SECURITY COUNCIL
BRAZIL MODEL UNITED NATIONS XVII

Chaired by Gabriela Campos & Daniel Dequech
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Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council! Our names are Gabriela Pinheiro and Daniel Dequech, and we are very excited to serve as your chairs for this committee. As your chairs, we will be working our hardest to ensure our committee entertains and challenges you through intense, fast-paced debate and controversial topics. In turn, we expect well-prepared delegates who are ready to solve global issues better than those at the job themselves.

As you know, the topics we will discuss over the course of the conference are the question of delineating the role of the Rohingya people in Southeast Asia, addressing the territorial dispute between Turkey & Cyprus and addressing the current situation in Egypt. As these are very controversial topics, we would like to remind you to act diplomatically, respecting other cultures. We have complete faith in your ability to take action and, through collaboration, find proactive solutions against the injustices that plague our world. We also strongly encourage you to use this opportunity not only to learn about global issues, but to recognize the importance of cooperative initiative in our society.

This study guide is dense, but we can ensure that it'll make your researching a lot easier. We encourage you to read it thoroughly, and to take notes on both your own positions as well as those of others. Nevertheless, don't forget to do some research on your own and to familiarize yourself with the UN Charter and the BRAMUN Handbook. Finally, we wish you the best of luck in your preparation. We can't wait to see you all in BRAMUN and always remember, as Sun Tzu once said, "supreme excellence consists of breaking the enemy's resistance without fighting". Please let us know if you need anything, at all.

With great pleasure,

Gabriela Pinheiro
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Daniel Dequech
Vice-Chair
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Committee description

The United Nations Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Recommended primarily for experience delegates, it is composed of 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members, making a total of 15 member-states. Unlike other committees in the United Nations, the Security Council is the only organ other than the General Assembly that has the authority to impose sanctions and other assertive actions. The five permanent members have the power of veto. Any vote against a resolution by one of these nations will be considered a veto. It must be justified as defending “their national interests, to uphold a tenet of their foreign policy or, in some cases, promote a single issue of particular importance to a state”. 
Topic A
The question of delineating the role of the Rohingya people in Southeast Asia

Background information

The Rohingya People

The Rohingya are an ethnic group with an estimated total population of 3 million. Concentrated mostly in Southeast Asia, nations with a significant number of Rohingya residents include Bangladesh, Myanmar, Pakistan, and Malaysia. Most members of the ethnic group practice Islam and speak rohingya, an Indo-Aryan language closely related to the Bengali language. The exact origin of the Rohingya people is widely debated. The government of Myanmar affirms they originate from the Bengal region in South Asia. On the other hand, Rohingyas assert themselves as native to the Rakhine state in Myanmar, the second poorest territory of the nation. Since Myanmar’s independence in 1948, Rohingyas have been victims of torture, negligence, and repression.
Despite hosting one of the largest populations of Rohingya in the world, the government of Myanmar does not recognize the ethnic group. Thus, Rohingya in Myanmar have limited citizenship and residence rights, thwarting the ethnic group’s ability to progress socioeconomically. They have been marginalized in several countries, and suffer persecution for ethnic and religious reasons. In Southeast Asia, Rohingya commonly inhabit ghettos and slums. The United Nations has described the Rohingya ethnic group as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world. As a result, the Rohingya people are often considered to be *stateless*.

More recently, the Rohingya population in Southeast Asia has attracted considerable attention from the media due to the **ethnic conflicts** in Myanmar, which caused the *Rohingya Refugee Crisis*, affecting virtually all neighbouring countries in the region.

### Situation in Myanmar

Despite residing in Myanmar, a country with a mostly Buddhist population, for multiple generations, the Rohingya people are deprived of citizenship. In the neighbouring Bangladesh, a frequent destination for Rohingya refugees, they are also considered illegal. Without permission to reside or travel, with limited access to education in both countries, and with no religious freedom to practice Islam, the Rohingya people are in dire need of assistance from the international community.

Thanks to the rise of **extremist Buddhism** in Rakhine, the situation deteriorated in 2012, with two waves of violence, in June and October, leaving over 200 dead, 140 wounded, in addition to hundreds of destroyed homes and Muslim buildings. One hundred thousand Rohingya were left homeless. Authorities and the police were accused of not acting to defend them. The conflict was sparked by the rape of two young Buddhists by Rohingya, which triggered retaliation to the group. As a result, the separation between the two communities was heightened. Facing escalating sectarian violence, thousands of Rohingya decided to flee the country by sea to Malaysia in the largest exodus of the region since the Vietnam War. In December of 2014, after recommendation from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations approved a resolution
which urged the government to grant citizenship to the group, which makes up approximately 5% of the population, to no avail.

In August 25, 2017, **Rohingya militants** attacked tens of police outposts. In response, Myanmar’s army initiated a military operation which, according to reports cited by **Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein**, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) from 2014 to 2018, set villages on fire, killed civilians, and established land mines along the border with Bangladesh. Following the incident, Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein classified the violence against the Rohingya people as ethnic cleansing.

According to **Jean Lieby**, the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Chief of Child Protection in Bangladesh, approximately 60% of Rohingya refugees are children.
The Rohingya people’s crisis is among the longest and most neglected situations in the world. In Myanmar, Rohingyas are forbidden from marriage, or from travelling without permission from authorities, and they do not have the right to own land or property. After being governed by a military regime for over half a century, Myanmar transitioning to a democracy which as brought forth many great social improvements. The Rohingyas’ situation, however, has not changed.

The United Nations, alongside multiple human rights organizations, calls for authorities in Myanmar’s government to repeal the 1982 citizenship law, so as to guarantee that the Rohingyas do not remain stateless. According to them, it is a necessary first step to help Rohingyas after such a long history of discrimination against the ethnicity. Nevertheless, many Buddhists in Myanmar do not even recognize the term “Rohingya”, instead calling them “Muslim Bengalis”. The fact that Rohingyas in Myanmar do not have citizenship only serves to validate the Buddhists’ segregation and **forced expulsion** campaigns.

## Timeline of pertinent events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04/01/1948</td>
<td>Myanmar gains independence from the United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/03/1962</td>
<td>In a coup d'état, the Myanmar army initiates a socialist totalitarian regime which would last for 26 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/10/1982</td>
<td>Under military control, the government of Myanmar ratifies the 1982 Citizenship law, which excludes Rohingyas from the right of citizenship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31/05/1989</td>
<td>In another coup d'état, Saw Maung, a General of Myanmar’s military, establishes a new military government and declares martial law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/03/2011</td>
<td>The military junta in Myanmar is dissolved.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03/2012</td>
<td>Rape accusations emerge, blaming three Rohingyas for the rape and murder of a Buddhist girl. In retaliation, 10 Muslims are murdered by a mob.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/06/2012</td>
<td>After a major riot between Rohingyas and Rakhine residents, a state of emergency is declared by the government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06/2012</td>
<td>Approximately 100,000 Rohingyas become displaced from their homes and find refuge in camps.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21/03/2013</td>
<td>In further riots between Muslims and Buddhist Rakhines, 43 are killed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/03/2013</td>
<td>Six Muslims and zero Buddhists are arrested after the conflicts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04/2013</td>
<td>Thousands of Rohingya flee from Myanmar, seeking refuge in Bangladesh, Thailand, and Malaysia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19/06/2013</td>
<td>The UNHCHR urges Myanmar’s government to take action regarding the refugee crisis, to no avail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/10/2016</td>
<td>In a new wave of violence, border police posts are attacked by riotists, which the government claims to be Rohingya.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/11/2016</td>
<td>After two soldiers are killed in a clash with the Rohingya people, the military kills 100 Rohingyas using helicopters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25/08/2017</td>
<td>The military begins a “counter-insurgency clearing operation” against the Rohingya people, causing even more of them to flee the country.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08/08/2017</td>
<td>After 270,000 Rohingyas flee Myanmar within one week, the UNHCHR classifies the situation as “ethnic cleansing”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/10/2017</td>
<td>It is estimated that the number of Rohingya refugees reaches 500,000, and the United Nations Secretary General states that the crisis is the world’s fastest developing refugee emergency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23/10/2017</td>
<td>344 million dollars are pledged by the international community to fund UN humanitarian relief operations for the Rohingya. In addition, threats of sanctions emerge from trade partners such as the United States.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Glossary**

**Ethnic group:** a community or population made up of people who share a common cultural background or descent.

**Rakhine state:** Myanmar’s second poorest state, located on the western coast of the country and bordered by Bangladesh to the northwest.
**Stateless**: a person or a group can be considered stateless if they are not legally considered as a national citizen by any state under the operation of its law.

**Ethnic conflicts**: a conflict between ethnic groups, usually for political, social, or religious justifications. Individuals in conflict expressly fight for their ethnic group’s position within society.

**Extremist Buddhism**: despite having a widespread reputation as a religious tradition that is rarely associated with violence, Extremist Buddhism in Myanmar consists of the violent campaigns against Muslims.

**Rohingya militants**: insurgent groups of Rohingyas active in northern Rakhine who fight to defend the rights of the Rohingyas.

**Zeid Ra’ad al-Hussein**: Of Jordanian descent, he was the United Nations High Commissioners for Human Rights from 2014 to 2018.

**Jean Lieby**: the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund Chief of Child Protection in Bangladesh

**1982 citizenship law**: A law in Myanmar’s legislation which deprives the Rohingyas of citizenship. The law attributes full citizenship only to “national races” which were settled in Myanmar before the British occupation, yet the government does not recognize the Rohingya people as native to the country.

**Forced expulsion**: a primary objective of the Buddhist extremists’ campaigns in Myanmar, which consists of compulsory and violent removal of Rohingyas from the territory.

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**Guiding questions**

- Besides gathering funds for UN humanitarian relief operations, what can the international community do to help Bangladesh deal with an ever-growing number of Rohingya refugees.

- Can Myanmar’s government truly be considered democratic despite excluding thousands of Rohingyas from the right of citizenship?

- Taking into account the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the UN charter, is the Security Council entitled to take more drastic action in Myanmar?
• Why have previous measures been ineffective? Why is Myanmar’s government unwilling to cooperate?

Bibliography


Topic B
The territorial dispute between Cyprus & Turkey

Background information

At a glance

The territorial dispute between Cyprus and Turkey is a conflict regarding the Turkish occupied region of Northern Cyprus, which makes up the northern third of the island of Cyprus in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. This topic refers to the situation of tension and warfare which has existed between the Greek Cypriots and the Turkish Cypriots since 1963 until present day.

Since the arrival of the British at the island of Cyprus, the “Cyprus Dispute” was identified as the conflict between the people of Cyprus and the British Empire due to the Cypriots’ self-determination demands. The matter, however, eventually changed from a colonial dispute to an ethnic dispute between the Turkish and Greek inhabitants of the island. The international complications caused by the
prolonging of the conflict go far beyond the borders of the island of Cyprus and involve countries such as Turkey, Greece, the United Kingdom, the United States, as well as the United Nations and the European Union.

Following the 1974 Turkish invasion of Cyprus (which has been condemned by resolutions from the Security Council), Turkey has occupied the northern region of the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus. Years later, the Turkish community in Cyprus unilaterally declared the independence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), a state which has not been recognized as sovereign by any nations other than Turkey itself. After both the Greek and Turkish communities in Cyprus agreed to find a peaceful solution to the dispute, the United Nations established and maintained a Buffer Zone, known as the Green Line, to avoid further tensions and hostilities between the communities. This zone, which spans across the country, created a physical and social barrier between the communities of Greek Cypriots and Turkish cypriots and also separated the country. As the New York Times states, “Today, the internationally recognized government of the Republic of Cyprus controls only the southern two-thirds of the island. The remaining third is the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized only by Turkey. “Nationalism prevents the two groups from cooperating. Greek Cypriots want enosis, but Turkish Cypriots do not. Instead, Turkish Cypriots aim to establish a bi-zonal, bicomunal federation with political equality. On the other hand, the Greek Cypriots desire settlement and unification but remain less keen on the equal sharing of power and other aspects concerning the mechanisms of political equilibrium.

**Historical Information**

Between September 1570 and August 1571, the island was conquered by the Ottoman Empire, leading to three centuries of Turkish rule over Cyprus.

In the beginning of the 19th century, the ethnic Greeks of the island began a widespread attempt to put an end to the Ottoman rule. After the 1787 Cyprus Convention, the United Kingdom assumed control of the island with the purpose of preventing the Russians from taking control over the island. The terms of the agreement which Great Britain and the Ottoman Empire reached specified that the
island was still an Ottoman territory. Nevertheless, the ethnic Greeks of the island looked favorably upon the change as an opportunity to express their demands to unify with Greece. The Ottoman Empire entered into the World War One as an ally of the Central Powers, however, leading Great Britain to renounce the deal and officially declared Cyprus to be a colony of the British Empire. In 1915, the Great Britain offered Cyprus to Greece in exchange for Greece's participation in World War I as a British ally. However, the King of Greece refused the offer.

Due to its status as a British colony during the beginning of the 20th century, Cyprus did not experience the difficulties between Greeks and Turks which occurred in other locations, such as the Greco-Turkish War of 1919, and the Population exchange between Greece and Turkey of 1923. Nevertheless, Turkish Cypriots vehemently opposed union with Greece. Cyprus was declared a Crown colony of the British Empire in 1925. The first unsuccessful uprising of Greek Cypriots against the British occupation occurred in 1931. In an attempt to assuage tensions, Great Britain proposed the ratification of a changed constitution. However, the attempt backfired due to the lack of any indication of enosis, and the Greek Cypriots responded negatively.

In the late 1950s, a guerrilla group known as the National Organization of Cypriot Fighters successfully rebelled against the British control and achieved independence for Cyprus. The Greek and Turkish Communities of Cyprus entered a partnership agreement after independence. Three years later, President Archbishop Makarios proposed amendments to the constitution of Cyprus in an attempt to improve the government’s ability to function. The Turkish Cypriots, however, rejected the proposal, and fighting between them and the Greek Cypriots broke out. Following the conflicts, the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), one of the longest running in history, was established and a political stalemate was eventually reached.

The stalemate ended only in 1974, when Turkish forces invaded the island after a failed Greek coup d'état in which the Greek Military junta backed a coup against President Makarios. Greece aimed to ultimately integrate Cyprus and unify its territory. Popular opinion in Turkey, however, considered unification with Greece to be dangerous for Turkish Cypriots, pushing the Turkish military to invade. In addition, the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, which prohibits enosis, was used as Turkish justification for
sending troops. The invasion of the Turkish Armed forces led to the creation of the Green Line. Today, it is patrolled by the UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus.

A series of negotiations occurred between the two groups of Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots between 1974 and 2000, but meaningful changes only occurred again in 2002, with the commencement of peace talks regarding the “Annan Plan”. The Annan Plan consists of a document drafted by the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, which outlined the creation of a common state government and a single international personality with “two politically equal component states which would address much of the daily responsibilities of government in their respective communities.” Reception to the proposal, however, was not consistent, especially among Greek Cypriots, of whom 76% voted against, despite 65% of Turkish Cypriots voting in favor.

Current Situation

In 2014, the United Nations facilitated a joint statement between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, who stated they will resume negotiations to solve the dispute. Nicos Anastasiades, the President of Cyprus, and Dervis Eroglu, then-President of Northern Cyprus, issued a “Joint Declaration” setting the basis for new, UN-facilitated negotiations. As outlined in the declaration, the purpose of the negotiations would be to establish a bi-communal, bizonal federation with political equality, a single citizenship and a single sovereignty. Nicos Anastasiades suspended reunification talks with Eroglu in October after Turkey sent a research vessel and warships into Cyprus’ exclusive economic zone.

In 2015, Mustafa Akinci was elected as President of Northern Cyprus, with a pro-reunification discourse platform. Since then, Akinci and Anastasiades have conducted intensive negotiations in Switzerland, but have continuously failed to reach consensus regarding territorial matters. Their most recent attempt to solve the dispute was the Geneva Conference, in which Akinci and Anastasiades once again discussed the path to reach consensus regarding political, equality and security in Cyprus. The talks ended without a fixed deal, however, as Akinci reacted negatively after the parliament in Greek Cyprus voted to introduce an annual commemoration in public schools of the January 1950 ‘Enosis’ referendum. The talks also broke down following the Turkish insistence that their military be allowed to remain on the island to guarantee the peace.

Timeline of pertinent events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16/08/20</td>
<td>Cyprus gains independence from the United Kingdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/07/74</td>
<td>Greek coup d'état against Cypriot President Makarios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15/11/83</td>
<td>The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus unilaterally declares independence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16/04/04</td>
<td>Annan Plan presented to UN Security Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/05/04</td>
<td>Cyprus joins the EU as a divided Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/02/14</td>
<td>Joint Statement issued</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30/04/15</td>
<td>Mustafa Akinci elected in the TRNC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--/11/16</td>
<td>Peace Talks between Akinci and Anastasiades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01/12/16</td>
<td>Anastasiades and Akinci agree to resume negotiations in Nicosia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/01/17</td>
<td>Geneva Conference on Cyprus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Glossary**

**Annan Plan:** Plan proposed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, to solve the Cyprus dispute which was rejected by the Greek Cypriots and accepted by the Turkish Cypriots

**Enosis:** Political union with Greece

**Geneva Conference (2017):** Most recent UN-facilitated Reunification talks between Akinci and Anastasiades in Geneva, have failed to reach an agreement/
**Green Line:** Neutral zone guarded by the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) that divides the Northern part of the island, occupied by Turkey, from the rest of it.

**Joint Statement (2014):** UN-facilitated declaration where Greek Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot President Dervis Eroğlu agree to have pro-reunification negotiations.

**Mustafa Akinci:** Current President of The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), with a pro-unification platform.

**Nicos Anastasiades:** Current president of Greek Cyprus

**Treaty of Guarantee (1960):** Treaty between Cyprus, Greece, Turkey and the United Kingdom, which bans Cyprus from participating in any political or economic union with another state and reserves the right of the guarantor powers to take action to re-establish the current state of affairs in Cyprus.

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### Guiding questions

- In addition to mediating further negotiations between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, what can the international community do to help the island of Cyprus find political stability?

- To what extent did the British occupation of Cyprus lead to the current situation? What is be the United Kingdom's role in the Security Council's attempts to solve the dispute?

- How has the creation of the Green Line separating Southern and Northern Cyprus affected the communities' relationship with one another?

- Why have previous negotiations failed to produce effective solutions? Why are both governments so unable to cooperate successfully?

### Bibliography


**Topic C**

**Addressing the current situation in Egypt**

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**Background information**

**The 2013 Coup d'état**

After thirty years enduring Egyptian dictator, Hosni Mubarak, civilians rushed to the street to commemorate the signing in of the country’s first ever democratically elected president, Mohamed Morsi, in June 2012. To Egyptians who’d lived their entire lives under a militaristic regime with limited freedoms that plunged the country into crisis, Morsi, a man with no ties to the military, vowing to be “a president for all Egyptians”, seemed like everything they could ask for. However, it didn’t take too long for them to realise their hopes were fruitless.
Within a year of being signed into office, Morsi issued an emergency decree that left his government virtually unchecked "until a new constitution is drafted". Formerly a member of an Islamist nationalist group, The Muslim Brotherhood, Morsi had fulfilled a campaign promise resigning his membership once he assumed the presidency. Nevertheless, the decree implies Morsi’s ties with the group had never been broken as it allowed him to create a Brotherhood-dominated assembly that drafted a "disastrous" constitution. The President also used his authority to fire some of the armed forces’ military leaders and reaffirmed his belief that, having been democratically elected, his orders were "beyond the scrutiny of the country’s judges".

Unsurprisingly, the population wasn’t pleased with Morsi’s apparent desire to establish an autocracy. Limited rights, paired with Egypt’s economic crisis with long gas lines and blackouts took several protestors began to the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities. The bulk of these organized by a group known as Tamarrod, which means Rebellion. Within a few months, they’d gathered millions of signatures and their demonstration gathered over twenty-two million people.

These protests against Morsi were characterised by chaos and violence. In Egypt, members of the police, military and other forces cannot vote. Thus, Morsi’s unpopular move removing the top military leaders, paired with his decree led many to be absent from the protests, creating a massive wave of violence that forced the military, led by Minister of Defense el-Sisi, to intervene. Some believe Tamarrod had already established close ties with the army, others assume el-Sisi had watched the groups actions closely and acted accordingly. Whatever the case, one day after the riots against "Morsi the dictator", the Egyptian army issued an ultimatum: share power or step down.

Morsi had forty-eight hours to reply, but refused to stand down. Five hours after the deadline expired, el-Sisi appeared on national television and declared the suspension of the constitution. Morsi was gone, Egypt erupted in joy.

**el-Sisi’s rise to power**

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1 CNN, “Egypt’s Morsy Says Courts Can’t Overtake Him.”
2 “Mohamed Morsi.”
After Morsi was ousted, an interim government was established, led by Adli Mansour, chairman of the Supreme Constitutional Court. During Mansour’s rule, the parliament drafted a new constitution that was expected to be approved during a referendum in January. The document is widely regarded as being barely representative (only one woman helped write it) and one that undermines transparency (secret votes were conducted numerous times). Yet, the new constitution was, in fact, approved during a referendum in January 2014, despite low voter turnout (35%) and questionable conditions (Freedom House, 2019).

However, although Mansour was the President, it was quite evident that Abdel Fattah el-Sisi held the actual power. Thus, once the elections in May 2014 revealed his victory by a staggering 95%, the image of el-Sisi, the lion of Egypt, as its saviour, was finally consolidated, ruling virtually by decree until the 2015 parliamentary elections.

But it isn’t quite that simple. Despite being democratically elected, many observers reported concerning trends in the ballots, with "low turnout, intimidation, and abuse of state resources" being among the most frequently cited.³ The Brotherhood actively opposed the results, accusing Sisi of having overturned democracy by deposing a freely elected president. Morsi himself tweeted that the military’s measures "represent a full coup categorically rejected by all free men of our nation". Nonetheless, el-Sisi’s actions didn’t face any international consequences. The former Minister of Defense, instead enjoyed a high popularity rate during his first year in office, committing to infrastructure projects and financial reforms. Yet, even so, his lack of tolerance for protests, high number of arrests and apparent disregard for human rights, found widespread criticism. The difference is this one was mostly international, as most of the activists and journalists who spoke against him were either behind bars or without a head.

Current situation

El-Sisi’s government has an alarming tract of human rights violations. Believed to be responsible for the killing of thousands of Egyptians and imprisonment of hundreds of journalists and activists, Egypt is far from adhering to the principles of freedom of speech and expression. According to the Human Rights Watch, "members of the security forces, particularly the Interior Ministry’s National Security Agency, continue to routinely torture detainees and forcibly disappear hundreds of people with little or no accountability for violations of the law.", which leads many to suspect the conditions under which The Lion of Egypt was re-elected in 2018.

Running virtually unopposed, el-Sisi was re-elected with another overwhelming majority at 97%. Freedom House, giving the elections a 1/5 on the category of free and fair elections, reports that "no independent international

³ “Egypt.”
monitors were able to verify the results. The vote was also marred by low turnout, the use of state resources and media to support Sisi’s candidacy, voter intimidation, and arrests and assaults of poll monitors," which means the number provided by the government is about as credible as Nicolas Maduro’s declaration that "everybody voted for him" during the Venezuelan elections in May 2018.

Furthermore, other than limited freedoms, human rights violations and questionable elections, Egypt is also facing a growing terrorist threat from Daesh-Sinai, a group pledged to the Islamic State, that happens to be the most active group in the country, and other movements. Ever since the Arab Spring of 2011, the Sinai Peninsula has consistently seen armed insurgency and the flow of weapons and militants rise. El-Sisi has expressed his vehement desire to combat terrorism in the region and has been successful in reducing the number of terrorist attacks in the mainland since 2015, having even arrested Hisham Ashwami, an important senior terrorist acting in the area. Yet, several governments and even the International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, consider Egypt a country terrorists are very likely to act in. Aon Risk Solutions reports that the "overall terrorism and political violence level for Egypt is very high.", which is especially concerning as, by being the populous state in the Arab world, controlling the Suez Canal, and bordering Israel, stability in Egypt should be of paramount importance to the international community.⁴

Nevertheless, el-Sisi’s rampant authoritarianism and disregard for human rights, paired with the fertile breeding ground for terrorism in the Sinai Peninsula that’s failing to be dealt with accordingly, prove the country’s far from achieving the goals set in the first revolutions of the Arab Spring in 2011. How should the international community respond?

Timeline of pertinent events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>03/07/13</td>
<td>Mohamed Morsi is removed from power by Armed Forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14/08/13</td>
<td>Over 700 protestors in favour of Morsi are massacred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--/01/14</td>
<td>Referendum on new constitution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DD/05/14</td>
<td>Abdel Fatah el-Sisi is elected the new President of Egypt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

⁴ EPSTEIN, “The Nile Flows South.”

Brazil Model United Nations XVII
Security Council,
Chaired by Gabriela Campos & Daniel Dequech
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/12/15</td>
<td>First Parliamentary elections since 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--/05/17</td>
<td>el-Sisi signs new controversial law on nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02/04/18</td>
<td>el-Sisi is re-elected for a second term as President of Egypt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Glossary**

**Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**: Egypt’s current President, former Minister of Defence, considered by several international organizations as an authoritarian leader.

**Authoritarianism**: Favouring or enforcing strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom.⁵

**Daesh-Sinai**: Most active terrorist group in Egypt, pledged to the Islamic State and acting almost daily in the Sinai Peninsula.

**Fascism**: A political philosophy propagating the return to a mythical past through violence and spearheaded by a dictatorial leader.

**Mohamed Morsi**: Egypt’s first democratically elected President, a former member of the Muslim Brotherhood, ousted from office by the armed forces in 2013.

**Mubarak Hosni**: Egyptian dictator that was in power for thirty years and was forced to step down in 2011, following a massive wave of protests.

**Muslim Brotherhood**: A political, Islam-based organization that played a major role in the Egyptian nationalist movement. Recognised as a terrorist organization by the current Egyptian government.

**Sinai Peninsula**: Region in Egypt with rising insurgency and illegal arms trade, known to be fertile breeding ground for terrorism.

**Tamarrod**: Founded by a group of students, Tamarrod is a group of liberal activists that created a petition rejecting Morsi’s presidency. It is suspected to have had links to el-Sisi and the army during the 2013 protests.

⁵ Merriam Webster
Totalitarianism: centralized control by an autocratic authority

Guiding questions

- To what extent can el-Sisi be considered a dangerous leader?
- What role should the Security Council play against a President of a UN-member state that seems to ignore many of the basic principles of the UN Charter?
- Can el-Sisi be considered a democratically elected president?
- Should presidential elections be internationally monitored?
- What actions should be taken against the growing threat of terrorism in the Sinai peninsula? Should it be left to el-Sisi?
- Is the Islamic State still as big of a threat as it used to be?

Bibliography


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Further Research

**TOPIC A:**

*UN News - Rohingya Refugee Crisis*

*Al Jazeera Rohingya News*

*CNN article regarding US relationship with Myanmar*

**TOPIC B:**

*UN Security Council Resolution 2430 on Cyprus (2018)*

*"The Divided Island"*

**TOPIC C:**

*Freedom House’s "Freedom in the World" report on Egypt*

*Vox’s breakdown on el-Sisi’s re-election in 2018*

*USA’s current relationship with Egypt*

*Al Jazeera’s Breakdown on Egypt in 2016*