

# **ALAGS E-MUN 3.0**

**DATES: 8,9&10 JUNE**



# **STUDY GUIDE**

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## **INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE**

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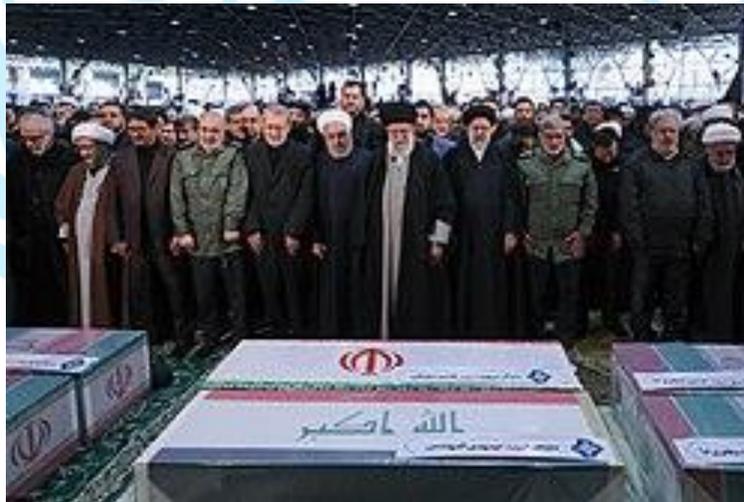


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# **AGENDA: ASSASSINATION OF** **QASEM SOLEIMANI**

## **USA vs IRAN**

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# INTRODUCTION TO THE DIAS

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**The President (Chair)-:** Mr. Sparsh Sumani, a young 15 year soul, the Secretary General for the ALAGS E-MUN, will be acting as the President of the International Court of Justice (ICJ). For him age is just a number and he loves to share his experiences, whatever he knows with all of us. He loves to travel and he is a blogger, chess player, munner etc. The president is looking forward to a fruitful discussion.

**The Vice President (Moderator)-:** Mr. Urvansh Saraf. He is a 17 year old, pursuing commerce in Don Bosco School, Siliguri, India. He has been a part of MUNs since 2018, and has never looked back ever since. He is a solution oriented person with least inclination to blame game. He follows MUN as a passion. Besides Munning, he loves to write and to sing, as a hobby. Binge watching Netflix and munching snacks has been his routine. He is looking forward to a memorable conference.

**Registrar (Deputy President)-:** Chiara Tacchini is a 17-year-old student at Liceo Linguistico Internazionale Grazia Deledda in Genoa, Italy. Her studies focus on foreign languages and cultures, namely English, Chinese and Spanish. She is involved in several activities within her school, such as the newspaper and the MUN club, which she is very fond of. Although she first joined MUN as

a delegate, she is especially passionate about the ICJ. Thanks to it, she discovered her interest in International law, a field she is planning to further pursue as soon as she finishes high school. She has already served as Advocate, Judge and President in the past, thus she is really looking forward to working as Registrar in the simulation of ICJ at ALAGS E-MUN 3.0



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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR BOARD

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Welcome to ALAGS E-MUN, the 3<sup>rd</sup> digital conference hosted at the Zoom Application. The ICJ is at the intersection of politics and law in a forum, which tries to remain rational and objective in face of international instabilities. This allows it to approach the issues the world faces in a way which varies greatly from what is generally at the forefront of political discourse. It is a fantastic tool to approach contemporary issues in innovative and limitless ways and provides methods to evaluate angles, which often are not considered in regular committees. Through the online simulation of the ICJ, we hope to show you how exciting the path to creating arguments from different perspectives can be.

We expect you to work hard and use your personal skills in order to help you discover innovative methods of argumentation. Try to be creative with the facts and perspectives you bring before the court while still basing these arguments in international law. Through this conference, we hope to help you perfect your argumentation skills while providing an academically challenging experience. This ALAGS E-MUN should provide you with a rewarding experience which inspires excitement and motivation for the subject matters which are going to be discussed.

Hope to see you on 9<sup>th</sup> of June.

Sparsh Sumani (President, Chair)

Urvansh Saraf (Vice President, Moderator)

Chiara Tacchini (Registrar, Deputy President)





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## INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE- ICJ

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In the United Nations (UN), the International Court of Justice (ICJ) represents the primary judicial forum. The UN Charter recognized it first in June 1945; ICJ first began its work on April 1946. The Court is located in the Peace Palace in the Netherlands and it is the only United Nations organ out of the six principal ones whose headquarter isn't in New York, United States of America.

The role of the ICJ Court is to reconcile legal conflicts addressed to it by countries and recommend consultative opinions on legal questions submitted by authorized organs and agencies of the United Nations, all in congruency with international law. Its official languages are English and French.

The court has a sum of 15 judges who are elected by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, and those elected serve a nine-year term in office; elections are based on geographical locations to guarantee international representation. Current judges are from the following countries: Somalia (President), China (Vice President), Slovakia, France, Morocco, Brazil, United States of America, Italy, Uganda, India, Jamaica, Australia, Russian Federation, Lebanon, Japan, and Belgium (Registrar) – a Registrar

assists it as its administrative organ. Only countries are eligible to stand in front of the Court, as the Court only aids in cases that involve conflict between two sovereign states. Hence, that includes the 192 member-states of the Page 4 UN. However, the Court does not have the authority to work on the applications commencing from corporations, NGOs, people, or any of that sort. Legal counseling is not provided to them when dealing with any State's authorities.

It aids in one of the most substantial elements of resilience and not leaving anyone behind for it establishes justice, for in case of a failure of a nation in front of another, or if two nations fail to maintain the security because of a conflict between them, the ICJ is the first to step in settle the dispute in the most peaceful way possible, and giving all the counterparties the needed compensations and aids the nations to stand tall in front of the conflict and doesn't allow the nations' to be hindered by any dispute that the ICJ has jurisdiction over.

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# THE AGENDA: USA vs IRAN

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## a. Introduction:

When the world rang in the New Year on January 1, Iranians were reeling from the country's worst political unrest in decades. Just weeks before, tens of thousands of people had poured onto the streets across Iranian cities, in an outburst of anger over corruption and hardship as the country's economy buckled under the weight of US-imposed sanctions. The protests were met with a deadly crackdown by the security forces, leaving many in Iran believing things could not get any worse. Then on January 3, the United States assassinated a top Iranian general, Qasem Soleimani, in Iraq's capital, Baghdad.

The killing of Qasem Soleimani sent shockwaves through the Middle East and beyond, triggering fears of an all-out war between Washington and Tehran. Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Hosseini Khamenei pledged "severe revenge" and the country's elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) responded a few days later by firing a volley of rockets at US targets in Iraq. The retaliatory attacks did not cause any deaths but shortly afterwards; an IRGC operator mistakenly fired two missiles at a Ukrainian passenger jet over the country's capital. All 176 people on board died. Most of the victims were Iranian. The turn of events was dizzying.

The latest escalation began in 2018, when US President Donald Trump pulled Washington out of a landmark accord that offered Tehran relief from global sanctions. In exchange, Iran had pledged to curbs its nuclear programme. But despite Iran's adherence to the 2015 deal, Trump withdrew from it and reinstated punishing economic measures targeting the country's banking and oil sectors, saying he wanted to negotiate a new agreement that also addressed Iran's ballistic missiles programme and its support for regional armed groups.

The sanctions drastically reduced Iran's oil exports, sending its economy into recession and halving the value of its currency against the US dollar. The cost of living increased dramatically with inflation reaching 52 percent in May last year.

As Iran's economy crumbled under the US sanctions, Iranian officials slammed Washington's campaign as "economic terrorism", saying it was aimed at forcing a change of government in Tehran. Then in May last year, President Hassan Rouhani announced Iran would gradually begin reducing compliance with the nuclear deal's limits on uranium enrichment. His government had negotiated the deal and the cleric had won two successive elections on the back of promises to enact democratic reforms and end the country's isolation from the world.

## **b. Introduction to Qasem Soleimani:**

Qasem Soleimani, the Iranian general helping militias fight the Islamic State in Iraq, is known by many names.

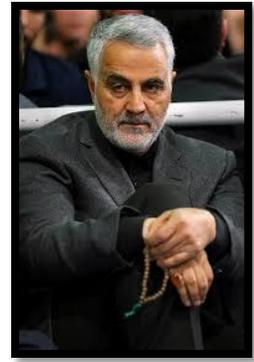
He's the "Shadow Commander," according to a profile by the New Yorker's Dexter Filkins.

He's the "Dark Knight," according to a piece by Foreign Policy magazine. And he's the Iranian regime's "Mr. Fix-It," according to the Weekly Standard, which threw in a comparison to the Most Interesting Man in the World from the Dos Equis beer commercials for good measure.

He's also been designated a terrorist by the United States on more than one occasion, and accused of playing a leading role in arming Shiite militias in Iraq to attack and kill U.S. troops during the Iraq war. The general is also thought to be a fierce supporter of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Therein lays both the mystique and notoriety of Soleimani. He has been the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force since the late 1990s, exerting a broad influence on the Middle East that has often been at odds with Washington's vision for the region. But for most of that time, he has stayed in the shadows, leading an organization that is part Special Operations force, part paramilitary.

But photos of Soleimani have been appearing on social media frequently as Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq launched an offensive this week to take back the city of Tikrit from the



militants. It's a strategically important area: Tikrit sits about 110 miles north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, and 130 miles south of Mosul, the city of more than 1 million that the Islamic State seized last June. The militants' control of Tikrit solidifies their hold on Mosul, which has become their de facto capital in Iraq.

**c. His role as the General:**

Major General Qasem Soleimani, the commander of Iran's Quds Force who was killed in a U.S. air strike in Baghdad on Friday, had an illustrious career as a spymaster and military strategist and a celebratory status in Iran. Always a defender of the Islamic revolution, Soleimani reported directly to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and, of late, was the main architect of Iran's recent foreign interventions, mainly in Iraq and Syria. He was so close to Khamenei that the Supreme Leader, the commander of Iran's armed forces, once called him "the living martyr of revolution".

Soleimani joined the Iranian Army immediately after the revolution. He was on the frontlines during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. His commanders were so impressed by his bravery during the war that they promoted the young soldier, in his 20s, to head the 41<sup>st</sup> Tharallah Division of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). For the Iranian revolutionaries, martyrdom is service. As the Supreme Leader once said about

another fallen soldier, in the end, Soleimani “drank the sweet syrup of martyrdom”.



#### **d. The Assassination:**

The commander, Maj. General Qasem Soleimani, who led the powerful Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, was killed along with several officials from Iraqi militias backed by Tehran when an American MQ-9 Reaper drone fired missiles into a convoy that was leaving the airport.

General Soleimani was the architect of nearly every significant operation by Iranian intelligence and military forces over the past two decades, and his death was a staggering blow for Iran at a time of sweeping geopolitical conflict. The strike was also a serious escalation of Mr. Trump’s growing confrontation with Tehran, one that began with the death of an American contractor in Iraq in late December.

In Iran, the leadership convened an emergency security meeting. And the country’s supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, issued a statement calling for three days of public mourning and then retaliation.

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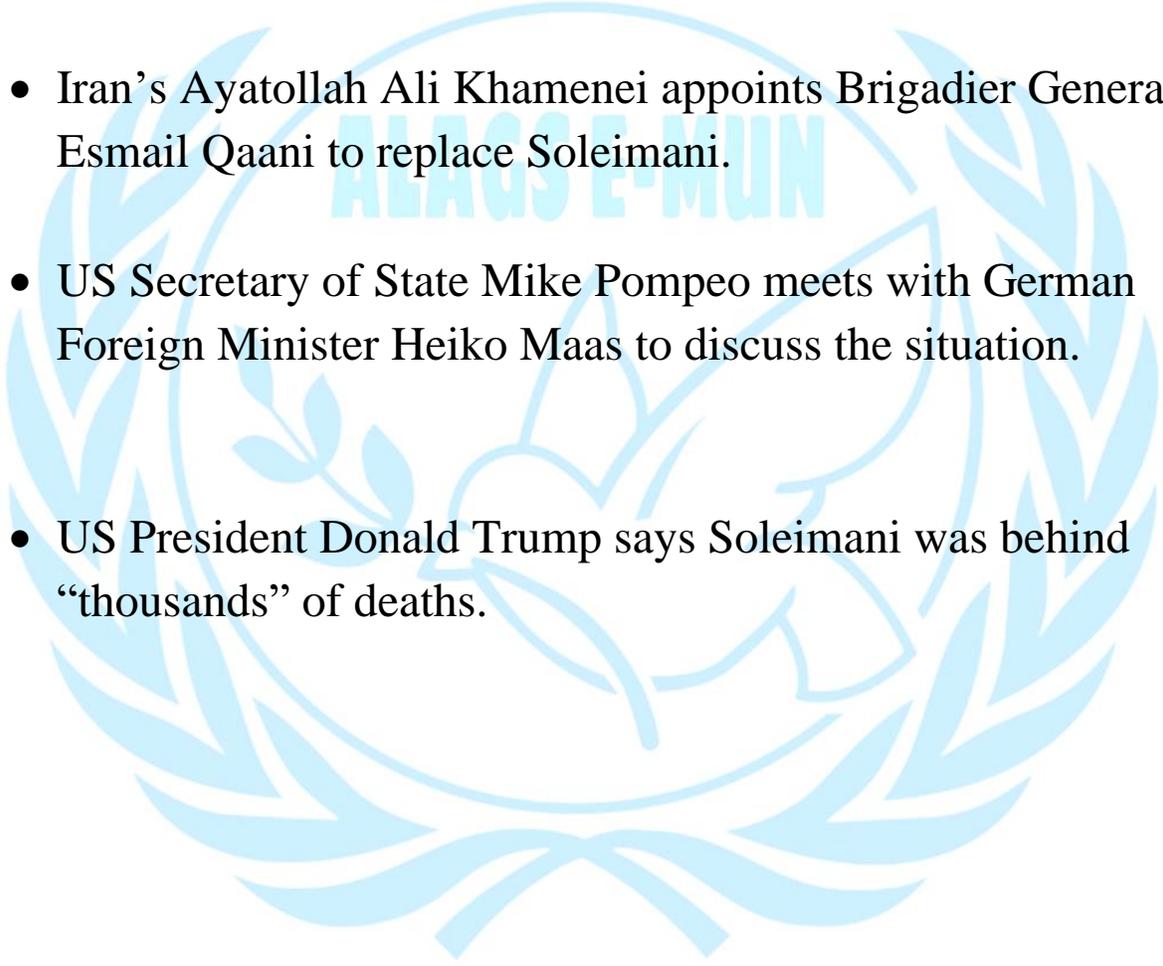
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## IMMEDIATE REACTIONS- ASSASSINATION

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- The United States announces that it would send 3,000 additional troops to the Middle East amid rising tensions in the region
- Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif condemns the assassination on Twitter saying that the US "bears responsibility for all consequences of its rogue adventurism."
- Populist Iraqi Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr mourns Soleimani's killing and says that his militias are ready to protect Iraq.
- Israel's Defense Ministry raises its alert level, amid fears of retaliation strikes initiated by Hezbollah and Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.
- Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah says the group will continue to work towards Soleimani's goals, according to Lebanese broadcaster Al-Manar.

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- US State Department issues travel warning for Americans in Iraq, urging them to leave the country immediately. American workers employed by foreign oil companies in the southern Iraqi oil city of Basra begin to leave.
  - Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appoints Brigadier General Esmail Qaani to replace Soleimani.
  - US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas to discuss the situation.
  - US President Donald Trump says Soleimani was behind “thousands” of deaths.

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## STANCE OF PARTIES INVOLVED

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### a. The Applicant: Islamic Republic of Iran



The funeral rites of Qasem Soleimani surpassed that of Ruhollah Khomeini, the founding father of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in size, extent and fatalities. The casket bearing the slain commander of the Quds Force, the expeditionary arm of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was paraded through eight cities, three in Iraq and five in Iran, drawing crowds reckoned in the millions. In the last, his home city of Kerman, more than 50 mourners were crushed in the throng.

General Soleimani, who coordinated the activity of Iranian-backed militias from Lebanon to Yemen, was killed shortly after getting off a plane at Baghdad airport early in the morning of January 3<sup>rd</sup>. According to Mike Pompeo, America's secretary of state, President Donald Trump ordered the killing because the general was organizing a plot which posed an imminent threat to American citizens.

President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday Iran has responded, and will respond, to America's assassination of Major-General Qasem Soleimani, the Revolutionary Guards commander killed in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq in January.

Rouhani was speaking following a Cabinet meeting that was broadcast on state television.

Soleimani, leader of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, was instrumental in expanding Iran's military influence in the Middle East as the operative who handles clandestine operations outside Iran. The 62-year-old general was regarded as the second-most powerful figure in Iran after Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

### **STATEMENTS:**

“The Americans assassinated our great commander. We have responded to that terrorist act and will respond to it,” **Rouhani** said in a televised speech.

“Reckless,” “a dangerous escalation,” and “severe revenge”: These are just a few of the words coming from **international leaders and politicians** in the wake of the U.S. killing of Maj. Gen. Qasem Soleimani, Iran's top military commander and the face of the Islamic Republic's interventions across the Middle East.

“#SevereRevenge awaits the criminals who have stained their hands with his & the other martyrs' blood last night,” Iranian **Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, the country's most powerful leader, wrote on Twitter on Friday morning. “Martyr

Soleimani is an Intl figure of Resistance & all such people will seek revenge.”

According to **Phillip Smyth**, a Shiite Islamist militarism expert and senior fellow at the Washington Institute, it’s “the most major decapitation strike the U.S. has ever engaged in.”

This brings Iran to the International Court of Justice, where as applicants they plead for justice for the esteemed General of Iran.

#### **b. The Defendant: The United States of America**

As tensions escalated, U.S. stocks fell Friday. Brent crude spiked as much as 4%, gold hit a four-month high, and the dollar fell to its lowest level in nine weeks. The State Department has ordered all American citizens in Iraq to leave the country immediately.



The U.S. had been pursuing the shadowy leader for decades. Soleimani was the face of Iran’s military interventions overseas and what the U.S. government describes as the country’s “malign activity,” including training and deploying proxy fighters and supporting Bashar Assad in Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthi rebels in Yemen, and Shiite militias in Iraq. His operations within Iraq at the height of the Iraq war killed hundreds of U.S. personnel. Since 2003, Iranian proxies in Iraq have killed more than 600 Americans, the State Department said last year. The U.S. response to Soleimani’s killing has been

mixed, with a fair amount of criticism aimed at President Donald Trump from his Democratic opponents.

The hit on the mastermind of Iran's foreign policy comes at a boiling point for U.S.-Iran tensions. It follows U.S. airstrikes in Iraq that killed 25 members of Kataib Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Iraqi Shiite paramilitary group responsible for rocket strike that killed a U.S. contractor and other U.S. allies in northern Iraq in late December. The last week saw members of that militant group and others attack the U.S. embassy in Baghdad, many of whom chanted "Qasem Soleimani is our leader."

Even before that, 2019 was marked by successive escalations from both sides, including Washington's designation of the Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group, Iran's shooting down of a U.S. drone, intensifying U.S. sanctions on Tehran, attacks on oil tankers and Saudi Aramco facilities that have been blamed on Iran, and Tehran's incremental rolling back of its commitments to the Iranian nuclear deal after the U.S. ditched it in 2018.

## **STATEMENTS:**

**Former Vice President Joe Biden** said overnight that Soleimani "deserved to be brought to justice for his crimes against American troops and thousands of innocents throughout the region."

But the **Democratic presidential frontrunner** stopped short of praising the Trump administration and warned of adverse

consequences, adding “this is a hugely escalatory move in an already dangerous region. President Trump just tossed a stick of dynamite into a tinderbox,” **Biden** wrote.

**Agnes Callamard**, the United Nations’ special rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, said in a post on Twitter that the killing of Soleimani “most likely” violated international law.

“Use of lethal force is only justified to protect against an imminent threat to life,” **Callamard** wrote. Use of drones for targeted killings outside active hostilities was “almost never likely to be legal,” she noted.

**Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders** was also highly critical of the action. “Trump’s dangerous escalation brings us closer to another disastrous war in the Middle East that could cost countless lives and trillions more dollars,” he said in a statement. “Trump promised to end endless wars, but this action puts us on the path to another one.”

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# TIMELINE OF EVENTS

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## **a. Events that lead to the assassination**

### **2015**

**July 25:** The US, Iran and other world powers including the UK announce an agreement they describe as a “first step” towards preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

### **2016**

**October:** Presidential candidate Donald Trump says he will withdraw the US from the deal if elected.

### **2018**

**May 8:** President Trump announces the US will withdraw from the Iran deal. Iran, Britain, France and Germany say they will maintain the pact.

**August – November:** The US re imposes economic sanctions on Iran, targeting oil, shipping, banking and other sectors.

### **2019**

**April 8:** Mr. Trump says he will designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards as a foreign terrorist organization, despite opposition from the US military.

**April 22:** The US says it will end exemptions on sanctions against countries buying oil from Iran.

**May 8:** Iran announces it will increase its production of enriched uranium.

**May 12:** Two oil tankers from Saudi Arabia and one each from the United Arab Emirates and Norway are attacked in the Persian Gulf. The US blames Iran.

**June 20:** Iran shoots down a US drone it says violated its airspace, which America denies. Mr. Trump orders attacks against Iran but cancels them shortly before they were to be launched.

**July 1:** Iran says it has exceeded the amount of low-enriched uranium it was allowed to produce under the 2015 agreement.

**July 4:** British marines seize the Iranian oil tanker Grace 1 in Gibraltar at the request of the US.

**July 18:** Mr. Trump says the US navy shot down an Iranian drone that came close to the ship.

**July 20:** Iran seizes the British-owned oil tanker Stena Impero near the Strait of Hormuz.

**July 22:** Iran arrests 17 of its citizens and charges them with spying for the US. Some were reportedly executed.

**December 27:** An American civilian contractor is killed and several troops injured in a rocket attack in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk. Kataib Hezbollah, an Iran-backed militia group, is blamed.

**December 29:** The US bombs three sites in Iraq and two in Syria which are linked to Kataib Hezbollah, killing 25 people.

**December 31:** Protesters attack the US embassy in Baghdad.

## **2020**

**January 2:** Iranian military leader Qasem Soleimani and five others are killed in a US drone strike at Baghdad airport

### **b. Events following the Assassination**

#### **January 3**

The first hours:

- Shortly after midnight local time, airstrikes hit Baghdad International Airport. Iraq's military-run media agency, the Security Media Cell, was the first to report the attack. In their initial statement, they said that some people were injured, and shared photos of burnt vehicles.
- Air traffic around Baghdad International Airport is suspended around 2 a.m. local time.
- Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) issues a statement saying that "five members and two guests" were killed in the strikes. Shortly after, they say that Qasem Soleimani, as well as Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of the PMF, also known as Hashed al-Shaabi, and Mohammed Reza al-Jaberi, the protocol officer and the head of public relations for the group, were killed.
- Iraqi state TV confirms the killings. Iranian State TV follows that confirmation, citing a Revolutionary Guard statement.
- The US Department of Defense issues a statement confirming Soleimani death in a US drone strike.

### **Saturday, January 4**

- Thousands gather for the funeral procession in Baghdad. The procession passed through the city's fortified Green Zone.
- The United Kingdom issues a travel warning for Iraq.

- Top Hezbollah official Mohamed Raad says the US “made an error” in killing Soleimani, and that the military faction will be decisive in its response.
- Revolutionary Guards General Gholamali Abuhamzeh said Iran will punish Americans wherever they are within reach of the Islamic Republic, according to Tasnim news agency.
- NATO suspends training missions in Iraq, citing security concerns. The Iraqi mission employs hundreds of staff members from allied nations and non-NATO countries.
- French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian speaks with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi about tensions in the Middle East.
- Wang and Zarif discuss rising tensions over the phone. Beijing subsequently publishes a press release outlining the minister’s comments urging the US not to “abuse force.”
- More rockets fall in Baghdad’s fortified Green Zone.
- The United Kingdom announces that navy warships HMS Montrose and HMS Defender will escort ships sailing under the British flag through the Strait of Hormuz.
- The White House sends Congress formal notice of Friday’s strike. The notification was sent under the 1973 War Powers Act, which stipulates that the administration formally inform Congress within 48 hours of committing armed forces to military action.

- Trump tweets that the US has “targeted 52 Iranian sites” it could hit “very fast and very hard” in the case of retaliation from Iran.

### **Sunday, January 5**

- Soleimani’s body is returned to Iran and sent to the city of Ahvaz, according to the state-run IRIB news agency. Thousands began gathering in the city to mourn the general.
- Zarif hits back at Trump’s threat that US retaliation could hit Iranian cultural sites, saying that would constitute a war crime.
- Soleimani’s and al-Muhandis’ remains are sent back to Iran for tests. After the tests, authorities planned to take Soleimani’s body to his hometown for burial, while al-Muhandis’ remains were set to be brought back to Iraq to be buried in Najaf.
- Tens of thousands continue to gather in Ahvaz to mourn Soleimani. Authorities also planned to take his body to Tehran and the holy cities of Qom and Mashhad.
- Iran summons various diplomats, including those from Germany, Switzerland and the US, either over the attacks or their government’s subsequent comments.

- European Union invites Zarif to Brussels to discuss de-escalation
- Protests kick off at the US consulate in Turkey over Soleimani's killing
- Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah says the assassination marks a new era for the Middle East
- Iraq's al-Sadr calls for US and other foreign troops to leave
- Iran announces it will continue to roll back commitments under its 2015 nuclear deal with six major powers.

### **Monday, January 6**

- Iraq's United Nations Ambassador Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom urges the UN to condemn Friday's attack
- German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson call on "all parties to exercise utmost restraint" as tensions continue to rise in the Middle East.
- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warns that tensions are at their "highest level this century," in an address. "The New Year has begun with our world in turmoil," he wrote on Twitter.
- Defense Secretary Mark Esper says the US has no plans to pull its troops out of Iraq. The statement contradicted a

letter sent earlier that day from the head of the US military's Task Force Iraq outlining efforts to "reposition forces over the course of the coming days and weeks to prepare for onward movement."

- Pakistan's foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi says that Pakistan won't take sides in the conflict. The country has been a key ally to the US and Saudi Arabia, while maintaining a border with Iran.
- Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel and Russian President Vladimir Putin set a January 11 meeting to discuss the tension.
- Hundreds of thousands flood Tehran's streets to mourn Soleimani while Khamenei led prayers at the funeral. The leader of Hamas was also in attendance.
- German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas decries US sanctions threat on Iran as "not very helpful."

### **Tuesday, January 7**

- US deny Zarif a visa that would allow him to attend a United Nations meeting in New York on Thursday.
- More than 50 people are reported dead, and over 200 injured after a stampede at Soleimani's funeral in his home city of Kerman. Over a million people were estimated to be in attendance, in what would be Iran's largest funeral

procession since the 1989 funeral of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the leader of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

- Germany, Canada and NATO announce the movement and withdrawal of some of their troops stationed in Iraq, particularly those in and around the capital helping to train Iraqi security forces.
- Soleimani's burial is postponed after the deadly stampede.

### **Wednesday, January 8**

- Iran launches 22 ballistic missiles at two military bases hosting US and allied troops in Iraq, in what Ayatollah Ali Khamenei described as a “slap in the face” for the killing of Soleimani.
- Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said Tehran “concluded proportionate measures in self-defense.”
- Trump confirmed there were no casualties from the attack and in a statement said “As long as I am president, Iran will never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon ... the United States is ready to embrace peace with all who seek it.”
- Trump called on Germany, the UK and France, among others, to step away from the 2015 nuclear deal and asked NATO to become more involved in the Middle East. Jürgen Hardt, foreign policy spokesman for Germany's ruling

Christian Democratic Union, told DW that Europe must continue to uphold the nuclear deal.



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## PAST AND PRESENT: THE SUMMARY

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The US and Iran have long been foes.

Problems can be traced to at least 1979, when Iran's US-backed shah was overthrown and the country became an Islamic republic.

That year, amidst the fallout from the revolution, dozens of Americans were taken hostage inside the US embassy in the capital Tehran. Relations have been frosty ever since.

There were signs of a diplomatic thaw in 2015, when Iran agreed a landmark deal to limit its nuclear programme, allaying international concerns. It did so in return for the lifting of tough economic sanctions.

But the election of US President Donald Trump the following year posed a challenge. He hated the nuclear accord, which he branded "the worst deal ever negotiated".

In 2018, he abandoned it altogether and reinstated US sanctions to force Iran's leaders to agree to a new deal – something they rejected, even as the Iranian economy was sent into a deep recession.

Mr. Trump stepped up the pressure in May 2019 by applying secondary sanctions on countries that continued to do business with Iran.

Relations further deteriorated when six oil tankers were sabotaged in the Gulf of Oman in May and June. Washington accused Iran of being behind these attacks. Iran denied this.

In July, Tehran started suspending some of the commitments it had made under the nuclear deal.

Then, in late December, the US blamed an Iranian-backed militia for a rocket attack which killed an American contractor in northern Iraq.

Washington retaliated by bombing bases associated with the militia in Iraq and Syria, killing at least 25 fighters.

These bombings sparked a backlash in Iraq. The US embassy in the capital, Baghdad, was attacked by crowds of protesters.

President Trump blamed Iran for orchestrating the attack and warned it would “pay a very big price”.

On 3 January, Qasem Soleimani was killed in a US drone strike at Baghdad airport.

The general – who controlled Iran’s proxy forces across the Middle East – was regarded as a terrorist by the Americans, who alleged he was responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American troops and was plotting “imminent” attacks.

Iran vowed “severe revenge” for his death and said two days later that it had abandoned the last limit on its enrichment of uranium imposed by the nuclear deal.

Mr. Trump, meanwhile, warned the US would respond in the event of retaliation “perhaps in a disproportionate manner”



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# QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY THE COURT

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## Judges:

1. Which side, the applicant or the defendant, proved his points viably?
2. What should be the Final Verdict of the bench? In favor of IRAN- the Applicant or the USA- The defendant?
3. Were the Evidences presented were legitimate or dissatisfying?
4. Which one of the witnesses summoned in the committee, were efficient?
5. What should be the final Judgment of the committee in accordance with the verdict? How should it be carried out?

## Advocates:

1. What are the Stipulations to be presented to the committee?

2. What are legitimate evidences to be presented in the Evidence Packets?
3. What oppositions and rejection to be made in the stage of rebuttals?
4. What kind of objections can be made to the opposing advocate while witness examinations?
5. How can they defend their clients without giving a chance of objection to the opposing advocate?
6. How can they push the Verdict in their favor?

**General:**

1. What should be the real judgment of the committee being neutral to every fact?
2. How can the committee uphold its mandate and integrity?
3. How can the judgment come into effect without affecting the sovereignty of the involved party?

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# CONCLUSION

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It is beyond dispute that the purpose of provisional measures is both to enable the Court to preserve the value of its judicial functions and to preserve the respective rights of the parties, pending the decision of the Court. Provisional measures are designed to avoid an aggravation of the dispute and, in some circumstances, to install measures to protect evidence. The jurisprudence in this particular facet is also dynamic in so far as the Court has had to introduce the ‘Plausibility’ criteria (*Belgium v. Senegal*) and has had to distinctly clarify that provisional measures are binding (*La Grande Case*), a position it reasserted in the US-IRAN case as well.

To conclude, the executive board looks forward to a regulated and a hot debate in the committee. This study guide should not act as the beginning or the end of your research. We request you stick to the mandate of the committee following the Rules of Procedures for the ICJ. Hope to see you all set on 9<sup>th</sup> of June, with efficient research and wish to find you on your toes for the debate.

Thank You.

All The Best.

Executive Board.

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# INFORMATIVE LINKS

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- Al-Hashd al-Shaabi and Hezbollah: Iran's allies in Iraq and Lebanon
- Confirming Soleimani's death in a US drone strike
- Thousands gather for the funeral procession
- US, Iran on precipice of unpredictable Middle East war
- Trump condemned for threats to Iranian cultural sites
- US and other foreign troops to leave
- Continue to roll back commitments
- Discuss the tension.
- Postponed after the deadly stampede.
- There were no casualties from the attack
- Send 3,000 additional troops to the Middle East.
- U.S. airstrikes in Iraq that killed 25 members of Kataib Hezbollah

**NOTE: DO REFER/TAKE NOTE OF THE VARIOUS TWEETS MADE BY OFFICIALS AND LEADER, BEFORE AND AFTER THE ASSASSINATION**

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# BIBLIOGRAPHY

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This Study Guide is inspired by several, study guides, MUN sites and UN recognized Newspaper and others:

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[www.bbc.com](http://www.bbc.com)

[www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com)

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[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

[www.dw.com](http://www.dw.com)

[www.economicstime.com](http://www.economicstime.com)

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