



Security Council

Topic A: The Situation in the Middle East, Including Yemen

The UN, and the Security Council in particular, have been talking about the situation in the Middle East since the institutions were founded in the mid 1940s.¹ Yemen has been at the forefront of these discussions since the modern State was formed in 1990, as the country has “long struggled with religious and cultural differences between its north and south and the legacy of European colonialism.”² The complex conflict that has persisted since 2014 has researchers and analysts declaring it has turned into a proxy war, with Iran supporting Houthi rebels, Saudi Arabia garnering allies to counteract their position, and militant Islamist and separatist groups adding an additional level of confusion.³ The UN has provided humanitarian relief, technical and logistical assistance, and mediated a cease-fire in 2022, but the fighting continues today and millions are still suffering from food shortages, poverty, lack of medical resources, and displacement.⁴ The UN Security Council has a long list of precedents and resources that aim to address the broad, and ever-evolving situation in the Middle East.⁵

Topic B: Children and Armed Conflict

Despite international efforts, millions of children worldwide continue to suffer the devastating consequences of warfare. In conflict zones, children are subjected to egregious violations of their rights, including recruitment as child soldiers, sexual exploitation, and forced displacement.⁶ Their education is disrupted, and basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare become scarce, endangering their physical well-being.⁷ Over the years, the United Nations Security Council has adopted numerous resolutions aimed at protecting the rights and well-being of children caught in the crossfires of war. These efforts emphasized the consequences of recruiting child soldiers, the importance of providing humanitarian aid to affected regions, and the priority of holding perpetrators of atrocities against children accountable.⁸ Collaborative efforts with UN agencies, civil society organizations, and affected countries have bolstered the Security Council's effectiveness in safeguarding the rights of children in conflict zones.⁹ However, ongoing conflicts and emerging threats continue, highlighting the need for sustained attention and action to ensure a safer future for children worldwide.¹⁰

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/ga/62/plenary/middleeast>

² <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/yemen-crisis>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://yemen.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/middle-east>

⁶ <https://www.unicef.org/media/123021/file/25%20Years%20Children%20in%20Armed%20Conflict.pdf>

⁷ https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Children-in-Conflict_WEB.pdf

⁸ <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/about/the-mandate/>

⁹ <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/about/partners-2/>

¹⁰ https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Children-in-Conflict_WEB.pdf