

Forum: United Nations Peacekeeping Force

Issue: Developing a Collaborative Peacekeeping Strategy to Mitigate the Conflict in Syria

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Introduction

The conflict in Syria which began in 2011 as a civil war, stemming from the Arab Spring protests has been declared a level - three (L3) Humanitarian emergency in January 2013. Citizens across the Middle East took to the streets to protest against the corruption of President Bashar al-Assad's government for the lack of political freedom and unemployment. It holds a serious threat to regional stability and represents a huge and developing humanitarian crisis. What started as peaceful protests has resulted in more than 4,000 Syrians, including soldiers and civilians dying and half of Syrian's 22 million population displaced around the world. Alongside this, there is an added internal dispute of the Shi'a-Sunni Islam groups in Syria.

The ongoing political unrest exposed the tremendous religious division within the Syrian groups of which the majority are Sunni Muslims, embodying around 74% of the populace in 2011. Other Muslim religions for example, the Alawites, Ismail's and Shia, constitute to 13%. While the Christian contain 10% and Druze 3%. These religious differences have fueled the battle and given a level for hardline organizations just like the Islamic State (IS) to have an essential role in the battle. President Bashar al-Assad has been confronted with growing pressure from the international community to end his cruelty carried out in state prisons, as these violent activities continue the Syrian Government demands rebels to surrender themselves to prison.

If President Bashar al-Assad is overthrown then Syria will fight a battle amongst themselves for peace in the country. Given the current international dynamics, there is no impartial negotiated settlement that overthrows Assad from power. Nonetheless, when Assad does ultimately leave power through means such as political decision, retirement or death. The international community could have another chance to take control of Syria through another

feasible political structure, taking into account different stability measures and a vigorous reconciliation method.

Over the years, the Syrian conflict has transformed from a non-international civil war to international in character as the conflict brought countries such as Russia, Iran, the US and Turkey and numerous other states. With that in mind, the struggle hasn't always been about Syria's legislation and Assad's corruption; it has emerged as a pawn in the worldwide struggles of the Middle East. The international community has performed a massive role in trying to ease peace among the Assad regime and opposition groups.

Since 2012, there have been 15 resolutions relating to Syria. These resolutions have dealt with discussing goals such as civilian evacuation, humanitarian aid, cease-fire and the use of chemical weapons. In 2012, UN Resolution 2043 set up the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), a peacekeeping strategy including more than 400 non-armed militaries and staff and was positioned in Syria until August 2012. Since 2016, there have been eight political solutions to the conflict, however none have brought about enduring or significant change (*"Syria- Office of the UN Special Envoy" 2019*). Moving towards the ninth year of since the civil war began, it has led to losing around half a million of the population. Despite where Syria falls along the stability-instability range in the short-to-medium term, the global community must begin to consider the plan for reconciliation and the role of international peacekeepers to mitigate the potential negative possibilities of other member nations. Despite current efforts, Syria still rests as a war-torn state.

Definition of Key Terms

Sectarianism

Is a type of partiality, discrimination or hatred from a certain religious or political group that an individual is a member of and can result in problems amongst the country or group.

Arab Spring Protests

A series of anti - government protesting arising from armed rebellion groups which has resulted in regime changes in political power in countries such as Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.

Humanitarian Crisis

Is when there is a series of multiple crises which affect the country's overall growth in terms of economically, socially and environmentally and risk the lives of individuals.

Shia Muslim

Is one of the two main branches of the Islam, religion. It is the group of people who believe in the Imams and Ali as the rightful successor to Muhammad.

Sunni Muslim

Is the second of the two main branches of the Islam, who obey by the orthodox tradition and concede the first four caliphs as the rightful successor to Muhammad.

Islamic State (IS)

Also known in the Arabic - Language acronym as Daesh, is a militant group and former unrecognisable proto-state that follow the muslim religion of Sunni.

Chemical Weapons

Is a specialised munition which utilizes chemicals that result in death or harm to individuals.

Propaganda

Is a form of text type which is used to communicate a biased message to a wider audience to influence and change a political view of an individual or a community.

United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS)

Is a peacekeeping mission set in Syria by the United Nations set up in 2012 as a result of the UN Security Council Resolution 2043 in acknowledgment of the Syrian Civil War.

Chemical Weapons

Toxic chemicals mutate to inflict death or harm on humans which is disposed of via a delivery system such as a rocket or artillery shell.

Spiked Ammo

Also known as the exploding ammunition, it contains a mixture of powder instead of bullets which when fired the bullet explodes as the rifle pin would strike.

Soviet Union

Also known as the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) existed between 1922 to 1991. Consisting of the following countries, Russia, Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

Kurds

Kurdish people or Kurds are an Iraqi ethnic group representing the Sunni Muslim community and is the largest ethnic group with no state of their own and are habituated around parts of Middle East.

Kurdish Guerilla Group

Also known as the Kurdish Workers' Party is a political and militant group based in Iraq and Turkey that focuses on the freedom of the largely oppressed Kurdish population.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)

Is Iran's military forces in charge of protecting the Iranian regime from external and internal threats.

Jihadist

Individuals who want to eradicate the obstacles of building a good Muslim society by restoring God's presence on Earth through a war for people of faith against unbelievers.

Insurgent Group

A group of individuals fighting against a government for power who follow their own ideologies and believe only solution to problems is extreme violence.

Sovereignty

Having ultimate power over an entire state showing dominance and status without any external governing body.

Non Governmental Organisations (NGO's)

An organisation which operates under an individual independently typically set up to bring change in community and address political and social issues.

Non - State Actors (NSA)

Also known as NSA's, in international relations can be an individual or an organisation which hold a significant influence on a country's political decision and are not affiliated or directly connected to the government.

Demilitarization

Mainly referred to as the complete removal or reduction in the number of state armed forces.

Key Issues

Humanitarian crisis

Refugees

Before the start of the civil war, Syria had the approximate population close to New York state. In the last 9 years, the war has displaced more than half of it's population and has become the largest country with a refugee population. Families have undergone brutal conflict which has affected the standard of living, an approximate of 5.6 million refugees are displaced within Syria. Most of the refugees have fled to seek asylum in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey.

As the violence started to spread across Syria, the destruction of infrastructure has impacted numerous lives of citizens as 70% of refugee families live below the poverty line without privacy and overcrowded rooms. Unable to provide immediate resettlement for the growing refugee population, a few countries such as Turkey have created makeshift "tent cities" where refugees now stay.

Syrian refugees from the start of the war have faced tremendous healthcare problems which have influenced the increase in poor determinants health. The different factors of social determinants are how individuals live, money and power which contribute to the resources and the international humanitarian system for the protection of refugees. With no prospect of the civil war ending the Syrian refugees are forced to distance themselves from families and friends

which is slowly increasing the rate of debt and insecurity of citizens and is becoming a progressing concern for the host nations to provide food, water and shelter.

Homelessness

In Idlib and Aleppo the number of homeless families have increased as war continues, many have been forced to leave their homes in the largest displacements since the Second World War and have continued to flee the country as the violence escalates in the two main cities of Damascus and Aleppo. Many civilians are forced to leave due to indiscriminate attacks such as mass murder, rape and torture.

According to the United Nations, there is an estimate of 4 million citizens who have fled the country and 2 million children who have dropped out of school due to the increasing tensions of the war. Many individuals have no confirmed location to relocate to which is becoming an issue as people are displaced all over the region with no food or shelter. Currently, resolving this issue would require resettlement for the homeless in ways such as providing camps, rebuilding an educational system and support from other countries to rebuild the devastated cities.

Geopolitical crisis

Sunni's and Shi'as

The Syrian uprising comprises primarily Sunni Muslims rebels fighting against the Alawi dominated government forces. On the government side, the Shi'a dominated states of Iran and Lebanon provide military and tactical aid, whereas on the rebels' side aid is provided from the Gulf States like Saudi Arabia and Qatar. President Assad's government is part of a larger Shi'a alliance with Lebanon and Iran, acting as a counterweight to Sunni domination of the Middle East. The Alawi government effectively gave control of one of the larger Sunni states to a Shi'a minority; radical Sunnis such as Al Qaeda and other rebel groups would like nothing better than to destroy this control.

Losing Syria to a Sunni rebellion would isolate Lebanon and Iran even further, not to mention the profound implications for Shi'as within Syria. It might serve as a sort of slippery

slope towards increased Sunni militancy within Lebanon, creating further instability in the Levant. Lebanon only recently came out of a civil war that had spilled over into both Israel and Syria; allowing Sunni forces to gain a strong foothold in Syria therefore would plunge the entire region into conflict again.

Furthermore, the loss of a Shi'a Syrian ally would allow Sunni militias to form a base in Syria and use it to further insurgencies into Iran, threatening it's security. This has the possibility of drawing Iranian forces into further conflict across borders and therefore derailing negotiations with the USA and EU regarding sanctions and its nuclear program.

Natural Gas - Qatar and Russia

Russia so far has been unequivocal in it's support for the Syrian government, while the USA and EU have been unequivocal in their support for the rebels. The relationship shared between Russia and the EU, while not amicable, has a lot at stake, namely Europe's supply of natural gas. A quarter of Europe's gas consumption comes from Russia, giving Russia an advantage in any confrontation or breakdown in relations. Syria represents an area that could begin such a breakdown.

To reduce Russia's advantage, therefore, the EU would need another competitive gas supplier. A prime candidate for this role is Qatar, since it shares the world's largest natural gas field with Iran. Although Qatar attempted to build a pipeline for this gas through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Syria, President Assad blocked this plan in lieu of Syria's long-standing energy commitment to Russia.

The fall of President Assad's government to a Sunni regime would create a Syria that is more friendly to Qatar; this also explains why Qatar has been vocal in it's support for the rebels. Furthermore, a Sunni Syria would isolate Iran even more and therefore remove another competitor from the European gas market. Iran has signed an agreement to transport gas via a pipeline to the Mediterranean with Iraq and Syria, giving it access to the European market. A hostile Sunni Syria would derail these plans and isolate Iran from the west even further, while allowing Qatar to deplete more gas from their shared gas field. Syria, therefore, is a focal point in this 'struggle' for the European natural gas market, giving the conflict much wider implications than other regional conflicts.

Foreign interventions

International Involvement from NATO, UN and Syrian Allies

The Syrian war has received a lot of international attention, with foreign assistance being provided to both the government of Syria and to the rebels. Diplomatically, the Russian government has sent delegations to express their support of the Assad Government. Russia has also supplied the Assad government with weapons, and trained the Syrian army in their use and upkeep. In addition to diplomatic support and supplying arms, the Iranian government is also to have provided Syria with armed fighters and over \$9 billion in financial support.

The Syrian government has also received support from non-government entities, like the Lebanese Hezbollah, which has allegedly sent fighters to combat the rebels. The Syrian rebels too have received international help. The United States has long been providing non-lethal aid to the rebels and also have been accused of providing combat training to the rebels.

US - Led Coalition

The US-led coalition of 77 states was formed in 2014 to fight IS in Iraq and Syria. The maximum exceptional states in the coalition are: Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and the US. Though the coalition's motive is to fight with non-state actors and rebel groups, due to the fact the Syrian Government has now not consented to this foreign-troop presence, there can be an international armed war among the US-led coalition and the Assad government.

Direct confrontation between Syria and the coalition took place for the first time in April 2017 when the US carried out a missile strike on a Syrian Government air base after the Government had used chemical weapons on its own population.¹⁴ Another direct confrontation took place almost exactly a year later in April 2018, when the US, Britain and France launched airstrikes against Syrian chemical weapon storage, military and research facilities after another suspected chemical attack by President Assad near Damascus.

Though the United States has been playing with the idea of withdrawing from Syria for a while, its most present day stance has shifted due to the fact the Trump administration has vowed to stay in Syria until the stop of the war as a manner to halt Iran's increase all through the Middle East.

Chemical Weapons

Syria has had a chemical weapon program for many years, the weapons have been sourced from the Soviet Union. In mid 1980's Syria began to develop its own chemical weapons and by 2007, Syria had a stockpile of chemical weapons which would be utilised

during a war against rebel groups or other countries. In March 2013, a village in northern Syria with the presence of a strong rebel group was hit with chemical weapons containing sarin - a potent nerve agent. The attack resulted in at least 26 fatalities with more injured. The government blamed each other but later after investigations showed that the sarin used in the attack was remarkably similar to that in other Syrian government stockpiles.

In the early hours of August 21, 2013 several rebels controlled around the Ghouta, Syria was hit by rockets containing sarin, killing hundreds, with death tolls of approximately 2000. President Bashar al-Assad immediately denied claims that the Syrian government was behind the attacks, saying instead that rebel groups had used the chemical agents because they were losing. A UN report later showed that the sarin used in the attack was highly purified and of much higher quality than that generated by Iraq's chemical weapons program. As of August 2013, Syria has not joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, which would require it to destroy its arsenal of chemical weapons, which strongly indicate that Syrian government plans on continuing their use of these weapons.

Assad's Territorial Gain

Currently, Assad seems to be rising as one of the winners of the Syrian conflict. Anti-government protests started to erupt in an around the Middle East which led to Syrian Government with the help of Iran-backed militias and Russian aerial bombings slowly started to reclaim the territory in Syria from rebels. During the months of February and May, the Syrian Government evacuated Damascus and Homs from areas such as al-Waer; it was the first time since 2011 that the city of Homs has been cleared of arms opposition.

Meanwhile, between it reclaimed back Eastern Ghouta, which ended the five year long siege, known to be the longest in the modern era. Finally, in July 2018, Assad dominated the Southern district of Syria - Daraa. Which was under control since the beginning of the war, it is a symbolic win for Assad as it was the birthplace of the 2011 revolt against President Bashar al-Assad. Additionally, reclaiming a lot of these regions of land gave the Assad regime the benefit of regaining its border with Israel and Jordan that eased global trade.

With the Assad government in place, there has been huge territorial gain in the regions of Syria and Russia with the US moving into discussion on how to rebuild Syria and start to send refugees back to the country. In September 2018, in the UN General Assembly, Syria's Deputy Prime Minister, Walid al-Moallem insisted the battle with the non-state actors was almost over and it will be time to welcome back the refugees who fled out of Syria during the seven year

war. The remaining areas of control are Idlib located in the Northwest Province. A demilitarization deal was proposed over Idlib to manipulate and to stay clear of the humanitarian disaster that could have emerged from a Syrian military assault.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America

The Syria conflict has killed many people in the last years as the use of chemical weapons increases. The United States of America has commanded the Syrian Government to stop using chemical weapons throughout this conflict. The US government wants the Syrian government to hand over all their chemical weapons to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). It wants, together with its alliances, to press the Syrian government to fully cooperate with the OPCW, destroy remaining chemical weapons and dismantle the entire chemical weapons program.

Accordingly, the US should be condemned for the missile strike because it acted according to statements through US officials and in line with its worldwide obligation concerning the breaches of former UNSC resolutions. The United States of America believes that any state country which aids the Syrian authorities in committing battle crimes and crimes in opposition to humanity need to end such operations or meet strain from the council.

Likewise, the United States unearths that states the usage of chemical guns against its very own populace is in clean violation of its obligation to shield and need to, consequently, face sanctions beneath Chapter VII of the UN charter. The US now no longer agrees with the contemporary political panorama and Syria is perfect for the future and consequently believes the Syrian authorities and president Assad need to step down and permit a brand new democratic authorities to guide Syria.

People's Republic of China

Since the beginning of the Civil War, Syria and China have had strong diplomatic relationships, its policies are derived from the broader security and economic interests that benefit not only China but Syria too. China's policies have created a fundamental basis of a longstanding declaration for non-interference of other nations and state sovereignty and China's diplomatic engagement has been receptive, pragmatic and cautious in order to maintain a stable and friendly government in power in the city of Damascus. The foreign policy proposed by China promises the reconstruction and redevelopment of Syria.

The Russian Federation

The Russian military intervention took place during September 2015, as the Syrian Government sought out Russia's help for medical aid for its people. Ever since the Arab Spring Protests Russia - Syria continues to have a bilateral relationship. Diplomatic relations were strengthened between Syria and the Soviet Union when the country signed a Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation in 1950. This treaty remains in action till this day and in January 1992, the Syrian Government acknowledged the Russian Federation as the legal successor of the Soviet Union. The Russian Federation has continued to back Syria with diplomatic and military involvement. In 2012, to forestall possible sanctions and military intervention against the Syrian Government, Russia supplied arms to Syria to fight the rebel groups.

President Vladimir Putin hopes that the current Syrian Government stays in power and assists in stabilizing the situation in Syria without any military intervention against the current regime. Currently, Russia is Syria's most important ally in the Middle East region. With the current regime in power Russia has access to Tartus, the only military port via the Mediterranean Sea. Therefore, if the current government is replaced this could result in a strategic loss and dominance over the Western Region. Currently, the Russian Federation is completely against the two militant groups; People's Protection Unit (YPG) and Free Syrian Army (FSA) because the Syrian Government is continuously defending itself instead of fighting back which is slowly resulting in colossal damage to the nation and its people.

Turkey

Turkey today hosts the highest number of refugees from Syria, majority residing in the urban areas. The Turkish government since the beginning of the crisis has offered to support Syrian refugees with medical aid identical to the Turkish nationals (reliefweb.int). Ever since the beginning, Turkey has been actively involved militarily and diplomatically in the Civil War and has been part of the US - led coalition which resulted in the Kurdish - Turkish conflict and demanded the partition to form a new independent country of Kurdistan. As Kurds have their own religion, language and traditions they still remain to be one of the largest Muslim ethnic groups to exist without a state of their own. 20 million Kurds habituated across Syria, Iraq, Iran and Turkey have joined hands with US forces to overthrow President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and fight together against ISIS.

As the Turkish invaded Kurdish - held territory in Syria, it has transformed into an international conflict with numerous militant groups involved. As the Syrian Kurds have let out

the ISIS soldiers out of Syria, it has joined hands to create a Kurdish Guerilla Group who have prosecuted decades of rebellion insurgency in Turkey. Turkish have seen this as a threat to it's security and fear that this area of land could become a haven for disident fleeing to Turkey. To counteract this, Turkey has created a "safe-zone" covering approximately 20 miles of Syrian territory. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Russian President Vladimir Putin together created this on October 13 2019 to seek a buffer zone for military operations.

Islamic State (IS)

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or the Islamic State (IS) is a radical group that withdrew itself from Al-Qaeda in 2014 to establish it's own organisation which would aim to build it's own Islamic State (caliphate) under the Sharia Law. This organisation has been extremely successful in enlisting new individuals from all across the world by circulating ideas through social media and propaganda. During it's peak in 2014 the Islamic State seized roughly 43,377km² and held hostages of 3,500 individuals who eventually became slaves in Iraq and Syria. Soonafter, the Islamic State became one of the moneyed radical groups having an overall earning of 2 billion dollars from it's oil fields, mineral mines and taxes, the Islamic State has lost considerable area and population since 2014, and has yet to be defeated. The group still has control over land in Syria and Iraq, especially alongside the Euphrates River.

Moreover, the Islamic State has built up a developing number of provinces in places such as Yemen, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Libya as well as an intensifying jihadist networks in the Asia - Pacific region. Since it's emergence, the Islamic State has been proclaimed to be an insurgent group devoted to controlling territory. The Islamic State has not been dissolute and the group no longer represents a potential threat stated by the United States Department of Defense. It has been proposed, however, that IS has reduced it's presence in the battlefield and is slowly moving towards underground and changing to rebellion-like practices instead of fighting and governing. The potency and attractiveness of the Islamic State ideologies seems to have permitted the extremist group to survive and remain in numbers even after the definitive losses in the battlefield. This implies that ISIS could remain an issue for a while, moving underground when it gets powerless and returning when it's strength is replenished.

Free Syrian Army (FSA)

The Free Syrian Army (FSA) is an organizational group based in Syria in opposition to the Syrian Government. It was created in 2011 to fight the Assad regime for lack of democracy in the region and have joined together with Turkey during the invasion of Syrian Northern Land.

Approximately, 35,000 FSA soldiers shifted to the Kurdish occupied land side - by - side with Turkish soldiers. Since, it's start this militant group has expanded in different parts of the Middle East and with only little coordination FSA has come up with a cohesive ideology but without the support of the Turkish government the FSA would be unable to overpower the other militant groups. Over the years, alongside Turkey, the Free Syria Army (FSA) had been combating with the armed forces organization in Northern Syria called the People's Protection Units (YPG).

In 2013, a secular group of anti-Assad opposition reflected by the Free Syrian Army progressively observed itself being obscured by an Islamic militant group to form the Islamic Front. In April 2013, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi proposed the idea of merging the Islamic Front under the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) but this merger was rejected by the al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri. Currently, the various groups which make up the FSA are located in different areas of Syria like Aleppo, Idlib and Ghouta. The purpose was to unite all the different militant groups under one banner but it has not been successful as competitiveness in-between groups continue to rise.

Development of Issue / Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
March 2011	First Protest against President Bashar al-Assad.	Protests quickly spread across countries and a wave of arrests and shootings.
July 2012	President Assad launches heavy aerial attacks on towns and cities who rebelled against President Assad's rule.	The peaceful protest became violent as heavy arms and thousands were killed.
January 2014	An al-Qaeda group seizes Raqqa before grabbing strips of territory across Syria and Iraq.	Announced a new caliphate and retitling itself Islamic State.

September 2014	Washington DC creates an Anti- Islamic coalition and begins air strike.	Kurdish forces turns the jihadist which created friction with it's ally, Turkey.
March 2015	As Assad's forces lost grounds to the armed opposition.	The rebel groups started to seize control of the northwestern city of Idlib.
September 2015	Russia joins the war, taking Assad's side, deploying arms and supporting it with military assistance.	Amidst the conflict, Russia decides to change sides and support Iran.
April 2017	The United States of America launches it's first cruise missile attack on the Syrian Government.	A poison gas attack on the rebel group taking place in the town of Khan Sheikhoun.
September 2018	A deal between Turkey and Russia which established the city of Itlib in Syria.	This ceasefire deal has failed to maintain peace between countries and resulted in Syrian refugees to revolt back.
March 2019 - August 2019	Local allies take control of the Islamic State's last section of land as the United States chooses to keep a few soldiers in Syria.	Subsequently, Russia launched a campaign which ended after a series of bombing and seize of Khan Sheikhoun.
February 28 - March 5 2020	Turkey and Russian backed governments come together after millions of Turkish soldiers are killed.	A cease-fire broke out by Turkey and Syrian's ally - Russia.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

International Impartial and Independent Mechanism

In December 2016, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution which assisted the investigation and prosecution of any individual responsible for the most serious crimes under the international law committed in Syria since March 2011. Based on the resolution, the motive is to “collect, consolidate, hold and examine proof of violation” of global humanitarian regulation and human rights violations and abuse in order to put together documents for future jurisdiction over those crimes.

Another resolution was submitted to the Secretary General which stated that there was an approximate of 900,000 pieces of evidence recorded, this mechanism is going to be utilized to “map crime patterns, examine the contextual elements of core international crimes and understand the relationship between the physical perpetrators to perpetrators wielding authority and power over the events. Few of the clauses calls to action on growing techniques to deal with gender-based, sexual violence and gender issues more broadly.

The Geneva Process

Since 2012, the Syrian Government and The National Coalition for Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces have taken part in the UN facilitated negotiation under the framework of Geneva Communiqué which was proposed by the United States and Russia for the establishment of a transitioning governing body which provides an open platform for members of the present governing body as well as for the opposition to have power and this would be formed by a mutual consent from both parties.

There has been little negotiation from the Assad government as they have adopted differing agreements which has affected the political system. According to the Geneva Communiqué, President Bashar al-Assad does not require to step down from his position yet only requests the expansion of the current governing body and include the opposition members.

However, the President believes that the only comprehensive solution to this on-going conflict is to strike back at the rebel groups and end all external interference in Syria.

The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution which endorsed a “road map” which would advocate a political settlement for Syria. The Syrian opposition is diverse and allows specific groups and individuals to negotiate over time, the United States have repeatedly supported efforts by the UN Special Envoy to stand up for the Syrian Constitutional Committee.

The Astana Process

In January 2017, during a United Nations General Assembly meeting hosted by Iran, Turkey and Russia called together in the Kazakh capital of Astana. This plan proposed a de-escalation in areas in and around Astana which re-captured the Syrian Military Forces. The United States of America is not involved in the Astana process talks but attended as an observatory delegate. Russia has played a leading role in the Astana Process which some have described as an alternative solution to the Geneva Process, the United States has strongly resisted the prospect of the Astana and is hesitant to replace it with the Geneva Process.

Following the release of this new proposal, the Joint Statement of Russian President Vladimir Putin and United States President Donald Trump drew the conclusion that the best method would be to continue with the Geneva Process in agreement with the UNSCR 2254. This decision was in support of the Russian regime as it was believed to be the easier process to manipulate and continue to remain exclusive to the political party.

Proxy War and Foreign Interventions

Peace in Syria relies upon an exceptional quantity on the international members, effectively the Syrian civil war has been converted into a regional and international proxy war concerning several international players. Syria has emerged as the maximum vital player in the regional and international front and cold war among Shia Iran and Sunni Gulf states, led through Saudi Arabia. The Sunni states have funneled widespread quantities of cash into the Islamist opposition. Iran, nevertheless, has supported it's Syrian ally in an effort to hold the Shia states connecting Iran to Lebanon's Shia Hezbollah militia. The Ayatollahs have additionally dispatched Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard to enhance their allies at the ground.

For what this war has become today due to Syria's foreign policy, role of international peacekeepers and the Syrian government. The participation of international members have led this conflict to become a proxy war. The key international players are Russia and Iran, allied

with the Assad regime. Saudi Arabia, supporters of the Sunni rebel and other nations like Qatar, Turkey and the United States. The civil war has become so prone to international interference due to the slow isolation from the international forefront since the 9/11.

The foreign interventions by all these international members have failed to support and de-escalate the conflict due to the further entanglement of international players of whom the interests collide with and hinder the conflict to be solved quicker. As current nations start to take sides of the war, The growing investment of foreign parties have created a spiral of violence, wherein no actor seems inclined to compromise from fear of being perceived as weak and it's far becoming all but impossible to discover a solution, acceptable to all regional and international parties.

Possible Solutions

Syria's Zone of Control

An attempt to strengthen the Syrian conflict and attain political agreement has to start with an acknowledgement of converting the dynamics, at ground. Developments at the overlapping battlefield of the counter anti-Assad and counter-ISIS campaigns in Syria have successfully fragmented Syria into six perceptible zones, which are Al Qaeda's northwestern haven; northern Syria dividing among Turkey and the Kurds; ISIS- held Eastern Syria and a slight competition buffer supported through Jordan and Israel in the southeast.

Al Qaeda's Northwestern Haven

The northwestern region of Syria is the most complicated area of the country, the North and West of Aleppo are edging in the direction of every other humanitarian catastrophe because of the pressure from the Assad authorities on the Syrian Army and its allies, mainly geared toward the opposition bastion in the Idlib province. In particular, this became the region of the April Four chemical assault that killed approximately eighty civilians and brought about the Trump administration, days later, to strike the airfield from which the assault was launched.

Simultaneously, Idlib is liable to turning into an al Qaeda haven. In Idlib, the mild armed opposition movement is fragmented and the modern movement is being formed via way of means of principal blocs: Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, ruled by way of means of the Syrian al Qaeda affiliate (officially referred to as Jabhat al-Nusra however rebranded as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham),

and Ahrar al-Sham, a militant Salafist organization. Ahrar al-Sham, which the Department of State currently declared a “unswerving defender of the Syrian revolution,” is a fairly intricate actor as it became nurtured via way of means of worldwide jihadist operatives near al Qaeda and it's repeatedly compared to the Taliban. Because of it's near ties to Turkey, Ahrar al-Sham will stay a major, long-time period electricity dealer in northwestern Syria.

Meanwhile, Trump has performed more and more airstrikes towards al Qaeda or it's near allies in northwestern Syria, demonstrating U.S. Officials' developing subject that the location may want to emerge as an eventual platform for al Qaeda assaults towards American pursuits. Some of those U.S. strikes in Idlib have reportedly brought about tremendous civilian casualties because of the mixing of al Qaeda warring parties into Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and the neighborhood Syrian groups that it controls or influences.

The overlap among regime moves Washington opposes and businesses adversarial to U.S. pursuits creates tremendous complexities for U.S. coverage in northwestern Syria, specifically Idlib province. In any cease state, this region will need to be retaken and cannot exist in perpetuity beneath neath the manipulation of al Qaeda or other opposition groups aligned with al Qaeda.

Northern Syria Divided between Turkey and Kurds

North and east of Aleppo, Turkey, with support of the U.S.-led coalition, has carved out a big region of control through the intervention of its navy and Syrian opposition affiliates. The purpose of this attempt is to push ISIS from Turkey's border whilst stopping Syrian Kurdish expansionism. This region is largely performing as a buffer region agreed to by all of the parties (which include Russia and Assad) and could probably stay below Turkish control. The Turkish attempt, however, is strolling in opposition with the U.S.-subsidized Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), composed of Kurdish-majority People's Protection Units (YPG), a lot of that have ties to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) that Turkey considers to be a terrorist group, and diverse Arab armed forces referred to as the Syrian Arab Coalition (SAC). This is an increasing area of control for the United States of America.

Through their dueling counter-ISIS campaigns, America and Turkey are setting up separate navy mandates over a big area of Syrian territory. Managing this opposition and negotiating an final results ideal to each the Turks and the Kurds may be one of the hardest demanding situations shifting forward, as proven through the current Turkish strike on U.S.-subsidized YPG forces running close to the Syria-Iraq border.

Joint agreement between Turkish - Kurdish Syria

Turkey is appearing to counter the PKK in Kurdish regions of Syria and Iraq and is concerned about the American reaction to allow an impartial Kurdish nation. The Turkish army performed airstrikes against YPG positions in northern Syria and northwestern Iraq in April. The United States answered to Turkey's bombardment with army patrols alongside the Syria-Turkey border and of immense support by the Syrian Kurdish opposition group to discourage further Turkish strikes. Henceforth, has stimulated a war with a NATO ally.

Turkey has set the Euphrates River in northern Syria as the pink line for the westward growth of the Kurds, fearing a consolidated Kurdish state that runs throughout Turkey's complete southern border. The metropolis of Manbij, which was taken over by SDF during the summer became the area where the U.S. Forces are presently deployed to behave as peacekeepers. To reassure Turkey, America will reveal to Ankara that it'll outline and put into effect clean and credible proscribing situations at the growth of the Kurds' territorial management and have an effect on Syria. In practice, meaning America should be inclined to supply a complete SDF withdrawal to the east of the Euphrates and push for the inclusion of political businesses Turkey can stay within the de facto independent management of SDF-managed regions of Northern Syria. Currently, under the agreement, Russian President Vladimir Putin Moscow and Ankara will collectively patrol sections of the Syrian border to the west and the east of the Turkish incursion. But though Syrian Kurdish opponents finished their withdrawal to twenty miles from the border remaining week, clashes endured at some stage in the place as Turkey sought to make itself bigger as there is a plan of creating a "secure zone" in the Kurdish territory.

Creation of Safe Zones

The new U.S. president has sent signals that he is prepared to contemplate "safe zones" in Syria. The president is determined to send substantial American ground troops to protect those safe zones, or the United States will convince the Sunni Gulf Arabs to provide the relevant ground forces with support from Pakistan. Saudi and other Sunni Arab ground forces have to be weighed in opposition of the ongoing entanglement of Saudi ground forces in Yemen.

The United States alone or with the Gulf allies could decide to establish safe zones if they are willing to commit sufficient air and ground power which would be a very high-risk operation. The Gulf states would provide financial backing to such an endeavor. Anti-Assad territories implement such safe zones which are the largest and most cohesive of these is the

largely Kurdish territory in the north and northeast. In this scenario, the international community would start the necessary military and political processes, which would require less resources and Western political investment.

The critical question facing Western governments and multilateral development banks in this scenario is the extent to which they are willing to support medium-term development efforts in a limited territory with uncertain sovereign status. Unless there is a major reversal in Russia's position, which seems unlikely, Moscow would not support an international presence in Syrian safe zones, meaning that they would also block any effort to use U.N. Security Council (UNSC) resolutions to create interim sovereignty or administrative sovereignty. More targeted support is possible, but would require creative legal decisions by development actors.

Role of International Peacekeepers

Usually, wars result in one in every of ways: outright victory through one side; or via a negotiated settlement. The former is usually less stable than often presumed and is often followed by mass killings. Negotiated settlements, though sometimes harder to achieve, have been more stable in the post- Cold War era than outright military victories. Although, these almost always need to be accompanied by a third-party force to help keep the peace. In Syria, it is likely that the deployment of peacekeepers to support war termination will be critical to preventing the resumption of violence. In the Syrian case, as in others, a core challenge for the international community will be in balancing legitimacy and capability. The most capable navy options for third- party intervention are not always the most legitimate, or vice versa. However, send a legitimate but too weak force into a theater composed of strong challenges and the risk of resumption of conflict will be high.

The U.S.-Russia tensions in the U.N. Security Council, the prospect of a U.N. deployment has been largely ignored to date. However, relative to the NATO, Russian, or U.S. options, the U.N. enjoys greater political legitimacy in the region and has the significant advantage of allowing for any combination of countries or regions to participate in the force—which would allow, for example, a force that blends Arab participation with Western heavyweights and extra regional neutral states. The U.N. also has an advantage in its relatively strong capacity for integrated military, political, development, and humanitarian operations—what it calls multidimensional peacekeeping. For all of the criticisms of the U.N.'s managerial capacity, in fact it's integrated toolkit is substantially better organized than that of any other regional or international organization.

When referring to U.N. operations, there are two quite distinct modes in which it can operate: through its own management mechanisms, as in so-called “blue helmet” operations; or through its member states’ own mechanisms, in the form of U.N.-authorized multinational forces (MNFs). MNFs combine the political legitimacy of UNSC authorization with the logistical and fighting capacity of the advanced industrial militaries, and may be a relevant option for the Middle East.

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