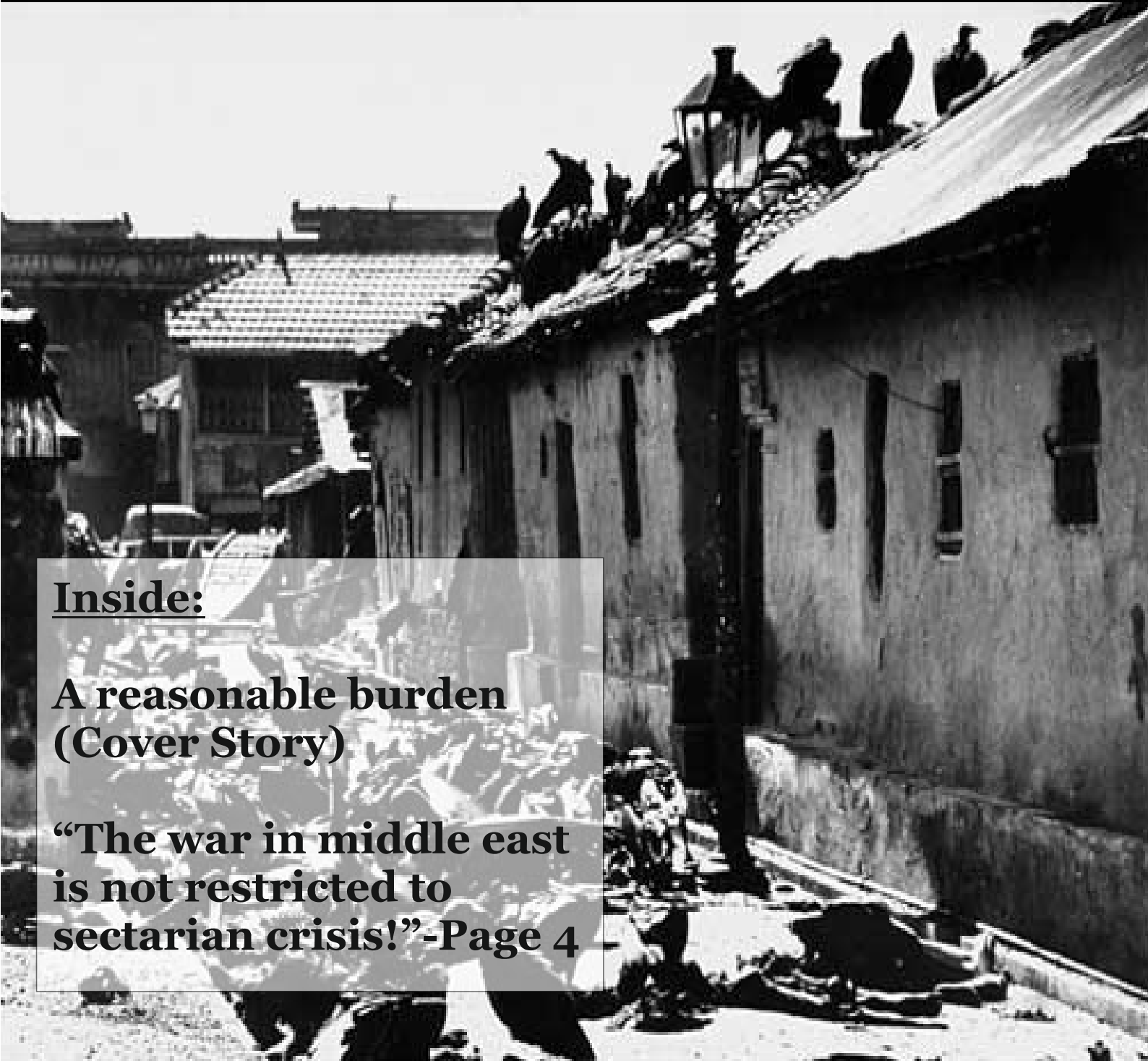




# ILLUMUNATE

*Official Newsletter of MCGSMUN 2015*

Issue 2 | 15th April 2015



## Inside:

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(Cover Story)**

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**theguardian**



**ALJAZEERA**



**REUTERS**



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## Global Kaleidoscope

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Nothing brightens the heart better than colour. All around there was colour, in the fall of the sarees, in the blush of cheeks consumed with laughter, in the dupattas of suits and in the suits themselves. With such colour, mirth and energy in the atmosphere one truly felt the aura of a 'Global Kaleidoscope'. Many participating schools even brought out this latent energy through their performances.

We were all witness to a variety of pieces ranging from dances and songs to skits bringing out the validity of Uniting for Peace! We were also witness to some over the top beat boxing by the delegates from Selaqui International School and a wonderful rendition of the footwork of Michael Jackson's 'Dangerous' by the Sherwood Delegation. The Jayshree Periwal High Delegation performed a beautiful skit on the 'Need for Unity' and other schools too brought out this theme in their performances. We also had some breath taking vocal performances from schools who sang versions of popular songs like 'John Lennon's Imagine', 'Ed Sheeran's A –Team' and 'Madras Café's Maula Sun Le Re'.

Dinner was served in the temple lawns and the night –simply put- felt young.





## US Cabinet Dwells on the Social Media Influence of ISIS

*Mehal Patni from the Guardian reports on the recent discussion held among the US Senators regarding the growing influence of ISIS with social media playing a key role in it.*

The US Cabinet members raised the issue of people joining the ISIS in more and more numbers recently. With almost everybody agreeing that social media has a key role to play in this, there was a broad consensus among the Senators to control its source sites even if the task proves to be very difficult. The Secretary of State stated that it is difficult for security agencies to find out which accounts made on the various social networking sites are fake or real. According to him, the ISIS controlled sites must be completely shut down and the government should engage with the private sector to work on this issue together.

ISIS has been receiving members from all around the globe in these past few years. It is expanding, which is a growing concern to the officials. Many people are reported to have joined ISIS through social networking sites, which are easy to access and are available all across the globe, thus increasing the arena of influence of ISIS.

To reduce this influence, the Director of FBI in his stand asked the Cabinet to upload pictures and videos of the horrors committed by ISIS, thus showing the reality to all. However, the suggestion of the National Security Advisor was more austere, stating that as ISIS uses social media to spread their ideology, their entire network must be snapped off to stop them from misleading people into joining ISIS. With ISIS convincing people that the true devil is the USA and not the organization itself, the Vice-President asked all to stop being influenced by ISIS easily. “We must realize that USA does not discriminate people”, she said.

## A Reasonable Burden

*Gauri Sinha from Al Jazeera reflects upon India not signing the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) through the evolving paradigm of national security.*

The NPT was reviewed recently in 2010 in accordance with the five-year schedule established by the treaty when it came into existence in 1970. The Review Conference was notable, from India's point of view because it followed the momentous US–India nuclear agreement, which has arguably been in favour of India, vis-a-vis the philosophical foundation on which the treaty is based.

India's decision, more than three decades ago, not to sign the treaty and to exercise a nuclear weapons option has had profound consequences, which are still reverberating in debates over the future of the non-proliferation regime. While India has received the benefits of an increased sense of external security and world attention that accrue to all countries with nuclear weapons, it has paid dearly for its decision to proliferate. In addition to the economic burden of maintaining and securing a nuclear arsenal, India suffered decades-long cut-offs of nuclear-related trade that significantly slowed its nuclear power development and affected adversely other aspects of its high-technology sector.

The warming-up of US–India nuclear association provides formal recognition by the United States and the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) to the reality of India's nuclear weapon status. However, India is still not being treated as a Nuclear-Weapon State (NWS) under the NPT.

India's support for the non-discriminatory application of those principles and its corresponding criticism of the manner in which those principles have been carried out by the weapon states thus have been sharp. But India also has responsibly shown the world that its four-decade-long penetrating style on disarmament is backed up by concrete deeds in its backyard beyond calling for an international convention - a burden, but a reasonable one, for a nation with world leadership ambitions. It is not an exaggeration to say that at a time when the non-proliferation regime is under stress by virtue of the spread of nuclear technology to more countries, including some whose commitment to non-proliferation may be less than robust, the actions of India can have a profound effect on the direction and pace of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation progress and be a step towards its ambition of a world of future!

It is therefore in India's interests that it now signs the NPT especially, in the present light of India hoping to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.







## “The war in middle east is not restricted to sectarian crisis!”

*Rakshit Jalan of Reuters in conversation with President Bashar Al Assad of Syria on the contemporary battle of countering ISIS.*

**Reuters-** Thank you Mr. President for sparing your valuable time. So, I would like to first start with the cabinet meeting. Your cabinet recently approved your proposition to seek military assistance from Moscow and Tehran. But will not militarizing the region, further destabilize and jeopardize the already volatile situation? And what if these weapons fall in the wrong hands?

**President Assad-** I would not deny the fact that there is a certain risk involved in such a step. However, at present, it is much more important to stop the IS rather than worry over the possibility of misuse. For, if we do not act in time, there would be more deaths than the ones that would result from the weapons. The means are justified by the ends. While about the prospect of the weapons falling into wrong hands, it is impossible.

**Reuters-** In your speech in the meeting, you were particularly critical of the prospect of a possible US involvement. Will you be willing to co-operate with the US in the future? What will be your terms for the agreement?

**President Assad-** The question of being critical of the US involvement in the region is simply because their purpose is not to liberate the region from terror but to serve their own self-interest. They claim to wage a war against the IS but where are their soldiers? They use our men to fight the IS and claim victory for themselves. They are nothing but sowing the seeds of violence in the region and our fellow Arab brothers. We do not have any terms, if they want (co-operation), they may approach us.

**Reuters-** If there is a negotiation, would you accept as part of the deal to share power with your opponents? Whether it is the moderates or the extremists?

**President Assad-** Well, first of all there is no question of a negotiation. But in the future if there is any, I would happily work with them, provided they surrender their weapons. I am not averse to opposition; I work with my opponents every day.

**Reuters-** You've often talked about a greater war taking place in the Middle East. As of now, your Shia government currently rules the majority Sunni subjects of your country. So, where do you see Syria in all of this?

**President Assad-** The war in the Middle East is not just restricted to sectarian politics, although it does play a vital role. I am the President of Syria not just the President of my Shia subjects. The people of Syria have full faith in me. It is just the western propaganda that confuses them (Syrian people).

**Reuters-** Lastly Mr. President, what do you see at the end of this war? What about Kurdistan and the forces opposing you? How will you tackle them?

**President Assad-** I see a very bright future for the Syrian people. This war is just a small obstacle that will soon be overcome. We will need to rebuild our homes and repair our fields that has been rendered impure by the IS forces. Kurdistan enjoys substantial autonomy in their region. We will not interfere and violate their right as they form an integral part of Syria. There is no negotiating with the rebels. They will have to surrender their weapons first.

# “US doesn't realise that a country can solve a global issue without needing to be bombed back to the Palaeolithic age”: Russia

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*In a recently conducted interview with Al Jazeera English, Russia talks about solving the Crimean issue, condemning the American intervention and restoring the faith of the minorities.*

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**Press: What according to you is the reality of the Crimean crisis?**

Russia: Russia does not think of it as an issue of annexation. We believe that this is just an initiative to self-determination which is every person's right to do so and that is what they are doing in Ukraine with mass consensus.

**Press: There also exists the minority of Crimean Tatars who do not wish for Crimea to be a part of Russia. What are your thoughts on this issue?**

Russia: The world isn't fair and the majority would obviously have the upper hand. Crimean Tatars were a part of the voting process during the referendum and a lot of them have voted to be a part of Russia too, but the fact remains that eventually the decision of 98% people cannot be ignored by the 2%. But Russia will ensure that if Crimea were to be a part of Russia, the needs of the ethnic minorities would be preserved.

**Press: And what proposals does Russia have for the safe-guarding of the minority communities?**

Russia: Russia will ensure that the Crimean Tatars get full political and civil rights and are represented in the political system of the nation. We will also extend reservations in job and education opportunities and provide for financial assistance.

**Press: And if they don't want to be a part of Russia at all?**

Russia: We will completely respect their decision and assure that no political or military force will be used to change their decision in any way. As a country, we are simply propagating free will to make our own choices which they have chosen to use through the referendum.

**Press: The referendum has been deemed as illegal and therefore invalid by many countries and agencies that have also raised a lot of allegations on the improper conduction of the referendum. What do you have to say about that?**

Russia: It is the United States and their comments that have caused the domino effect in all the nations. When the US does it, half the world applauds and the others bicker, but in silence. The United States of America is the one insecure about this issue and has intervened in a secession that is so similar to that of the Scots in Britain and the Catalans in Spain. For the past 60 years, 98% of Crimeans have wanted to secede to Russia. We have only helped a fraternal nation and not annexed it, and US needs to realise this. We are ready to hold another referendum under the rules applied because we are doing it for the people. The involvement of US is uncalled for and is because of their desire to try to remain the only indispensable superpower.

**Press: The delegate of US in a statement to the press stated, “Whatever Russia is doing is not only illegal but is also a breach of international law and the reason of our intervention is protection of the security of the world.” Any comments?**

Russia: We only wish for the people to make their own choice, sadly, United States has made this issue into one of its own interests by portraying us as the 'Big bad guy'. The one message we would like to give to the US is that everything is not about them and request them to stop making it into a situation of superpower politics. US doesn't realise that a country can solve a global issue without needing to be bombed back to the Palaeolithic age. Russia will continue to move with peace, sovereignty and integrity, regardless of what other nations allege.

Will Russia be able to live up to its promises? Will the international aggression pave the way for a second cold war? Is this is the return of super power politics? While Russia promises safe living and security to the world and denies the possibility of history repeating itself, the international community looks for answers reading between the lines.



## **“You can't understand ISIS if you don't know Wahhabism!”**

*The Vice President of Iraq states that the creation and ideology of Saudi Arabia and Islamic states is similar in that Wahhabism inspires it. Yohen Thounaojam of the Guardian reports from the Joint Crisis Committee of Iraq.*

The Vice President said that the rise of ISIS and its capture of major cities in the country is very dangerous as it threatens to spill over and threaten global peace and market economics around the world. It has led to hundreds and hundreds of deaths caused just in the name of Islam. He added that Iraq has made continuous efforts in keeping its territories protected but we do not realize that the Wahhabis of the present Saudi Arabia have been more or less a role model of ISIS and moreover an inspiration of its foundation.

Further, the Vice President elaborated that Wahhabis existed in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and they in the name and sake of purifying Islam started killing people. This 'cultural revolution' was no docile movement. Abd al-Wahhab started the revolution in the present Saudi Arabia. He held that Wahhab wanted people to have sentiments for God, and God only. Thus, Wahhab Islam banned any prayer to saints and dead loved ones. They killed people who followed other religions, who disagreed to follow Islam and those who resisted their movement; even though Islam does not support violence.

The Vice President added that ISIS when established had the exact same ideology. The Iraqis have lived their lives in misery and fear since then. The Saudis are as fearful as the Iraqi people, and recall the history of the revolt against the Wahhabis. A lot of Saudis are deeply disturbed by the policies of ISIS and are beginning to question some aspects of Saudi Arabia's direction and discourse. The Wahhabis and ISIS lived and has been living with the ideology of killing and violating wives and daughters, of those who disagree to this view and their possessions confiscated.

So, clearly there is nothing that separates ISIS from Wahhabis. The strategy of Wahhabis, like that of ISIS today, was to bring the people whom they conquered into submission and to instill fear in people. The leaders of the cabinet chose to ignore the Wahhabist impulse even though it is clear to us that Wahhabism is what caused the foundation of ISIS.

But one might think why a thing that happened in the 14<sup>th</sup> century is of any importance now. The reason why it is important is simply that we must prove Wahhabism wrong to reduce people joining the ISIS and who believe in ISIS. Why should we be surprised by the doings of ISIS if we know Wahhabism has done the same? Why should we have imagined that radical Wahhabism would create moderates? Or perhaps we never thought of it or imagined it. But on one hand, ISIS is deeply Wahhabist. On the other hand, it is ultra radical in a different way.





## Central African Republic: A Rotten Apple

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*While some African nations believe that the viability of separation of Central African Republic is high, the others choose to support a united Central African Republic. Perhaps, it would be conventional to compare it to a rotten apple. Sameera Singh of Al Jazeera reflects upon the possibility of a divided Central Africa as debated upon in the African Union.*

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Suffering from never ending civil wars, CAR is constantly nagged about a possible separation so as to save itself from the religious conflicts that have arisen in the area. However, the country has itself denied the probability of a split, comparing it with a rotten apple to convey the gravity of the people of Africa.

With 75% Christians in the West and 73% Muslims in the East, the rotten apple remark can be considered a remark towards the mixed population of the nation. The African Union seems to have perceived this as a very serious notion as all now refer to it as a rotten fruit.

Perhaps, the partition of CAR would be for the better, as it will prevent it from spreading this “epidemic.”



## **“We need to boycott Russian oil exports” - Saudi Arabia**

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*Bhavya D Narula for The Guardian interviews the delegate of Saudi Arabia on controversial remarks he made to change the course of debate in DISEC.*

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**Q1. The global oil prices have fallen down and Saudi Arabia had a big role to play in it. What was the reason behind you keeping the prices so low? Some rumors have been circulating that you bowed down to International pressure, which wanted you to keep the prices low and weaken the Russian economy, which is primarily based on oil exports.**

A. “Let's get one thing clear, Saudi Arabia won't bow down to any International pressure in the future and in this case too hasn't bowed down to anyone. This step was taken to boost our own economy. By keeping the prices low, we bring in more customers and therefore bolster our economic growth. Saudi Arabia has immense cash reserves and therefore could continue to keep the prices low, now because other nations don't have these reserves they can't keep up with us. Therefore, it is a market control strategy where Saudi Arabia hopes to establish a monopoly and it is working too as USA now imports 50% of its oil from Saudi Arabia.”

**Q2. You made a big statement in the committee which urged everyone to boycott the Russian oil exports. Could you elaborate more on that as in how would it effect this situation?**

A. “Saudi Arabia believes that the international community needs to boycott all Russian oil exports. We would really hurt the Russian economy as 50% of it is dependent on it. Saudi Arabia will provide oil to all those countries which imported oil from Russia. We also have approached different nations which have oil reserves to help us in this endeavor. We need to starve the Russian economy and have them stop funding the separatist in the region.”

**Q3. The Syrian delegate said that sanctions are a two-way street; if you 'starve' the Russian economy it would definitely hurt the global scenario. Foreign companies in Russia would also be affected and so will be Russian citizens. Can we risk this?**

A. “We need to put a stop to Russian aggression, and this requires difficult steps to be taken. If we put an end to 50% of Russian economy and the other half is badly affected the Russians will have no option but to withdraw these forces and relieve themselves of these sanctions.”

**Q4. There seems to be big conflict of interest at play here, as your putting restrictions on Russian oil imports make you an even bigger player in global oil trade. How do you respond?**

A. “That is the wrong way to look at it, we are actually trying to prevent Russia from supporting the Crimean troops, putting an end to this conflict.”

**Q5. What about the citizens in Russia who are innocent and will lose their lives or livelihoods due to these sanctions?**

A. “Well, they are collateral damage for Russia and only Russia is to be blamed for this. Why should we care for them when Russians are killing innocent civilians in Ukraine right at this very moment?”

We do need to tread lightly as in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economic collapse in one country could turn into a global catastrophe. Whatever the reasons may be international pressure or market control, Saudi Arabia could be earning some big bucks by putting a lot of lives at risk.



## The havoc in the Middle East

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*Mantika Vohra from the Guardian mulls over the general chaos, brewing in the Middle Eastern pots.*

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The Middle East was affected by a storm, a storm which has caused uncountable destruction. This storm was and still is affecting the lives of people and is called, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, also known as the ISIS.

The Middle East is in a very pitiful state. There are thousands of innocent people who are being killed. All the powerful nations of the world like the USA, UK, France etc are combating this terrorist organization together. The USA is conducting a lot of airstrikes to kill the people of this perilous group.

The question, which is being asked by everyone at this point of time is, who is actually funding the ISIS? None have the answer for this. All nations stand together and fight this organization but it is one of them who is giving aid to ISIS and helping them to be more and more triumphant. The ISIS is the only terrorist organization who has control over land territory as well. They have captured oil fields in Iraq and Syria which is the cause for the decline in their economies. The airstrikes too have not been very successful as it has taken lives of more of the innocent civilians rather than the dangerous terrorists.

The irony is that the people have said that the ISIS is governing the country better than the actual government. Here lies the fact that indicates why the innocent people actually favor the terrorists over the others. ISIS's demerits lie in them performing gruesome acts in the name of 'Allah' or God. The beheadings performed by them is one such example. However, what makes all other Muslims go against their acts, and negating them as those of God, is the fact that ISIS hails Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi as the Prophet.

The Iraqi government ensures its people that by next year Iraq will be liberated and not a scrap of ISIS will exist on their land. They are training 25,000 soldiers to take the city of Mosul back from the terrorist organization. The government is sure about this as they have been victorious in recapturing the city of Tikrit. This issue is extremely delicate, for though the terrorists are wrong to the world, the people consider them better than the actual government. This paradox is like a slap on the faces of the governments of the Middle East.

This is our world and we are the children of it therefore, we have to hold hands together and tackle this problem which is a big threat to the whole world. I hope that by the end of this year the term Islamic State of Iraq and Syria does not exist in the dictionary of each and every person in the world.



**“We urge all the countries to support our efforts on starting a worldwide anti ISIS organization for the sake of the welfare of the people”**

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*Yohen Thounaojam from the Guardian interviews the Oil Minister of Iraq. The Oil Minister states what the Iraqi government is focusing at right now and what it plans to do to resolve the current situations.*

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**1. Do you plan to meet the Turkish leaders and get them to stop the illegal buyers of the oil sold by ISIS?**

-The Turkish buyers are out of the government's control. The government itself is not independent. However we will have to look into it as they are wasting our natural resource.

**2. Oil is the main source of income for Iraq; however there has been limited development in the field of infrastructure and exportation of this commodity. How does the new government propose to tackle these issues?**

-At present these issues are not a major concern of the Iraqi government. Regarding the oil ministry, we are more concerned about getting back the oil fields which are under the ISIS control.

**3. The recent capture of Baiji by ISIS militants exposed various insufficiencies in the defense of such valuable industries. What are the steps that have been taken to rectify them?**

-Initially we thought of an armed force however, after the threats that have been issued by the ISIS, we ultimately eliminated that plan and we will discuss upon the various actions that can be taken.

**4. How does the government plan to recapture the city of Mosul?**

-Now considering the crisis which is in hand, we have the largest refinery in the country in the hands of the ISIS, so Mosul has not yet been discussed and debated upon, as soon as we tackle the crisis at hand we will try to improve the situation in Mosul.

**5. What role does the American government play in the liberation of the Iraqi homeland?**

-The American government has been providing a lot of military assistance in terms of weapons, and air force assistance. However, after the recent faulty actions of the United States, which killed our civilians, we shall be more careful and we shall be serious towards regulating their actions on our territory.

**6. Has the U.S.A stated how it happened and why?**

-Maybe a mistake on their part. However the Iraqi government feels that such a major blunder cannot be termed as a mistake and will from now onwards limit the number of airstrikes in control of the U.S or any other country.

**7. You suggested starting an international anti ISIS organization. Do you think countries other than the ally countries of Iraq will join and help and why?**

-ISIS is an international threat and not only to Iraq. If the various countries do not work in favor of this plan then we will gradually see the ISIS occupation spreading worldwide and the Iraqi government urges other countries to join in for the sake of international interests and welfare.

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*The Middle East has been a 'controversial' pot for quite long. Rakshit Jalan of Reuters attempts to solve this puzzle.*

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To term the Middle Eastern crisis in its present state with all its contradictions and absurdities, as 'complex' or 'difficult' would be a huge understatement to the almost impossible nexus of alliances and relations that continues to plague the region.

Let us consider the present situation. The two biggest rivals of the region, Shia Iran and Sunni Saudi Arabia which had been part of numerous proxy wars in the past, have now recently joined hands in the fight against ISIS. This is despite the present Saudi opposition to the Iranian backed regime of Assad in Syria and the Iranian opposition to the Saudi backed regime of Hadi in Yemen. Further jeopardizing matters is the involvement of USA, which is leading the coalition against the ISIS and which is also simultaneously imposing sanctions on Iran, its closest ally in these operations. Not to mention the autonomous region of Kurdistan which although is helping fight the IS, still continues to be a non-state actor with presence in both Iraq and Syria.

Although one of the most unstable regions of the world, the Middle East has in recent times been the victim of unfair stereotypes and baseless generalizations. Due to the prevailing mindset, it is increasingly being seen as a region of perpetual anarchy and chaos. However, such is not the case for it is only in recent times, particularly in the post WW II era, that it has witnessed a sudden surge in conflicts including major ones like the Suez Crisis, Six-Day War, Iran-Iraq war and the invasion of Kuwait. The very cause of such a phenomenon is what happens to be the crux of this great Middle Eastern crisis. For it were the inherent flaws present in the boundaries that were redrawn by the Anglo-French forces in the colonial period, which disturbed the demographics of the region forever. The draconian Skyes-Picot agreement which sought to divide British and French territories in the Fertile Crescent region proved to be one of the biggest blunders, as it resulted in the 'artificial' borders between Iraq and Syria. For, it had no basis other than the fact that the part controlled by France was carved into modern day Syria and that controlled by Britain was carved into modern day Iraq. The consequences of such random redrawing were catastrophic as the Shia heartland was divided between the two nations, resulting in a demographic disaster. Iraq received a considerable chunk of this Shia population and hence had a Shia majority while, Syria became a Sunni dominated state. However, the problems do not end here as both of these states have a sizeable chunk of the opposite sect which makes it highly prone to ethnic and sectarian clashes. This is clearly evident in the case of Iraqi ruler, Saddam Hussein whose Sunni outfit dominated the affairs of Shia Iraq for nearly a decade. Another consequence is the high vulnerability of these states to the influence of other powerful states like Iran and Saudi Arabia, making it a mere satellite in their hands and also a hotbed for proxy warfare.

Although the cause of this whole situation is widely known, the irony of it still remains. For, the very states that were the cause of this situation in the first place are the ones who don the veil of peace and preach unity.





## ***“Disappointed how India is always supported by other nations”, says Pakistan***

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*The delegate of Pakistan talks about how all the nations support India's treaties and policies despite them being unreasonable. Gauri Sinha from Al Jazeera English, reports from The Historic Security Council.*

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The situation seemed tenser than before as Pakistan was suspected of sending trucks full of Fissile Material into India. Pakistan denies all charges.

However various delegates were in support of India. The conflict in South East Asia continues to be a tight affair, neither of the countries are ready to reach a settlement, nor consider the suggestion by their allies- in this case, China and Russia for Pakistan and India.

Both parties feel that the treaty has certain drawbacks, and more importantly, clauses, that they feel go against their respective nations.

It has been suggested by The United States of America that this conflict should be resolved with utmost urgency, and the United Nations peace keeping troops should be withdrawn.

United States of America intends to militarize their own troops.



## CNG – Compressed Natural 'Gold'

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*Natural Gas is Russia's most powerful weapon but can also become its Achilles Heels, find out more as Bhavya D Narula drills for The Guardian.*

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Gazprom, the Russian Oil giant has been pivotal in fueling the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. It all started when Viktor Yanukovich the then Ukrainian president decided to sign a deal with Russia over a deal with the European Union. This deal had a clause that would make Russia provide Ukraine with Natural Gas at a 30% discount, which Ukraine refused to accept. Already aggravated about the stagnant economy, unemployment and the inhumane treatment of other protesters and activists, came together in vast numbers to protest against Ukraine siding with Russia over EU in the streets of Kiev during November 2013. This revolution known as Euromaidan became one of the most influential moments in Ukrainian history. Little did Yanukovich know that a simple deal on oil would led to his downfall, forcing him to flee the country and leave his coveted presidency behind.

This Oil behemoth controls nearly one-fifth of the world's gas reserves and one-third of Gazprom's gas supply goes to Europe. This was not the first time that Russia has threatened to either cut off the gas supply or raise the price so much that the other nations had to comply with Russian terms and conditions. Such is what happened in Ukraine in 2006, they decided to double the gas prices and when Ukraine refused to pay them the gas supply was cut off. Whole of Europe felt the effects of this, as Ukraine is host to a crossed network of Soviet-era pipelines that carry Russian natural gas to many European nations. This resulted in a depleted pressure in the pipeline. A similar situation erupted three years later, and this time the effects were more severe, several schools and public buildings were closed across Europe; Bulgaria had to close its industrial production and the small nation of Slovakia couldn't cope with the lack of energy and had to declare a state of emergency.

Well, all is not so bright for Russia, as gas demand and prices are at an all-time low, new countries are coming up as major gas hubs. New pipelines are coming up like the Turkish-Greece pipeline (recently agreed to by both Russia and Greece, against the wishes of the European Union) which don't have the pipelines going through Ukraine. Also after the post-USSR separation, Russia has had a big problem trying to diversify their economy that means still 50% of their GDP is dependent on oil and natural gas exports. So this issue becomes a big balloon filled with helium, which could easily be busted even with a small pin. New economic sanctions and trade embargoes due to the Crimean Annexation have hurt all section of the Russian economy especially the Oil Sector. The nation which prides itself to be the 'Motherland' of all soviet born nations, needs to bring about several changes before the age of fossil fuels, is up.





## Humanity, exists in Syria?

*The atrocities in Syria have rattled the international community. Radhika Jain of Al Jazeera questions the nature of the ISIS.*

The Islamic state terror group (ISIS) is a horrifying monster for the people of Syria and Iraq. Humanity is the basis of life, in Syria under the ISIS the people are desperate to be treated equally and to be free from the inhuman crimes committed by the ISIS.

ISIS is in progress of becoming the reason for the World War the reason for destruction, the exploitation and mass killing of people in the world. The Defense Minister raised a point that “for the well being and happiness of the people of a country humanity is the key.” ISIS is on the path of becoming the next Adolf Hitler committing all sorts of cruelties. Syria is facing a crisis. Somewhere a woman is brutally raped, somewhere a father is shot just for no reason, somewhere a child sees her mother being beaten and used, and somewhere the children themselves are tortured, traumatized and abducted to be hostages. In Syria a girl is abducted, raped and if not is prevented from leaving the house, being educated and is often forced to work. All these crimes against humanity are just a preview of the crimes committed by the ISIS to create terror in the world. The products of rape victims are burnt or locked up in cages. Are they at fault? The ISIS even has an official website and face book page through which it continues to inspire and motivate people of different countries to join its terror group. In seek of revenge citizens of different countries join ISIS and kill many lives in frustration. The ISIS especially MR Abu Bakr has to be taught the meaning of humanity. After all the sole meaning of life is to serve humanity.



## US Cabinet Dwells on the Influence of ISIS through Social Media

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*Mehal Patni from the Guardian reports on the recent discussion held among the US Senators regarding the growing influence of ISIS with social media playing a key role in it.*

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The US Cabinet members recently raised the issue of people joining the ISIS in more and more numbers recently. With almost everybody agreeing that social media has a key role to play in this, there was a broad consensus among the Senators to control its source sites even if the task proves to be very difficult. The Secretary of State stated that it is difficult for security agencies to find out which accounts made on the various social networking sites are fake or real. According to him, the ISIS controlled sites must be completely shut down and the government should engage with the private sector to work on this issue together. ISIS has been receiving members from all around the globe in these past few years. It is expanding, which is a growing concern to the officials. Many people are reported to have joined ISIS through social networking sites, which are easy to access and are available all across the globe, thus increasing the arena of influence of ISIS. To reduce this influence, the Director of FBI in his stand asked the Cabinet to upload pictures and videos of the horrors committed by ISIS, thus showing the reality to all. However, the suggestion of the National Security Advisor was more austere, stating that as ISIS use social media to spread their ideology, their entire network must be snapped off to stop them from misleading people into joining ISIS. With ISIS convincing people that the true devil is the USA and not the organization itself, the Vice-President asked all to stop being influenced by ISIS easily. “We must realize that USA does not discriminate people”, she said.





## 'The ISIS cannot be stopped, but only destroyed' , says the Attorney General of the U.S, senate

*Different solutions on how to curb the presence of the ISIS in the world surfaced during the Joint Crises Committee, U.S.A. Arshiya Arora reports.*

The Attorney General clearly mentions in her speech, that” there is no way in which one can stop the ISIS, the only way to curb this menace is to destroy them.”This statement was issued to the world community, in response to the ongoing debate about the various ways to tackle ISIS.

The director of the CIA further expressed his grief and sorrow by stating that 4000 civilians had been dead in Iraq, and that “ISIL is not a threat to Iraq only, but a threat to the world as a whole.”On the same lines ,the director of FBI urged all other delegates of the senate to establish rehabilitation centers and provide financial and humanitarian aid to the victims who were affected in the fight .He also emphasized that one should not stop the airstrikes instead can reduce their number.

This statement was received with apprehensions and contradicting views from various other delegates. The Secretary of the Treasury had a different view point regarding this issue. The delegate demanded a total stoppage on the airstrikes and firmly believed in the “wait and watch policy”. She urged the senate to halt the operations and urged others to wait for the actions of the ISIS and then respond accordingly

The President's views were in proposition to that of the director of FBI's and elaborated that media should be extensively involved during such procedures. As one of the major threat to the world, is the increasing number of enrollment of youth into this “terrorist “group. Media, being an indispensable tool can inform the people of the schemes and plans of the different governments, and most importantly make people aware of the fake websites and other advertisements which induce people to cross the borders and train under these organizations. It will only be revealed through time that how these different proposals impact the global understanding of the issue at hand. This course will be an interesting event to watch for and to see how this affects the flow of the debate further on.





## ISIS: Taking over the Internet

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*Madhav Singhal of Al Jazeera analyses the media through which the ISIS has had an impact on the global community.*

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The radically increasing support for the ISIS, coming from every nook and cranny has taken all polity by a storm and is mostly due to the organization's sophisticated and widespread online and media propaganda. However, it is imperative for one to realize that the ISIS is not like any other jihadi group, especially when it comes to their methods of influencing people and gathering support. The extent of their influence and its gravity can be merely judged by the following facts: Not only have they had their ranks swollen by 15,000 foreign militants but also have more than 45,000 Twitter pages in their support.

The Internet is the most widely used information-gathering facility in the world, and if something is extensively broadcasted, it can impact innumerable people around the world. Numerous experts have deemed the use of the Internet by the ISIS as efficient and effective than most multi-national countries. As one can gauge from the number of supportive pages mentioned earlier, Twitter is the main forum for the ISIS. Accounts on the social-networking website are used to give live updates on their operations and strategies. It uses hashtags to extend its reach across the network. Their technological advancement can be assessed by the fact that they successfully hijacked the US Army's Central Command Twitter account and posted updates in their support.

Television and Radio are one of the few means of communication, which are available to one and all. They have the most long-lasting impact on the minds of the common people. The ISIS has taken advantage of this fact and established a centre for media broadcasting known as the al-Havat Media Centre. The centre broadcasts information in various languages and also produces a digital magazine known as 'Dabiq'. It also runs a radio network by the name of al-Bayan which airs bulletins on jihad.

According to a survey conducted by the *New York Times*, the ISIS attracts the most foreign fighters out of all terrorist organizations. It preaches its extremist and radical outlook through the above-mentioned media in order to attract supportive individuals. These foreign fighters pose a grave threat to their homelands when they return after possibly undergoing training. The UN Security Council has taken a measure to prevent this problem that involves prevention of immigration and emigration of suspicious individuals.

Thus, the ISIS is certainly a new challenge to the global community. The extent of its influence and the impact it has had is unprecedented. Certainly, the ISIS is a major threat to global peace and security but the question is: How grave will its impact be in the coming future?





**THE UNDAWNED DAWN**  
-ARSHIYA ARORA

Daytime .....what's that? said he  
A bump head does daily daily peep.....  
Not from the mountains but from the ashened  
heaps.....

With guns and rifles reloaded and complete  
Blowing off the lamp light,  
Making the envior so dull and gleem  
As it has forever been.....  
This for us is the daylight beam!

A roof no longer means safe nights.....  
If in the bed a man lies.....  
The terror of the army haunts his dreams.....  
Blood and tears all around so seem!

For once when these eyes do close.....  
Never do they wish to see another such daylight!  
To face the cruel rulers voice that's  
turning hoarse!

No eyes would ever wish  
Such a scene to witness.....  
A mourn so full of bloodshed!  
As when the dead and steady eyes  
Outglow the aspirations once ever believed  
When the lifeless bodies  
Flash the moments together weaved  
Darkness is better to be seen.....  
As in its darkness,  
It would hide the flowing blood seas.....

Oh how I wish for that usual mourn  
Voice of this ashened sky  
And this fearful undawned dawn!



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