



NOVICE 43

HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL



Security Council #6
Boko Haram

Lena Blankenbaker
Ted Melitas
Amber Juarez

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Huntington Beach High School Model United Nations Program, we would like to welcome you to our Novice 43 conference!

Our annual Novice conference upholds the principles and intended purpose of the United Nations. Delegates can expect to partake in a professional, well-run debate that simulates the very issues that those at the United Nations discuss every day. Both novel and traditional ideas will be shared, challenged, and improved.

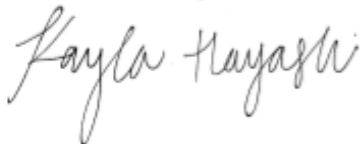
It is our hope that all delegates will receive the opportunity to enhance their research, public speaking, and communication skills as they explore the intricacies of global concerns through various perspectives, some of which may be very different from their own. We hope their experiences here give them new insight and values that they can apply outside of the realm of Model UN for the betterment of the world community.

Although we will be entertaining a new style of a virtual conference, we hope all delegates will experience a fruitful and enhancing debate. Please do not hesitate to approach our Secretariat or Staff Members with any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the day. We wish the best to all our participants and hope that they may share a fulfilling experience with us! Enjoy the conference.

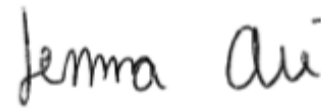
Sincerely,



Summer Balentine
Secretary-General



Kayla Hayashi
Secretary-General



Jenna Ali
Secretary-General



Hailey Holcomb
Secretary-General

Meet the Dias

Lena Blankenbaker

Hello Delegates! My name is Lena Blankenbaker and I am currently a junior here at Huntington Beach High School. This is my third year in Model UN and I am so excited to be chairing your committee! Outside of MUN, I swim for both the school team and a club. I am also involved in many clubs at the school such as National Honors Society, Doctors of Tomorrow, and Humanitarian Helpers. In my free time I love to read, watch TV series, hang out with my friends, and go to the beach. I am so excited to see you guys in committee and wish you the best of luck!

Ted Melitas

Welcome delegates!! My name is Ted Melitas and I am a current junior here at HBHS! This is my third year in MUN and I am so excited to be chairing your committee. Outside of school and MUN, I play Varsity soccer as well as club. I work at mcdonalds once a week and in my free time I love to fish and play videogames. I am also really into JDM cars and I watch a lot of netflix, my favorite shows are *Arrow* and *The Flash*.

Amber Juarez

Hi Delegates! My name is Amber Juarez and I am a junior at Huntington Beach High School. As a third year MUN student, I have participated in several Security Council committees and have had a fun time doing so. Other than MUN, I am the Co-President of the Make-A-Wish club, a writer for our school website, and affiliated with Orange County Human Relations. When I'm not tackling world crises or doing homework, you can find me playing guitar, playing video games, and watching *Grey's Anatomy*. I look forward to chairing and hearing all of your ideas!

All Papers are due on April 18th, 2021 by 11:59pm to
sc6novicemun@gmail.com

BOKO HARAM

BACKGROUND

Boko Haram was founded in 2002, by Mohammed Yusuf a preacher and polytizer in northern Nigeria with the intent to rid the country of any western secular beliefs or ideologies by any means necessary. Yusuf created a religious based complex including an Islamic school in Maiduguri, Nigeria. The school quickly gained attention attracting poor muslim families from across the country, with the goal of educating and converting future jihadists.¹ Boko Haram occupies and terrorizes many areas within western Africa but mainly parts of northern Nigeria, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Burkina Faso. Boko Haram's first attack on Nigerian society came in 2003 after Yusuf's subjects, deemed Al Sunna Wal Jamaa (followers of the prophet's teachings), raided and took control of a police station raising the Taliban flag.² In the following five years the organizations actions were less political and more revolving around the separation from secular society.³ However in 2009 an incident involving a disagreement with the police regarding motorcycle helmets, escalated into an armed conflict involving multiple uprisings in cities such as Maiduguri, Bouchi, Borno, Yobe, and Kano. After weeks of conflict the uprising subsided leaving hundreds of casualties with the Nigerian military killing over 700 insurgents including Mohammed Yusuf.⁴ This catastrophic failure for Boko Haram sent the organization into hiding for about 7 months, during this time period the remaining survivors regrouped under the new leadership of Abubakar Shekau and began a vicious recruitment campaign and succeeded in gaining about 2,000 devoted followers.⁵ After months of hiding the organization re-emerged, more technically apt and in a newfound alliance with Al-Qaeda. The 2011 presidential election campaign of christian nominee Goodluck Jonathan was heavily criticized and assaulted by Boko Haram.⁶ The organization led a campaign of bombings on political buildings, rallies, and election centers which ended with the death of over 320 people. Following the election of Jonathan the President waged total war against the organization, as well as declaring a state of emergency in the cities of Borno and Yobe. In addition to political action within the country Jonathan pleaded with the US for their support within the matter, however it was not attained until a few years later. In 2012 Boko Haram experienced internal turmoil when a faction of the organization broke off, who were against the killing of Muslims, which had become a regular practice during the attacks of the terrorist group. This group became known as the Ansaru and were under the control of Mamman Nur. The group came to become close allies with ISIS and other similarly oriented extremists groups. With the aid of those groups Asnaru was able to kidnap 8 european hostages in late december of 2012, the hostages were held for 2 weeks following their capture, and were released after their bail was met by an independent party within the British government's jurisdiction.⁷ However, Ansaru's success was short lived, as only 2 years later in 2014 multiple failed heists and bombing including a threat on the Abuja UN

building led to the collapse of the organization and the eventual capture of Nur. Also in 2014, Boko Haram was able to kidnap 276 school girls in Nigeria in hopes of using them as a negotiation to gain back some of their commanders that were in jail at the time, in exchange for the school girls. Another rationale the group had for kidnapping the school children was leverage on the Nigeria government.⁸ Five years after this kidnapping, 107 girls had been released while the rest continued to be held captive by Boko Haram. The group continues to kidnap women and children and the group forces them to start their new lives as, what they call, “servants.” These servants are subject to Islam conversion therapy, are constantly raped and beaten, and are forced to clean and cook for the members of the terrorist organization. Boko Haram has also kidnapped school boys to show that western education is not islamic. By kidnapping school children, the group hopes to spread their message of ridding western ideology in the area. Additionally, the violence the group has caused, over eleven years, has been the reason for the displacement of 2.7 individuals in the Lake Chad Basin. Many Nigerians, mostly women and children, have fled to Cameroon and other parts of Western Africa, hoping to escape the havoc the group has brought to the area. People not only become displaced when attempting escaping violence but also because Boko Haram has caused the destruction of villages and the homes of many.⁹ Boko Haram has raided homes of their food and resources and even burned villages to the ground. They have also been the reason many have been left without clean water or electricity. From 2014 to 2017, Boko Haram travelled from one village to the next in Borno State, burning them completely, causing many to lose their homes, resources, and lives. There was no hope of reconstruction, so the people that once resided in these areas, left, becoming refugees. Furthermore, Boko Haram has been able to flourish due to their effective recruitment strategies. The group’s recruitment consists of financial incentives, government violence, radicalization, and kinship. Financial incentives go to new members when the group pays new members to kill government officials in Nigeria, rob banks, or steal and resell cars. Boko Haram’s success is mostly rooted from their seemingly endless financial supply.¹⁰ A portion of the organization's money comes from criminal activity including, robberies, carjacking, and theft. Moreover the group is credited with at least 7 instances of armed robbery against arms trade convoys within the River Chad basin. The stolen guns are then further sold along the black market at raised prices for a nice profit for the terrorists. Moreover kidnappings play a large role in the organization's finances. In 2013 Boko Haram was paid 3 million US dollars for the release of a French family. Multiply this by the regular kidnappings on a much larger scale and the organization receives thousands of dollars daily. The terrorists also receive money in a form of tax that the group imposes on small villages that they gain control of, as well as seizing any resources or supplies that they can find. Corruption in the political offices of the Nigerian government has also played a large role in Boko Haram's success. In 2015 the military removed 3 corrupt officers who had been on the payroll of the organization, feeding them information on valuable shipping convoys. Moreover much of the funding the government spends on welfare and social programs is seized by the militants as well.

UNITED NATIONS ACTION

The United Nations Human Rights Council issued A/HRC/30/67 in December 2015 to call attention to the human rights violations committed by Boko Haram.¹¹ Established in January 2016, the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS) works toward mitigating terrorism in the Western African region and assembling peace missions. UNOWAS was formed from the merging of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the Office for the Special Envoy of the Sahel (OSES), both organizations having previously worked toward establishing peace in West Africa, Boko Haram being among their most pressing threats.¹² In March 2017, UNOWAS adopted S/RES/2349, which condemns acts of terrorism by extremist groups such as Boko Haram, encourages military cooperation, calls upon Member States to impose sanctions on groups assisting or affiliated with terrorist organizations, strengthens efforts to combat Boko Haram, and seeks to protect the human rights of civilians in the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin Regions.¹³ As noted in Resolution 2349, Boko Haram is included under the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, which aims to freeze assets and set embargos on arms and travel that are deemed essential to terrorist organizations.¹⁴ The African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) met on January 18, 2021 to discuss ways to further alleviate the threat of Boko Haram. Of the solutions discussed, the AUPSC stressed the need to fully implement the Regional Strategy for the Stabilization, Recovery, and Resilience of the Boko Haram-affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin Region. The Regional Strategy consists of nine strategic pillars: Political Cooperation, Security and Human Rights, Disarmament, Demobilisation, Rehabilitation, Reinsertion and Reintegration of Persons associated with Boko Haram, Humanitarian Assistance, Governance and the Social Contract, Socio-Economic Recovery and Environmental Sustainability, Education, Learning and Skills, Prevention of Violent Extremism and Building Peace, Empowerment and Inclusion of Women and Youth.¹⁵ This strategy would be implemented along with the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre to improve living conditions and shelter for civilians in areas of conflict.¹⁶ The AUPSC also met to plan the future operations of the Commission on the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram (MNJTF). The commission was established by the African Union and Lake Chad Basin Commission in 2015 following economic and humanitarian concerns in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria exacerbated by Boko Haram.¹⁷ The MNJTF has worked to maintain the safety and security of civilians living in West Africa, particularly in Benin, Chad, Niger, Cameroon, and Nigeria, through the liberation of hostages and arrest of Boko Haram members. Formed in 2014 at a summit of five Sahel countries, the Joint Force of the Group of Five of the Sahel (G5 Sahel) aims to combat jihadist organizations, encourage economic development, and strengthen security in the Sahel Region. The G5 states include Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad. In 2017, the United Nations Security Council unanimously authorized the deployment of military and police personnel under the G5 Sahel through the adoption of Resolution 2359.¹⁸ Thus far, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has failed to suppress the growth and impact of Boko Haram. As seen through Nigeria's response, military action alone is not sufficient.¹⁹

CASE STUDY: Boko Haram in Nigeria

Boko Haram has led to the corruption and instability of the government in Nigeria as well as a variety of other problems. Because of the corruption they have caused, Boko Haram has been able to occupy numerous areas and have a great effect on the region.²⁰ Boko Haram has carried out various terrorist attacks against religious and political organizations, the police force, the military, and Nigerian citizens in public areas since 2009.²¹ These attacks primarily take place in Northern Nigeria with the original goal of eliminating western influences in Nigeria. The Nigerian government's incompetence to control Boko Haram has been proven many times but especially in April of 2014 when the terrorist group kidnapped over 200 girls from a school. More recently, Nigeria with the coordination of Chad, Benin, Niger, and Cameroon has succeeded in forcing Boko Haram out of multiple provinces within Nigeria.²² However, Boko Haram has been able to maintain their control in some villages and areas in the region where they conduct suicide attacks and kidnap women and children. Boko Haram has also continued the destruction of villages in Nigeria for many years by burning homes down or leaving villages without necessities such as clean water and electricity.²³ The corruption of Nigeria's government and the crisis revolving Boko Haram has caused 2.6 million residents of Africa, majority from Nigeria, to flee the violence. The malnutrition and poor health of children continues to be one of the biggest issues in Nigeria that Boko Haram has caused. Overall, Boko Haram has caused havoc, death, and destruction in Nigeria through conducted terrorist attacks.²⁴

QUESTIONS

1. What factors allow Boko Haram to continue occupation in Nigeria?
2. What is your country's policy in regards to terrorism and security and what specific actions has your country taken to prevent terrorism or combat it?
3. When and how was Nigeria successful against Boko Haram? Can similar tactics work again?
4. What is the motivating factor behind Boko Haram (what were the group's original goals)? How might you create solutions regarding this?
5. How has Boko Haram led to the displacement of so many civilians? What are the issues that these displaced people face? How might you create solutions to combat the displacement of citizens?

ENDNOTES

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13809501>
2. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/nigerian-president-wants-u-s-troops-to-fight-boko-haram-1423850893>
3. <https://www.newsweek.com/what-ansaru-nigerias-other-militant-group-443785>
4. <https://www.cnn.com/2014/04/24/world/africa/nigeria-kidnapping-answers/index.html>
5. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/magazine/article/six-years-ago-boko-haram-kidnap-ped-276-schoolgirls-where-are-they-now>
6. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2020/12/16/boko-haram-kidnaps-330-boys-nigeria-outcry-uses-bringbackourboys/3919404001/>
7. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/01/world/africa/boko-haram-kills-dozens-in-northern-nigeria-military-says.html>
8. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/dec/15/boko-haram-claims-responsibility-for-kidnapping-hundreds-of-boys-in-nigeria#:~:text=Boko%20Haram%20kidnapped%20276%20girls,into%20the%20country's%20north%2Dwest>
9. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-22320077>
10. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/02/01/world/africa/boko-haram-kills-dozens-in-northern-nigeria-military-says.html>
11. <https://unowa.unmissions.org/about>
12. <https://unowas.unmissions.org/resolutions>
13. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14440.doc.htm>
14. <https://www.peaceau.org/en/article/regional-strategy-for-the-stabilization-recovery-resilience-of-the-boko-haram-affected-areas-of-the-lake-chad-basin-region>
15. <http://www.peaceau.org/en/page/70-post-conflict-reconstruction-and-development-pcrd>
16. <https://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/communique-973rd-meeting-african-union-peace-and-security-council-report-chairperson>
17. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12881.doc.htm>
18. <https://issafrica.org/pscreport/psc-insights/ecowas-struggles-to-address-violent-extremism>
19. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria/boko-haram-s-evolution-how-it-got-far-and-how-stop-it>
20. <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/boko-haram-nigeria>
21. <https://www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/conflict/boko-haram-crisis>
22. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Boko-Haram>
23. <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-018-0136-2>
24. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/13/world/africa/nigeria-boko-haram.html>