



**Committee:** Joint War Committee (JWC)

**Situation:** Iran vs. Saudi Arabia

**Written By:** Memo Maldonado, Natalia Montero, Santiago Rodríguez, Gabriel Hernández and Ana Valeria Sámano

## I. The Joint War Committee

The Joint War Committee differs greatly from traditional MUN committees; it follows different protocol and participants are referred to as military generals. Typically, the Joint War Committee consists of 12 participants and is led by two Moderators who are responsible for monitoring the flow of the debate.

Unlike traditional committees, the Joint War Committee is influenced by real-time decisions and events that take place in the outside world. While in session, the debate may be interrupted by breaking news bulletins, special guests or the introduction of new evidence. Participants must be able to utilize their critical thinking, leadership and speaking skills because a decision made during one session could alter the course of the debate and create new problems.

During ISRMUN Online, the committee will be divided into two different sides in order to discuss the mobilization of troops, usage of military weapons and military strategy. The main purpose of this committee is not to debate and discuss, but to mobilize troops and plan military strategies against the opposing side.

As a note to generals: the Chair would like to remind you that the use of nuclear weapons is prohibited, as it goes against the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

## II. Preparation

Before ISRMUN Online, generals must come with information about their country's:

- Military and political leadership
- Alliances (military, economic, social, etc.)
- Resources, workforce, the population of your country
- Background on the conflict
- Basic information about your enemies in order to counter them (military, economic strength, resources, etc.)

During ISRMUN Online, generals will be provided with:

- Virtual maps
- Military resources your country will have

## III. Quorum

### Allied with Iran

China  
Iraq  
Russia  
Syria  
Yemen

### Allied with Saudi Arabia

Bahrain  
Jordan  
Kuwait  
United Arab Emirates  
United States

## V. The Situation

### a) Topic Background

Since the late 1970s, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have been engaged in a struggle for political and economic influence in the Middle East. The struggle has been amplified by religious differences as each follows “one of the two main branches of Islam - Iran is largely Shia Muslim, while Saudi Arabia sees itself as the leading Sunni Muslim power” (Marcus, BBC News, 2019).

Saudi Arabia has traditionally promoted itself as the leader of the Muslim world since the religion’s holiest city, Mecca is located within its borders. The nation used this as leverage to secure beneficial economic policies throughout the region. However, Saudi Arabia was challenged in 1979 by the Islamic revolution in Iran. The Iranian government sought to build its own sphere of influence within the Middle East and began actively seeking political and economic partnerships with Saudi Arabia’s close allies (McMillan, USIP, 2006).

In the past two decades, the competition and disagreements between Iran and Saudi Arabia have increased due to several significant events. The first major disagreement occurred in 2003 when the United States invaded Iraq to overthrow its leader Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Arab and adversary of Iran. Hussein’s removal from power enabled the Iranian government to expand its influence within the country. This eventually led to the creation of a Shia-majority government that promotes friendly relations with Iran, shutting out Saudi Arabian businesses and humanitarian aid. Secondly, both countries capitalized on the 2011 uprisings across the Arab world by supporting protestors and/or specific political parties (Marcus, BBC News, 2019).

## b) Current Situation

Since March 2015, Yemen has been engaged in a violent civil war between two factions: the Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi-led Yemeni government and the Houthi armed movement. Historically, Yemen's government has been closely aligned with Saudi Arabia. However, in order to counter Saudi Arabia's influence, Iran began to provide funding and weapons to the Houthi armed movement. The civil war has pitted the two nations against each other through their support of the two warring factions (Bayoumy and Stewart, Reuters, 2016).

Iran and Saudi Arabian avoided direct engagement until the Chief of Staff for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mohammad Bagheri, was killed while visiting the Yemeni capital Sana'a. Saudi Arabia has denied targeting Bagheri, but the death led to Iran declaring war on its longtime enemy.

## V. Strategic Orders

When in session, each side would be able to use troops and military weapons in order to plan military strategy, formally referred to as a strategic order, that would be sent against the opposing side.

Participants are required to have a general knowledge of the country that they are representing, as well as its position and involvement in the topic. Also, information about the available resources the country has is essential. Printed information, maps, charts, etc. are permitted during the simulation.

To send a strategic order, generals must write which countries would be participating, what would each of them provide to the act, and the location of the attack. All must be written on a paper given to the committee by the moderators. When an order is completed, both moderators will discuss the effects of the attack.

Within the strategic orders, the generals must specify the involvement of the countries participating, the military assets and weapons that will be used. It is to be taken into consideration, Remember, that all the weapons and military assets should be within the reach of the countries.

## VI. Resources

Bayoumy, Yara and Phil Stewart. "Exclusive: Iran steps up weapons supply to Yemen's Houthis via Oman - officials." Reuters. Reuters, 2016. Web. 24 Aug. 2020. <<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-yemen-security-iran-idUSKCN12K0CX>>.

Marcus, Jonathan. "Why Saudi Arabia and Iran are bitter rivals." BBC News. British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), 2019. Web. 24 Aug. 2020. <<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-42008809>>.

McMillan, Joseph. "Saudi Arabia and Iraq Oil, Religion, and an Enduring Rivalry." United States Institute for Peace (USIP). United States Institute for Peace, 2006. Web. 24 Aug. 2020. <<https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/resources/sr157.pdf>>.