



2020-2021

**Model Arab League
BACKGROUND GUIDE**

Council on Political Affairs

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Original draft by Britlin Richardson, Chair of the Council on Political Affairs at the 2021 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

Honorable delegates,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Model Arab League. Once again, I am excited to serve as your Council on Political Affairs chair. I am a recent graduate of Texas State University and have participated in MAL for the past five years. Through this program, I have had the opportunity to gain excellent public speaking and technical writing skills, while meeting some of my closest friends, mentors, and fellow delegates from around the world. I look forward to hearing your ideas on how to resolve such pertinent issues facing the Arab League and creating similar bonds with your fellow delegates.

While I have created this background guide with the information most likely to help you succeed, your research should not stop here. I urge you to take the time to fully consider what each topic is asking of your delegation and research the best avenues for resolving the issue in accordance with your nation's policies, customs, and beliefs. I implore all to adhere to the illustrated rules as developed by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations. Only through true diplomacy and cooperative resolution writing can the mission of Model Arab League be realized.

I am excited to have the opportunity to hear all the great ideas and read all the great resolutions tackling the following topics. In the meantime, be well and safe.

Best,
Brittlin Richardson

Topic I: Evaluating the impact of the political isolation towards religious minorities throughout the League and its influence upon extremist groups' recruitment efforts.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Although Sunni Islam overwhelmingly constitutes the most widespread religious group within the MENA region, the region is home to many religious minorities including Shi'a Islam, various Christian denominational sects, Yazidism, and Judaism. Extremist groups exploit the dislike, distrust, or hatred of these minorities to fuel their recruitment efforts. According to the United Nations, young people are recruited by extremist groups through the use of “real or perceive exclusion, grievance, or cultural threat,”¹ which can often stem from generations of perceive threats or hatred of religious minorities within one's nation-state. This is especially true for those whose nation has been or is currently engaged in conflict with religious minorities. In addition, “other objectives of terrorist propaganda may include the use of psychological manipulation to undermine an individual's belief in certain collective social values, or to propagate a sense of heightened anxiety, fear or panic in a population or subset of the population.”²

Historically, the Yazidis were politically and geographically isolated in the Sinjar Mountains of northern Iraq. Following the invasion of Daesh in 2014, a large amount of the Yazidi population was forced from their homes and became either refugees or internally displaced persons. The reality of the situation suggests that the plurality once held to politically influence Iraq may now be impossible.³ Throughout the MENA region and the rest of the world, extremist groups use the psychological fear of the “other” to advance recruitment efforts and indoctrinate hatred necessary to carry out attacks on religious minorities. With the sophistication and accessibility of social media, recruiters for extremist groups can reach millions to indoctrinate with hatred.

B. History in the Arab World

Egypt is home to Coptic Christians, who constitute the majority of Egypt's nine million Christians and are the largest Christian population within the Middle East. The Copts have often

¹ Darden, Jessica Trisko. American Enterprise Institute. 2019. *Tackling Terrorists' Exploitation of Youth*. May 2019. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/report/tackling-terrorists-exploitation-of-youth/Tackling-Terrorists-Exploitation-of-Youth.pdf>.

² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2012. *The Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes*. September 2012. Vienna: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. https://www.unodc.org/documents/frontpage/Use_of_Internet_for_Terrorist_Purposes.pdf.

³ Wescott, Tom. 2017. *What do Yazidis make of Kurdish independence?*. IRIN. 19 September. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/59c1233e4.html>

been the targets of violence since the Byzantine Empire, but since the end of Hosni Mubarak's regime in 2011, Copts have increasingly become the target of numerous extremist groups.⁴ Daesh declared that the Copts were apostates to be eliminated from Egypt and, after claiming the Sinai Peninsula, coordinated numerous assassinations of Copts, including suicide bombings during Palm Sunday celebrations in 2017 that killed 47 people.⁵ In Mesopotamia and the Levant, the Yazidis, mostly taking up residence in northern Iraq, were often targeted and ostracized. In June 2016, the United Nations reported that since Daesh's 2014 attack on Mount Sinjar, the locale of most Yazidis, more than 400,000 of the religious minority had been displaced, murdered, or captured.⁶ In 2017, 1,161 civilians of religious minorities were targeted by Islamist extremist groups including Daesh in Iraq and Syria, Daesh-Khorasan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi al-Alami and Jamaat ul-Ahrar.⁷

C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

As religious minorities remain further politically ostracized and socially persecuted within the MENA region, coupled with the sophistication and ease of extremist recruitment measures, the use of fear and hatred to indoctrinate will only continue. For numerous Islamist extremist groups, religious minorities are often the object of hatred. The Council on Political Affairs has an obligation to assess the impact of extremist group recruitment efforts throughout the region and its treatment of religious minorities to best protect the citizens of the region, especially religious minorities, against attacks.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

1. What religious minorities, if any, exist within my member state?
2. How has my member state treated religious minorities in the past and present?
3. How has my member state been impacted by extremist groups and their ideology?
4. What laws or programs are in place, if any, to prevent extremist recruitment in my member state?

⁴ Rehbein, Matt. 2017. "Who are Egypt's Coptic Christians?" *CNN*, May 26, 2017.

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/04/09/middleeast/egypt-coptic-christians/index.html>

⁵ Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. 2018. *How Islamist Extremists Target Civilians*. 13 September.

<https://institute.global/policy/how-islamist-extremists-target-civilians>

⁶ Counter-Extremism Project. N.D. *ISIS's Persecution of Religions*.

<https://www.counterextremism.com/content/isiss-persecution-religions>

⁷ Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. 2018. *How Islamist Extremists Target Civilians*. 13 September.

<https://institute.global/policy/how-islamist-extremists-target-civilians>

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

1. What are the current and most popular methods of extremist recruitment utilized?
2. What methods of including religious minorities in the political process can best be upheld League-wide?
3. In what ways can the de-escalation of religious tensions throughout the League prove valuable in the fight against extremism?
4. What ways, if any, can the Arab League increase religious minority involvement in the political process when isolated?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Jason Brownlee: Violence Against Copts in Egypt](#)
In this article, a brief modern history of violence against the Egyptian Copts is visited, and the author uses a solutions-focused approach to improving relations within Egypt which could be used as a foundation for inclusion in a resolution.
- [CNN: Inside the ISIS Recruitment Machine \(YouTube\)](#)
In this video, CNN details how Daesh uses social media to spread fear of religious minorities, including Yazidis, to recruit new extremist members.
- [Tony Blair Institute for Global Change: How Islamist Extremists Target Civilians](#)
In this paper, the impacts of extremism and recruitment efforts in public spaces is explored. More generally, it reflects upon the use of civilian casualties by numerous MENA extremist groups in recruitment efforts.
- [Counter Extremism Project: ISIS's Persecution of Religions](#)
This source explains Daesh's history with groups it has specifically targeted, including Yazidis, Christians, Mandaean, Shiites, Shabaks, Alawites, Hindus, and Jewish peoples.

Topic II: Evaluating the impacts of Western nation-states' utilization of "gunboat diplomacy" within the Arab League and evaluating the viability and necessity of such measures.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Gunboat diplomacy is defined as "aggressive foreign policy applied with the use of highly visible displays of military—usually naval—power to imply a threat of warfare as a means of forcing cooperation."⁸ As military power increases in many western nations, the looming threat of military intervention in political matters has only increased. In addition, the leveling of trade sanctions against MENA nations and corporations by western nations enforces a sense of coercion rather than cooperation in the spirit of diplomacy.⁹ Western involvement within the MENA region has influenced *coupe d'états*, led to countless civilian deaths, and established a generalized military presence which has led to strategic political ransom.

The Charter of the United Nations, Chapter I, Article 2(4) states that "all Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any matter inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."¹⁰ Most nations of the world, including many western nations and twenty-one of twenty-two Arab League member states, are party to the Charter and have a responsibility to honor its provisions. Additionally, the Charter of the Arab League, Article V (1), states that "any resort to force in order to resolve disputes between two or more member states of the League is prohibited. If there should arise among them a difference which does not concern a state's independence, sovereignty, or territorial integrity, and if the parties to the dispute have recourse to the Council for the settlement of this difference, the decision of the Council shall then be enforceable and obligatory."¹¹

B. History in the Arab World

The United States has maintained a permanent military presence in the MENA region since the creation of the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) in the 1980s and continuing through the

⁸ Longley, Robert. 2019. "Gunboat Diplomacy: Teddy Roosevelt's 'Big Stick' Policy." *ThoughtCo*, November 22, 2019. <https://www.thoughtco.com/gunboat-diplomacy-4774988>

⁹ Kleinfeld, George. 2020. "US Economic Sanctions at the Tipping Point." *Modern Diplomacy*. June 13, 2020. <https://modern diplomacy.eu/2020/06/13/us-economic-sanctions-at-the-tipping-point/>

¹⁰ United Nations. 1945. *Charter of the United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>

¹¹ League of Arab States. 1945. *Charter of Arab League*. March 22. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b3ab18.html>

Persian Gulf War (1990-1991), a United States-led intervention into Kuwait to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's forces,¹² and the post-9/11 wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. To date, the U.S. maintains about twenty-nine military bases in the MENA region.¹³ With an outsized military and economic presence, the United States' influence on Arab League political affairs and foreign policy is undoubtedly significant.

Military interventions have taken a devastating toll on the MENA region and neighboring countries. According to Brown University's Cost of War Project, the estimated direct death toll from the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan is over 480,000, with 244,000 being civilian deaths. The resulting death and destruction from those who were displaced, exposed to disease, or injured is estimated to run in the millions.¹⁴ Apart from the staggering number of civilian casualties, military interventions have impacted the political stability in the region. The Iraq war, for instance, has resulted in "spillover effects" for neighboring countries, including refugees and displaced persons fleeing Iraq, increased sectarianism, and cross-border terrorist attacks, that impact regional security and stability.¹⁵

C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

As many western nations shift further away from the prescribed international laws forbidding the use of force in matters of international relations, the reemergence and use of gunboat diplomacy is a prevalent threat to political stability within the Arab League. The Council on Political Affairs must evaluate the impact which gunboat diplomacy has had upon their political foreign affairs by western nations and further evaluate the sustainability of this approach. The Council may evaluate reactionary measures to prevent further intimidation, if deemed necessary.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

1. How has my member state been impacted by western military and economic political influence?
2. What are my member state's relations with the most influential western nations?
3. Does my member state host any foreign military bases or facilities?

¹² History. 2009. "Persian Gulf War." Last modified January 27, 2020. <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/persian-gulf-war>.

¹³ American Security Project. N.D. "U.S. Bases in the Middle East."

<https://www.americansecurityproject.org/national-security-strategy/u-s-bases-in-the-middle-east/>

¹⁴ Hussein, Murtaza. 2018. "It's Time for America to Reckon with the Staggering Death Toll of the Post-9/11 Wars." *The Intercept*, November 19, 2018. <https://theintercept.com/2018/11/19/civilian-casualties-us-war-on-terror/>

¹⁵ https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep11629?seq=7#metadata_info_tab_contents

4. What have the impacts of western influence, namely gunboat diplomacy, been on my state?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

1. How have western nations used gunboat diplomacy to influence League-wide decisions?
2. What negative or positive impacts would gunboat diplomacy have upon influencing political decisions?
3. What is the feasibility of allowing an increase in the use of gunboat diplomacy by western nations, bearing in mind international law?
4. What would an effective League-wide strategy against gunboat diplomacy best resemble?

IV. Additional Resources

- [Yale Journal of International Law, W. Michael Reisman: Criteria for the Lawful Use of Force in International Law](#)
This paper further examines international law obligations against the use of force in international relations, with special consideration to the UN Charter, to establish appropriate instances in which force can be justified.
- [Foreign Policy, John Hannah and Bradley Bowman: The Pentagon Tries to Pivot out of the Middle East—Again](#)
This article details the United States' pulling of missile batteries and fighter aircraft from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, rumored to be a punishment for a drop in the value of oil. It can be used as a recent example of an attempt by a western nation to use coercion by force to achieve their desired political result.
- [The National Interest, Tanya Goudsouzian: The U.S. Military Cannot Fill the Middle East's Political Vacuum](#)
This piece outlines the United States' use of gunboat diplomacy in the Middle East, in addition to the MENA region's relationships with China and Russia, and provides a detailed background necessary to understand the impacts of foreign influence by force throughout the League.

Topic III: Assessing the state of press freedom and proposing changes to strengthen freedom of the press within the Arab League.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

Freedom of press is often lauded as one of the most necessary safeguards to the prevention of governmental greed and corruption. However, in many Arab League states, journalists are often censored by their governments with threats of imprisonment or violence. Oftentimes, news outlets are also heavily influenced by the government, whether it be from governmental ownership and the lingering threat of defunding or an influence upon advertisements that ultimately leads to control over the dissemination of information to the public.¹⁶ However, twenty-one of the twenty-two Arab League member states are party to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states in Article 19 that “everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”¹⁷ According to the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, ten of the twenty-two Arab League members are amongst the thirty-one lowest ranked nation-states concerning press freedom. Out of 180 nations, the rankings are as follows: Sudan (159), Iraq (162), Somalia (163), Libya, (164), Egypt (166), Yemen (167), Bahrain (169), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (170), Syria (174), and Djibouti (176).¹⁸

B. History in the Arab World

Following the Arab Spring of 2011, where millions advocated for “justice, democracy, and freedom,”¹⁹ establishing a region-wide standard of press freedom was paramount to reaching those goals. However, nearly ten years later, many member states’ treatment of journalists and news organizations has significantly regressed. For example, on October 2, 2018, Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S.-based Saudi Arabian journalist for *The Washington Post* who often published criticisms of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey. A United Nations investigative report by Agnes Callamard, the special

¹⁶ Brookings. 2018. “Media freedom in the Middle East: Part I.” Brookings Doha Center: March 27. <https://www.brookings.edu/events/media-freedom-in-the-middle-east/>

¹⁷ United Nations. 1948. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Paris: December 10. <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

¹⁸ Reporters Without Borders. 2020. *2020 World Press Freedom Index*. <https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

¹⁹ Khamis, Sahar. 2017. “Press Freedom Reversals in post-Arab Spring Countries.” Arab Center Washington D.C. December 18. http://arabcenterdc.org/policy_analyses/press-freedom-reversals-in-post-arab-spring-countries/

rapporteur, found that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was responsible for Khashoggi's death.²⁰ On December 4, 2017, armed Houthis overtook and detained multiple journalists at the TV station Yemen Today. The station had purportedly been aligned with former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was assassinated in Sana'a, Yemen, the same day.²¹

In addition, the Qatar-Gulf Crisis and resulting land, air, and sea embargoes and severance of diplomatic ties by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, and Egypt, has further sparked fears of press censorship in the MENA region. The crisis emerged in part over the purported failure of Qatar to adhere to the 2013/2014 Riyadh Agreement, which included provisions requiring "halting all employment and support – either directly or indirectly – of media professionals and outlets that have an anti-GCC agenda."²² Later demands stated that Qatar must "... shut down all news outlets funded directly and indirectly by Qatar, including: Arabi21, Rassd, Al Araby Al Jadeed, Mekameleen and Middle East Eye."²³ Press freedom in the MENA region has regressed as the atmosphere towards journalistic integrity and ability becomes more hostile while regional conflicts continue in the years following the Arab Spring.

C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

Since the formation of the Arab League in 1945, the MENA region has undergone significant changes and experienced regional and global conflicts which have greatly informed many states' handlings of press freedoms. With so many current Arab League members ranking extremely low on the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, it is the duty of the Council on Political Affairs to examine solutions for upholding some press freedom protections for journalists and news agencies alike.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

1. What laws or policies, if any, does my member state have concerning the freedom of press?
2. How has my member state responded to journalists or news organizations who have/may have published criticisms of the government or government officials?

²⁰ BBC. 2018. "Jamal Khashoggi: All you need to know about Saudi journalist's death." *BBC*, July 2, 2018. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45812399>.

²¹ Committee to Protect Journalists. 2017. "Yemeni TV guards injured, others taken hostage by Houthi forces." *CPJ*, December 6, 2017. <https://cpj.org/2017/12/yemeni-tv-guards-injured-others-taken-hostage-b/>

²² Al Arabiya. 2017. "Exclusive : Documents prove Qatar failed to comply with GCC agreements." *Al Arabiya*, July 10, 2017. <https://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/gulf/2017/07/10/Al-Arabiya-publishes-the-Riyadh-Agreements-of-2013-2014-signed-by-Qatar>

²³ Chughtai, Alia. 2020. "Understanding the blockade against Qatar." *Al Jazeera*, June 5, 2020. <https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/interactive/2018/05/understanding-blockade-qatar-180530122209237.html>

3. Do my member state's political affiliations impact its ability to adequately address the issues concerning freedom of press?
4. What would the lasting impacts of adopting a press freedom statute or policy have upon my member state?
5. In what ways has my member state been impacted by the 2011 Arab Spring, if at all?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

1. Would an Arab League committee on freedom of the press be a potential solution?
2. In what ways would adherence to the 1948 United Nations Declaration of Human Rights impact decisions which may limit press freedom?
3. What are the economic implications of member states funding, and inherently controlling, journalists and media outlets?
4. What would feasible League-wide policies which would protect the well-being of journalists from retaliatory death/harm look like?

IV. Additional Resources

- [United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights \(1948\)](#)
This declaration was created in 1948 and signed onto by twenty-one of the twenty-two Arab League member states. Article 19 confirms the belief in media freedom of opinion being an essential human right. It is imperative to understand both the regional and global obligations of your member state according to this document.
- [Al Jazeera English: UN: Demand to shut Al Jazeera a threat to media freedom \(YouTube\)](#)
This report follows the Saudi-led blockade against Qatar after Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain, and Egypt demanded the defunding and dismantling of numerous news organizations, including Al Jazeera. The United Nations Special Rapporteur of Freedom of Opinion and Expression, David Kaye, says that this constitutes an imperative threat to media freedom.
- [Reporters Without Borders: 2020 World Press Freedom Index: "Entering a decisive decade for journalism, exacerbated by coronavirus"](#)
The publishers of the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, which found that ten Arab League member states fall in the bottom thirty-one of the 180 nations in terms of press freedoms, evaluate how the coming decade will impact press freedom. There are numerous pressures which are slated to further challenge global press freedoms, with the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating some of these.

- [International Federation of Journalists: Declaration on Media Freedom in the Arab World discussed at League of Arab States meeting in Cairo](#)

In 2018, the International Federation of Journalists and Federation of Arab Journalists presented a resolution to the General Secretary of the Arab League, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, entitled “Declaration on Media Freedom in the Arab World,” to ensure press freedoms in the MENA region. Based on available research, this resolution has thus far not been signed by the Arab League states.

Topic IV: Analyzing the challenges and benefits of refugee resettlement within host countries.

I. Introduction to the Topic

A. General Background

According to the Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries, adopted by the Arab League in 1994, a refugee is defined as, “any person who is outside the country of his nationality, or outside his habitual place of residence in case of not having a nationality, and owing to well-grounded fear of being persecute on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, unable or unwilling to avail himself of the protection of or return to such country... any person who unwillingly takes refuge in a country other than his country of origin or his habitual place of residence because of sustained aggression against, occupation and foreign domination of such country or because of the occurrence of natural disasters or grave events resulting in major disruption of public order in the whole country or any part thereof.”²⁴

Of the nearly sixty million displaced persons throughout the world, nearly forty percent are from the MENA region, namely Syria and Palestine.²⁵ Today, there are 6.6 million Syrian refugees and 6.7 million internally displaced persons, or IDPs, within Syria’s borders. Nearly 5.5 million Syrian refugees have taken up residence in refugee settlements and informal camps within Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, and Egypt, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).²⁶ Additionally, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Palestinian refugees are “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict.”²⁷ Of the 1.5 million registered Palestinian refugees today, nearly one-third live in one of fifty-eight recognized Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank.²⁸ As many refugees now face ongoing regional conflict which may make it completely unsafe and unfeasible for refugees to return to their home countries, the feasibility of and funding for refugee camps and informal camps is unsustainable.

²⁴ League of Arab States. 1994. *Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries*. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4dd5123f2.html>

²⁵ Muasher, Marwan, and Maha Yahya. N.D. “Refugee Crises in the Arab World.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. <https://carnegieendowment.org/2018/10/18/refugee-crises-in-arab-world-pub-77522>

²⁶ United Nations High Commission for Refugees. N.D. *Syria Refugee Crisis*. <https://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/syria/>

²⁷ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. N.D. *Palestine Refugees*. <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>

²⁸ Ibid.

B. History in the Arab World

The MENA region has long been plagued by regional conflict and civil wars, including the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the more recent Syrian Civil War and Yemen Civil War. As millions have fled their home nations in light of such conflicts, other nations which host various refugee groups have been forced to find refugee camps in pursuance with the 1994 Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries, Article V, which states, “the Contracting States to this Convention shall undertake to exert every possible effort, to ensure that refugees are accorded a level of treatment no less than that accorded to foreign residents on their territories.”²⁹ In addition, the 1965 Protocol for the Treatment of Palestinians in Arab States, or Casablanca Protocol, effectively affirmed Palestinian refugee rights and has since laid framework in addressing refugee rights from other member states.³⁰ With millions displaced within the MENA region as conflicts rage on for years without an end in sight, the feasibility of resettlement within their host countries, with special consideration to the financial obligations of maintaining refugee camps, has never been activated by the Arab League.

C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future

The 1948 United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 13(2), states that “everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.”³¹ With an exponentially increasing number of refugees due to conflicts, a viable League-wide resettlement option should be considered by all member states in order to better mitigate the overwhelming costs associated with maintaining large, and often permanent, refugee camps. In addition, the Council on Political Affairs should refer to similar refugee resettlement programs of various non-League nations as possible replicable models for any programs to be established.

II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

1. Does my member state host refugees and, if so, from where and how many?
2. Does my member state have an ongoing refugee crisis and, if so, why?
3. What are the current issues facing incoming/outgoing refugees from my own and neighboring nation-states?

²⁹ League of Arab States. 1994. *Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries*. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4dd5123f2.html>

³⁰ League of Arab States. 1965. *Protocol for the Treatment of Palestinians in Arab States* (“Casablanca Protocol”). 11 September. <https://www.refworld.org/docid/460a2b252.html>

³¹ United Nations. 1948. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Paris: December 10. <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

4. What laws or policies, if any, does my member state have in place concerning refugees?

III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

1. What are viable examples of refugee resettlement programs in other nations?
2. What level of cooperation is necessary to adequately implement a refugee resettlement program?
3. What are the foreseeable challenges or complications associated with establishing a League-wide refugee resettlement program, and how does the League prepare for them?
4. What resources do refugees need access to in order to successfully resettle and what costs, if any, are associated with them?

IV. Additional Resources

- [1994 Arab Convention on Regulating Status of Refugees in the Arab Countries](#)
This convention, adopted by the League in 1994 but never ratified, lays out numerous definitions and rights of refugees and nation-states in handling of them. This convention is beneficial for understanding the League's responsibilities concerning and definitions of refugees and in so doing provides possible frameworks for a resolution.
- [1965 Protocol for the Treatment of Palestinians in Arab States \("Casablanca Protocol"\)](#)
In accordance with the Charter of the Arab League, the "Casablanca Protocol" was established to acknowledge and protect the rights of Palestinian refugees by Arab League member states. This protocol can help in establishing the basis for refugee resettlement and formulating strategies for the creation of resettlement programs.
- [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Maha Yahya and Marwan Muasher: Refugee Crises in the Arab World](#)
This provides a valuable and extensive background to the refugee crisis in the MENA region, including its causes and implications. Additionally, it presents a solutions-centered approach to the crisis, which may be valuable in crafting a resettlement program.
- [The Guardian: The Syrian refugee crisis in numbers \(YouTube\)](#)
In this video, The Guardian explores the state of the Syrian refugee crisis in Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq, and Egypt, as well as the numbers associated with overcrowding, costs of upkeep, and realities of life as a refugee or IDP.