



STIMSON

## Weapons of Mass Destruction: Challenges and Solutions

Awards Ceremony for the UNSCR 1540 International Student Essay Contest at  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
*September 30, 2016*

### Biographies of the Student Winners

#### **FIRST PLACE**

**Mr. Enrique de Vega González** wrote a national action plan for Tunisia's implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004). He is a master's degree student from Plasencia, Spain and currently resides in Madrid, Spain. He has a bachelor's degree in international relations from King Juan Carlos University in Madrid, a specialized degree in comparative law from the International Legal Studies Institute and is currently pursuing a master's degree in peace, security and defense at the Gutierrez Mellado Institute. In addition to that, he is pursuing a master's degree in professional development from Alcalá University through his work as Public Affairs Trainee at Airbus Defense & Space. In the past, he has worked at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where his interest in the work of the 1540 Committee began. He is also an alumnus of the Hertog War Studies Program for young leaders in National Security run by the Institute for the Study of War. In his free time, he is a member of Eurodefense Spain, which aims to enhance debates on national security within civil society. He hopes to work in public policy, specifically on international security. He plans to receive a doctoral degree and contribute to academia part time.

#### **SECOND PLACE**

**Ms. Kyle Pilutti** wrote a national action plan for the United States of America's implementation of Resolution 1540. Ms. Pilutti is currently a graduate student at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey (MIIS), where she is a third-semester student in the M.A. program for Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies. She attended Michigan State University, where she received B.A. degrees in Humanities Pre-law, Interdisciplinary Humanities and Arabic, and a minor in Mathematics. She grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan and after her undergraduate program in East Lansing, Michigan, she spent a year and a half in the Middle East (Morocco and Oman) before she made her voyage over to the wonderfully sunny state of California for her graduate program. The majority of the classes she has taken so far at MIIS have been nonproliferation-focused, and she is the president of the Institute of Nuclear Materials Management Student Chapter. She spent the past summer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory participating in a safeguards internship, where she researched the new commercial reactor programs in the Middle East and North Africa with a particular focus on their safeguards and nuclear safety implications. She is aiming to start her career focused on nonproliferation after graduation from the Middlebury Institute, and ideally will have an active role in issues such as NPT Review Conferences, National Laboratory collaborations, CTBTO outreach, etc.

## **HONORABLE MENTIONS**

**Mr. Adrian Alvarado** is a Ph.D. candidate from Mexico City, Mexico, and resides in Paris, France. He is pursuing his doctoral degree in geopolitics and international relations at Université de Lyon. He has obtained a Master of Arts degree in geopolitics from Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris, as well as a Master of Science degree from Université de Paris. In addition, he has done coursework in Russian and international relations in Moscow, Russia. He has worked on research seminars about nuclear deterrence and strategic affairs, and ethics and nuclear arms at Ecole Normale Supérieure de Paris. He will soon begin working with the French Ministry on Foreign Affairs. In the future, he aspires to work in the field of diplomacy with hopes of a fellowship at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. Mr. Alvarado wrote a national action plan for the Russian Federation's implementation of Resolution 1540.

**Mr. Landon Poe and Ms. Sreelekshmi Rajeswari Poe** wrote Qatar's National Action Plan for implementation of 1540. They met on a research fellowship program in London, are married Cambridge University students and live at Wolfson College. Mr. Poe was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina, USA, and graduated from the Citadel Military College of South Carolina in May 2016 upon commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army National Guard. He received a dual undergraduate degree in Political Science and Business Administration. He is now pursuing a master's degree in Land Economics at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom to study the relationship between government and private industry with regards to land development and investment. Ms. Poe is an undergraduate student at the University of Cambridge pursuing a degree in psychology. Following graduation from Cambridge, Ms. Poe aspires to attend an Ivy League graduate school to better understand how psychology can influence successful public policy measures. Despite neither of the two having an education specific to international relations, Landon and Sree found numerous parallels between anti-proliferation measures and business negotiation, psychology, positive incentives, and public health.

**Ms. Hannah Rifkin** is a senior studying Russian Area Studies at Bryn Mawr College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, USA. Last summer, she worked as an intern at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. After graduating, she hopes to find an opportunity that connects what she has learned at the Center for Nonproliferation Studies and at Bryn Mawr. Ms. Rifkin wrote a national action plan for Turkmenistan's implementation of Resolution 1540.