

Topic 1: Importance of suspending international acts of piracy throughout the Indian and Atlantic oceans.

Introduction

Indian Ocean

The Indian ocean is home to some of the world's busiest shipping routes as well as a host to some of the biggest fishing grounds. As a result, most states rely heavily upon their 'blue economy' as a source of income, nutrition, employment is a factor in driving development.

The history of piracy within the Indian Ocean is contextually different from the history of piracy elsewhere, due to the fact that the Indian Ocean was a *mare liberum*, a "free sea" where merchants could trade as well as navigate without explicit permissions, as well as the fact that war-action at sea was rare. From 2008 to 2012, a dramatic upsurge in maritime piracy in the Western Indian Ocean captivated global attention and led to the development of robust counter-piracy. Whilst there were concerns about the excessive rates of Somali piracy in the region as of late (due to multiple factors within the nation such as it being a failed state, and poverty rates leading to people resorting to crimes like piracy). Due to a number of factors including a multi-nation approach, by the end of 2012, incidents of maritime piracy, successful or otherwise, plummeted by over 80% leading many to cautiously declare an end to the Somali piracy cycle.

Atlantic Ocean

In 2014 the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) expanded its work beyond the Horn of Africa and the Indian Ocean to address maritime crime challenges in West Africa, with main focus on the Gulf of Guinea region, where there had been a significant rise in piracy, armed robbery, and other maritime crimes. The Gulf of Guinea is distinct from the typical piracy attacks seen off the Horn of Africa, which have primarily involved armed attacks on commercial vessels with a view to hijacking the vessel and taking the crew hostage for ransom. Attacks in the Gulf of Guinea, on the other hand, primarily take the form of illegal oil bunkering and cargo theft.

Piracy off the Horn of Africa reached alarming rates in 2007-2008. In response, international naval forces, authorised by a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions, were deployed to carry out counter-piracy patrols, and whilst the crime rate has gone down, the issue does remain.

Impact/Issues

Societal Effects of Piracy

Despite this, oceans are considered the biggest crime scene in the world as vast unregulated spaces offer perfect conditions to hide criminal activities, namely anonymity and freedom from law enforcement. Crimes committed at sea not only threaten the security of seafarers and undermine blue economies, they also have harmful societal effects in states such as, an increase in drug addiction in small island developing nations that are transit points for maritime narcotics smuggling. How can the international community prevent this?

Existing Counter-Piracy

This military response to piracy, which continues to this very day has been proven to be very effective. Several nations have worked to prosecute those who engage in piracy through domestic courts, and have been commended by the UNSC for taking a strong anti-piracy stance. Certain states within these oceans lack a strong judicial system, and therefore lack the ability and the internal infrastructure to deter those that decide to carry out piracy and other maritime crimes. What can the international community do to help?

A lack of cooperation

Whilst there are several Info-sharing forums on the topic, such as the Indian Ocean Forum on Maritime Crime (IOFMC) and the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP), their work could be regulated and better cooperation between states would certainly help to factor in less crimes. How could these forums be improved for a more cohesive approach to anti-piracy?

Conclusion

UN Sustainable Development Goal 14 seeks to protect coastal and marine resources and ensure that they remain a driver of economic development in the long term. It is the job of the UNSC to maintain international stability and order, and the UNSC can authorise military actions in order to find a solution to this issue.

The security council's mandate is under the charter of the United Nations charter. As clearly stated by chapter V, the council's task is the maintenance of peace and security, and all members of the united Nations agree to act in accordance in the charter. The council puts through resolutions that are binding to all member states of the United Nations. Additionally, they also put forward annual and special reports to the General Assembly for further deliberations.

Please look out for and research existing bodies before proposing to create them! Programs such as the Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) do excellent work already and are working on future programs, it is a good idea to give these programs some research and refer to them within any resolutions you pass.

QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

- What is the agreed upon definition of piracy?

- How could the existing forums be improved for a more cohesive approach to anti-piracy?
- What can the international community do to assist nations in adopting a strong anti-piracy approach?
- How can the international community prevent vulnerable states from suffering from the impact of piracy including drug smuggling and addiction?

Recommended Sources

<http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/piracy/>

This resource a summary of all United Nations Documents on Piracy, excellent reference for formatting your draft resolutions as well as referring to previous actions taken on the topic, historically and looking up solutions to past problems.

<http://oceansbeyondpiracy.org/sites/default/files/attachments/UN%20Security%20Council.pdf>

This link is to the latest security council resolution on the topic of piracy, a must-read and an excellent starting point to base your debate on.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLP1rrIC89eFCcOzBqR6a-ZO-bLAXZtCmn&v=6AjqbpbkBzY>

An excellent short video resource by UNDOC explaining Fighting Maritime Crime in Ghana.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-9GEwb8a72o>

Another excellent resource explaining the impact of the Maritime Crime Programme - Indian Ocean, by UNDOC.

\

Topic 2: Appropriately responding to the current political instability and violent attacks occurring in the nation of Mali.

The issue in brief

The Republic of Mali is a large west african country spanning from Algeria in the north to Burkina Faso and Senegal in the south-west. Achieving its independence from France in 1960, Mali endured three decades of dictatorship before a military coup in 1991 ushered in democratic rule.

Tensions in 2012 led to the overthrowing of the President, with rebels (and some low-ranking members of the military) seizing control of three provinces in the north of the Country and expelling the Malian Military. A post-coup power vacuum enabled radical Islamist groups to gain influence and control in parts of the North. This has continued until today, despite an internationally mediated peace deal signed in 2015.

Instability in Mali is exacerbating pre-existing food shortages, causing large internal migration towards the south of the country, and is resulting in a paralysis of civil society, with over 500 schools closing in recent years.

In order to prosper, Mali must return to a stable and effective government with control over all of the country, and limit the presence and activities of radical groups. Your job as delegates in the UNSC is to respond to the current events and debate mechanisms that will allow Malians to take this first step towards stability. Mali is integral to the fortunes of North Africa, a region that is integral to the development of the world.

The 5 key Points

Paralysis of Civil Society

- Instability in Mali makes it increasingly difficult for the government to provide state services such as healthcare, education and law enforcement, particularly in areas where rebels are concentrated. A 2017 Amnesty International article states that more than 150,000 children are unable to attend school due to closures as a result of the tensions. The same article discusses prison in central Mali with a capacity of 400 that is currently detaining more than 1,200 inmates. These failures

of the civil bureaucracy aren't just a failure of the government, they are violations of Malian's human rights.

Food Insecurity

- Already one of the world's hottest and poorest nations, food security in Mali is threatened by insecurity and conflict, as well as the effects of climate change such as reduced rainfall and desertification. Agriculture employs 90% of the rural population, and with most of this occurring at a subsistence level, Malians are vulnerable to famine. With a current population of 19 million, Mali is one of the fastest growing countries in the world, with its population expected to double by 2035 (48% of the population is aged between 0 and 14) (WFB). Assuring a food-secure future is therefore essential to Mali. The World Food Programme is already doing much work in Mali by supporting local farmers, providing hot meals in school and assisting communities in resilience building.

Ethnic Clashes and Jihad

- The Malian government has a history of supporting self-organised militias and defence groups opposing adversary groups and those of other ethnicities. This *de facto* state patronage fuels ethnic tensions in Mali and reinforces the marginalised discourse of pastoral and minority groups. State suppression and extrajudicial killings following the redeployment of state services in contested regions in 2013 led to dissatisfaction with the state and an increase in the broad appeal of Islamist groups. The decline of state authority and its ability to secure communities in northern Mali provides the political backdrop upon which groups such as *Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb* (AQIM) are able to prosper, co-opting grievances with state corruption and nepotism as mobilising tools. The appeal of Islamist groups correlates with the failings of the Malian State.

The politics of the jihadist is to provide a better alternative to the state. Our people don't associate the state with security and services, but rather with predatory behavior and negligence. Since 1991, we have complained about banditry, but nothing has been done. In 2015, the presence of jihadists has grown; people are joining them as a result of their ability to protect us, our animals, and our possessions, especially from Tuareg bandits. There is no justice—our cows are stolen, our people are killed ... the jihadists are the response.

- Fulani Chieftain interviewed by Human Rights Watch

UN peacekeeping mission and Operation Barkhane

- Operation Barkhane is an ongoing military campaign led by the French government in Mali. Coordinating with UN peacekeepers, Operation Barkhane sees over 4000 French soldiers stationed throughout the region. Operation Barkhane has helped in driving Islamist groups out of the central regions of Mali, and in some parts of the north, but has done little to resolve the underlying causes of tension in the country which are governance-related rather than solely security-focused.

Conclusion

Mali's security threats are multi-faceted. Food shortages and failing state services have created humanitarian disasters with no simple solutions whilst rising ethnic tensions have allowed Islamist groups to capitalize on the communities grievances and co-opt political movements. Military solutions may help provide short-term security improvements, but until communitarian tensions, elite patronage, corruption, and nepotism of state agents are addressed by the ruling elite, Mali will suffer from regional insecurity. The UNSC must address these state failings if any sustainable progress is to be made.

Annotated Bibliography

Mali Insecurity Keeps more than 150,000 Children Out of School (Amnesty)

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/09/mali-insecurity-keeps-more-than-150000-children-out-of-school/>

- An article discussing a recent report, "Mali: Violations and Abuses as Instability Spreads", particularly the recent conflict disastrous effects on schooling and prisons in the country. This article is an example of the tremendous work Amnesty International and other similar organisations do in bringing the humanitarian side of conflict to the fore: a quick but worthwhile read

WFP Mali Regional Crisis Situation Report #10 (World Food Programme)

http://documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/Public/documents/ep/WFP281072.pdf?_ga=2.97803551.1052879499.1526688130-5838013.1526688130

- This report, published in January 2016, outlines the response of the World Food Programme to the instability in Mali. It is a useful guide for understanding how UN organisations are making real changes on the ground, and will hopefully allow

you to switch, even momentarily, from the marco world-view the UNSC encourages, and consider how the situation can be improved even at micro-level.

Ethnic Clashes, Jihad and Insecurity in Central Mali (Peace Review)

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10402659.2017.1344529?journalCode=cper>
[20](#)

- This journal article, published in 2017, provides an in-depth analysis of the causes of ethnic tension and the rise of Islamist groups in Mali. It paints a scathing picture of Malian authorities who practice elite patronage, corruption, and nepotism to the dismay of regional population. Diallo then outlines how Islamist groups such as AQIM and *Ansar Dine* have co-opted mainstream grievances to further their own sectarian causes.

Operation Barkhane: France's Counterterrorism Forces in Africa (The Atlantic)

<https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/10/operation-barkhane-frances-counter-terrorism-forces-in-africa/543834>

- A very good photo essay, powerful images. Please consult.

References

Diallo, Ousman. 'Ethnic Clashes, Jihad, and Insecurity in Central Mali.' *Peace Review*, vol. 29, no. 3 (2017): pp. 209-306.

Taylor, A. 'Operation Barkhane: France's Counterterrorism Forces in Africa.' *The Atlantic*, Oct 24, 2017. <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2017/10/operation-barkhane-frances-counter-terrorism-forces-in-africa/543834/>.