

UN Sanctions App

Since 2009, the Swiss Government has supported the work of the Targeted Sanctions Consortium (TSC), a group of more than fifty scholars and policy practitioners from around the world analyzing the impacts and effectiveness of UN targeted sanctions. The TSC is the first systematic, comprehensive, international effort to analyze and make policy recommendations for the use of this important instrument of contemporary international governance. All current UN sanctions are targeted, and the measures are employed to resolve armed conflict, support human rights, counter terrorism, and stem proliferation activities. There are thirteen different UN targeted sanctions regimes in place, with several more currently under consideration by the UN Security Council.

The TSC has completed analysis of all 22 UN targeted sanctions regimes over the last 20 years (including al Qaida and Taliban, Angola, Cote d'Ivoire, DPRK, DRC, Eritrea/Ethiopia, FRY, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya I and II, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, and Sudan I and II). Detailed executive summaries of the 65 different episodes associated with the different cases have been prepared (a qualitative data base) and an extensive quantitative data base, including more than 288 variables for each of the 65 case episodes, has been created. The data base includes detailed information that can be compared systematically on the background of each episode, indicators of political will, and details about the different purposes, targets, norms supported, types of targeted sanctions, coordination within the UN, and direct and indirect effects of targeted sanctions. There is also information on the relationship between UN targeted sanctions and other sanctions regimes, with other policy instruments – diplomatic negotiations, legal referrals, and both the threat and actual use of force – implementation (at both the UN and national level), evasion techniques, and unintended consequences.

In an effort to make this rich new source of information accessible to the practitioner community, the TSC, with support from the Swiss Government, has developed a sanctions application for use on mobile devices (iPhone, Android, Blackberry), as well as regular internet browsers.¹ The Sanctions App was modeled in part after the recent Women, Peace and Security App (http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_resources_resource.php?id=1226). Like the PeaceWomen App, SanctionsApp will facilitate efficient access in real time to

¹ The Sanctions App was developed at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, with the support of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. It was produced by the TSC's co-directors, Thomas Biersteker and Sue Eckert, and by Marcos Tourinho and Zuzana Hudáková, with extensive assistance from Cecilia Cannon. The App was designed and programmed by Colaco SA. Neither the Graduate Institute, the Government of Switzerland, nor the App designer bear any responsibility for the assessments of effectiveness of UN targeted sanctions contained in the App, or other App content, which are the sole responsibility and intellectual property of the content developers. For comments or questions, please contact sanctionsapp@gmail.com. The Sanctions App is updated on a regular basis, and the assessments of effectiveness in Version 1.0 date from 1 January 2013. To cite SanctionsApp, please use the following format: Biersteker, Thomas and Sue Eckert, Zuzana Hudakova, and Marcos Tourinho, SanctionsApp, Computer software, Apple App Store, 21 June 2013.

operational and other relevant paragraphs of UN targeted sanctions resolutions (UNSCRs), but it is considerably more elaborate (with access to text from hundreds of UNSCRs) and has incorporated interactive filtering features based on the TSC's quantitative database.

The Sanctions App is a tool that can be used by both scholars and practitioners who have an interest in examining, or who are working on designing and implementing targeted sanctions. The TSC project research findings are presented in five core functions on the Sanctions App:

(1) **Sanctions Menu** provides sample text for different types of UN targeted sanctions, drawing on language used previously by the Security Council. In this function of the App, different types of targeted sanctions are presented on a scale ranging from most targeted to least targeted.

(2) **Cases & Episodes** presents a detailed qualitative overview and analysis of 65 different episodes within all 22 UN targeted sanctions regimes, including assessments of their effectiveness and links to relevant UN resolutions.

(3) **Analogy Finder** identifies for policy practitioners the most appropriate analogies to contemporary conflict situations, enabling them to enter key characteristics of the threat (such as the type of conflict), the purposes of the targeted sanctions (whether to coerce, constrain, and/or signal), and examples of effective sanctions regimes in the past.

(4) **Sanctions Checklist** presents a quick overview of factors that should be considered when designing targeted sanctions.

(5) **Quick Facts** presents some of the most important findings of the TSC research project to date, including some unexpected findings.

The Sanctions App will be officially launched at the Swiss Mission on June 21, at 3.00 p.m. The developers will assist participants in downloading the App and demonstrate its core features. Your feedback as to the features and information included in SanctionsApp will be welcomed at the meeting, and/or subsequently to the authors via email to sanctionsapp@gmail.com.