



# NOVICE 43

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## HUNTINGTON BEACH HIGH SCHOOL



Security Council  
Yemen Civil War

Zach Bernstein  
Katy Kennefick  
Noa Chanin

# 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.

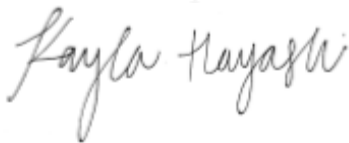
Although we will be entertaining a new style of a virtual conference, we hope all delegates will experience a fruitful and enhancing debate. Please do not hesitate to approach our Secretariat or Staff Members with any questions or concerns that you may have throughout the day. We wish the best to all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

Sincerely,



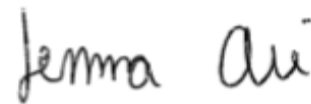
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Summer Balentine  
*Secretary-General*



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Kayla Hayashi  
*Secretary-General*



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Jenna Ali  
*Secretary-General*



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Hailey Holcomb  
*Secretary-General*

## Meet the Dias

### Zach Bernstein

Hi everyone! My name is Zach Bernstein and I'm a junior at Huntington Beach High School. I have been in Model UN since a freshman and I've loved it ever since. Outside of MUN, I can be found volunteering, playing volleyball for both a club and a school team, or working. My personal hobbies include spending time with my friends, listening to music, working out, and travelling. This is my first time chairing a conference and I couldn't be more excited that it's in my favorite committee, the Security Council. I am so excited for the creative ideas and solutions you'll all bring to the table. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask and email us at [sc4novicemun@novice.com](mailto:sc4novicemun@novice.com). I wish you all the best of luck!

### Noa Chanin

Hey delegates!! I am Noa Chanin and I am currently enrolled at Huntington Beach High School as a Junior. I have been part of Model United Nations for about two and a half years. Other than MUN, I dance outside of school and volunteer as a counselor for an Israeli youth group. My personal hobbies include reading, hanging out with friends, and trying new foods. This is my second time chairing an HBHS MUN conference, but my first time chairing Security Council (which is my favorite committee). I look forward to a good debate and hearing all of your amazing solutions! Papers are due on April 18th, good luck and I can't wait to see you guys!

### Katy Kennefick

Hello all! My name is Katy Kennefick and I am also a Junior attending Huntington Beach High School with a love and passion for Model United Nations. When I am not spending time indulging in MUN and all there is to it, I can be found training at Newport Aquatic Center within their women's rowing program. Any free time I can gather is usually spent with friends or sleeping. Between MUN, practice, and AP Lang, my days are filled to the brim and I wouldn't want it any other way! Which is why I am thrilled to endure my first chairing experience with all you wonderful delegates!

**All Papers are due on April 18th, 2021 by 11:59pm to**  
**[sc4novicemun@gmail.com](mailto:sc4novicemun@gmail.com)**

# Yemeni Civil War

## BACKGROUND

In less than a decade, a civil war sprouted in the heart of a minute Arabian country and has managed to provoke an onset of complete dysfunction in every sense of the word. The Civil War in Yemen erupted in 2014 and has since taken the lives of around 100,000<sup>1</sup>. The cause of the war comes from a political vacuum following the transfer of power from authoritarian leader Ali Abdullah Saleh to Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi in 2011 after the Arab Spring forced this handover of power<sup>2</sup>. During this lack of a strong central government, the Houthi movement took advantage by claiming their dominance and control of the Yemeni capital, Sana'a, in 2014. The Houthis are contained of the Zaydi Shiites, a minority Muslim group within the Islamic community surrounding them<sup>3</sup>. What initially sparked this movement and its radicalization occurred during the American invasion of Iraq in 2003. Since then, the group has gradually increased violence between themselves and other groups seeking power<sup>4</sup>. The Houthis also gained support from Yemen civilians who became involved in the Zaydi revivvaist operation<sup>5</sup>. After seizing the capital, the movement—supported by former president Saleh and his followers—began progressing and spreading their power. As this power shift became more prevalent, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi was forced to flee into hiding. Moreover, Saudi Arabia became increasingly concerned with Iranian influence in Yemen and the Houthi movement. Thus, Saudi Arabia, in a coalition with 10 other countries, led an intervention into Yemen with hopes of eradicating the current Houthi power hold. In mid March of 2015, the group launched various airstrikes on President Hadi's home as well as a military base seizure<sup>6</sup>. The nations indulged in this coalition include: Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Senegal. Since the first airstrike, the civil war divided further into two agendas, both sides supported by a plethora of groups. The first allied group consists of the Houthi movement, backed by Iran, and former leader Ali Abdullah Saleh and his supporters. The next allied group, adversaries of the first groups, consists of president Hadi's government, Anti-Houthi coalitions, Sunni Tribes, and the United States. Outside of these two main clusters, other influencers include ISIL and Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula<sup>7</sup>. In 2017, another organization within Yemen was introduced, known as the Southern Transitional Council. Their initial reason for formation was rooted in the firing of the Aden governor, Aidarus al-Zoubaidi, for alleged disloyalty against the Hadi government by "prioritizing Southern Yemen's independence over a unified Yemen". Southern independence has been longed for since the early 1900s when Southern Yemen was forced to merge with Northern Yemen even as the south believed president Saleh to be corrupt and unfit for presidency. The UAE backs the STC in it's goal of independence and because of the separation, the south now aids Saudi-led militant groups with a base for equipment<sup>8</sup>. On top of the political crisis facing Yemen, the nation is also facing what is deemed the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. Yemen is considered the poorest country in the Arab world, and it's clear to see that the nation urgently needs aid. Of the 29

million Yemeni citizens, over 24 million of them—roughly 80% of the population—are in dire need of humanitarian assistance<sup>9</sup>. Of the 24 million, 7 million are on the brink of starvation and 2.3 million are children under the age of 5. With these statistics, the UN has stated that Yemen is facing one of the biggest famines in history<sup>10</sup>. Furthermore, a cholera epidemic that started in 2016 has killed over 3,750 citizens in Yemen. Cases have surged to over 2 million since 2019, making it the world's worst cholera outbreak in history<sup>11</sup>. Yemenis urgently need aid in the form of food, water, shelter, safety, and healthcare services. Out of the 24 million Yemenis in need of humanitarian assistance, 12 million of them are children. Children have been most affected by the ongoing crisis in Yemen, with many being killed and maimed in the conflict. Around 2.4 million children from the ages of 1-17 are projected to suffer from acute malnutrition in 2021 and 400,000 of severe acute malnutrition. These vulnerable children face the possibility of dying if aid isn't distributed to them as soon as possible. Support systems that were put in place to help children in Yemen such as schools, hospitals, and food shelters are on the brink of collapse due to a combination of bombings and a failing economy<sup>12</sup>. Over 350 schools in Yemen have been bombed or taken over by terrorist forces since 2015 and 20% of schools haven't been functioning since 2019 despite international law giving schools protection<sup>13</sup>. Many of the schools that are still standing lack resources like desks, textbooks, and writing utensils which makes it even harder for Yemeni children to learn. On top of this barely-functioning nation, over 4 million citizens are internally displaced and moving into overcrowded and underfunded refugee camps. Many of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) flee from their homes in the Sa'ada Governorate, where most of the airstrikes take place<sup>14</sup>. The Saudi coalition's airstrikes are the main reason that so many Yemenis are forced out of their homes. The constant bombings in Houthi strongholds cause huge amounts of destruction, with schools, homes, and healthcare buildings being most affected. Additionally, there have also been reports of artillery shellings on residential areas of Taizz, which violates international law and puts hundreds of citizens in danger<sup>15</sup>.

As Yemen continues to face problems, the spread of COVID-19 has done nothing but make the humanitarian crisis worse. COVID-19 first entered Yemen on April 20, 2020, with a current total of 3,126 verified cases. Although this number may seem minimal, of the 3,126, 723 of them have died, giving Yemen a COVID-19 death rate of just under 25%<sup>16</sup>. The coronavirus is a much larger threat to Yemen than the stats show, seeing as the disease has the potential to kill over 230,000 people if action is not taken<sup>17</sup>. The war has decimated most of Yemen's healthcare facilities, so citizens who contract COVID-19 have had an extremely difficult time getting treatment. Additionally, doctors in Yemen do not feel safe in the center of the conflict and haven't been paid since March 2020, causing many of them to flee the country for their security. Yemen does not have the adequate funds to buy tests for COVID-19, so there could be many more people who have contracted and succumbed to the virus than is known. Overall, an intermixing of political and humanitarian catastrophes has decimated Yemen, giving the country the title of a failed state.



## UNITED NATIONS ACTION

Seeing as the Civil War in Yemen has been an extremely prevalent issue, the United Nations has provided humanitarian aid and has passed a multitude of resolutions to combat it. Since 2015, the United Nations has implemented several programs and solutions in order to provide humanitarian aid to innocent Yemenis who have been struggling throughout the civil war. The World Food Programme (WFP) has provided over 100,000 metric tons of food each month and has been able to reach over 8 million Yemeni citizens.<sup>18</sup> On top of this, the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been able to work together to provide cholera vaccines to more than 300,000 people in Yemen. Additionally, sexual and reproductive health services have been given to Yemeni women of all ages by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Not only has the United Nations been able to help and support so many struggling Yemenis, but they have also been able to assist with their government through the help of the United Nations Office for Coordination of Human Affairs (OCHA), while of course allowing them to maintain and keep their sovereignty. Since Yemen entered into the United Nations in 1947 with S/RES/29, the UN has been trying to support them and do what they can to help solve their issues.<sup>19</sup> There have been many resolutions passed by the United Nations that date up to as recently as February 25th, 2021.<sup>20</sup> This resolution, S/RES/2564, along with resolution S/RES/2511 (February 2020) both had the similar goal of renewing the sanctions on Yemen, and the United Nations has been continuing to renew it since it was first brought forth in 2014 with S/RES/2140 which was when the sanctions regime began.<sup>21</sup> Additionally, on April 14th, 2015, the United Nations Security Council passed resolution S/RES/2216 which took immediate action and demanded the Houthis to withdraw from any seized areas, as well as forcing them to unarm. It had also called for the establishment of an arms embargo on the Houthis. While this resolution was passed, it was not as successful as was hoped for seeing as the Houthis continue to control most of northern Yemen.<sup>22</sup>

## CASE STUDY: Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula

As Yemen continues to struggle with humanitarian and political disasters, terrorist groups have taken advantage of this chaos and have seized territory in the country. One of the most prominent terrorist groups operating in Yemen is Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula or AQAP. AQAP is considered the most active operating branch of Al-Qaeda due to the weakening government in Yemen. AQAP was formed in Yemen in 2009 and has since been wreaking havoc both domestically in Yemen and on an international scale, with terrorist attacks in France, the United States, and Saudi Arabia all being linked back to AQAP<sup>23</sup>. The main goal of AQAP's terrorist agenda is to topple the governments of Saudi Arabia and Yemen, target oil facilities and security forces, and establish an Islamic Caliphate in the Middle East<sup>24</sup>. AQAP has made several public statements directed at Middle Eastern leaders noting their condemnation of them for developing connections with Western countries like the USA and France. AQAP has also blamed

President Saleh for a multitude of problems facing Yemen, including poverty, water scarcity, and an increase in prices for basic necessities<sup>25</sup>. Yemen still can't seem to find political stability within itself, which gives AQAP the ability to thrive in an environment of state collapse, shifting alliances, power vacuums, and growing distrust between Yemeni citizens and their government<sup>26</sup>. AQAP has been able to make several territorial gains in Yemen with such instances being the establishment of strongholds in Mukalla, Shabwa, and Abyan, all cities in Southern Yemen<sup>27</sup>. Furthermore, AQAP has worsened the humanitarian crisis in Yemen seeing as the group has taken responsibility for over 150 attacks in ways such as IEDs and suicide bombings. During their attacks, AQAP has been known to target both Houthi strongholds and government institutions which further weakens the already failing government. Despite AQAP's extreme presence in the region, little has been done to try and decrease their influence. The US has organized airstrikes against AQAP affiliates in Yemen, however, this ends up doing more harm than good. Additionally, the US has backed the UAE-led proxy forces by sending more drone strikes to areas in Southern Yemen that have been known to host AQAP members<sup>28</sup>. Airstrikes against Yemen as a whole have continually decimated the country, with innocent civilians being most affected. Due to these airstrikes, Yemeni citizens have taken a public resentment towards international intervention in Yemen, and AQAP has used this to provide security and public services unfulfilled by the Yemeni government, which has increased public support for the terrorist group<sup>29</sup>. Additionally, AQAP also gained public support after the Yemeni military collapsed since the terrorist group was seen as the last line of defense against Houthi expansionism. Essentially, AQAP has become infamous for capturing cities, releasing terrorists from prisons, and overall contributing to the political, social, and humanitarian crises that Yemen faces today.

### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What can be done to stop the insurgency of terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in Yemen?
2. What does your country believe Yemen can do to help itself establish a strong and unified central government?
3. Does your country support the Houthi rebels or Hadi's government? Has your country been involved with either of these groups in ways such as supplying them with intel or aid?
4. What can be done to prevent the Saudi-led coalition, backed by Western Powers, from continually bombing areas of Yemen with civilian populations?
5. How can the protection of doctors and aid distributors be ensured if they were to be sent into Yemen to help treat people with COVID-19 and distribute humanitarian aid?

6. Has your country taken a stance on the proxy war in Yemen between Saudi Arabia and Iran? If so, why does your country support either side or why has your country stayed neutral?
7. What can be done to prevent the spread of cholera to citizens in Yemen?
8. Seeing as many children in Yemen are acutely malnourished, being used as child soldiers, or internally displaced, what immediate action can be taken in order to save them?



## ENDNOTES

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