

## **TOPIC A: Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East**

As seen in the TOPIC A, the Middle East is a zone where most nuclear threat is present (among them and to the rest of the world) and if not careful, war may follow. It's the concern of Middle East countries the safety of their area and the best way to endorse this safety is by creating a Middle East Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone.

A nuclear-weapon-free zone is a region in which the countries that make it up commit themselves to abstain from producing, acquiring, testing any nuclear weapon and nuclear explosive device. In addition, the five nuclear weapon states would have to respect the zone and not threaten or use any nuclear weapon on the countries that form the free zone.

Obstacles to the declaration of the zone are the Arab-Israeli conflict, the constant threats of Israel against Iran and the whole Iran's uranium enrichment, plus the India-Pakistan struggle. In addition, the denial of the three countries that refuse to sign the NPT, therefore, to be supervised by IAEA on their nuclear activities is not possible.

Countries in the Middle East that have refused to sign the NPT are: India, Israel and Pakistan.

The objective is the adherence those countries that are not parties to the NPT and CTBT to the treaties to be able to regulate their nuclear activities (in charge of IAEA). This will enhance trustworthy relations between Middle East countries, since there would be no nuclear threat. The free zone it's not an 'only treaty' matter, it depends on the transparency of each country regarding their use of nuclear technology.

If said zone is created, the absence of nuclear weapons will lead to no need of a nuclear defense system. The budget for nuclear armament would go to humanitarian budget and it would bring an improvement to all countries. That will contribute to global disarmament which is UN's visionary goal for 2020.

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/35/a35r147e.pdf>

<http://www.mideastinfo.com/archive/cw/cw-npt.htm>

<http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/nwzfz>

## **Background Information**

### **Arab-Israeli Conflict**

The Arab-Israeli conflict started ever since the Israel's state declaration in 1948. Disputes and wars were caused over territories' control and the area domination among both sides with support and intervention from external countries to the conflict like Russia, US, France and England. The conflict has grown as much to make nuclear weapons a must for each country's security.

### **Israel**

*Brief History on Nuclear Weapons*

Israel began investigations since the country's very beginnings in 1948.

In 1949 HEMED GIMMEL began a two year survey for uranium. No meaningful sources were found.

In 1952, the Israel Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC) was founded. HEMED GIMMEL changed its name to Machon 4.

In 1953 Machon 4 created and perfected the process for uranium's extraction in Negev. It also produced heavy water for the reactor. Now Israel had the ability to produce the most significant nuclear materials.

During the 1950's France and Israel worked together to design and construct a reactor. Bombs gave both countries a sense of autonomy in the environment created by the Cold War.

In 1956 France arranged to give to Israel a new research reactor. Later, the Suez Canal crisis supported Israel's view on nuclear weapons as necessary to avoid unreliable alliances, such as the one it had with France during said crisis.

In 1957 France and Israel made an agreement for France to build them another reactor and a reprocessing plant. This was a secret operation without IAEA inspection, taking place in Dimona. The Office of Science Liasons (LEKEM) was organized to supply security to the clandestine project.

In 1958, US noticed Dimona but wasn't able to identify it as a nuclear site.

In 1960, France pressured Israel to make public the project. It threatened to stop to give the reactor's fuel. France feared for any scandal if the project was discovered. France and Israel worked out an agreement. US declared that Dimona was drawn in proliferation, plus that Israel had a nuclear program already settled. US conducted several inspections to Dimona, it couldn't find any clear evidence on nuclear weapons activities but did remarked that the reactor was oddly large for any peaceful purposes as meeting civilian energy need.

In 1968 US stated that Israel had started production of nuclear weapons.

In 2003, Israel's 'secret weapon' was discovered. A program was transmitted by the BBC.

It's uncertain the number of nuclear weapons Israel posses.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/israel/nuke/farr.htm>

[http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/Suez\\_War.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/Suez_War.html)

<http://www.doublestandards.org/vanunu1.html>

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/israel/nuke/>

**Concise Introduction to India-Pakistan conflict**

It dates back to India's independence from Great Britain. Jammu and Kashmir were the two territories that began the dispute between these two countries. They joined India but Pakistan insists they should belong to them since their population is majorly Muslim. India and Pakistan still argue about Kashmir border line, the conflict grew to the point of implementing nuclear weapons. After many decades of war and mistrust, it is hard for any of the countries to drop nuclear armaments as they are seen as part of their defense. Neither will drop the weapons until the other does.

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/south\\_asia/2002/india\\_pakistan/timeline/2001.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/south_asia/2002/india_pakistan/timeline/2001.stm)

## **Pakistan**

### *Brief History on Nuclear Technology*

In 1972, Pakistan established its nuclear program especially after the loss of East Pakistan to India (1971).

In 1974 India tested a nuclear device; in response Pakistan rushes its nuclear weapon program,

Throughout the 1970's Pakistan proposed several agreements to India to renounce to nuclear weapons acquisition and development, plus the adherence to the NPT.

At first, Pakistan began developing plutonium enrichment technology; in 1974 they signed a contract with France for the design of a nuclear facility to process said fuel. Several others became its associates to develop the nuclear program. During the next few years the aid was withdrawn from Pakistan due to US pressure since Pakistan's nuclear weapons' ambition was too apparent.

In 1975, Pakistan began a clandestine uranium enrichment program since it was easier to develop than plutonium.

Later, in 1976 France withdrew its aid from Pakistan. After that, in 1979, US dropped its assistance to Pakistan regarding nuclear technology and economical support but maintained food aid.

In the 1980's Pakistan received an atomic bomb (pre-tested) from China additional to enough uranium for a bomb's development.

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, Pakistan became a strategic point for US declaring it a 'frontline state' in opposition to the soviets. This reopened the economical and military aid that US suspended before with the country in question. As long as Pakistan an important country to US, the later ignored any nuclear weapon program.

In 1985, after several failed bilateral agreements between India and Pakistan regarding nuclear weapons, was established an agreement where neither would attack the other's nuclear facilities. These remained under discussion for several years with Russia, US and China cooperation.

In 1998, Pakistan made the Ghauri missile test-firing. Later Pakistan conducted several nuclear tests (May 28-30) after India did five (May 11, in response to the Ghauri test), which was

considered as external threat to Pakistan's security. US sanctioned Pakistan over this. In consequence its economy was affected.

In 2002, it was announced that Pakistan had given help to DPRK to develop uranium enrichment. Later in 2003 it was discovered that Iran had received help from external sources for their nuclear program, including from Pakistan.

In 2005 Benazir Bhutto stated that Pakistan had nuclear capability but not assembled until India's test in 1998. Later on they assembled the ones for the nuclear test.

It's a concern whether Pakistan's nuclear armament is safe from non-state actors.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/pakistan/nuke/>

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/pakistan/nuke/chron.htm>

<http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/pakistan/nuke.htm>

## **India**

*Brief History on Nuclear Technology*

In 1945, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (nuclear research institute) was founded.

In 1948 the IAEC (Indian Atomic Energy Commission) was established. Prime Minister Nehru declared that India would pursue peaceful purposes but if required to use nuclear technology in another way the nation would do so.

India (Nehru) founded the Non-Aligned Movement and encouraged nuclear disarmament but refused to denuclearize India while other nations had nuclear armaments.

Under Atoms for Peace program India obtained Cirus (research reactor) from Canada and bought from US the tons of water required to operate it. India decided to produce uranium fuel by itself.

In 1974, India conducts a 'peaceful' nuclear test that triggers Pakistan's nuclear program.

In 1998, India resumed nuclear testing, after twenty-four years, with the 'Operation Shakti' which consisted of five tests of different nuclear devices in response to the Ghauri test made by Pakistan.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/india/nuke/index.html>

[http://www.nti.org/e\\_research/profiles/india/nuclear/2296\\_6267.html](http://www.nti.org/e_research/profiles/india/nuclear/2296_6267.html)

<http://nuclearweaponarchive.org/India/IndiaOrigin.html>

## **India – Pakistan position regarding nuclear weapons**

Pakistan states that it would only join the NPT when India does, since it's its mayor rival. Not all of Pakistan's nuclear facilities are under the IAEA. Pakistan doesn't stand with no-first-use doctrine since it claims that it doesn't want any conflict with India (referring to nuclear weapons) but if there is the need it would answer back with all its power. On the other hand India declares a no-first-use doctrine and claim that it would only use nuclear weapons for prevention. India believes that NPT is a flawed treaty and voted against the CTBT. Still India stresses that they will enforce non-proliferation and disarmament.

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/india/nuke/index.html>

<http://www.fas.org/nuke/guide/pakistan/nuke/>

<http://www.rediff.com/news/2007/mar/23nddeal1.htm>

Critical Thinking

Which are India's full or possible motives for a nuclear program development besides Pakistan? <http://nuclearweaponarchive.org/India/IndiaOrigin.html>

India-Pakistan time line:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in\\_depth/south\\_asia/2002/india\\_pakistan/timeline/2001.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/static/in_depth/south_asia/2002/india_pakistan/timeline/2001.stm)

## **Important Treaties and Organizations**

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

## **What should be addressed?**

The need of a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in the Middle East as the best solution to nuclear problems and proliferation

Under what agreements each country is willing to negotiate the possibility of such zone?

Adherence of Israel, India and Pakistan to the NPT