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SC: Topic #1- Protecting UN Peacekeepers

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Article 7 Section 1 of the Convention on the Safety of the UN and Associated Personnel¹ clearly states that the “United Nations and associated personnel, their equipment and premises shall not be made the object of attack or of any action that prevents them from discharging their mandate.” This convention was approved by the General Assembly in 1994, and to date, more than 90 UN member states have ratified it.² More significantly, Article 7 Section 2 states that “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel...” The resolution ratifying the convention has established a precedent, emphasizing the need for member states to ensure the protection and security of UN personnel.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. Although UN peacekeeping missions have achieved significant success in their missions, the annual number of casualties has been steadily growing, with over 100 fatalities recorded nearly every year since 2003.³ This troubling trend underscores the pressing need to take action, and the United Nations Security Council must play a pivotal role in enforcing the protections of UN peacekeepers.

In 2022, the UNSC passed Resolution 2668, shedding light on the current state of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. This resolution primarily focuses on the mental health of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, as well as strongly condemning violence against UN personnel involved in peacekeeping operations.⁴ The preceding year, in 2021, the UNSC passed Resolution 2589, which calls upon member states to ensure that those responsible for violence against UN personnel are held accountable. It also urges host states to collaborate with peacekeeping missions to enhance safety and security of personnel involved in these missions.⁵

¹ <https://www.un.org/law/cod/safety.htm>

² <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/MTDGS/Volume%20II/Chapter%20XVIII/XVIII-8.en.pdf>

³ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/fatalities>

⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/766/30/PDF/N2276630.pdf?OpenElement>

⁵ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N21/229/15/PDF/N2122915.pdf?OpenElement>

It is crucial that the Security Council determine effective strategies to prevent the injuries and death of UN peacekeepers, as well as safeguard their continued safety and wellbeing. Furthermore, many countries with high populations do not contribute personnel for UN peacekeeping missions. It is important to note that Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Rwanda currently contribute the most amount of personnel for UN peacekeeping (approx 4000 - 7000 personnel each).⁶ Why do many other countries feel disincentivized to contribute, and how can this change?

Things to keep in mind when doing research and writing your position paper:

- Is your country currently contributing troops or personnel to UN peacekeeping missions in conflict zones?
- How does your country collaborate with other UN member states and the host state to ensure the safety and security of UN peacekeepers?
- What strategies does your country employ to bring individuals responsible for violence against UN personnel to justice, as outlined in Resolution 2589?
- Does your country have any specific initiatives or policies in place to address the mental health and well-being of peacekeeping personnel? How is your country working to implement Resolution 2668?
- What strategies does your country employ to bring individuals responsible for violence against UN personnel to justice?
- Are there any specific proposals or recommendations that your country would like to put forward within the framework of the United Nations Security Council to improve the protection of UN peacekeepers?

Please ensure that your position paper is your own work and that all information is cited, as it will be submitted to TurnItIn and plagiarism is unacceptable. Citations from your country's government website or from the UN website are ideal. Citing news articles is acceptable so long as the information cited is unbiased. Please keep your position paper to 1-2 pages. Lastly, please ensure that your papers reflect the position of your country, not your own.

⁶ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors>

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