

*Islamist Terrorism in Africa*

## **Committee Guide**

*Security Council*



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## 1. Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Alke Hochwald and this year I will have the honor of being one of your Presidents of the Security Council at this year's OLMUN. I am 17 years old and currently graduating at the Herbartgymnasium in Oldenburg. My plans for the next year aren't very concrete yet but I have high hopes for spending time in another country. Outside of school my hobbies include badminton and sports in general, spending time with my friends and of course MUNS.

I took part at my first MUN in 2012 at the OLMUN as Delegate of Fiji and I was immediately fascinated by the combination of a very professional atmosphere with a lot of fun and meeting new people along the way. Throughout the years I visited several more MUNS and also took part in the organisation of the OLMUN.

This year's OLMUN will be my seventh MUN and my third time chairing and I am really looking forward too meeting all of you in June and having a great conference.

Dear Delegates of the Security Council,

My name is Sebastian Katzer, I am 22 years old and I will serve as one of your presidents for the Security Council at OLMUN 2015. I graduated from high school in 2011 in Rastede, a small city near Oldenburg. Currently I live and study film in Berlin.

This conference will be my 10<sup>th</sup> Model United Nations in total. In these conferences I participated as a delegate, chair and Deputy PGA.

I am very excited to once again participate as a chair at OLMUN this year. I hope we will experience a great week together. Let us work together to make this committee an unforgettable one!  
I am looking forward to seeing you at the end of June!

Yours sincerely,

**Sebastian Katzer**

## **2. Word from the Chairs**

Honorable Delegates,

As this year's Presidents of the Security Council, we warmly welcome you to the Oldenburg Model United Nations 2015!

This Committee Guide is supposed to guide and support you in your preparations. Therefore, we advise you to take the time to read it carefully and to use it as a starting point for your work. In case you have any questions – whether it be regarding the procedure, the topic, our schedule or whatever else might be of importance to you – do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help you and answer your questions whenever they arise.

With the conference only a few weeks away, we hope you are all looking forward to the conference as much as we are and that you are prepared for a week of hard work and lots of fun. We expect a lot from you as in this council we only have a limited number of delegates and we want to have efficient and heated debates which will bring us forward in debating the topic at hand. But do not worry: You were chosen to represent your countries in this committee and we are certain that you will all do well – as long as you are prepared.

So remember:

- Begin your research in time and don't wait until the last minute. Understanding the topic and its complexity is essential for you to write a resolution, a policy statement and taking part in debate and in lobbying processes
- Use a variety of sources for your research! Be sure not to use just one single source for your whole resolution. Diversity in research is important in order to reach a well-thought-out resolution with useful and debatable points. In addition, the more sources you use, the more you broaden your horizon on the topic.
- At an MUN conference you are not required to elaborate your personal opinion on the topic but the one of your country. Therefore you need to find out in detail about the situation in your country
- When researching the position of your country, look for various measures it has or has not taken yet, the existing programs and what possible new measures you as a representative of your country can introduce
- Elaborate a comprehensible, realistic resolution considering the position of your country! Of course this resolution needs to be realistic con-

sidering that you are a representative of an existing country with existing positions. Within this frame, you need to find a self-contained solution which you can present in our committee

Keeping this in mind, we hope this Committee Guide proves helpful to you in preparing your resolutions for a great conference.

### 3. The Security Council

Since 1946 the SC's main purpose, as defined in the United Nations Charter, is to maintain international peace and security. Its functions and powers are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in „strategic areas“;
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice

The Council consists of 15 members of which five are permanent. These permanent members also have a veto power on any resolution debated:

- France
- People's Republic of China
- Russian Federation
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- United States of America

The ten non-permanent members are elected by the General Assembly for terms of two years:

- Angola (2016)
- Chad (2015)

- Chile (2015)
- Jordan (2015)
- Lithuania (2015)
- Malaysia (2016)
- New Zealand (2016)
- Nigeria (2015)
- Spain (2016)
- Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (2016)

## 4. The Topic

Islamist Terrorism is a topic which has become more and more existent in modern society. At the latest since 9/11 it is probably one of the most discussed threats for humanity worldwide. The jihadist group Al-Qaeda has emerged into one of the most well-known terrorist organizations of our time and a global symbol for militant Islamism. It has been the center of the Global War on Terrorism ever since.

But besides Al-Qaeda, other jihadist organizations have risen. Notably on the Asian and African continents people have been enduring the threat of various Islamist terror groups to an enormous extent. And the number of casualties worldwide is constantly growing, from 3.300 dead in 2000 to 18.000 in 2013.

But what has provoked this development?

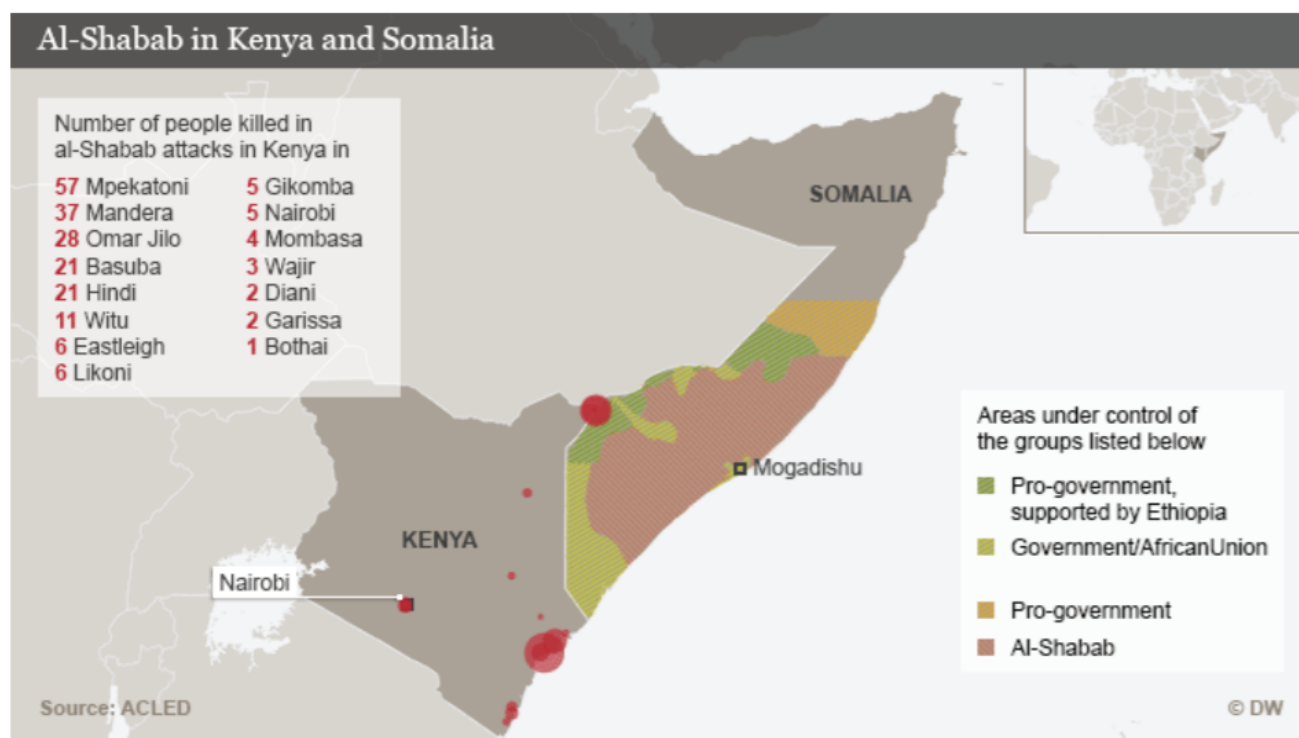
Many African countries have been or still are suffering from poverty, corruption or civil wars. It is a breeding ground for radical sects and militias which blamed Western influences for the constant misery of countries like Somalia and Nigeria. Organizations such as Al-Shabaab and Boko Haram have since killed thousands of people and led to displacement of far more African citizens.

These two groups, along with Al-Qaeda, today pose one of the greatest threats to African citizens and it is important to know their aims and origins when discussing possible solutions for fighting Islamist Terrorism in Africa.

### 4.1 Al-Shabaab

This terrorist organization is active mainly in Somalia and Kenya but seeks access to other bordering countries too (Nairobi, Ethiopia...). Their name means "the youth" and it was founded between 2004 and 2006 by a militant youth wing as the name implies. They are fighting for a theocracy in the Horn of Africa and for their Islamist ideology. *"Unlike most Somalis, who have followed the Sufi Muslim tradition for centuries, Al-Shabab espouses a radical form of Wahhabism from Saudi Arabia. This has been a point of contention between the group and some, civilian Somalis. The group is not a single,*

*monolithic organization. Commitment and goals vary among members. Most are likely more committed to national than to international goals.* The attacks of Al-Shabaab cost lives, destroy communities and even impact international affairs through tourists being present at attacks or business manipulation. Most activities are still limited to Somalia, but this might change soon.



[http://www.dw.de/image/0,,18130847\\_401,00.png](http://www.dw.de/image/0,,18130847_401,00.png)

## 4.2 Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is a network of smugglers, kidnappers-for-ransom, and insurgents. It acts in several areas as seen below. The organization was founded during the Algerian Civil War (1991-2002) by fighters of the "Armed Islamic Group". This Terror Group is also behind the massive attacks on the Twin Towers in New York on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2001.

Their overall goal is similar to that of Al-Shabaab: to get rid of western influences and to create a theocratic Islamist state. *"Al-Qaeda is a loose network of largely autonomous cells that are active in different countries."* Their foundation is also similar to Al-Shabaab with attacks and holding foreigners hostage to get funds and to spread their own ideas.

Osama bin Laden had been Al-Qaeda's longtime leader until he was killed by the US government in 2011, which drove the group to using even more cruel methods in general and especially against the US.



[http://video.foxnews.com/thumbnails/i/080112/0/0/080112\\_an\\_alqaeda\\_640.jpg](http://video.foxnews.com/thumbnails/i/080112/0/0/080112_an_alqaeda_640.jpg)

#### 4.3 Boko Haram

Boko Haram is one of the youngest terror organizations, mainly active in Nigeria but also in Cameroon and Mali. The name of this Group means “western education is a sin”, so similar to the other two groups Boko Haram also wants to fight against western culture and civilization.

This group has recently got a lot of media attention through kidnapping large groups of girls and women who were then maltreated. In general they fight against the Nigerian government, trying to destroy it, to take control over the country as a whole. *“The Nigerian security forces are no match for the heavily armed terrorists. Since 2003, thousands of people have been killed in attacks on security forces, government agencies, churches and schools. Around 2,000 people were killed in Boko Haram attacks in the first four months of 2014 alone.”* Boko Haram has also sworn allegiance to the Islamist Terror Organization ISIS, mainly active in the Middle East. This shows that terrorist organizations closely work together to achieve their very similar goals.

# Boko Haram control

Local government areas under Boko Haram's control.

**Area of control:** ■ Boko Haram ■ Government ■ Contested ● Retaken by Nigerian military



Source: Reuters

C. Inton, 23/02/2015

REUTERS

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/africas-deadliest-terror-group-just-pledged-allegiance-to-islamic-state-2015-3?r=US>

Of course there are many more terrorist organizations active in Africa, which you can also find in the links below (e.g. Al-Nusra Front, Ansar al-Sharia). These three are however a selection of the most important ones to mention. It is also important to know that most of these organizations are linked to each other or have sworn allegiance to each other in some way, which leads to a network of Islamist terror.

## 5. Possible Solutions

In case of Al-Shabaab, the UN has troops stationed along Somalia's borders and coastline.

Other military measures have already been taken by France in Mali, where the French military built up a new government which was able to take control over the state.

However, the international community so far has failed to solve the issue as a whole and to prevent new terrorist groups from spreading, which the rise of

Boko Haram and the IS has painfully proven. Here are some aspects you might keep in mind when thinking of possible solutions:

- Find regional solutions: Instead of targeting single terrorist groups in limited areas, the UN could try to fight terrorism by developing a concept for larger parts of the African continent – after all, the terrorist groups do not stop at national borders either. Implementation of more transnational peacekeeping missions could be an option for instance.
- Fighting the fundamental causes: Why are people attracted to terrorist movements? Many areas face a lot of poverty and a lack of perspective. How can these issues be solved? Could there be more support for the poor, offering them more alternatives.
- Lack of democratic structures: Corrupt systems exclude people from political participation. This can lead to a general feeling of dissatisfaction, opening the door for radical groups in the respective areas.
- Ethnic and religious conflicts: Do not forget the explosive nature of religious conflicts. While being caused by reasons such as the above, strong religious convictions are what fuels these terrorist movements.

## 6. Useful Links

<http://uk.businessinsider.com/africas-deadliest-terror-group-just-pledged-allegiance-to-islamic-state-2015-3?r=US>

<http://rt.com/op-edge/180996-africa-outpost-islamic-terrorism/>

<http://www.dw.de/islamist-terror-groups-in-africa-and-middle-east/a-17739751>

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2012/07/06/islamic-terrorism-on-the-rise-in-africa>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/target/etc/modern.html>

<http://english.alarabiya.net/en/News/middle-east/2013/11/30/Is-Africa-the-new-frontier-of-global-terrorism-.html>

<http://news.siteintelgroup.com/blog/index.php/entry/352-combatting-the-rise-of-islamic-terrorism-in-north-africa-the-french-model-1>

<http://mic.com/articles/66127/terrorism-in-africa-an-inside-look-at-the-3-most-dangerous-african-terrorist-groups>

[http://www.cfr.org/content/thinktank/Lyman\\_chapter\\_Terrorism.pdf](http://www.cfr.org/content/thinktank/Lyman_chapter_Terrorism.pdf)

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/>

<http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Terrorism-Index-Report.pdf>