

# Security Council 2017

To prepare for Security Council, please read the articles below and watch the YouTube video about the Security Council. Then, read the information about the International Criminal Court. Feel free to research further to gain additional understanding.

Finally, read and ponder the questions at the end of this document. How will your nation vote? These questions will provide the framework for the bloc discussions at the Security Council meeting.

Part I.

Article from Reuters: 1/13/2017: Assad linked to Syrian chemical attacks for the first time.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-syria-chemical-weapons-idUSKBN14X1XY>

Article from The Telegraph: 8/25/2016: UN proves Assad regime dropped chemical bombs on civilians.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/08/25/un-proves-assad-regime-dropped-chemical-bombs-on-civilians/>

Article from the New York Times: 12/20/2016: War crimes proposal would help UN build cases on Syria

[https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/20/world/middleeast/syria-war-crimes.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FInternational%20Criminal%20Court&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection&\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/12/20/world/middleeast/syria-war-crimes.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FInternational%20Criminal%20Court&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=collection&_r=0)

Video about the UN Security Council:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JTEuWmABRD0>

Part II.

What is the International Criminal Court?

[About the Court](#)



International Criminal Court premises. Credit: ICC-CPI

### **The International Criminal Court**

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the first permanent international judicial body capable of trying individuals for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes when national courts are unable or unwilling to do so.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court entered into force on 1 July 2002. The Rome Statute established the ICC. The ICC represents one of the most significant opportunities the world has had to prevent or drastically reduce the deaths and devastation caused by conflict. Since 2002, much progress has been achieved in

the establishment of the Court which is located in The Hague, the Netherlands. The Court is a fully-functional judicial institution.

Source: Coalition for the International Criminal Court

## How is the ICC related to the Security Council?

The International Criminal Court deals with a number of situations at any time.

Within these situations there are a number of cases and accused. Since 2003, the ICC Prosecutor has received and analyzed information about alleged crimes in many conflicts around the world and has initiated several investigations.

Situations can be referred to the Court by a nation that has signed agreement to the Rome Statute (the ICC's founding treaty) **and the UN Security Council.**

Source: Coalition for the International Criminal Court

## Why was the ICC established?

In June 1989, motivated in part by an effort to combat drug trafficking, Trinidad and Tobago resurrected a pre-existing proposal for the establishment of an International Criminal Court. The conflicts in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia as well as in Rwanda in the early 1990s and the mass commission of crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide led the UN Security Council to establish two separate temporary ad hoc tribunals to hold individuals accountable for these atrocities, further highlighting the need for a permanent international criminal court.

## UN SECURITY COUNCIL REFERRALS TO THE ICC

### *Darfur, Sudan*



The UN Security Council voting to adopt Resolution 1593 which referred the Darfur situation to the ICC. Evan Schneider/UN.

The UN Security Council [referred](#) the Darfur Situation to the ICC in March of 2005. The resolution passed by a vote of 11-0, with four abstentions (by the United States, Algeria, China and Brazil). The referral purported to exempt non-Sudanese citizens from States not party to the ICC's Rome Statute, including Americans, from ICC jurisdiction. The referral was based on findings by the UN International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur.

The OTP opened an [investigation](#) in Darfur in June of 2005.

Click [here](#) for current information on the situation in Darfur.

## ***Libya***

On February 26, 2011 the UN Security Council [unanimously adopted Resolution 1970 \(2011\)](#), which granted the Court jurisdiction over the situation in Libya. This was the first time that the Security Council has unanimously referred a situation to the Court under Article 13(b) of the Court's Rome Statute. On March 3, 2011 the Prosecutor officially [opened](#) an investigation into alleged crimes against humanity committed in Libya.

Click [here](#) for current information on the situation in Libya.

Source: <http://www.amicc.org/icc/referrals>

## Part III.

### Questions--

- 1) Have the nations involved in the conflict or who have opinions about it (Syria, Russia, US, Liechtenstein, Turkey, etc.) ratified the Rome Statute?
- 2) What is your nation's stance on the Rome Statute? Did your nation ratify it? What about nations in your bloc?
- 3) Is there enough evidence for the Security Council to recommend the ICC investigate war crimes in Syria? Why or why not?

4) What is Russia's relationship with Syria? How does this help or hurt the possibility of an investigation?

5) What alternative solutions might there be? Sanctions? Condemnation? Other ideas?