

African Union

*Novice
Specialized*



TOPIC: Rise of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria

LAIMUN XXVIII

CHAIRS: Marlowe Hutter, Sadie Lee

December 3-4

LAIMUN XXVIII

Letter from the Secretariat

3

Introduction to the USG

4

Introduction to the Dais

5

Committee Description

7

Topic: Rise of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria

9

LAIMUN XXVIII

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Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXVIII of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXVIII will take place on Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4 of 2022 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 100 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 25 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, December 1 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,

Allyssa Lessinger and Brady Stephens
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXVIII
secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org



Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Izzy Hory and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXVIII! I am the Undersecretary-General of the Specialized Branch this year and cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

This is my fourth year in the Model UN class at Mira Costa, and I can confidently say that everyone in the program has worked super hard to make the 2022 conference a success.

With that being said, 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.

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.

Don't forget to do your research 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! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXVIII website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of Luck,
Izzy Hory
Under-Secretaries General

Introduction to Dais

Hi Delegates!

I'm Marlowe Hutter and I'm super excited to be chairing the African Union Novice at LAIMUN XXVIII along with my co-chair Sadie! I'm currently a junior at Mira Costa and this is my third year of Model UN. I have attended many fun conferences like BMUN, and was the legal in 6th Legal Advanced at last year's LAIMUN!

Aside from MUN, I am on the girls Tennis Team, in the Costa grammy-award winning band, a member of the Jewish Cultural Club, and am on the leadership board in the BCHD Youth Advisory Council. I also started a club called iAct for Refugees this year. A fun fact about me is that I play 5 instruments: the flute, the piccolo, the piano, the guitar, and the ukulele! I love all aspects of music and a variety of different artists. A few of my favorites are Billy Joel, J. Cole, Taylor Swift, and Whitney Houston. I also love traveling to new places, hanging out with my friends, going on sunset bike rides and drives, and looking for cool experiences everywhere I go.

In African Union Novice, we are looking for multifaceted solutions that are applicable to all aspects of the discussed topics. Thoroughly researching your country's policy and using it to your advantage in debate is a great tool to have under your belt as you continue advancing in MUN. Work on understanding the topic in its entirety and coming up with realistic solutions; this will make you stand out during the conference! We look forward to seeing you all and hearing your unique, intricate solutions! Best of luck to you!

Warm regards,

Marlowe Hutter

Hello Delegates!

My name is Sadie Lee and I am a co-chair for the African Union in LAIMUN XXVIII! I am a sophomore at Mira Coast where I have been part of the Model UN program for two years. Last year, I participated in multiple local conferences at Edison and Laimun. I also participated in a travel conference and debated at UC Davis.

Outside of MUN, I enjoy playing sports like soccer and basketball and I am part of the Mira Costa girls basketball team. I also love to paint and draw when time allows. In school, I am part of the Asian American club, National Art Society, and the Conversations on Chocolate club where we help fundraise money for women in need. I love food, listening to music and watching movies (my favorite is La La Land). Some of my favorite music artists are Taylor Swift, Declan Mckenna and Phoebe Bridgers.

In the African Union, we tried to pick relevant issues that are of great importance, and would have dimension and layers in debate while also having an impact on the international community. We look forward to hearing your creative solutions and ideas for the topic and don't hesitate to reach out to me and Marlowe if you have any questions or concerns!

Best of luck,

Sadie Lee

Committee Description

The African Union (AU), a body that consists of fifty-five African member states and where its headquarters is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is an intergovernmental organization that works to promote international support and development. Prior to its creation, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established in the 1960's with the main goal being to support the libertarian movements in Africa. Aside from this, the OAU also worked directly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and ensured that the heads of each of the African state governments would meet annually to discuss certain pressing issues pertaining to the entire African continent.¹ In the OAU charter, the ideals surrounding justice, equality, dignity, and freedom were written by the charter's creators in order to ensure that the unity of African Americans was protected. The OAU also promoted cooperation internationally through their commitment to addressing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In 2002, the OAU was replaced by the AU, an organization dedicated to promoting peace within Africa such as through their previous enactment of a Peace and Security Council just two whole years after its establishment.² Peacekeepers have been deployed to different African countries, such as Burundi and South Sudan, to mitigate violence and various direct attacks within these areas. The AU also located different areas of conflict, through partnership with the UNHCR to address various refugee-related issues. In regards to the structure of the AU, it consists of a Chairman who is chosen annually, an Assembly which is the primary body of

¹ "About the African Union." About the African Union | African Union, 14 Oct. 2021, <https://au.int/en/overview>.

² "African Union." Encyclopædia Britannica, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-Union>.

decision-making, an Executive Council that is made up of foreign ministers, and finally a Commission that contains ten commissioners. Each leadership position serves a crucial role in maintaining the security of Africa.³

³ “Profile: African Union.” BBC News, BBC, 24 Aug. 2017, <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-16910745>.

Topic: Rise of Boko Haram in Northeast Nigeria

I. Background

Boko Haram, also referred to as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, is an Islamic organization based in Maiduguri, Nigeria, in 2002 by Muhammad Yusuf. Their reach encompasses a massive region of West Africa, mainly within Northern Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Chad. The organization arose with initial intentions to resist Western education but advanced in 2009 with the agency launching its first militaristic operations. The violent acts of resistance included bombing police stations and different government buildings in Maiduguri, Northeastern Nigeria. Since then, their scope of operations has expanded to all bodies, authorities, and the public who support or tolerate the Western style of living. With their actions and viewpoints turning into something more radical, their effect grew significantly to broaden their movement to different countries and strengthen the movement inside the vicinity where they were founded. The group manages regions of Southern Chad and Niger, where the government has little influence. Individuals of the organization no longer hesitate to apply violence to resist governments that tolerate the Western way of life. It is believed that people, especially young men, are often convinced to join the organization because poverty, weak family structures, unemployment, and illiteracy make them vulnerable. Preachers of Boko Haram portray the government as weak and corrupt through extreme religious teachings that then make it easy to train and recruit young men into committing a range of acts for the organization. Governments are working to decrease the strength of insurgency by addressing the things that make young men vulnerable to be recruited.

In September 2019, Boko Haram claimed an attack on a military base in Koudougou, Burkina Faso, which brought about the death of 24 soldiers. Boko Haram has shown relentless conduct toward UN bodies that help or tolerate Western values. The affiliation is infamous for committing acts of terrorism directed toward schools and different associations with Western culture. The overarching message the group desires to carry is that "Western training is a Sin". To preserve this ideology, Boko Haram poses a looming threat to all students searching for schooling, with children as a primary target. One Al Jazeera correspondent asserted, "Boko Haram targets schools because they are soft targets. And they represent everything the group is against—Western education, lifestyle, and civilization."⁴ Boko Haram is responsible for bombing a secondary school in Potiskum, Nigeria, resulting in 50 students losing their lives and maiming numerous others. The intentions of this act arose from the faculty's non-quranic teachings. The group has orchestrated radical acts of violence directed toward schools in succession to this one. Just a year before this attack, Boko Haram is believed to be responsible for an assault on a high school in Momodu, killing 42 students and the cumulative loss of 70 teachers and more than two hundred homes.⁵

Even though sites of the Western training style are their primary target, their effect is not restrained to these regions. Boko Haram prospers in areas where the government's impact is constrained and where they are trying to obtain the position as a governmental body over the

⁴Al Jazeera. "Boko Haram: No School for Millions of Nigerian Children." *Boko Haram News* | *Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 29 Sept. 2017,

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/9/29/more-than-half-of-borno-schools-closed-over-boko-haram>.

⁵ *April 2020 from Western Education Is Forbidden to the World ... - Brookings*.

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/FP_20200507_nigeria_boko_haram_afzal.pdf.

ordinary people in these regions. For example, they are based in rural Northern Nigeria compared to the Southern areas, which are under more impact from the authorities. With a lack of government intervention in areas of operation, participants no longer hesitate to start aggressive movements if one violates their ideologies of resisting Western beliefs. In 2014, members of Boko Haram were responsible for the death of 6,600 people, most coming from shootings or bombings.⁶ The same year, the institution abducted 276 young ladies attending school. The state of affairs became even more unpleasant in 2015 when Boko Haram pledged its allegiance to the Islamic nation and renamed itself the Islamic nation West Africa Province (ISWAP)⁷. This new renaming did not stick because, in August 2016, a leadership dispute started. In the end, this brought about the enterprise's splitting, and factions were shaped. One faction maintains to function underneath ISWAP, and the alternative faction reformed into Boko Haram. Even though Boko Haram is separated in two, it has not stopped creating conflict in West Africa. Links between Boko Haram and other Islamist groups further intensify national security issues. After the institution pledged allegiance to the Islamic country in March 2015, America boosted its army assistance. It deployed 300 troops to Nigeria, a meaningful way to assist in the combat against Boko Haram. As the most influential African oil manufacturer, the state of Nigeria's stability is critical to local protection and U.S. monetary hobbies.

As of 5 years later, in 2019, only 107 of those girls had been released, and the rest were held captive via the defense force or deemed missing. The terrorist group used these women as

⁶ "Conflict with Boko Haram in Nigeria." *Global Conflict Tracker*, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/boko-haram-nigeria. Accessed 18 June 2022.

⁷ Adibe, Jideofor. "Explaining the Emergence of Boko Haram." *Brookings*, Brookings, 9 July 2018, <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2014/05/06/explaining-the-emergence-of-boko-haram/>.

leverage in opposition to governments, threatening the girls in exchange for restrained government intervention. With help from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger, the Nigerian army has successfully pushed Boko Haram out of several provinces in Northeastern Nigeria. However, the institution maintains control over some villages and territories and hasn't ceased to launch lethal suicide assaults and abduct civilians, typically women and children. Through the use of corrupt methods along with the Chibok ladies' kidnappings, Boko Haram remains a consistent threat in many areas of Africa.

II. UN Involvement

Boko Haram has posed an overwhelming threat for 18 years, and horrific acts performed under their name have caught international attention. The organization has deeply concerned the United Nations body UNICEF because the group tended to target and use children in their attacks. One Chadian child recalls being "drugged and forced alongside three others to put on a pack of explosives."⁸ The Islamic group has continuously proven itself to be a capable threat, targeting the lives of anyone associating themselves with Western culture. By using violence to oppose these beliefs, which are commonly embraced among many members of the UN, Boko Haram establishes itself as a top priority in United Nations' affairs.

Boko Haram's impacts make contributions to different significant problems which are regularly occurring in West Africa. This is the Lake Chad Basin disaster, proving to be one of the most critical humanitarian emergencies in the world. The Security Council issued resolution S/RES/2349 in 2017, which calls on the affected international locations to make efforts to

⁸ "Documents." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/our-work/documents>.

decrease investments that regard or boost terrorist agencies. One of the corporations especially mentioned is Boko Haram, which installed itself as one of the leading causes of the wave of 2.5 million displaced humans. The Security Council prioritizes tackling Boko Haram in its efforts to relieve the disaster within the Lake Chad Basin Region. The file emphasizes the need for cooperation among the UN and government militaries and encourages more militaristic intervention toward the terrorist organization. Similar to this, the resolution also reaffirms the goals of global peace that terrorist corporations put a strain on and strongly condemns the inhumane actions that Boko Haram continues to inflict upon Western Africa.

The large displacement and shortage of government resources in the Lake Chad Basin may be traced to Boko Haram and its control over the area. The organization is infamous for posing threats toward innocent civilians and the use of bombings to place superiority over neighboring governments. In January 2020, a humanitarian center in Northeast Nigeria was set on fire and burned to the ground by Boko Haram. This extreme violation of peace and protection struck the attention of the UN, who've made efforts to offer humanitarian aid within the area previously. Only one year before the assaults, the UNHCR partnered with the UN Development Programme to set up the 2019 Refugee Response Plan, also called the RRRP. This software was designed to raise the budget for the overpowering range of refugees inside the Lake Chad Basin, who are also under harsh, violent manipulation of Boko Haram. Humanitarian troubles have also arisen from Western Africa's conflicts, with many not immediately impacted being left in extreme psychological need. The humanitarian plan issued in 2019 cannot continue, as Boko Haram acts adversely towards any form of international intervention, particularly those of the

UN who conduct themselves under Western Ideologies. For almost two decades, Boko Haram has directly defied the general goals of peace set by the United Nations. Further, more serious actions are needed to eradicate Boko Haram's risks.

III. Topics to Consider

A. Aiding Refugees and Other Displaced People

Boko Haram has left many Africans displaced and in desperate need of aid. These people resulted from Boko Haram burning down, looting villages, and attacking innocent civilians. 2.7 million people are now displaced because of this terrorist group⁹, and 310,000 have fled to seek refuge in neighboring countries, leaving areas of Africa where Boko Haram operates economically stunted and with broken infrastructure.

These displaced people lack basic things like access to medical attention, food, water, and access to maternal care. This is because of Boko Haram's destruction of infrastructures like hospitals and schools, causing a lack of education for the youth, which closes off opportunities for them, one of the reasons young people turn to these terrorist groups. The destruction of these institutions has caused more than 10.7 million people in the Lake Chad Basin region to rely on international humanitarian aid heavily. The civilians whose villages have been attacked by Boko Haram now do not have a home or shelter and most likely lack a source of income. The lack of income and shelter has made these people vulnerable and in need of help in the aftermath of Boko Haram and has drastically affected Africa's economy. Boko Haram has also caused a food crisis, with 7 million people facing the risk of starvation because of the poor access to food.

⁹ "Root Causes of Boko Haram Threat in Lake Chad Basin Must Be Tackled – Un Political Chief | 反恐怖主义办公室." *United Nations*, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/zh/node/13829>.

B. Rebuilding of Infrastructure in Nigeria

The terrorism of Boko Haram often takes form in the destruction of villages and cities in Africa through burning and murder. The destruction removes access to essential resources like schools and medical access like hospitals. It also takes away many people's homes and livelihoods, with many people in these areas of Africa relying on their growth of crops for income and a source of food.

Nigeria only has a literacy rate of 62%, falling far behind the global average of 86%. Boko Haram has destroyed half of the schools in northeast Nigeria, in addition to the destruction of the health system in Nigeria.¹⁰ The children are also being forced to flee out of fear of Boko Haram, with 1 million being forced from their homes, stunting their education. Boko Haram is also estimated to have killed over 2,200 teachers and shut down over 2,000 schools in Nigeria and Mali. The school had also become an unsafe place with common instances of the abduction and kidnapping of young children from their schools, an instance of this being when 276 girls were abducted from their boarding school in April of 2014.

Northeastern Nigeria already had a weak healthcare system, but Boko Haram has shattered it. Boko Haram has destroyed 788 healthcare facilities, killed 48 workers, and injured an additional 250. Northeastern Nigeria has lost over 40% of its healthcare facilities and 35% of its healthcare workers¹¹. Of the remaining facilities, only a third are still operational. This has caused disease breakout in northeastern Nigeria because of the overpopulated refugee camps and

¹⁰“Literacy Rate, Adult Total (% of People Ages 15 and above) - Nigeria.” *Data*, <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SE.ADT.LITR.ZS?locations=NG>.

¹¹“Boko Haram's Deadly Impact.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/article/boko-harams-deadly-impact>.

villages. It has also resulted in people who suffered from injuries related to Boko Haram not getting the medical attention they need. This has also made maternal care almost nonexistent in these areas because of the severe lack of healthcare infrastructure.

The destruction of agriculture in northeastern Nigeria by Boko Haram is also a significant blow to the region's infrastructure. Agriculture is a source of income and livelihood for most areas and supplies everyone with food. However, because of the destruction of agriculture, many people lack a source of income and employment and malnutrition and starvation rates in Northeastern Nigeria have skyrocketed because of the destruction of the agriculture infrastructure. This has caused region-wide high starvation rates and very severe malnutrition.

C. Government Corruption

One of the reasons Boko Haram is still operational to this day in Northeastern Nigeria is because of the high levels of corruption in the Nigerian Government. Nigeria has been considered one of the most corrupt countries by the international community and Nigerians. The corruption has allowed Boko Haram to terrorize the Northeastern Region of Nigeria continuously.

There are high levels of police corruption, which has allowed Boko Haram to continue its reign in the countryside of Northeast Nigeria. The deterioration of the police also resulted in the exposure that the Nigerian police had been selling Boko Haram guns and other weapons in February 2016¹². The police have historically been undertrained, which results in the Nigerian

¹² Press, Associated. "Nigerian Military: Some Officers Selling Arms to Boko Haram." *VOA*, Voice of America (VOA News), 4 Sept. 2016, www.voanews.com/a/nigerian-military-some-officers-selling-arms-to-boko-haram/3493038.html.

military having to step into local conflicts. Police are also underpaid, making only 400 dollars a year, which causes them to turn to deals and corruption with organizations like Boko Haram.

There is also high corruption in funds that were supposed to go to Northeast Nigeria to help with the Boko Haram crisis. These funds were going to be used to help rebuild the region's infrastructure by building schools and healthcare facilities while providing food and water; instead, because of the inflation of contracts and the mismanagement of the budget, this money has not been used the way it was supposed to. This corruption has caused money to go away from the infrastructure projects that Northeastern Africa desperately needs. This corruption has stopped the funding for hundreds of infrastructure projects that were set in place to rebuild schools and healthcare facilities.

IV. Case Study: The Taliban

The Taliban is an extremist Islam group that returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021 and first appeared in the early 1990s in northern Pakistan. The group was first in control in Afghanistan until 2001, when the United States led an invasion to retake Afghanistan from the terrorist group because of the refusal to give the United States Osama Bin Laden, the fugitive behind the 9/11 attack on the twin towers. The Taliban has been implementing strict rules, denying children and women healthcare and education. They have banned behavior that has been deemed un-Islamic. The infrastructure has been destroyed, with Afghanistan on the brink of collapse. Poverty rates are higher than ever, waves of malnutrition are flooding the country, the economy is falling because of the Taliban rule, and the Taliban continues to make money through illegal activities like drug trafficking.

The Taliban has caused the displacement of millions in Afghanistan. Their homes are being destroyed, and they rely solely on international humanitarian aid for medical attention and resources like food and water. However, many Western countries are suspending their assistance to Afghanistan in protest of the Taliban's control. This has left many citizens, mainly women, and children, without access to basic humanitarian needs and services, with 20 million people in Afghanistan facing food insecurity and 95% of the Afghans not getting the proper amount of food¹³. The Taliban has also taken away a significant source of Afghan citizens' income by banning the cultivation of opium poppies, a crop that people have turned to in desperate times when they need a source of income. The ban has only sunk people into poverty and hurt the failing economy. The Taliban has also implemented new laws stating that women should not leave the house unless it is an emergency or in other necessary cases. This has caused a significant dent in the Afghan workforce as many of the agriculture workforces were women. The loss of women in the workforce has caused a slow in the agricultural output and food in the country, causing food insecurity across the country. The lack of freedom of movement and impact that this law has on the workforce makes it expected that Afghanistan would lose up to 1 billion dollars in the immediate economy.

Women are being banned from receiving education and classrooms in the area under the Taliban and are being denied enrollment in Afghanistan Universities. The Taliban has recently blocked girls over sixth grade from attending school, cutting off their education once they reach

¹³ “Afghanistan: Economic Crisis Underlies Mass Hunger.” *Human Rights Watch*, 8 Aug. 2022, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/08/04/afghanistan-economic-crisis-underlies-mass-hunger>.

the age of 11.¹⁴ The girls arrived at school earlier that day, March 23, for the first time since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. However, they have only shut out of school again, and the Taliban has not stated when they will be allowed to return. This action defied the promise the Taliban had made to the international community to protect women's rights and provide them with equal access to education. Girls are now forced to study at home. This ban has only slowed the rebuilding and reestablishing of infrastructure in Afghanistan because of the significant loss of half of the population not receiving an education. Women in Afghanistan have also been instructed to keep to their houses unless necessary, restricting their freedom of movement and preventing them from attending school.

The Taliban is currently under investigation by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity against the Afghan people. They have been under investigation ever since March 5, 2020, because of repeated crimes against humanity which are repeated murder, unlawful imprisonment, and deprivation of physical liberties, and their war crimes which consist of attacking civilians, unfair execution, and imprisonment without trial, and the cruel acts of violence and murder in conflicts. These crimes and accusations are the main focus of the International Criminal Court Trial.

¹⁴ Qazizai, Fazelminallah, and Daaa Hadid. "Taliban Reverses Decision, barring Afghan Girls from Attending School beyond 6th Grade." *NPR*, NPR, 23 Mar. 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/03/23/1088202759/taliban-afghanistan-girls-school>.

V. Guiding Questions

1. What roles can developed and developing nations play in the fight against terror in Northeast Nigeria?
2. What actions can be taken by other countries without infringing on national sovereignty?
3. What protective measures can be taken to prevent future attacks by Boko Haram?
4. What measures can be taken to lessen the impact of terrorist attacks on important infrastructure?
5. What measures can be taken to assist nations in recovering from terrorist attacks?
6. What actions can be taken to help assist Nigerians who are suffering from the lack of humanitarian needs because of the impact of Boko Haram?
7. How can nations help reestablish the economy after the terrorist reign?
8. How can nations help rebuild the broken healthcare and education systems caused by the destruction of infrastructure?

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