

Forum: Security Council
Issue: Finding measures against Daesh (ISIS)
Student: Pascal Marquardt, Gymnasium Meiendorf, Hamburg (Germany)
Position: President of the Security Council

(ISIS = ISIL & IS)

Description of the issue:

The issue of international terrorism is one of the most pressing issues in our time.

The problem got big international attention due to the attacks of 9/11 in 2001 by Al-Qaida.

After the attacks the United States of America declared war on international terrorism.

While the United States (and several other countries) started to fight against the Taliban Regime in Afghanistan the international community stood behind them.

After the successful fight against the Taliban Regime the United Nations founded the “International Security Assistance Force” in order to ensure stability and peace in Afghanistan.

In 2003 the United States decided to invade Iraq with the help of The United Kingdom and Poland because of faked evidence in favor of the production of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) by the Iraq Regime of Hussein who was cooperating with Islamic terrorist groups, such as but not limited to Al-Qaida.

After a short but intense war the Regime of Hussein was destroyed like the one in Afghanistan.

For installing a new government in Iraq the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland started a very similar mission as in Afghanistan.

But in both countries there has been resistance against the international force, by for example Islamic militant groups, former Regime loyalists and local organized criminals.

ISIS' first name was “Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant” (ISIL) but changed into “Islamic State in Iraq and Syria” (ISIS) and is globally called “Islamic State” (IS). The first official attack by ISIS was the offense against the current government of Iraq while the latter fought against the Syrian government and the rebels in the Syrian Civil War 2014.

In June 2014 ISIL officially established a caliphate which was led by the former leader of ISIL, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.



Flag of ISIS (<https://ennolenz.de/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/isis.jpg>, last access 2nd July, 19:52)

During the last months ISIS has tried to get more and more attention by using the media. If you search for “terroristic attacks by ISIS” you can find filmed executions of soldiers, murder of civilians and several suicide assassinations.

Another problem is the conflict of Sunnites and Shiites which further exacerbates this problem. (See below)

Background information:

I am now going to show you a map which shows the areas which are under control of ISIS. The map is from the 18th June 2014.



http://www.google.de/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Fwe26u4fam7n16rz3a44uhbe1bq2.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F070814_1155_IslamicStat1.jpg&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Fresources.infosecinstitute.com%2Fislamic-state-iraq-syria-isis-global-threat-analysis-effects-cyberspace-iraqi-situation%2F&h=660&w=594&tbnid=HvRf20cXxD7DBM%3A&zoom=1&docid=ty1r7908aCdo2M&ei=sHuVVeL-F4OnsAHtpIXgDA&tbm=isch&iact=rc&uact=3&dur=250&page=1&start=0&ndsp=20&ved=0CFkQrQMwEw, last access 2nd July, 20:08)

ISIS is now something like an organized and structured extremist organization that is in the process of consolidating its power as a government within the Islamic Caliphate. The ISIS-controlled areas are managed by a kind of hierarchy of governance structures that manage the everyday life of residents, collect income, maintain law and order and enforces its ideology of Islamic Extremism. The ISIS also relies on localized alliances and foreign fighters that support defensive and offensive military sustainability.

Here is a great article, published in the Guardian which points out the exact problems of the fight against ISIS and tells you something about the history of ISIS:

“Three years ago, the Islamic State (Isis) did not exist; now it controls vast swaths of Syria and Iraq. Showing off its handiwork daily via Twitter and YouTube, Isis has repeatedly demonstrated that it is much more than a transnational terrorist organisation – rather, it is an entity with sophisticated command, control, propaganda and logistical capabilities, and one that has proven its ability to take and hold strategically critical territory at the heart of the Middle East.

But as world leaders grapple with how to respond to this unprecedented crisis, they must first understand how Isis came to exist.

Principally, Isis is the product of a genocide that continued unabated as the world stood back and watched. It is the illegitimate child born of pure hate and pure fear – the result of 200,000 murdered Syrians and of millions more displaced and divorced from their hopes and dreams. Isis's rise is also a reminder of how Bashar al-Assad's Machiavellian embrace of al-Qaida would come back to haunt him.

Facing Assad's army and intelligence services, Lebanon's Hezbollah, Iraq's Shia Islamist militias and their grand patron, Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Syria's initially peaceful protesters quickly became disenchanted, disillusioned and disenfranchised – and then radicalised and violently militant.

The Shia Islamist axis used chemical weapons, artillery and barrel bombs to preserve its crescent of influence. Syria's Sunni Arab revolutionaries in turn sought international assistance, and when the world refused, they embraced a pact with the devil, al-Qaida.

With its fiercely loyal army of transnational jihadis, al-Qaida once again gained a foothold in the heart of the Middle East. Fuelled by the hate and fear engendered by images of dismembered children or women suffering from the effects of chemical weapons, disaffected youth from around the world rushed to Syria, fuelling an ever more violent race to the bottom.

Next door in Iraq, an emboldened Nouri al-Maliki waged his own sectarian campaign to consolidate power, betraying promises to his political partners to share it around. Within days of being welcomed at the White House and praised by Barack Obama for his leadership, Maliki returned to Baghdad to mastermind the arrest of his principal Sunni rival, vice-president Tariq al-Hashimi.

Supported by Iran and armed with US-made Humvees, M-16s, and M1A1 tanks, Maliki's forces closed in on Hashimi, only to see him flee to Kurdistan. Dozens of his guards were imprisoned on terrorism charges. At least one of them died under interrogation.

Another Christmas purge followed a year later, when a second prominent Sunni rival, the finance minister Rafea al-Essawi, found his home surrounded by Maliki's US-made tanks. He fled to the sanctuary of his tribe in Iraq's Anbar province, and was eliminated from Iraqi politics.

Facing mass unrest, Iraq's Sunni Arab provincial councils voted for semi-autonomous rule like that of the neighbouring Kurdistan region. Maliki blocked the implementation of a referendum through bureaucratic ploys, in contravention of Iraq's constitution.

Demonstrations of civil disobedience erupted across the Sunni provinces, as millions of Iraqis once again saw that they had no stake in Iraq's success – only its failure. Claiming intelligence that al-Qaida had penetrated the protest camps, Maliki crushed them with lethal force. Several dozen were killed during an Iraqi military raid in Hawija in April 2013, further inflaming what were already spiking sectarian tensions.

Despite pleas from the highest levels in Washington, Maliki's government did virtually nothing to halt the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' flights to resupply the Assad regime with thousands of tons of military hardware and ammunition. Meanwhile, a Shia Islamist ally of Maliki privately conceded to me last year that senior officials in the Iraqi government were turning a blind eye – or even actively supporting – the dispatch of thousands of Iraqi Shia fighters to participate in the spiralling Shia-Sunni holy war in Syria.

These militias – the Badr Corps, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, the Promised Day Brigades, among others – were warmly embraced by Maliki. Indeed, Badr's commander is none other than Iraq's incumbent transport minister, Hadi al-Ameri.

Ironically, al-Qaida's wholesale introduction into Iraq came at the hands of Assad's regime. From 2005 until the end of the American occupation of Iraq, Assad's military intelligence services and their Iranian backers sought to defeat the US forces by training, financing and arming al-Qaida operatives inside Syria and dispatching them across the border to foment chaos and destruction.

General David Petraeus and other senior American officials warned Assad that he was igniting a fire that would eventually burn his house down, but Damascus did nothing to stop the flow of fighters, culminating in a crippling blow to Maliki's government the day Iraq's foreign and finance ministries were bombed. Maliki publicly condemned his future ally in Damascus for the attack.

And so, Syria's unravelling spilled into Iraq, and vice versa. Powerful regional tribes such as the Shammar and Anezah, faced with countless dead and persecuted members in both countries, banded together with former Iraqi and Syrian military officers, embracing Isis jihadis as their frontline shock troops. Cash poured in from sympathetic donors around the region.

Iraq's four Sunni Arab provinces fell within days, entire Iraqi army divisions evaporated, and hundreds of millions of dollars worth of advanced American military equipment was seized by Isis and its allies. Fuelled by what was increasingly a regional Sunni-Shia proxy war, Iraq and Syria had become incubators for transnational jihad and religious hate.[...]

• Ali Khedery is chairman and chief executive of Dragoman Partners, a strategic consultancy. He served as special assistant to five American ambassadors in Iraq and as senior adviser to three heads of US Central Command from 2003-10. He was the longest continuously serving American official in Iraq.”

(<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/22/syria-iraq-incubators-isis-jihad>, last access 2nd July, 20:20)



(<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/aug/22/syria-iraq-incubators-isis-jihad#img-1>, last access 2nd July, 20:30)

To come back to the situation between the Sunnites and Shiites:

Two thirds of the population of Iraq are Shiites. They live in the middle and southern part of Iraq. The holy places are in the cities of Nadschaf and Kerbela. Approximately one third are Sunnites and live in Bagdad and the areas which lie in the western and northern parts of the country.

The political parties of the Shiites seem to be stronger than the others. Since the bloody attack against Hussein in 1991 the Sunnites have had the lead concerning the political might.

In the last few years a lot of murders have been committed on both sides. One prominent example was when a bomb killed a popular Shiite (Ajatollah Mohammed Bakr al-Hakim) in 2003. Furthermore, this bomb killed more than 80 other people. This has led to several other conflicts in the country. The danger of more used weapons are still increasing.

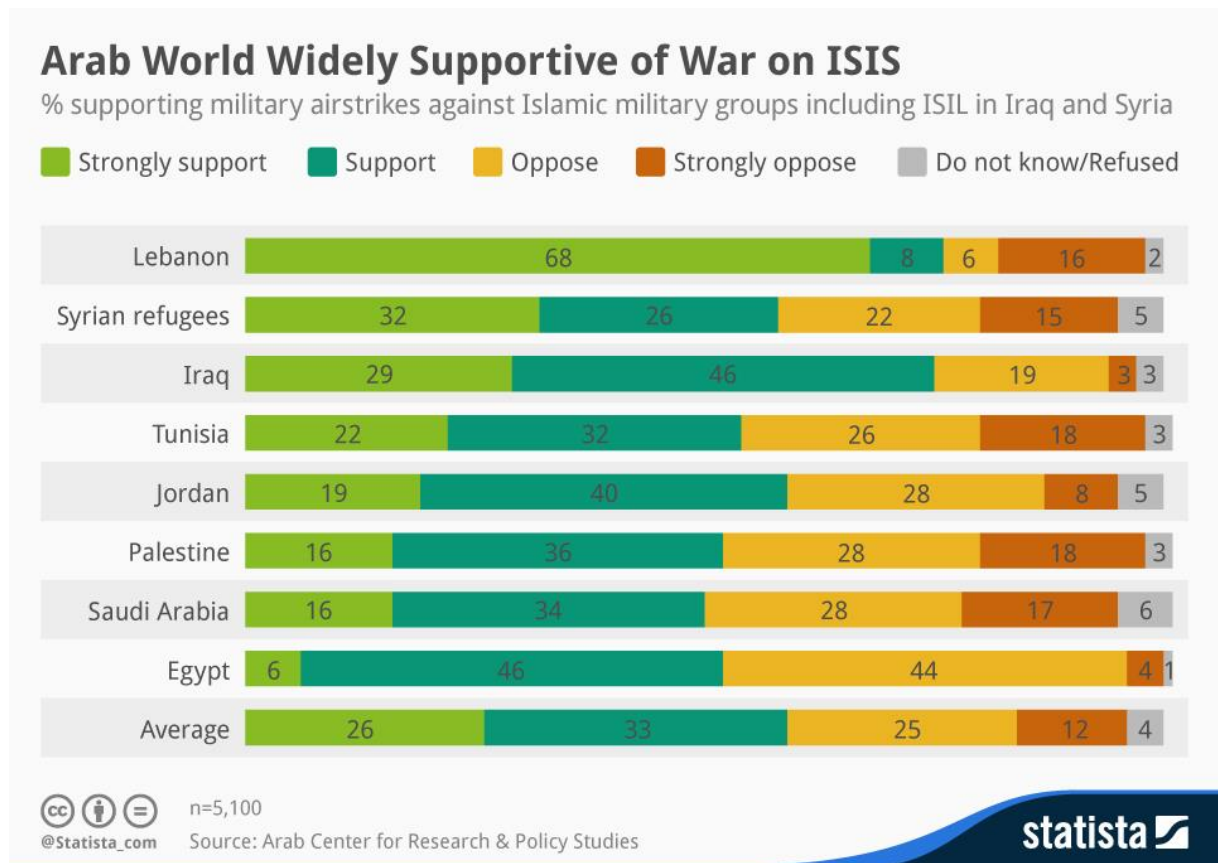
Definition of important key terms:

ISAF: The **I**nternational **S**ecurity **A**ssistance **F**orce was a NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan, established by the UN Security Council in 2001 by the Resolution 1386. The main goal was to train Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and assist Afghanistan in rebuilding key government institutions.

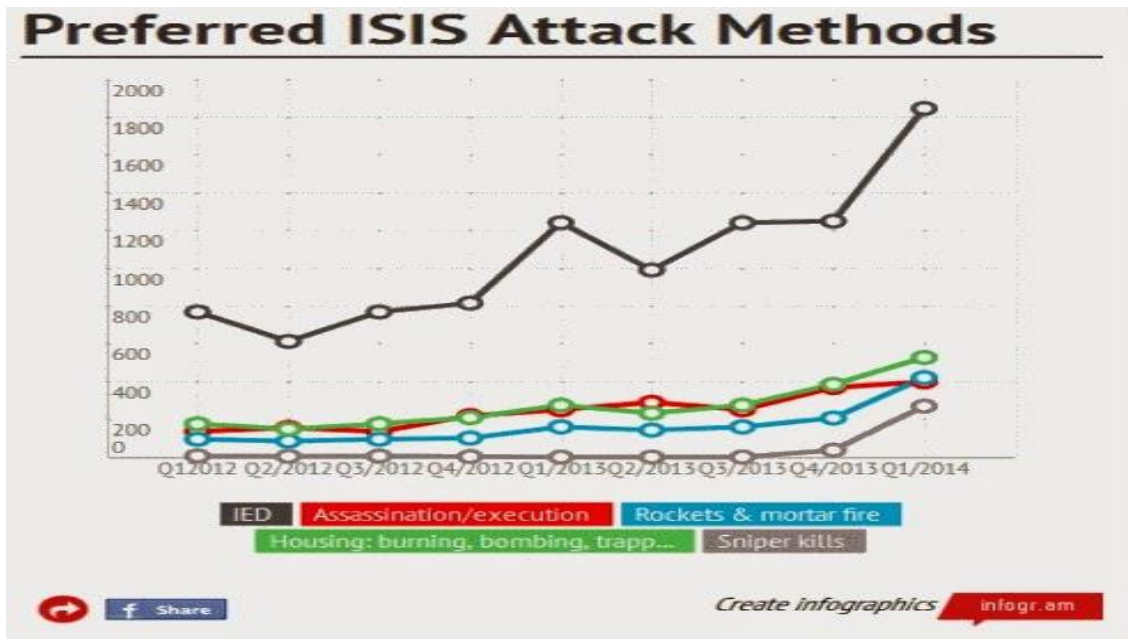
WMD: A **W**eapon of **M**ass **D**estruction (WMD or WoMD) is a nuclear chemical, biological or radiological weapon which is able to kill a huge number of people. It is also able to destroy man-made buildings and nature.

Kurds: are an ethnic group which is located in the Middle East. The countries with the highest density of Kurds are Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Kurds have similar properties concerning the Iranian people.

Interesting graphs and statistics to prepare yourself for the conference:



https://d28wbuch0jlv7v.cloudfront.net/images/infografik/normal/chartoftheday_2959_Arab_World_Widely_Supportive_of_War_on_ISIS_n.jpg, last access 2nd July, 21:16)



(<http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-d6cqfKE-qY8/VDa9jflRZtI/AAAAAAAAAIkY/wFuF-M91fw4/s1600/attacksbyisia.jpg>, last access 2nd July, 21:20)

y-axis: number of killed people

Q: quarterly period

IED: improvised explosive device

Useful links and sources:

- <http://www.vox.com/cards/things-about-isis-you-need-to-know> (last access 8th July, 17:19)
- <http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/> (last access 8th July, 17:20)
- <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2014/09/08/return-war> (last access 8th July, 17:20)
- <http://www.infoplease.com/news/2014/isis-explained.html> (last access 8th July, 17:21)
- <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/isis-claims-it-could-buy-its-first-nuclear-weapon-from-pakistan-within-12-months-10270525.html> (last access 8th July, 17:22)
- <http://webpace.ship.edu/cgboer/sunnisshiites.html> (last access 8th July, 17:24)
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-16047709> (last access 8th July, 17:25)
-

To prepare yourself as a delegate, ask yourself:

- What does your country think about the whole issue?
- Which actions could be taken by your own country and the United Nations as a whole?
- Is your country already helping to fix the problem of ISIS?
- Think about the actions which have taken place, so what good ideas could you use for your own resolution?

Thank you for paying attention!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to ask me.

Yours sincerely

Pascal Marquardt
(President of the Security Council)
marquardt.pascal@gmx.de