

SAMUN XIII

**UNOCT**

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### **Letters from Presidents**

#### **Letter from President Vanegas**

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the SAMUN XIII staff, we are pleased to welcome you warmly to our annual reunion. First and foremost, we would like to introduce ourselves. We are Juan David Vanegas and Manuel Pertuz, together we have the honor of chairing the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

We would like to emphasize that it is a great pleasure for both of us to lead such a distinguished group of leaders and global citizens who care deeply about current issues around the world. As such, we hope that this will be a rewarding and enjoyable experience in which all of you can exercise and enhance your conflict resolution, critical thinking and communication skills in the best way possible.



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With all of this in mind, we invite you to have a respectful, collaborative and above all open-minded attitude within the committee in order for each of you to express all of your ideas, positions and solutions that will benefit both the committee and you to achieve the expected goals.

In this manner, we expect that the problems and situations presented in this committee will be resolved through respectful dialogue, union and joint solutions, demonstrating the real purpose of the United Nations on a daily basis.

In addition, we invite you to familiarize yourselves with the guide provided, which contains relevant information that will be touched upon in the topics discussed. The guide will be of great help and support in order for you to play your best role in the course of the committee and enjoy this experience in its splendor.

We also add our contact information [@juan.vanegas-rodado@cbsm.edu.co](mailto:juan.vanegas-rodado@cbsm.edu.co), [@manuel.pertuz-habeych@cbsm.edu.co](mailto:manuel.pertuz-habeych@cbsm.edu.co). Feel free to contact us at any time with any concerns or questions you may have regarding the committee or SAMUN XIII. It will be a pleasure for us to help you at all times inside and outside the model.





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Finally, we would like to wish you a great experience during SAMUN XIII and look forward to your relevant interventions and solutions during the course of the model.

Sincerely,

Juan David Vanegas

UNOCT President

#### **Letter from President Pertuz**

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure for us to present you with a warm and pleasant welcome to the thirteenth edition of SAMUN. This year we would enjoy the satisfaction of being the presidents of the UNOCT commission, during this edition of this venerable model.

As president, sponsoring the promotion of a comprehensive, and integral society is essential, maintaining and strengthening within the values that characterize us as individuals, growing with passion and inspiring with action, as the same quote of our model pronounces. I truly hope that both of the topics that we selected for this commission are of your interest and liking, as it was for us. As well, we hope that you enjoy the model and the accompanying experience of the same, and that your passage in Santa Marta be of your total satisfaction and enjoyment. We look forward to contemplating your discipline, dedication and effort towards the commission, in order for you to prepare adequately for the model, so that it transcends to multiple contributions,



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participations and invaluable inputs, and finally get to a resolution for all the conflict we are managing in the present committee.

This is an introductory guide to the committee and to both topics that we have prepared for the model. We hope that you will enjoy it and that it will contribute to the enhancement of your knowledge and preparation.

With anything less to add, we wish you all success, and remember that we are open to help you in any need you may have about the commission or the model in general.

Sincerely,

Manuel Pertuz Habeych

UNOCT President

### **Introduction to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, established on June 15, 2017, is an extended body of the United Nations created through the adaptation of General Assembly resolution 71/291. With this in mind, it could be said that the main purpose of this body is to provide assistance to Member States in implementing counter-terrorism measures and standards. This office is guided by the purpose of promoting global collaboration in the fight against terrorism. The UNOCT also collaborates on several occasions with the Security Council so that the



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international community can cooperate together to curb the spread of terrorism around the world.



There are four organizational units headed by UNOCT principal level staff which are;

- The office of Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism (OUSG)
- United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)
- Special Project and Innovation Branch (SPIB)
- Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch (PKMCB)

**Topic A: The Imperative Control of Terrorism in the Middle East's Armed and Geopolitical Conflicts.**

**Key Concepts**



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**Terrorism:** The use of violence, intimidation and threats to instill fear in populations and governments, in most occasions for political, ideological, social or even religious purposes.

**Geopolitical race:** The competition between nations in order to gain more influence, power and control over strategic points around the world that may be beneficial to the development or security of many of them.

**State with limited recognition:** It is a territory whose sovereignty is not internationally recognized even though it is administered partially or fully by an autonomous governmental organism.

**PLO:** The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), established in 1964, is a political organization representing Palestinian interests and working towards the establishment of a Palestinian state. Nowadays, the PLO is leading the West Bank.

**Hamas:** Founded in 1987, Hamas is a militant and political Palestinian organization with Islamic roots. It has participated in both violent and political struggle against Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.



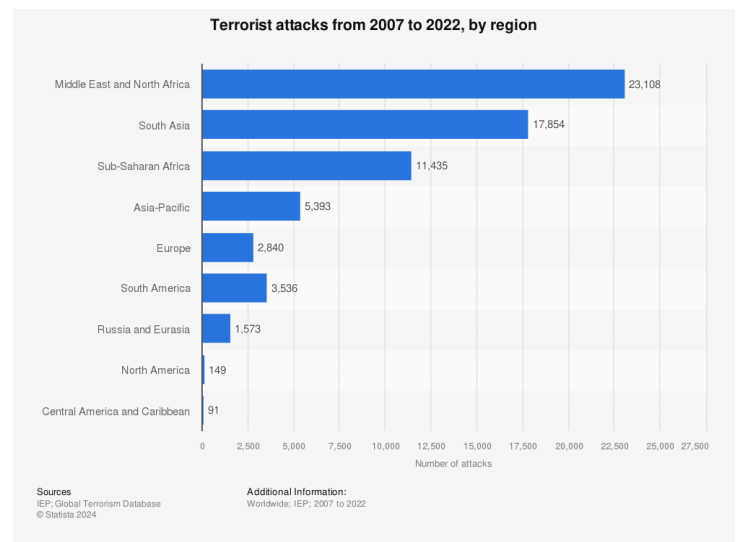
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## **Introduction**

The Middle East has been stigmatized for years by the international community as a place where terrorism abounds in large numbers and has always made clear its total concern of it. This is due to the numerous terrorist organizations and attacks that have emerged from there, which endanger the integrity and security of the global community and have brought world powers such as the United States, China and Russia into the picture in order to counter the growing threats within this territory. As a result, many of these powers have taken security measures in this region to ensure the safety of the inhabitants of the Middle East and the entire world.



However, the security measures imposed on some of the nations of the Middle East and the constant importance that the world powers have given to this particular region are interpreted as the search for dominance and presence in key points around the globe in order for countries such as the United States, Russia and China in order to have certain economic, military and





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geopolitical benefits due to the importance of the area. This has clearly alerted many nations and terrorist organizations in the Middle East, as they perceive that these countries are simply seeking to take advantage of this territory in order to continue their geopolitical race around the world.

Although the Middle East is a place where terrorism is a major problem and it is of the utmost importance to implement security measures in this region in order to counteract the problems that are occurring internationally due to terrorism, there are many communities, territories or nations in the Middle East that do not have the possibility to defend themselves from upcoming threats and constant tensions either because they are immersed in an internal conflict that does not give them the capacity to look after their interests at a global level, as is the case of Syria, Irak and Afghanistan, the lack of economic resources, or even the lack of international recognition, as is the case of Palestine and Kurdistan.

As a consequence of this, terrorist groups such as Hamas, Al Qaeda or Daesh are occasionally referred to as a defense weapon in which these territories and communities defend their sovereignty, rights and interests through terrorist organizations that counter the actions of world powers with specific interests in this region. In such a way that conflicts

	Total attacks	Fatal Attacks	Domestic attacks	International attacks
Algeria	2,725	1,941	1,125	117
Bahrain	185	25	18	24
Egypt	2,248	979	389	449
Iran	496	212	24	170
Iraq	22,164	14,787	991	4,327
Israel and Palestinian Territories	4,075	1,308	1,379	1,314
Israel	1,959	446	153	1,085
Jordan	82	24	1	51
Kuwait	71	17	2	43
Lebanon	2,355	849	107	1,359
Libya	2,056	807	638	200
Morocco	30	22	4	19
Qatar	7	4	1	5
Saudi Arabia	315	169	22	193
Syria	1,918	1,183	466	746
Tunisia	104	57	30	29



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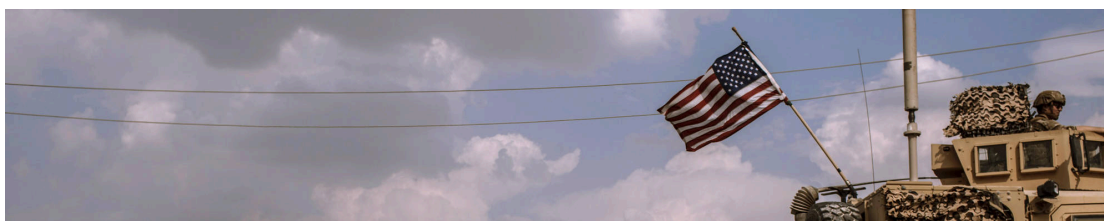
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have been generated in this territory in which populations such as Palestinians, Syrians, Afghans and other groups have been greatly affected and have gone through situations such as bombings, forced displacements, violence and massacres by the alleged abuse of power of those nations.

This has clearly led to the proliferation of terrorist groups that have begun to act out of proportion, taking such violent actions to various parts of the world and endangering the well-being of the international civilian population. Taking this into account, it can be concluded that terrorism is an issue that directly affects the development and sovereignty of many nations around the world.

Some clear examples of this are the 9/11 attack against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the United States, where around 3,000 civilians were killed and 25,000 were injured. On July 7, 2005, London experienced coordinated terrorist attacks, known as the 7/7 bombings. Suicide bombers targeted public transportation during morning rush hours, resulting in 52 deaths and numerous injuries. Furthermore, on November 13, 2015, Paris was the target of coordinated terrorist attacks carried out by gunmen and suicide bombers, resulting in the tragic loss of 130 lives. ISIS, Al Qaeda and other Islamist extremists claimed responsibility for the attacks, leading to heightened security measures in these countries and their full alert against terrorist groups in the Middle East.





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With this in mind, it is of great concern to the international community that these groups continue with these attacks around the world as they jeopardize the integrity and security of governments and entire populations based on their convictions.

Thus, it is of utmost importance to find a solution to regulate the violent actions of these terrorist organizations that are acting disproportionately around the world, especially in the Middle East. All of this taking into account the safety and integrity of all the people who are being affected by both parties.

### **Current Situation and Approach**

*Subtopic A: Israeli-Palestinian territorial conflict and the involvement of the Hamas terrorist organization.*

On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created to compensate for the suffering of the Jewish people during the Nazi Holocaust during World War II. Thus, for the international community it was of utmost importance the re-establishment of a Jewish state so that they could exercise their spiritual, religious and national identity with







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total freedom and security. Due to the large presence and migration of Jews in Palestinian lands throughout history, the United Nations adopted a resolution to establish an independent state, which is now known as Israel.

However, from the first moment that the United Nations expressed interest in dividing the Palestinian territory into two parts in 1947, tensions began to create between the Jewish and Arab communities, since on the one hand the Jews accepted the agreement, while the Arabs expressed their rejection of the resolution. Even so, the resolution remained in place and succeeded in founding the State of Israel in 1948 as a result of the United Nations Resolution 181 (Partition Plan for Palestine). At this precise moment is where tensions began to grow in the Middle East showing the political, social and religious divisions in the territory.

These divisions and constant tensions between Israel and its neighboring countries gave rise to



the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, which involved Israel and five Arab nations: Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon. However, by the end of the war in July 1949, Israel with the backing of major world powers such as the United States, already controlled more than two-thirds of the former



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British Mandate, which gave it a certain power and dominance over the area that none of its neighboring countries ever had. This clearly increased the divisions between Israel and those countries that did not support the creation of this new nation. However, as time went on, Israel built up diplomatic relations with countries such as Egypt in an effort to lower tensions in the Middle East. On the other hand, as time went by, Palestine was still not an internationally recognized state, making it clear that Israel's power was much greater, which alarmed much of the Middle East, among those, terrorist organizations that years later would be a major problem for the international community.

In this way, the close relationship between Israel and the United States, a country that has always made clear its interest and concern regarding the Middle East, has begun to open doors to the creation of new conflicts between these nations and various terrorist groups. A clear demonstration of this is the expansion of Israel,



taking over more and more of the territory granted to the Palestinian people, which has clearly generated displeasure. During 2021, tensions between Israel and Palestine reached their peak, due to the constant disputes over the territory of Jerusalem, the large number of illegal Israeli settlements on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and their militarization, and the political,



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religious and social differences that have always existed. However, taking into account that Palestine is a state with limited recognition and that many countries around the world do not recognize it as a nation, it is more than clear that it has neither the economic nor the military resources to defend itself against a military power such as Israel backed by the United States.

Witnessing all these events, Hamas, a terrorist group of Palestinian origin which controls the Gaza Strip has been responsible for curbing the alleged intentions of Israel and its allies and has tried to defend the sovereignty of Palestine, as was the situation on May



10, 2021, where Hamas began firing rockets and missiles into Israel. It was fourteen days in a row in which this terrorist organization launched around 4,300 rockets at the civilian population of Israel, triggering a conflict of greater severity.

Although tensions between Israel and Hamas were still ongoing, they had gradually decreased over time. However, on October 7, 2023, Israel declared a state of war due to a large number of incoming missiles from Gaza. This situation has actually given rope to the creation of a war with Israel, in which both parties seek to defend their sovereignty and their ideals, but in reality all they are doing is that both the Israelis and Palestinian people are going through a situation where



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their security and integrity is seriously affected because they are going through situations such as bombings, massacres, assassinations, forced displacements and even sexual aggressions.

The international community has reached a level of concern that Hamas' involvement in this conflict and the growing tensions with Israel in recent months have led to the conflict becoming international in scope, involving different nations and terrorist groups such as the Houthis, which simply aggravates the situation and leads to no resolution. As such, it is of great importance that the international community, through bodies such as the United Nations, reach a resolution in which both sides benefit and above all to curb the terrorism presented.

### **QARMAs**

- How can world powers' interests in dominance and power in the Middle East be reduced so as not to start creating tensions and future conflicts in the region?
- In which ways could the terrorism in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict be stopped in order to prevent the continuation of a belligerent conflict in which innumerable people are being affected?



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- What measures could be implemented to reduce terrorism in the Middle East and at the same time ensure that the sovereignty and ideals of minorities in this region are respected?

### **Questions**

- Does your delegation have any economic or political interest in the Middle East?
- Does your delegation have any political or economic relationship with Israel or Palestine?
- What is your delegation's position on the abuse of influence of world powers in the Middle East?
- What actions does your country propose to curb terrorism in the Middle East and internationally?
- Does your delegation consider that what is happening between Israel and Palestine could lead to the creation of an international conflict involving different nations and even terrorist organizations?

### **Useful Links**

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/truman-israel/>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/data-collection/general-assembly/>

<https://israeled.org/the-arab-israeli-war-of-1948-a-short-history/>





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<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/us-power-and-influence-middle-east-part-one>

<https://www.islamicity.org/92645/why-does-the-u-s-support-israel/>

<https://www.stimson.org/2023/why-are-the-houthis-getting-involved-in-a-war-between-israel-and-hamas/>

<https://www.historylatam.com/guerras/israel-y-palestina-7-puntos-para-entender-el-origen-del-conflicto>

<https://www.mei.edu/publications/iraqs-new-geopolitics-and-importance-regional-engagement-vi-ew-brussels>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/politika/91028>

<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/testimony-ambassador-michael-sheehan-terrorism-middle-east-and>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Resolution-181>

<https://international-review.icrc.org/articles/counterterrorism-policies-in-the-middle-east-and-north-africa-916>

<https://www.adl.org/resources/glossary-term/2021-israel-hamas-conflict-0>

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/occupied-palestinian-territories-and-illegal-israeli-settlements/>



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**Topic B: "Control and prevention of the self-proclaimed Islamic state, Daesh and its affiliates."**

**Key Concepts**

**DAESH:** A “Jihadist” extremist “Sunni” organization known also as “ISIS” (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria)

**Al Qaeda:** An Islamic transnational extremist organization, founded in Pakistan. “The base” in Arabic.

**Caliphate:** Government system majorly belonging to Muslims, where a religious and political leader of all Muslims worldwide is elected “Caliph”. And characterized for the strict adherence of Islamic traditions. (Same system of government used by the Ottoman Empire.)

**Caliph:** Political and religious leader of the “Caliphate”.

**Sunnis:** Derivation/branch of the Islam religion, who believe that power should fall in hands of the “Caliph”, as Maoma’s successor.

**Shiites:** Derivation/branch of the Islam religion who believe that succession should follow Maoma’s familiar line, instead of the “Caliphate”.

**Terrorism:** The use of violence, intimidation and threats to instill fear in populations and governments, in most occasions for political, ideological, social or even religious purposes.



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**Jihadism:** A type of ideology mostly used in the Middle East to refer to an individual or a group of individuals who engage in “**Terrorism**”.

**Global War on Terror:** War campaign commanded by the United States within affiliates of NATO, against the terrorist groups of the time (September, 2001).

**Jabhat al Nusra:** Al Qaeda’s faction in Iraq, which later became part of ISIS.

### **Introduction**

On September 11, 2001 in New York, two planes crashed into the World Trade Center complex, perpetrating one of the most degrading and brutal terrorist attacks in history, shocking an entire country and capturing the concern and attention of the entire international community.

Terrorist attack, led by the then leader of Al Qaeda, Osama Bin Laden, and being a turning point for the empowerment and development of these terrorist groups, persecuted worldwide by the world powers because of their multiple violations of fundamental human rights.

In that same year the then president of the United States, George W. Bush, leadered an strict and



rigorous conflict against such Yihadist groups commonly known as the “**Global War on Terror**” ; which officially involved the international community, and various countries in the Middle East





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such as Afghanistan or Iraq, this last one commanded by Saddam Hussein (famous in Muslim history and known as former dictator and extremist leader).

As a result of the multiple persecutions by the western, and the insistent pressures against Al Qaeda and its surroundings, in 2003, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, a Sunni leader with the support of Osama bin Laden, founded the Congregation of Monotheism and Jihad, which only a year later would reform with the name Al Qaeda in Iraq, laying the first foundations for its expansion, and taking precedence in the harassment and transgressions mostly to the Shiites living in Iraq and its surroundings, dismaying the entire international community and calling the attention of the United Nations itself, who would begin to take action.

However, the conflict between Shiites and Sunnis simply worsened over the years, and the seizure of power in Iraq by Nouri al-Maliki, who would become the country's first “**Shiite**” leader in decades, would then cause a reshaping of the internal strife, where Iraq's Sunni people were subjugated.

After the death of al-Zarqawi, which was declared dejected, after an operation of the United States in the zone, many years of readjustment, following the death of the leader were evident, and what was known as a branch of Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), became a self-proclaimed Islamic State, and again worried the world with its readjustment and strengthening in the Middle East,



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headed by its leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, after Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the first leader of the self-proclaimed Islamic State was killed in 2010.

The whole situation would be aggravated when only a year later, the Syrian civil war would start, as a result of protests against the government of Bashar al-Assad. The repression against the population and the discontent of the Syrian people, who were against the government, quickly attracted the attention of Islamic organizations, such as factions of Al-Qaeda (“**Jabhat al-Nusra**”) who began to sympathize with the Islamic State of Iraq. Casualties, sexual aggression, destruction and chaos took over the territory, and in the same year the United Nations reported its withdrawal from Syria, because it was extremely risky, the escalation of the whole situation and crimes dismayed the international community and the Islamic extremist groups gained power in the area.

Eventually, after joining with “**Jabhat al-Nusra**”, the extremist group would rename itself as "Islamic State of Iraq and Syria", leading to what we know today as ISIS.

Over the years, the crude oil traffic around the Middle East would provide crucial economic power to this extremist organization, in addition to the discreet support of the Sunni countries in the Middle East.

The repeated war crimes and crimes against humanity against the world are disturbing, attacks in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Australia, North





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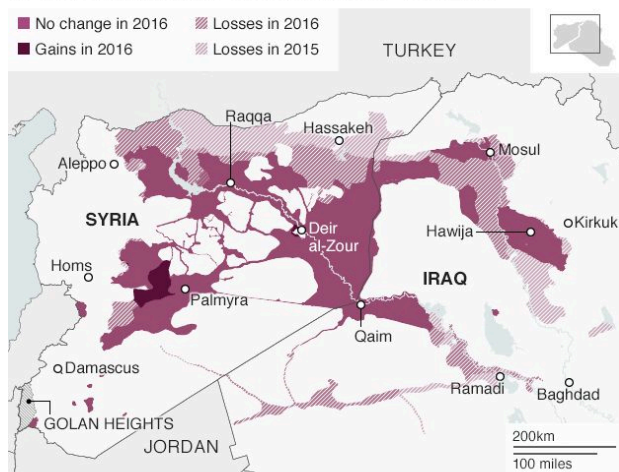
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America and Europe make ISIS one of the most brutal and bloodthirsty extremist groups in history, as well as one of the most wanted by all national and international security agencies. In 2014, ISIS leader Abu bakr al-Baghdadi proclaimed himself as "**Caliph**" Ibrahim, and established the "*Caliphate*" as the organization's system of government, making his first and only public appearance in a mosque, with the aim of gaining sympathy with the Sunni population. The ISIS takeover of cities like Raqqa or Mosul, and their expansionist ideals comparable to the territory of the Ottoman Empire at the end of the 19th century, only goes to show how dangerous this extremist group is and that although in recent years their popularity and sympathy around the world and among Muslims specifically has declined, they remain a threat to the stability of international security, and must be prosecuted for their crimes against the world.

### Current Situation and Approach

Currently, the organization (DAESH), has suffered a remarkable decline over the years, the loss of territory in Iraq and Syria, as well as the death of several of its most powerful leaders, and former caliphs, are clear evidence of this. Since the Syrian civil war, the West has been strict and radical in its persecution and arrest of

IS territorial gains and losses, Jan 2015 – Dec 2016



Source: IHS Conflict Monitor

BBC



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the organization. The United States of America, at the top of the list of countries, with almost 50,000 U.S. troops in the area and having carried out hundreds of military operations in the Middle East to directly confront the foreign terrorist organizations, is the only country in the region that has been able to confront them.

Certainly, these operations in foreign countries must be carried out with prior authorization and with great caution, taking into account the fundamental principles of international rights and the principle of non-interference, to avoid any kind of political and/or military conflict between delegations, which causes great concern among transnational media and international organizations.

In the last two decades, attacks and crimes against humanity have been on the rise. Citizens of Lebanon, Iran, Libya, Egypt, Israel and even Syria and Iraq where DAESH allegedly operates today, while maintaining a reduced territory compared to the past, have been victims of the cruelty and brutality of this Jihadist group. In total it is estimated that more than 100,000 people have lost their lives exclusively due to the killings perpetrated by ISIS, excluding the victims of the multiple conflicts with foreign countries that have confronted ISIS, as well as the local armed conflicts in the territories where the group is based. Clearly the numbers are shocking and the



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international community is claiming for peace and justice, as well as the call for international cooperation for the control and prevention of terrorism from the United Nations.

One of the major drawbacks for each of the delegations involved in armed conflicts with these terrorist organizations, is the disorientation and perplexity at the time of receiving or perpetrating an operation. To be certain, the Middle East has always been a territory full of armed conflicts



and political imbalance since before the beginning of the 21st century, the militias belonging to or originating from the delegations in the territory are also a concern for the international community, as well as the Sunni affiliates who

sympathize with Daesh and who at some point also supported Al-Qaeda in the area.

However, the implementation of control and prevention measures requires the international cooperation of the delegations, as this is a matter of international priority, which affects several territories and jurisdictions. All operations, measures and actions must be thoroughly analyzed to avoid any discrepancies between nations.





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For example; military strategies, each of the delegations has a different point of view about the level of priority of this type of armed conflict, which generates controversies about the radicalism of the other to carry out any military strategy, and how direct an operation should be. Likewise, the possibility of establishing an international agreement with this type of groups has been discussed, however the delegations and their intentions about a possible treaty are diverse, which generates the distortion of the democratic roles that the great powers of the world may have with the international diplomatic organizations and the United Nations itself.

### **QARMAs**

- What measures can be implemented to eradicate terrorism at the international level (taking into account fundamental principles of international law)?
- How feasible it may be to take military action in the Middle East? taking into account the territory is primordial and essential for confrontations towards terrorism.
- What would be the way to condemn and prosecute war crimes committed by terrorist organizations?
- Is the intervention of the United Nations necessary in any delegation in the Middle East? And how would it contribute to a prompt resolution?



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### **Questions**

- Has your delegation had any engagement with any so-called terrorist groups in the past?
- Does your delegation have any direct economic activities in the Middle East?
- Has your delegation been part of any operations against Daesh or any other terrorist group?
- Does Daesh have a foothold in your delegation, directly or indirectly?
- Have the people of your delegation suffered any terrorist attack from Daesh?
- Does your delegation run an Islamic-led government?

### **Useful Links**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-28082962>

<https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/mappingmilitants/profiles/islamic-state>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67819988>

<https://www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/global-war-terror>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-38641509>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-27838034>

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0AkGoliFi0>

<https://www.csis.org/analysis/islam-and-patterns-terrorism-and-violent-extremism>



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<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-25471361>