

DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

ISSUE: Measures towards better intelligence coordination for the prevention of terrorist attacks within Interpol

In the DSA MUN 2017 I represented Argentina in the Disarmament and International Security Committee. All the agenda items of my committee were of my interest but my favourite was the one which was about terrorist attacks as nowadays it has become very common to see terrorist attacks as the headlines of the news. The frequency of attacks in cities like London and Paris has increased dramatically over the past years and the consequences of this phenomenon is that millions of people suffer across the world. Besides the victims and their families, entire cities can be affected by attacks primarily due to lack of security in their own town. It is such sentiment that multiple terrorist groups seek to generate in huge populations through the exploitation of individual rights and the use of scare tactics in the name of religious and/or ethnic extremism. Efforts to combat such groups of people have been taken on a national level and have proven to be inefficacious possibly because of their aims at protection than prevention. Due to the fact that many terrorist groups act in multiple countries, for prevention to be successful, international cooperation is necessary. Among groups which try to tackle problems on an international level is INTERPOL, an international organization created to facilitate cooperation amongst national police forces and better combatting international crime. During the time of the debate all members participated equally and this facilitated the committee to have fruitful discussions which led us to agree on great solutions as for instance intelligence cooperation (intelligence cooperation regarding terrorism has manifold complications and the solution is not necessarily for countries to keep closer tabs on their citizens) in order to tackle terrorist attacks with less difficulty. Even though surveillance should be debated in this context, the information often exists but is lost because of flaws in the intelligence cycle. This, however, has the obvious drawback of potentially aggravating some countries as well as missing out on information crucial to the savior of lives. This would also constitute an international stance against specific countries and thus would have to be extremely specific and in good faith. Support organizations for immediate responses to terrorist activity could be created or dedicated parts of government tasked with the analysis of terrorist threats, messages and more broadly: intelligence. Border control, especially in areas of free borders could be reconsidered. Of course, this would also affect law-abiding, well-intentioned citizens and

should be treated with caution. Finally, the expertise of counter-terrorist personnel employed in national police forces could be audited by INTERPOL ensuring that the technologies available are used to the best of their abilities and by extension in the best interest of the global population.

Participating in another MUN was an amazing experience and I would definitely recommend it to all young people with interests.

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