



**United Nations
Security Council**

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Letter from the Secretariat

Delegates,

Welcome to the background guides for MiniMUN 2019! Whether it is your first or third Model United Nations conference, it is our hope at MiniMUN that you will continue to further expand your knowledge of MUN, world issues, and the UN itself.

The purpose of this background guide is to introduce the committee and the topic, as well as help you write your position paper. Details on position paper and submission are available under the Position Paper tab on our website:

<http://chsminimum.weebly.com/position-papers.html>

The topics and committees were chosen to reflect the problems that our world leaders face. As a delegate, you will be stepping into the role of world leaders. You will take on perspectives different from your own, and you will push for what your country believes to be right.

We have diligently worked to make this year's topics even more captivating and advanced than previous years. If at any time, you are having trouble understanding the background guide, finding information on the topic, or writing your position paper, please contact your chairs for help. They are more than willing to assist you to make MiniMUN a productive and engaging conference!

We are very excited to see you at MiniMUN 2019!

Christine Pang and Curran Myers

Secretary-General and Director-General, MiniMUN 2019



Description of Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members. The great powers that were the victors of World War II— Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States — along with France and China, serve as the body's five permanent members. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General. The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly between its members. Security Council resolutions are typically enforced by UN peacekeepers, military forces voluntarily provided by member states and funded independently of the main UN budget. As of 2013, 116,837 peacekeeping soldiers and other personnel are deployed on 15 missions around the world.

UNSC: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

Civil Unrest in Nicaragua

Introduction

In 1821, Nicaragua became an autonomous region, yet full independence wasn't achieved until 1838 upon the construction of a constitutional republic. When elements of the citizenry became disillusioned with the social climate of the Nicaraguan state in the early twentieth century, the United States began funding and supplying revolutionists. As the rebellious groups gained more support, then President Zelaya was ousted by the citizens and the United States Marine Corps occupied the country with governing authority for the next quarter century. In 1927, the Somoza dynasty began its rule as an authoritarian military dictatorship which aggressively targeted and put down any opposition groups. Unsurprisingly, various anti-government groups with differing political ideas grew in strength (only unified in the common goal of ending the oppressive regime), especially the Sandinista National Liberation Front (SNLF), which rose to power following its removal of the Somoza regime in 1979. Soon after the Sandinista ascension to power, many again became dissatisfied with SNLF governance, seemingly no better than the prior Somoza dynasty, and decided to formally oppose the government.

US Involvement and the Contras

Numerous small groups formed, all coming under the common moniker "Contras", meaning 'against' in Spanish, and found military backing from then U.S. President Ronald Reagan, the outspoken opponent to both authoritarian and communist regimes. However, disunity and congressional pressure against President Reagan's funding of revolutionist saw campaigns fail in their efforts to end the ruling SNLF government. Only a decade following the conclusion of the revolutionists' campaigns known as the Nicaraguan Civil War, the early 1990's saw numerous candidates vying for the Nicaraguan presidency, a push to politically, rather than militarily change the Nicaraguan nation. In 1990, Violeta Chamorro, leader of a strong

anti-Sandinista political party became the first female President of both Nicaragua and the rest of the Americas. However, the anti-Sandinistas sect would not retain power, as Daniel Ortega, a popular Sandinista leader of the 1980's ascended to the presidency no more than fifteen years later. Despite the extensive power struggles, political reorganizations, and violent infighting, the Nicaraguan population has yet to achieve true political satisfaction and consistency. Thus, as was the case upon the original gaining of independence almost 180 years prior, political, economic, and social conditions have been unstable to this day. Fast forward to 2013-2018, Ortega continued his grip on power by staying in office, winning second and third terms to the presidency. Nicaraguans, though from the outside seem to support their President, 'voting' to keep him in office to the current day, are not universally in favor of the regime however.

Ortega's Regime

Protests sparked up in 2013 to demand the resignation of Ortega due to his oppressive ruling and ineffective reforms. In 2018, the Nicaraguan protests reached their fever pitch as citizens massed to combat the Ortega social security reforms, which widely cut societal benefits, yet raised taxes. In the original struggle, around thirty civilians died in the government's harsh response, after which Ortega saw political expediency in cancelling the reforms. To combat the open protests, the Ortega government deployed paramilitary organizations, armed gangs, and riot control police who were given discretion to quell future uprisings in any method deemed most efficient, whether deadly, violent, or non-violent. Further, civilians decided to protest a government policy to allow foreign powers to build infrastructure such as canals, bridges, and locks without the consent and compensation of citizens on the grounds of lack of government transparency, violation of citizen rights, and lack of concern regarding environmental impact. In an attempt to dampen the violence and protesting, Ortega began a campaign of "National Dialogue", yet dissolution of the

effort followed soon after as a result of disagreements between protestors and governmental agencies.

Current Situation

Crackdowns on transparency and freedom of speech pushed the dialogue out of the public light, forcing those seeking to speak out against the regime to look for safe spaces for open conversation. Places of worship soon became hives of anti-Ortega regime sentiment, as such locations were the few left allowing open discord. A Nicaraguan Cardinal heading the Catholic Church (the dominant religion in Nicaragua, as practiced by nearly 60% of the citizenry) by the name of Leopoldo Brenes wasn't even safe from the hostility as he, and many of his constituents were threatened and attacked by armed masked individuals. Soon after, vocal public support of these attacks by Vice President and First Lady Rosario Murillo served only to increase distrust as well as suspicions of connections to the Ortega government as the sponsor.

Only days later, the Church of Divine Mercy, a seemingly sacred escape from the violence to hundreds of protestors and religious practitioners came under attack from elements of the Ortega regime. In what can only be described as siege tactics, common in prolonged military engagements upon defended cities, the church was subsequently surrounded, shot at, and set ablaze by government agents, leaving two protestors dead and many more injured.

Conclusion

The actions sponsored and undertaken by the Ortega government have no moral or internationally legal defense, as unjust violations of basic human rights including religious tolerance, freedom of expression, and the right to the trial by jury of one's peers have been all but dissolved. The civil unrest still rages across the Nicaraguan nation; nearly five hundred citizens have died; thousands on both sides of the dispute have been injured, with varying degrees of severity and permanence; hundreds have been arrested, whether on shaky or firm grounds; and untold numbers of citizens have been displaced, disappeared, and tortured. Whether the search for a

national political identity stems from the Sandinista - anti-Sandinista divide or from ideologies and philosophies far less apparent, it is up to the people of Nicaragua and you, the members of the security council, to find a solution to their long and inseparably bloody governmental history.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can the national sovereignty of Nicaragua be preserved in solving this issue?
2. How can the global community incorporate different countries' viewpoints into the solution?
3. Can the situation be rectified without removing the current Nicaraguan government?
4. Would peacekeepers serve to help or exacerbate the situation? Carefully consider the effects of employing peacekeepers.
5. How can the UN ensure minimal harm to civilians embroiled in this conflict?