



*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference III
Saturday, January 31 to Sunday, February 1, 2015
Boston University Academy
Boston, MA*



***Joint Committee Crisis 1
(JCC1):
Algeria***

Background Guide

Welcome to Joint Crisis!

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jason Silvestri and I am a senior at BU Academy. At last year's BUAMUN, I very much enjoyed playing the role of fate as the Chief of Joint Crisis Committees, and I'm very excited to continue working in the same role this year!

For those of you who don't know what a “joint crisis committee” is, it is essentially a fast-paced, more action-oriented version of a Model UN committee. The idea of a Joint Crisis Committee was first pioneered in collegiate-level Model UN conferences and is now implemented on a large scale throughout many college and high-school level MUN conferences worldwide to provide both a more intense and competitive arena for debate among delegates and an opportunity to simulate the inner workings of individual countries' cabinets and smaller-scale international relations. In a Joint Crisis Simulation, there are several committees that are all linked through some common issue. Each delegate represents a specific member of his/her country's cabinet and works both on an individual level, making use of the “crisis staff” for anything that is tangentially pertinent to the crisis simulation (be it anything from direct orders for the delegate's ministry within the simulated government to written “points of information” to request more detailed facts and figures about the rapidly-changing situation in the simulation). I myself have participated in several crisis committees at collegiate high-school level conferences and have run many crisis-committee simulations for BU Academy's Model UN travel team, in addition to running our (infamous) South America JCC last February. I hope you all enjoy this year's BUAMUN JCC, and on that note I'm proud to present this year's JCC scenario.

The BUAMUN 2015 JCC will be centered on the Maghreb: that is, Morocco, Algeria, and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (also known as Western Sahara, or the SADR for

short). The area of Western Sahara is a highly-contested territory on the Atlantic coast, south of Morocco and north of Mauritania. It, along with much of Morocco, was colonized by the Spanish until the 1975, when, during an international initiative to decolonize Africa, Spain left the two colonies to their own devices; Morocco almost immediately annexed the colony of *Rio de Oro*, or Western Sahara, as it had an official claim to the land since 1957, and an unspoken ancestral claim to the land before then. Then, in the 1990s there was an intense military conflict between Morocco and the ethnically Sahrawi rebels in the south of Morocco. The Polisario Front, which was the leading paramilitary militia group of the Sahrawi rebels was largely funded by the neighboring nation of Algeria. This caused tensions to build between Morocco and Algeria, and a proxy war was fought between them over Western Sahara until peace was brokered by the international community in the late 1990s. Ethnic tensions still are present to a high degree in the area, and one small act of aggression could spark conflict in this tumultuous corner of the world. To make matters worse, around 90,000 Sahrawi refugees still remain in refugee camps in Algeria, awaiting a window for safe return to their homeland in Western Sahara.

Best of luck and happy researching, and as they say in the Maghreb, *incha'*

Allah (hopefully) you will find a way to keep the delicate peace in this year's JCC simulation!

Sincerely,

Jason Silvestri

Director of JCCs

jcc@buamun.org

A Welcome from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Gabby Jackson and I will be your chair for JCC Algeria at BUAMUN this year. Divya Bachina, a freshman here at BUA, will be my vice chair for this committee. I am a current junior at Boston University Academy, and have been a part of Model UN throughout my time in high school and middle school. I have been involved with BUAMUN from its very beginning, having worked in admin staff, vice-chaired a JCC committee, and most recently, chaired the JCC Venezuela committee at last year's conference. I am so excited to be chairing a joint crisis committee once again, and can't wait to see what unfolds this year!

When I am not doing Model UN and BUAMUN research, I also row for BUA's crew team, write for the school's literary magazine and Academy Press newspaper, and play the flute in the chamber ensemble.

In committee, we will operate under a modified version of parliamentary procedure, reverting to a permanent moderated caucus rather than a speaker's list. We will review this—as well as all other procedural matters—for all new delegates at the beginning of committee. If you have any questions about research, writing a policy paper, or anything else, please don't hesitate to email me (address below). I am looking forward to meeting you all at the end of January!

Sincerely,
Gabby Jackson
BU Academy '16

Divya Bachina
BU Academy '18

algeria@buamun.org

Crisis Committee Flow of Debate:

Adapted from Phill Giliver, 2013

Crisis committees at BUAMUN and other conferences work differently from “regular” General Assembly (GA) committees. Crises follow a less formal flow of debate, and generally remove many of the elements of parliamentary procedure. Delegates must still raise placards to speak, and must follow the standards of diplomatic politesse; however, elements of debate such as speakers’ lists and moderated/un-moderated caucuses are mostly done away with. Motions for caucuses on specific topics are encouraged, but crisis debate generally runs like a never-ending moderated caucus. This structure is adopted because during a crisis simulation, events and crises can progress rapidly, and a full implementation of parliamentary procedure would only slow delegates’ ability to respond to fast-paced happenings.

There are 3 general measures that delegates in a crisis committee can perform:

1. **Directives:** formal action undertaken by a committee or an individual on a committee.

Directives can contain any *reasonable* action and may be drafted by any delegate on a crisis committee (for example, a directive can declare war on another nation; however, it may also ask the other nation to attend bilateral treaty negotiations). After a draft is written, delegates submit directives to the chair. The chair will then read the directive, at which point delegates can motion to alter the directive or to vote on it.

In some cases, delegates may send private directives to the chair, also known as **portfolio action**. This type of directive depends on the purview of the delegate’s position. For example, the chief of a nation’s intelligence agency may order the secret detainment of a known terrorist. Likewise, the minister of energy for a nation may choose to cut energy agreements with another nation. Conversely, a minister of culture may not unilaterally

declare war, nor may the minister of education impose economic sanctions on another nation, etc.

2. **Press Releases:** formal statements from a committee detailing an action or a committee's stance or opinion. For example, if a committee representing the United States decided to attack Canada (absurdity intended), the committee could issue a Press Release telling the world that they have chosen to break all economic and trade ties with Canada and launch full scale war. Similarly, if the US waged war on Canada, a committee representing the United Kingdom could issue a Press Release condemning the US's action.
3. **Communiqués:** informal communication between individuals or committees. For example, if a committee representing Iran chose to send information to the leader of Hezbollah (a terrorist organization represented on a Lebanese committee), it could do so in a communiqué, and only the addressee would receive the information. Similarly, two economic ministers (for example, of Australia and the UK) could be communicating without anyone else's knowledge through communiqués.

The crisis chairs and crisis staff will inform you of any additional actions that you may take; they will also make sure that no delegate's actions are out of order.

Crises occur rapidly and often throughout the course of crisis simulations—be prepared to think on your feet and to enact whatever measures you and your fellow delegates feel are necessary, and most importantly, have fun!

Introduction to Committee

The crisis simulation will be run as part of BUAMUN's Joint Crisis: Maghreb, and will feature three separate countries, each represented in our simulation by a committee: Algeria, Morocco and Western Sahara. This committee will be representing Algeria; as the chair, I will be assuming the role of the Algerian president, Abdelaziz Boutefilka. Each delegate will be a member of the cabinet and, although debate will consist of cooperative discussion that leads to unified decisions, individual delegates will possess portfolio powers, which can independently move the simulation forward. Delegates should look to the end of the background guide for specific portfolio powers. In committee, rather than defaulting to a speaker's list if there are no procedural motions or points, we will default to a moderated caucus.

Position Paper Information

All of the BUAMUN joint crisis committees require position papers from each delegate. Position papers are short pieces of writing indicating a delegate's stance which contribute to a chair's perspective regarding awards. You should probably conduct additional research to write this paper. See the "Suggestions for Further Research" section at the end of this guide, for helpful researching resources. A position paper should be approximately 1-2 pages, double spaced, and should include the delegate's reaction to each of the topics.

Delegate: Gabby Jackson

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

Committee: Venezuela Joint Crisis

Position: President/Nicholas Maduro

But please make sure to change the header so it is appropriate to you and your committee. There should be one position paper from each delegate touching on all three topics, with a focus on that delegate's position in the committee.

Country Background



Map of the Northern Africa Maghreb region, pertinent to this Joint Crisis

As a country in the Maghreb region of northern Africa, Algeria is essential in this crisis simulation. It is bordered directly to the west by Morocco, and to the south by Western Sahara. The Mediterranean Sea, Tunisia, Libya, Niger, Mali, and Mauritania also border Algeria. It is the 10th largest country in the world, and the largest in Africa (by land), although 90% of the country is desert. The capital city (which is also the most populated) is Algiers. ¹

¹ CIA World Factbook

The land that now consists of Algeria was originally home to prehistoric populations, such as the Capsian, Aterian, and Proto-ImaziYen cultures. In 1830, Algeria was colonized by France, and was under French control for more than a century.² Algerians fought for independence from France from the 1950's until 1962, through many wars. During this tumultuous time, the National Liberation Front (FLN), Algeria's chief political party, was founded, in 1954. This party still dominates to this day.

99% of the population is of Arab-Berber ethnicity, while only 1% is European. Within the Arab-Berber group, most Algerians are actually Berber, not Arab, but most identify as Arab, while 15% actually identify as Berber, the ethnic group composed of descendants of the indigenous pre-Arab peoples of the Northern African region.³ The official language of Algeria is Arabic, but French is also spoken, along with multiple Berber languages, including Kabylie Berber (Tamazight), Chaouia Berber (Tachawit), Mzab Berber, and Tuareg Berber (Tamasheq).⁴

Relations with other JCC Countries

Morocco

Algeria and Morocco, while close neighbors, have a plethora of longstanding conflicts separating them. When France colonized the area, the two colonies were united against the French. The tensions started after their respective independences. Since their breaking away from France, the two countries have established almost entirely opposite societies. Algeria has focused on economic socialism and liberation, while Morocco is growing closer to the Western World of Europe and the United States in its philosophies. The evidence for this societal divide is clear

² Georgetown University Berkley Center

³ Encyclopedia Britannica

⁴ CIA World Factbook

and visible; the last visit to Morocco by an Algerian prime minister was over 20 years ago.⁵ The precursor to the modern-day Western Sahara conflict was the “Sand War,” in 1963. Essentially, France annexed two regions (Tindouf and Béchar) to French Algeria, and Morocco tried to claim these regions as their own. Because of this, Algeria developed a bitter attitude towards Morocco, which was present in the Spanish Sahara (now called Western Sahara) conflict, starting in the 1970’s. This eventually led to Algeria’s backing of the Polisario Front group, of Western Sahara, as well as the permanent border closing between Algeria and Morocco, in 1994.⁶ Both nations want to claim the Western Sahara territory as their own, but only Morocco has officially claimed it. Since 1991, when the UN sponsored a ceasefire agreement on the conflict, two-thirds of the region is officially controlled by Morocco, while Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which is heavily funded by Algeria, controls the other third of the region.⁷

Western Sahara

Throughout history, the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) and Algeria have had a fairly strong relationship. In the Polisario Front's war with Morocco, Algeria has been supporting the Polisario Front with financial assistance and weaponry. Algeria was also the third country to recognize the SADR as an independent nation. On March 6, 1976, formal diplomatic relations were established and an SADR embassy was created in the capital city of Algiers. This relationship essentially unites Algeria and Western Sahara as a strong power against Morocco. This does not mean, however, that Algeria wants to control Western Sahara. In fact, the government claims if a “free and fair referendum” were to be held, Algeria would support

⁵ AL Monitor

⁶ OpenDemocracy

⁷ Baehr, Peter R. *The United Nations at the End of the 1990s*

whatever choice Western Sahara would make, be it independence, or integration with Morocco.⁸ This statement may just be one of many that serve as propaganda from the government, however. It is important to note that the long-standing end goal of Algeria is to reclaim Western Sahara rightfully as its own.

Topic I: Dealing with the effects of the lifted 2011 State of Emergency and possible Arab Spring ramifications

In 2011, in the height of the Arab Spring, Algeria lifted its State of Emergency, which had been effect for 19 years. Established in 1992, the State of Emergency was originally instated to help fight terrorism during a brutal civil war between Islamist rebel groups and the government, which killed 200,000 people. The military has, however, found ways to continue its involvement and grant itself authoritative power, by establishing new rules for itself. After 19 years, there were complaints that the State of Emergency had turned into excessive power and military control that the government was using to stifle forms of political opposition.⁹ Because of this, the Islamic rebel opposition groups had long since suggested it be lifted.¹⁰

The Arab Spring caused significant uprising and shifts in opinions throughout Algeria, which has led to the current-day, increasing desire for independence. In 2014, this independence is looking more like a shift into a more democratic, capitalistic society, with a strong emphasis on Western values. This reform, however, is to be gradual. In 2014, there was an election, where President Bouteflika was reelected, without doubt, but also without much enthusiasm. While the citizens are dissatisfied with the government as a whole, they do little to fix it. This may, in part,

⁸ AllAfrica

⁹ Huffington Post

¹⁰ Reuters

be due to the fact that Algeria can see the ramifications that the Arab Spring has had on nearby countries, such as Tunisia and Egypt, which is not necessarily a positive one, and does not want to emulate those countries.¹¹

Topic II: Dealing with the effects of President Bouteflika's recent constitutional reform on the general stability of the Algerian government

Most recently, in the spring of 2014, Algerian president Bouteflika announced a radical constitutional reform. This reform allows for more power from opposition groups in parliament, while also giving more power to the prime minister of Algeria, in important decisions. The National Liberation Front (FLN) party is the controlling party in Algeria. This socialist party was originally formed as a continuation of the revolutionary party during the war for independence from France from 1954-62, and was the only party recognized by the constitution in Algeria from 1962-1989. It essentially stands for all things anti-democratic.¹² Despite the domination of this party, President Bouteflika promised that these constitutional reforms would promote a strong democratic country.¹³

The reforms also state that the future president will not be able to serve in office for more than two terms, and establish freedom of press, religion, expression, association, and freedom to hold peaceful demonstrations. Along with this, the prime minister can now stand in for the president, in cases of his absence. There was initially a lot of negative response towards this reformed constitution, with many claims that it “doesn’t change anything,” and many responses

¹¹ Washington Post

¹² Encyclopedia Britannica

¹³ Reuters

that the only favorable change is the limiting of terms that can be served in office.¹⁴ Because these reforms have been so controversial, the stability of the government could be at risk. It is the job of this committee to ensure that the Algerian government is reliable, and that the people can once again have faith in their country.

Topic III: Maintaining a sense of national security and stability after a long era of civil wars and proxy wars with neighbors

As mentioned extensively earlier in this guide, the main conflict Algeria has is with Morocco. This is in large part due to the control of Western Sahara, which Morocco claims, but itself seeks independence, which Algeria funds, through the Polisario Front. This conflict has been going on for quite some time, starting in 1963 with the “Sand War.”

Additionally, in 2011, there was the well-known Arab Spring, which dominated in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya. Algeria had its own set of protests from 2010-2012, inspired by the Arab Spring, which were largely due to citizens’ disapproval of the state of the government. Poverty, unemployment, and inflation were all high, while freedom of speech and quality living conditions were both limited. Essentially, these protesters were seeking a democracy. These protests, while considered peaceful (the death toll was fairly low— 4 dead, with about 400+ injured), were still impactful.¹⁵ As members of the Algerian Cabinet, it is your job to find a way to increase governmental stability in a time of great instability, and to retain a strong sense of national security, while keeping in mind its tumultuous past. Without this, the country runs the risk of a tragic downfall.

¹⁴ Maghrebia

¹⁵ Al Jazeera

Focus Questions

1. What can the government (or you as a cabinet member, specifically) do to control the turmoil that has arisen following the Arab Spring? (Think long-term solutions and goals)
2. How do Algeria's foreign relations with both Morocco and Western Sahara come into play with all of these topics? Which aspects can we (as a committee) use to our advantage in solving these issues? Which aspects (historical/cultural feuds, border disputes etc...) should we be wary of? How can we deal with this?
3. If it can be resolved, should the border dispute/conflict between Algeria and Morocco be resolved militarily or diplomatically? What do you (as a cabinet member) propose as the best solution?
4. How could Algeria encourage Western Sahara to hold a successful referendum? (Take into account that there have been multiple unsuccessful efforts in the past)
5. How do these issues affect the international world? How should they be seen by/presented to other nations? Should other countries get involved in the solutions?
6. How can Algeria solve the problems of poverty, unemployment, and inflation, so as to avoid another outbreak of Arab Spring-like protests, and to generally improve citizens' qualities of life?

List of Positions

Abdelmalek Sellal—Prime Minister

Tayeb Belaiz — Minister of Interior and Local Government

Abdelkader Kadi — Minister of Public Works

Mohamed Aissa — Minister of Religious Affairs and Waqf

Amar Ghoul — Minister of Transport

Nouria Benghebrit — Minister of National Education

Nadia Labidi —Minister of Culture

Abdelmalek Boudiaf — Minister of Health, Population, and Hospital Reform

Mohamed Djellab — Minister of Finance

Tayeb Louh — Minister of Justice and Keeper of the Seals

Mounia Meslem — Minister of National Solidarity, Family and Women's affairs

Abdelkader Messahel—Minister-Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Charge of Maghreb and African Affairs

Ramtan Lamamra — Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hamid Grine—Minister of Communication

Khelli Mahi —Minister of Relations with Parliament

Suggestions for Further Research

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ag.html> The CIA World Factbook: Algeria

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14118852> BBC Country Profiles: Algeria

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/dztoc.html> Library of Congress. A Country Study: Algeria

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