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**Establishing Safe Zones in
Syria and Taking Measures
Against Military Air Strikes**

Defne Atadan

Forum: Security Council
Issue: Establishing safe zones in Syria and taking measures against military air strikes
Student Officer: Defne Atadan



Introduction

The Syrian war, approaching its 6th year, has led to many lives being lost, homes demolished and caused chaos not only within Syria but the whole world, so the Security Council is making efforts to resolve the Syrian war as one of its top priorities.

The regimes of the President of Syria, Bashar Hafez al-Assad, has been the stimulus to this, seemingly never-ending, war. Many Syrian groups who had thoughts contrary to Assad's, started uprising for him to resign from his position. Assad, determined not to leave his position, has sent military forces to deactivate these rebels, but this made them attack even more.

Along with the conflict between government forces and the rebels; terrorist groups, the main one being called ISIS, have also risen to benefit from the turmoil of the situation along with Kurds wanting their own land for their independence. The rebels, terrorist groups, and Kurdish forces all wish the government's land to themselves and so have been annihilating Syrian cities and have been taking control over many towns.

A live map of the current situation can be reached through the website:
<http://syria.liveuamap.com/>

General Overview

Besides the forces within Syria, powerful countries have been sending military air strikes, mainly of area bombings, to possible ISIS headquarters and have actually been successful many times, however also killing innocent citizens. These MEDC's find that fighting ISIS is also their responsibility, seeing that ISIS attacks other territories as well as Syria.

ISIS is a terrorist group that should immediately be stopped, however, the lives of the many innocent people living in the areas should definitely be taken into account while firing these airstrikes.

Along with ISIS, the Syrian government has allegedly been using chemical weapons to massacre the groups rebelling against Assad's regime. To stop the alleged use of these chemical weapons and to express its opposing to the Syrian government, the United States has sent airstrikes to the areas in which chemical weapons were supposedly used. This, in turn, resulted in the death of more innocent civilians.

Therefore, it is in the utmost interest of the UNSC to ensure the security of these citizens by establishing safe zones for them.

Definition of Key Terms

ISIS: The abbreviation of Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. It is a terrorist group that has originated from Syria, but is currently recruiting members from all around the world. They have also been causing terrorist attacks in major cities in the world, mostly based on shootings and suicide bombings in crowded areas.

Safe zone: An area created by the UN Security Council where people will be safe from attacks and secured by UN peacekeepers.

MEDC: More Economically Developed Countries.

Airstrikes: An attack or operation implemented by an aircraft.

NGO: Non-Governmental Organization.

Major Parties Involved and Their Views

United States of America: Leads the majority of air strikes to Syria to combat ISIS. The US does not support Assad's regime and has made this clear with statements from former president Barack Obama such as "Assad must go". Their airstrikes to combat ISIS were started during President Obama's time and have continued and increased since Donald Trump has been elected to the presidency. Along with attacking ISIS, USA has also sent air strikes to areas where Assad has allegedly used chemical weapons in. The USA fully supports the creation of safe zones.

Turkey: Currently is making efforts to create safe zones for the overwhelming number of Syrian refugees in their country to be able to return back to their country safely. Turkey does not support Assad's regime along with nearly all European countries. Turkey holds the majority of Syrian refugees that have fled from their homeland. Internationally, these refugees have caused a lot of problems because of their desire to flee to Europe illegally.

Russia: Also is helping to create safe zones in Syria. Russia supports Assad's regime through the belief that rebels who fight against the government and sovereignty of a country should never be supported. Russia is deeply concerned about the airstrikes that the US has used to destroy areas in Syria and says that they are considering ending the cooperation of the Russian and American militaries. Russia is Syria's strongest ally and is considered to be the only reason that the Syrian government still has power in the country.

Saudi Arabia: Fully agrees with the actions of the United States. Saudi Arabia is a significant supporter of the rebels.

Jordan: Jordan also complies with the US airstrikes and believes that the alleged use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government to deactivate the rebel forces should be stopped immediately. Therefore, they believe the attacks by the US were essential.

Iraq: Supports the creation of safe zones and is working with Russia and Turkey to create them. Iraq supports Assad's side in the Syrian war and has entered the war on their behalf.

Iran: Is also a supporter of Assad and contributes to the war by helping the Syrian government with a huge amount of financial aid. Iran opposes the strikes that the US has sent to Syria by stating that the use of chemical weapons was only alleged and not proven.

United Kingdom: Has been sending air strikes to deactivate ISIS. It is on the side of the rebelling forces and therefore supports the USA.

China: Is thought to agree with Russia about being on Assad's side, however, has not officially made a statement directly expressing their side on the issue, therefore, it can be deduced that they do not want their country to be involved in the issue.

Timeline of Events

Date of Event	Description of Event
March 15th 2011	The start of the Syrian Civil War.
March 2012	UNSC creates a peace plan, which is later on not followed through.
September 2014	US and Arab countries launch airstrikes against ISIS at Aleppo and Raqqa.
April 2017	USA orders a missile attack to the location where the government allegedly used chemical weapons in Syria.
May 11th 2017	Russia, Iran and Turkey create a memorandum to install 4 safe zones in the North of Syria after the peace talks in Kazakhstan.
July 7th 2017	US, Russia and Jordan call a ceasefire in southwestern Syria.
March 15th, 2011	The start of the Syrian Civil War.
March 2012	UNSC creates a peace plan, which is later on not followed through.
September 2014	US and Arab countries launch airstrikes against ISIS at Aleppo and Raqqa.

Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The most recent action (May 11th, 2017) taken on the issue of creating safe zones against airstrikes is Russia, Iran, and Turkey being the sponsors to a memorandum to create 4 safe zones, however this is not a formal resolution resolving the issue and may not be enough to settle the question at hand. Moreover, actions of the memorandum have not yet been entertained yet and therefore, currently this memorandum has made no effect on the issue at hand.

There are many NGO's supporting the people in Syria with aid, however, there are not many that are specifically working on creating safe zones in the area. Even though their goal would be to prevent airstrikes in certain zones to protect the innocent people who are in need of aid, NGO's do not have enough authority or power to construct safe zones. Therefore, they mainly focus on collecting aid for the situation in general.

Many countries such as the US are also supporting the creation of safe zones verbally, however, no process has been made to actually construct these safe zones against air strikes.

Possible Solutions

Some possible solutions for this issue are:

- Using UN peacekeepers, air forces and troops to secure the area, creating defense and mainly security for the safe zones.
- Supplying physical needs for the civilians is important since citizens living there are in great need of aid.
- Providing health care for the citizens, curing their diseases and healing any potential injuries.
- UN taking over an area in Syria to create safe zones and formally announcing the certain area as the property of the UN.
- New rules and orders can be established for these UN-lead areas.
- Arranging a ceasefire between forces will enable the zones to stay safe during times of legal processes.
- Creating public awareness will bring benefits by collecting donations for the safe zones.
- Establishing NGO's focusing on this specific issue, which could collect donations.
- Gathering financial aid for the actions mentioned above will help to actually establish the suggested solutions.

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