



*2013 St. Bonaventure University
Model United Nations Conference*

Historical Security Council: 2001

March 22 to March 23, 2013

My name is Paul Leonardo, and I will be your chair for the conference. I am a dual-major in Political Science and Spanish, with a concentration in International Relations and a minor in Law and Society. My major is what led me to joining Model United Nations and I can gladly say I have been doing this conference for the past 4 years now. I am a senior at St. Bonaventure and this will be my last year doing Model UN. I currently play rugby and tutor students across many fields. I love to have fun and to see everyone smile while in my conference. With that in mind I look forward to working with you and seeing what you bring to the table.

In this committee we will be starting in January of 2001 so anything that has happened after that date does not exist. When we are in committee, the dates will be changed periodically as each session will advance by 4 months so that by the time we get to the end of the conference it will be December 2001. It will be known when the date changes, as there will be a series of briefs explaining what is going on in the world. 2001 was an interesting year for world politics and hopefully by the end of the conference we will be able to rewrite the events or keep the same events from occurring. Therefore, do the appropriate research for this era as you will be looking up what your country did prior to 2001 and using their actions within 2001 as a template for what your country's policies were on the following issues.

Situation in East Timor

East Timor has suffered immensely from years of devastation as it has dealt with its fight for independence from Portugal, attacks from Indonesia, and famine that has left this island nation in shambles. Timor Leste gained its independence from Portugal in November 1975, and Indonesia invaded the island in December 1975 in order to fight against communism under the pretense of anti-colonialism. As a result, 180,000 East Timorese civilians and soldiers have been either killed or starved. Between 1977-1978, after the Indonesian military encountered high levels of insurgency, they were given advanced weaponry provided by the United States, Australia, and other countries in order to fight against the people of Timor Leste. The conflict itself developed into a question of East Timor's status of independence as the Indonesian government worked to keep it within its domain. Up until 1999 East Timor has dealt with massacres of more than 100 people, large masses of their people seeking political asylum, and attempts at creating international awareness through mass protests in order to find a solution to the situation.

In 1999, the United Nations stepped in to alleviate the devastation within the island by conducting a referendum held on August 30, 1999 sponsored by the United Nations Mission in East Timor within the United Nations Security Council. This referendum revealed that 78% of the voters wanted independence from Indonesia. This in turn caused far more violence on the island as the Indonesian military continued their campaign of terror, leaving 1,000 more Timor Lestese people dead as more fled the region. As a result, the Australian forces led a peacekeeping operation in order to restore order, causing the Indonesian military to flee to West Timor to avoid arrests. With the backing of the Australian forces, the parliament in Indonesia decided to recognize the referendum in September of 1999. Also, finding international intervention effective, the United Nations established the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in October of 1999 through the UNSC resolution 1272, and the United States and Tokyo donated \$520 million in aid to the country to restore the nation. The UNTAET itself worked to protect displaced persons within the country, provide humanitarian aid, rebuild infrastructure, and create conditions for a transitional government.

In East Timor there are still many issues, as it has become a breeding ground for violence as there have been a total of 100,000 deaths due to conflicts with Indonesian occupation. In September 2000 there were still attacks by pro-Indonesian militia groups that killed a total of 3 refugee agency workers; the Indonesian government's response was to punish the 6 men they found responsible by giving them 20 months of jail time, prompting much disapproval from the international community for not having punished them further. After investigations it has been found that militias such as these were being armed by the Indonesian army, causing much unease in the region, as there are potential threats of violence.

Questions:

- How does your country view the situation in East Timor?
- Is your country supportive of the Indonesian government or does it support East Timor's independence?
- How does your nation feel the United Nations Security Council should interact with East Timor's situation with Indonesia?

Helpful Links:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-14952883>

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/etimor/etimor.htm>

<http://members.pcug.org.au/~wildwood/Jan2001NA&R.htm>

Security of Human Rights in Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone

In West Africa where the country of Liberia is located there has been much instability in the region due to their second civil war that erupted in April 1999. The first civil war in Liberia was from 1989 to 1996 where over 200,000 people were killed in the conflict which led to the intervention of the United Nations and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Their second, and current, civil war began after Liberian dissidents from Guinea, called the Organization of Displaced Liberians, joined the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURDS) in northern Liberia. Since then mass demonstrations of violence broke out throughout the region forcing much unrest in the country. Then in September 2000, a counter-attack occurred from Liberia on Guinea and in Sierra Leone by the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) which resulted in Sierra Leonean forces being pushed back to Liberia as of January 2001 by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia's forces.

This cross-border conflict amongst Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone has caused a human rights crisis; large numbers of refugees and displaced people have been beaten, killed, raped, and abducted by armed political groups such as the RUF, especially those who are Sierra Leonean refugees and Guinean civilians. Guinean security forces have also been causing harm to the Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees as they have killed, tortured, arrested, and harassed these asylum seekers. This region is in shambles as 80,000 Liberian refugees in Guinea and 300,000 Guineans have been displaced within their own country causing many of these people to be in need of protection. This has caused 150,000 refugees to seek asylum in volatile areas within Guinea in places known as "the wedge of Guinea," an area jutting into Sierra Leone and close to the Liberian border, making these people increasingly vulnerable to attacks by armed groups from all three countries. Many of these refugees are in need of humanitarian aid such as food and medical attention, but due to the insecurity of the territory it is difficult for

humanitarian workers to even begin providing relief for these refugees, especially as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees workers have been killed in the process of providing aid.

Helpful Links:

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/ar/report.cfm?id=1205>

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,AMNESTY,COUNTRYREP,GIN,,45c068822,0.html>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/liberia-1997.htm>

<http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/ar/report.cfm?id=1253>

The Georgian and Abkhazia Conflict

In August of 1992 in Georgia, fighting broke out between 2,000 Georgian government troops and Russian backed separatist forces that consisted of Abkhazians, Armenians, as well as Russians in an ethnic conflict in Abkhazia where 200 people were killed. As fighting continued, over 30,000 civilians had to flee the region into the Russian Federation to avoid human rights abuses. As a result, the United Nations worked to create the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) on August 24, 1993 in the Security Council under resolution 858. By September 5, 1993 the Georgian troops were driven out of the area by the separatist forces. Then in 1994 the Georgian government signed a ceasefire agreement with the Abkhazian separatists to allow for a Russian peacekeeping force in the area as new constitution was drafted in order to create the independent nation of Abkhazia. Since then the UNOMIGA has allowed over 100 observers into the country in order to moderate the situation. Even though Abkhazia has been independent and a cease-fire has been enforced, there are still tensions as both sides of the conflict claim that the other is violating their agreements leading to the refusal of peace talks.

Questions:

- Does your country have any relations with either Georgia or the Abkhazians?
- Has your country taken any action in the conflict?
- Does your country have any similar tensions within its borders either past or present? And how can you relate those conflicts to this situation?
- Does your country support the UNOMIG and its mandate in the region?
- If this issue were to progress does your country have a plan to stabilize the region?

Helpful Links:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1102575.stm

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unomig/>

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/key-](http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/key-issues/~/_link.aspx?id=BF706902C22346648605EDA11FD45400&z=z)

[issues/~/_link.aspx?id=BF706902C22346648605EDA11FD45400&z=z](http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/key-issues/~/_link.aspx?id=BF706902C22346648605EDA11FD45400&z=z)

http://www.mongabay.com/reference/country_studies/georgia/GOVERNMENT.html