



**2020-2021**  
**Model Arab League**  
**BACKGROUND GUIDE**  
*Summit of Arab Heads of State*

[ncusar.org/modelarableague](http://ncusar.org/modelarableague)

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



Original draft by Courtney Dzewior, Chair of the Summit of the Arab Heads of State at the 2021 National University Model Arab League, with contributions from the dedicated staff and volunteers at the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 season of Model Arab League! My name is Courtney Dziewior, and I will be this year's National Chair for the Summit of the Arab Heads of State. I am a junior double majoring in Chemistry and Music at Converse College in Spartanburg, SC. This is my fourth and final year participating in Model Arab League. I have debated in various Model Arab League and NATO conferences, and I could not be more honored to be chairing this council.

The Arab Heads of State is a unique council. Each delegation within this council represents the leader of your state. This means you must have an in-depth understanding of your head of state, the policies of your state and leader, your state's interaction within the Arab League, and current events in the region. Staying up to date on news in the Middle East and North African region is even more important this year in order to properly debate the given topics.

This council is a unique council also due to the nature of solutions you will be challenged with devising. The goal of this council is to determine long term, complex solutions that are acceptable within the stance and policies of each head of state. Do not limit yourselves—think of long-lasting solutions such as frameworks, policies, and mechanisms. You are encouraged to go beyond short-term approaches. In order to fully apply yourself to this council and develop potential solutions, I encourage you to look at the principal documents of the Arab League relating to the Charter, Human Rights, and more as well as worldwide treaties.

All delegates must remember that the key to a smooth flow of debate is staying within your states policy while working together diplomatically. This will be required by all delegates at all conferences. Being on top of your policy is key in this council and something I expect to see during your debates. In addition, debate can become intense as each of you lobby for your country's rights and stance on topics, but during all of the highs and lows of committee, I expect diplomacy and mutual respect between all delegates. This is a learning opportunity for everyone from those who are debating for the first time to those who are veterans in their fourth or fifth years. We all have something we can learn from this experience. Why else would we participate?

I hope all of you are staying safe, and I hope to be able to meet each of you at NCUSAR. Until then, good luck and happy researching!

Best,

Courtney Dziewior

## **Topic I: Exploring the creation of policies and frameworks to address security threats related to increased interest in nuclear power and weapons in the region.**

### **A. I. Introduction to the Topic**

### **B. General Background**

Nuclear energy and its applications of nuclear power and nuclear weapons has been a topic of interest and concern worldwide since the 1930s. Nuclear power is the use of nuclear energy to produce electrical energy, and currently 15% of the world's supply of electricity is produced from it.<sup>1</sup> Nuclear power shows remarkable potential for clean energy with low long-term costs and minimal environmental impact compared to other energy sources such as oil, coal and gas. Despite this, it also has serious regional, national, and worldwide security concerns.<sup>2</sup>

Nuclear power has proven to be a dangerous medium that has disastrous consequences if not handled correctly. The 2010 Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster is perhaps the most appropriate recent example. An earthquake in the region automatically triggered a shutdown of the fission reactions within the reactors, but due to multiple system issues, the electricity supply failed, and the emergency diesel generators automatically started. The tsunami that resulted from the earthquake flooded the lower grounds around some of the generators. Due to some of the automatic triggers from the earthquake, the flooding resulted in three nuclear meltdowns, three hydrogen explosions, and the release of radioactive contamination in select units.<sup>3</sup> The impact of this disaster was presented through radiation that resulted in an evacuation zone around the plant, the spread of contaminated water in the ocean, one cancer death due to radiation, and 16 injured from hydrogen explosions.<sup>4</sup>

Nuclear weapons are a familiar topic due to their history dating back to World War II. A nuclear weapon, also known as the atomic bomb, is an explosive device that uses nuclear reactions to produce a destructive force. They have only been used twice in armed conflict, and both times they were used by the United States against Japan. Following Germany's surrender in World War II, the Japanese forces refused to comply with the requested surrender made by the Allied forces. The situation escalated into the use of the Manhattan Project, a research project that investigated and produced atomic bombs. The first atomic bomb used in wartime was used in Hiroshima, Japan, and was followed three days later by a detonation in Nagasaki, Japan.<sup>5</sup> Cumulatively, these two nuclear detonations resulted in over 200,000 deaths, most of whom were civilians.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> "Policy Brief - Nuclear Energy Today." Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development, Oct. 2008, <https://www.oecd-nea.org/pub/policybrief-october2008.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> "Advantages and Challenges of Nuclear Energy." Energy.gov, Feb. 2020, [www.energy.gov/ne/articles/advantages-and-challenges-nuclear-energy](http://www.energy.gov/ne/articles/advantages-and-challenges-nuclear-energy).

<sup>3</sup> Fukushima Daiichi Accident - World Nuclear Association, May 2020, [www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/fukushima-daiichi-accident.aspx](http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/safety-and-security/safety-of-plants/fukushima-daiichi-accident.aspx).

<sup>4</sup> "Japan Confirms First Fukushima Worker Death from Radiation." BBC News, BBC, 5 Sept. 2018, [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-45423575](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-45423575).

<sup>5</sup> "Nuclear Weapons – UNODA." United Nations, United Nations, [www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/).

<sup>6</sup> History.com Editors. "Manhattan Project." History.com, A&E Television Networks, 26 July 2017, [www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/the-manhattan-project](http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/the-manhattan-project).

The threat of nuclear weapons has resulted in a variety of nuclear deals and treaties. The most prominent is the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). This is an international treaty that aims to reduce and prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and work towards nuclear disarmament. It is a United Nations (UN) treaty that has been signed by 191 states, including the five nuclear-weapon states (NWS).<sup>7</sup> The major criticism of the NPT is that it has not successfully stopped the proliferation of nuclear weapons, nor has nuclear disarmament been achieved despite it being activated in 1970. The 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty (CTBT), with 184 signatories, furthered the non-proliferation efforts by banning nuclear weapon test explosions.<sup>8</sup> More recently, the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) pushed even further with the aim to ban nuclear weapons, though it faces opposition from nuclear-armed states.<sup>9</sup>

A small number of nations possess or are suspected of possessing nuclear weapons. These include the United States, Russia, North Korea, China, India, Pakistan, and North Korea.<sup>10</sup> Some nations have agreements for nuclear weapons sharing – this is predominantly through the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). In the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the only state currently suspected to have nuclear weapons is Israel.<sup>11</sup>

### **C. History in the Arab World**

Nuclear power has long been of interest in the region. In 1994, the Arab League called on member states to enhance education in nuclear science and technology. In 2006, this was further emphasized when they also called for the establishment of a regional reactor project. This has been reiterated in various ways throughout the past decade, but not much has resulted from it. There have also been calls for a Middle East nuclear weapon free zone (MENWFZ) which is similar to other nuclear weapon free zones in the world. This has largely failed due to non-compliance from Iraq, Iran, and Syria.<sup>12 13</sup>

Nuclear energy is still an emerging industry in the MENA region due to the prominence of the oil industry. Nuclear power first rose to prominence as a viable alternative fuel source in the early 2010s. Multiple countries have expressed interest in the establishment of a nuclear power plant in their state. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has been working with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) towards the development of a nuclear power program in order to

---

<sup>7</sup> “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).” United Nations, <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/text/>

<sup>8</sup> “Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).” Nuclear Threat Initiative, 23 April 2020, <https://www.nti.org/learn/treaties-and-regimes/comprehensive-nuclear-test-ban-treaty-ctbt/>

<sup>9</sup> “The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons at a Glance.” Arms Control Association, Aug. 2020, <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nuclearprohibition>

<sup>10</sup> Davenport, Kelsey. “Fact Sheets & Briefs.” Nuclear Weapons: Who Has What at a Glance | Arms Control Association, July 2019, [www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat](http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Nuclearweaponswhohaswhat).

<sup>11</sup> “Fact Sheet: Israel’s Nuclear Arsenal.” Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, 31 Mar. 2020, [armscontrolcenter.org/fact-sheet-israels-nuclear-arsenal/](http://armscontrolcenter.org/fact-sheet-israels-nuclear-arsenal/).

<sup>12</sup> Mideast Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (MENWFZ). Federation of American Scientists, [fas.org/nuke/control/menwfz/index.html](http://fas.org/nuke/control/menwfz/index.html).

<sup>13</sup> Davenport, Kelsey. “Fact Sheets & Briefs.” WMD-Free Middle East Proposal at a Glance | Arms Control Association, Dec. 2018, [www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/mewmdfz](http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/mewmdfz).

build four commercial nuclear power reactors.<sup>14</sup> The first power plant completed was the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant which went online in August 2020 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

The establishment of the first nuclear power plant in UAE has caused tension in the region with neighboring state Qatar. The nuclear power plant reportedly poses a potential threat to regional stability and the environment. The project also faced various challenges throughout production.<sup>15</sup> This struggle is not unique to the UAE. While the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has plans to construct 16 nuclear power reactors by 2040, and Egypt, Turkey, and Jordan are also in the works for the development of nuclear power, these states have faced significant public backlash. A majority of the concerns stem from reasons related to the Fukushima accident.

While the development of nuclear energy sources is inherently centered in the wealthier states—predominantly those of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—that does not mean that this topic is only a concern to those states. All League states can benefit from addressing the security threat that nuclear power, weapons, and facilities pose to the region. Additionally, the threat of nuclear weapons or resources in states where conflict is a potential threat poses a great risk to the entire League.

#### **D. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future General**

In order to develop a solution to this topic, it is important to understand the threats of nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Some key threats include the potential for attacks on nuclear power or nuclear weapon facilities, the use of nuclear materials from nuclear power plants or nuclear weapons for the creation of dirty bombs as well as terrorist acquisition of the use of nuclear materials, cyberattacks on nuclear facilities, disposal of nuclear waste, and more.<sup>16</sup>

It is also necessary to acknowledge that these are two different areas of nuclear energy and therefore will require different solutions. A three-pronged approach might be key in fully addressing this topic: resolutions must find ways to address nuclear power threats, nuclear weapons threats, and nuclear material threats.

Within the Arab League, there has been little effort for League-wide standards. Until recent times, there has been little cause for the League to address the topic of nuclear power and weapons. As of September 2020, the only League state with access to nuclear power is the United Arab Emirates with their nuclear power plant. This new power plant raises the question of how to ensure environmental concerns of nuclear waste are addressed. The nuclear power plant also means there is an increase in nuclear materials in the region. This poses a health and security concern that must be considered. As nuclear energy gains more traction in the region, it is

---

<sup>14</sup> “Nuclear Power in the United Arab Emirates.” World Nuclear Association, 2020, [www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-t-z/united-arab-emirates.aspx](http://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-t-z/united-arab-emirates.aspx).

<sup>15</sup> Casey, JP. “Divided Opinion: inside the UAE’s Barakah Nuclear Plant.” Power Technology | Energy News and Market Analysis, 17 Apr. 2020, [www.power-technology.com/features/divided-opinion-inside-the-uaes-barakah-nuclear-plant/](http://www.power-technology.com/features/divided-opinion-inside-the-uaes-barakah-nuclear-plant/).

<sup>16</sup> “Science and Technology to Counter Terrorism: Proceedings of an Indo-U.S. Workshop.” National Academies Press: OpenBook, National Academy of Sciences, 2007, [www.nap.edu/read/11848/chapter/8#63](http://www.nap.edu/read/11848/chapter/8#63).

important for the Arab League to enact region-level environment, health, and security standards regarding nuclear power plants.

The Fukushima nuclear disaster is a clear example that nuclear power can cause untold devastation even when proper safeguards and protocols are followed. Natural disasters can trigger a series of events resulting in damage to nuclear power plants. Due to the inherent nature of what these plants contain, radiation and additional toxic materials can spread into the surrounding areas. The materials required for nuclear reactions have long been documented as volatile, toxic, and cancerous, with potential long-term side effects of sterility, pollution, and death.

Additionally, no League states are known to possess nuclear weapons. However, nearby states of Israel, Pakistan, and potentially Iran do possess nuclear weapons. Both the new presence of nuclear power in the region and the ongoing presence of nuclear weapons in non-League states raise the question of nuclear security. Whether Arab countries are moving towards nuclear capacities or not, delegates should consider where the League stands in the global non-proliferation movement, and whether individual member states should come together to lead the non-proliferation movement in accordance with existing international treaties like the NPT, the CTBT, and the TPNW. If non-proliferation is the future way for the Arab League, the backing of such international nuclear treaties and the global non-proliferation movement can help apply pressure on regional neighbors who pose a nuclear weapons risk.

## **II. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- What is my state's stance on nuclear power and nuclear weapons? Do we have any intention of gaining access to either?
- How does my state value the trade-off between the risks of nuclear power and the benefits to energy production?
- Has my state made any effort to partner with states working towards nuclear power?
- What international treaties would be relevant to the topic? Which treaties has my country signed or ratified?
- What are geographical threats to nuclear power and weapons in the region?
- Where have the current treaties, organizations, and bodies failed to account for nuclear disasters?

## **III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer**

- How large of a role can the Arab League play in this solution?
- How can a League-wide framework be applied to reduce the external security threat posed to nuclear facilities?
- The league has previously expressed interest in a regional reactor project. Is this feasible? What has prevented this from being implemented?

- How can the regional concerns that nuclear facilities pose be counteracted or reduced?

#### IV. Additional Resources

- [Regional Tools to Strengthen Nuclear Security: the Middle East](#)  
*This document details efforts that can be made in the Middle East towards nuclear security. It outlines relevant bodies and organizations, previous efforts, the potential role of LAS and GCC, and potential tools that can aid towards a solution.*
- [Nuclear Threat Initiative](#)  
*The Nuclear Threat Initiative works to prevent attacks that use weapons of mass destruction. This website has pages dedicated to relevant nuclear treaties, nuclear weapon states, the vulnerabilities of nuclear systems, and necessary background knowledge on nuclear weapons and proliferation.*
- [Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation](#)  
*This website provides fact sheets on nuclear weapon states, MENWFZ, and various nuclear treaties. It also contains briefs on nuclear weapons and history of non-proliferation. The recent analysis on nuclear weapons may also prove to be useful with recent discussions on nuclear topics relevant to current times.*
- [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#)  
*The IAEA is an organization focused on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It has been part of the establishment of security standards and protocols for nuclear power plants throughout the world. It is predominantly focused on the use of nuclear technology in a peaceful manner.*
- [Science and Technology to Counter Terrorism: Proceedings of an Indo-U.S. Workshop – Chapter 7: Threats to Civil Nuclear-energy Facilities](#)  
*This links to a chapter in the above titled book. Outlined in this chapter are a few of the major threats nuclear power and nuclear-energy facilities pose. It is important to understand these threats and find ways to combat them in order to address the topic.*

## **Topic II: Assessing the future of Syrian relations with the Arab League and determining necessary steps towards a political solution to the Syrian crisis.**

### **E. I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### **A. General Background**

The Syrian civil war has been an ongoing conflict since March 15, 2011. The 2011 Arab Spring protests that swept through many League states also took place in Syria. The unrest grew in Syria and resulted in harsh crackdown on the protestors through arrests and deaths. This ultimately led to calls for the resignation of President Bashar al-Assad which was responded to through an increase in force. This ultimately backfired and led to a dramatic increase and escalation in protests with many protestors taking up arms to defend, protest, and expel government forces from their towns and regions. The situation rapidly devolved into what is now known as the Syrian civil war.<sup>17</sup>

The different factions fighting for control is one issue that has perpetuated the conflict. Initially, the two sides were those in support of the Assad government, and those against the Assad government. What is now known as the Syrian Armed Forces and allies are the factions that make up the pro-Assad side of the conflict. The anti-Assad coalition was primarily headed by the Syrian National Coalition and various smaller factions. Various rebel forces also emerged including the Sunni rebel forces and Kurdish forces. Additionally, the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) forms an additional faction that has continuously thrown the state into further conflict. There is also involvement through various countries that support one or more of the factions including the United States (backing the anti-Assad coalition), Turkey, and Iran and Russia (backing the Assad forces). The large number of different groups vying for change, control, or both has been part of what has perpetuated the length of the conflict. The fighting between factions with the aid of external allies have caused countless civilian deaths in the region. As of February 2020, over 200,000 deaths have been attributed to the Syrian civil war.<sup>18</sup>

#### **B. History in the Arab World**

It is important to make a distinction between this simulation and the real world in terms of Syria's membership in the League. Officially, the Syrian Arab Republic's membership with the Arab League was suspended in November 2011 due to the humanitarian violations.<sup>19</sup> Within the context of the simulation, the Syrian National Coalition is still a part of the League.

The Arab League has repeatedly called for an end to the extreme violence taken against protestors since the conflict first erupted.<sup>20</sup> The Arab League initially set up observers in Syria on

---

<sup>17</sup> "Syria: The Story of the Conflict." BBC News, BBC, 11 Mar. 2016, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868).

<sup>18</sup> "Topic: The Syrian Civil War." Statista, Statista Research Department, 7 Feb. 2020, [www.statista.com/topics/4216/the-syrian-civil-war/](http://www.statista.com/topics/4216/the-syrian-civil-war/).

<sup>19</sup> M, T. "The Arab League's Role in the Syrian Civil War." Inquiries Journal, Inquiries Journal, 1 July 2014, [www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/906/the-arab-leagues-role-in-the-syrian-civil-war](http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/articles/906/the-arab-leagues-role-in-the-syrian-civil-war).

<sup>20</sup> Fordham, Alice. "Arab League Monitors to Remain in Syria despite Criticisms." The Washington Post, WP Company, 8 Jan. 2012,



December 26, 2011 to monitor activity with the goal of an eventual resolution of the Syrian crisis. These observers were charged with monitoring efforts towards peace such as the removal of troops from protest areas, negotiation efforts, and the freeing of political prisoners.<sup>21</sup> According to reports from protestors, the monitors appeared to reduce violence taken by Assad aligned forces against protestors. But, they did not have the power to make any long-lasting impact in the region due to their temporary nature.<sup>22</sup> Violence escalated throughout Syria, and within a month, several member states withdrew themselves from the mission resulting in the overall suspension of the mission due to “the critical deterioration of the situation.”<sup>23</sup>

Recent events have impacted the Syrian crisis. On December 19, 2018, US President Donald Trump announced the removal of all US troops from Syria, leaving Syrian Kurds who had been their allies in the anti-ISIS coalition exposed. This was later changed to the removal of all troops except for 400 of the 2,000-2,500 US troops. This created a power vacuum in the region. Parts of the Syrian Kurds population found themselves invaded as the Turkish-led forces entered Syria. Turkey’s intervention resulted in displacement due to territory loss and civilian casualties for Syrian Kurds.<sup>24</sup> Russian intervention in Syria has been ongoing since 2015, but it has escalated since the US troop withdrawal. Additionally, Iran has been a strong supporter of the Assad regime, and their intervention also increased with the decrease in US presence.<sup>25</sup>

More recently, a ceasefire was negotiated on March 5 between Turkey and Russia in regards to their forces deployed in Syria. The ceasefire mostly concentrated on forces deployed in Idlib, Syria. This also resulted in Assad’s regime regaining territory in the area.<sup>26</sup> Syria has also been in talks for the development of a new constitution, but this was paused due to COVID-19.<sup>27</sup> The situation in Syria is a continuously evolving and complex matter.

The Syrian conflict has made a large impact on the MENA region, especially in the neighboring states. While the refugee crisis is outside the purview of this topic, it is important to acknowledge that 5.6 million Syrians are refugees, and another 6.2 million Syrians are displaced within

---

[www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/arab-league-discusses-observers-mission-in-syria/2012/01/08/gIQAtOTHjP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/arab-league-discusses-observers-mission-in-syria/2012/01/08/gIQAtOTHjP_story.html).

<sup>21</sup> Evans, Dominic. “Arab League Says Syria Monitors Are Helping.” Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 2 Jan. 2012, [www.reuters.com/article/us-syria/arab-league-says-syria-monitors-are-helping-idUSTRE7BO0B620120102](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria/arab-league-says-syria-monitors-are-helping-idUSTRE7BO0B620120102).

<sup>22</sup> Fielding-Smith, Abigail. “Syrian Protesters Welcome Arab League Monitors, Warn of Danger from Assad Forces.” The Washington Post, WP Company, 17 Jan. 2012,

[www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-protesters-welcome-arab-league-monitors-warn-of-danger-from-assad-forces/2012/01/17/gIQA03ty5P\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/syrian-protesters-welcome-arab-league-monitors-warn-of-danger-from-assad-forces/2012/01/17/gIQA03ty5P_story.html).

<sup>23</sup> Samir, Ayman. “Arab League Suspends Syria Mission as Violence Rages.” Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 28 Jan. 2012, [www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/28/us-syria-idUSTRE8041A820120128](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/28/us-syria-idUSTRE8041A820120128).

<sup>24</sup> Hubbard, Ben, and Patrick Kingsley. “U.S. Withdrawal From Syria Gathers Speed, Amid Accusations of Betrayal.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 21 Oct. 2019, [www.nytimes.com/2019/10/21/world/middleeast/us-withdrawal-syria-iraq.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/21/world/middleeast/us-withdrawal-syria-iraq.html).

<sup>25</sup> Sadjadpour, Karim. “Iran’s Unwavering Support to Assad’s Syria.” *Combating Terrorism Center at West Point*, 16 Nov. 2017, [etc.usma.edu/irans-unwavering-support-to-assads-syria/](http://etc.usma.edu/irans-unwavering-support-to-assads-syria/).

<sup>26</sup> Kottasová, Ivana. “Turkey and Russia Announce Ceasefire in Northwest Syria.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 5 Mar. 2020, [www.cnn.com/2020/03/05/middleeast/russia-turkey-syria-ceasefire-intl/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2020/03/05/middleeast/russia-turkey-syria-ceasefire-intl/index.html).

<sup>27</sup> Agencies, Daily Sabah With. “UN Syria Constitution Talks Suspended after 3 Envoys Test Positive for Coronavirus.” *Daily Sabah*, Daily Sabah, 24 Aug. 2020,

[www.dailysabah.com/world/syrian-crisis/un-syria-constitution-talks-suspended-after-3-envoys-test-positive-for-coronavirus](http://www.dailysabah.com/world/syrian-crisis/un-syria-constitution-talks-suspended-after-3-envoys-test-positive-for-coronavirus).

Syria.<sup>28</sup> The refugee crisis has impacted the entire world, but within the MENA region, it has placed a strong strain on countries that have accepted refugees. This includes Turkey with over 3.6 million refugees, Lebanon with 1 million, Jordan with 700,000, and countless other member states. Additionally, within Syria, humanitarian assistance is desperately needed in the country as the conflict has resulted in the destruction of hospitals, schools, sanitation systems, marketplaces, roads, homes, and more.

### **C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future General**

There has been no League-level interference in the Syrian conflict since the suspended League observer mission. There have been calls for ceasefire and peace as well as the readmittance of Syria into the League, but divisions between member states over such a move legitimizing Assad's illegal actions under international law have led to little action that has been taken.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, effort made by member states has largely focused on either aiding political factions or donating money and resources to refugees.

This leaves a wide range of possibilities for topic solutions. The focus of this topic is to discuss the status of the Syrian conflict and find long-term ways to address the conflict and resulting impacts within Syria on the Syrian citizens. The potential for solutions is broad and limited only by the ideas of the committee.

There are many ongoing concerns in the region that might need to be addressed. For example, the ongoing violence against civilian bystanders is a pressing issue. The civilians have been harmed and killed by various factions within Syria, and this has been a prevalent problem. To date, no action has been taken within Syria to mediate this. Additionally, chemical warfare has been on the rise. Homemade chemical weapons are volatile and have been used against civilians and opposing soldiers alike. Lastly, peace and ceasefire discussions are always worthy of revisiting if the climate of the situation at the time allows for it.

The question of the various regimes in Syria must also be brokered. The Assad regime has gained traction and control in recent times whereas as other factions vying for governmental control have lost their power. The ongoing intervention of outside states and organizations, including Russia and Turkey, also pose a threat to Syrian civilians caught in the crossfire of conflict. When thinking of how de-escalating the conflict might be achieved, it is important to consider how the various different groups might factor into this, and what a post-Syrian civil war world might look like.

The key with solutions developed for this topic is that they will be dependent on current events in the region. Has the COVID-19 pandemic escalated and caused a major crisis within the state? Has an additional faction formed and caused an increase in fighting? Have sanctions been placed on Syria and resulted in further destabilization? How do actions of external parties — like the

---

<sup>28</sup> Reid, Kathryn. "Syrian Refugee Crisis: Facts, FAQs, and How to Help." World Vision, 11 June 2020, [www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syrian-refugee-crisis-facts](http://www.worldvision.org/refugees-news-stories/syrian-refugee-crisis-facts).

<sup>29</sup> Cohen, Matt. "Syrian Readmission into the Arab League; Will It? Won't It? Does It Even Matter Anymore?" *Charged Affairs*, 28 June 2019, [chargedaffairs.org/syrian-readmission-into-the-arab-league-will-it-wont-it-does-it-even-matter-anymore/](http://chargedaffairs.org/syrian-readmission-into-the-arab-league-will-it-wont-it-does-it-even-matter-anymore/).

US, Russia, and Turkey — further shape the political situation? These questions are just a few examples of how current events can steer the discussion within this topic.

## II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What was the Arab Spring and how did Syria deviate from them?
- How has my state contributed to alleviating the Syrian crisis?
- What international efforts have been made towards ceasefire efforts in Syria and why have they failed?
- What current events are impacting Syria?
- What is Syria's status in the Arab League? Is my state comfortable with possibly legitimizing the actions of the Assad regime and re-admitting the Syrian Arab Republic into the Arab League?
- What obstacles does Syria face in order to achieve peace?

## III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Does the League have a right to interfere in the Syrian conflict?
- What can be done to reduce the civilians caught in the crossfire of armed conflict?
- How can regional interference be overcome to dispense aid?
- As external military intervention has threatened to prolong the conflict, what can the League do to prevent this?

## IV. Additional Resources

- [BBC: Syria: The story of the conflict](#)  
*This outlines the Syrian conflict in a simple manner. This is a good starting place for those unfamiliar with the basic details of what caused the Syrian civil war. Be sure to not limit yourself to this narrative, but instead make use of this as an overview before looking into the details of the conflict.*
- [Obstacles to a Syrian peace: the interference of interests](#)  
*This article outlines the major obstacles Syria faces on the road to de-escalation of the conflict and eventual peace in the state. It is important to understand the obstacles to Syrian peace in order to address how to aid Syria.*
- [The Arab League's Role in the Syrian Civil War](#)  
*This article discusses the history of League interference in the Syrian conflict. The role of other states on the conflict, a brief list of the history of League interference, the political undercurrents of the conflict and the Assad regime, and an opinion on the necessary steps forward.*

### **Topic III: Determining when and at what level Arab League interference is permissible when highly unlawful or unhumanitarian action occurs in member states, with respect to the Arab Charter on Human Rights and the Charter of the League of Arab States.**

#### **F. I. Introduction to the Topic**

##### **A. General Background**

Violence and conflict are a common consequence of societal change across the world. Protests, whether peaceful or not, challenge a status quo and therefore threaten a given part of society. This is not exclusive to any one region of the world, but instead has happened across the globe ranging from the United States, China, Syria, Yemen, United Kingdom, and France. Virtually no developed country got to where they are now without citizens challenging the social norm. Unfortunately, this often devolves into violence against protestors and civilians caught in the crossfire.

Other examples of unhumanitarian actions include the heavily restricted freedom of expression. This can include the detainment of human rights defenders, journalists, activists, and other critics. The act of detainment can also present another violation of human rights. Some states have been found to allow prolonged solitary confinement, denial of medical care or other basic human necessities, or torture of those detained. This also leads to the potential for trials that use manufactured evidence gathered through torture. Additional situations that pose human rights concerns include exploitation and human trafficking of refugees, women's rights, and LGBT rights.

These situations can violate the basic human rights all humans are afforded through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).<sup>30</sup> This 1948 document serves as a standard baseline on fundamental human rights that all humans should be allowed.<sup>31</sup> The Arab League mirrored aspects of the UDHR in their creation of the Arab Charter on Human Rights (ACHR). Human rights violations are also a political and governmental concern because they can pose a larger threat to a state's government and regional stability. Oftentimes, government crackdowns through the use of violence have been shown to further exacerbate a given situation.

##### **B. History in the Arab World**

Within the Arab world, there has been a long history of harsh action taken against a state's citizens. For example, the Arab Spring protests left few member states untouched as citizens took to the streets to protest for their various causes or perceived injustices. In almost all League states, the situation was able to be deescalated. This was not the case for Syria. The forceful government crackdown at the behest of President Bashar al-Assad prompted more fierce protest from his citizens. Ultimately, the situation in Syria escalated into one of the biggest humanitarian crises of the decade. Even now, nine years later, the Syrian crisis still threatens basic

---

<sup>30</sup> "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations, 1948, [www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/](http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/).

<sup>31</sup> "The Foundation of International Human Rights Law." United Nations, [www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html](http://www.un.org/en/sections/universal-declaration/foundation-international-human-rights-law/index.html).

humanitarian rights of Syrian civilians as they are denied food, water, and necessary healthcare. The civilians are also consistently caught in the crossfire of the warring factions within Syria, resulting in over 380,000 civilian deaths as of April 2020.<sup>32</sup> These crimes were and still are committed by all sides of the war.

Yemen is another example of a country that devolved into a location for a major humanitarian crisis from the Arab Spring. In Yemen, the uprising resulted in a transfer in power from the state's President to the Vice President. The new president was unable to deal with the emerging instability, and the country has been locked in a civil war since 2015.<sup>33</sup> <sup>34</sup> This violence has led to the displacement of many civilians, and an increase in questionable arrests and detainments of critics by Houthi forces. In Yemen, those with disabilities or part of minority groups have been strongly impacted.<sup>35</sup> It is now the world's worst humanitarian crisis since World War II, with an unfortunate combination of widespread civilian casualties, displaced persons, famine, a cholera outbreak, and now COVID-19.<sup>36</sup>

Countries not currently involved in internal conflict have also been guilty of human rights violations. In the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, arbitrary arrest, detainment, and enforced disappearance has been observed. Freedom of expression and the rights of migrants also remain an issue in these states. Some states have made progress in women's rights such as by expanding their freedom to travel and ability to gain important roles in both the household and the government, but all of them still fall behind. Women systematically face discrimination in law, are unable to act independently of males, and have little protection against violence.<sup>37</sup>

### **C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future General**

The goal of this topic is to first understand the more prevalent humanitarian and illegal actions that occur within member states, and then devise a standard protocol for League response as a starting point on ways to counteract or address the actions taken. The Charter of the League of Arab States outlines response mechanisms for interstate conflict, but it does not address intrastate conflict. Additionally, it would be difficult to determine a complete solution that can encompass the main regional concerns considering the variety of different situations that can occur in member states. This is why devising a mechanism for League interference might be a good starting point.

---

<sup>32</sup> "Lowest Monthly Civilian Death Toll Recorded in Syria in 9 Years." Middle East Eye, Apr. 2020, [www.middleeasteye.net/news/lowest-number-monthly-civilian-deaths-recorded-syria-beginning-war](http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/lowest-number-monthly-civilian-deaths-recorded-syria-beginning-war).

<sup>33</sup> "Yemen Crisis." UNICEF, [www.unicef.org/emergencies/yemen-crisis](http://www.unicef.org/emergencies/yemen-crisis).

<sup>34</sup> "Yemen Crisis: Five Years of Hunger, Five Years of War." BBC News, BBC, 27 June 2020, [www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-53205010/yemen-crisis-five-years-of-hunger-five-years-of-war](http://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-middle-east-53205010/yemen-crisis-five-years-of-hunger-five-years-of-war).

<sup>35</sup> "Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa - Review in 2019." *Amnesty International*, 2019, [www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/report-middle-east-and-north-africa/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/report-middle-east-and-north-africa/).

<sup>36</sup> McCarthy, Joe. "Yemen Once Again Ranked as Worst Humanitarian Crisis in the World." Global Citizen, 9 Jan. 2020, <https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/yemen-worst-humanitarian-crisis/>

<sup>37</sup> "Human Rights in the Middle East and North Africa - Review of 2019." *Amnesty International*, 2019, <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/MDE0113572020ENGLISH.PDF>.

The League has a history of stepping in an intrastate situation that resulted in highly unlawful or unhumanitarian action being taken within a member state. For Syria, the League devised the observer mission.<sup>38</sup> While this ultimately failed and was suspended a month later, the League has shown that they are unable to accept outlandishly wrong actions taken within a member state.<sup>39</sup> For the Yemen crisis, the League backed their version of the rightful government but appeared to be at a loss on how to interfere with the crisis as it was emerging. A request for military support was made by Yemen's foreign minister, but it was not met by the League. Instead, the independent mission, Operation Decisive Storm, was formed by Saudi Arabia and backed by eight member states.<sup>40 41</sup>

Additionally, the League has not taken an official stance on the common human rights concerns in the region. These include the previously mentioned topics of unlawful detainment, excessive force and poor treatment of those detained, freedom of expression, abuses of justice systems, and the rights of women, migrants, disabled persons, and LGBT members. It is worth considering if there is any solution that the League can come to that affords more protection than is currently given in any of these areas, whether focusing specifically on one of these areas or more broadly.

## II. Questions to Consider in Your Research

- What major unlawful or unhumanitarian actions have been taken in the League in recent years?
- Has my state required or received League interference on intrastate actions?
- What is written in the Arab Charter on Human Rights that can clarify relevant unhumanitarian actions?
- What rights are states afforded that might prevent League interference?
- What is the standard response from the League or other organizations for unlawful and unhumanitarian action?

## III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- Can the topic be answered by devising a start to finish solution for League action?
- Is a standard, initial League response-and-action protocol feasible, or is there a better alternative?
- How can the League minimize potential for the escalation of a conflict into civil war?

## IV. Additional Resources

<sup>38</sup> Ian Black. "Arab League Mission in Syria 'Has Only Just Started'." The Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 7 Jan. 2012, [www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/07/arab-league-syria-just-started?newsfeed=true](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2012/jan/07/arab-league-syria-just-started?newsfeed=true).

<sup>39</sup> Muir, Jim. "Arab League Suspends Syria Mission - Nabil El-Arabi." BBC News, 28 Jan. 2012, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-16774171](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-16774171).

<sup>40</sup> Khairallah, Khairallah. "Operation Decisive Storm Three Years on: Khairallah Khairallah." The Arab Weekly, Mar. 2018, [theArabweekly.com/operation-decisive-storm-three-years](http://theArabweekly.com/operation-decisive-storm-three-years).

<sup>41</sup> Fraihat, Ibrahim. "Will Saudi Arabia's 'Operation Decisive Storm' Restore Order in Yemen?" Brookings, Brookings, 28 July 2016, [www.brookings.edu/opinions/will-saudi-arabias-operation-decisive-storm-restore-order-in-yemen/](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/will-saudi-arabias-operation-decisive-storm-restore-order-in-yemen/).

- [Human Rights Watch](#)  
*This website provides a comprehensive overview of human rights in countries. For each country, it provides a brief summary and further links to recent reports and news articles on the topic in that country.*
- [Arab Charter on Human Rights](#)  
*The Arab Charter on Human Rights is a document that defines the basic human rights afforded to all citizens of League states. Understanding the basic human rights is necessary to understanding when action violates these rights.*
- [Human Rights in Middle East and North Africa - Review in 2019](#)  
*This review by Amnesty International provides an overview of the major human rights concerns in the MENA region. The brief overview discusses the topic from the perspective of the major human rights concerns. The more detailed PDF within outlines the human rights concerns on a state-by-state basis.*
- [The Arab Spring](#)  
*The history of uprisings in the MENA region are necessary to understanding what leads a state to violent action against its own citizens. The Arab Spring are a starting point for some of the largest conflicts in the region, and this website provides an overview of how these situations started.*

## **Topic IV: Developing concerted efforts to address poor economic, governmental, and social conditions driving widespread resurgence of mass protests in the region.**

### **I. Introduction to the Topic**

#### **A. General Background**

In modern times, mass protests are the civilian response to inequality or discrimination. Mass protests always have root in some form of injustice, though this can vary depending on the region and the political climate. Mass protests often signal a time of dramatic change in society either through government reform or violent suppression of citizens. These types of mass protests have occurred multiple times all over the world and can be peaceful or escalate to violence. Some recent notable examples of mass protests include the George Floyd protests, France's yellow vests movement, 2019 Catalan protests, and Hong Kong's 2019 protests. The Arab World is not exempt from these mass protests.

The Arab world's more recent history with mass protests has roots in the 2010 Arab Spring. These were anti-government protests and uprisings that started in Tunisia and then spread to the majority of member states.<sup>42</sup> In some states, these protests also resulted in armed rebellion from civilian groups and/or armed forces from the government. These protests severely threatened state stability in the cases of Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Yemen who all had civil wars as a result. Additionally, the extremist group the Islamic State (IS) emerged in the chaos.<sup>43</sup>

The reasons for the Arab Spring protests varied from state to state, but they largely related to civilian dislike of current government regimes. Those participating included parts of the youth population, religious minorities, and economic minorities. The inequality these populations often experienced were what drove them to protest. The region as a whole has made at least some progress in speaking to the issues that caused the protests, but some states failed to address what drove citizens to protest. As a result, there have been various revivals of the protests on both a small and large scale throughout member states.

#### **B. History in the Arab World**

The 2018-2020 Arab protests, also known as the Second Arab Spring, were another series of mass protests in the region. Anti-government protests occurred in several member states.<sup>44</sup> Sudan was one of the impacted states with governmental and economic discontent, and it resulted in the president being overthrown.<sup>45</sup> Morocco's protests came about from unresolved issues from the

---

<sup>42</sup> "The Arab Spring: A Year Of Revolution." National Public Radio, 17 Dec. 2011, [www.npr.org/2011/12/17/143897126/the-arab-spring-a-year-of-revolution](http://www.npr.org/2011/12/17/143897126/the-arab-spring-a-year-of-revolution).

<sup>43</sup> "Arab League Issues Proclamation on ISIS." CBS News, CBS Interactive, 8 Sept. 2014, [www.cbsnews.com/news/arab-league-agrees-to-take-urgent-measures-to-combat-isis/](http://www.cbsnews.com/news/arab-league-agrees-to-take-urgent-measures-to-combat-isis/).

<sup>44</sup> "Arab Spring 2.0? Understanding the New Wave of Protests." Democracy Digest, National Endowment for Democracy, 31 Oct. 2019, [www.demdigest.org/arab-spring-2-0-understanding-the-new-wave-of-protests/](http://www.demdigest.org/arab-spring-2-0-understanding-the-new-wave-of-protests/).

<sup>45</sup> Elmileik, Aya. "What Prompted the Protests in Sudan?" News | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 26 Dec. 2018, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/12/prompted-protests-sudan-181224114651302.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/12/prompted-protests-sudan-181224114651302.html).



Arab Spring as well as the imprisonment of various activists.<sup>46</sup> Jordan's protests were due to economic constraints from price increases and taxation.<sup>47</sup> The majority of the different protests throughout the MENA region stemmed from either economic, political, or social reasons.

In truth, many of the poor political and economic conditions that drove the initial Arab Spring went largely unaddressed and even worsened over the past decade, which explains part of why the latest surge of protests has risen to such a large, regional scale. While some efforts were made to address the issues, structural problems have persisted. Middle classes have become more vulnerable, income inequality is on the rise while economic mobility becomes harder, and public services like health and education are lacking and unequal in many areas. Compared to other regions, the MENA region faces inequality due to having the highest youth and female unemployment rates, the highest density of autocratic regimes, and is also the most water-stressed region.<sup>48</sup> The interplay of these economic, political, and even ecological factors creates the stagnant or worsening situations that have sparked the masses to protest once again.

The majority of efforts to address mass protests and their reoccurrence have been done on an individual member state basis. However, most efforts have focused on ending the protests rather than how to solve the issues that led to the protests. For example, in the Bahrain Arab Spring protests, citizens protested for greater political freedom, and a large portion of the protesters were from the Shia religious population who had issues with the government being predominantly Sunni. The protests were ended by harsh governmental crackdown through police raids and arrests.<sup>49</sup> Bahrain did not address the minority or inequality conditions that led to the protests.<sup>50</sup> This was not isolated to Bahrain. Multiple states failed to address what led to the protests, but some states did make progress such as Tunisia.

The Tunisian protests were propelled by poor economic conditions due to inflation and unemployment. This led to social and political unrest. As a result of the protests, the ruling government party was overthrown, and an elected constituent assembly was created.<sup>51</sup> This assembly was responsible for the creation of a new constitution that addressed increased human rights, government responsibilities, gender equality, and decentralizing the Tunisian government.

---

<sup>46</sup> Eljechimi, Ahmed. "Tens of Thousands Protest in Morocco over Jailed Rif Activists." Reuters, Thomson Reuters, 15 July 2018, [www.reuters.com/article/us-morocco-protests/tens-of-thousands-protest-in-morocco-over-jailed-rif-activists-idUSKBN1K50R0](http://www.reuters.com/article/us-morocco-protests/tens-of-thousands-protest-in-morocco-over-jailed-rif-activists-idUSKBN1K50R0).

<sup>47</sup> "Jordan Protests: What You Should Know." News | Al Jazeera, Al Jazeera, 4 June 2018, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/06/jordan-protests-180604052840527.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/06/jordan-protests-180604052840527.html).

<sup>48</sup> Yousef, Tarik M., et. al. "The Middle East and North Africa over the Next Decade: Key Challenges and Policy Options." Brookings Institution, 3 Mar. 2020, <https://www.brookings.edu/opinions/the-middle-east-and-north-africa-over-the-next-decade-key-challenges-and-policy-options/>

<sup>49</sup> McEvers, Kelly. "Bahrain: The Revolution That Wasn't." NPR, National Public Radio, 5 Jan. 2012, [www.npr.org/2012/01/05/144637499/bahrain-the-revolution-that-wasnt](http://www.npr.org/2012/01/05/144637499/bahrain-the-revolution-that-wasnt).

<sup>50</sup> Majzoub, Aya. "Nine Years After Bahrain's Uprising, Its Human Rights Crisis Has Only Worsened." Human Rights Watch, 25 Feb. 2020, [www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/25/nine-years-after-bahrains-uprising-its-human-rights-crisis-has-only-worsened](http://www.hrw.org/news/2020/02/25/nine-years-after-bahrains-uprising-its-human-rights-crisis-has-only-worsened).

<sup>51</sup> Blakemore, Erin. "What Was the Arab Spring and What Caused It to Happen?" *The Arab Spring-Facts and Information*, 14 June 2019, [www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/topics/reference/arab-spring-cause/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/topics/reference/arab-spring-cause/).

Despite this progress, they failed to fully address the economic issues which led to the 2018 Tunisian protests.<sup>52</sup>

Additionally, there is concern in the region for another surge of protests. Across the region and the world, civilians have been unhappy with their governments handling and response to COVID-19. It is possible that as the next year develops, recent events might cause additional protests throughout the region. An uptick in protests has been witnessed in Palestine in the summer of 2020. This has partially been due to the consideration of a UAE-Israel normalization agreement. Currently, nothing has resulted from the protests except for violence taken by Israeli forces against Palestinians.<sup>53</sup> In Iraq, protests for different causes have been ongoing since 2019. The main set of protests have been largely led by youths, and center around corruption and unemployment. Another set of protests in August 2020 centered around delayed salary payments caused by the economic downturn.<sup>54</sup> Iraq has so far failed to meet the demands of protestors.

### **C. Finding a Solution to the Problem: Past, Present, and Future General**

To devise a solution to this topic, it is necessary to first research previous mass protests in the region and the state each delegation is representing. This should involve investigating the causes of the protests, their duration, why they stopped, and what was done to address the issues that were being protested. Through this research, the conditions that drive the resurgence of these protests should become apparent. Any and all solutions must address the conditions that cause mass protest resurgence and how to remedy them.

Perhaps the most straightforward way to address this topic is to determine the critical areas that cause protest resurgence. This will depend on the state, but the most common areas include economic concerns such as inequality and unemployment, government concerns due to issues such as corruption or unequal representation, and social inequality such as treatment of minority groups (women, religious minorities, ethnic minorities, migrants, etc.).

It is important for a League-wide solution to be developed considering the chaos that these mass protests cause in the region through escalation to civil wars. Future efforts by the League must find a way to address the conditions that lead to prevalent mass protests including social, economic, political, and religious conditions. The de-escalation of mass protests often results in prioritization of the most prominent problems. This results in other issues being left unaddressed such as in the case of Tunisia. This might suggest that a framework or guideline for member states for the aftermath of mass protests would be a useful tool.

## **II. Questions to Consider in Your Research**

- What mass protests have occurred in or near my state?

---

<sup>52</sup> “Eight Years After It Launched the Arab Spring, Tunisia Still Struggles With the Legacy of Dictatorship.” *Human Rights Watch*, 1 Sept. 2020,

[www.hrw.org/news/2019/01/14/eight-years-after-it-launched-arab-spring-tunisia-still-struggles-legacy](http://www.hrw.org/news/2019/01/14/eight-years-after-it-launched-arab-spring-tunisia-still-struggles-legacy).

<sup>53</sup> “Palestinian Protests Erupt in Wake of Israel-UAE Agreement (VIDEOS).” *Palestine Chronicle*, 15 Aug. 2020, [www.palestinechronicle.com/palestinian-protests-erupt-in-wake-of-israel-uae-agreement-videos/](http://www.palestinechronicle.com/palestinian-protests-erupt-in-wake-of-israel-uae-agreement-videos/).

<sup>54</sup> Jabbari, Dorsa. “Northern Iraqis Protest over Salary Arrears.” *Iraq News | Al Jazeera*, Al Jazeera, 25 Aug. 2020, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/northern-iraqis-protest-salary-arrears-200825161124086.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/northern-iraqis-protest-salary-arrears-200825161124086.html).

- What are the major causes of unrest in my state?
- What forms of inequality are prevalent in my state? How has my state addressed inequality?
- How has the Arab Spring and 2018-2019 protests impacted my state?
- As the head of your state, what are you willing to compromise on in addressing the issues that affect protesters?
- Can a singular resolution address all of the conditions that result in protest resurgence, or are multiple resolutions necessary?

### III. Questions a Resolution Might Answer

- How can we ensure the poor economic, social, political, and religious conditions in member states are dealt with as they arise?
- What can be done to reduce inequality in each of the trigger areas for protests?
- Can the League institute a standard guideline for how to address and remedy the issues that caused mass protests?

### IV. Additional Resources

- [Response to popular protests in the MENA region](#)  
*This report looks at governmental response to the Arab Spring protests. It also analyzes the “consistent failure by MENA governments to address the socioeconomic as well as political underlying causes of citizens’ grievances.” The most relevant parts of this report might be the subsections on outcomes and prospects.*
- [Inequalities in the Arab region](#)  
*This book chapter analyzes the what causes the prevalence of social and economic inequalities in the Arab region within the context of politics. It also provides statistics and data trends for inequality in the region.*
- [Inequality, Uprisings, and Conflict in the Arab World](#)  
*The World Bank report focuses on the economic causes of inequality in the MENA region. It aims to address the disparity in how major unrest has continued to occur in the MENA region despite the economic and humanitarian progress. It evaluates the different causes of economic inequality, and how the dissatisfaction of Arabs indicates the issue lies in the structure of Arab economies.*
- [Measuring Inequality in the Middle East 1990-2016: The World’s Most Unequal Region?](#)  
*This review of the Middle East compiles data spanning over 2.5 decades in order to determine the actual level of inequality in the Middle East. It provides an overview of the change in the region of this time. This is relevant for those attempting to understand how the history of the MENA region has led to its current state and the resulting inequality.*