



# NJMUN III

THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY

NEW JERSEY  
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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## TOPIC A: SOMALIA

### *History*

Somalia, a desert nation in East Africa is considered by most to be the world's clearest example of a failed, anarchic state. There has been very little change in the past few years in terms of political, social, or economic progress. It is not solely drought and lack of arable land that makes Somalia vulnerable when it comes to food and water shortages. The anarchic nature of the country fashions a power vacuum from which the most violent group seizes control.

Italy ceded her colonial hold over Somaliland in 1947; by 1961 Somalia held a nationwide referendum and adopted a constitution based on successful European models. However, by 1969, a coup has installed a military dictator in power, Major General Mohamed Siad Barre, and began following a radical form of communism based off of the Soviet Union model. By the 1970's tensions between Somalia and Ethiopia began to escalate, and by 1977 Somalia had invaded her sovereign neighbor. For the next forty years, Somalia and Ethiopia engaged in economically draining military operations against each other. Both nations bankrupted themselves, sending their respective populations into destitution.

Somalia eventually dropped her alliance with the Soviet Union and sought after the aid of the other world superpower. By 1978, the United States had answered with extensive military and social aid operations. This is thought to be the start of the presently overwhelming dependence on foreign aid. By the late 1980's a significant armed resistance had formed committing horrible forms of violence on the rural populations in north and west Somalia to protest dictator Barre's ethnically oppressive regime. Thousands of people

began fleeing the violence to neighboring Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti.

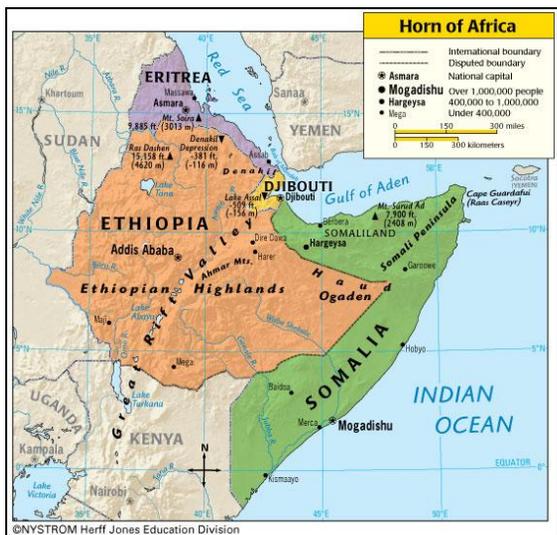
Barre was overthrown in 1991 and the last semblance of any cohesive government was quashed. Many attempts to reconcile the Somali internal conflicts have been hosted by scores of countries (Italy, Ethiopia, Egypt, Yemen) and organizations (UN, AU, IGAD, TNG, TFG) but none have been successful. Various warlords have come to power by seizing control of the aid supplies. In a nation as poverty-stricken as Somalia, those who control the food, can control the people. This route to power is abused all too often, giving rise to militant Islamist groups like Al-Shabaab, which openly attacks on peacekeepers and aid workers and prevents the free flow of food and medical supplies to the general population. Al-Shabaab currently controls most of Southern Somalia, including greater Mogadishu.

### *Current Situation: Somalian Famine*

Since the middle of July in 2011, a severe drought, considered "the worst in sixty years" caused a terrible famine across all parts of East Africa, including Kenya, Ethiopia, and especially Somalia. According to the UN's food security and nutrition analysis unit, the situation in Somalia had all three characteristics of a famine: 1) over 30% of children suffered from acute malnutrition; 2) more than two adults or four children died of starvation each day for every 10,000 people; and 3) the population had less than 2,100 kilocalories of food and less than four liters of water per day.

On July 20, the United Nations officially declared famine, for the first time in almost thirty years, in Bakool and the Lower Shabelle, parts of southern Somalia. The next month, on August 3, the UN declared famine in three more regions of southern Somalia: the Balcad and Cadale districts in Middle Shabelle in addition to the IDP<sup>2</sup>

(internally displaced person) settlements in Mogadishu and Afgooye, claiming that inadequate aid was exacerbating the situation. On September 5, the Bay region was added to the famine-stricken areas of Somalia.



The extreme food shortage led to an outrageous rate of inflation, with a 240% increase of staple prices in southern Somalia. The UN World Food Programme revised its number of people in the Horn of Africa region needing food aid from six million to ten million. The number was later increased *again* to 12 million, with 2.8 million in southern Somalia alone.

The resulting food shortage caused the mass-migration of approximately 920,000 refugees into neighboring areas in Kenya and Ethiopia, where poor, cramped living conditions—including but not limited to malnutrition and disease—only aggravated the situation and greatly increased the death count. The maximum capacity of the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) base in Dadaab, Kenya is 90,000, but the three camps at the base are currently inhabited by over 440,000 people, with over 1,500 refugees from southern Somalia still showing up every day. For those that survive the voyage,

living conditions within the refuge camps are disturbingly low; the mortality rate is 7.4 people out of 10,000 per day—seven times higher than the “emergency” rate of 1 out of 10,000 per day. Women and girls are constantly subjected to sexual abuse, increasing their risk of contracting HIV and AIDS. The three camps at Dolo Odo, Ethiopia house more than 110,000 refugees from Somalia, much past the maximum capacity. There is a water shortage within the facilities, and because there are so many people, it often takes days for a family to be registered.

Following the mass-migration of people, Ethiopia and Kenya experienced a serious measles epidemic. According to WHO (World Health Organization), 2 million children were at risk of measles. In addition, 8.8 million people and 5 million people in Ethiopia were at risk of malaria and cholera, respectively. In July, 30% of children in parts of Ethiopia and Kenya suffered from malnutrition, while the number was up to 50% in southern Somalia. However, according to the Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit, the percentage fell to 36% by the middle of September.

In an attempt to alleviate the conditions in Somalia, the United Nations donated supplies by air as well as hands-on, direct help. Various other nations and organizations provided aid as well. However, the attempts to provide aid were often hindered by lack of funding as well as security issues in the area. Aid workers were often intimidated, kidnapped, or even killed by Al-Shabaab militants who controlled most of southern Somalia. The Al-Shabaab believed that many aid workers and organizations are either spies or are acting behind a political agenda. According to the UN World Food Programme, there are approximately one million people who live in areas that are restricted from receiving humanitarian aid.

## **TOPIC B: ORGANIZED CRIME**

### *History*

Mafia, syndicate, cartel, mob, rackets, gangs, all have been used to describe organized crime. It is such a broad topic with so many underlying causes and effects that it can be difficult to pinpoint the exact definition and beginning of organized crime. Slavery and Sea Piracy are the first documented examples of organized crime and these acts date back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is believed that these exploits have laid down the groundwork for how organized crime works today.

Original pirate rules and regulations that survive today show many parallels between the life of a pirate in history and the modern organized crime groups today. Pirates described how to divide up their pillage, choose officers of higher standing, and enforce discipline, including what behaviors would be tolerated.

The most distinct parallel between the history and the modern era are the rules set up between the groups that prohibit certain things such as drunkenness, cowardice, desertion, and how to resolve quarrels. These rules are kept to keep the peace between pirates in certain groups and in the same fashion criminal syndicates from the Mexican Mafia and the Aryan Brotherhood to the Chinese Triads, Russian syndicates, and the Italian Mafia adhere to distinct rules and regulations of the kind.

Organized Crime can be difficult to define because of the many different things that fall under its umbrella. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defined organized crime broadly “as a structured group of three or more persons existing for a period of time and acting in concert with the aim of committing one or more serious crimes or offenses in accordance with this Convention in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a

financial or material benefit.”

The United Nations has identified 18 categories of transnational offences to be included under the umbrella of Organized Crime. These include money laundering, terrorist activities, theft of intellectual property, art and cultural objects, illicit arms trafficking, aircraft hijacking, sea piracy, insurance fraud, computer and environmental crime, trafficking in persons and human body parts, illegal drug trafficking, fraudulent bankruptcy, infiltration of legal business, and corruption and bribery of public or party officials.

A main topic when discussing organized crime comes to the term mafia. Mafia has been used to describe a number of different forms of international organized crime, such as the so-called Russian, Sicilian, Asian, and Albanian mafias. The actual word “mafia” has been found in an Italian dictionary before the 1860s but there is no agreed upon definition for the term or where and when it was founded. It has been applied regularly to refer to traditional organized crime groups that originated on the island of Sicily and then imported certain traditions to America during a wave of late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century immigration. These mafias usually include members linked on occasion by personal relationships and associations. Although both permutations share some tendencies, the American version has long operated mostly in the underworld, on the edges of society, while the Sicilian side has inextricable links with the region’s upper world.

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