

Saint Ignatius College Prep

SIMUN XVI

Saint Ignatius Model United Nations



Chicago, IL

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Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates,

And welcome to SIMUN XVI! My name is Shea Kinander, and I will be your chair for the ASEAN committee of SIMUN XVI. I and my vice chair, Krystal Rodriguez, are excited to welcome all of you to our committee, The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In this committee, we will be looking to deal with two very crucial topics that strike the countries of Southeast Asia—including the growing threat of terrorist groups in countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia, and the long-lasting problem of human trafficking all across Southeast Asia. We will be looking for delegates to have knowledge on the history of these two issues, and previous resolutions for them, but more importantly for delegates to draft new ideas and resolutions for the present day and future. It is worth noting that this committee will be made up of 25 single-delegation countries (more than the 10 nations apart of the ASEAN), so this committee will include countries from outside of Asia, likely countries with different views.

Krystal and I encourage active participation and speaking during moderated caucuses, and a willingness to draft new resolutions, form blocks, and construct working papers during unmoderated caucuses. We are excited to see the great ideas that you delegates put forward during this committee!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email me (shea.kinander@students.ignatius.org). Position papers should be emailed to me as well, by the stated due date. We'll see you there!

Your Chair, Shea Kinander



Topic 1: History of Terrorist Groups in Southeast Asia

The presence of terrorist groups—especially ISIS—is not in any way new to Southeast Asia. While groups such as Al-Qaeda and ISIS have kept their strongest presence in the most Muslim-populated area in the world, the Middle East—countries such as Indonesia and Malaysia also have large Muslim populations, making them prone to extremist groups forming.

The history of terrorism in this area dates back to the early 2000's, a short time after the September 11 attacks. Most of these attacks in Southeast Asia have been perpetrated by Al-Qaeda subgroup, Jemaah Islamiyah—some examples include the October 2002, and August 2003 bombings in Indonesian cities Bali and Jakarta respectively; the bombing of Super Ferry 14 in the Philippines in 2004; and 3 more bombings in Indonesia over the next 5 years.

Over the last decade, Indonesia—the country with the largest Muslim population in the world at 209 million (13.1% of the country)—has seen a decrease in major urban acts of terrorism. But there has been some clashes between security forces and militant groups, and in 2010 a militant training camp involving several jihadi groups was discovered in Aceh province.



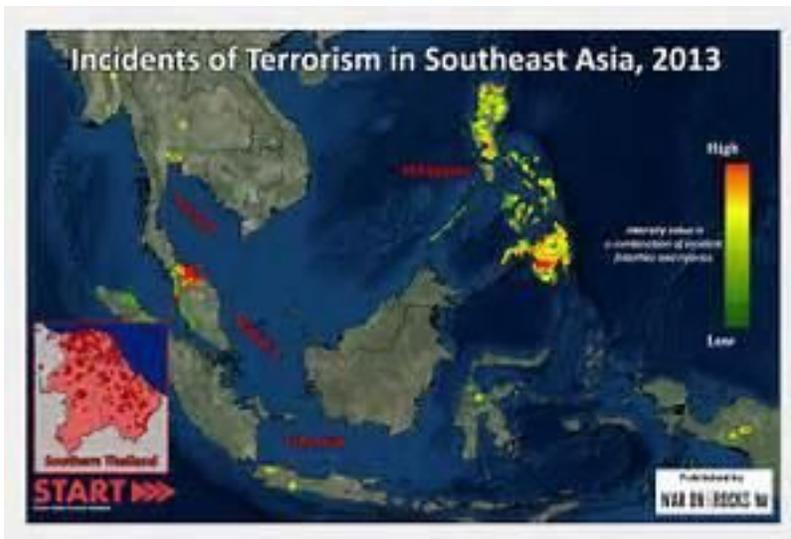
Fast forward to 2016, and ISIS attacks in Jakarta, Indonesia and Basilan Island, Philippines prove that Islamic terrorist groups still pose a very significant threat to Muslim-majority nations in Southeast Asia. With the presence of Al-Qaeda on a decrease in today's world, ISIS subgroups—particularly Abu-Sayyaf in the Philippines—serve as the biggest threat. The Philippines have seen a significant increase in the presence of Abu-Sayyaf, becoming alarmingly evident to the world when United States troops were sent to the city of Marawi, a city in Mindanao Island, in the southern Philippines—to help the Philippines keep control of the mainly Muslim city as ISIS succeeds through the southern islands of the Philippines. In May of 2016,

the Maute group—another ISIS subgroup in Southeast Asia, who has joined forces with Abu Sayyaf in the fight for Marawi—successfully resisted an attempt by Philippine security forces to capture Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, who is the FBI’s list of most wanted terrorists.

The Marawi crisis has been going on since May 23, 2017. Government data shows that as of July 2017, over 500 people have been killed in the bloody battle for the city, including almost 400 terrorists. The remaining terrorists in the city who have pledged allegiance to the Islamic State have shown no signs of backing down, as countless bombings and ground attacks have not prevented the group from advancing.



ISIS’s presence threatens the security of the entire region—and even through Philippine forces have made major strides in regaining Marawi—it is evident that ISIS still poses a major threat in the future in Southeast Asia, and the fight is not over quite yet.



Questions to Consider

- How has terrorism affected Southeast Asia compared to other regions of the world?
- Is your country affected by terrorism? How is your country contributing to the fight against terrorism in Southeast Asia?
- What would be the most effective way to reduce radicalization in Southeast Asia?

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Topic 2: Human Trafficking in Asia

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines human trafficking as “the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control of another person, for the purpose of exploitation.” In many cases the exploitation of others includes forced labor, and/or practices similar to slavery. Along with that, it can also include debt bondage, forced child labor, forced sexual practices, forced marriage, and even forced organ removal.

Human trafficking is considered by many to be the present-day form of slavery, as the International Labor Organization estimates that of the 20.9 million victims of human trafficking worldwide, 68% are trapped in forced labor. It is also worth noting that many believe this number does not even scratch the surface of the true number of victims worldwide. Asia and the Pacific is the most vulnerable region in the world to human trafficking—clocking in at an estimated 11.7 million victims, 8 million more than the second spot. Despite progress, and even though much of the world has abolished this practice, there were only 4,746 trafficking convictions in 2012. India tops the list for the most victims of modern slavery, and in Asia, the next most important countries for human trafficking are China and Pakistan, as well as Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Thailand.

Human trafficking has been a very large part of the labor economy in countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, and Indonesia. Slavery in any form goes back just about as far as human history—and, though illegal, it is still very much common in these countries. When Cambodia was granted independence in 1953, the country was left with very little natural resources—but an amazing, clean, beautiful landscape, thus making Cambodia (and most of Southeast Asia) reliant on tourism for their economy by the 1970’s. Around this time, sex tourism became promoted as a new tourist activity—and as the popularity of sex tourism grew, so did the demand for sex slaves. After the Cambodian government killed two million citizens during “Democratic Kampuchea,” a country that was already behind economically took another major leap back, as did most of Southeast Asia during times of little tourism and other economic downfalls.

This is where human trafficking has become a problem in Southeast Asia. Countries struggling economically have become reliant on human trafficking for labor and tourism—and it has become normal since these countries have done it for so long seeing no other way to catch up.

Almost all of human trafficking goes unnoticed. The UNODC has drafted a strategy regarding the nature of their work in recognizing, combatting, and preventing human trafficking—and also consistently publishes a global report on human trafficking around the world. As mentioned previously, there were just 4,746 trafficking convictions worldwide in 2012—not even scratching the surface of the 21 million worldwide victims of trafficking.

Questions to Consider

1. How has your country combatted human trafficking in the past—particularly Southeast Asian countries?
2. What has been the root cause of human trafficking in Southeast Asia in the past? What is causing most of it now?
3. How can human trafficking be prevented in the future? Are there any specific plans or actions that can be put into effect to do this?

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