Forum: *Security Council*
Issue: *ISIL*

Position: *Deputy Chair*

Introduction

Everybody has heard about ISIL. Be it as the Islamic State or the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

Definition of Key Terms

Jihad
The fight to execute god's will.
Caliphate
Lead by the caliph, this is a form of Islamic government. ISIL plans to create a worldwide caliphate.
Salafis
are fundamentalists who believe in the old ways of the Islam. “Salafi” comes from 'as-salaf assaliheen', which refers to the three first muslim generations. ISIL is a Salafi group.

General Overview

A salafi jihadist group, ISIL has called a caliphate in territories in Syria, Libya, Afghanistan and Yemen, saying that God says “to leave other groups once there is a caliphate”. Led by Caliph Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, ISIL wages a holy war against the government and populace in the theatre.

It is not only the fighting which makes ISIL so infamous however. During its reign, the caliphate has terrorised uncountable civilians, executed foreign journalists and destroyed ancient cultural artefacts which existed before the prophet and are therefore unnecessary for the Moslem people and beliefs.

Wanting to create a caliphate which spans the globe, ISIL poses a threat to the entire world and its inhabitants. It is important to deal with them, but how do you fight a terrorist group?

Major Parties Involved

The Taliban
There is an ongoing conflict between the Taliban and ISIL, due to the fact that the Taliban do not recognise the caliphate, with ISIL suspecting them of working with government intelligence services.

ISIL
A salafi jihadist militant group, the Islamic State has been expanding into Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran and Yemen.

International Coalition against ISIL
Led by the USA, this coalition houses a huge number of nations fighting ISIL, Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda and others. The countries include Australia Jordan Morocco the UK, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, etc. each active in different and at times in multiple nations.

Timeline of Events

6th of March 2013
ISIL claims Raqqa in Syria, which becomes its de facto capital.

8th of August 2014
USA starts bombing runs against ISIL

19th of August 2014
James Foley is executed. He is the first western hostage beheaded by ISIL

15th of February 2015
ISIL executes 21 Egyptian Christians

16th of February 2015
Egypt runs bombing raids as retaliation

17th of April 2015
Iraq wins back Tigrit

17th of March 2015
Ramadi falls to ISIL

20th of May 2015
Palmyra falls to ISIL

Previous Attempts to solve the issue

Coalition forces have been engaging ISIL warriors with the use of drones and strike fighters. Although the use of drones is often seen as inhuman and too much of a risk towards civilians, the British government declared that their "aircraft used its sensors to sweep the surrounding area, ensuring there was no risk to civilians, before the air strike went ahead and destroyed the target", referring to a coalition air strike against an ISIL base manufacturing car bombs on the 1st of October 2015.

Those returning to their home countries after fighting for ISIL are, as is the case in most countries concerning terrorist groups, prosecuted for their actions and it is said that the families of ISIL members are put under house arrest in countries such as Pakistan, but will that be enough?

Many government representatives have over the years condemned ISIL actions concerning the destruction of historic monuments, the executions of foreigners and territorial expansion. However, this does not seem to have changed anything.

Possible Solutions

How can we stop the expansionism of ISIL? While Russia believes that Assad in Syria would be a valuable ally, many other states reject the idea of working with him. After all, he is currently also involved in fighting against an uprising in his country, having brutally oppressed his citizens in the past.

Will a guerilla war in the middle east solve anything? When the coalition forces arrive and possibly retake the cities taken by ISIL, they will just melt back into the background, to strike once they are

strong enough again. Furthermore, ISIL has a huge supply of human shields, is a ground campaign worth the civilian casualties?

Useful documents

The Financing of ISIL: http://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/reports/Financing-of-the-terrorist-organisation-ISIL.pdf

Report documenting growing number of ISIL defectors: http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/9/21/report-documents-growing-number-of-isil-defectors.html

An ISIL recruitment document is analysed here: http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2015/07/28/ami-isil-document-pakistan-threatens-india/30674099/

Appendix/Appendices

The Telegraph: Islamic State one year on: timeline.
URL: http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/islamic-state/11658301/Islamic-State-one-year-on-timeline.html – viewed on: 12/11/2015

International Business Times: Isis: Timeline of the Islamic State
URL: http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/isis-timeline-islamic-state-1508465 – viewed on the 23/10/2015

Government Dispatches:
UK Ministry of Defence: ISIL UK government response in Iraq. URL: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-air-strikes-in-iraq – viewed on 21/10/2015