

## **Regulating Warfare and Weapons in Vietnam for the Protection of Civilians**

Since 1955, the nation of Vietnam has divided between the north and south, a split that represents the immiscibility of communism and capitalism. Since 1960, the National Liberation Front, often called the Vietcong, has been operating a guerrilla war in South Vietnam, committing acts of sabotage and assassinating officials. More recently, following the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Incident, the United States has become heavily involved in the region, deploying hundreds of thousands of troops and conducting the dramatic and destructive Operation Rolling Thunder. While this aid is defensive, and a reaction to some brutal attacks by North Vietnamese forces, the United States has been criticised by enemies, allies, and its public for its interventionism, indiscriminate methods, and loss of American lives. The latter has been exacerbated by the frightening Tet Offensive and horrific Mai Lai Massacre. On the other hand, it may be argued that North Vietnamese-backed forces are the aggressors, and they are notably using terror tactics against civilian targets, killing thousands directly or indirectly. Such warfare makes life incredibly trying for the local populace, and much American collateral damage has been attributed to the NLF's habit of staying close to civilian areas. It is now the responsibility of the First Committee to discuss the crisis, and to determine how international security may best be preserved, in particular through disarmament. Will it be possible to simultaneously disincentivise guerrilla warfare and regulate search-and-destroy campaigns?