The 6th Houssam Hariri High School Model United Nations Conference
Human Rights Council

Topics:

a. Enhancing Prisoners’ Rights
b. Addressing the violations of Human Rights amid the Syrian and Iraqi Political Turmoil.

President: Mahmoud Al Baba
Chairs: Hafez Saleh and Adnan Jomaa
I. Description of the committee:

Responsible for the protection of human rights, one of the three chief pillars of the United Nations, the Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental human rights institution supervising the application of treaties affiliated with human rights worldwide. Basically, the Human Rights Council tackles human rights abuse and thematic problems being dealt with around the world (e.g., racial discrimination), and it institutes broad guidelines to help states approach human rights and resolve human rights violations. Indeed, throughout its history, the HRC has served as a productive framework for UN member states to draft and ratify international treaties targeting the reduction and restriction of the violations of human rights and the abuse of the human person and dignity. However, the concerns and services of the Human Rights Council are not uniquely limited to the cases of human rights violations formulated by treaties and adopted by a certain number of states, but rather, the HRC calls upon all state and non-state parties to respect the inalienable dignity of the human person and all his unassailable rights. In simpler terms, the HRC is responsible to disclose and tackle any issue pertaining to the violation of human rights with or without the member states' support of the treaty. In quintessence, the council is made up of 47 member states which are chosen by the United Nations General Assembly for a three-year term of office and which hold three sessions annually (10 weeks in total). In conclusion, the HRC is a pivotal entity within the United Nations Organization responsible to guarantee that human rights remain respected and guarded against any sort of violation. The importance and significance of the HRC can't be more explicitly delineated than in a testament delivered by the UN Secretary General to the Council on the 19th of June 2006 when he described the Human Rights Council as “a great new chance for the United Nations, and for humanity, to renew the struggle for human rights.”
II. Introduction:

A. To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity. The behaviors towards prisoners have been a global question yet not fully answered. Prisoner’s rights have continued to emerge as a substantial part of argument all around the globe, when the number of people behind bars has increased to 7.2 million people all around the world; according to a study made in 2009. It is unveiled that prisoners till now have been majorly abused, tortured, and mistreated in various and numerous ways. For instance, about 9.6% of the states’ prisoners are sexually abused, which is about one out of every ten prisoners. A person's a person, no matter how who he is; even prisoners should partake their basic rights as humans and should not be denied being treated as human beings. Perhaps the main element to spark such a debate targeting such violation of human rights is the variety in how each nation expresses and guarantees the proper treatment of prisoners. It is in the hands of the United Nations to solve this issue regarding the treating of prisoners. However, the severity of such topic varies and watches controversial views between countries in where such countries view this topic irreverent. As national laws concerning the rights of prisoners vary drastically between states, multiple countries, thus don’t meet the minimum requirements of an adequate prison life as outlined in the UNHRC’s document of “Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners”, thus creating huge debates in the international forums and committees.

B. The Arab world has witnessed the most catastrophic political turmoil in the past few decades. As the 34-month old, Syrian and Iraqi crisis is still no where to be seen unfolding, the violations of civilians' rights remains inestimable. Ever since 2011, the Syria death tolls have unfortunately mounted to 200,000, of which 100,000 are civilians. One of the most shocking attacks committed was on a UN aid convoy targeting to deliver food and supplies for the civilian population of besieged Aleppo. The attack on 18 UN trucks has led to the death of 12 aid workers and UN volunteers. The truce formulated to celebrate the Adha Eid festivities and to reach out to some of the basic needs of the people of Aleppo has been completely useless, as certain parties linked to the Assad regime didn’t authorize the UN trucks to enter Syria. On the 11th of August 2016, Amnesty International, BBC, the Telegraph UK all reported the use of Chlorine gas and chemical weapons against innocent women and children. More recently, on the 24th of September 2016, Reuters reported the full retaliation of the Syrian Assad forces on Aleppo which has witnessed the heaviest shelling since the war erupted. Though the photos of Omran Daqneesh and Alan Kurdi are heartbreaking, they are only kernels of the atrocious effects of this bloodbath. Today, more than half of the Syrian school-aged children in Syria are have reportedly stopped going to school, with 750,000 Syrian children deprived of primary education. Likewise, in Iraq, the number of widows has risen by nearly 2 million as a result of the war, and thus caused a high increase in the rates of poverty and
child labor in the country. In 2012, 102 children were killed and 310 injured during an attack by IS militants on an Iraqi village. Nearly 4 million Iraqis have been forced to displace within the country as a result of the political turmoil and instability. What alarms the HRC that more than half of which are elderly, sick people, women and children, and thus are vulnerable human beings. Day after day, and as the world's super powers continue to dispute over who gets the bigger share of the region, the number of deaths, disappearances, kidnappings, assaults, injuries and mass murdering has been increasing in the region. The HRC tarts to address the violations of Human Rights in the region amid the political, economic and security recession. The Human Rights Council prioritizes the Human Being and seeks feasible ways to reach out to those innocent civilians and aid them.

III. Sample Subtopics

The following subtopics formulated by the dais of the Human rights council could favorably entertain these subtopics.

Subtopics: Topic A.
- Prisoners’ right to access to basic nutrition
- Prisoners’ right to access to basic medication
- Sexual Harassments of Prisoners and Racial discrimination

Subtopics: Topic B.
- Right to access primary Education
- Right to access adequate Medication
- Right to obtain a peaceful Shelter
- Right to live in freely from fear
- Right of physical protection against abuse and harassments

IV. Hints and Tips

A. What to focus on while researching:
- The country’s role in advocating for Human Rights and Human Dignity internationally
- The Extent of the country’s commitment to guarantee these rights
- The treaties and documents signed that legally bind the state to ensure the respect of these rights.
B. Suggested Sites:
https://www.hg.org/prisoner-rights-law.html
https://www.hrw.org/reports/2001/prison/voices.html

C. Make sure that:

- You come fully prepared and confident
- You follow the diplomatic code of the conference and Stay in character
- You Respect other’s point of views even though they might be opposing to yours
- Debate wisely and in favor of the country’s position.

V. Countries Represented

**From Africa:**

- Ethiopia
- South Sudan
- Kenya
- South Africa
- Sierra Leone

**From Asia:**

- Bangladesh
- Philippines
- Sri Lanka
- India
- Lebanon
- Singapore
- Japan
- china
- Russia
- Saudi Arabia
- Qatar
- Vietnam
- Iraq
- Syria
- Turkey
- Iran

**From Central and South America:**
• Mexico
• Cuba
• Brazil

**From Europe:**
• United Kingdom
• Germany
• France
• Netherlands
• Belgium

**From North America:**
• USA

**VI. Contact Us:**

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