

Dear Delegates of ICJ,

I am Noura Darazi and I am proud to be your Chief Justice in the first ever International Court of Justice in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual international Houssam Eddine Hariri High School Model United Nations. I passionately welcome all of you in this committee and wholeheartedly wish that this conference is going to be one that you will remember. After four consecutive years of participating in MUN conferences one after the other, I am both proud and saddened to say that this conference will conclude my journey in MUN. After countless nights of researching and a multitude of hours of debating in conferences, I am reaching the end of the program that made me a stronger person and changed my perspective on how powerful the youth can be.

The case I have chosen for this ICJ committee is the case of the Indian military personnel being taken as prisoners of war by Pakistani forces primarily in the 1971 war – along with several others in the previous two wars between the two countries in 1947 and 1965 –, prisoners that the Pakistani government denies acknowledging the existence of. Even though the case that we will be tackling during this conference is one that has been going on for almost five decades, I believe that attempting to bring closure to such a case reflects upon this year's theme of "Resilience" and the idea of not leaving anyone behind. Even merely debating the existence of the "Missing 54" is bound to spark up further questions about their whereabouts and hopefully bringing justice to them and their families. I truly wish that when you leave the conference, you do not forget the missing patriots that were presumed killed in action but in reality, were thrown unjustly in prisons of their captors, not only in Pakistan but also all around the world, starting from our own Lebanese prisoners thrown into Israeli jails and were never heard of ever again.

I am going to be honest, ICJ is a tricky committee, as it is one of the hardest committees I have ever been in. But at the same time, it is also one of the most captivating, intense, controversial and enthusiastic committees I have ever participated in. I want you as judges and advocates to make it hard for us, the dais, to choose the awards. However, I don't want you to treat it like a competition, I want you to have fun during the conference.

Given that ICJ is generally a new committee to HHHSMUN, the ICJ Deputy Justice and I have worked hard on making the guide as detailed and clear as possible; we have provided you with all possible pieces of information and rules of procedure that you might need, so it would be best if you read through it thoroughly and carefully so we could avoid any complications during the conference. Nonetheless, if you feel the need to contact the dais, please feel free to contact us on the emails that are provided at the end of the guides found on the platform.

Finally, I would love to thank you all for choosing this committee and I ask you from the bottom of my heart to make this conference a pleasant memorable experience for all of us. I ask you advocates to amaze us with your arguments and I ask you judges to astonish us with your questioning and interrogating skills.

Sincerely,

Your ecstatic Chief Justice

Noura Darazi