

# UNSC

*Advanced  
Specialized*



**TOPICS:** The Situation in South Sudan, The Situation in Kosovo

**CHAIRS:** Drew Spencer, Vanessa Patil

LAIMUN XXIX

*December 2-3*

# ☞ LAIMUN XXIX ☞

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**LAIMUN XXIX**

*December 2-3*

## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Aidan Tacinelli and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXIX! In my fourth and final year of Model UN at Mira Costa, I am the Under Secretary-General of the Specialized Branch, and I cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

In the Specialized Branch, we have selected extremely current and pressing topics that will require research and preparedness. Be sure to bring your creative solutions, accurate country policy, and active enthusiasm to each of your respective committees. All of our chairs are excited to see the level of debate brought about by delegates, and are ready to accommodate you in any way that they can.

With that being said, we want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

We do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

Don't forget to submit your position papers, prepare your speaking, and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them. If you have any questions, you can reach me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org)! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXIX website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of luck,

Lily Stern and Akash Mishra  
Secretaries-General

Aidan Tacinelli  
Under-Secretary General

## Introduction to the Dias

My name is Drew Spencer and I am super excited to be your head chair! I am now a senior here at Costa and I have been in the MUN program for all 4 years. I have attended conferences such as SOCOMUN in the past, and I'm very excited to be chairing this committee. Outside of MUN, I am on the Track and Field Team where I long jump. Last year, I qualified and attended the CIF meet at Trabuco Hills, and I also hold the Junior Boys long jump record with a mark of 21 feet and 7 inches. Outside of school as a whole, I enjoy going to the beach with friends, biking, listening to music, Clash of Clans, Angels baseball, the Immaculate Grid, watching movies, *Community*, and tinkering in general. I listen to a lot of Radiohead and JPEGMAFIA, and I am currently working on maxing out my Town Hall 10 in Clash of Clans.

I'm a fun guy. I cannot wait to hear all of the nifty solutions you guys have crafted in preparation for debate, and I hope to hear all of you guys on your A-game when it comes to hooks and closing statements. We want you guys to have strong substance in your speeches with memorable solutions, and also humorous and engaging hooks that of course remain appropriate and on topic in a sense. Debate is as fun as you guys make it, so bring the heat. Remember, speeches are three minutes, so you guys have to work to keep everyone engaged for a longer period of time. I am ecstatic to be the chair of Security Council this year, and wish December would come sooner so I could chair Security Council right now.

–Drew Spencer

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Hello Delegates!

My name is Vanessa Patil and I will be your co-chair for the Advanced Security Council at Laimun XXIX! I am a junior here at Mira Costa, and have been doing Model United Nations since my freshman year. I have had the opportunity to go to many local conferences, and I have attended a couple travel conferences as well. My freshman year I was able to travel to the conference at UC Davis, and last year I was able to attend the conference at Yale. I love Security Council Committees, and I actually chaired for the Novice Security Council last year.

Outside of MUN, I'm very involved in Costa's Color Guard and Winter Guard programs. I'm the vice-president for Heart Club, which is all about spreading kindness and positivity. Across campus, I'm involved in a few other clubs as well, such as Girls Advancements in Leadership in Stem (GALS) and the Lorax Club! Yes, we have a Lorax Club, and yes, it's a masterpiece. In my free time I love to hang out with my friends, go on walks, waste my time scrolling through Tik Tok, and go shopping. In order to fund my shopping addiction, I work at a kids clothing boutique in downtown Manhattan Beach.

In the UNSC, I would like to see well-planned solutions that demonstrate delegates' creativity and research. The committee should also aim to address a variety of subtopics throughout the conference. I will be looking for skilled speakers and the utilization of engaging speaking techniques. Most importantly, be confident! I'm looking forward to a great LAIMUN, and I can't wait to meet you all!

Warmly --- Vanessa Patil

## Committee Description

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established to discuss the most pressing international events in a diplomatic setting and to solve issues in ways that suit all parties involved. Established in the UN Charter on October 24, 1945, the committee is vested with greater powers than others in the General Assembly. It is the only body capable of deploying peacekeeping forces and enforcing embargos and blockades, and it is usually the first to respond to crises. When a dispute arises, its primary goal is to end the conflict as quickly as possible. Meetings within the Security Council serve as means for countries to take collective action on an issue, rather than acting individually. In this manner, it creates a sense of trust in times of crisis.

The UNSC has played a critical role in managing international affairs since its conception. During the Cold War, it became the primary platform for the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies to resolve problems without the use of force, as well as the launching point for peacekeeping task forces in contested areas. In the later half of the 20th century, the Security Council spawned a number of missions in developing African nations to oversee democracy and to prevent faction hostilities. Within the last fifteen years the UNSC has focused on resolving conflicts in the Middle East while retaining commitments to other international disputes.

Aside from its function, the committee is distinguished by its unique membership. Ten temporary members are chosen every two years in semi-random fashion by geographic quota.

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The other five nations have remained constant since the committee's conception; they are the United States, the United Kingdom, France, the People's Republic of China, and the Russian Federation. The "Big Five," in addition to enjoying permanent membership, each carry a veto power which defeats a resolution when exercised. Abstention from a vote can demonstrate opposition to a resolution just as well as a veto, while avoiding total shutdown.



## Topic A: The Situation in South Sudan

### I. Background

Located in northeastern Africa, South Sudan is the newest country to gain official recognition from the United Nations, established in 2011 after nearly 20 years of direct conflict. The country has had a multitude of issues which continue to harm its citizens and their general wellbeing. Civilians are placed in severe danger with continuing violence and a lack of proper security, mostly arising from the Civil War that began in 2013 from struggles between the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups.<sup>1</sup> Sexual violence, looting, and destruction of property were used as means of war during this period. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development interfered with the situation and convinced the leaders of each side, Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, to sign a peace agreement in 2015. Kiir was the South Sudanese president, and Machar was his rival. This peace agreement aimed to end the ongoing violence, and was a significant step in reconciliation between the parties. As a result of the peace agreement, in 2016, Machar went back to the capital city of Juba to become Vice President once again. However, his return led to the outbreak of even more violence. Due to this violence, Machar decided to flee Sudan, but was detained in South Africa. After this, ceasefires were discussed and enforced in 2017 and 2018. In the total 5

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<sup>1</sup> “Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan](http://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan). Accessed 15 June 2023.

years of war, it is estimated that around 400,000 civilian lives were lost, and 4 million people either fled the country or were internally displaced.<sup>2</sup>

When South Sudan first gained independence in 2011, the nation seemed to have a break in terms of the financial crisis. With that, politicians and leaders saw a lessened urgency for oil production, eventually shutting production down completely after 6 months.<sup>3</sup> This severely affected the economic situation, with deeper crises evolving and occurring in a chain reaction from the lack of oil production. An interesting thing to note is that South Sudan was once relatively wealthy compared to nearby countries. While this money could have been used to help the people-the elites and military spending took up the vast majority of these funds, leaving very little for the rest of the population. With corruption occurring on nearly every front in South Sudan, a redirection of wealth would have allowed for the country to be much more developed and advanced. Ethnic conflicts hold additional influence on the dysfunctions of South Sudanese Society, and need to be addressed in order to allow the country to find peace and equality.

The Berlin Conference in 1884-1885 resulted in superimposed boundaries across Africa. This means that these boundary lines dividing the continent did not take ethnic and cultural issues into consideration, but rather were designed to help European countries in their pursuits of

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<sup>2</sup> G.O., Administrator. "Impact of UN Mission in South Sudan Complicated by Dilemmas of Protection." *IPI Global Observatory*, 12 Dec. 2019, [theobservatory.org/2019/12/impact-un-mission-south-sudan-complicated-by-dilemmas-of-protection/](https://www.globalobservatory.org/2019/12/impact-un-mission-south-sudan-complicated-by-dilemmas-of-protection/).

<sup>3</sup>"South Sudan's Conflicts Are Not Just between Communities." *Amnesty International*, 4 Apr. 2023, [www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/violent-conflicts-in-south-sudan-almost-always](https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2023/03/violent-conflicts-in-south-sudan-almost-always).

territory and wealth. Although the Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups are generally represented as enemies, their conflict is fairly complex.<sup>4</sup> While many members of each group supported violence, there were also many members who favored peace over fighting. Outside organizations also threatened peace and prosperity for the country, such as religious and terrorist organizations. Thomas Cirillo created an organization called the National Salvation Front, which resulted in an even greater amount of violence. This group worked to fight against the government of South Sudan, utilizing gold mining as their source of revenue.

Currently, the humanitarian crisis in the country has become disastrous. People are unable to access food, water, healthcare, basic shelter, and even more vital necessities. According to the World Health Organization, over 7 million people in the country are in need of humanitarian assistance. With their population being around 10 million, this leaves over 70% of the country in need of immense help, highlighting the severity of this issue. Food insecurity is one of the most common issues within the nation, partially caused by the environmental conditions the region faces.<sup>5</sup> Food is difficult to grow when considering the hot and dry climate, and difficulties only become more prevalent with constant droughts and floods that hinder farming prosperity. Due to the difficult terrain, the country relies on mechanized farming to produce food, which can lead to several other issues. While the technique does have some benefits, it results in soil becoming less

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<sup>4</sup> “Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan](http://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>5</sup> “Hunger and Malnutrition Being Driven by Climate Crisis and Conflict in South Sudan.” *UNICEF*, [www.unicef.org/press-releases/hunger-and-malnutrition-being-driven-climate-crisis-and-conflict-south-sudan](http://www.unicef.org/press-releases/hunger-and-malnutrition-being-driven-climate-crisis-and-conflict-south-sudan). Accessed 15 June 2023.

arable as water absorption is very inefficient in the process. The lack of arable land results in a lot of unusable land, leading to less productivity across the country. Another reason for the lack of productivity is poor management regarding food distribution. Additionally, mechanized farming takes jobs away from people in the country, furthering unemployment and causing harm to the economy. Looking at the macroeconomics, it is easy to see how the government has mishandled distribution of necessities through poor choices and a lack of proper distribution. Food is also very overpriced, leading to unaffordable food for individuals who are most in need of it. With a great increase of floods, many areas are simply unable to produce enough food for the region surrounding the farm. Due to this, the deluge-prone areas are seeing an even greater negative impact on their economies and available resources. Floods not only affect the food supply, but they also damage the infrastructure and destroy communities. In the face of disaster, people's daily practices were transformed, and many have suffered economic crises as a result. Flooding leads to even more conflict as groups try to place the blame on other organizations. In these situations, it is often easier for people to feel justified in their violence when they have a reason for it.

The lack of access to water also poses a challenge to communities in effort to avoid dehydration and maintain sanitation practices. A lack of access to proper water leads to the spread of diseases as well, which can end up creating disasters for larger groups of people. An example of this was a major cholera outbreak in the country which led to the death and illness of many. Children are especially harmed, as their bodies are not yet developed to handle the disease as well as adults' bodies. Many of these diseases are contagious, and can easily spread from place

to place. There is a severe lack of doctors and healthcare workers in the country, which ends up making South Sudan even more dangerous in terms of disease transmission. While organizations attempt to send workers and train people to take on these roles, there is still a need for these professionals. It should also be noted that there are many misconceptions in terms of health care advice, and there is a lot of information out there based on false pretenses. While modern advice may suggest one thing, cultural beliefs often offer very different remedies to illnesses.

South Sudan also greatly struggles from a lack of freedom, particularly in the media. The country is ranked 128 out of 180 countries regarding the World Press Freedom Index. Those in the media profession face extremely dangerous threats including violence, unlawful arrests, and death. South Sudan has very little tolerance for outside beliefs, which is why they are so strict on journalists and press workers. Women in the media typically face the worst consequences, which ties into the topic of violence against women, an extremely pressing issue that the country faces.<sup>6</sup> Women are forced to endure horrifying sex crimes such as forced nudity and rape. Victims range from varying ages, with the youngest documented victims at just two years old. While some offenders are convicted, the vast majority of these criminals face no consequences, and even continue to cause harm. Girls also face unique issues as they are not provided with proper education, and often have to marry young. One study showed that around 52% of girls aged

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<sup>6</sup> IJNet contributor, Garang A. Malak, Garang Abraham Malak is a South Sudanese multimedia freelance journalist. "South Sudan's Censored Media Space Is Forcing Journalists to Quit the Profession." *International Journalists' Network*, [ijnnet.org/en/story/south-sudan,censored-media-space-forcing-journalists-quit-profession](https://ijnnet.org/en/story/south-sudan,censored-media-space-forcing-journalists-quit-profession). Accessed 15 June 2023

between 15 and 18 are married. These marriages are often arranged and do not protect the girl's rights as her own individual. Girls who marry young often have little access to an education and are forced to obey their husbands, regardless of what they want for themselves.

The refugee situation is also a very prominent issue in the country. There are currently around 2.3 million displaced refugees in the country, who are all in need of aid. Approximately 63% of these refugees are children, many of which have faced extreme trauma and separation from their families. While there are refugee camps, these camps have very limited resources, and the conditions are very poor. They are breeding grounds for disease, and often are only able to help a limited number of people. Issues in South Sudan go even further than these, and effective solutions must be drafted in order to ensure South Sudan does not continue its path towards immense disparity and inequality.

## **II. United Nations Involvement**

After gaining its independence, South Sudan officially joined the United Nations in 2011. The United Nations has done several things to work in cooperation with South Sudan and offer assistance to those in the country. A lot of this assistance is based on the Sustainable Development Goals, a list of 17 goals that the UN drafted to help develop and improve societies to be as productive and beneficial as possible. This framework was used to help create the United Nations Framework Cooperation to offer direct support to the country. Originally, the program was given 650 million dollars of funding, but that amount has steadily increased. The program works to strengthen the government, assist with food insecurity, help local economies, improve

available social services, and offer support to women and children.<sup>7</sup> The UNCF aimed to address 9 different issues regarding the situation in South Sudan, and continues to offer support and aid for that set of issues. With a high, the program claims to promote peace and support several peace agreements in South Sudan.

The Security Council recently renewed the United States Mission in South Sudan(UMISS), which is a mandate that requires countries to end fighting immediately. UMISS is certainly one of the most notable actions of the UN due to the direct impact it has on the people, with estimates of the program protecting over 200,000 individuals from dangerous situations. Many people in South Sudan consider the program to have prevented a genocide from occurring in the country. They created protection sites to shield people from direct conflict and violence from 2013-2016. However, there have been some issues with the program and its ability to further assist the people. The protection sites were very resource intensive, and ended up taking a lot of materials that were needed in other places. Still, the program had a very positive impact on the population. It also helped develop data gathering, which would go on to help programs provide proper support. UMISS was renewed in 2022 with Resolution 2625, continuing its impact on the country. The UN Human Rights Council also renewed the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, another mandate created to assist the situation. This Commission was designed to help gather research and statistics for the country in order to create adequate solutions. The Security Council also renewed the agreement about the arms

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<sup>7</sup> “UNSDG | UN in Action - South Sudan.” *United Nations*, [unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/south-sudan](https://unsdg.un.org/un-in-action/south-sudan). Accessed 15 June 2023.

embargo, stressing the need for weapon controls. The council reinstated a panel of experts, which involves a group that oversees development in the country, and requires the country to reach five benchmarks. These benchmarks detail the steps needed to review the arms embargo. They also addressed sexual violence with the Joint Action Plan for the Armed Forces, ensuring that there was framework to address this issue and prevent further sexual violence. With Resolution 2577, the UN renewed the Arms Embargo Act in 2021. Still, sexual violence is very prevalent in the area, and many victims do not have access to proper support systems. The European Union has also been involved with the situation, even placing a sanction on an individual named Gabriel Moses Lojuko—a Sudanese army general who had correlation to several executions and tortures. The African Union Commission was supposed to take on the role of assisting with the court system of South Sudan, but ended up failing in its mission. They wanted to create a hybrid court for the country, which would combine South Sudan's legal system with judicial principles from across the continent. However, South Sudan pushed against the insertion of the system as the country felt it undermined their cultural principles.

### **III. Topics to Consider**

#### **A. Political Disputes**

With a plethora of disputes arising between ethnic groups, it is no surprise that there have been many political issues to go along with that. Kiir and Machar have had many disputes in terms of politics, furthering tensions between groups. A good portion of their dispute stems from the fact that they support different ethnic groups, making collaboration difficult. Additionally, many of the current issues in South Sudan relate back to the implications of superimposed



boundaries, and the disruption they place on ethnic groups. In terms of systematic issues, the government also greatly abuses its power, and people are terrified to speak up. Many civil society representatives have explained that they are unable to discuss issues regarding the humanitarian crisis because of the government, stressing the harm it places on individuals who speak against the government. The Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, established in 2016, helps the government and offers aid to the current situation through providing finances. Still, there are many issues regarding how the different pieces of government can collaborate and work together to create a functioning society. A lack of communication between different parties leads to even further issues when it comes to taking action, exemplifying the importance of a unified political scheme in improving the state of South Sudan. It is very important to consider the topic of political disputes in South Sudan because it directly relates to other issues in the country like the humanitarian crisis and violence. In order to make progress towards a developed South Sudan, it is imperative to fix these political issues.

## B. Social Issues

When considering the issues in South Sudan, it is important to think about how the social issues in the country impact the rest of the society. South Sudan is a very traditional country, and those who do not abide by their customs are not generally accepted amongst the people. One of the main social issues the country experiences is misogyny. Misogyny heavily impacts the region, with a lot of the gender inequalities resulting from a long history of cultural traditions that citizens continue. Women are seen as the caregivers of the family, and are expected to play a very specific role in society. Women are often expected to obey their husbands without question,

with any backtalk leaving them at major risk of abuse. This goes against Sustainable Development Goal number 5, being that women and girls should be able to achieve equality. Girls also face huge disparities in terms of their access to education, which arises from social stigmas.<sup>8</sup> Instead of empowering girls and women, this system discourages progress and development for them. Gender-based violence is another major issue that women in South Sudan face, which was heightened by the civil war. To make issues even worse, the justice system rarely supports women who come forth with their situations, making other women unwilling to come forward with their stories. In order to consider social issues and discover methods to fix them, delegates need to address further aspects of society, and dive deeper into the roots of complex issues.

### C. Food Insecurity

Food insecurity has been an issue in South Sudan for a variety of reasons. To begin with, there are many environmental impacts that result in difficulty for food to be grown. Many areas across the country are prone to deluge, or severe flooding, leading to an inability for crops to be grown in those areas. Floods not only prevent crops from being grown at certain times, but also have lasting impacts on the soil, leaving little arable land. Droughts also come in the way of food production, and can also affect areas far outside of South Sudan. In combination with this, there are many issues with water transport systems, which harm the process and ability to get water to the areas it is needed in. Additionally, the government has a lot of trouble with properly

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<sup>8</sup> “Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, [www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan](http://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan). Accessed 15 June 2023.

distributing materials, leading to wasted food that never reaches those in need. This issue arises predominantly from lack of communication within transport systems. If improved, food insecurity in South Sudan could be reduced.<sup>9</sup> In correlation with that, there are many people in the country who face acute malnutrition, moderate acute malnutrition, and malnourishment. All of these issues deal with the lack of adequate nutrition, resulting in serious harm to one's body. Some people in the country are particularly harmed, including children, pregnant women, and lactating women. Not only is this extremely distressing for those affected, but it also demonstrates the possibility of generational issues stemming from these cases of malnutrition. When a pregnant woman is not provided with enough care and proper health, it is likely that her child will suffer from issues as well, furthering the healthcare crisis in the country. Another major issue that propagates the healthcare crisis is the large increase in food prices.<sup>10</sup> Many people are unable to afford food after an increase in price, which leads them to be unable to obtain enough food to keep themselves and their families safe and healthy. It is vital to consider food insecurity when approaching this issue, as it is a major health crisis that directly threatens people's lives. While it may seem easy to create solutions for this topic, the supplying of food requires intricate solutions with logical plans.

#### D. Displaced Persons

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<sup>9</sup> "Food Assistance Fact Sheet - South Sudan: Food Assistance." *U.S. Agency for International Development*, 28 Feb. 2023, [www.usaid.gov/food-assistance/south-sudan](http://www.usaid.gov/food-assistance/south-sudan).

<sup>10</sup> "Hunger and Malnutrition Being Driven by Climate Crisis and Conflict in South Sudan." *UNICEF*, [www.unicef.org/press-releases/hunger-and-malnutrition-being-driven-climate-crisis-and-conflict-south-sudan](http://www.unicef.org/press-releases/hunger-and-malnutrition-being-driven-climate-crisis-and-conflict-south-sudan). Accessed 15 June 2023.

Due to the humanitarian crisis and surge of violence, it is no surprise that South Sudan has such a high number of displaced persons and refugees. It is essential that these refugees are protected and offered assistance, but many of them do not have access to the proper resources. While there are systems to help these refugees, many still suffer greatly from a lack of food, healthcare, and further support. In addition to the crisis within the country, South Sudan hosts around 330,000 refugees from other countries within its borders. On top of the lack of food and healthcare services, refugees also require protection from the frequent violence that occurs throughout the nation. Armed violence places refugees without protection in extreme danger as they don't have the resources to protect themselves and their families. Refugees also have to deal with a lack of steady and reliable transportation. There have been many cases where refugees have had to wait many weeks for transportation to arrive and take them to their destination. This highlights how the refugee system in South Sudan is unreliable and unpredictable, and how it results in a great amount of harm to those in need of assistance.<sup>11</sup> It is very important to think about the significance of refugees and displaced persons as these people do not have the proper resources to take care of and protect themselves, which is why they turn to the systems in place. Unfortunately, when these systems have too many issues, people are even less hopeful for their own survival. Delegates should look into refugee systems that have been successful, and particular ways to improve existing refugee systems, in order to provide the adequate resources for refugees in need.

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<sup>11</sup> “South Sudan Refugee Crisis: Aid, Statistics and News: USA FOR UNHCR.” *USA for UNHCR. The Un Refugee Agency*, [www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/south-sudan/](http://www.unrefugees.org/emergencies/south-sudan/). Accessed 15 June 2023.

#### IV. Case Study: Hepatitis E Outbreak

The Hepatitis E Virus is a very serious disease that is transmitted through water. This disease is most prevalent in developing countries where the water supply is less than adequate and sanitation is poor. The South Sudanese outbreak was first reported in the large city of Western Bahr el-Ghazal. From March to April of 2023, there were 91 suspected cases of HEV coming from Wau, a city in northwestern South Sudan.<sup>12</sup> It should be noted that this disease is only known to affect people with certain genotypes, with one of them being the people residing in sub saharan Africa. This makes the disease much more dangerous for those in South Sudan, as they are more likely to catch and spread HEV.

The mortality rate for HEV is over 5%, and the disease mostly affects men. Symptoms for this disease can last from 1-6 weeks, and symptoms can get very severe. It is suspected that there are even more cases that have gone undocumented, as many people do not have access to healthcare and cannot afford to go to a hospital. Additionally, not everyone has access to the blood test which can confirm whether someone has the disease. It is known that the spread of the disease is often connected with refugees and internally displaced peoples, due to the close confinement of camps and worsened health of individuals. The Bentiu Internally Displaced Persons Camp has shown some of the most severe spread of the disease, with several sectors of the population of 107,000 being affected. This hotspot of HEV poses additional threats beyond the camp, as the very large number of individuals with the disease causes a high likelihood for it

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<sup>12</sup> “Acute Hepatitis E – South Sudan.” *World Health Organization*,

[www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON466](http://www.who.int/emergencies/disease-outbreak-news/item/2023-DON466). Accessed 15 June 2023.

to be spread to neighboring countries. Many refugee camps are related to nearby countries, making international spreadability very easy.

Flooding also has a major impact on disease transmission. First of all, flooding results in contaminated water, increasing the chance for it to contain diseases. Additionally, in the face of flooding, many people are forced to leave their homes and migrate elsewhere. With this, many people congregate into one area such as a refugee camp, causing the disease transmission to increase drastically. This has been seen in many refugee camps throughout the country, such as the Yusuf Batil camp.

The World Health Organization plays a major role in this issue, and they have tried to help out in the situation. They have focused on disease surveillance and catching the disease at earlier times. This ensures that people can get care as soon as possible, and also establishes that the source can be found sooner, resulting in less harm. Organizations have also promoted education to help bring awareness to those at risk of HEV, like providing information on proper handwashing techniques.<sup>13</sup> The World Health Organization prioritizes the implementation of educational techniques and surveillance measures, but does not propose specific clinical practices to help patients with the disease. This particular situation represents how prevalent health care issues are in South Sudan, and how there is a need for specific resources. In terms of organization and communication, this situation demonstrates a need for better transmission of solutions. This also indicates the benefits that publication of the conflict can have for the country.

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<sup>13</sup> Kennar, Audrey. "Republic of South Sudan Hepatitis E Outbreak." *Outbreak Observatory*, 6 Jan. 2022, [www.outbreakobservatory.org/outbreakthursday-1/1/6/2022/republic-of-south-sudan-hepatitis-e-outbreak](http://www.outbreakobservatory.org/outbreakthursday-1/1/6/2022/republic-of-south-sudan-hepatitis-e-outbreak).

## V. Guiding Questions

1. How can the government effectively implement policies to prevent violence and backlash from ethnic groups? How can the government work with the international community to allow for this to happen?
2. How can South Sudan effectively work to combat food shortage and food insecurity situations, and how can they be prevented in the future?
3. How can the South Sudanese government and the international community deal with the massive refugee population within and around South Sudan's boundaries?
4. How can South Sudan work with organizations to improve available healthcare? How can the government work to prevent generational health issues?
5. What programs can be used to help address the repercussions from natural disasters within the nation, like flooding and drought, and how adequate resources can be provided during these events?
6. Considering South Sudan has dealt with many instances of corruption and abuses of power, what methods can be used to make the South Sudanese government more transparent and create a system able to make effective decisions?

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## Topic B: The Situation in Kosovo

### I. Background

The Balkan Region of Southeastern Europe has been plagued with conflict between ethnic groups throughout all of contemporary history. However, most recently, tensions between the country of Serbia and the disputed country of Kosovo have flared, mainly due to Serbia's unwillingness to recognize Kosovo as its own independent nation.<sup>14</sup> Kosovo was once an autonomous province of Serbia, alongside Vojvodina, but on February 17, 2008, Kosovo declared its independence.<sup>15</sup> Whilst a multitude of factors influenced this decision, one of the primary reasons Kosovo declared independence from Serbia is due to religion and population demographics. Kosovo's population is dominated by 90% ethnic Albanians, while only 6% ethnic Serbs and 2% ethnic Bosniaks inhabit the disputed country.<sup>16</sup> Given that a majority of Albanians practice Islam, and Albanians make up a majority of Kosovo's population, Kosovo has become a very Islamic driven nation. Meanwhile, a majority of the Serbian population are Orthodox Christians, resulting in religious conflict between the two ethnic groups.<sup>17</sup> Overall, the tensions between Serbia and Kosovo stem from the differences in the ways of life between the

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<sup>14</sup> AJLabs. "Which Countries Recognise Kosovo's Statehood?" *Al Jazeera*, 17 Feb. 2023, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/2/17/mapping-the-countries-that-recognise-kosovo-as-a-state-2>.

<sup>15</sup> "Kosovo - Countries - Office of the Historian." *State.gov*, <https://history.state.gov/countries/kosovo>. Accessed 22 June 2023.

<sup>16</sup> *State.gov*, <https://2009-2017.state.gov/outofdate/bgn/kosovo/104221.htm#:~:text=Ethnic%20groups%3A%2090%25%20ethnic%20Albanians,communities%20are%20adherents%20of%20Islam>. Accessed 22 June 2023.

<sup>17</sup> "Population: Demographic Situation, Languages and Religions." *Europa.Eu*, <https://eurydice.eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-education-systems/serbia/population-demographic-situation-languages-and-religions>. Accessed 22 June 2023.

ethnic groups that make up a majority of the population. Many Kosovans do not feel ethnically Serbian and do not want to live as a part of Serbia, causing a surge in feelings for their own sovereign nation. However, Serbia, who views Kosovo as their rightful territory and a part of their nation, does not recognize Kosovo's independence and is still fighting for Kosovo to remain a part of Serbia, twenty five years after Kosovo declared independence.

Fighting first began between Kosovo and Serbia in 1998, back when Serbia was a member state of the now dissolved Yugoslavia. The first action came when The Kosovo Liberation Army, or KLA, led an independence movement against the Yugoslav military. The KLA was an Albanian-backed guerilla fighter group, and they targeted Serbian government officials and police in attempts to break Serbia's control over the Kosovo region. However, this quickly spiraled into a large-scale war, as NATO and the United Nations quickly got involved to try to resolve the conflict. With the help of NATO air raids and long bombing campaigns on Serbian land and its infrastructure, Kosovo was able to hold its own against the larger Yugoslavia. Overtime, actions from NATO and specific member states led to larger publicity to the war, and thus, a larger split between those siding with Kosovo, and those siding with Serbia. The NATO air raids and bombings were heavily scrutinized by the international community, and actions such as the United States unintentionally ordering the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Serbia have caused nations such as China, Russia, Spain, Cyprus, and a handful of others to side with Serbia. Overall, the Kosovo War best represents the history of violence and fighting that is packaged within Serbia-Kosovo relations. While the war ended in 1999, mainly due to the United Nations and NATO's involvement, tensions and violence in the region have persisted

despite a peace deal being brokered. The peace deal ensured the removal of troops between both NATO and Yugoslavia from the region, eventually clearing the path for Kosovo declaring independence nine years later in 2008.<sup>18</sup> However, despite all of the steps taken by NATO and the international community, conflict still reigns supreme, largely due to lingering and unresolved tensions from the war. The war also left Kosovo devastated and underdeveloped, as the country had to focus on supporting their war effort through most of their sovereign existence, leaving the rest of their infrastructure severely lacking in quality.

One of the main reasons for unresolved tensions from the Kosovo War are the war crimes committed by Serbia, however, NATO and the KLA are not innocent either. Serbian government forces expelled nearly 863,000 ethnic Albanians from Kosovo, and more than eighty percent of the entire population of Kosovo— as well as roughly ninety percent of Kosovar Albanians—were displaced from their homes. On top of this displacement, areas with historic ties to the KLA underwent obscene horrors due to the Serbian government’s aims to crush the rebellion. The municipalities of Glogovac and Srbica in the Drenica region of Kosovo were subject to multiple massacres of civilians, arbitrary detentions, torture, and the systematic destruction of homes and other civilian property. The southwestern municipalities of Djakovica, Orahovac, and Suva Reka, all of which supported the KLA, were subject to mass killings, forced expulsions, and the destruction of civilian property. The Serbian Government committed these atrocities under the veil of hunting out the supporters of the KLA, causing many present day Albanians and

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<sup>18</sup> The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. “Kosovo Conflict.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 22 June 2023.

Kosovans to have resentment towards Serbia. This is just part of what the Serbian government did to Kosovo throughout the war, as other regions and populations were targeted throughout the war. Also, the Serbian government is responsible for the rape of Kosovar Albanian women, as rape was often used as a way to instill fear within a town's population during its invasion. However, Kosovo and NATO are not innocent themselves, as the NATO bombing campaigns killed thousands of civilians, and actions by the KLA resulted in the deaths of Serbian officials.<sup>19</sup> Kosovo citizens have a long standing grudge against Serbia due to these war crimes, and the unforgivable atrocities have given Kosovo its platform for resentment. Likewise, Serbia is still mad at NATO and Kosovo for the bomb raids and the killing of their officials, fueling their decision to not recognize Kosovo's independence. The history of war crimes committed by both sides have fueled tensions dramatically in the present day, with a more recent flare up in May and June of 2023. Election boycotts among the Northern border by ethnic Serbs have led to the Kosovar police force being called upon to quell the protest. However, the police are abusing their power in dealing with these protests and are using unnecessary violence, which only fuels the long-lasting hatred between both sides.

With the P5 Nations (United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) not unified on supporting one side, the situation in Kosovo has become an increasingly important issue within the International Community. A majority of powerful Western nations have shown their support for Kosovo over the years and recognized their independence, while a majority of Asia, South America, and some outliers in Europe such as Spain and Greece refuse to. The

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<sup>19</sup> Abrahams, Fred. *Under Orders*. Human Rights Watch, 2001.

situation in Kosovo has led to a divide in world powers and with tensions seeming to rise exponentially in the region again, intervention from global powers could blow the scale of the conflict out of proportion. Despite the fact that Serbia no longer has any administrative control over Kosovo, and Kosovo operates similarly to any other sovereign country, Serbia still claims Kosovo as a part of itself and has shown no reason for relinquishing those claims.

## **II. UN Involvement**

The United Nations has been heavily involved in Kosovo since the Kosovo War ended in 1999. The United Nations established the United Nations Kosovo Team, or the UNKT. The UNKT is a combination of UN entities, agencies, funds and affiliates, and is staffed with individuals from Kosovo and abroad. The UNKT is committed to Agenda 2030, which is a plan of action for people, the planet, and prosperity that attempts to ensure sustainable usage of resources, an end to poverty, and the creation of living environments that are free and fair to all around the world.<sup>20</sup> The UNKT has worked over the years in Kosovo, helping it blossom into a democratic, independent, and sustainable nation. They have worked to establish free and fair judiciary systems, lift people out of poverty, create fairer laws for all people and all genders, and establish education systems to ensure future participation of citizens in government. The United Nations's work in Kosovo is still very much ongoing, however the Cooperation Framework bill is projected to help Kosovo drastically. The Cooperation Framework aims to support progress towards sustainable development in Kosovo anchored around the Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs, in line with government and regional integration priorities. If passed, it could

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<sup>20</sup> "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." *A New Era in Global Health*, Springer Publishing Company, 2018.

greatly help Kosovo get on track with the sustainable development targets that the UN set.<sup>21</sup> The stability set forth by the UNKT will also help quell violence in the region, as the peacekeepers that the UN has sent to Kosovo in the past have not been so effective. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, or UNMIK, has just 352 total personnel, and only 18 either UN police officers or military observers.<sup>22</sup> Development from the UNKT may finally bring peace to this region, as the UN's past actions have unfortunately failed to do so. The UN, through the UNKT, has greatly helped Kosovo develop and survive as an independent, hopefully peaceful nation that no longer can rely on Serbia.

Additionally, the UN has successfully implemented the Action For Peacekeeping agenda, or A4P agenda, into Kosovo. The A4P agenda greatly enhances the effectiveness of peacekeepers, and is mainly being implemented in “frozen” conflict zones, or conflicts that are in a state of armistice while a political situation is being debated. In Kosovo, the A4P agenda has helped ensure gender equality in governmental decisions and policies, promoting female participation in politics and allowing for the female voice to be heard in peace processes. A4P, alongside the UN Mission in Kosovo, has inspired civilian participation in Town Hall debates within Kosovo regarding a vast array of issues. The debates are televised and feature constructive discussion, greatly boosting the importance of issues within Kosovo and ensuring that everyone has access to legislative procedures.<sup>23</sup> This in turn helps fight corruption, as

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<sup>21</sup> “The UN in Kosovo.” *The UN in Kosovo | The United Nations in Kosovo*, <https://kosovoteam.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>. Accessed 23 June 2023.

<sup>22</sup> “UNMIK.” United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmik>. Accessed 18 Sept. 2023.

<sup>23</sup> Sharma, Pushkar M. “How Has the UN Mission in Kosovo Delivered on Action for Peacekeeping?” *IPI Global Observatory*, 22 Jan. 2020, <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2020/01/how-has-unmik-delivered-on-action-for-peacekeeping/>.



televising debates can help ensure that the will of the people is being represented and that no shady governmental procedures are occurring during the law-making process. Despite the UN's best efforts, however, corruption still runs rampant in Kosovo, as they scored a 56/100 on the Freedom House's corruption test, with a 25/40 on political rights and 31/60 on civil liberties. Even though improvement is necessary, through the UN Mission in Kosovo and the A4P agenda, the United Nations has greatly helped the stability of Kosovo and its government.

### **III. Topics to Consider**

#### **A. The Ethnic Serbian Population Within Kosovo**

While a majority of Kosovo is populated by Albanian Muslims, there are pockets of Orthodox Catholic Serbs that still live within Kosovo. They mainly reside on the northern border between Serbia and Kosovo. In May of 2023, the Kosovo government took control of municipal buildings in Leposavić, Zvečan, Zubin Potok, and Severna Mitrovica, which are the four northern Serb-majority municipalities within Kosovo. This prompted a response from the ethnic Serbs in the area, and eventually led to violent protests before the United States backed peacekeeping force KFOR intervened. Kosovo was blamed for the attack and was sanctioned by the United States as a result, and NATO increased ground support by 700 troops as a result of the incident.<sup>24</sup> Overall, the ethnic Serbian population and the controversies that arise from it are very important to consider. Northern Kosovo, being ethnically Serbian in a conflict that has happened primarily due to ethnic groups and their differences, is resisting the Kosovo government and their

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<sup>24</sup> "Behind the Renewed Troubles in Northern Kosovo." *Crisisgroup.org*, 7 June 2023, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/behind-renewed-troubles-europe-balkans-northern-kosovo>.

policies. The hostile takeovers of their local legislative bodies also encourages some form of international response, as the Kosovar government should be held accountable for inciting conflict. Finally, violent protests and nationalist outbreaks often leave people injured, property destroyed, and resources spent. It is imperative to address this issue and ensure the safety and well-being of all people in Kosovo without upsetting either government. Solutions must be found to not only ensure that the ethnic Serbs will not have their way of life threatened, but also that Kosovo will be able to keep the northern part of their country. Also, ensuring that local governments remain free and fair to all, no matter what ethnic group a person is from, should be an utmost priority of the international community.

## B. Humanitarian Aid

With tensions flaring between both Kosovo and Serbia– the lives of civilians, troops, and peacekeepers are being put at risk. As a result of the northern border protests by ethnic Serbs, twenty five NATO peacekeepers were injured and in need of humanitarian support.<sup>25</sup> Balkan states are also notorious for committing terrible war crimes, such as Serbia’s orchestration of the ethnic cleansing in Bosnia in 1999, Serbia’s actions in Kosovo during the Kosovo War, and Croatia’s malpractices at the Jasenovac concentration camp during World War Two, where human remains were converted into soap.<sup>26</sup> The Balkan region’s dark history in committing war crimes and general atrocities establishes the fact that if a major war were to ever break out

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<sup>25</sup> Radul Radovanovic, Associated Press, and Llazar Semini, Associated Press. “25 NATO-Led Peacekeepers Injured in Kosovo amid Ethnic Tensions.” *PBS NewsHour*, 29 May 2023, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/25-nat0-led-peacekeepers-injured-in-kosovo-amid-ethnic-tensions>.

<sup>26</sup> “Grim Soapy Crimes.” *Really Wild Soap Company*, 3 Sept. 2019, <https://reallywildsoap.co.uk/grim-soapy-crimes/soapy-news/>.

between Serbia and Kosovo, there must be an immense humanitarian effort to oppose actions that both governments may take. Not to mention that currently, civilians within Kosovo– whether they be ethnically Serbian or Albanian– require aid as a result of the recent uptick in violent attacks and protests. Overall, providing humanitarian aid for those affected by conflict in Kosovo is necessary for the survival and general well-being of the country’s population. Kosovo is still fighting for both international recognition amongst global powers and also for the conclusion of Serbian intervention within its borders. Until Kosovo reaches both of these goals, their fight for true sovereignty will continue, and it is imperative that the international community supplies them with humanitarian aid whenever they may need it. Having a plan for humanitarian aid that can both address the current victims of violent protests, as well as victims of potential future conflicts within Kosovo, is very important and should be considered.

### C. Corruption Within Kosovo

If Kosovo wants to survive on its own as a sovereign nation without constant assistance from NATO and the United Nations, the issue of corruption within the government and the country must be fixed. Currently, with the situation in Kosovo, many nations within the international community are calling for Kosovo to be fully recognized by Serbia and its allies, and also for the international bodies like the UN and NATO to allow Kosovo to foster its own growth. However, Kosovo lacks the political and social infrastructure necessary to survive as its own nation. This lack of proper infrastructure leads to issues within the Kosovar education sector, seen when three universities established between 2009 and 2015 lost their accreditation due to the poor quality of their curriculums and administrative failures. On top of that, the

Kosovar government is historically weak and subject to heavy influence from countries such as Russia, China, and Türkiye, as well as wealthy elites. Also, certain religious groups are forbidden from registering as legal entities, and many minority groups face discrimination in education and the workplace. Finally, the four anti corruption bodies that operate in Kosovo have duties that overlap, making them ineffective, uncoordinated, and rather useless.<sup>27</sup> Overall, Kosovo is generally lacking in a lot of societal and political areas, making improving them an important topic to focus on. While stopping conflict and ensuring peace within Kosovo should come first, it is also important to focus on improving the life of its citizens. Improving the anti corruption bodies, education system, and introducing more inclusive policies into Kosovo would help improve life within the country drastically. In order to ensure that Kosovo can survive on its own and without the help of Serbia, the quality of their institutions must be improved.

#### **IV. Case Study: The Northern Border**

The most pressing issue in the Kosovo-Serbia situation is what is occurring on the northern border of Kosovo, where a large population of ethnic Serbs live. The Kosovar government has been met with fierce resistance from the Northern Serbs that live in the country, as the population acts out against any policy they view as against their ways. The northern part of Kosovo feels like they should be a part of Serbia, even though they live in the region of Kosovo. While the Kosovo government may be able to share these sentiments with the ethnic Serbs in the north, as Kosovo broke away from Serbia for the same reasons, the Kosovo government has not shown any signs of seceding the territory to Serbia. The northern border of Kosovo has become a

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<sup>27</sup> House, Freedom. *Kosovo*. Freedom House, 2022.

point of high contention in the conflict between Serbia and Kosovo, and recent events have shown how dangerous it is along the border.

Tensions on the border were heightened when recently, Kosovo's police raided Serb-dominated areas in the region's north and seized local municipality buildings. The Kosovo police force, commanded by the Kosovar government and supported by NATO peacekeepers, have had violent encounters with the ethnic Serbs in the areas where the municipality buildings were seized. The police were sent in to respond to the Serbian population's boycott of the elections that landed Albanian mayors in charge of the ethnically Serbian towns in the north. In response to the boycott protests, the police used tear gas to break up the protestors. Serb officials collectively resigned right before the protests as well, fueling the need for protest in the eyes of the ethnic Serbs.<sup>28</sup> Violence along the northern border of Kosovo has sparked up tensions between Kosovo and Serbia once again, as both parties have shown repeatedly that they are ready to go to war again over the disputed territory.

The northern border not only dealt with outrage from a boycotted election, but also with Serbian police officers arresting three policemen from Kosovo. Serbia claims that the policemen crossed the border and were arrested upon entry, while Kosovo argues that they were arrested from within Kosovo's borders.<sup>29</sup> This dispute between the two countries has only worsened

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<sup>28</sup> Stojanovic, Dusan, and Associated Press. "Why Tensions Are Flaring between Kosovo and Serbia." *PBS NewsHour*, 29 May 2023,

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/why-tensions-are-flaring-between-kosovo-and-serbia>.

<sup>29</sup> "No Breakthrough as EU's Borrell Holds Crisis Talks with Kosovo, Serbia Leaders." *Reuters*, Reuters, 22 June 2023,

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/no-breakthrough-eus-borrell-holds-crisis-talks-with-kosovo-serbia-leaders-2023-06-22/>.

tensions, and there is an apparent lack of trust between them both.. While third party organizations, such as the European Union, are working hard to broker a peace deal between the two sides and prevent war from breaking out, neither side seems willing to compromise. The tensions along the northern border represent a fuse for the dynamite that represents war. If either country addresses the issue of the unhappy Serbian population in northern Kosovo, it will likely be seen as an act of escalation and result in some sort of response from the other party. Tensions are at the highest they have been in a while due to the issues on the northern border, and it is up to the international community to provide solutions and create peace amongst the long-time warring nations.

## **V. Guiding Questions**

1. How can Kosovo create a government that allows for the small Serb ethnic majority areas to have ethnic autonomy while maintaining a functional and effective government?  
Should the central government focus more on centralization with the ethnic majority or decentralization with the ethnic minorities?
2. How can Kosovo maintain good enough relations with the Serbian government while implementing new policies for ethnic Serb majority areas within Kosovo?
3. How can Kosovo create a system of fair representation within their governing body for the ethnic minority Serbs?
4. How can the international community pressure or influence the situation in Kosovo so that even a possible conflict between Serbia and Kosovo can be halted.

5. What can Kosovo and Serbia do to fix their territorial disputes and ethnic tensions without conflict or violence.

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