



**UN Office on Drugs and Crime**  
**MICSUN VI 2017**  
**Background Guide**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the UNODC. My name is Sumra Wahid and I will be your chair for this committee at MICSUN VI. I am very excited to see what you guys have in store for these topics and hope to give you guys a fun and memorable experience.

To tell you a little bit about myself, I am a sophomore here at the University of Miami, majoring in International Studies and Chemistry and minoring in Arabic and Motion Pictures. I'm a member of the Model United Nations team here at UM, and have been competing in MUN since I was in high school. Model United Nations is a great way to learn more about international affairs while developing skills that will continue to be helpful in the future. I am also a member of the Miami International Relations Association, Student Government and the campus Concert Production crew.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime is, in my opinion, one of the coolest sessions throughout the UN. The committee deals with combatting illicit drugs and international crime by working in the field, in research analysis, and in collaboration with member States. Some of the world's most dangerous and prevalent issues are dealt with in this very committee.

The topics you will be debating in particular have important consequences- cyberterrorism and the disbanding of international drug cartels. Both issues, although addressed on a state scale, have yet to be resolved on a global level. When creating solutions I encourage you to be original, these topics are fairly recent problems and with ever changing technology, solutions need to be proactive rather than retroactive.

I can't wait to see what you come up with and look forward to meeting you all in the spring. If you have any questions about the committee, topics, or just MUN in general, feel free to reach out to me at [sxw567@miami.edu](mailto:sxw567@miami.edu).

Good Luck,  
Sumra Wahid  
Chair, UN Office of Drugs and Crime  
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## TOPIC A: CYBER-TERRORISM

### Introduction

The turn of the century saw the rise of globalization through the introduction of Internet to the majority of the world. With its increasing availability, the internet has provided users around the world with instant connection and a constant influx of information. The 21<sup>st</sup> century has also seen the rise of the large extremist group, with terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda and Da'eesh, spanning beyond their immediate reach and entering into the Western world. The Internet has become a forum for terrorist groups and individuals to spread their message as well as communicate with one another and sympathizers.<sup>1</sup> With the ability to have a constant presence in the media and online, as well as accessibility, jihadist movements have garnered more influence than they have ever had before. The Internet has proven to be a fast and efficient platform for the flow of

communication and it is this technology that has been exploited for terrorism, with an emerging pattern of online terrorism providing both new challenges and opportunities in the war against terrorism.<sup>2</sup>

### A Tool for Terrorism

Terrorist cells have been using the internet as a form of recruitment and a medium through which they disseminate propaganda, as well as using the internet to coordinate and conduct attacks. The Internet provides decentralization and anonymity which benefit terrorists and makes the apprehension and prosecution of said terrorists nearly impossible. Through reports of previous attacks and the study of counter-terrorism over the past decade, the UNODC has determined that the most common uses of the Internet by terrorists include psychological warfare, propaganda, online indoctrination, recruitment and mobilization, data mining, virtual training, cyberplanning and

coordination and fundraising.

The most common use of the Internet by terrorists and terror groups has been for recruitment. At its earliest development, terrorists and common criminals learned to navigate the Web to find likeminded people and develop a relationship with them. More recent terror groups, such as Al-Qaeda and ISIL, have made strides in developing relationships and gaining actual recruits through the Internet. With the introduction of social media, terrorists have developed a targeted methodology of interacting with civilians, commonly exploiting the lonely and the alienated. Fake accounts of Facebook and Twitter have been known to reach out to young men and women all over the world, appealing to their deepest insecurities and making them feel as though they belonged to the same group, when in fact they are from very different worlds of thought. One such prominent example is the case of Alex, a 23-year-old American woman who was charmed by a recruiter for ISIL, who proposed to Alex

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<sup>1</sup> Hoffman, Bruce Weimann, Gabriel. Terrorism in Cyberspace. : Columbia University Press, 2015.

Accessed November 29, 2016.  
ProQuest Ebook Central.

<sup>2</sup> Hoffman, Bruce Weimann, Gabriel. Terrorism in

Cyberspace. : Columbia University Press, 2015.  
Accessed November 29, 2016.  
ProQuest Ebook Central.

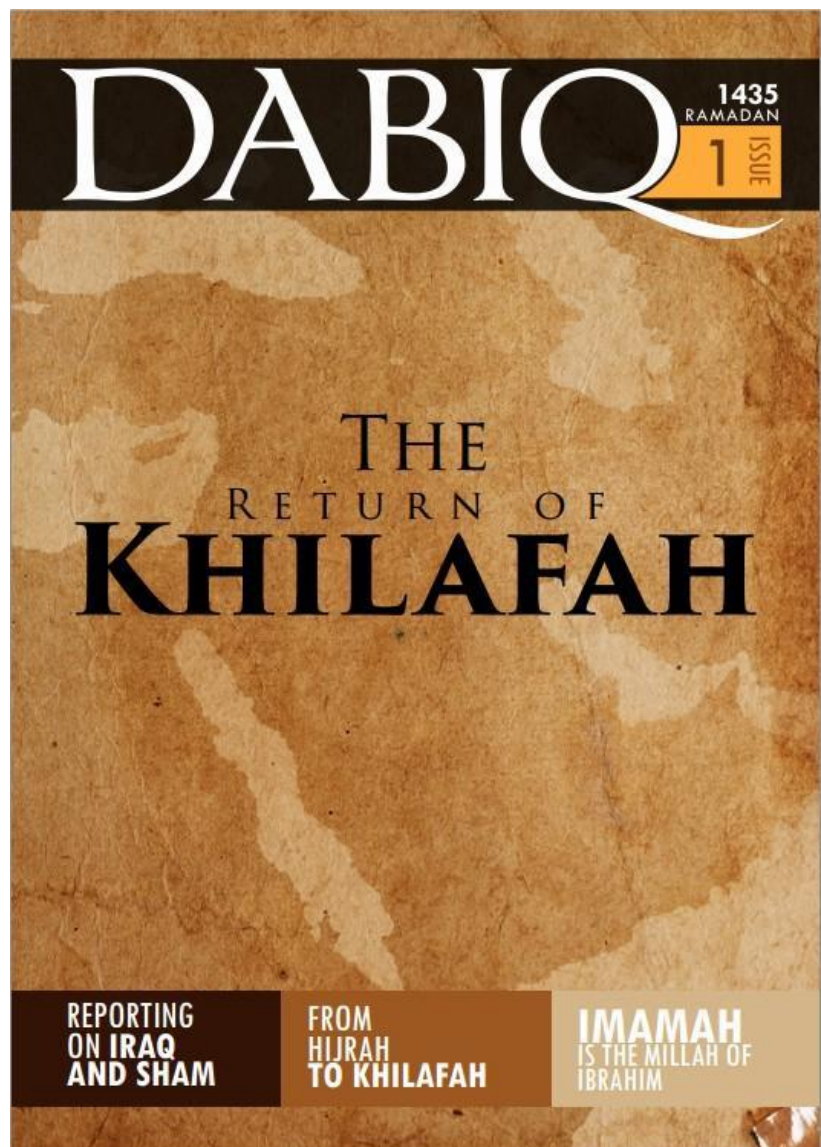
and had almost convinced her to fly to Syria, all without ever meeting her. The influence of terrorist organizations has increased tenfold with social media, and as technology has progressed, so have the methods of interaction between terrorists and civilians. In fact, terrorist cells have created their own social networks, where they connect with other members of the cell as well as those interested in joining. The rise in ease and frequency of online recruitment is alarming and a pressing issue that needs to be resolved. One of the major roadblocks in resolving this issue has been the anonymity of profiles. Profiles used by terrorists are frequently shut down after being reported, however, there is no mechanism to prevent these profiles from being created or recreated once they have been shut down. There has yet to be an appropriate form of censorship to differentiate from a legitimate profile and a terrorist recruiter or propaganda profile.

Aside from recruitment, terrorist organizations have begun to use the Internet for the distribution of ideology and propaganda. As odd as it may seem, terrorist organizations have become more structured through the

Internet, creating websites such as [www.joinisis.org](http://www.joinisis.org), the official website of the Islamic State. Through these websites, propaganda such as newspapers, magazines, and videos for the terrorist cell reaches anyone with access to Internet. The Dabiq Magazine is an online based magazine put out by the Islamic State, with content ranging from the alleged Islamic premise for

the creation of a new caliphate to the evil they see the Western world as.

With no way to regulate the information that is being distributed and the fact that the Internet transcends international law at the moment, the United Nations faces struggles with regulating the distribution of propaganda by terrorist organizations.



Although these are arguably the two most prominent uses of the internet for terrorist purposes, there are several other aspects that must be accounted for when attempting to eliminate the threat of cyberterrorism. Incitement, the action of provoking unlawful behavior or urging someone to behave unlawfully, and radicalization are also a key part to the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. Furthermore, terrorist organizations have developed avenues of financial support via the Internet, with or without the knowledge of their financial contributors. Groups such as ISIL and Al-Qaeda have developed training videos, in which they instruct in detail how to create bombs, use rifles, and in one video, behead someone. Terrorist groups have also learned how to plan and execute attacks all without being directly involved and working behind a screen in another part of the world.

As technology progresses and terrorists become more adept at utilizing it for their benefit, raising the potential for more threatening uses of the Internet and shifting cyberterrorism into something with very

immediate consequences. Hacking, gathering of intel, and reconnaissance are all potential uses of the Internet that the governments of each state will have to combat.

### **The United Nations and Cyberterrorism**

The United Nations has worked tirelessly to combat terrorism, creating the UN Counter-terrorism

Implementation Task Force (CTITF), which addresses the legal and technical aspects of counterterrorism.

However, the UNODC has taken the forefront on the issue of Cyberterrorism, drafting a report in 2012 about the policy and legislation frameworks and potential resolutions to some of the issues of cyberterrorism. Although the United Nations has acknowledged that cyberterrorism is a new threat, there has been little action taken to resolve the multifaceted issue on an international scale. Many of the resolutions passed in the past have done well to establish a soft law when it comes to cyberterrorism, however nothing is legally binding. Member states have entered into bilateral and multilateral agreements which do harbor a legal obligation to the particular states when it comes to

physical terrorism, leaving something to be desired in establishing a sound protection protocol throughout the world.

In 2006, The UN Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy was adopted by the General Assembly, becoming a cornerstone in the United Nations' road to addressing terrorism. The UN has used several of its agencies to curb terrorist activities within their powers, namely the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Maritime Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Although the UN has multiple instruments for counterterrorism, there is no comprehensive UN treaty on terrorism in its various forms.

Regional and sub-regional counterterrorism

instruments have played an important part in how different regions address terrorism and are a reflection of the cultures and security concerns of the people. The Council of Europe and the European Union have both raised initiatives in combatting cybercrime and terrorism including procedural frameworks for information and evidence gathering.

## **What to Expect in a Resolution**

Some of the most pressing issues in talks about cyberterrorism have yet to be addressed at an international level, including a concrete definition of cyberterrorism. The term has become up for interpretation and varies by state as to what constitutes as cyberterrorism. Without a cohesive international understanding of what cyberterrorism entails, there is a discrepancy in the prosecution and observed severity of cyberterrorism. Delegates should create a detailed framework including a clear definition of cyberterrorism.

Resolutions should also utilize new technologies to solve the issue and anticipate the development of different technologies when drafting a legal framework. Delegates should work to create policy and legal frameworks, and attempt to address the various uses of the Internet by terrorist organizations.

Furthermore, resolutions should find a balance between the potential for regulation of Internet and the international human rights, being sure not to overstep sovereignty rights while catering to the international community.

## Topic B: The Disbanding of International Drug Cartels

### Introduction

One of the most important issues that the UNODC oversees is the international illegal drug trade. The department since its inception has worked to curb drug trafficking around the world, from both the field and through research and data analysis. As the international community has been working to resolve this issue, it has become clear that it is crucial to work on the disbanding of drug networks in order to resolve the overarching drug trafficking and distribution problem. With cartels becoming transnational and established hubs in several parts of the world, it has become difficult to ensure that legal policy is the same throughout the world without stepping on the toes of sovereignty.

### The UNODC and Drugs

The UNODC has been committed to the monitoring of the global illicit market, being the forefront on research in drug trafficking. Coming out with an annual World Drug Report, the committee identifies the

years most trafficked drugs, tracks the flow of drugs throughout the world, and analyzes the relationship between the world drug problem and sustainable development. In 2003 the Paris Pact Initiative, which the UNODC is a participator in, launched and has since become an important framework for combatting illicit traffic of opiates in Afghanistan. The concept of the Paris Pact centers around developments along major opiate trafficking routes. For this reason, the "priority countries" identified by Paris Pact partners are primarily located in West and Central Asia and South Eastern Europe to shed light on how countries situated along the northern and Balkan routes are affected by the menace of opiates. In response to shifts in opiate trafficking, more recently focus is also placed on certain trajectories of the southern route.

The UNODC also has an initiative with the World Customs Organization, termed the Container Control Programme (CCP) to assist governments to create sustainable enforcement structures in ports to minimize the risk of shipping containers exploited for drug

trafficking, transnational organized crime and other black market activities. Both these initiatives are effective in seizing illicit goods and materials, however there have yet to be any initiatives that take action against the distributors themselves.

### Transnational Organized Crime

This committee session will focus its efforts on the organized crime aspect of drug trafficking. Organized crime has diversified, gone global and reached macro-economic proportions: illicit goods may be sourced from one continent, trafficked across another, and marketed in a third. Transnational organized crime can permeate government agencies and institutions, fuelling corruption, infiltrating business and politics, and hindering economic and social development. And it is undermining governance and democracy by empowering those who operate outside the law. The transnational nature of organized crime means that criminal networks forge bonds across borders as well as overcome cultural and linguistic differences in the commission of their crime. Organized crime is not stagnant, but adapts

as new crimes emerge and as relationships between criminal networks become both more flexible, and more sophisticated, with ever-greater reach around the globe.

Countries with a large black market drug industry are susceptible to experiencing corruption, leading countries to a less than unified approach towards the disbanding of organized drug rings. The UN has held a Conventional on Transnational Organized Crime, which has officially defined an organized criminal group as

- a group of three or more persons that was not randomly formed;
- existing for a period of time;
- acting in concert with the aim of committing at least one crime punishable by at least four years' incarceration;
- in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

Since most 'groups' of any sort contain three or more people working in concert and most exist for a period of time, the true defining characteristics of organized crime groups under the Convention are their profit-driven nature and the seriousness of the offences they commit.

Organizations around the world have established networks and relationships which facilitate the distribution of harmful drugs, making it harder for governments to stop production and distribution without the cooperation of the international community.

### **Cartels**

#### Central Asia

Afghanistan has dominated the worldwide opium market for over a decade. Afghan heroin feeds the global market with around \$55 billion annually. The founder of the Afghan heroin trade, Haji Ayub Afridi, was a Pakistani who used his money and notoriety from his drug trade to gain a position in government. Despite being arrested in 1995, Afridi only served a few weeks of his seven-year sentence. The Taliban and Karzai government have both expressed a vested interest in protecting and promoting the Afghani heroin trade, and have expanded into distributing cannabis in the form of hashish from Pakistan to Morocco.

#### Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean

Many of these countries are transit countries for cocaine bound for the main consumer

markets in North America and Europe. For the North American market, cocaine is typically transported from Colombia to Mexico or Central America by sea and then onwards by land to the United States and Canada. The US authorities estimate that close to 90% of the cocaine entering the country crosses the US/Mexico land border, most of it entering the state of Texas. Mexico throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries has had a history of cartels, which the state has declared war on and actively combatted since then. Among the most prominent cartels in the world is the Gulf Cartel, one of the oldest drug syndicates in the country. Their network is international, connecting with crime groups in Europe, West Africa, Asia, and the Americas. The cartel's rivalry with Los Zetas has created a violence that is detrimental to the people of both Mexico, and as the cartels expand, around the world.

#### South America

South America still remains a prominent distributor of narcotics, with some of the world's most notorious cartels. Colombia remained the world's number one producer of cocaine until 2011, when the government



began implementing its strong anti-narcotic strategies. Colombia remains the main source of the cocaine found in Europe, but direct shipments from Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia are far more common than in the US market. The relative importance of Colombia seems to be in decline. For example, in 2002, the UK authorities reported that 90% of the cocaine seized originated in Colombia, but by 2008, the figure fell to 65%. In a number of other European countries, Peru and the Plurinational State of Bolivia seem to be the primary source countries of cocaine. Bolivia and Peru have now surpassed Colombia in cocaine production, however, Colombian cartels remain intact and at large, with strong connections in Venezuela.

#### East Asia and West Africa

Both East Asia and West Africa harbor small yet rising drug cartels, and have been main players in growing international trafficking routes. Chinese

Triads and Japanese Yakuza organizations have begun expanding trade and established hubs in places significant Chinese and Japanese populations, such as the United States, Canada, South Africa, and Australia. The Chinese Triad has made its name on illicit opium trade, but has begun to smuggle chemicals from North America for the production of methamphetamine and ecstasy.

West Africa has seen hubs rise around Guinea and Nigeria, both spanning across several nations and working usually with Colombian traffickers. The Nigerian mafia has been known to ship heroin from Asian nations to Europe and America. Ethnic Nigerians in countries such as India and Thailand have ready access to 90% of the world's heroin supply.

#### **What to Expect in a Resolution**

The disbanding of international drug cartels requires a careful combination of the UN's drug trafficking and organized crime initiatives. In their resolutions, delegates should address the various humanitarian risks these cartels pose on civilians and encourage nations to cooperate with each other. Corruption within domestic governments is another matter that the United Nations is determined to amend, as drug trafficking facilitates the agendas of corrupt politicians and even terrorist groups.

Delegates should also work to develop appropriate methods of monitoring and research analysis as it is one of the UNODC's initiatives to educate the international community as well as take action. Finally all resolutions should develop a legal framework for the prosecution of members in drug cartels.