Gideon Rone
Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC): Welcome Paper
YUNMUN XXXVII

Dear Delegates of CTC,

Welcome to YUNMUN XXXVII! My name is Gideon Rone and I am privileged to be chairing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee.

Quick background on me: I'm currently a senior in Yeshiva College majoring in Political Science. I grew up in Baltimore, MD, before spending two years at Yeshivat Orayta in the Old City in *Yerushalayim*. I'm big into country music (39 followers on my Spotify playlist!), love basketball, and *hate* technology. This will be my sixth year participating in YUNMUN (and my fourth time on CTC!), so whether you are a new or returning delegate, make sure you know your procedure and technicals.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1373 in September 2001, immediately following the September 11 attacks. It was created to monitor and strengthen states' efforts to prevent terrorist acts, including criminalizing terrorist financing and improving cooperation between governments. It is supported by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), which assesses how countries are actually implementing their obligations. Counterterrorism is a field where every country agrees on the goal, but rarely on the method. That gap is exactly what we will be working on.

This year, in no particular order, the CTC will focus on two issues. One topic will address the Repatriation and Prosecution of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and Their Families. Since the collapse of ISIS's territorial control, tens of thousands of fighters and their family members have been held in detention camps and prisons in northeast Syria. Their home countries have responded in very different ways. Some have repatriated and rehabilitated their nationals, while others have refused return and even revoked citizenship. Delegates will need to balance security and humanity, and your resolutions will need to decide which gets priority and when.

The second topic the CTC will address is countering extremist ideology and recruitment that stops short of violence, particularly on university campuses. Governments have responded in very different ways, from banning groups and monitoring campus activity to relying on education and community programs. Each approach has garnered criticism. Many states agree that ideologies that justify and propagate terrorism must be confronted, but they disagree on what counts as extremist ideology and on whether a government may restrict beliefs, groups, or campus activity before any violence occurs. With universities shaping the ideas of future leaders, delegates must decide where protected expression ends and incitement or recruitment begins.

You must research and understand your country's position on these key issues and work collaboratively with your fellow delegates to engage in discussions, with the goal of crafting meaningful resolutions. Make sure to remain committed to your nation's views and to think creatively, but realistically. If Hashem watching isn't deterrent enough, all papers will be checked for plagiarism and AI usage through Turnitin, so don't remove yourself from contention before the conference starts! "The only AI usage permitted is what is explained in the YU AI policy found in the delegate handbook: '[p]olish, with disclosure. You may use AI to check and correct the grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text you have already written. AI may not generate, rewrite, or restructure your content."

If you have any questions or just want to chat, my email is grone@mail.yu.edu. I can't wait to be impressed by your intellectual rigor, sneak smiles at your shenanigans, and contribute to the advancement of bureaucratic ideology under our religious imperative of fixing our greater world.

Sincerely,

Gideon Rone

Chair, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee

YUNMUN XXXVI