THAIMUN VIII- 27-28 March 2021

United Nations Security Council

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Topics to be debated: The question of foreign intervention in combating insurgency and maintaining stability in the Maghreb region of West Africa.

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Introduction:

The Maghreb regions of West Africa had long experienced security issues and insurgency. The majority of Maghreb region inhabitants face severe socio-economic and political issues, including inadequate healthcare and education, abject poverty, and ethnic conflicts. The reason behind such insecurity and instability of the Maghreb lies in the existence of insurgent terrorist groups: ISIS and Al-Qaeda.

The Maghreb insurgency is also known as the Islamist insurgency in the Maghreb and Sahel-Saharan regions of north-western Africa. The presence of violent insurgent groups including ISIS, AQIM, GSPC, and GIA had tremendous impacts on the economy, safety, and cultural diversities. Millions of civilians and political authorities had perished from terrorist attacks and civil wars. Not only people but also the religious monuments that have cultural significance had been damaged.

Regarding the extreme insurgencies in the Maghreb and its expansion as transnational terrorism, several different countries had allied and endeavored to improve the situation in northern Africa. For instance, the United States cooperated with Algeria, strengthening both interregional and intraregional security and defense. Similar to United States-Algeria cooperation, other countries, international organizations, and non-profit organizations are supporting and creating a security partnership with the Maghreb region. However, the support is still at an insufficient level, causing no substantial improvements in reducing insecurity at Magraheb as a whole.

Definition of key terms:

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS):

ISIS, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is a Sunni Muslim group with a truculent ideology that seeks to have control and authority over other Muslim groups. After being expelled by al-Qaeda, ISIS became one of the most powerful terrorist groups in the Middle East and Africa. Using tremendous military power, ISIS seized control of a considerable portion of the Middle East.

Maghreb Region:

Magraheb is a subregion of the north-western part of the African continent. Magraheb consists of Tunisia, Morocco, Libya, and Mauritania. The majority of the Maghreb population is Muslims, including the ones involved in the terrorist groups.

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM):

    AQIM, the Salafi-Jihadist militant group founded in Algeria in 2006 as Al-Queda (AQ). AQ allied with GSPC, forming a unified group, AQIM. In order to create an Islamist state, AQIM caused agitation in Northern Africa through kidnapping, drug trades, and human trafficking.

Salafist Group of Preaching and Combat (GSPC):

    GSPC is the Algerian insurgent group in the Algerian Civil War, founded by the former commander of GIA in 1988. After the majority of GIA had withdrawn from the group after the amnesty in 1999, GIA lost its power and the remaining active members joined GSPC. GSPC soon unified with the most violent group, AQ, and generated AQIM.

Armed Islamic Group (GIA):

    Armed Islamic Group(GIA) is the most brutal Islamist insurgents group that participated in the Algerian Civil war against the Algerian government. The central aim of the GIA was to "create an atmosphere of general insecurity." They had committed innumerable crimes, including massacres, kidnapping, and bombing.

Islamic Salvation Front (FIS):

    The Islamic Salvation Front is one of the major political parties in Algeria. Although other ideologies of the two leaders, Ali Belhadj and Abbassi Madani, and followers were different, they agreed upon one main objection: to create Algeria the Islamic State based on Syria law.

National Liberation Front (FLN):

    The National Liberation Front (FLN) is another leading political party in Algeria. FLN was the single leading party in Algeria before the reform of the legislative system. FLN was an autocratic political entity that unstabilized the socio-economic status of Algeria.

Major countries involved:

Tunisia:

    Beginning from 11 February 1995, civilians of Tunisia had continuously attacked by terrorists, resulting in more than a hundred deaths and injuries. For instance, three terrorists of AQIM attacked and shot visitors to the Bardo National Museum. It resulted in 22 deaths and 50 injuries. Those three terrorists were arrested by police after a few days of the attack. The most recent attack in Tunisia was on 6 September 2020, where National Guard officers got a knife attack. Just as in the aforementioned cases, Tunisia was suffering from consistent attacks from various terrorist groups.

    However, the Tunisian government had once tried to eliminate the terrorist entities within the country. On 23 December 2006 and 3 January 2007, the government had engaged

in clashes of Islamic terrorist groups, especially GSPC that have caused dozens of cases in Tunisia. Regardless of their effort to defeat GSPC, the clashes ended with 14 deaths of innocent civilians and two deaths of security guards. After the failure of the Tunisian government to cope with insurgencies, Tunisia was persistently attacked and threatened.

Algeria:

Algeria had decades of political conflicts and tension, starting from 1962. Algeria gained its independence from France in 1962. After the 132 years of colonization, Algeria started to form a national identity without any external influences. In the process of unifying the population, the Algerian commission disregarded any cultural diversities existing within the country. Rather than "researching and trying to understand complex past," the commission wanted citizens to "obey the orders of the regime and the demands of the present." Most importantly, in the constitution of 1976, the government had decided to exclude Islam as the state religion. Enraged by the commission's decision of exclusion, Islamists protested against the government. Due to totalitarianism, corruption, tyranny, and exploitation of citizen's rights through militant power, Algerians lost trust in their government.

The conflict between Muslims and the Algerian government seemed to resolve after the official abrogation of the constitution of 1976. However, Algeria remains one of the most terrorism-prone areas in the Magraheb regions. Terrorism-related activity in Algeria had not only affected the Algerian population, but also the neighboring countries. This domestic and transnational terrorism had started from the legislative election in 1991. From 1976 to 1988, Algeria was ruled by the autocratic party, FLN. Regarding the rage and agitation of the public towards the FLN, Chadli Bendjedid, the president, reformed the constitutional system by enabling multi-party participation. Citizens believed that change in the political party could ameliorate their standards of living and constrained rights. As a result, Algerians started to vote in favor of FIS, winning the first legislative elections on 26 December 1991. Subsequently, the FNS party utilized its military power on 11 January 1992 to cancel the electoral process and officially ban FIS' political activities. Moreover, FNS arrested and exiled Algerian authorities and FIS adherents. Subbranches of FISH became GIA and MIA, starting the decades of civil war. During the civil war, more than 250,000 innocent civilians passed away, and exiled 1,000,000 citizens. Finally, political parties came to reconciliation in 2006. Unfortunately, the aftermaths of the civil war still remain in the country and threaten civilians. Even after the reconciliation, the insurgent groups, such as GIA still remained in the country, creating other powerful terrorist groups, such as GSPC and AQIM.

Fortunately, Algeria had successfully allied and formed strong security cooperation with the United States. The U.S., mainly concerned about transnational terrorism, decided to support strengthening the defense of Algeria. Moreover, Algeria-U.S. partnership planned for the counter-terrorism in regional scope, in order to minimize the power of AQIM and other terrorist networks.

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Timeline of Events:

- **Formation of GSPC** (1988)
- **Amnesty of GIA** (1999)
- **U.S.-Tunisia Relationship** (1961)
- **Algerian constitution of 1976** (1976)
- **First legislative election in Algeria** (26 December 1991)
- **Algerian Civil War** (26 December 1991~8 February 2002)
- **AQIM's First Attack** (April 2003)
- **Tunisia clashes (**23 December 2006 and 3 January 2007)
- [Further timelines of terrorism in Maghreb](#)

Possible Solutions:

1) **Solution 1:** Incentivizing foreign countries to form a partnership with Maghrib by providing the abundant natural resources existing in the country.
2) **Solution 2:** Encouraging active participation from foreign publics and non-governmental organizations.
3) **Reminders for delegates:** For the productivity and fluidness of the debate, delegates should assume that the UN has unlimited fundings.

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