

Position Paper

Committee: NATO

Topic: Syrian Civil War

Country: Belgium

First of all to conclude this issue-that's obviously what everyone wants-we must know all intricacies of the dispute. Therefore we must be acquainted with the historical progress and the background of the conflict, from beginning to the end.

In the early 2000's; especially in Arab World, some protesting voices started to appear because of the despotic regimes. And the year 2011 was the morphing point of the conflict. It had started as a protesting action but turned into a complex conflict and it has had more global importance-in Middle East it was already an important conflict but in 2011 it was understood by the other countries that the conflict has a significant role and there could possibly be a civil war-. In 15 March 2011 some protests started in local. But in April 2011 these protests spread all over Syria. The reason what made these protests spread this fast is the Assad family's- who are starting with Hafez al-Assad's rise to power in 1971 and continuing under his son, Bashar al-Assad, from 2000 onward-dogmatic, despotic, chaotic, relentless, dictatorially regimes. These protestors, activists were trying to make government mind their education, freedom, pains, weakness'. Again in April 2011 Syrian army suppressed the rebellions by using the force of violence. The Syrian army and the government thought that using weapons, arresting mass, torturing was enough to end these rebellions, it wasn't. Moreover this way protests got a bigger size and the situation turned into a mutual asymmetric warfare. Approximately in the same dates a military power formed by the defectors from Syrian Military for overthrowing Assad's regime: Free Syrian Army (FSA). After this point both of the sides formed alliances. The Syrian Army was financially, militarily sponsored by Russia and Iran. And the dissenter forces were financially, militarily sponsored by Saudi Arabia and Qatar. First gunfights were resulted in favor of the government but subsequently some soldiers changed their sides. Thus the balances changed between sides. In 2012, dissenter forces made significant progress and reached points close to Damascus which means they are near the capital, the head of the country.

The dissenters had a good progress. However there's been a division between dissenters and battlefield got larger. The FSA was fighting with a Kurdish group PYD and the SA. In the year 2013 the President of Russia officially announced that they are with the official regime of Syria. The civilians living in the North Syria had to immigrate to safer states-Türkiye, Iraq, South Syria etc.-. Meanwhile a transnational Salafi jihadist group and unrecognized quasi-state designated as a terrorist organization by the United Nations: ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham) had a rise in Middle East. They had petrol sources, For *Telegraph's* 19 August 2014 dated research "Iraq crisis: The rise of ISIS, the 'world's richest terror group' ISIS is the richest terror group. After their rise they took the control of 1/3 of Iraq and they had the guns of retreated American Army and they had a serious military power. After a time they started to genocide each person who is not Sunni (a sect of Islam). This was unacceptable and UN countries realized the situation. And in the end of 2014 14 countries-some of them are Belgium, Türkiye, the US, the UK, Sweden, Canada, Australia- had a decision of air striking to ISIS. These air powers had 190 attempts in 2 months which brutally harmed ISIS. In 2015 Syrian Army, dissenter forces and PYD had a ceasefire and allied united against ISIS also they got financed by the UN for the future of the area-North Iraq, Iran, East Syria-. But the Republic of Türkiye has fought with their own army. In 24 August 2016 Türkiye took control of its border cities to Syria from ISIS. At the same time the unity in Syria took the 90% of the occupied areas. The process continued like this for a while until the rise of tensions between Syria and Türkiye. After that minute process of the conflict never changed until the fall of Assad. Because everyone had a purpose and these purposes were not including civilian lives. And heavy fighting renewed with a major rebel offensive in the northwest and allied groups in the Turkish-backed Syrian National Army in November 2014, Southern rebels who had previously reconciled with the government subsequently launched their own area. The Syrian Free Army and the Syrian Democratic Forces launched their own offensives, respectively. By 8 December, rebel forces had seized the capital, Damascus. Following this, the Assad regime collapsed after 53 years.

As the delegation of Belgium we think that there are no certain winners in wars but there are always a group losing, crying, sad: civilians. With other words: there were fights, there were losers, there were deaths, there were ends. Belgium was always with the weak ones. The UN agreement between 14 countries on air strikes to ISIS includes Belgium. As we said before fights doesn't have certain winners but the losers are always the same. In Syrian Civil War we see that a conflict of global dimensions, playing out in Syria. That's why when there are political purposes outplaying, finding peace is struggling peacekeepers. We say that we are ready to collaborate for any efforts aiming a good and humanist results. Short of the long Belgium is a country which is ready for putting efforts for the good of people and approved its neutrality by hosting NATO's headquarters.

Delegation of Belgium as the country hosting the headquarters of NATO encourages and dotingly accepts any well-planned and applicable, realistic solutions and ready to do what is necessary. As we said before we are a neutral country and only thing we think is the good of civilians. Deploying completely neutral troops from the UN to the key areas in Syria -because the areas are still high-tensioned-for stabilizing the situation and having an authority are our major goals.

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