



*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference IV
Saturday, January 30 to Sunday, January 31, 2016
Boston University Academy
Boston, MA*

***United Nations Security
Council
(UNSC)
Specialized Committee***

Background Guide

A welcome from the chair

Hello Delegates!

My name is Shamus Miller and I am a junior at Wellesley High School in Wellesley, MA and I will be chairing the United Nations Security Council at BUAMUN 2016. I have been a member of the WHS MUN Club since freshman year and have attended 4 conferences and vice-chaired at BUAMUN last year. Our vice-chair is Arjun Sawai, a sophomore at BUA.

I hope that you are as excited as I am to solve the international issues that face our world today. We will be handling the issues that impact the everyday lives of people across the globe and we will be able to craft a solution to these crises.

The way that I felt best prepared for any conference is to know the basic information on the nation that I am representing as well as its political view, history, allies, enemies, import and export products, and trade partners. Having a good sense of what your nation would want to do at the conference is a good way of knowing how you should act and interact with your fellow delegates.

Shamus M. Miller

Wellesley High School '17

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Position Paper Information

This committee will require a formal position paper for each of its topics. Chairs will review position papers, and well-written and well-researched papers are eligible for the committee's Best Position Paper Award, as well as influencing other award determinations. Position papers are 1-2 pages in length, double-spaced, and should follow a 3-paragraph scheme: 1) Introduction to the topic, 2) delegate's stance on the topic, and 3) delegate's proposed action on the topic. Position papers should follow the following conventions on headers:

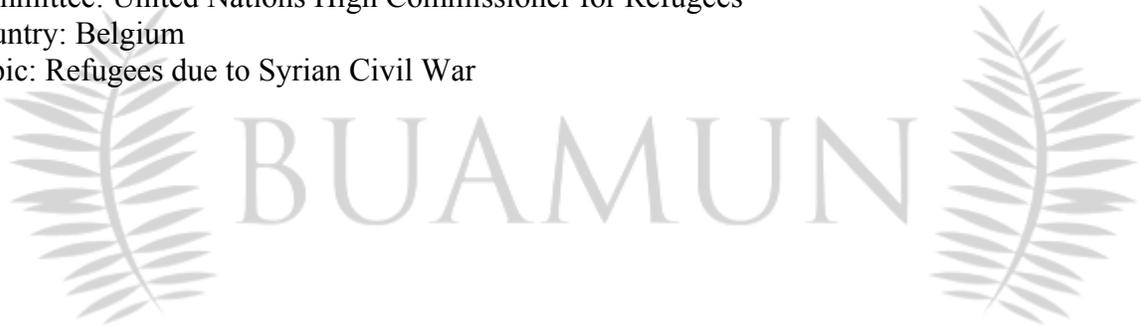
Delegate: Evelyn Huang

School: Boston University Academy (Your school here, not ours.)

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Country: Belgium

Topic: Refugees due to Syrian Civil War



Committee Information

The Security Council was created by Chapter V of the United Nations' original charter to promote peace and international security. The Security Council is different than the other assemblies of the United Nations in that member states of the UN are obligated to carry its resolutions. The Council consists of five permanent members, who represent the five Allied powers of World War II: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the Russian Federation. In addition to these members, ten delegates are elected from the more than 180 member states of the UN to two-year terms on the Council. The five permanent members have veto power over the Council's decisions, and the Council selects one member to be its president each month. For the purposes of our simulation, we will not have a president; instead I will direct debate. Similarly, for the sake of debate information as of September 2015 will be considered current. Delegates from the permanent delegations will be allowed to use their veto powers in extreme situations at the chair's discretion.

Additionally, the Council's members are required to be prepared to meet at any time, usually at the UN's headquarters in New York City. The Council's job is to handle "the maintenance of international peace and security." It dispatches military operations, imposes sanctions, mandates arms inspections, deploys election monitors and more. Some examples of issues it discusses are Syrian civil war and the status of North Korea's nuclear program. The Council has passed more than two thousand resolutions since its inception in 1946, all of which are made available online.

Topic 1: Libyan Crisis

The State of Libya in North Africa has been in a civil war since 2014. Libya was an Italian colony until 1947 and was under British and French oversight until 1951. In 1969, Muammar Gaddafi staged a coup d'état against the unpopular King Idris and came into power. Life for the average Libyan under Gaddafi was very good, especially relative to other nations in the area. There were many benefits given to Libyans by the government. Gas cost just \$0.14 per liter, a home was considered a human right, 78% of the country was literate, all medical care in the country was free and Libya boasted one of the best medical systems in the Arab world.¹ Despite this, Gaddafi was far from a perfect leader. Wages were low and unemployment was at 30%, and in the 80s private enterprise was banned and unsound books were burned. For many Libyans, life resembled that of other African nations despite Libya's massive revenue from the oil industry—most of which was used in foreign ventures by Gaddafi. He had waged war with Chad just because their president was Christian. He played a major role in international terrorism. He financed and otherwise supported terrorist groups around the world and he attempted to radicalize native inhabitants of Australia and New Zealand. But perhaps his most notable acts came in the form of terrorism by Libya.² In 1986 a Berlin discotheque was bombed by Libyan agents killing 3³ and in 1989 UTA flight 772 exploded over Niger resulting in the fatalities of all 170 aboard.⁴ Finally, in 1988 Pan American Airways flight 103 from London-Heathrow to New York-JFK was bombed and crashed into the Scottish village of Lockerbie. All 243 passenger, 16 crew members and 11 Lockerbie residents were killed. In a 36 week long trial Abdelbaset Al-Megrahi was found guilty of the attack, which remains the deadliest on British

¹ <http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-884508>

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Libya_under_Muammar_Gaddafi

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1986_Berlin_discotheque_bombing

⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/UTA_Flight_772

soil and was the deadliest against the United States prior to the events of 9/11.⁵ Following Pan Am 103, Libya came under heavy scrutiny from the international community. During the early 2000s relations largely normalized until the First Libyan Civil War. In January 2011, protests broke out over delayed housing projects and government corruption. The protests—which initially began in the East Libya—were inspired by the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt during the Arab Spring. There were calls to return to a multi-party democracy. Tensions heightened as rebels were gaining ground. Gaddafi secretly imported weaponry from his ally and friend in Belarus⁶ while asserting that Al-Qaeda was to blame and that his position was simply symbolic and that the people had the power. Gaddafi used methods that were highly criticized such as targeting paramedics, using ambulances in attacks and censoring the number of dead. Eventually the rebels were able to take control of most of the country and they found Gaddafi in Sirte where he was killed on October 21, 2011.⁷

Throughout the First Libyan Civil War there had been extensive military use by foreign nations. A North Atlantic Treaty Organization coalition alongside several other nations and with the support of yet more countries imposed a no-fly zone over much of Libya while also attack Gaddafi's military. UNSC Resolution #1970 which referred the Libyan Government to the International Criminal Court for "gross human rights violations." Further, UNSC Resolution #1973 approved the no-fly zone.⁸ In 2012, power was handed to the General National Congress (GNC) from the National Transitional Council (NTC)⁹, which was the de facto government during the war. The NTC was widely recognized among the international community as the sole

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pan_Am_Flight_103

⁶ <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2056420,00.html>

⁷ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Muammar_Gaddafi

⁸ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_military_intervention_in_Libya

⁹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Transitional_Council

legitimate authority of Libya. This was the first peaceful transfer of power in modern Libyan history. Less than 2 years later the Congress was voted to replace itself with the Libyan House of Representatives.¹⁰ The relative peace that was in place since 2011 was shattered when one of Gaddafi's generals staged a unsuccessful coup d'état. He called for the General National Congress to be dissolved and he launched an air strike campaign against Islamist forces in Benghazi and the GNC in Tripoli.

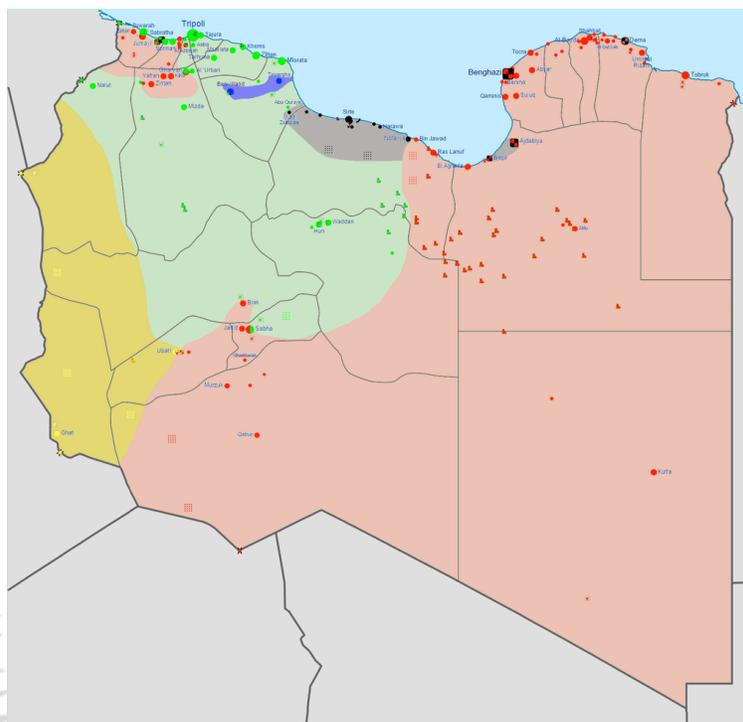
The current civil war has been raging since May 16, 2014 and involves four parties: the Libyan House of Representatives (LHR)¹¹, who were elected in the first election after it replaced the General National Congress, the New General National Congress (NGNC) who claim to be the legitimate continuation of the original GNC, the Shura Council of Benghazi Revolutionaries (SCBR) which is a coalition of Islamist and jihadist militias, and finally the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) who claim authority over the whole country. This four-way division is important because different nations around the world support different groups, which creates a proxy-war-type conflict. If one foreign nation supports group A and another supports group B then they are indirectly engaged in conflict with one another.¹² There are speculations that foreign nations have secretly aided certain groups or influenced the conflict in some other way. As seen in the map on the following page, the LHR (red) controls most of western Libya, the NGNC (green) controls much of the east and ISIS (black) controls port cities in the north, and the SCBR controls a very small area in Benghazi which is why their color (white) does not appear on the map. The yellow represents the Tuareg people who inhabit much of North Central Africa and who are not belligerents in the conflict and the blue represents areas controlled by

¹⁰ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jamahiriyah#Jamahiriya_sector

¹¹ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_Deputies

¹² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Foreign_relations_of_Libya

local forces. The crisis in Libya is ongoing and constantly changing. It is very possible that the situation will have changed between the creation of this guide and the weekend of the conference.



The effects of this conflict have been very costly for Libya. As of June 2015 3,682 people have been killed in the fighting and it is estimated that one-third of the country's population has fled to neighboring Tunisia.¹³ During the first civil war the UN Human Rights Council estimates that 10,000 to 15,000 people were killed.¹⁴ The nation is in turmoil with no end in sight. The Libyan shores are serving as the jumping-off point for many immigrants trying to reach Europe from conflicts across Africa and the Middle East.

Solving the crisis in Libya would have wonderful effects on a global scale. Europe and North Africa would no longer have to worry about any extremists living unchecked in Libya nor would they have to handle the influx of immigrants from Libya and from other nations through

¹³ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libyan_Civil_War_\(2014–present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libyan_Civil_War_(2014–present))

¹⁴ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualties_of_the_2011_Libyan_Civil_War

Libya. It would also open Libyan oil up for sale thus strengthening the oil trade and the world economy. A stable democratic government in Libya would provide much needed support in North Africa and the Middle East for struggling governments in nations such as Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

Questions to Consider:

- Which group does your nation support?
- Which group is best suited to have control of Libya?
- How has the conflict affected your nation?
- How can the international community help to put this conflict to an end?
- What have relations between your nation and Libya been historically?
- Has your nation conducted trade with Libya in the past?

Further Resources:

- <http://abcnews.go.com/topics/news/world/libyan-civil-war.htm>
- <http://www.britannica.com/event/Libya-Revolt-of-2011>
- <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/29/-sp-briefing-war-in-libya>
- <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/04/libya-win-war-150419073028848.html>

Topic 2: European Immigration Crisis

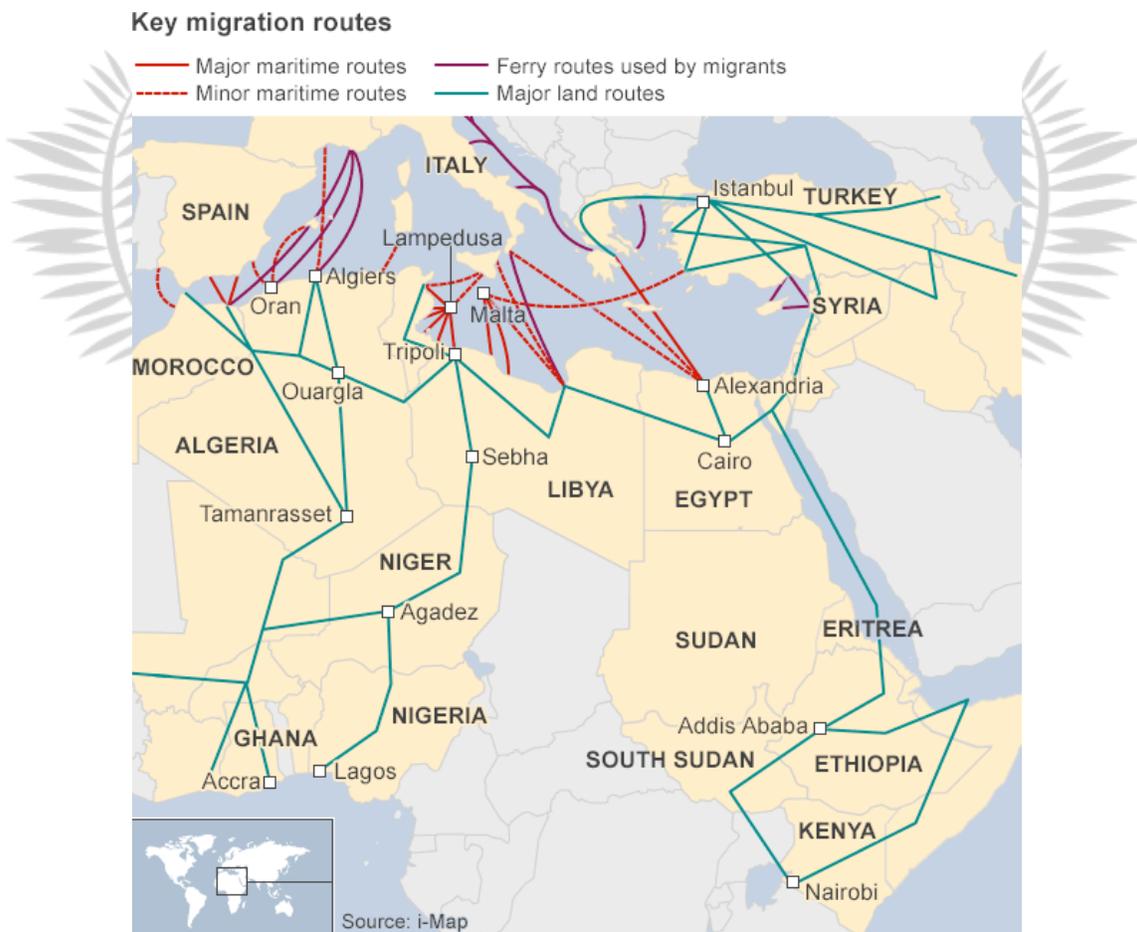
Since 2007, Europe has seen a spike in the number of immigrants arriving from North Africa and the Middle East. Deteriorating peace and economic conditions in the Middle East and Africa is largely behind this surge. The vast majority of these immigrants are from Syria,

Afghanistan, Eritrea, Somalia, and Nigeria. In 2014 alone 283,532 immigrants arrived in Europe, and this number is increasing every year. The UNHCR has reported that in the first 7 months of 2015, 250,000 immigrants have arrived by sea. In July of 2015 alone, an estimated 107,500 immigrants entered Europe. Europe has to find a way to handle a massive population spike without damaging its economy or angering its citizens. Attempting to reach Europe is very dangerous for immigrants. Traversing borders involves boarding rafts from Turkey to Greece, Libya to Italy among other routes. In 2014 3,072 people died or went missing in the Mediterranean while trying to immigrate to Europe.

A provision in the European Union's law states that the nation in which an immigrant first sets foot is the one that he or she has to be processed in. This means that whichever European Union nation the immigrant first comes into contact with authorities in is the one that they will have to seek asylum in. This is causing many problems across the board. Overcrowding is spreading resources thin and an increase in population could result in higher rates of unemployment both for immigrants and residents. Nations that are serving as the arrival points are becoming overwhelmed by the number of immigrants they must process. This also causes problems for families, if a family has to suddenly flee their home and they are separated and end up in different nations, they will be processed into whichever nation they landed on, and it is difficult to reunite them. The danger of the journey is tearing families apart. In September 2015, an image of a Syrian boy who perished in Turkey shocked the world and woke the whole world up to the perils of being an immigrant. Solving this crisis is in the interest of every nation in the Security Council. Once all of the immigrants are processed and settled the world won't have to worry about any security risks posed with having a heavy flow of people over their borders. Similarly, once the crisis is handled local communities that have seen major influxes of refugees

will be able to return to normalcy. A return to life as usual across Europe will improve the lives of Europeans and will help European nations build themselves back up again.

The governments of Europe are reacting in a variety of ways in response to the immigration crisis. Nations such as Germany and Sweden are the most accepting while others like Hungary and the Czech Republic are more closed off. Reaction by the public to migrant conditions has put pressure on governments to accept more immigrants.¹⁵ Europeans have largely been accepting of immigrants, some even offering lodging in their homes, but, there have been incidents of European aggression toward immigrants.



¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_migrant_crisis

Questions to Consider:

- Is your nation a source of immigrants?
- Does your nation receive many immigrants?
- Does your nation accept immigrants who first arrived in another nation?
- If so, how many/from where?
- What can be done to relieve pressure on nations where immigrants arrive?
- Is the international community morally obligated to accept refugees?
- What is the situation in other parts of the world?
- Should nations outside of Europe take in immigrants?

Bloc Positions

Africa (Angola, Egypt, and Senegal)

African nations, when discussing immigrants, are very eager to find a solution to stopping the flow of and resettling immigrants. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that there are 15.1 million people of concern throughout the continent. All parties involved are seeking a way to handling these high numbers. In regards to Libya, African nations, especially those in North Africa, would like to see an end to the violence there. Each nation has its own view of what an ideal Libya (Libyan government, society, etc.) looks like and each will be pushing for that vision of the future.

Latin America-Caribbean and Asia-Pacific (China, Japan, Malaysia, Uruguay, and Venezuela)

Asia and the Pacific region as well as Latin American and the Caribbean are not directly impacted by either the crisis in Libya or the European Immigration Crisis. They, instead, are more likely to agree with their allies or will support ideas that reflect changes they would like to see in their own region.

Western Europe and North America (France, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States)

The nations of West Europe are very closely linked with both the Immigration Crisis and the Libyan Crisis. Europe is seeing the influx of thousands of immigrants from abroad, particularly nations in the Middle East and Africa. They are finding it difficult to process and resettle such a large amount of people. Nations on the frontline of the endless stream of immigrants are feeling particularly overwhelmed. Some seek an end to the entrance of immigrants and others are welcoming immigrants. Europe has had a rocky history with Libya. As a perpetrator of state-sponsored terrorism Libya made lots of enemies in Europe. Governments across the continent are looking to end the violence in Libya and establish a stable democratic government in the country.

Eastern Europe (Lithuania, Russia, and Ukraine)

The experience of Eastern Europe with immigration has been varied from country to country. Some have seen high-levels of emigration due to conflict or economic downturn; others have had many people come into their country. There is also a wide range of opinion of Eastern European governments. Some have welcomed immigrants, others turn them away, and still others find themselves insulated from major immigration. Eastern Europe, like Western Europe has, historically, had shifting relations with Libya. Some nations were allied with Libya, some traded

for oil, and like Western Europe, some were at odds with Libya. The thoughts on what should be done about Libya differ across the board. Some nations would like to see a democracy; others envision a different type of government. Regardless of their view on Libyan government, all nations seek an end to unrest in Libya.

Further Resources:

- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-24583286>
- <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/releases/statistics/228666.htm>
- http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/index_85510.html
- <https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/11/16/europes-refugee-crisis/agenda-action>
- <http://www.takepart.com/article/2015/10/28/map-that-shows-how-huge-europes-refugee-crisis-really-is>

Additional Reading:

- <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>
- <http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/home>