



*2013 St. Bonaventure University  
Model United Nations Conference*

*United Nations Security Council*

**March 22 to March 23, 2013**

Greetings Delegates,

I would like to welcome all of you to the United Nations Security Council. I am honored to be your committee chair. My home is Cleveland, Ohio and I am a fan of all Cleveland sports. I am currently a junior at here at St. Bonaventure majoring in Political Science, with a double minor in Business Administration and History. I am the President of SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise) and am also on their presentation team. I also participate in BonaResponds, St. Bonaventure's volunteer disaster relief program. On our college radio station, The Buzz, I have had a radio show for the past seven semesters. Those are just a few facts about me and what I do here at St. Bonaventure.

As delegates I expect a great deal from you. You are expected to have thoroughly researched your topics and to be extremely knowledgeable about how your country would react to these international issues. You might want to look at previous resolutions that have already been passed on these topics. They may help you understand what your country's actual stance is on a particular issue. I think this committee should have a great deal of fun intervening in some of the most critical international problems that our world is currently facing. I have provided you with some links that may assist you with your research and with a few possible main topics that you might want to discuss and a few sub topics as well; however, you can bring up any topic for discussion that is currently relevant. Good luck and happy hunting!

### **Topic #1: Syrian Civil War**

The Syrian uprising is an ongoing armed conflict in Syria between forces loyal to the Ba'ath Party government and rebel forces fighting for a regime change. The conflict began on March 15, 2011 with nationwide demonstrations as part of the wider movement referred to as the Arab Spring. Protesters demanded the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad, as well as the end to nearly five decades of Ba'ath Party rule. The Ba'ath Party government came to power in 1964 after a successful coup d'état. Since then, the secular Ba'ath Party has remained the dominant political authority in a virtual one-party state in Syria, and Syrian citizens may only approve the President by referendum and – until the government-controlled multi-party 2012 parliamentary election – could not vote in multi-party elections for the legislature.

In April 2011, the Syrian Army was deployed to quell the demonstrations being performed in the streets, and soldiers were ordered to open fire on demonstrators that would not disperse. This led to a full fledged militarization of rebel forces and a general rebellion across the country. These opposition forces, mainly composed of defected soldiers and civilian volunteers, became increasingly armed and organized as they unified into larger groups, with some groups receiving military aid from several foreign countries. However, the rebels remained fractured, without organized leadership. Due to the rebels being so fractured, the conflict has not developed clear fronts, with clashes taking place in many towns and cities across the country. The Syrian government characterizes the insurgency as an uprising of "armed terrorist groups and foreign mercenaries". By December 2012, the rebels claimed to have captured approximately 60 percent of Syria's territory. To escape the violence, hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees have fled to neighboring countries. International organizations have accused the Syrian government and the rebels of severe human rights violations. Human rights groups report that the majority of abuses

have, however, been committed by the Syrian government's forces, and UN investigations have concluded that the government's abuses are the greatest in both gravity and scale.

Here are a few points to think about when researching this topic. This conflict has led to the destabilization of the area and has caused international concerns by a number of international bodies. What have these international bodies said about the issue? What actions or failed actions have international bodies already attempted? Does this conflict directly affect the interests of your country? Has your country made an official statement backing one side of the conflict? What implications does this conflict have on the region? Does your country have allies in the region?

***Helpful Links:***

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/crises/crisis-in-syria>

<http://www.cnn.com/2012/12/06/world/europe/syria-civil-war/index.html>

<http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/international/countriesandterritories/syria/index.html>

**Topic #2: Central African Republic**

A former French colony in the heart of Africa, the Central African Republic (CAR) has experienced an unstable history. It has seen its fair share of puppet elections, military coup d'états, faulty presidents, rebels, and overall instability. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, pro-democracy ideals swept through the country. In 1993 free elections were held with the assistance of the UN Office of Electoral Affairs. A new constitution was approved on December 28, 1994 and promulgated on January 14, 1995, but this constitution, like those before it, did not have much impact on the practice of politics. In 1996–1997, reflecting steadily decreasing public confidence in its erratic behavior, three mutinies against President Patassé's government were accompanied by widespread destruction of property and heightened ethnic tension. On January 25, 1997, the Bangui Peace Accords were signed which provided for the deployment of an inter-African military mission, the *Mission Interafricaine de Surveillance des Accords de Bangui* (MISAB). The MISAB mission was later replaced by a U.N. peacekeeping force, the *Mission des Nations Unies en RCA* (MINURCA).

In May of 2001, rebels stormed strategic buildings in Bangui, the capital, in an unsuccessful coup attempt. In the aftermath of this failed coup, militias loyal to Patassé sought revenge against rebels in many neighborhoods of the capital that resulted in the destruction of many homes, as well as the torture and murder of many opponents. Eventually Patassé was overthrown in 2003 in another coup attempt. The Central African Republic Bush War started shortly afterward when Francois Bozize seized power in the coup, and rebel forces known as the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFD) materialized to fight the takeover. Eventually in 2007 a peace agreement was signed and an uneasy peace fell over the country. Since then, the country has been receiving aid from the UN Peacekeeping Fund and they have been trying to work towards building a better country. However, rebel forces are beginning to appear once more over

grievances they had with the peace treaty. This now threatens the progress that has been made by other UN organizations and the stability of the region.

Here are a few points to think about when researching this topic. This country's problems have often been referred to as a silent struggle because of the lack of outcry over their problems by the international community. How would your country feel about getting involved militarily in CAR? Does more destabilization really matter for an already unstable region? Does the fact that the Sudan crisis is right next door have anything to do with the actions or lack of actions being taken in CAR? Do the rebels threaten the good already done by the UN Peacekeeping Fund? How well did the last UN Peacekeeping force do in CAR?

***Helpful Links:***

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2012/dec/21/rebel-central-african-republic-humanitarian>

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

<http://www.unhcr.org/pages/49e45c156.html>

[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-01/central\\_african\\_republic.php](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-01/central_african_republic.php)

[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-01/central\\_african\\_republic.php](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-01/central_african_republic.php)

**Topic #3: War in South Sudan and Sudan Border**

As of September 2012 there has been an armed conflict between Sudan and South Sudan regarding disputes over oil-rich regions located between South Sudan's Unity and Sudan's South Kordofan. The conflict itself began in March, when the Republic of Sudan was said to have attacked the Heglig oilfield which the South Sudan people had called the Panthou. As a result, the Sudanese Air Force bombed the Unity oilfield located in South Sudan a few days later and even continued to attack other areas such as Jau, Teshwin, and Pan Akuach. This resulted in the rise of the Sudan People's Liberation Army from South Sudan which drove the Sudanese forces back after taking several prisoners. Then on March 31, Sudanese warplanes bombed the Southern Sudanese forces along their border which caused the South Sudanese to air raid Heglig on April 4<sup>th</sup> in attempts to capture the area. Because of their failure, a counter offensive was attempted in order try to secure the area once more as many soldiers on both sides killed were in the attacks. Finally, South Sudan decided to withdraw from Heglig after the failure of peace talks with Rabie Abdelaty, who was a spokesman of the Khartoum government from South Sudan which Sudan had denied.

So far in this conflict the only other attempts at mediation have been put forward by the African Union in June 2012 as President Omar al-Bashir, the Sudanese President, and President Salva Kiir, the South Sudanese President signed the Addis Ababa Ethiopian agreement, containing eight agreements in order to settle disputes between the two nations regarding oil exports, as well as to create a six-mile demilitarized zone between the borders of these two

nations. Even as early as April 15<sup>th</sup> Mohamed Kamel Amr had attempted to work between these nations in order to alleviate tensions of forces in the Heglig oilfield which was vacated. Unfortunately, these mediation attempts have failed greatly as the United Nations General Assembly has debated what to do in regards to this situation. The current Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, along with the Security Council has, as a result of these actions, taken up the task of resolving this matter peacefully.

***Helpful Links:***

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43126&Cr=sudan&Cr1=#.UOPuDuRR3ng>

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2012/dec/21/un-un-south-sudan-crash/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-19514491>

[http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2012-01/lookup\\_c\\_glKWLeMTIsG\\_b\\_7916241.php](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2012-01/lookup_c_glKWLeMTIsG_b_7916241.php)