



**Mission Viejo High School MUN**  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
*Vox Populi*



## **Crisis in Syria**

Hello, delegates, thank you for accompanying me at Mission Viejo High School's annual Model United Nations conference. My name is Mallory Black and I am currently a sophomore here at Mission Viejo High School. This is my first year in MUN, and I am thrilled to be the Vice Chair of the Crisis in Syria committee. I am an AP/IB student as well as a devoted fellow MUN delegate. I am a member of Pep Squad and love to dance in my free time. In this committee, we will be discussing and devising resolutions to solve the crisis in Syria.

### **I. Background of Crisis in Syria**

The awful war in Syria began in March 2011 in the city of Deraa when 15 school children were arrested and allegedly tortured for writing anti-government graffiti on walls. Local people began a peaceful protest, demanding the release of the children, along with democracy and greater freedom for the Syrian citizens. This angered the government and led to the army opening fire on the protesters on March 18, killing four people. Again they opened fire and killed an additional innocent mourner at one of the victim's funerals. The reports of the violence spread to other parts of the country and angered many along the way. Eventually, the violence became so widespread the International Red Cross deemed it a civil war. As the tensions grew and violence increased, refugees quickly began fleeing the country into Europe and other nations. Along with the war, the humanitarian aspect has quickly grown into an international issue with the refugee crisis growing.

### **II. UN Involvement in Crisis in Syria**

The most recent occurrence of the UN's Intra-Syrian Talks took place April 13-27 in 2016 in Geneva. The conversation targeted political transition, governance and constitutional principles. The International Syria Support Group created two task forces deliver the critical humanitarian aid to hard to reach areas. The primary talk occurred January 29 2016, and was unfortunately deemed pendulant due to advancing violence without much humanitarian access at ground level. A second round was successfully held on March 14-24 in 2016. Many nations, including Russia and the United States, have expressed their opinions toward the crisis in Syria along with their willingness to participate or not participate in aid efforts or militarily towards the war. These opposing forces with the United Nations' Security Council has resulted in a stagnation, as certain nations work towards progress while the effort is simultaneously hindered as many nations support each of the opposing sides.



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### **III. Possible Solutions to Crisis in Syria**

There are three main obstacles to diminish in order to suppress the Syrian crisis. The first is determining what to do with Syrian's president, Bashar al-Assad. The United States, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia all support the instant removal of Assad. However, Iran and Russia's notion is to first destroy the mass amount terrorist groups, then hold elections overseen by the UN to elect a new president and constitution. The second obstacle is how to fight terrorist groups in Syria. In Syria, the largest ground force fighting terrorist groups like ISIS is the Syrian Army which is supported by Russia and Iran. Yet many regional U.S. allies have been supporting many groups fighting the Syrian army. ISIS and the Syrian government cannot be fought at the same time, which makes the joining of air and ground forces to defeat ISIS, cooperation with NATO, the Syrian army, and Russia and Iran that much more critical. The third and final obstacle is that extremist movement like Al Qaeda and ISIS get most of their ideology, weaponry, and financial support from western allies. It is necessary that ISIS finally be recognized as a culture, not just a radical terrorist group, and that it will be nearly impossible to defeat as long as it is being fed by western allies ideology. It is vital to cut ties between western influence and support with such terrorist groups.

### **IV. Bloc Positions**

**Asian Bloc:** Most Asian countries have not become involved with the crisis in Syria, however, allies of Russia have tended to support the Assad regime while allies of the United States support the immediate removal of President Assad.

**Latin Bloc:** Most Latin countries have also remained uninvolved in the situation, and typically support their larger allies in the issue.

**European Bloc:** Currently the European bloc is dealing with a huge refugee crisis as most of the Syrian refugees are flooding into various European countries. Most European nations support the removal of President Assad. Along with this, European nations are adjusting to how they will deal with the refugee crisis due to changes in the European Union as a result of BREXIT.

**African Bloc:** African nations, being so underdeveloped, are not involved in the crisis in Syria and most are unable to assist in the conflict in any way.

**Middle-eastern Bloc:** The Middle East is directly impacted by the crisis in Syria, based upon which nation, every country in the Middle East supports a varying side of the war – some support the Assad regime while others support the rebels. Because of this, the region is very divided over the war occurring in Syria and are simultaneously dealing with the growing presence of ISIS.



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