



Amman-Al Quds Model United Nations

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UNGA TOPIC 2

Investigating the Legality of Foreign Military Interventions in Yemen and Their Implications for State Sovereignty Under International Humanitarian Law.

Currently, Yemen is facing one of the world's largest humanitarian and political crises, which began in 2014. Simply, the conflict began with the Houthi movement taking over the Yemeni capital, involving many external and internal factors. The war first broke out when Houthi revolutionists (a Shiite rebel group founded in 1992, allegedly backed up by Iran, and has a history of uprisings against Yemen's Sunni government) seized Yemen's capital and largest city, Sanaa', pushing for lower fuel prices and a new government. After multiple failed negotiations between the two parties, the Houthis seized the presidential palace in January 2015, causing the resignation of President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his government. In March 2015, Saudi Arabia (along with other countries such as USA, UK, France and UAE) led a military intervention in Yemen, hoping to achieve their stated goals of restoring the Hadi regime to Yemen, thus demilitarizing the Houthis. This topic focuses on evaluating whether this military

intervention is lawful under the UN charter and international law. In other words, this topic examines whether those military actions taken by Saudi Arabia & the UAE are justified by legal grounds of self-defense. The collapse of Yemen's economy and healthcare system are just some of the major consequences that this war has led to, leaving millions of people without access to basic needs. More than two-thirds of the population now depends on humanitarian aid. Many schools, hospitals, and homes have been destroyed, and the country is currently facing widespread food shortages and diseases. Current events in Yemen have only worsened this situation, as many locations for international trade, such as the Red Sea, are becoming less safe due to the attacks caused by this conflict, leaving significant effects on markets around the world. Additionally, the actions of foreign states in the Yemen conflict bring questions of states' sovereignty to the table.

This topic fits perfectly under the theme of AQMUN'25, **"Empowering the Excluded."** In Yemen, the people most affected by the conflict (civilians, women, children, and displaced families) have had little to no control over the events that continue to shape their lives. Foreign governments and militaries still continue operations within the country, more often without involving the people who are forced to live under these conditions. While the war receives international attention, the voices of those living through it are thought to be never included in decisions nor negotiations. Their exclusion from political and legal processes shows how those who suffer the most are often left unheard and just how important it is to empower these voices for change. The unequal distribution of power and foreign military intervention is a major part of this conflict, as it leads to questions of states' sovereignty, as countries with stronger political and military influence are able to

intervene in the conflict, claiming to defend another state. Meanwhile, the affected population of Yemen struggles to receive protection. This lack of inclusion reflects on a broader and more common issue that must be solved, where the needs of the affected populations are often left behind.