

Forum: Human Rights Sub-Commission 2

Issue: Ensuring the protection of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

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Introduction

The Jewish people have had a violent past of oppression. Violence towards the Jews already occurred in the time of ancient Egypt. Around 1900 a new movement rose up called "Zionism", Zionists believed they had the right to return to their homeland of Israel in order to finally have the safety for the Jewish people that they could not maintain throughout history. And so the Zionists did, through the years from 1900 until now many Jews have migrated to the region we now call Israel.



One of the problems, however, was that in that region there was already a major ethnicity present, the Arabian Palestinians. The Palestinians and the Jews could not live in harmony in the area which resulted in many clashes between the groups. Until 1948 the Arabian Palestinians and the Jewish people lived under British rule, but when the British mandate over

Palestine (the region which we now call Israel) ended the Jews created a new independent nation, an own country that could finally safeguard the Jewish people, called Israel.

The problem for the Israeli however was that the other neighbouring countries did not approve of the newly created Israel. Multiple wars and clashes ensued with Israel emerged as victor. In these wars Israel annexed land from Egypt, Syria and also from the Palestinians. The Palestinians where now subjects to a nation that they fled from and even fought with. Palestinians were treated, and still are, treated as second-class citizens by the Israeli. There have been two major uprisings by the Palestinians called intifadas and Israel is regularly subject to terrorstic attacks by Palestinian groups. Even now when Apartheid has been eliminated as an acceptable practice it still reigns in many similar ways in Israel. The

mutual violence and hatred between the Israeli and Palestinians is turning the conflict in a downwards spiral plunging into even more hatred and violence.

The Human Rights Watch and the international community has condemned the actions of Israel countless times, yet there is no visible sign of any change in the policy of Israel. Israel has been accused of many violations of the human rights, such as genocide, discrimination, active physical segregation, unlawful killings, restriction of movement and restriction of speech. Since it not seems as the Israeli government is changing their policies it should be clear that it is time to intervene in the situation and try to come up with a solution together.

Definition of Key Terms

Human rights

Human rights are the rights that every living person has on our planet. These rights are norms and moral principles that are agreed upon by the united nations and thus serve as an absolute moral law. Human rights are the rights that are set up by the UN(United Nations) and they serve as basic international and national laws. The human rights have been established in the Universal Declaration of Human rights in Paris in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly. Countries can be hold responsible for not safeguarding the human rights in their nation or in their actions since the human rights are viewed as an absolute worldwide policy that every nation should guarantee.

Intifada

An intifada is the same as an usual uprising or rebellion, Intifada means "tremor" or "shuddering" in Arabic. The word comes from the word "nafada" which means "to shake of" or "to get rid of". Intifadas do not only occur in Palestine, the term actually was first used in Iraq in 1952. When we talk about the first and second intifada then we mean the intifadas that occurred in Israel.

Armistice

An armistice is defined by the Oxford dictionary as: "An agreement made by opposing sides in a war to stop fighting for a certain time; a truce." These armistices are the same as cease-fires. Armistices are often more binding than an UN cease-fire resolution since an Armistice is agreed upon and created by the parties involved in the conflict.

Zionism

Zionism is a movement created by and for Jews which goal is to establish an independent nation with which they would be finally able to create security for the Jewish People. After the creation of Israel Zionism's goal was to warn Israel and its people on the threats for their nations and safety.

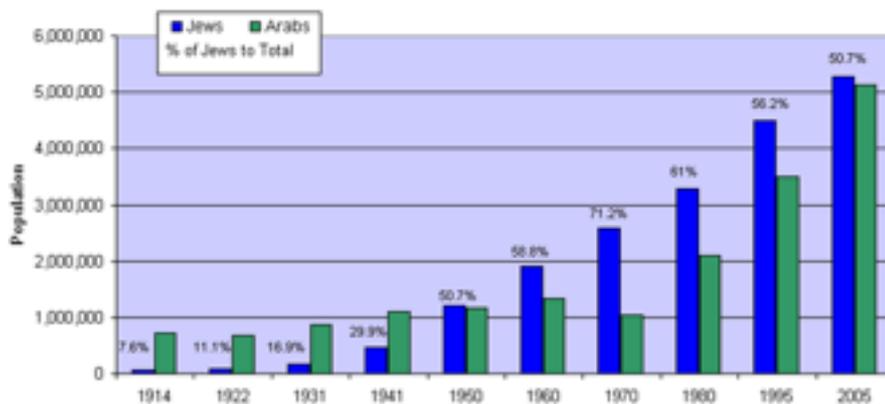
Background Information

The story of the Israel-Palestine conflict starts at the fall of the Ottoman empire. Britain annexes Palestine from the ottomans. Palestinian territory included the holy city Jerusalem, this is important since around 1900 a movement arose called "Zionism".

Zionists are Jews that believe that Judaism is not just a religion but also a nationality. They believed that a nationality also deserves a nation. They believed that an independent nation was the only way of creating safety for the Jews who were often subject of oppression. Zionists believed that that nation was to be found in Palestine, since Palestine was home to the Jewish holy city of Jerusalem.

Many Jews migrated to Palestine and settled communities. Britain accepted the high amount of migration until the Jewish and Arabian communities began to clash. Britain limited the migration in hope of stopping the tensions. This created the need for Jewish people in Palestine to create militias that fought the Arabs and also the British rule.

But when World War II, notorious for its violence on Jews, arrived, many more Jews migrated to Palestine in hope of safety. The violence between the Jews, Arabs and British became so great that the UN decided to step-in by proposing a resolution(A/RES/181(II)) for a partition of Palestine in multiple areas. Where mainly the West Bank and the region around Gaza would be assigned to the new Arabian state and the rest would be given to the new Jewish State. Jerusalem was supposed to be an international city with an international regime.



The British left the region with the partition as their mandate ended and the Jewish state proclaimed independence as Israel. Israel and the new Arabian Palestine, however, were not the only new independent nations in the Middle East. The Arab nations saw the partition as European colonialism and declared war on Israel in 1948 with the goal to achieve a fully Arabian Palestine.

The war ended in 1949 and the armistice agreements left Israel with more territory they now also gained the western part of Jerusalem. Jordan seizes the west bank and the Eastern part of Jerusalem and Egypt annexes Gaza. The UN partition is destroyed. Around 750.000 Palestinians had to flee. This was the start of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

In the period after the war 1949-1960s many Jewish migrants settled in Israel from Muslim countries. Many of the Jewish people who survived the holocaust or other conflicts refuged to Israel.

In 1956 Egypt nationalised the Suez canal which first belonged to a French-British organisation. Egypt also chose to reject passage to Israeli ships. Israel asked SC UN to intervene. UN did not help Israel. France UK and Israel made a secret plan to secure the Suez canal, Israel was supposed to launch a surprise attack on the Sinai desert in Egypt. French and British troops would secure the Suez canal. Israel captured the Sinai desert. Jordan did not accept the neutrality offer of Israel and Israel captured Gaza, West Bank, Sinai, Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan heights in the six days. The conflict ended with a resolution by the UN(S/RES/242) . Israel interpreted the resolution in a way that they not returned the territory that they seized during the conflict. Israel was now responsible of governing the people that they fought for years.



In 1977 as a result of the camp David accord Israel returned Sinai back to Egypt.

In 1960 an organisation was created called: PLO(Palestine Liberation Organisation). The organisation fought against Israel, sometimes through terrorism. In 1982 Israel invaded Lebanon in order to destroy the PLO leadership, after a Palestinian militant group attempted murder on an Israeli ambassador. In this war with Lebanon Allies of Israel (Christian Phalangists) created a massacre when they liquidated refugee camps of the Palestinians.



After the war many Israelis began to settle in Gaza and west bank, sometimes forcing Palestinians to move out, this created a great division between the Palestinians and Israeli communities. This division and repression of the Palestinians was magnified by the fact that with these settlers many soldiers followed to guard the Israelis living in these regions. These settlers are often seen as illegal.

In 1987 came the first intifada (uprising) by the Palestinians who fought for an independent Palestinian state. Many Palestinians and Israelis died. The first intifada ended in 1993. In Gaza there was another Palestinian movement created at the start of the first intifada which thought that the PLO was to compromise-minded, this organisation is called HAMAS(Harakat al-Muqāwamah al-'Islāmiyyah Islamic Resistance Movement). This group is violent, extremist and dedicated to destroying Israel.

In 1993 the Oslo Accords are signed by Israel and Palestine which was meant to give Palestine some right of self-government. This was seen as the first step towards peace between Israel and Palestine. In 1994 the Israel-Gaza barrier was built. Israel assigned areas where Palestinians were allowed to govern. More peace talks took place but after the failed mediation in Camp David in 2000 the Palestinians did not see any hope for a peaceful solution.

The hopelessness for a peaceful solution caused the Palestinian to start a second intifada. This one was much more violent and deadly than the previous intifada. The second intifada started in 2000 and ended in 2005. In 2002 the Israeli-West Bank barrier was built to protect civilians against terrorism, many Palestinian believe that the borders that Israel erected created an active racial segregation. The second intifada changed the entire conflict since many Israeli do now not believe that a peaceful solution is possible. The policies of Israel became much more right-winged and are no longer designed to solve the problem, but to control it.

At the end of the second intifada, Israel withdrew from Gaza and left HAMAS as the group in control. HAMAS retracted itself from the Palestinian government in the West Bank. Israel placed major borders and heavy border control around Gaza which suffocated the people living inside Gaza, creating immense unemployment figures. This situation continues until the present. In the West Bank Israeli are settling and thus dislodging many Palestinians, sometimes with protests in response. In Gaza, HAMAS and other violent groups are at war with Israel.

Israel has been accused by the Human Rights Watch multiple times. In an article from the Human Rights Watch the Middle East director, Sarah Leah Whitson displayed what Israel is doing wrong in regards to the protection of human rights:

“Whether it’s a child imprisoned by a military court or shot unjustifiably, or a house demolished for lack of an elusive permit, or checkpoints where only settlers are allowed to pass, few Palestinians have escaped serious rights abuses during this 50-year occupation, Israel today maintains an entrenched system of institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians in the occupied territory – repression that extends far beyond any security rationale.”

The Human Rights Watch stated that the Israeli government is violating human rights in multiple ways. The Human Rights Watch believes that Israel has violated human rights in, such as, the following ways:



- Forced displacement of Palestinian people
- Unlawful killings
- The abusive usage of detentions
- The restriction of free movement of Palestinian people, for example, with the physical segregation of Gaza
- Many discriminating policies towards Palestinians
- Illegal settlements

The walls created by Israel around Palestinian areas have even been ruled illegal by the ICJ in 2004 but the Israeli government remains certain that the wall was built in accordance to international law. Israel is continuing the discriminating policies and it seems as those policies will not be changed soon.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Israel

Israel, also known as the State of Israel, is a country in the Middle East, on the southeastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and the northern shore of the Red Sea. It has borders with Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and Egypt. The country contains very diverse features although the country's survey is relatively small. Israel accepts Tel Aviv and Jerusalem as their proclaimed capital. However, Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem is not recognized by the United Nations.

State of Palestine

The State of Palestine, also known as Palestine, is a de jure sovereign state, which means that they exist both in law and reality. Palestine is not fully recognized by the world however, 136 member states of UN have recognized Palestine. But, because of not being fully recognized, Palestine can't actively participate in the United States General Assembly. Also, Palestine claims the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which makes up the problem with Israel because in 1967, after the Six-Day War Israel claimed to own these regions. In the whole world, this region is known as the most intractable conflict because this issue is still on-going for 49 years.

The United Nations

The United Nations (UN) have been involved in this issue of Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian territories. Since the founding of the United Nations Security Council in 1948, there were 79 resolutions directly concerning this issue. However, because of some permanent members like the United States of America, most of these resolutions never passed, and therefore no direct action was made.

The United States of America

After the war in 1967, UN decided to take serious actions on this region, so, resolution 242 has been formed. The resolution starts with the following "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and the need to work for a just and lasting peace in which every State in the area can live in security." While referring to the Palestinians only in the context of refugees, rather than reaffirming their national rights, the resolution unequivocally called for "the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict." The resolution was written by the four powers of the Security Council excluding the USA. For years, whenever a peace conference for the region had tried to organize the USA always rejected these conferences.

Palestinian Liberation Organization

The Palestine Liberation Organization is an organization founded in 1964 with the purpose of the "liberation of Palestine" through armed struggle, with much of its violence aimed at Israeli civilians and military personnel. It is recognized as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian People " by over 100 states with which it holds diplomatic relations, and has had observer status at the since 1974. The PLO was considered by the United States and Israel to be a terrorist organization until 1991. In 1993, the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist in peace, and rejected "violence and terrorism"; in response, Israel officially recognized the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
February 14 th 1947	British government refers the question of the future of Palestine to the United Nations
November 29 th , 1947	United Nations partitions Palestine into separate Jewish and Palestinian states
April 9 th 1948	Jewish forces attack the Palestinian village of “ Deir Yassin ”
May 14 th 1948	Israel declares its independence
May 15 th 1948	First Arab-Israeli conflict begins
1945 -1950	US and Britain refuse to open doors to Jewish holocaust refugees, directing flow of migrants to Israel
1948	Deir Yassin massacre, 250 killed by Menachim Begin’s troops. Yitzhak Shamir’s unit assassinates UN mediator, Count Folke Bernadotte.
1964	Founding of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

1967	Israel defeats Egypt in 6-day war, claiming former Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and consolidating further US military and economic support; West Bank and Gaza Strip occupied, leading to more Palestinian support for PLO.
1972	Islamic terrorist group kills Israeli athletes at Munich Olympics
1982	Operation Peace for Galilee launched, with Israeli forces invading southern Lebanon; operation leads to more than 17,000 Arab deaths and culminates in massacres of thousands of civilians at Sabra and Shatila refugee camps
1988	PLO declares independent Palestinian state, recognized by over 100 nations at UN, but not by US; PLO reaffirms recognition of Israel's existence as part of two-state settlement proposal
1990	Massacre of Palestinians at Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem
March 13, 2002	United States Sponsors UN Security Council Resolution Calling for a Palestinian State alongside the State of Israel
March 29 – April 21 2002	Israel Launches Operation Defensive Shield and Invades and Occupies Much of the West Bank
August 1, 2002	United Nations Report Disputes Claim of Jenin "Massacre"
July 9, 2004	World Court Rules West Bank Fence/Wall Violates International Law
August 26, 2009	Palestinian Authority Issues Plan to Create Palestinian State within Two Years.
November 11, 2011	Palestinian Statehood Bid Stalls after UN Security Council Fails to Vote
January 25, 2012	Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks in Jordan End without Progress
November 29, 2012	United Nations Votes to Accept Palestine as a Non-Member Observer State

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Recommending partition of the British Mandate for Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, and the City of Jerusalem, November 29, 1947
- Establishes Conciliation Commission; protection of and free access to Jerusalem and other Holy Places, December 11, 1948

- Admission of Israel to UN, May 11 1949
- Calls for Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, and a solution for Palestinian refugees December 14, 1950
- Establishes the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People, December 19, 1968
- Urges the speedy implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 242 and recognizes that "respect for the rights of the Palestinians is an indisputable element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East", November 4, 1970

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Mainly the United Nations, Israel and the State of Palestine are still trying to find a middle way on this issue. The first peace talks started 23 years ago, and since then, because of the requests of both parties, a full agreement never happened. The Declaration of Principles on 1993 was the first talks that included peace between the State of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to end decades of confrontation and conflict. The aim was to find a mutual recognition, along with peaceful, fair and permanent compromise. At the time, both parties agreed to continue the peace talks to achieve a permanent settlement after a transitional period of five years from 1994-1999. During this period, the following issues were solved permanently: Palestinian refugees, borders, Jerusalem, water, Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories, and security. Although negotiations between the two parties continued, with some ups and downs, it didn't lead to any peace.

Possible Solutions

During the past 20 years, Israel and the State of Palestine have not come close to having similar long-term interests. However, in 2016 these countries finally have a common interest; blocking Iran's expansion, fostering stability, and diminishing militant Islamic momentum. These states have to start producing constructive solutions, and to do that they have to have an agreement on three major premises. First, Jordan, Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) must be partners to the agreement. Second, the two-state solution is the end objective, but achieving this goal is unrealistic in the near future. Third, the only realistic goal at this juncture is to create interim arrangements to set the ground for a final agreement.

Security and stability is the most vital issue to Israel. Due to the increasing terror threats to Israeli civilians and military personnel posed by Hamas and other militant Islamist Palestinian groups, Israelis do not trust Palestinians and are unwilling to make any agreements that will further compromise Israel's National security. The involvement of Arab States as reliable counterparts will strengthen Israeli willingness for partnership if they have reason to believe that a stable and long-lasting agreement is achievable.

On the Palestinian side, the presence of internal disagreements remains challenging—especially

the ideological and political gaps between the two major Palestinian organizations, Hamas and Fatah. As a result, Palestinians are unable to make inevitable compromises.

Hamas' extreme ideology holds all sides hostage. It blurs the trust and partnership between Israel and Palestine, therefore leads the way to military operations rather than diplomatic efforts. Trusted Arab States must oversee Palestine's representation.

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Forum: Human Rights Sub-Commission 2

Issue: Measures to prevent human trafficking, especially women and children

Student Officer: Deborah Asegedew

Position: President

Introduction

Human trafficking can be defined as recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Human trafficking is arguably one of the most profitable transnational crimes today. The sale of human beings is believed to be a \$7 to \$12 billion industry and ranks third, after the sale of drugs and arms, as the most lucrative international and illegal enterprise. There are some scholars who contend, however, that human trafficking may eventually surpass the net profits yielded from the sale of drugs and weapons. Because drugs and weapons have a finite usage while humans can be sold multiple times, profits for the sale of humans accrue seemingly infinitely depending on how many occasions a sale is made.

Globally, 4 million people are believed to be victims of this crime each year. The U.S. Department of State estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked into the United States annually. The size and scope of this worldwide concern is difficult to truly estimate. Trafficking in humans is generally a clandestine crime that tends to remain hidden from police authorities. However, there is enough information to confirm that men, women, and children become vulnerable victims of this crime every day in virtually every country across the world.

There are many factors that contribute to this large-scale and covert problem, most of which are felt across the globe, such as economic and political instability, massive worldwide poverty, and the disenfranchisement of groups of individuals. However, individual motivation to engage in a highly lucrative criminal enterprise coupled with law enforcement's difficulty in identifying victims and offenders make this crime very appealing to criminals who contemplate tax-free rewards and the likelihood of apprehension.

Definition of Key Terms

Human Trafficking

Recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or

use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Slavery

A person who is the property of and wholly subject to another; a bond servant.

Prostitution

The practice or occupation of engaging in sexual activity with someone for payment.

Forced Labour

Forced labor refers to situations in which persons are coerced to work through the use of violence or intimidation, or by subtler means such as accumulated debt, retention of identity papers or threats of denunciation to immigration authorities.

Sex trafficking

Sex trafficking is human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, including sexual slavery.

Sexual Slavery

Sexual slavery (sometimes known as sexual exploitation) is attaching the right of ownership over one or more persons with the intent of coercing or otherwise forcing them to engage in one or more sexual activities.

Child labour

The employment of children in an industry or business, especially when illegal or considered exploitative.

Background Information

The sale of humans is also one of the most deplorable crimes. Yet, it is not only a 21st-century phenomenon. The exploitation of humans, including the mass transportation of people from Africa to the Americas during the 18th century, has a rich history.

Although slavery was abolished in the United States with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment in 1865, the practice of selling and exploiting the will of humans continues to occur. In fact, the United States is ranked among the top five countries where human slaves are sold and exploited for labor or sexual purposes. In 2000, the United States enacted legislation to stop the sale and exploitation of human beings. The law (Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000) prohibits both sex trafficking and labor trafficking. While sex trafficking usually involves the forced prostitution of men,

women, or children, labor trafficking can include situations where men, women, or children are forced into servitude in virtually any type of occupation such as domestic service (e.g., maids), restaurant work, janitorial work, sweatshop or factory work, and agricultural work. In simple terms, human trafficking is the sale and enslavement of human beings where, after being bought and sold multiple times, they are forced to labor against their will.

Human trafficking is based on the simple economic principles of supply and demand. Global poverty is one of the major contributors to human trafficking because it creates a vulnerable supply of victims. Conversely, the economic prosperity experienced by some countries over the last few decades has created vast wealth and exorbitant incomes for some individuals, with enough earnings to demand a market in the sale of humans. Globalization, political instability, civil unrest, culture, the disenfranchisement of certain groups, and of course the revenue to be made from selling humans are all factors that contribute to this global problem. Other reasons for its prevalence may be due to the belief that there is a relatively low risk of being apprehended and punished. Law enforcement preoccupation with stopping the sale of weapons and drugs and with terrorism leaves criminals with the impression that human trafficking laws will not be enforced and that their chances of being arrested and incarcerated are minimal at best. Thus, this false sense of security also drives the willingness of traffickers to continue their economic venture.

Globalization is generally defined as the increased connectivity between countries around the world, so much so that changes in the economy of one country, or changes in any other area such as in government or government services, have the potential to affect all those who inhabit this world. For instance, the advent of the Internet, the ease of travel or transportation between countries, and the fusion of world markets are all factors that affect this connectivity, which means that globalization can be thought of as global interdependency. Perhaps the first illegal business to profit was the sale of drugs, followed by the sale of weapons, and then the sale of humans. It is believed so not only because these agreements facilitate the flow of goods (though not intentionally the flow of illegal good such as drugs, arms, and humans), but also because free trade agreements have a see-saw effect on global economies. Some countries will inevitably experience growth and economic prosperity as the result of open trade markets, while others will experience economic despair. For those countries in the latter category, illegal enterprises might be one solution to individuals' economic desperation. For others, economic desperation makes them vulnerable to human trafficking, since most victims fall prey to this crime out of a belief that the trafficker will provide them with a better life. In sum, free trade agreements economically marginalize some countries to a point where illegal activities seem to be one of the few constant methods to make a living.

Economic marginalization of countries tends to affect women more than men—a sort of disenfranchisement of women. A shortage in legitimate employment opportunities means that only a few will be able to work. Those few are usually men, which leaves women facing severe poverty and extreme vulnerability. Also, economic marginalization means that countries will not be able to sustain most governmental services such as educational opportunities for all. Women again will be left out of the only available chances to receive an education. With little hope of finding employment in their countries, some women decide to take their chances at finding occupations abroad. Also, with little or no education, these women have no awareness of the dangers of human trafficking. The economic despair that occurs for

women due to globalization has been referred to by some scholars as the feminization of poverty, a term coined by Diana Pearce in 1978.

Political instability also contributes to human trafficking. The fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s is a prime example. Civil warfare in the region created people willing to sell humans for profit and to fund their political ideologies as well as fund their need for arms. Civil warfare also created destitute individuals vulnerable to be trafficked. The inability of the unrestrained government to provide citizens with basic necessities created a spiraling feminization of poverty in the region. There were some who fled the country only to fall prey to human trafficking schemes in other countries. For instance, many people fled the crumbling Soviet Union to the newly independent states formed as the result of the collapse, only to find that places such as the Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan are rife with human trafficking operations. Communism, according to some, may have been beneficial to the citizens of the former Soviet Union because at least the government provided just enough resources to keep a large segment of the population from abject poverty and to keep the feminization of poverty from spinning out of control.

Today, Indonesia and Cambodia are both undergoing political instability. Both have been identified by the U.S. Department of State as hot spots for human trafficking. China has also been identified as a country with significant threats to human dignity since it experiences a large influx of refugees from North Korea, Vietnam, and Burma. Most of the refugees are women and children in search of a better life and easily deceived into believing that economic prosperity awaits them in their destination country. Thousands of children are believed to be forced to labor against their will in China, and most are beaten by their employers to prevent escape.

As mentioned, political instability and civil war contribute to human trafficking because they also cause people to flee regions and countries. Refugees and people displaced from their homes, in general, are vulnerable to human trafficking usually because dreams of a better life cloud their judgment regarding employment opportunities. Of course, most of these individuals are deceived into believing that employment opportunities are legitimate. Natural disasters such as the Tsunami in 2004 that affected Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and India, contributed to substantial displacement of people. The unfortunate occurrence, however, created a perfect situation for traffickers. Reports indicated that a large percentage of children became victims of human trafficking as the result of this natural disaster.

Culture also plays a role in human trafficking. There are some countries in Africa that practice what is known as child fostering. This means that underprivileged families that cannot otherwise provide an education for their children send them to live with relatives in hopes that the children will be educated or at least learn a trade. Some parents may even send their children to stay with nonrelatives. Every so often, relatives or nonrelatives will sell the children because the burden of taking care of them has taken a toll on the economic livelihood of the family, or they will sell them simply to make a profit. In some developing countries, abject poverty coupled with the need to ensure that daughters marry for the sake of alleviating the economic burden on the family make daughters vulnerable to human trafficking.

All of the above factors (poverty, globalization, economic marginalization, political instability, civil war, natural disasters, and culture) are also referred to as the push factors of human trafficking because they all serve to push the most vulnerable individuals into positions where the likelihood of becoming a victim is high. However, human trafficking also has pull factors. These are the factors that contribute to the

massive transportation of humans from one side of the globe to the other. Wealth, economic prosperity, and countries willing to look the other way regarding the hiring of illegal immigrants are just a few examples of pull factors. Germany, Greece, France, Belgium, Italy, and the United States are all top destination countries for human trafficking victims.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United States

The Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) was authorized in 2000 and was the first federal law to address sex trafficking and labor trafficking in the United States. The TVPA focused on the prevention and protection for trafficking survivors, as well as prosecution for traffickers.

The TVPA was reauthorized in 2003, 2005, and 2008 as the Trafficking Victim's Protection Reauthorization Act (TVPRA), and each reauthorization offered positive changes. For example, the TVPRA of 2008 required the Department of Labor to publish a list of products produced by child labor or forced labor. But the TVPRA expired in 2011, and is in need of an update to keep up with the rapidly evolving landscape of human trafficking.

In 2017, a bill to reauthorize the TVPRA has been reintroduced to Congress. It holds government contractors accountable for using foreign labor recruiters that use exploited labor, helps law enforcement prevent and prosecute sex tourism, and creates a grant-making program to prevent trafficking in humanitarian crises (such as in the case of Haiti or Syria).

On the state level, while there has been vast improvement in some legislation, a few states have a long way to go. Massachusetts, rated one of the most improved states by the Polaris Project, created a Human Trafficking Task Force, which strengthens protections for victims of trafficking and makes using the internet as a trafficking tool a punishable offense. On the other hand, there are states like Wyoming, where until January 29 2017, no state law existed to punish traffickers. The just-passed House Bill 133 adds human trafficking legislation to the lawbooks, and the bill will now go onto the Senate, which is a step in the right direction for the state.

India

More than 200,000 Indian children are trafficked each year and forced into domestic servitude or labor in brick kilns or embroidery factories. But while government-sponsored Anti-Trafficking Units, which are supposed to investigate human trafficking cases, continue to be established and more prosecutions are occurring, the laws are not widely enforced. Part of the problem is that it's hard to say if one universal trafficking law can work and be enforced for a country as large and regionally diverse as India. At the same time, factors like corruption and lack of training and resources make it difficult to ensure that programs are effective.

Cambodia

The Law on Suppression of Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation is intended to curb human trafficking efforts in Cambodia, and was implemented so that the country could comply with U.S. anti-

trafficking recommendations. However, this law has been criticized for mixing sex work and human trafficking, making those who engage in sex work either go into hiding or be at risk for prosecution. As one of the poorest countries in Asia, sex work is often considered economically rational—especially for those from rural areas—and it becomes challenging to discern who is trafficked and who is participating by choice. In addition, even “condom carrying” can lead to prosecution, creating a public health issue in a country that was once praised for its work to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

South Korea

South Korea is a Tier 1 country on the United States Trafficking in Persons Report, which means it meets the minimum standards for preventing human trafficking. Still, there are many cases of labor exploitation and trafficking in difficult, dirty, and dangerous factories, where many migrant workers and vulnerable locals fall ill or are abused. The Punishment of Acts Arranging Sexual Traffic and its Labor Standards Act places harsh sentences on traffickers, but there is no clear legislation defining trafficking, so it is actually difficult to determine and prosecute these individuals.

Trafficking is unfortunately widespread in South Korea, and many cases have been reported of people from Russia, North Korea, the Philippines, and Thailand being exploited in labor or the sex industry. Many human trafficking victims in the United States originate from South Korea, and find themselves in situations of forced labor and debt bondage when they arrive.

Sweden

The *Kvinnofrid* law makes it illegal to buy sex, but not to sell sex. It was perceived that such a law would reduce human trafficking and the demand for prostitution. These types of “John Laws” have been controversial, because they tend to force sex workers underground and make them less visible, as opposed to actually reducing the number of trafficking cases. This can actually make it more dangerous for sex workers to operate. After being widely debated, the law was later adopted by Norway and Iceland, though measuring the impact of the laws has still been difficult.

Denmark

In 1999, Denmark decriminalized prostitution, under the assumption that it would be easier to regulate if it was legal. There are even several organizations that research and support sex workers’ rights and unions. The government occasionally brings up prostitution bans, but they are widely opposed by the Danish public. Operating brothels, trafficking, and pimping are still illegal, however, and the Danish Criminal Code ensures that sex and labor trafficking is considered a severe offense. Denmark has also established a National Action Plan Against Trafficking and the Danish Anti-Trafficking Centre, which assists trafficking victims and helps them get treatment and assistance from authorities.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, June 2009 (**A/HRC/RES/11/3**)
- Security Council, December 2016 (**S/RES/233**)

- Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, June 2008 (**A/RES/8/12**)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

In 2003, the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons established a universal trafficking definition and set a goal for countries to prevent and combat trafficking and assist victims. Similarly, the U.S. Department of State's "Trafficking in Persons Report" offers suggestions for nations to comply with the "minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

These efforts are challenging, however, as there is no one way to address the variations in trafficking across the world. Differing cultures, economics, and religions all make laws complicated to implement, and corruption, cultural interpretations, and different systems of justice make them even more difficult to enforce. Another thing that should be noted is that many of the laws worldwide focus on sex trafficking as opposed to labor trafficking (which is more widespread), partially because sex trafficking is talked about in the media more.

Possible Solutions

It is not easy to draft or implement trafficking laws, and the effectiveness of many laws is still being debated. Still, despite the many challenges of legislation, efforts must be made to enforce and raise awareness about these laws, and work must be done toward the end of modern slavery. Some possible solutions can be encouraging and providing incentives for members of the community to volunteer and support anti-trafficking efforts. Furthermore, getting the media involved so that awareness can be raised and films/documentaries can be produced to condemn and inform the society on human trafficking can also play a huge role on spreading awareness. Special programs can be set up that provide jobs and business opportunities specifically for victims of human trafficking, and this will encourage victims to report the crimes that have been committed on them. Health care can also be provided free of charge to victims of human trafficking and legal advisors and lawyers can also be funded to assist those victims.

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Forum: Human Rights Sub-Commission 2

Issue: Promotion of Cultural Rights and Respect for Cultural Diversity

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Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

Cultural Rights are rights related to art and culture, both understood in a large sense. The objective of these rights is to guarantee that people and communities have an access to culture and can participate in the culture of their election. Cultural rights are human rights that aim at assuring the enjoyment of culture and its components in conditions of equality, human dignity and non-discrimination. They are rights related to themes such as language; cultural and artistic production; participation in cultural life; cultural heritage; intellectual property rights; author's rights; minorities and access to culture, among others. Cultural rights are often qualified as an "underdeveloped category" of human rights. This term suggests that, in comparison with other categories of human rights: civil, political, economic and social, cultural rights are the least developed as far as their scope, legal content and enforceability are concerned. Cultural rights are in deep need of further clarification, classification and strengthening. However, the term 'development' suggests the process of the creation of new rights. Therefore, the problem that is directly connected with cultural rights is due to the fact that these rights are neglected or underestimated and that they are treated as "poor relatives" of other human rights. They are rights related to themes such as language; cultural and artistic production; participation in cultural life; cultural heritage; intellectual property rights; author's rights; minorities and access to culture, among others.

On the other hand, cultural diversity is the quality of diverse or different cultures, as opposed to monoculture, as in the global monoculture, or a homogenization of cultures. The phrase cultural diversity can also refer to having different cultures respect each other's differences. The phrase "cultural diversity" is also sometimes used to mean the variety of human societies or cultures in a specific region, or in the world as a whole. The culturally destructive action of globalization is often said to have a negative effect on the world's cultural diversity. The many separate societies that emerged around the globe differed markedly from each other, and many of these differences persist to this day. As well as the more obvious

cultural differences that exist between people, such as language, dress and traditions, there are also significant variations in the way societies organize themselves, in their shared conception of morality, and in the ways they interact with their environment. Cultural diversity can be seen as analogous to biodiversity. It is believed that cultural diversity may be vital for the long-term survival of humanity; and that the conservation of indigenous cultures may be as important to humankind as the conservation of species and ecosystems is to life in general.

Definition of Key Terms

Culture

Culture refers to the cumulative deposit of knowledge, experience, beliefs, values, attitudes, meanings, hierarchies, religion, notions of time, roles, spatial relations, and material objects and possessions acquired by a group of people in the course of generations through individual and group striving. Culture in its broadest sense is cultivated behavior; that is the totality of a person's learned, accumulated experience, which socially transmitted, or more briefly, behavior through social learning.

Cultural Rights

Cultural Rights are rights, which are directly related to art and culture, both understood in a large sense. The objective of these rights is to guarantee that people and communities have an access to culture and can participate in the culture of their own choice. Cultural rights are human rights that aim at assuring the enjoyment of culture and its crucial components in conditions of equality, human dignity and non-discrimination. They are rights related to themes such as language; cultural and artistic production; participation in cultural life; cultural heritage; intellectual property rights; author's rights; minorities and access to culture, among others.

Cultural Diversity

As groups of people worked and lived together, they developed distinctive cultures. Together the cultures of the world create a rich and varied tapestry. The resulting cultural diversity expands choices, nurtures a variety of skills, human values and worldviews and provides wisdom from the past to inform the future. Cultural diversity is one of the crucial milestones for sustainable development for individuals, communities and countries. Thus, building an effective global approach to sustainable development needs to address respecting, protecting and maintaining the cultural diversity of the world now and in the future.

Human Rights

Human rights are fundamental moral principles or norms, which describe certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in both municipal and international law. They are commonly understood as absolute fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being, and which are inherent in all human beings regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status. They are applicable everywhere and at every time in the sense of being universal and they are egalitarian in the sense of being the same for every single human being. They require the understanding and the rule of law to impose an obligation on persons to respect the human rights of others. They should not be taken away except as a result of due process based on specific circumstances.

Ethnocide

Ethnocide is a concept related to genocide. "Ethnocide" has been used as a replacement for the term "cultural genocide". It is defined as being a cultural genocide and the attempt to destroy the culture of a group side by side with the attempted physical extermination. Some of the most common forms of ethnocide would be language suppression or bans, or the forced adoption of children by the dominant group.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage is an expression of the ways of how the life has been developed by a community and passed on from generation to generation, including customs, practices, places, objects, artistic expressions and values. Cultural Heritage is often expressed as either Intangible or Tangible Cultural Heritage. As part of human activity Cultural Heritage produces tangible representations of the value systems, beliefs, traditions and lifestyles. As an essential part of culture as a whole, cultural heritage, contains visible and tangible traces from antiquity to the recent past.

Cultural expressions

These are the expressions that result from the creativity of individuals, groups, and societies, and that carry within themselves cultural content

Interculturality

The term refers to the existence and equal interaction of diverse cultures and the possibility of generating shared cultural expressions through dialogue and mutual respect.

Background Information

Cultural rights are often classified as being the 'underdeveloped category' of human rights. It

suggested that, in comparison with other categories of human rights: civil, political, economic and social, cultural rights are the least developed as far as their scope, legal content and enforceability are concerned. This neglect can be seen in the fact that though, in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, cultural rights are usually enumerated and classified together with economic and social rights and thus, they receive much less attention and quite often go completely forgotten.

Economic, social and cultural rights are socio-economic human rights, such as the right to education, right to housing, right to adequate standard of living, right to science and culture and right to health. Cultural rights are recognized and protected in international and regional human rights instruments. Member states have a legal obligation to respect, protect and fulfill cultural rights and are expected to take progressive action and steps towards their fulfillment.

The Universal Declaration on Human Rights recognizes a number cultural rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) as the primary international legal source of cultural rights. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination prohibits discrimination on the basis of racial or ethnic origin in relation to a number of economic, social and cultural rights. The Convention on the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities also prohibits discrimination of any kind on the basis on disability including the refusal of the full enjoyment of cultural rights.

The protection of intangible cultural heritage has often been regarded as the long neglected area of international cultural heritage law. While international conventions for the protection of movable and immovable, tangible heritage have been operational for several decades, a specialist multilateral instrument, which was covering the aspects of intangible heritage was only finalized in 2003. Yet, the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage has preoccupied international law for well over a century. The question of intangible cultural heritage in international law has influenced, and is influenced by, the protection of minorities and the articulation of cultural rights. Treaties covering these various areas contain similar rationales and objectives; disputes about the right holders and the nature of the rights; debate about obligations placed on States parties and the role of the international community; mechanisms of implementation, and the definition of culture. Lack of universally adopted legislations and definition leads to perpetual violations of cultural rights of humankind.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) adopted in 2005 the first legally binding international instrument on culture. The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions was agreed upon with an overwhelming majority and after the swiftest ratification process in the history of the UNESCO entered into force on 18 March 2007. Now, five years later and with some 125 Members committed to implementing the Convention, not only

observers with a particular interest in the topic but also the broader public may be eager to know what has happened and in how far has the implementation progress advanced.

Office for High Commission of Human Rights (OHCHR)

The organization has made significant steps into the promotion of cultural rights as well as their implementation. In 2012 the Human Rights Council decided upon the mandate holder the status of Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, which was aimed at: identifying best practices in the promotion and protection of cultural rights at the local, national, regional and international levels; identifying possible obstacles to the promotion and protection of cultural rights, and to submit proposals and/or recommendations to the Council on possible actions in that regard; working in cooperation with States in order to foster the adoption of measures at the local, national, regional and international levels aimed at the promotion and protection of cultural rights through concrete proposals enhancing sub regional, regional and international cooperation in that regard; studying the relationship between cultural rights and cultural diversity, in close collaboration with States and other relevant actors, including in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with the aim of further promoting cultural rights.

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) is the body of 18 independent experts that monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by its States parties. The Committee was established under ECOSOC Resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985 to carry out the monitoring functions assigned to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Part IV of the Covenant.

The United States of America

The USA have joined the consensus of the Human Rights Council's 34th Session, which took place on March 23, 2017 in Geneva. They have always been outspoken on their support for the promotion of cultural diversity, pluralism, tolerance, cooperation, and dialogue among the people of all cultures. The respect for cultural diversity and the promotion of cultural rights has been prominent throughout the history of the country. In the United States, promotion of cultural diversity has enabled them to reinforce the importance of human rights through its contribution to the development of legal protections for a variety of minority groups. They strongly believe that in addition to the right to the protection of moral and material interest that results from scientific, literary, or artistic production, intellectual property should also be valued and respected.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of the event
December 10, 1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

November 25, 1981	Declaration on the elimination of all intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.
December 23, 1994	International decade for human rights education proclaimed: 1995 – 2004
October 20, 2005	Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Cultural Diversity of Cultural Expressions

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

International Network for Cultural Diversity (INCD) – an international NGO dedicated to countering the adverse effects of globalization on culture. INCD has regularly informed the Secretariat of its activities and used the information materials produced by UNESCO on the topics of cultural diversity, cultural enterprise development and culture trade and globalization. INCD has also worked on a convention related to cultural diversity, and released (in March 2002) the only NGO draft of such a cultural diversity convention. Since December 2003, INCD part of the process of drawing up a draft convention on the protection of diversity of cultural contents and artistic expressions.

Possible Solutions

One of the principle solutions, which could be implemented in the hopes of combatting the issue is to establish penalty or a punishment if violation is to occur of the UNESCO's universal declaration on cultural diversity. Other possible solutions could be if UN enforces all member states to make changes to their constitutions regarding the creation or reinforcement of laws on following issues and setting up punishments for violating these laws within a country. In order to make sure that these laws work, it is highly important to have UN representatives controlling the situation in each of the member states, which have committed to complying with the principles set by the UN. Informational centers could be set up in different regions, with occasional seminars and public events for the purpose of informing people and raising awareness on the issue, together with accessible and reliable data for everyone. Support centers with experienced personnel and perpetual counselling sessions could be opened in support of the people who think their cultural rights are being violated.

The reinforcement of Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights is extremely vital towards the implementation and promotion of cultural rights throughout the world. States that ratified it and committed to it are to obligate themselves to respect and implement a long list of rights provisions. The key factors of the Covenant include: the right to self-determination; the right to work; the right to safe and healthy working conditions; the right to unionize; the right to strike; the right to social security and social insurance; the right of special protection for pregnant women, recent mothers, and children from economic exploitation; the right to adequate food, clothing, and housing; and even the right to attain a high standard of physical and mental health. Furthermore, the covenant lists specific activities that ratifying states must undertake as a means of safeguarding these rights. It is highly important for

countries bound by the covenant's terms to put themselves under an obligation in order to provide vocational and technical training programs as a way of insuring the right to work, and submit reports to the UN's Economic and Social Council about their progress annually. Lastly, member states need to establish specific norms internally as well as firm definitions of human rights, specifically cultural rights, in their own country to be able to move forward with its specific definition and be able to successfully combat the issue above.

In order to promote the respect for cultural diversity it is important to strengthen the bilateral, regional, and international cooperation for the purpose of creating adequate conditions to the promotion of the diversity. International and cultural exchange of ideas and the sharing of best practices will be instrumental in the process. The cooperation should also be inclusive of civil societies, non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector to further promulgate the promotion of cultural rights and the respect for cultural diversity. This, in turn, should be done through the use of innovative technologies, which will encourage communication and strengthen partnerships across the globe. The international cooperation should not be affected by the situations of serious threat and instead should create grounds for providing assistance to each other.

Cultural diversity and its promotion should in no way undermine or limit the breadth of human rights and should not contravene the endowment of individuals' human rights. Likewise, this concept should not legitimize the violation of human rights. Ideally, cultural diversity and basic human rights should mutually reinforce each other for the purpose of creating a more sustainable, tolerant and equal world.

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Forum: Human Rights Sub-Commission 2

Issue: Protection of journalists

Student Officer: Konstantinos Andreadis

Position: Deputy President

Introduction

Even though we might not always see them, they still affect our everyday life very deeply. Journalists research, document, write or present news in an unbiased way on broadcasting channels, newspaper or any other means of media we as citizen often retrieve and require to better understand the conflicts and issues of the world surrounding us. But try to imagine a situation where you live in constant fear of harassment, prison or death just because you wanted to inform the public of what is happening in the region you're reporting from. This is the situation hundreds of journalists are finding themselves in right now with more than 800 journalists having been killed worldwide since 1992 and the number is still increasing every year. Even though a few of those cases were followed by an arrest, 695 journalists were killed with impunity. But without a punishment, the ones responsible for the deaths of journalists do not face any consequences following their murder. Additionally, there are far too many cases where innocent journalists are being tortured or even killed without a trial. This injustice causes many journalists to feel left alone in a nation with different laws and this issue is still ongoing, making this an issue of international significance.

Therefore, every new case is a desperate call for immediate action to protect all journalists in combat or elsewhere, which is fundamental to having an international society where freedom of speech and press is tolerated. According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 42 killed have already been killed in 2017 and the trending of the “#jesuischarlie” Twitter hashtag following the Charlie Hebdo shootings marks how deeply this issue has shaped our world.

Definition of Key Terms

Freedom of Speech

The right to express one's opinions without censorship, restriction, or legal penalty.

Freedom of Press

The right to communicate and express oneself through various mediums, such as electronic media and published materials.

Impunity

Exemption from punishment or freedom from the injurious consequences of an action.

Example: Even though it was confirmed that the police officer had shot the journalist, he was allowed to walk away with impunity.

Censorship

The prohibition or suppression of any material that is considered inappropriate, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security.

Arbitrary detention

Arrest or detention of an individual in a case in which there is no evidence or likelihood that they committed a crime against legal statute, or in which there have been no proper legal procedures.

Article 19

Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948 stating that “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

Background Information

Origins of threat

One of the most important causes is of course impunity. Officers responsible for the deaths of dozens of journalists are simply allowed to walk away without any punishment. This is however often linked to corruption and it is of great significance to always keep in mind that protecting journalists assigned to dangerous assignments in conflicts of any kind is a very challenging task, seeing as the affected nation as a whole is already struggling with its own conflicts. Furthermore, it might not open itself to cooperate about the safety of its journalists, in which their sovereignty has to be respected as well. But there is also the case where the nation is not directly affected by war and has made multiple restrictions for its press with oppressive laws, which also obviously endangers the profession of a journalist. Additionally, one also observes a global lack of respect towards journalists and other parties such as terrorist groups have been becoming a more and more alarming threat to journalists as seen in the attack of the French satirical weekly newspaper Charlie Hebdo in 2015 by an Islamist terrorist group. Last, all origins of threat cannot only be traced back to the government but sometimes also to parts of the population itself. One example could be Rana Tanveer, a journalist reporting on religious minorities, who was threatened, finding his front door damaged and sprayed upon with graffiti calling him an “unbeliever who deserves to be killed” and who was deliberately injured by a car.

Dangers

Journalists face a variety of dangers when exercising their profession. Therefore, imprisonment as intimidation with harsh treatments is the most common example, but journalists also experience

overall intimidation by political groups. Furthermore, journalists encounter many violent threats, kidnapping or torture and they are often injured or even killed on dangerous assignments. Additionally, they are sometimes victims of psychological and physical violence as well as cyberbullying. Last, one should not forget the discrimination of sex or ethnicity many journalist are subjected to and arbitrary detention they often face in countries they are reporting from.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists)

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) is a non-profit organization on international freedom of press with a global network of 40 experts reporting abuses of journalists in conflict zones, repressive countries as well as democratic member states. It runs a Global Campaign against Impunity and has an archive of all cases dating back to 1992. Moreover, it publishes an impunity index which calculates the number of unsolved journalist murders as a percentage of each country's population and raises local media awareness on impunity. The CPJ is also opposed to criminal defamation laws of journalists used in countries, meaning that countries shouldn't be able to silence opposing views. Furthermore, they visit the affected nations, aid imprisoned journalists in getting released, ensure that journalist murderers are convicted, publish reports and encourage legal reforms for the countries affected by this issue.

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) monitors, reports and raises awareness on the protection of journalists. It also focuses on capacity building and research as well as on the building of coalitions. These coalitions consist mainly of collaboration between UN bodies, national authorities, media, and civil society organizations (as recommended by the UN Plan of Action) and since 1997, the Director-General of UNESCO composes a biannual "Report on The Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity".

OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights)

In 1993, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) created a mandate for a Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression which was later renewed four times. The Special Rapporteur may collect information and request credible information from governments, NGOs and other relevant parties as well as provides advice on this issue. Annually, the Special Rapporteur reports to the HRC with the information collected and he is also allowed to conduct country visits.

RSF (Reporters Without Borders)

The Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is a NGO formed in 1985 and based in Paris tackling internet censorship and media. It gives financial, material and psychological aid to journalists on dangerous assignments, as well as monitors and exposes attacks on international freedom of

information. RSF also collaborates with governments to fight oppressive laws and helps persecuted journalists and their families with financial and psychological aid.

JED (Journaliste en Danger)

The Journaliste en Danger (JED) is a NGO founded 1998 in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) on the protection and promotion of press freedom in DR Congo and has been active in Burundi, Cameroon, Brazzaville (Congo), Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, The Central African Republic, Rwanda and Chad since 2003. JED monitors freedom of press in nations and provides legal assistance to the imprisoned as well as holds conferences on the matter. It belongs to International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) together with more than 119 NGOs and the RSF.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International opposes global abuse of human rights and ensures that torturers are persecuted, oppressive laws are changed and that citizens imprisoned for voicing their opinions through media pressure are freed. To accomplish these aims it allows website visitors to sign petitions online and it also keeps track of pending (death) penalties against journalists.

ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a humanitarian organization for the protection of victims of conflicts and was founded in 1863 and is currently based in Geneva (Switzerland). It operates a hotline for journalists, their families and their media organizations to request assistance if they are injured, taken captive or missing as well as follows the 34th rule of the International Humanitarian Law (IHL, also known as laws of war and the law of armed conflict): “Civilian journalists engaged in professional missions in areas of armed conflict must be respected and protected as long as they are not taking a direct part in hostilities.”

OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe)

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) monitors the safety of journalists and works through diplomacy with its members and other parties in response to cases. Dunja Mijatović, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, has said that “If journalists are not safe and free to write and to investigate in order to publish stories, freedom of expression and free media is at risk”.

Eritrea

Eritrea with President Isaias Afewerki in office since 1993 is ranked as the worst country of the world regarding press freedom. The last private media outlets and their journalists were jailed in 2001 and it currently is the nation with the most imprisoned journalists in Africa. It has only one state-run telecommunications company called EriTel whereby internet and hence media access are monitored. The arrested journalists are mostly not given a court trial, causing many journalists to flee the country while they still can.

North Korea

North Korea with its supreme leader Kim Jong Un since 2011 operates under its 53rd Article of its constitution which demands freedom of press. However, state-run Korean Central News Agency and Korea Post and Telecommunications Corp. make access to independent news sources very difficult. In Addition, CPJ Asia Program Senior Research Associate Sumit Galhotra has said that "Pyongyang has sent a clear signal that it remains deeply hostile to journalists." Unfortunately, the exact number of killed journalists remains very unclear.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia with its king Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud since 2015 uses censorship and amendments to its press law in 2011 to prohibit the publication of opposing material. Many journalists covering protests have already been arrested.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia with its Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn since 2012 has arrested multiple journalists and intimidates printing companies. International journalists within the country are also subjected to harassment and surveillance.

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan with its President Ilham Aliyev since 2003 runs its own newscasts and its internet access is restricted. It has also banned news and social media and at least 10 journalists and bloggers have been jailed as well as 5 killed (CPJ). The director of the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS), Emin Huseynov, had to hide when his office was invaded by authorities seizing all documents.

Vietnam

Vietnam with its Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung since 2006 has banned private print and broadcast outlets. It also has a Media Law of 1999 in which it states that all media working in Vietnam must serve as "the mouthpiece of Party organizations." (Article 1, Chapter 1). Additionally, Vietnam operates a Central Propaganda Department and uses Article 258 ("[...] abusing democratic freedoms") frequently to prosecute and threaten bloggers.

Iran

Iran with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as supreme leader since 1989 and Hassan Rouhani as president since 2013 has jailed most journalists in 2009. Additionally, many journalists are currently forced to flee and four have already been killed (CPJ). It uses internet censorship and although Rouhani campaign's promise was to reestablish the Association of Iranian Journalists, it failed.

People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China with its President Xi Jinping since 2013 uses internet censorship and jails journalists, forcing them into confession. Two have already been killed with impunity (CPJ) and Xi argued at a press conference in 2014 with Obama that it is international journalists' own fault if they're having problems getting a visa.

Myanmar

Myanmar with its President Thein Sein since 2011 strictly controls all media and with its Printers and Publishers Registration Law (2014) it can ban news that insult religion, pose a threat to the rule of law or damage the ethnic unity. The Official Secrets Act (1923) is also used to threaten and jail journalists reporting on military matters. Additionally, 5 journalists of a newspaper called Unity were forced to 10 years of hard jail labor (later reduced to 7), because they reported on the production of chemical weapons of the military. In total 5 journalists have already been murdered of whom 2 with impunity (CPJ).

Cuba

Cuba with its President Raúl Castro since 2008 criminalizes "unauthorized news" and "enemy propaganda" by law and its constitution bans private media outlets and free speech. Moreover, Journalism is only permitted if the journalists "conform to the aims of a socialist society." and the Inter American Press Association described the situation in 2006 stating that "repression against independent journalists, mistreatment of jailed reporters, and very strict government surveillance limiting the people's access to alternative sources of information are continuing".

Syria

Syria with its President Bashar al-Assad since 2000 is facing a Civil War since 2011 and the Syrian Journalists' Association has 153 killings of journalists on record. However, the self-proclaimed "Islamic State" is still operating in parts of it.

Iraq

Iraq with its President Fuad Masum since 2014 is of course affected by the same terrorist group as mentioned in the paragraph above about Syria and about 185 journalists have already been killed of whom 110 with impunity (CPJ).

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation with its President Vladimir Putin since 2012 is a very dangerous place for journalists, seeing as 58 (CPJ) or even 200 (other sources) journalists have already been killed and any journalist reporting on opposing views has to face attacks. Sergei Sokolov, deputy editor at Russia's top opposition newspaper stated that "if the state is not ready to protect us, we will protect ourselves" and that "when journalists find themselves helpless in the face of lawlessness in the streets and indiscipline of law enforcement agencies, there is no other way." Additionally, there is the concept of "self-censorship", wherein journalists should not make information which, *in their opinion*, might not

content the authorities, public. Furthermore, new laws were passed in 2014 expanding the control of the Russian government over its mass-media.

Turkey

Turkey with its President Tayyip Erdoğan since 2014 has shut down more than 150 media outlets since its “coup attempt” on July 15th 2016. Consequently, Fethullah Gülen was made “responsible” for the coup resulting into all Gülen Supporters being spied upon. Individual journalists like Hasan Cücük for example are listed as “enemy of Turkey”. 25 journalists have already been killed (CPJ) and many are currently in prison.

Egypt

Egypt with its President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi since 2014 is described by Reporters Without Borders by stating that “Working as a journalist in Egypt has become as dangerous as openly demonstrating against the regime”. As an example, Egyptian photojournalist Mahmoud Abu Zeid, known as “Shawkan”, is risking the death penalty (Amnesty has an open online petition to free Shawkan) and dozens of journalists are behind bars. The CPJ has documented 12 journalist killings and the Association for Freedom of Thought and Expression (AFTE) reports 438 assaults against press and media workers. Therefore, journalism in Egypt is in a very critical situation.

Brazil

Brazil with its President Michel Temer since 2016 encounters multiple threats and physical attacks against journalists and corruption is very common in the instable government with its centralized media being very close to the government. "If they [the journalists] are not writing for the big media, they are seen as nothing," Moreira told CPJ. Additionally, 39 journalists have already been killed (CPJ).

Philippines

Philippines with its President Rodrigo Duterte since 2016 has had 78 journalist killings (CPJ) and its president apparently encourages violence of journalists according to RSF. Before, Duterte had insulted the media, describing the nation’s two leading media outlets as “sons of whores” and threatening revenge for their articles criticizing his war on drugs (RSF). Later, as president-elect: "Just because you're a journalist, you're not exempted from assassination, if you are a son of a bitch [...]". At last, Duterte said at a press conference that "Free speech won't save you, my dear." (Vice). 78 journalists have already been killed in the Philippines, according to the CPJ.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan with its President Ashraf Ghani since 2014 faces the Taliban and “Islamic State” and an ongoing violent civil war. However, its constitution grants freedom of information and has “committees for the safety of journalists” even though not every politician accepts the independence of media. Moreover, police and military are also believed to be involved in several cases and according to the CPJ, about 32 journalists have already been killed.

Mexico

Mexico with its President Enrique Peña Nieto since 2012 often executes journalists if they report on off-limits topics such as organized crime and corruption inside the government. Also, its corruption ensures that many responsible murderers are unpunished and allowed to walk away with impunity. Nearly all TV channels belong to two leading media groups and according to the CPJ, 41 journalists have already been killed.

Pakistan

Pakistan with its President Mamnoon Hussain since 2013 uses the idea of self-censorship in news and organizations and if they do not follow “Government officials, political parties, and party activists are also quick to harass, threaten, or physically attack journalists regarded as unsympathetic to their views” (RSF). Furthermore, according to the CPJ, 60 journalists have already been killed.

Timeline of Events

Date	Description of event
January 7 th , 2015	The French satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo in Paris was attacked by two brothers, Saïd and Chérif Kouachi. 12 people were killed and 11 injured.
2 November 2013	Two French journalists were assassinated in Mali which was then chosen by Resolution A/RES/68/163 to be proclaimed as the "International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists"
June 8 th , 1977	Protocol I amends the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on the protection of victims of international conflicts
August 1949	Fourth Geneva Conventions created and, together with the previous three conventions and the “Hague Law”, they are the main sources of the International Humanitarian Law
December 10 th , 1948	The United Nations General Assembly adopts the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Protection of civilians in armed conflict, 27 May 2015 (**S/RES/2222**)
- The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, 18 December 2013 (**A/RES/68/163**)
- Protection of civilians in armed conflict, 11 November 2009 (**S/RES/1894**)
- Protection of civilians in armed conflict, 23 December 2006 (**S/RES/1738**)
- Protection of civilians in armed conflict, 28 April 2006 (**S/RES/1674**)
- Protection of civilians in armed conflict, 19 April 2000 (**S/RES/1296**)
- Protection of civilians in armed conflict, 17 September 1999 (**S/RES/1265**)
- The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity : report of the Secretary-General, 4 August 2017 (**A/72/290**)

- Freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, 24 March 2017 **(A/HRC/RES/34/18)**
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 1948 **(A/RES/217(III))**

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

As already mentioned in “Major Countries and Organizations Involved” the OSCE, ICRC, Amnesty International, JED, RSF, CPJ, OHCHR, UNESCO and UNSC play an important role in the protection of journalists. They monitor, condemn, collect information, report and provide legal assistance in cases where journalists are harassed, threatened, taken captive, kidnapped, tortured or killed. Additionally, they collaborate with governments and provide advice when trying to stop oppressive laws and impunity and are focusing on capacity-building, coalition-making as well as research on the issue. The United Nations themselves had also many previous attempts to solve the issue, passing resolutions improving the protection of journalists as seen in “UN Involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events”.

Possible Solutions

The protection of journalists is a very difficult task because in most cases, it is almost impossible to change the nations’ policies and, providing sufficient protection in dangerous assignments, is an approach to tackle the issue which unfortunately hasn’t been enforced globally. Therefore, the following possible solutions should be regarded rather as a guideline than as definite solutions seeing as their implementation into a resolution will of course require much more details and amendments according to your nations’ policy.

One approach could be to improve the precise mapping of their work environment and possible threats they may be subjected to (with for example drones carrying high-resolution (infrared) cameras). Additionally, one could amend the peacekeeping troops mandate for specific situations in which journalists are under threat. Their equipment could also be improved, providing journalists with a helmet, stab vest, map for orientation, steel toe boots, gas mask, protective eyewear, traceable communicational device (e.g. smartphone), water, food and a first aid kit. Experts could also frequently train the journalists assigned to dangerous tasks and they always need to be reminded to stay unbiased seeing as police and protesters cannot be trusted in all nations. It might also be one of your tasks to debate on the question of providing journalists with a gun, seeing as accompanying military units are sometimes not enough and an extra gun could provide additional safety. Journalists also need psychological and physical preparation and you could urge member states to stop using their journalists for propaganda seeing as press freedom and freedom of expression are basic human rights. The latter could also be achieved by raising social media awareness not only in the affected nations but also in the rest of the world to remind every citizen that the protection of journalists is a vital issue if we want to continue to receive independent transparent news on situations we cannot be present at or even imagine. One last measure could be to increase investigation in unsolved cases, especially condemning the concept of impunity.

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Appendices

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