



EthicalMUN III

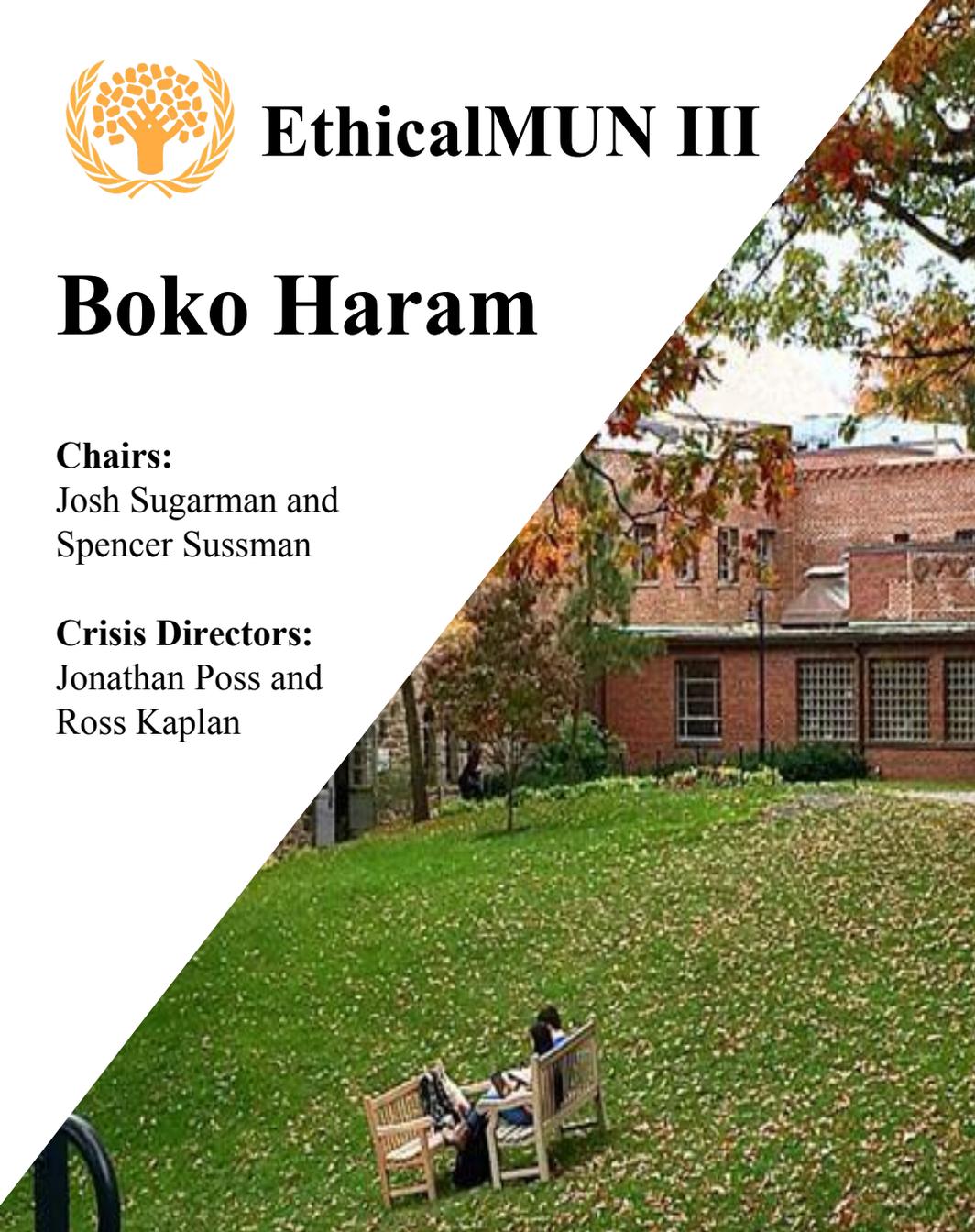
Boko Haram

Chairs:

Josh Sugarman and
Spencer Sussman

Crisis Directors:

Jonathan Poss and
Ross Kaplan





EthicalMUN III

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Dear Delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to EthicalMUN III! My name is Spencer Sussman and I will be your chair alongside Josh Sugarman, with Crisis Directors Jonathan Poss and Ross Kaplan. Two years ago Josh and I participated in the first ever EthicalMUN and it was a blast! We are so excited to be helping to chair a committee at EthicalMUN for the second year in a row. We are looking forward to two great days of discussion, compromise and (hopefully) great fun! First, let us tell you a bit about ourselves.

I am Spencer Sussman, and I am a sophomore this year, but I have participated in Model UN since the 6th grade. It has become an integral part of my school experience and I have loved every minute of it! In middle school, I helped to co-lead our club. Outside of MUN, I play baseball, play violin in a city-wide youth orchestra, and most importantly, watch The Office on Netflix.

I am Josh Sugarman and am a sophomore. I have taken part in Model UN since 6th grade, in the middle school club, where I participated in conferences and the logistics of the club, leading to my eventual role of co-leader of the club in eighth grade. I am on the varsity swim team and varsity lacrosse team at Fieldston, and have a black belt in Taekwondo. I am also an avid writer in the newspaper club. Additionally, I have a provisional patent pending for a bluetooth GPS map-app for the blind. I have developed a great passion for Model UN and believe your experience in middle school will make you better researchers, historians and strategists.

We have dedicated a lot of time to making this conference great for all of the delegates, and we hope you come with similar enthusiasm and dedication. We encourage you to delve deep into your position and into the topic of the Boko Haram. This committee will take place in current times. Remember that this background guide is just the beginning of your research! Keep in mind that Model UN is a learning experience, and we greatly encourage everyone to participate, even if this will be your first conference. If you have any questions, don't be afraid to reach out to either Spencer or Josh.

See you in May!

Josh Sugarman (21jnsugarman@ecfs.org)

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Background Information

The Islamic State in West Africa or Islamic State's West Africa Province, commonly known as Boko Haram, is a jihadist militant organization based in northeastern Nigeria, but also active in Chad, Niger and northern Cameroon. This group was created by Mohammed Yusuf in 2002, and since its origination, the Islamic group has attempted to shelter the Nigerian people from non-Islamic leadership, as well as from interacting and/or affiliating itself with Western philosophies, or specifically education. Boko Haram was founded upon the principles of the Salafism advocating Sharia law. Since the current insurgency started in 2009, Boko Haram has killed thousands and displaced 2.3 million from their homes. The group was ranked as the world's deadliest terror group by the Global Terrorism Index in 2015. Of the 2.3 million people displaced by

the conflict since May 2013, at least 250,000 have left Nigeria and fled into Cameroon, Chad or Niger.



(Boko Haram's Presence in Nigeria)

This has created a large-scale refugee crisis in the area. Boko Haram killed over 6,600 in 2014. In mid-2014, the militants gained control of swathes of territory in and around their home state of Borno, estimated at 20,000 square miles in January 2015, but did not capture the state capital, Maiduguri, where the group was originally based. On March 7, 2015, Boko Haram's leader Abubakar

Shekau pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL. The group has executed mass abductions including the kidnapping of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok in April 2014. Boko Haram loosely translates to “Western education is forbidden,” however, the beliefs perpetuated by the group against the West extend far beyond the sole education and western teachings. Its unexpected resurgence, following a mass prison break in September 2010, was accompanied by increasingly sophisticated attacks, initially against soft targets, but progressing in 2011 to include suicide bombings of police buildings and the United Nations office in Abuja. However, Boko Haram has historically claimed that it is simply an organization that wants to exercise its right to protest and take action against government and leadership that they see as oppressive or unrepresentative of the people. The U.S. State Department designated Boko Haram and its offshoot Ansaru

as terrorist organizations in November 2013, citing Boko Haram's links with AQIM and its responsibility for “thousands of deaths in northeast and central Nigeria over the last several years including targeted killings of civilians.”



(Boko Haram’s Use of Media to Spread Its Message)

Current Crisis:

Lately, we have witnessed Boko Haram continue to harm civilians and utilize members to carry out suicide attacks. Two female suicide bombers carried out an attack in a northern town near the border of Nigeria. The nation of Nigeria has publicly called out for support and the

need for more intervention in combating Boko Haram. Recently, Nigerian military officers raided a newspaper publication which printed a story regarding the insurgency in their nation. The country is calling for more 'restraint' in Boko Haram reporting so as to make sure no future raids on publications are necessary. President Trump has also publicly called for the elimination of the group and has declared support for the Nigerian government in its battle against the opposition group. Boko Haram has also ventured close to Nigerian borders, with attacks near Cameroon. Officials have recognized the unsecured and 'porous' Nigerian borders which are easily susceptible to future attacks. 2.5 million Nigerian citizens have been displaced from their homes on the Lake Chasin Border, in a desperate search for safety. These refugees have fled to many of the surrounding countries, including Chad and Cameroon, yet they are in desperate need of support

and acute needs as they are trekking through Cameroon's desert north. The UNHCR seeks \$135 million dollars of aid for the surrounding nations to support their refugee crisis.



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(Nigerian Refugees Seeking Refuge in Cameroon)

The Nigerian government, including the president Muhammadu Buhari, has declared that Boko Haram has been defeated on multiple occasions. The Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Tukur Buratai, has also claimed that Boko Haram is a non issue, declaring they are just a “band of criminals” that employ propaganda to spread false messages of strength. However, these claims came just after several attacks by Boko haram on Nigerian military

bases in 2018, and bombings conducted by Boko Haram on Nigerian military troops. These attacks left over 100 dead and many others injured. Many believe these claims by the president and military officials are attempts to appease the minds of the public, as the general elections in February of 2019 quickly approach.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can you improve the economic situation of the terrorized Nigerian citizens who, because of Boko Haram's control over the Nigerian government and economic situation, live on less than \$1.90 per day?
2. What steps should be taken to contain a group such as Boko Haram, whose financial assets and military personal are nearly impossible to track?
3. How can you make sure to not restrict the religious freedom of Boko Haram's members?
4. How can you prevent citizens from joining the group to support themselves and their families?

Possible Solutions:

Combating Kidnapping

One of Boko Haram's main tactics to gain financial resources is through kidnapping. The group has taken thousands of men, women and children and in return asked for unreasonably high ransoms as well as Boko Haram leaders to be released from jail. One possible solution delegates must consider is not paying these financial ransoms. While this would send a strong message to the leaders of Boko Haram, is this move ethical as the fates of these innocent civilians is left in the hands of a terrorist organization?

Improving Security Communication

Boko Haram's militants and financial assets are extremely difficult to track. However, through improved communication between major security agencies, possible Boko Haram kidnappings, bombings and other acts of terrorism could be prevented before they even happen. Delegates should research new technologies and ways in which other nations have been able to successfully branch together many intelligence agencies.

Education Programs

Lastly, a forward thinking approach to stopping Boko Haram is creating an education program to teach the children of Nigeria and other Boko Haram affected nations alternatives to joining the evil group. Bringing in psychologists to help determine why these students and adolescents are attracted to groups like Boko Haram could help to

develop and implement education programs tailored to helping these kids find helpful alternatives, rather than adding to their nations problems.

Portfolio Powers and Delegate Views:

Muhammadu Buhari - (President of Nigeria)

Buhari was elected as the Head of State in 2015 on the promise to eradicate the Islamist insurgency, however has for the most part failed to do so. Although Buhari has claimed multiple times that the group is mostly defeated, and the Nigerian military has even claimed to have killed the leaders of Boko Haram on many occasions, these claims have been proved false by many recent terror acts carried out by the group. As Buhari, the delegate must take the position that Nigeria has taken great strides to defeat Boko Haram and

deny allegations that Boko Haram is still active.

Abubakar Shekau (Leader of Boko Haram)

Shekau is a Nigerian national who has been the leader of Boko Haram since the previous leader's execution in 2009. Shekau has been reported dead many times by Nigerian authorities and international groups, however he is now thought to be alive and still leading the organization. It is thought that the corpses recognized as him were body doubles and his location and most information about him is shrouded in secrecy. Shekau is thought to be responsible for orchestrating the kidnapping of 200 Christian school girls in 2014 and has boasted about his ability to elude officials and security forces in the past. The US Department of state has offered \$7 million dollars in return for information leading to his arrest as well as a \$300,000 reward offered by the Nigerian government.

Chad

Until 2014 Chad had been reluctant to offer much help to Northern Nigeria, as well as past surveillance and non-aggression pacts. It was only after Boko Haram spread into Chad that they took military action. Chad, along with Cameroon, Benin, and Niger, created a mandate stating the four countries would take stronger stands against Boko Haram, including conducting military operations to prevent the expansion of Boko Haram activities; conducting patrols; preventing transfers of weapons or logistics to the group; actively searching for and freeing abductees. Chad, along with other African countries who are fighting against Boko Haram, has received \$45 million USD in order to train soldiers or fight, and purchase newer equipment and arms.

United States

The United States has taken tremendous steps to help eradicate Boko Haram and support the Nigerian citizens. Firstly, they have supported the Nigerian government and Nigerian activist efforts to improve human rights and democracy. Secondly, they have been revoking U.S. visas held by Nigerians that commit ethnic, religious or financial crimes. Lastly, the U.S. has also called for the Nigerian government to strengthen the nation's military and police forces in the major and capital cities. The United States ambassador to Nigeria argued that the two governments need to work together to help the Islamic citizens who have been alienated by the country's policies.

Algeria

The Algerian government has denounced the works of Boko Haram and have been actively fighting them as well as providing assistance to

Nigeria. In coordination with other African countries currently plagued by terrorism, Algeria has been conducting surveillance on Boko Haram for over 10 years. Algerian officials have stated that they believe Boko Haram has been working with, and receiving financial assistance of up to \$250,000 USD from, Al - Qaeda in Maghreb (AQIM), an Algerian based terrorist group that has pledged allegiance to ISIL.

Ghana

In 2015, Ghana proposed at the African Summit, a multinational task force set in place to take down Boko Haram in response to recent kidnappings and murders in the heart of Africa. Ghana has offered their support to Nigeria as they believe Nigeria would continue to have relatively little success without arms and assistance from their neighbors. The Ghanaians have had experience in unconventional warfare and combat against terrorism, unlike many other

mid-African countries, as they played a key role in fighting terrorism in West Africa years ago. Ghana also helped the international force receive backing by the EU and German Chancellor, Angela Merkel. While they have participated in joint force efforts to drive Boko Haram out of Central Africa, Boko Haram has not actually been present in Ghana. This comes after US intelligence states they have not “seen any evidence of Boko Haram,” in Ghana.

Ethiopia

The Ethiopian ran and based African Union, consisting of every internationally recognized African country, proposed putting forth a military force to combat Boko Haram, following many violent kidnappings and murders. While the Ethiopian government has taken actions against Boko Haram almost two thirds of Ethiopians surveyed believe their government is not doing nearly enough to protect the citizens from

Boko Haram attacks. Many of the Ethiopian youth feel unsafe and unprotected while Boko Haram has free range with little opposition from the Ethiopian authorities.

Benin

Benin became the fifth country to join the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram in November of 2015 when they sent 150 troops to the task force. Benin has faced Boko Haram attacks in the past, except they have had to deal with far fewer attacks than most other countries in the MNJTF with them. Because of their size, Benin has become a much more suitable target for attacks by Boko Haram and AQIM after having joined the MNJTF and other forces to combat terrorism. The UK advises all foreigners visiting Benin, and especially Northern Benin, to always be vigilant and wary of attacks due to Benin’s recent involvement trying to suppress Boko Haram.

Rwanda

While Rwanda has not seen any Boko Haram attacks on their soil, they know the issue of civil unrest and violence all too well. Stanislas Kamanzi, the Rwandan High Commissioner to Nigeria, informed Nigeria, the best way for them to fight Boko Haram is to use tactics used to pull Rwanda out of a genocide in the 1990's. Rwanda has cited being one of the safest countries in Africa only 20 years after a genocide claimed 1 million lives, as proof that their tactics can help combat insurgency.

Senegal

As of July of 2018, Senegal has remained completely untouched by attacks from Boko Haram, Al - Qaeda in Maghreb, or other ISIL - affiliated groups, but they have found suspected Boko Haram members. From 2015 to 2018, Senegalese authorities reported the arrests of over 40 + suspected Boko Haram members or those who

planned attacks in the name of Boko Haram, with several of the trials resulting in 20 + year jail sentences for those convicted.

DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has struggled with attacks all over the country spanning many years, and including many deaths. The Beni Massacre, from August 2016, was a killing spree where anywhere between 64 and 101 people were killed with machetes. While the perpetrators were never found, many experts have spotted the frightening similarities with previous Boko Haram attacks, and as such, the Beni Massacre is often blamed on the group. In the small town of Beni alone, over 2,600 people have been killed in similar attacks between 2014 and 2016. The DRC government has vowed to take action against terrorist groups plaguing Central Africa

RSA (Republic of South Africa)

The Republic of South Africa (commonly referred to as South Africa or RSA) has offered very little assistance to Nigeria in the fight against Boko Haram and has even been harshly critical of Nigerian efforts to control Boko Haram. South Africa has had a longstanding agreement with Nigeria to send troops and assistance, however South Africa has not followed through with their promise. Despite this, the government has said they are ready and willing to send troops to fight with the Multinational Joint task Force (MNJTF). Following a harrowing week with 16 Boko Haram massacres in 16 Nigerian villages, The South African Government had condemned Nigeria's efforts to combat Boko Haram and called the amount of violence unacceptable. Their words were echoed by Amnesty International and other Human Rights groups.

Qatar

While Qatar has no known ties to Boko Haram, The Qatari Royal Family is suspected to have several ties and links to Al Qaeda, and in turn, Al Qaeda in Maghreb. Boko Haram has worked with and supposedly received most of their funding from AQIM, who supposedly receives the majority of their funding through the Qatar Charity, a "charity" run by some of the highest up Qataris, including: royals, bankers, and financiers.

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