapons for usage against the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF). These domestically produced weapons include: artillery rockets, anti-tank missiles, and RPGs (Rocket-Propelled Grenades).

With the help of its superior artillery, Israel is continuing to expand its territory, and as a result, the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelites is relentlessly ongoing. Life in the Gaza Strip for the 1.5 million residents is arduous - the constant presence of the looming border patrol often prevents goods from passing through the borders. Thus, power cuts are frequent, and fresh food is rare. Furthermore, the current unemployment rate is high due to the low rates of local consumption and

export. More than 4.6 million Palestinians are refugees as of today, and they mostly reside in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, Jordan or Lebanon. Despite Palestine's lack of a national army, rockets are regularly fired from Gaza into Israel, and after the Israeli troops' withdrawal in 2005, Israeli offensives have been launched, targeting the Strip.

Other countries, such as the United States, have been working hard to settle the fighting between the Arabs and Israelis. However, their efforts were so far met with little-to-no progress. Many wish for Gaza and the West Bank to be a part of an independent Palestine, while Israel refuses to allow it in terms of safety. This issue is currently mired in controversial points such as the questionable futures of both the Israelis settled in the West Bank and the Palestinian refugees. Additionally, there is also an ongoing debate regarding who will run Jerusalem. Israel currently rejects any government that includes the voice of Hamas, and turns down any and all peace talks. In order for a feasible solution to be established, both parties must find common ground.

### **(1-b) Definition of Key Terms:**

#### **UN Partition Plan**

The United Nations Partition Plan, otherwise called Resolution 181, was proposed by the United Nations and adopted in 1947 to terminate the British Mandate (see *History*) in order to create independent Arab and Jewish states. Though the Jewish Agency (Jewish representatives in Palestine) accepted the plan because it tactically implied to the international audience their aim of establishing an independent state, there were some reluctance because of the reduced territory grant in the plan. Furthermore, the Arab League and Palestinian institutions felt it unjustified to reject the rights of the majority of the Palestinians and thus rejected the plan. Later, they launched an infiltration to attack Palestine in December 1947.

#### **One State Solution**

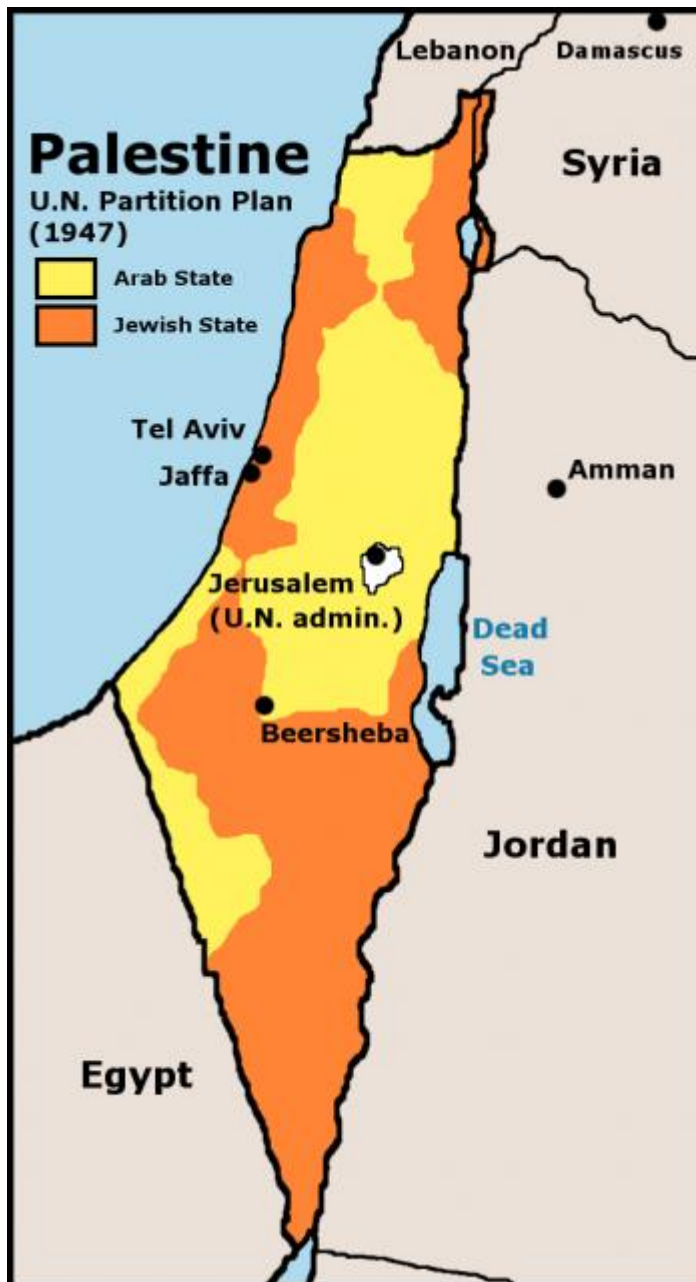


In November 2009, the Israeli President Shimon Peres said, "Anyone who rejects the two-state solution, won't bring a one-state solution. They will instead bring one war, not one state. A bloody war with no end." The One State Solution is a solution that advocates a single state in Israel and the Palestinian territories with equal rights regardless of race or religion. Though conceptually ideal, there are a number of concerns raised regarding this solution. For instance, The vast majority of Israeli Jews resent Palestinians and insist on maintaining a separate Jewish-majority state. Additionally, there are currently an abundance of factors that restrict the Palestinian people, including the physical

separation wall that prevents Palestinians from entering Israeli areas. Further on, Israeli-Arabs in Israel face discrimination despite their Israeli citizenship status.



## Two State Solution



Considered the more peaceful solution of the two by the bulk of the global community, the Two State Solution advocates the establishment of an independent State of Palestine alongside Israel. While there have been a great amount of diplomatic effort placed in the attempt to implement this solution in negotiations (as can be seen in cases such as the Madrid Conference, Oslo Accords, Taba Negotiations, and Road Map for Peace), the biggest counteracting factor is two parties' refusal to cooperate. Israel does not recognise Palestinian sovereignty and thus shows little interest in this solution. The boundaries between the two states are also controversial, as Israel continues to build illegal settlements

and expand towards the West Bank.

## West Bank

The West Bank is a landlocked region located in the Middle East, west of Jordan and east of Israel. A total of 5,680 square kilometers, the region includes East Jerusalem only as a means of depicting the entire area occupied by Israel in 1967. It meets a 330-km borderline with Israel, and consists of 17% Jews, the majority of the remaining 83% being Palestinian Arab. Along with the Gaza Strip, the West Bank is a part of the Palestinian Territories.

## Gaza Strip



Gaza Strip, a strategic strip of land bordering the Mediterranean Sea and sitting between Egypt and Israel, is another part of the Palestinian Territories. It is a total of 360 square kilometres and is in possession of a 59-kilometer borderline that meets with the borders of Israel. According to the CIA, the Gaza maritime area is closed

off to all maritime traffic and is under blockade imposed by the Israeli Navy. The town of Gaza has been besieged countless times in its history. There are no Israeli settlements in the Gaza Strip - they were evacuated in 2005. The Gaza is considered illegally occupied by the UN.

## Israeli West Bank Barrier



This separation barrier was built to prevent the people of Palestine from entering Israeli areas. Publicly known as the Separation Wall or the Apartheid Wall, Israel argues that the wall was built along the 1949 Armistice Line. However, contrary to their claims, the wall diverges from the Line. To the Israelis, the border is considered a beneficial security measure. However, the wall signifies a multitude of difficulties for the Palestinians. These include road closures, resource restriction, and

impediment from reaching medical and educational facilities. The International Court of Justice and UN condemn the wall for breaking international laws/agreements.

### **Right to Return**

A political position endorsed by Palestinian refugees and their descendants, the right to return takes the side of the displaced refugees, willing them to return to Palestine and regain their lost land and properties. On this matter, the UN “Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good the Governments or authorities responsible”.

### **Hamas**

Hamas formed in the late 1987 at the beginning of the first Palestinian intifada. The group’s charter calls for establishing an Islamic Palestinian state in place of Israel. Hamas has a military wing known as the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades that have conducted many anti-Israel attacks in the region since the 1990s. The group won legislative elections in the Palestinian territories, ending the secular Fatah party’s hold on the Palestinian Authority and challenging Fatah’s leadership of the Palestinian nationalist movement. Hamas kidnapped and killed three teenagers in the West bank in June 2014, breaking the uneasy calm that had settled in the area. A Palestinian was killed by Israeli settlers in revenge, and retaliatory rocket attacks by Hamas’s military wing escalated into the longest, most lethal conflict with Israel since 2009. Throughout the conference, whether or not Hamas will be considered a terrorist organisation should be discussed in detail.

### **(1-c) Urgency & Importance of this Agenda:**

There is an international sense of urgency when dealing with the problems in Israel and Palestine. This is mostly because of the consistent looming threat of Hamas, considered to be a terrorist organisation by many. Another factor is that despite the international UN policies, the Palestinians continue to have their basic human rights violated. They are not only restricted from fundamental freedoms, but also being hindered from the most primary things in life, such as fresh food. Two other issues in need of discussion are the Separation Wall and Israel’s nuclear arms, as both are currently breaching international law and should be dealt with by the UN.

However, the problem is that neither side is willing to come up to the table to negotiate. As a result, high tensions continue to prevail without any actual progress in terms of peace. The importance of the agenda lies in its international religious significance. Jerusalem, sometimes referred to as the Holy Land, is a particularly significant location for three great religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, because of the holy sites.



## 2. History

Below is a timetable of the events prior to the present day regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

November 2, 1917	Balfour Declaration
July 24, 1922	The League of Nations allows Britain to administer Palestine
July 22, 1946	Bombing of King David Hotel in Jerusalem
November 29, 1947	UN General assembly passes the partition plan. It is accepted by the Jews but Arab leaders reject
1947- 1949	More than one million Palestinians are expelled from their homes as their land becomes the state of Israel during the Arab- Israeli War/ Nakba
April 9, 11, 1948	Approximately 200 Palestinians are killed after an attack on village of Deir Yassin by Irgun members
May 15, 1948	Israel is officially declared as the Jewish State. British withdrew from Palestine. The Arab- Israeli War begins.
April, 1949	Arabs and Israelis agree an armistice; however, Israel takes more than 50 percent land allotted for them by the UN partition plan
1956	France, Britain, and Israel plan invasion of Egypt as Egypt nationalizes the Suez Canal. Israel attacks the Sinai in Egypt.
May, 1964	The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded in Cairo
June, 1967	Six Day War begins, and Israel captures West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, and Golan Heights from Syria. Presence of settlements increases in areas occupied during the Six Day War.
War 1968- 1970	War of Attrition is fought between Egypt and Israel in attempts for Egypt to Regain the Sinai Peninsula; however, Egypt does not gain its lost territory back.
February 2, 1969	Yasser Arafat becomes the chairman of PLO
September 5, 1972	Munich Massacre
October 7, 1973	Yom Kippur war (October War) A surprise attack on Israel is launched on the day of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in Judaism, by Arab nations.
November 22, 1974	PLO becomes an observer at the UN

June 6, 1982	Israel attacks Lebanon in order to remove PLO presence; hence, PLO relocates to Tunis.
September 1982	Sabra and Shatila Massacre. More than 3000 Palestinians refugees are massacred by Lebanese Phalangists with the assistance of Israel.
1987- 1993	First Intifada was a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation which resulted with 160 Israelis dead and 2200 Palestinians killed.
November 15, 1988	Arafat proclaims the State of Palestine
October 1991	Madrid Conference
September 13, 1993	Oslo declaration of principles.
October 1994	Peace between Israel and Jordan is established, and diplomatic relations between two countries ends forty- five years of hostility.
November 4, 1995	Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's prime minister, is assassinated by an orthodox Jew who is against the peace plan between Palestine and Israel.
2000- 2005	The Second Intifada began with uprisings which included massive protests carried out by Palestinians in Palestinian Territories. It soon turned into violent campaigns which included suicide attacks carried out against Israelis. Approximately 1000 Israelis were killed and 3000 Palestinians were killed.
June 2002	Israel begins the construction of the West Bank Fence
August 23, 2005	Israel's unilateral disengagement plan. 25 Jewish settlements are evacuated from Gaza Strip and West Bank
July 12- August 14, 2006	The Second Lebanon war.
December 27, 2008- January 18, 2009	Operation cast Lead. IDF launches large scale military campaign in the Gaza Strip. Many Palestinian civilians were killed during the operation.
November 14, 2012- November 21, 2012	Operation Pillar of Cloud. Once again, IDF launches large scale military operation in Gaza Strip in response to Hamas rockets. The operation began with the assassination of chief of the Gaza military wing of Hamas.
April 2014	Fatah- Hamas Gaza Agreement. The agreement between two Palestinian political parties was dispatched in order to create reconciliation in the Fatah- Hamas conflict. The agreement called for a unity government to be formed within five weeks.

June 2014	2014 Kidnapping and murder of Israeli teenagers. The murder of three Israeli teenagers resulted in a large IDF operation in West Bank. Many Palestinian houses and building were searched and demolished in the effort to find the three lost teenagers.
July 2, 2014	Kidnapping and murder of Mohammad Abu Khdeir. This event occurred after the day of the burial of three murdered Israeli teens. Khdeir, a 16 year old Palestinian, was burned alive in Jerusalem by Israeli extremist. This event incited numerous protest all over West Bank and Hamas stated that Israel will pay for its crimes.
July 8, 2014- August 26, 2014	2014 Israel- Gaza conflict/ Operation Protective edge was a military campaign launched by IDF in the Gaza Strip. Weeks of Israel's airstrikes and bombardments resulted over death of 2,300 Palestinians. On the other hand, 66 Israeli soldiers and 6 Israeli civilians died.

The above is only a brief summary of the happenings in the region since the 19th century. What is important to note is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict of 2015, known by "The Wave of Terror" by Israelis and "Knife Intifada" by international media. In September 1928, a group of Jewish residents of Jerusalem placed a bench in front of the Western Wall of the Temple Mount for the comfort of elderly worshippers. The current "stabbing Intifada" now taking place in Israel is an uprising in which young Palestinians have attempted (and often succeeded) to kill Jews with knives. This roots from a deeply felt desire by the Palestinians to protect the Temple Mount from Jews since the 1920s.



### 3. Status Quo

The following information has been provided by the 2015 World Reports by the Human Rights Watch: “Around 60,000 African migrants and asylum seekers entered Israel irregularly from Egypt since 2005, before Israel completed construction of a fence along its border with Egypt, which prevented any new arrivals in 2014. Israel continued to deny asylum seekers who entered the country irregularly the right to a fair asylum process and detained around 2,500 people, primarily Eritrean and Sudanese nationals. From 2013 through August 2014, some 8,000 Eritreans and Sudanese under indefinite detention or the threat of indefinite detention “chose” to leave Israel.” The recent flare-up of violence in Gaza is sparking concern in the rest of the world, and peace party talks are becoming more urgent.

According to Al Jazeera America, decades of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians have been punctuated by dramatic outbursts around the Dome of the Rock, the iconic golden-topped mosque dating back to the seventh century that forms the focal point for the Palestinian national and religious struggle. The Foundation Stone underneath has also been the anchor for millennia of Jewish yearning, after the destruction of the two ancient temples that stood around the same location in Jerusalem’s Old City.

Meanwhile, the rights of the Palestinian people continue to be violated and a peaceful approach is necessary. The never-ending violence in the Gaza Strip is only building up on the two parties’ reluctance to negotiate with each other. In order to find a peaceful solution, an understanding of the regional history as well as religious significance is crucial. Nations should work to cooperate in coming up with the most effective route to regional peace.

2015



#### 4. Country Blocs

##### **Israel**

Established in 1948, Israel is the only Jewish state in the world. It does not recognise Palestine as a state, nor agrees to negotiate with its leading political party Hamas. The internationally recognised nation's primary goal is to control and occupy all territories that they currently claim to be legally and historically theirs. Israel currently occupies the Palestinian Territories, and has built a Separation Wall to restrict the Palestinian people. Israel denies its possession of nuclear arms and maintains nuclear opacity.

##### **State of Palestine**

Historically, Palestine was never internationally regarded as an independent state; many major occupying powers like Israel and Britain controlled Palestine in order to influence control over its geographically strategic location in the Middle East. When Israel declared itself a state, catastrophic exodus broke out in Palestine and conflict arose. The Jewish population pushed the Palestinians from their respective residences. The State of Palestine is a sovereign state by jurisdiction but not a recognised member of the United Nations. On November 2012, Palestine became a non-member 'observer state' within the UN. Jerusalem was designated as the state's capital, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip as its territory.

##### **Israeli Defence Force**

The Israeli Defence Forces are the military forces of Israel. Operating as a conscripted army, the IDF is for all Israeli citizens excluding minors and are conscripted regardless of gender and religion, excluding non-Druze Israeli Arabs. The IDF is well-known for its military strength, but also for its continuous violations of human rights in Palestinian territories.

##### **Hamas**

Hamas is a political party and Islamic organisation in the Palestinian Territories and especially in the Gaza Strip. Currently associated with its military wing Al-Qassam, Hamas is viewed by many Western countries as a terrorist organisation. Its arsenals include rockets and long-range weapons that are capable of reaching populated areas in Israel. In recent decades, many international organisations condemned Hamas's attack of Israel's civilians as crimes against humanity. Palestinians tend to believe - despite the criticism - that such actions were justified in response to the Israelis' harsh occupations.

##### **United States of America**

The US is currently a major ally of Israel and it aids Israel continuously with financial means. The USA was, understandably, one of the first nations to internationally recognise the State of Israel. They also opposed to recognise the State of Palestine in response to their bid for recognition of Statehood to the UN. However, the US still plays a major role and works to eradicate regional hostility as a major power.

## 5. Possible Solutions

The issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been ongoing for decades. Previously, many solutions have been proposed and some implemented, but none have been sufficient to solve the crisis. Past peace conferences and multilateral talks proved to be impotent and impractical, and the international community is becoming more polarised regarding the issue. Time is only making the issue more complex, and there is a desperate need to find an efficient alternative.

There is a need to tackle the issue of East Jerusalem, national borders, the Separation Wall, resources, illegal settlements, road blocks, check points, humanitarian violations, civilian needs, and racial inequality. These issues are intricate and a short-term solution will not be highly effective. There is zero trust between the two parties, which makes negotiations more difficult to set up. National trust is vital, and both sides must be willing to view the issue from different viewpoints and standpoints. Both governments should also be willing to negotiate. Due to the recent large-scale military operations in Gaza and the West Bank, the trust between the governments has gone through a drastic decrease.

The big question that is to be discussed is whether a one-state or two-state solution should be implemented. Both solutions are difficult and require two-sided effort. The complexities of both solutions should be understood and researched thoroughly in order to come up with the most ideal solution. There are no straightforward solutions to any of the problems that the crises accompany, and both short term and long-term solutions should be implemented in the upcoming years.



## 6. Conclusion

14 May 1948 is celebrated by many Jews as the founding date of the State of Israel. Yet the date also marks the starting point for decades upon decades of skirmishes, war, and acts of terror between the Israelis and the Palestinians. From that day onward, incidents such as the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the 1956 Suez Canal Crisis, the 1967 Six Day War (otherwise known as Naksa), the Yom-Kippur War, and the First Intifada are only a few of the major tribulations that have brought the conflict zones into the public eye. Both the Palestinians and the Israelis have attempted to cooperate in the search for solutions regarding this issue. This can be exemplified by the Oslo Accords 1 and 2 of 1993 and 1995, respectively, and the Madrid Conference of 1991, which was noteworthy for being one of the first cohesive peace conferences with participants from both Israel and the Arab nations. Though the goal of the conferences was to find a happy medium between the two conflicting groups, it did not lead to the culmination of the numerous, and often bloody disputes.

Even today, there are still a countless array of problematic clashes of interests between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The issues to discuss include the humanitarian crises. Military occupation is in the best interests of Israel, for it is believed necessary for the guarantee of the security of the citizens. However, this infringes on Palestine's autonomy and sovereignty. The weighty restrictions enforced by the Israeli government clearly signals detrimental repercussions for the civilians currently living within Gaza Strip. The inadequate supply of rudimentary needs such as water and electricity in Gaza Strip is another topic in need of attention. Freedom of press is repressed by the Israeli government, and access to natural resources and transportation is impeded as well. Additionally, the basic human rights established and declared by the UN are ignored by the Israeli government, meaning that Palestinian citizens are discriminated against on a quotidian basis.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is in dire need of a solution for a multitude of reasons. High tensions are unrelentingly increasing in the area and violent acts are incessantly prevalent in the occupied territories. The majority of the citizens of Israel go about their daily lives hindered with fear of Hamas rockets, and there are continual protests occurring across the West Bank even now. Thus, the importance of finding a solution accommodating both the Israel's Palestine's point of view cannot be stressed enough.

## 7. Further Questions

Is Hamas a terrorist organisation? A handful of Western countries say yes. While the Hamas's militaristic actions are currently restricted to the Gaza Strip as it lacks influence in the Fatah-supporting West Bank, Hamas's arsenals include high-firepower artillery weapons capable of doing damage. Hamas's attack of innocent civilians in Israel have been considered illegal by some of the world's nations, but Palestinians deem it justified. Whether Hamas is considered a terrorist organisation or not will affect the way the delegates regard their actions.

What are the benefits and disadvantages of one-state and two-state solutions? "The current demographic and political landscapes of Palestine proves both solutions difficult to implement fully. The settlements creates a complex situation where two state solution is not ideal. Over half a million Israeli settlers reside in West Bank. Thus, it is not realistic to remove and relocate the settlers from West Bank to create an independent Palestinian state. Moreover, many resources such as water are located in the West bank and are under Israeli control. Furthermore, Palestine is divided into two parts, the West Bank and Gaza. On the other hand, one state solution may seem easier to implement; however, the inequality between Arabs and Israelis proves this solution difficult to fully establish." (Kang)





## Agenda 2: Ways to Handle the Recent Crises Regarding the ISIS

### 1. Agenda Introduction

#### (1-a) General Overview:

The *Islamic State of Iraq and Syria* was first founded in 1999 by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Jordanian extremist. Ever since their foundation, in five years, the size expanded throughout the association with Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi came into power in 2010, and declared himself as the new Caliph, from that point and on which he had control over all Muslims. After the dissociation of Al-Qaeda in early 2014, the ISIS proclaimed their new name as the Islamic State.

After their declaration of independence, they have been operating under an apocalyptic theology commonly known to be the extreme form of Salafism. Their primary belief adheres to the arrival of *Mahdi*, who is recognised as being the ultimate 'guided one' to redeem Islam. Under the theology, the Islamic State has declared jihad against all infidels, including Christians and Jews. Regarding the past extreme actions of the Islamic State, the *United Nations Security Council* recognises the IS to be a threat to the international society.

After the recent brutality of IS against France, controversies regarding the methods of dealing with their actions have risen to the surface. Up to this point, no country has ever stepped forward vindictively to actually counter the actions of the IS, until France. On 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 2015, France and Russia officially declared military counterattack against the preposterous detriments and bloodshed left from the prior strike of IS in French mainland. The first counter has already been made, and there are still some unanswered questions regarding the second strike.

While the Islamic State is to be severely blamed for their diabolical behaviour, the emerging controversy must discuss the actions of France and Russia. Violence may not be justified, to no extent and under no excuse. Especially considering the fact that the main attack areas of France and Russia were concentrated on civilian- crowded areas such as restaurants and bars, the international society and the *United Nations Security Council* is obligated to blame for their actions and assure that nothing like that happens again, however still coping for methods to deal with the barbarous demeanours of IS. And hence the agenda, 'ways to handle the recent crises regarding the ISIS'. The committee is open to discussing any at all crises.

#### (1-b) Definition of Key Terms:

To Define some key terms that may appear to be ambiguous, *crises* in this case refers to *both* cases where the Islamic State is the main party *attacking* or *being attacked*.

**Counterattack** in this case refers to action taken by the international society towards the IS in order to come back for their prior actions. Whilst their actions have not been culminated yet, actions are being held. Counterattack in this case may include all areas of assassinating soldiers and civilians.

All other words are fairly simple. Religious terms are not completely necessary for understanding the agenda.

### **(1-c) Urgency & Importance of this Agenda:**

The factor that makes this agenda so complex and challenging is the fact that there is another crisis and a question to answer even before dealing with the first one. The first question being how to cope with the diabolism of the IS and the second question being to what extent are counterattacks against the IS justifiable, the two questions may not meet the ideal middle ground.

As mentioned before, prior to discussing the behaviours of France and Russia, there needs to be a decision made about the Islamic State and their brutalities. However, the latter question is as significant, or even more significant than the first issue. Lex talionis is not the policy that the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires.

To further complicate the situation, sanctions will not be efficient for stopping the IS. Usually, the *United Nations Security Council* deals with problems with economic burdens such as putting trade bans on a specific country that is being berated. Sanctions are normally very productive, since a country cannot survive as an individual in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The country must receive merits from others to further advance their situations. However, the Islamic State is far away from normal countries (not geographically, but by its characteristics). Against a country with no one but extremists, sanctions will not cause any motivations for the country to cooperate but it would end up provoking them and causing further troubles. That is the last thing we want.

Actions have consequences. The antagonising behaviours of the Islamic State cannot and will not be justified, and will be asked to take responsibility. However, that is the United Nation's job to do, not an individual country's. In the conference, delegates are expected to fulfil two burdens; the first is to propose an adequate solution for stopping further devastations from the IS, and the second is to evaluate the justifiability of France and Russia's actions and cope for a better solution.



## 2. History

Here are some collections of actions regarding the Islamic State, relatively recent issues.

*(The information was referenced from an external source; independent.co.uk)*

Date	Event
June 2014 10 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS seizes control of Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, the day after the group takes Tikrit.
June 2014 29 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS declares a caliphate across controlled areas in Syria and Iraq while calling for global allegiance.
July 2014 02 <sup>nd</sup>	Al-Baghdadi calls for all Muslims to gather to his new land and unite to "capture Rome" and own the world.
June 2014 03 <sup>rd</sup>	ISIS takes control of al-Omar, Syria's largest oil-field.
June 2014 05 <sup>th</sup>	Al-Baghdadi is recorded in his first public appearance, at the Grand Mosque in Mosul, calling on all Muslims to obey him.
June 2014 17 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS claims to have killed 270 people after seizing the Shaer gas field in Syria. Days later, dozens of Iraqi Christians leave after a warning by ISIS that it will carry out a similar attack if they do not convert to Islam.
June 2014 26 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS blows up Jonah's tomb, a holy site in Jewish heritage.
August 2014 03 <sup>rd</sup>	Militants capture the city of Sinjar. They begin a Massacre that culminates in the death of over 5,000 men from the Yazidi religious sect. Thousands of women are raped and sold into slavery. 200,000 Yazidi flee with as many as 50,000 becoming stranded on the Sinjar Mountains surrounded by ISIS.
August 2014 06 <sup>th</sup>	Kurdish forces join the fights against ISIS.
August 2014 08 <sup>th</sup>	US President Barak Obama authorises the first air strikes, which subsequently drop bombs outside the Kurdish city of Erbil, where ISIS movement had sparked a mass exodus.
August 2014 15 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS massacres a Yazidi village in northern Iraq.
August 2014 19 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS' media arm uploads a video entitled "Message to America," showing the beheading of the American journalist and hostage James Foley. The masked militant, who speaks with a British accent, demands the U S ceases air strikes.
August 2014 29 <sup>th</sup>	The UK Home Secretary Theresa May raises the UK terror level to 'severe' in response to the conflict in Iraq and Syria.
September 2014 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ISIS uploads another video featuring the same militant (now known by his tabloid moniker 'Jihadi John'), this time showing the beheading of another US journalist, Steven Sotloff.

September 2014 5 <sup>th</sup>	The US announces the formation of a coalition to “destroy the threat posed by ISIS”. The ten-nation coalition comprises of US, Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Australia, Turkey, Italy, Poland and Denmark.
September 2014 11 <sup>th</sup>	The CIA announces that ISIS now has between 20,000 to 31,500 fighters.
September 2014 13 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS releases another video, showing the execution of British aid worker David Haines by ‘Jihadi John’. The militant threatens to kill another British hostage if the UK continues its ‘evil alliance with America.’
September 2014 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ISIS executes Iraqi human rights activist Samira Salih al-Nuaimi
September 2014 23 <sup>rd</sup>	US warplanes bomb ISIS fighters in Raqqa, a northern Syrian city claimed by ISIS to be its capital.
September 2014 24 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS-affiliated Algerian militant group Jund al-Khilafah kidnap and behead a French tourist, Hervé Gourdel
September 2014 29 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS releases a video showing the kidnapped British journalist John Cantlie in an orange jumpsuit reading a seemingly scripted message criticizing President Obama.
October 2014 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ISIS releases a video showing the beheading of the British aid worker Alan Henning as they threaten to kill another, the American aid worker Peter Kassig, also known as Abdul Rahman Kassig
October 2014 16 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS is pushed back from the Syrian city of Kobani with help from US air strikes.
October 2014 29 <sup>th</sup>	Senior Australian figure and ISIS recruiter Mohammad Ali Baryalei is reportedly killed in Syria.
November 2014 3 <sup>rd</sup>	The Iraqi government announces ISIS has killed 322 members of the Albu Minr tribe during a series of executions.
November 2014 8 <sup>th</sup>	Iraqi government officials claim that ISIS leader al-Baghdadi is wounded in a coalition air strike near Mosul.
November 2014 13 <sup>th</sup>	A recording of al-Baghdadi surfaces as in which he claims the US military-led campaign is failing and that the coalition of “America and its allies are terrified, weak and powerless” and to “light the Earth with fire under all the tyrants and their soldiers and supporters.”
November 2014 16 <sup>th</sup>	The group claims to have beheaded American aid worker Peter Kassig along with a dozen Syrian soldiers.
November 2014 29 <sup>th</sup>	At least 40 fighters on both sides are killed in the city of Kobani during a battle between Syrian Kurds and ISIS militants.
December 2014 19 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS is pushed out of most of the Sinjar region of Iraq.
December 2014 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Sinjar offensive is considered a success with a Kurdish victory.



December 2014 24 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS militants claim to shoot down and then capture a Jordanian pilot in northern Syria. They demand the release of Sajida al-Rishawi, an al-Qaeda prisoner held in Jordan over a failed suicide bombing.
January 2015 4 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS attacks Saudi Arabia near the border city of Arar, killing four border guards.
January 2015 10 <sup>th</sup>	A video released shows Taliban fighters pledging allegiance to ISIS.
January 2015 18 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS releases about 250 Yazidis.
January 2015 20 <sup>th</sup>	The group demands a ransom of \$200 million from Japan in exchange for two Japanese hostages, Kenji Goto and Haruna Yokawa.
January 2015 24 <sup>th</sup>	A video is uploaded that seems to show Goto holding a photo of Yokawa, who has been beheaded.
January 2015 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kurdish fighters take control of the Syrian border town of Kobani after fighting ISIS for months.
January 2015 31 <sup>st</sup>	A video is released showing the beheading of Kenji Goto by the British militant.
February 2015 3 <sup>rd</sup>	ISIS supporters post a video online of the captured Jordanian military pilot Moath al-Kasasbeh being burned alive in a cage.
February 2015 5 <sup>th</sup>	The Jordanian military carries out a series of air strikes on ISIS training centres and weapons depots.
February 2015 6 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS claims a Jordanian air strike killed the American hostage Kayla Mueller.
February 2015 10 <sup>th</sup>	Kayla Mueller's family announce she is dead after receiving confirmation from ISIS.
February 2015 11 <sup>th</sup>	President Obama asks Congress to authorise use of military force against ISIS.
February 2015 15 <sup>th</sup>	Libyan ISIS militants release a video that appears to show the group beheading 21 Egyptian Christians.
February 2015 16 <sup>th</sup>	Egypt launches air strikes on ISIS camps, training sites and weapon depots in retaliation for the beheadings.
February 2015 22 <sup>nd</sup>	ISIS releases a propaganda video of Kurdish Peshmerga troops in orange jumpsuits in cages.
February 2015 26 <sup>th</sup>	The identity of terrorist known as 'Jihadi John' is revealed as Mohammed Emwazi, a Kuwaiti-born Londoner. ISIS also releases a video of the destruction of historical artefacts in the Mosul Museum.
March 2015 4 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS releases images of a man thrown off a building as punishment for being gay.

March 2015 12 <sup>th</sup>	Boko Harem, the Islamist militant group in northern Nigeria pledges allegiance to ISIS. ISIS accepts.
March 2015 20 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS takes responsibility for a suicide bombing that kills 137 people and wounds over 300 in Yemen.
March 2015 24 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS uses the town of Tataouine, a Tunisian town that inspired the Star Wars city of Tatooine, as a waypoint to cross into Libya.
March 2015 25 <sup>th</sup>	US-led coalition begins air strikes on the Iraqi city of Tikrit.
April 2015 1 <sup>st</sup>	Iraq declares victory over ISIS in Tikrit.
April 2015 12 <sup>th</sup>	Iraqi government declares Tikrit free of ISIS forces.
April 2015 18 <sup>th</sup>	Fighters in ISIS' Wilayat Khorasan province claim responsibility for a suicide bombing in Afghanistan that kills 33 people and injures over 100.
April 2015 19 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS produces a video showing the shooting and beheadings of two groups of prisoners, who are identified as Ethiopian Christians.
May 2015 1 <sup>st</sup>	It is reported that Al-Baghdadi is recovering in Mosul
May 2015 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ISIS kills 300 Yazidi captives in Iraq.
May 2015 5 <sup>th</sup>	The group claims an attack in Garland, Texas, where two gunmen opened fire on a contest to draw the Prophet Mohamed.
May 2015 13 <sup>th</sup>	Abu Alaa Afri, the deputy leader of ISIS, is killed in US-led coalition air strike.
May 2015 16 <sup>th</sup>	US Special Ops kill Abu Sayaaf, a senior ISIS commander, and capture his wife.
May 2015 17 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS seizes the city of Ramadi in Iraq. Over 500 people are killed.
May 2015 20 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS takes control of the ancient city of Palmyra, Syria.
May 2015 18 <sup>th</sup>	The group claims it has seized the Libyan Air Force airport in Sirte.
June 2015 1 <sup>st</sup>	A militant posts a "selfie" online, which leads the US military to identify and perform air strikes on a compound, destroying it in the process.
June 2015 2 <sup>nd</sup>	ISIS closes the gates of a dam in Ramadi.
June 2015 7 <sup>th</sup>	ISIS captures 10 Taliban militants in Afghanistan and beheads them.
June 2015 15 <sup>th</sup>	Syrian Kurdish fighters take the town of Tell Abyad from ISIS.
June 2015 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Kurds take back a key base north of Raqqa from ISIS fighters.

Source. Independent.co.uk

\* Some updates recently;

(November 13-14 2015) Suicide bombings and shootings. Multiple hundreds of casualties and death.

(November 15-16 2015) Counterstrike against IS by France and Russia.



### 3. Status Quo

Currently, the Islamic State is still a major threat against global peace. Whilst there are multiple ongoing controversies going on dealing with the crisis, there seem to be no clear solutions yet.

Recently, the IS has launched another threat to America. They have released a new propaganda showing their progress towards bombarding New York City, more specifically the Time Squares area, where civilians are highly concentrated. While there are many theories surrounding the plausibility of their brutal actions, the *United Nations Security Council* must focus on the fact that there are possibilities of yet another devastation taking around up to several thousands of innocent civilians.

The US mainland is proposed to be one of the most intact locations existing on Earth against terrorism. After the 9/11 tragedy, the US homeland security has been doing everything in their capabilities to enforce strong regulations against any sign of terror, and they have been operating brilliantly until now.

Because America is the country with the strongest military force around the world, a breach in their security will put the whole world in panic. The vulnerability of other countries' military system and safety would put every one of their citizens under panic attack, and realistically, there would be no way to stop the IS attacks.

The *United Nations Security Council* must operate under the consensus of no further attacks happening. Enough, is enough. No more civilians are to be sacrificed.





#### 4. Country Blocs

##### France & Russia

: The two nations are being blamed for their prior actions of attacking civilian zones inside the IS territory. It is up to the delegates to decide how they are going to set the flow of debate; however, it is mandatory to give an explanation attempting to justify the attack. After the process, France, as the main victim of the agony, has a decision to make about its stance. There are three paths available; to be vindictive and diabolical and keep on attacking civilian zones, to be rational and attacking *only* military zones but not civilians, or to stop the attack completely and coping for better methods.

Whilst Russia also has the same choice to make, the relationship between the two is significant. France and Russia can either choose to go with the same side and make the same choice, or completely go against each other's ideologies and differing in the method of coping with the damage.

##### Non-Governmental Organisations

With quite a few organisations supporting humanities and health of world citizens, it would be highly demanded of them to supply aid to countries who have been victimised from terrorist attacks. While support from other countries is absolutely vital, the purpose of NGO's is focused on helping other countries or individuals in need. While the United Nations focuses on how to stop further attacks, it is the path of NGO's to help those in need right now.

##### Jordan

As a country located right next to Syria, the safety is always threatened. Desperation calls for the best effort. As a member of the *United Nations Security Council*, Jordan now has influence over the whole United Nations as a whole, more than ever. It is up to the delegate to decide the path; however, it is strongly recommended that Jordan finds a peaceful way to engage since a warfare or any other drastic solution is likely to affect Jordan negatively. Jordan also has the choice of going fully drastic or peaceful, however it is strongly suggested to go peaceful considering the geographical weaknesses.

## 5. Possible Solutions

Although it is up to the delegates to think of the most profitable and efficient solutions (not to mention peaceful), a few suggestions are in order. Always keep in mind, the solutions written here are basic steps that delegates may utilise in their thinking process.

### **Increased Security on Country Borders**

Recently in Republic of Korea, a suspected IS member has been arrested. At his house, a M16 rifle was found, fully functional. The news brought up the awareness of weakness and blind spots of the country border security management and counter-terror plots in an international scale. Although ROK was considered to be one of the safest countries in terms of terror managements, a breach has been found and it is no longer safe. Enforcement of stronger security is key.

### **Precision Shooting**

This is not a very peaceful way of dealing with problems, so it is probably the last solution that the United Nations will be bringing in. Civilians are strictly banned to hurt. It is only the military zone that can be targeted and fired at, and that is exactly what needs to be done in case violence is absolutely crucial. If the situation overpasses the intermediate level and stonewalls world piece, some tough decisions may as well be made. In this case, precision shooting refers to using powerful guns instead of missiles on the planes to aim at a specific location, such as a military base. Disarming the Islamic State is one of the top priorities, and precision shooting may help.

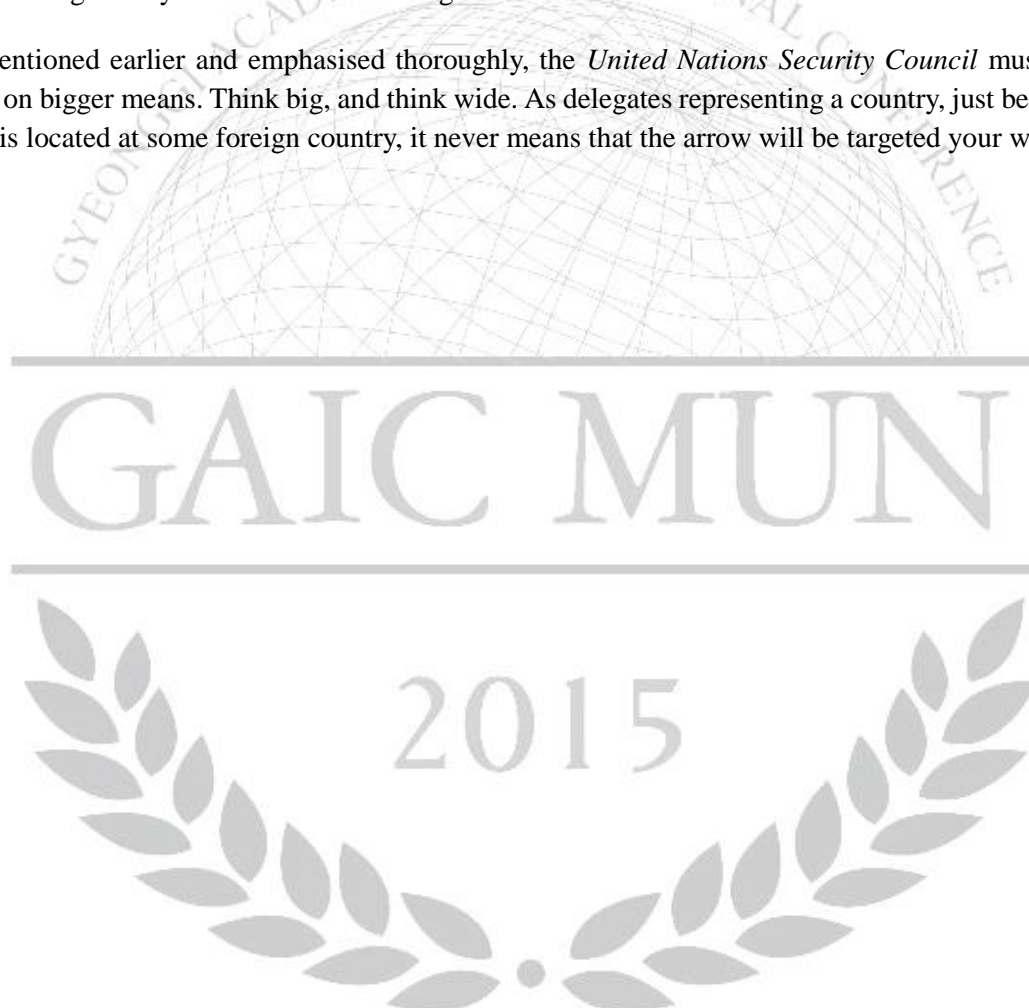


## 6. Conclusion

The agenda is challenging. Many historians, politicians, religious scholars and peace troops have been gathering their heads to solve conflicts regarding religious extremism, however they could never reach a general consensus or a solution. Although combatting the *current* situation seems like the priority, always keep in mind that the *United Nations Security Council* must first and foremost focus on the big picture, and look at the problems of religious extremism as a whole.

Expected areas of heated debates will include processes of easing the terrorist attacks, blaming the IS for the damage they have made, and coping for justifiable accommodations on ways to handle the IS. Delegates needn't stay on the tracks of this paper, it is just a reference. They are free to discuss any areas as long as they all lead back to dealing terrorism.

As mentioned earlier and emphasised thoroughly, the *United Nations Security Council* must always focus on bigger means. Think big, and think wide. As delegates representing a country, just because the issue is located at some foreign country, it never means that the arrow will be targeted your way.



## 7. Further Questions

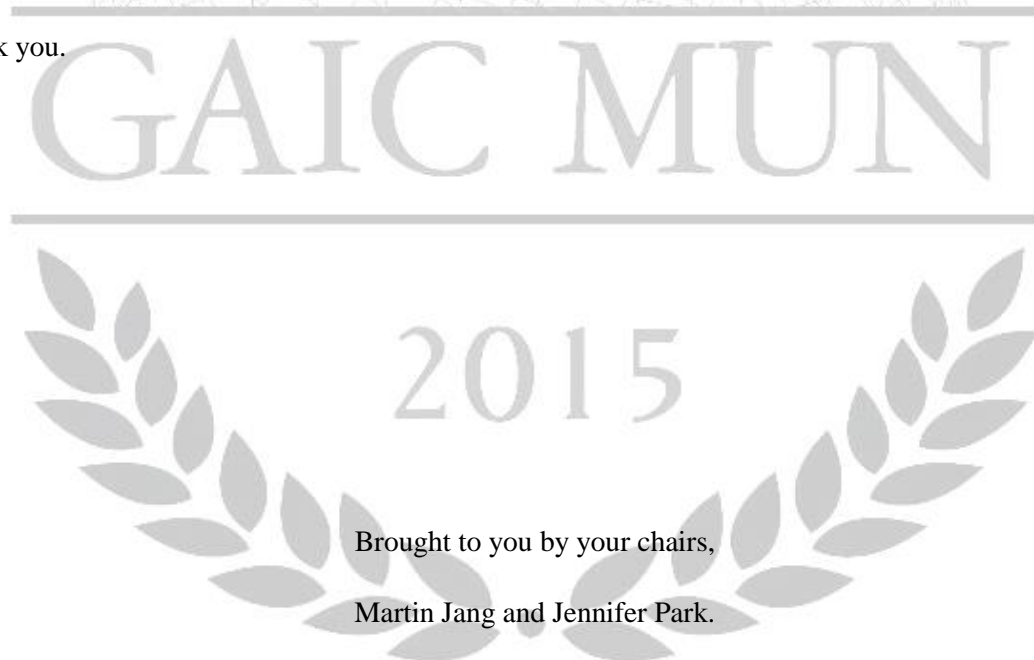
While the agenda itself solely lies on the issue between the IS and the rest of the world, we have to think wider and deeper. The IS was not the first extremists to appear, and it will never be the last. While so many tragic incidents happen every single day in the Gaza Strip and in multiple other countries, we are yet focused on very few of them. The ultimate obligation and the responsibility of the United Nations is to obtain 'world peace'.

People are yet oblivious of the fact that there are still hundreds of thousands of children being shot at around the world. People are yet still unconscious about the fact that there are countries threatened from possibilities of terror every single day.

The question that we should all be asking at the end of the day is, 'how do we obtain ultimate peace?'. Every single time there is a crisis, people take actions. It's not that the actions are done wrong. However, after all those people losing their lives and after all those civilians sacrificing their lives, an action is done. Halting terror before it starts, hampering death before it's done, precluding innocent civilian sacrifice before it's too late is the ultimate goal of the *United Nations Security Council*.

So esteemed delegates of the *United Nations Security Council* of GAIC 2015, be aware, this committee is not restricted to close observations. Looking at the crisis of now and further inducing methods to deal with terror in the far future, is the ultimate goal we are trying to reach.

Thank you.



Welcome to *Gyeonggi Academy International Conferences, 2015*.

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