



DISEC Topic Update

Kashmir

Over the past few months, relations between India and Pakistan have further deteriorated due to the terror attacks which occurred in New Delhi in September. Although these attacks have been largely linked to Al Qaeda, India continues to firmly believe that many of these groups have been trained and harbored in Pakistan. While the Pakistani government denies any affiliation to these attacks, India still remains skeptical. The larger significance of these attacks in India is their underlying message for a Kashmir independent of India. The November 2008 attacks on the Taj Hotel in Bombay, were found to be carried out by a Pakistani terrorist group with the cause of freeing Kashmir at its core. With the help of United States funding and intelligence, the Pakistani government firmly maintains that it does everything to exterminate terrorist groups within its own soil and prevent them from carrying out attacks in other countries, namely India. Meanwhile, the situation in Kashmir has not changed, as all three parties still remain tense and unwilling to come to a compromise.

With regards to recent terrorism in the Indian Subcontinent a few key questions must be taken into consideration: How do the attacks in India affect Indo-Pak relations? How do these attacks affect the willingness of both countries to come to a compromise over the situation in Kashmir? How can the UN help to ensure the security of the region? Are there any prevention mechanisms that can be utilized in Kashmir to ensure that attacks caused by terrorism do not spread there? Please refer to the following links to enhance your research:

Delhi Attacks Kill Nine, Injure 47:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/blogpost/post/delhi-attacks-kill-nine-injure-47-photos-video/2011/09/07/gIQA45ID9J_blog.html

A photo video blog of the events of the September attacks in Delhi

China Pledges Pakistan Support:

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?id=I-JUAAAAIBAJ&sjid=YjwNAAAAIBAJ&pg=5699,1546673&dq=kashmir+news&hl=en>

A news article from 1965 depicting the Chinese position.



India Needs US-Pakistan friendship:

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/asia-pacific/india/111003/-us-india-pakistan-relations>

An article depicting the position that the US-Pakistan friendship is beneficial for India.

Kashmir Undeterred in Freedom Struggle:

<http://pakobserver.net/detailnews.asp?id=116847>

The Pakistani Position on the LOC in Kashmir.

SALW in Sub-Saharan Africa

The past few months have witnessed one of the worst famines in history. Although Famine has been widespread across the Horn of Africa, Somalia has been affected the most. The UN estimates that tens of thousands of people in Somalia have died from the effects of the famine over the last three months. This famine gives even more moral ammunition to militant groups who operate throughout Somalia to increase their violence and target Western nations through their piracy attempts. Western nations have been warned to not directly involve themselves in aiding Somalia, and have been advised to make monetary contributions. On the other hand, Arab nations and those who are Somalia's trade partners have witnessed increasing pressure to come forward and help Somalia recover from this devastation. SALW directly influences this recent outburst of Somali piracy as many pirates acquire their weapons through this never ending process. The famine in the horn of Africa has also influenced the drug trade as many Somalians seek solace in drugs such as "khat" to combat their hunger problems. The revenue from this drug trade often directly goes towards the purchase of SALW and therefore continues the cycle of violence which is so prevalent. The African Union has tried to deal with the issue at hand by attempting to adopt a uniform policy on the issue of SALW trade.

With regards to the recent effects of the Somali famine a few questions must be taken into consideration: How does Somalia's famine directly influence the SALW trade? What other dangerous problems could arise from the continuation of the famine? How could the UN influence a reduction of the SALW trade by combatting Somalian piracy? Are there any mechanisms that can be utilized to ensure that the drug trade which funds the SALW trade does not continue at an exponential pace in Somalia? Please refer to the following links in your research:



Somalia: A road map into a new quagmire:

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/ilive/2011/10/03/somalia-a-road-map-into-a-new-quagmire>

Somalia's recent problems are outlined.

Somalia's worsening famine:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/13/opinion/somalias-worsening-famine.html>

A detailed description of the famine in Somalia.

Drug Trade in Africa: How the queen of khat got so rich:

<http://www.worldcrunch.com/drug-trade-africa-how-queen-khat-got-so-rich/3660>

A description of the khat problem in Somalia.

West Africa Combats Illicit Drug Trafficking:

<http://www.voanews.com/policy/editorials/africa/West-Africa-Combats-Illicit-Drug-Trafficking-130578738.html>

A description of recent measures West African nations have taken to combat the drug trade.