



## **2009 - 2010 Model Arab League**

### **BACKGROUND GUIDE**

#### **Joint Defense Council**

#### **ALL Regional Model Arab Leagues**

(i.e., not the National University or National High School MAL, Spring '10, in Washington, DC)

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

National  
Council  
on US-  
Arab  
Relations



## **1. Examining law enforcement issues and cooperation in training activities among national police forces to preserve order and protect public safety**

### **What's the issue?**

Law enforcement tactics vary worldwide. In the Arab world, they also vary from country to country and region to region. For instance, in Lebanon the government operates under a parliamentary democracy, while in Somalia the government has been encompassed by a civil war since 1991. Clearly, these two countries will have a very different approach to law enforcement. They will also have their own unique issues and problems within their systems.

### **Relevance to the Arab World**

It is of the utmost importance that the Arab world be able to communicate and cooperate with issues regarding law enforcement in individual countries. If countries and regions can collaborate, threats of national and international terrorism, piracy and human trafficking can be dealt with more efficiently by the Arab League and the region will therefore be safer due to these efforts.

### **Questions to Consider – *from your nation's unique perspective***

- How is our government and law enforcement structured?
- What are issues that are relevant to law enforcement within our country?
- What problems have been raised in the past decade?
- What are some issues regionally, i.e. with neighboring countries?
- What can we do to promote an increased collaboration between law enforcement between our country and the rest of the Arab League?

### **Resources to Review**

<http://www.country-data.com/>

This website is an excellent resource. It is somewhat outdated, but it is a good start. Usually issues dealing with security and law enforcement can be found in Chapter 7 or beyond after you click on a country.

<http://www.arab-niaba.org/english/events/>

This is the United Nations Development Programme: Strengthening the Rule of Law in Arab States

## **2. Reviewing and strengthening the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols (1977) with special regard given to the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of civilians in occupied territories**

### **What's the issue?**

The Geneva Conventions are four international treaties (and their additional protocols) that were written in 1949. They are widely regarded as the core of humanitarian law. They provide a code of conduct when dealing with different peoples in a time of war. Unfortunately, those who ratified the treaties often violate these conventions. It is important to review them in order to strengthen the Arab League's commitment to following the treaties and their protocols.

### **Relevance to the Arab World**

The Geneva Conventions are especially relevant to the Arab World, as it seems to be in a perpetual state of war and conflict. It is important to give special regard to the treatment of prisoners of war and the protection of civilians in occupied territories because many countries in the Arab League have prisoners of war. Palestine is currently an occupied territory, and while these protocols would be more relevant there if Israel were present for these discussions, Palestinian government has to deal with Israeli citizens in Gaza and the West Bank, as well as their own citizens.

### **Questions to Consider**—*from your nation's unique perspective*

- Did my country ratify the Geneva Conventions?
- Do we currently have prisoners of war?
- Are we in a conflict currently?
- In what conflicts have we been involved in the past, and did we violate any international laws during that conflict?
- How can we strengthen the Geneva Conventions?
- What are the problems with the way the Geneva Conventions stand now?
- How are the Geneva Conventions not being enforced worldwide?

### **Resources to Review**

<http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/CONVPRES?OpenView>

Text of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols

### **3. Responding to insurgent violence that threatens the territorial integrity and the maintenance of order in member states**

#### **What's the issue?**

Insurgent violence is rebellion or violence that comes from within a country, against one's own government. It threatens the stability and territorial integrity of a country and a region. It is hard to control and hard to fight, as it comes from grassroots movement fueled by some sort of political or religious ideology. It almost always involves terrorism and some kind of subversion, that is, undermining of the government. It usually is fought through counter-insurgency warfare. However, this can sometimes result in civil war and is costly to the government or governments involved.

#### **Relevance to the Arab World**

This issue is particularly relevant to the Arab World, especially in the case of Iraq, where insurgent violence is prevalent. Also, much of the Somali civil war is based on insurgent violence. Insurgency is almost always present in the Arab world during conflict, such as in Lebanon during the 2007 Lebanon conflict. It is important to strive toward quick resolutions to insurgent violence as much of the insurgency occurs in countries with already weak or recovering political structures, or where those structures do not exist (as in the case of Somalia).

#### **Questions to Consider—*from your country's unique perspective***

- How has insurgency affected my country?
- What has my country done in the past to battle insurgent violence, whether in my country or elsewhere?
- What are some ways to battle insurgency beyond counter-insurgency warfare?
- What are the causes of insurgent violence?
- Where are these issues most present today?

#### **Resources to Review**

<http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/html/57JNHY>

The Martens Clause and the Laws of Armed Conflict

<http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/milreview/download/English/JulAug05/lynn.pdf>

Patterns of Insurgency and Counter-insurgency