



**THIMUN Singapore**

# **Research Reports**

## **Human Rights Council**

**Fourth Annual Session**

**The Hague International Model United Nations  
Singapore**

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**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Question of Human Rights in Tibet

**Student Officer:** Guan Zhen Tan

## **General overview**

On March 14, 2008 the Tibetans staged a riot against the dominance of Han Chinese businesses in the area. Within days, media reports began to surface, and the Tibetans claimed they wanted independence. During the riots, the Tibetans blindly slashed and killed Chinese people, burnt their shops and looted their goods. The riot was civil unrest. Chinese citizens were brutally slaughtered with 19 deaths and 623 injured, some of them in critical condition. The government in Beijing believed that the government had no choice but to deploy the People's Liberation Army to the region, for Lhasa would be burnt down and the ethnic lighter skinned Han Chinese would be seriously threatened. Yet, the government in Beijing was preparing for the Olympic Games and knew that violently putting down the riot would bring global condemnation. As a result, the army was sent in with peacekeeping mandates, including "not to shoot unless being shot at." Nevertheless, the media accused China of not obeying human rights in Tibet.

## **Background of topic**

It is probably true that the army violated human rights in Tibet, but the Chinese government says that people should look at the bigger picture: without the Chinese Communists, the Dalai Lama (previously incarnated) was considered by some to be a serf owner, and there is evidence to believe his rule brought far more suffering to Tibet than the Communists. The Chinese built the famous Beijing-Lhasa railway, and built schools, hospitals and infrastructure Tibet could not have made on their own level of development. But the local Tibetans don't enjoy that kind of privilege. Most of the rich people in Tibet are Han Chinese, and the Tibetans are still at the bottom of the economic class. However when the Dalai Lama ruled Tibet during the colonization era, 90% of Tibetans were considered serfs and slaves that were subject to tortures such as eye gouging, the pulling out of tongues, hamstringing, and amputation. Since 1978, China has spent billions to restore all the monasteries in Tibet. Railway, highway, and other infrastructures were built in Tibet. Poverty and illiteracy were things of the past. This is rather puzzling to many Chinese that an organized riot of such a scale would take place in present Tibet. (*Information retrieved from Dgateway: "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Bomb"*)

It is crucial for delegates who are researching this issue to consider both sides of the argument. Many NGOs including Amnesty International have warned China against abusing human rights in their country, and the same goes for many nations. The Tibetan people are fighting for a cause, but the Chinese people, who far outnumber the Tibetans (by 1.1 billion people), believe that they are fighting for a cause as well. Indeed it

quite amusing to watch a YouTube video called “Free Tibet, wait, where is Tibet?” because it displayed just how gullible people were to the media. While researching, it would probably be rare to find the Chinese P.O.V. and so maybe this source might help:

A famous Newsweek journalist called Fareed Zakaria said of the Tibetan riots, “*At first glance, China's recent crackdown in Tibet looks like a familiar storyline: a dictatorship represses its people. And of course that's part of the reality—as it often is in China. But on this issue, the communist regime is not in opposition to its people. The vast majority of Chinese have little sympathy for the Tibetan cause. To the extent that we can gauge public opinion in China and among its Diaspora, ordinary Chinese are, if anything, critical of the Beijing government for being too easy on the Tibetans. The real struggle here is between a nationalist majority and an ethnic and religious minority looking to secure its rights.*”  
<http://www.newsweek.com/id/131751>

Delegates, let us see the other Western perspective of the issues:

In the Western perspective of things, the Olympics was their chance to exercise their leverage on China for maybe the last time. Once China outgrows America economically, “nothing would be able to stop China” from doing what it wants. So it is the idea of the Western world to teach China a lesson while they still can. Numerous sources on CNN, Fox News, and Times can give a Western perspective of the Tibetan cause.

## **Definition of Key terms**

Dalai Lama: (Tibetan) Great Ocean. Spiritual and temporal leader of the Tibetan people.

Tibet: Tibet (see Name section below for other spellings) is a Plateau region and Nation in Central Asia and the home to the indigenous Tibetan people. With an average elevation of 4,900 metres (16,000 ft), it is the highest region on Earth and is commonly referred to as the "Roof of the World."

Chinese Nationalism- It is the only source of legitimacy the Chinese government has as a control over the Chinese people, and it is important to know that Chinese nationalism must be controlled internally and externally. The Chinese government is aware that if this nationalism goes too far, it will start to reflect problems within China, so it is to the benefit of Western countries as well as the Chinese Communist Party to not overextend or “push” Chinese Nationalism.

Han Chinese- People of ethnic Han heritage, lighter skinned Chinese people with considerable economic advantages in Tibet.

Buddhist theocracy: Islamist ideology in Dalai Lama form. This is what some Tibetans themselves fear, that if the Dalai lama were to come into power in Tibet, he would implement a religion run state, which is exactly what the western world has come to hate after 9/11.

## **Major countries and organizations involved and their positions**

**China** is the side that has ruled Tibet in ancient history for centuries and in modern history since 1951. It does not support Tibet's independence, and has worked to improve Tibet's infrastructure albeit having committed human rights violations in the region. A large majority of Chinese would use military force to keep Tibet

**Tibet** is now ruled by an autonomous government that reports to the Chinese Communist Party in Beijing.

**Tibetan government-in-exile** is headed by the Dalai Lama, and is currently residing in India. Their position is in support of Tibetan autonomy, for the Dalai Lama to return to Tibet and rule Tibet but not to seek Tibetan independence.

**India and Nepal** are both countries that are neutral to the Tibetan problem but remain important political instruments, as they both have strong connections with the Tibetan Government in Exile as well as China.

**USA/ CIA** The largest trader with China, but also what people say will be the biggest political competitor. The Americans have been instrumental to China's rise in the past 25 years, and they have always maintained a close rivalry. It is true that the CIA has once interfered with China's Tibetan affairs in the 1950's until the President told them to halt their activities. To this day, people still believe the CIA is plotting to allow Tibet to break away in order to weaken China.

**France, Germany, UK** are the countries in which people have staged pro-Tibet riots and are unfriendly toward the Chinese government. France made the Dalai Lama an honorary citizen, angering the Chinese people.

**Amnesty International/ Human Rights Watch** normally report on the human rights violations in China, although the Communist government does not allow them there legally

**United Nations** don't have any jurisdiction in China (UN does , according to the Vienna Convention which makes all international law is legally binding(although most countries and their leader have conveniently forgotten or ignores the clause) This is a pointy issue in international law which is still debatable.),where they refuse to allow the UN to conduct studies there. Despite that, China is a P5 member and is immune to any UN legislation. It is very important to remember that China, along with only the USA and Russia are the only countries that declare themselves above any other organization. Organizations don't govern them like they can govern over countries like with Timor Leste, for example. Countries like China run organizations that run countries. In political terms, China runs the UN with "soft power," if China wants to do something, China does it. For example, no one could have prevented Tiananmen Square, because doing so would hurt the global economy. It is in the interest of the Chinese, the Americans, and the Europeans to see through a peaceful future.

## **Timeline of Events**

“1904: British troops invade Tibet but soon withdraw

1905: Chinese troops led by Zhao Erfang invade Tibet and destroy many monasteries

1911: After the fall of the Qing dynasty, the Chinese troops in Tibet mutiny and kill Zhao

1913: Tibet proclaims its independence from China, a popular insurrection expels the Chinese troops, and the dalai lama returns to Lhasa

1918: Tibet pushes the Chinese back and reaches the Yiang Tze Kiang

1946: Tibetan representatives attend the Chinese constitutional assembly in Nanjing as observers

1949: China invades eastern Tibet

1951: China annexes the whole of Tibet

1951 - Tibetan leaders are forced to sign a treaty dictated by China. The treaty, known as the "Seventeen Point Agreement", professes to guarantee Tibetan autonomy and to respect the Buddhist religion, but also allows the establishment of Chinese civil and military headquarters at Lhasa.

Mid-1950s - Mounting resentment against Chinese rule leads to outbreaks of armed resistance.

1954 - The Dalai Lama visits Beijing for talks with Mao, but China still fails to honour the Seventeen Point Agreement.

1959: Tibetans riot against Chinese occupation (87,000 dead)

1959: the dalai lama escapes from Lhasa to India

1966: During the "cultural revolution" 2,692 Tibetan monasteries are destroyed

1976: China begins a campaign to resettle ethnic Chinese in Tibet

1979: China opens Tibet to foreign tourists

1987: the Chinese government establishes a special school in Beijing to educate the reincarnate Tibetan lamas

1989: The dalai lama is awarded the Nobel Prize for peace

1991: the panchen lama dies, opening a conflict with China over the appointment of the successor

1995 - The Dalai Lama names a six-year-old boy, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, as the true reincarnation of the Panchen Lama, the second most important figure in Tibetan Buddhism. The Chinese authorities place the boy under house arrest and designate another six-year-old boy, Gyancain Norbu, as their officially sanctioned Panchen Lama.

2002 - Contacts between the Dalai Lama and Beijing are resumed.

2002: Tenzin Delek Rinpoche and other Tibetan leaders are arrested by the government of mainland China

2006: a railway connection between mainland China and Tibet is inaugurated (the 1,140km Golmud-Lhasa being the world's highest)

2007 November - The Dalai Lama hints at a break with the centuries-old tradition of selecting his successor, saying the Tibetan people should have a role.

2007 December - The number of tourists travelling to Tibet hits a record high, up 64% year on year at just

over four million, Chinese state media say.

2008: 130 Tibetan protesters are killed and hundreds arrested in Lhasa by the troops of mainland China after Tibetans riot and kill 18 Chinese civilians living in Tibet”

Sources for timeline: <http://www.scaruffi.com/politics/tibet.html>  
[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/6299565.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles/6299565.stm)

### **UN Treaties or resolutions**

The United Nations has no treaty or resolution pertaining to the Question of Tibet in existence, and as mentioned earlier, would be unable to implement it in Communist China.

### **Bibliography:**

Miles James: “Fire on the roof of the world?March 14, The Economist.com

Yardley Jim: “Violence in Tibet as Monks Clash with Police?March 15, New York Times

BBC News: "clash that 'sparked' Tibet's Violent Protest" March 14, 2008

Elegant Simon: "China and Tibet: The Spin Campaign" March 26, 2008 Time.Com

Bennett Richard M.: :Tibet the 'Great Game' and the CIA" March 26, 2008 Asia Times Online

BBC News: "Bush calls Hu to urge Tibet talks: March 27, 2008

### **Appendix: Useful Links (this will be used to help your delegates research)**

<http://www.scaruffi.com/politics/tibet.html>

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1835682,00.html>

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90776/90883/6383308.html>

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** The implementation of the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

**Student Officer:** Aman Biswas

## **General Overview**

Even when the world has become flat and cultural barriers have melted down, there is a group of people living in obscure corners of this world who are far away from the modern world trying to maintain their identity, cultural and language. “Indigenous” means belonging to a region. However, it is because of this sense of belonging to a region that the indigenous people have been subjugated and their rights violated. These people are so far removed from the modern world that they have become disadvantaged and vulnerable. These people represent unique cultural identities and five thousand languages. It is, therefore, very important to preserve these and save them from extinction. It is upon the world to protect the rights of these indigenous people and take positive steps for implementation of laws for this cause.

Indigenous peoples are scattered over seventy countries and are estimated to be around 300-350 million people in year 2000 which is approximately 6% of world population. These include American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Canadian Indians, Australian Mauris, Kasi and Garo tribes of India among others. They are under the threat of becoming assimilated in the general population and losing their identity. Very often they are discriminated, the claim to their land unrecognized. The land and resources are very important to the indigenous people since they constitute their spiritual, cultural, and economic bases of life. It is the right to remain in their homeland and have basic claim over their resources.

## **Definition of key terms**

*Indigenous people:* People of a certain race specifically belonging to a certain region.

Indigenous people in the world: The Bayaka in Central African Republic whose community is being destroyed by logging; the Dinka and Nuer in Sudan whose lands are being taken over for oil reserves; the Wichí in Argentina facing a major highway through their territory; gold mining on Miskito lands in Nicaragua; eco-tourism on Kuna land in Panama; mining on Australian aboriginal lands; Jharkhand tribal community dislocation due to megadam project in India; industrial plantations destroying tropical forests on which the Dayak people in Indonesia depend; export coffee plantations evicting Montangards from their homeland in Vietnam; uranium mining, and the resulting toxic waste contaminating the ecosystem on which the Dene and Cree in Canada rely; overfishing jeopardizing survival of Chukchi and Eskimo in Russia; mining on North American Indian lands, including the Western Shoshone, Quechan Nation, Mohawk, and Zuni peoples. (<http://www.ifg.org/programs/indig.htm>)

## **Background**

The first major threat to indigenous people came from colonists. However, it did not remain limited to the colonists. Slowly as modernization swept across the world, the land and resources of indigenous people were constantly invaded and plundered under the garb of civilization by the governments of some of the countries and encroaching population of the surrounding societies. Since most of the indigenous tribes live deep in pristine areas where natural resources abound, they have fallen prey to unscrupulous governments drilling for oil and minerals. In the Amazon Forest 2 million hectares of rainforest has been sold for oil exploration. The republican nominees of US are adamant on drilling Alaska for oil. Similar stories repeated in Russian Khanti region. USA has expanded silver and gold mining regions in Nevada destroying many sacred and ancient sites of Native Indians. Canadian logging of Haida Forest presents another case. In Kenya, the forests of Masai have been cleared by the government for training ground displacing the grazing ground of the native tribes. There are myriads of examples.

## **List of all governments, NGOs and other parties involved**

- **WGIP:** The Working Group on Indigenous Populations: ECOSOC established the Working Group on Indigenous (WGIP) in 1982 to write the draft for the Declaration of the Rights of the Indigenous People.
- **ECOSOC:** The Economic and Social Council is part of UN which seeks international cooperation on economic, social and cultural affair.
- **CWIS:** The Center for World Indigenous Studies (CWIS) is a research organization for the rights, education and conflict resolution of the indigenous peoples.
- **UNPFII:** The United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues: The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues is an advisory body to the Economic and Social Council, with a mandate to discuss indigenous issues related to economic and social development, culture, the environment, education, health and human rights.
- **UNPO:** The Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization, formed in 1991, is a democratic, international organization. Its members are indigenous peoples, occupied nations, minorities and independent states or territories which lack representation internationally.
- **IWGIA:** The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs is an independent and non-profit international human rights-based membership organization, whose central charter is to endorse and promote the collective rights of the world's indigenous peoples. Established in 1968, the IWGIA is registered as a non-profit organization in Denmark, with the head office of its Secretariat based in Copenhagen.

- Human Rights Watch; is a United States-based international non-governmental organization that conducts research and advocacy on human rights.
- Amnesty International is a Western based international non-governmental organization which defines its mission as "to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated."Founded in the UK in 1961, AI draws its attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for compliance with international standards. It works to mobilize public opinion which exerts pressure on individuals who perpetrate abuses.
- United-states, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand voted against while Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia, Samoa and Ukraine, all of which have indigenous population, abstained from the declaration.

## **Timeline**

- The declaration of rights of the indigenous people was formulated in 2006 June to help them fight for their rights.
- The work started in 1982 when ECOSOC established the Working Group on Indigenous (WGIP).
- WGIP officially started working on the draft of the declaration in 1985.
- The draft was finally submitted in 1993 to sub-commission of Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.
- The draft was approved in 1994 and sent to the United Nations Commission of Human Rights.
- In 2005, the World Summit and in 2006, the fifth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) called upon the world to adopt the declaration.
- The Declaration was finally adopted in June 2006 by the Human Rights Council.
- It is ironic that USA, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand all voted against the declaration. All of these countries have indigenous populations. Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Columbia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia, Samoa, and Ukraine abstained from voting.
- Implementation of declaration of the rights of indigenous people depends on universal acceptance of it. However, since most major countries with indigenous populations either voted against or abstained, implementation remains a major hurdle. The most important problem is the definition of indigenous

people which is rather vague. The declaration is also not legally binding to any government or any judiciary. The outline has, however, provided a direction in integrating indigenous people in the process of governments, laws, and use of natural resources. With the help of this declaration indigenous people would be able to participate more actively in decision making when it concerns their land, their lifestyle and culture. Hence, it is the first big step to bringing justice to the 6% of the world community.

### **Relevant UN treaties and UN resolutions:**

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (as adopted by General Assembly resolution 61/295 on September 13th, 2007)
  - The declaration provides guidelines for individual and collective rights of indigenous people to establish ownership to their land and institutions, pursue their cultures, language, and religion and have right of effective participation in shaping decisions and policies concerning their group and community. Most important right, however, is to defend themselves against persecution.
- Documents related to the declaration can be found at <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/declaration.html>
- ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169)
  - The convention takes into account The Declaration on the Rights of the Indigenous People and elaborates the rights of the indigenous peoples and provides guideline to the governments as to how to proceed in benefitting and safeguarding the interest of the indigenous people.

### **Previous attempted solutions**

The nation should see to it that indigenous are not discriminated and can actively take part in regional and national processes such as laws and policies. Nations also should have programs such as development funds to increase their quality of life. Even though there has been a declaration to protect indigenous people's rights, United-states, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand voted against while Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Colombia, Georgia, Kenya, Nigeria, Russia, Samoa and Ukraine have abstained. All member nations are required to sign in order to implement it. Its main criticisms are that it lacks basis for legal action and does not constitute an evidence for international law.

## **Plagiarism Checklist**

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (as adopted by General Assembly resolution 61/295 on September 13th, 2007)
- ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No. 169)

## **Bibliography**

<http://www.ipcaucus.net/> <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/index.html>

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/groups/groups-01.htm> <http://www.cwis.org/index.php>

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/indigenous/> [http://www.indigenouspeople.net/ipl\\_final.html](http://www.indigenouspeople.net/ipl_final.html)

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/indigenous/groups/groups-01.htm>

<http://www.hri.ca/fortherecord2002/engtext/vol1eng/indigenous.htm> <http://www.unpo.org/index.php>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous\\_peoples#Indigenous\\_rights.2C\\_issues\\_and\\_concerns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples#Indigenous_rights.2C_issues_and_concerns)[http://portal.unesco.org/culture/admin/ev.php?URL\\_ID=2946&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201](http://portal.unesco.org/culture/admin/ev.php?URL_ID=2946&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201)

<http://www.iwgia.org/sw155.asp> <http://www.answers.com/indigenous+people?cat=health>

<http://www.un.org/issues/docs/d-indig.html>

<http://www.ifg.org/programs/indig.htm>

President's Report Human Rights Commission THIMUN XL

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Measures to promote policies enhancing Human Rights as a benefit of globalization

**Student Officer:** Sehoon Joo

### **General overview of the issue:**

Promoting policies to enhance Human Rights can be a benefit to globalization for many reasons. Policies enhancing Human Rights will allow employees of corporations to seek better working conditions because they will be able to join trade unions or other representative organizations so their rights can be recognized. This way employees will be more satisfied with their working conditions and pursue their tasks more actively whereas when their rights are not protected or ignored, workers' efficiency may drop. Most companies believe that recognizing too many rights for their employees may harm their productivity and they may be right to some degree, but policies enhancing Human Rights will nevertheless benefit both parties.

### **Definition of Key terms:**

*Human rights:* The Human Rights dealt in this topic are simply the rights that are given to every individual human being in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Globalization:* It is a process of turning local objects, ideas etc into global ones. It can also be the convergence of different cultures.

*Trade unions:* Trade unions are a group of workers who have gathered to achieve a goal in areas such as wages, working hours and working conditions.

### **Background to the topic:**

The reason why such an issue exists is because human rights are being violated as globalization occurs around the globe. For example, a company that sells carpets to customers in many different countries sees that using workers in an ELDC will help them maximize profit. The company will then employ these workers and in further attempts to maximize profit, they will exploit these workers by paying little wages, making them work long hours etc. The product is cheaper compared to other products and this brings wealth to the company and the country it is located in. However, the ELDC and the workers in that country are not necessarily benefitting. They are being exploited unfairly and that is why such an issue exists. By promoting policies that enhance Human Rights as a benefit of globalization, both parties, in this example, the EMDC and the ELDC, will both benefit and globalization will be a positive thing to all.

Globalization has been going on on our planet ever since the earliest humans began to travel. The ancient Roman Empire and how they conquered nations in Africa, parts of Europe and commenced trade with them is a form of globalization. The Silk Road that connected Asia with Europe and colonies of the old European countries are all forms of globalization. The idea is old, but the word it self is not. Economists only started to use the term in the 1980s. Notice that in almost all the examples provided above one side is being exploited. Even after centuries, this tends to be true and thus the need for this issue.

### **Major countries and organizations involved and their positions:**

Major organizations involved would multinational companies that work globally. A list of several is provided below:

1. Barclays
2. Carrefour
3. Citigroup
4. Coca-Cola
5. ExxonMobil
6. Hilton
7. HSBC
8. IKEA
9. Imperial Tobacco
10. Marriott
11. Mitsubishi
12. Nokia
13. Reebok
14. Shell
15. Total
16. Vodafone

All of the organization or corporations have strong stances regarding Human Rights. These companies, due to the massive size of their businesses, work closely with governments and therefore have considerable influence in a nation. They all have strict expectations of countries that they will operate in. Total for example, says that they do not work in countries that do not allow them to follow their Code of Conduct. If companies as big as Total will not invest in a nation because they are not able to follow their Code of Conduct, countries will soon shift their positions so that companies like Total will come in to their nation. So, a policy that urges corporations to adopt similar stances like Total may be helpful in tackling this issue.

As for countries, European nations, USA, and countries where labor can be found are all major players. European nations and the US are major players for they house the most global companies. In relation to the policy that they adopt at home, the stance of companies will change significantly. Countries like India, Pakistan and many African nations should obviously be looked at because there is a large population of laborers in these countries. These laborers are often times employed by companies in Europe or the US and if given the conditions to speak for themselves through solutions, they may emerge to be even bigger players than Europe or the US.

## **Timeline of events**

1919: ILO created after the First World War as part of the Treaty of Versailles

1945: The United Nations is established.

1948: UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights is written

1984~1995: The Uruguay Round led to the formation of the World Trade Organization which could settle disputes during trade and help build a fair ground for commerce.

1992: North American Trade Free Trade Agreement (Free Trade Agreement (FTA) is an agreement between a certain group of countries that have eliminated taxes and such on goods that will be traded between them.)

## **Relevant UN treaties and UN resolutions**

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Hours of Work (Industry) Convention 1919

Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention 2006

EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights

[A/RES/62/165](#) Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

[A/RES/62/171](#) International Year of Human Rights Learning

[A/RES/62/160](#) Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

## **Previous attempted solutions: analysis of their failure/success**

There aren't any solutions that failed or succeeded on this topic for Human Rights and globalization was never tackled together. However there are solutions to this issue and some common failures that delegates may face when debating this issue. A solution would be to change laws in countries that force companies to meet certain demands. A certain working hour, minimum wages, allowing the formation of worker's unions are all changes that countries can make domestically to help tackle this problem. One aspect that delegates must address is the cooperation from EMDCs. EMDCs may oppose certain solutions because they are benefitting from the current situation. Therefore, in some way delegates must address how to get EMDCs to cooperate. If not, any set of solutions will not work.

## **Plagiarism checklist**

<http://www.business-humanrights.org/>

<http://www.un.org/>

<http://www.ilo.org/>

<http://www.eurunion.org/>

<http://www.un.org/documents/>

## **Bibliography**

<http://www.business-humanrights.org/Documents/Policies>

<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>

<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/constq.htm>

<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/convdsp1.htm>

[http://www.ilo.org/global/About\\_the\\_ILO/Mainpillars/WhatIsDecentWork/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/About_the_ILO/Mainpillars/WhatIsDecentWork/index.htm)

[http://www.eurunion.org/eu/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=48](http://www.eurunion.org/eu/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=49&Itemid=48)

<http://www.un.org/documents/>

[http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange2/current/lectures/land\\_deg/land\\_deg.html](http://www.globalchange.umich.edu/globalchange2/current/lectures/land_deg/land_deg.html)

<http://soils.usda.gov/use/worldsoils/landdeg/ld99.html>

[www.aae.wisc.edu/](http://www.aae.wisc.edu/)

**Appendix: Useful Links (this will be used to help your delegates research)**

<http://www.business-humanrights.org/>

<http://www.un.org/>

<http://www.ilo.org/>

<http://www.eurunion.org/>

<http://www.un.org/documents/>

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dhl/index.html>

[http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart_en.pdf)

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Question of the use of torture by Governments

**Student officer:** Guan Zhen Tan

### **Topic Overview and background information:**

A preamble in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states, “*disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy [...] freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people.*” It is in this preamble that led to the creation of the widely quoted Article 5 of the document, “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

But the reality of this issue is a disgrace to what was universally agreed upon in the UDHR. The Human Rights Watch mentioned that torture occurred within 2004 and 2005 in [China](#), [Egypt](#), [Indonesia](#), [Iran](#), [Iraq](#), [Israel](#), [Malaysia](#), [Morocco](#), [Nepal](#), [North Korea](#), [Pakistan](#), [Russia](#), [Syria](#), [Turkey](#), [Uganda](#), and [Uzbekistan](#). In China, 409 people were admitted to being tortured, of which 115 people were killed from torture. However, many of these countries justify it was for the greater good, some say that the term “torture” doesn’t fit the definition in their country, and in other cases, lowly-paid police under pressure to obtain confessions result to torture. So, what defines torture? I will determine that in the next section. Until now, it is a sad truth that torture is rampant, whether people choose to justify it or not. In terms of how far these violations go in black and white, it has already defied the final clause in the UDHR, “Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.”

Consequently, this leads to the broader, vaguer question: can torture be stopped? Maybe and maybe not, but torture can certainly be prevented and its victims can be given care and that is the point of the United Nations: to save those that can be saved, but not to interfere with sovereignty.

### **Definition of Key Terms:**

Torture: Derived from the Latin words *tortura* ‘twisting, torment,’ the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights states that torture “*means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include*

*pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions.*” The definition of torture is constantly being debated.

### **Major countries and organizations involved and their positions:**

As mentioned earlier, certain countries are well known for their employment of torture. Yet, there are also countries who employ torture that aren't under as much scrutiny, such as the United States and Great Britain, both known to own intelligence bases that carry out torture during interrogation of their victims. To the American Congress, these are justified as not being torture, but “stress and duress” techniques. To date, Congress does not seem convinced at restricting the use of torture and is unwilling to submit its information on secret CIA-run bases overseas. Torture, in the definition above is excessively widespread, especially in the Middle East. The Sharia Laws practiced in Saudi Arabia permit honor killings and stoning, both of which breach the definition of the term. The most well known organizations and think tanks involved in this issue are Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights and most significantly the United Nations Committee on Torture. They have all contributed reports and statistics to this cause that I'll state in the bibliography.



### **Timeline of events**

Abu Ghraib prison scandal- Iraqi prisoners were reportedly subjected to abuse, torture, sodomy, and homicide by U.S. military personnel.

*(The following information was gathered from 911research.wtc7/post911/attacks) On September 17, 2001, George Bush signed a secret finding empowering CIA to "Capture, Kill, or Interrogate Al-Qaeda Leaders." It also authorized establishing a secret global network of facilities to detain and interrogate them without guidelines on proper treatment. Around the same time, Bush approved a secret "high-value target list" of about two dozen names. He also gave CIA free reign to capture, kill and interrogate terrorists not on the list. It was the beginning of events that followed.*

*On November 13, 2001, the White House issued a Military Order regarding the "Detention, Treatment, and Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in the War Against Terrorism." It "determined that an extraordinary emergency exists for national defence purposes that this emergency constitutes an urgent and compelling government interest and that issuance of this order is necessary to meet the emergency." It defined targeted individuals as Al Qaeda and others for aiding or abetting acts of international terrorism or harbouring them. These individuals shall be denied access to US or other courts and instead tried by "military commission" with the power to convict by "concurrence of two-thirds of the members."*

*On January 18, 2002, Bush issued a "finding" stating that prisoners suspected of being Al Qaeda or Taliban members are "enemy combatants" and unprotected by the Third Geneva Convention. They were to be denied all rights and treated "to the extent....consistent with military necessity." Torture was thus authorized. The 2006 Military Commissions Act (aka the "torture authorization act") later created the Geneva-superseded category of "unlawful enemy combatant" to deny them any chance for judicial fairness. International law expert Francis Boyle spoke out about this lawless designation: "this quasi-category (created a) universe of legal nihilism where human beings (including US citizens) can be disappeared, detained incommunicado, denied access to attorneys and regular courts, tried by kangaroo courts, executed, tortured, assassinated and subjected to numerous other manifestations of State Terrorism" on the pretext of as protecting national security.*

*On February 7, 2002, the White House issued an Order "outlining treatment of al-Qaida and Taliban detainees." It stated that "none of the provisions of Geneva apply to our conflict with al-Qaida (or Taliban detainees) in Afghanistan 'or elsewhere throughout the world...' " It meant they'd be afforded no protection under international law and could be treated any way authorities wished, including use of torture as was later learned.*

From these timelines, we see a gradual shift in nature and belief about committing torture. By most laws, including the US, torture is the second highest crime after genocide, and it is astounding to see how their hypocrisy and disregard for international laws work. A Stanford professor called Phillip Zimbardo once made an experiment proving the "psychology of evil," and basically concluded that "evil" begins from the top, and corrupts people all the way down the bureaucratic hierarchy.

### **Relevant UN treaties and UN resolutions**

The United Nation's created the UN Committee Against Torture, which overlooks and studies torture cases around the world. This should be delegate's first and most trusted source.

And this committee was created from the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

*(from www.trc-pal.org)* The Laws of War prohibit any coercive interrogation of Prisoners of War; but they also prohibit torture or cruel or inhuman or degrading treatment of those who do not qualify for Prisoner of War status: civilians, or what the Bush Administration would refer to as "unlawful combatants." And they particularly prohibit any form of indecent assault.

The Geneva Convention

### **Previous attempted solutions:**

No doubt, they exist! However, the United Nations is a toothless organization that cannot coerce unwilling states to take steps toward human rights. Sovereignty has prevented the great ideas stated in the conventions from taking action. On the other hand, there are solutions around this, although through studying Political Science it has shown that politics corrupts: China, Russia and the US are the only "powerful" nations in the list of nations who signed the Convention Against Torture. No France, no Britain. Quite ironic, isn't it?

### **Appendix:**

<http://www.cceia.org/resources/transcripts/5207.html>

[http://www.hrw.org/reports/2005/us0405/4.htm#\\_Toc101408092](http://www.hrw.org/reports/2005/us0405/4.htm#_Toc101408092)

<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cat/>

<http://www.trc-pal.org/>

<http://www.highbeam.com/doc/1G1-175563319.html>

[http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/h\\_cat39.htm](http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu3/b/h_cat39.htm)

<http://www.cageprisoners.com/articles.php?id=7166>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A38894-2004Jun13.html>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/news/spotlight-on-torture-20080626>

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights-anniversary/key-dates>

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Question of discrimination of homosexuals

**Student officer:** Guan Zhen Tan

### **General Overview and background to the topic:**

Here is the statistic: one in ten people are homosexuals, according to the American Psychiatric Association. They condemn discrimination in such areas as employment, housing, public accommodation, and licensing against those who engage in or have engaged in homosexual activities and “*declare that no burden of proof of such judgement, capacity, or reliability shall be placed upon these individuals greater than that imposed on any other persons.*” But how far can this go? Homosexuality has always been a taboo subject, and truth be told, laws can be passed and gay pride parades can be held, but none can remove the discrimination homosexuals face. They are subject to hate crimes, which are “*acts of aggression against an individual's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, religions, disability, sexual orientation, or gender. Examples include assault and battery, vandalism, or threats which involve bias indicators - pieces of evidence like bigoted name-calling or graffiti*” These take place in the East and West. In the Middle East, for example, people can be shot or kidnapped for being homosexual, just as it was only 2 years ago that Grand Ayatollah Ali Al Sistani lifted a fatwa calling on the killing of gays in Iraq. An article in the appendix contains the idea that “*Africa is not an easy place to be homosexual. Across the continent, millions of gays and lesbians find themselves increasingly under threat and pointed to as a source of Africa's ills,*” “*Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, the most homophobic of Africa's presidents, dismisses gays as "lower than pigs and dogs."* Regarding the history of the topic, in 1969, a police raid on an unlicensed New York City bar with a homosexual clientele, the Stonewall Inn, sparks a series of violent clashes between police and members of the gay community. Many people consider the Stonewall Riots the beginning of the modern gay rights movement, and more of these information I gathered can be found at their website. Therefore, delegates have the duty to look through these past issues and find the means necessary to get past the discrimination of homosexuals and reach the individual, in addition to finding methods to convince governments to halt anti-gay legislations.

### **Definition of Key terms (from Merriam-Webster dictionary)**

Homophobia: irrational fear of, aversion to, or discrimination against homosexuality or homosexuals

Homosexual: 1 : of, relating to, or characterized by a tendency to direct sexual desire toward another of the same sex 2 : of, relating to, or involving sexual intercourse between persons of the same sex

Marriage: 1 a (1): the state of being united to a person of the opposite sex as husband or wife in a consensual and contractual relationship recognized by law (2): the state of being united to a person of the same sex in a relationship like that of a traditional marriage <same-sex marriage> b: the mutual relation of married persons : wedlock c: the institution whereby individuals are joined in a marriage

*Does the definition mean that gays can't get married?*

### **Major countries and organizations involved and their positions**

A very prominent organization involved in homosexual studies is the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH). The link is in the appendix. On the website, one can look for NARTH's studies on the meaning of "tolerance and diversity".

Countries that should be considered include Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Kenya, the USA, the UK and Russia. These countries have very well-documented hate crimes based on sexual orientation. In Singapore, one can research through the website People Like Us, which is a gay-rights organization. (<http://www.plu.sg/society/>)

A great example of an IGO that did work well to prevent discriminatory homophobia is the European Union's Office of Equal Opportunity. This organization basically passed laws that changed national laws of the individual European countries that were once unfair towards gays or lesbians.

In Australia, "the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal George Pell, has argued in favour of maintaining discrimination against gay couples, saying it is wrong to equate the position with any sort of racial discrimination," or so quoted ABC news.

In America, sexual orientation is not covered by the 1964 Civil Rights Act. This means that heterosexuals, bisexuals, gays and lesbians cannot bring bias complaints to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC).

### **Relevant UN treaties and UN resolutions**

A United Nations study shows that more than 70 of the United Nations' 191 member states have a total ban on homosexuality. In fact, in the article quoted in the appendix, they say the United Nations denies visas, pension, health, and other benefits to the loved ones of its gay, lesbian and bi-sexual employees! It says "*a U.N. committee on NGOs has continually rejected a request by the International Lesbian and Gay Association for official NGO status.*" What is going on? I don't know. I know that the UDHR in Article 1 says people should be regarded the same regardless of race, religion, gender and so on, but it doesn't say sexual orientation. So maybe the delegates could change the United Nations' way of thinking?

### **Appendix: Useful Links (this will be used to help your delegates research)**

<http://www.daria.no/skole/?tekst=9954>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/meast/06/02/ime.gorani/>

Look for **The Stonewall Riots**

African Leaders Target Gays As Cause of Continent's Ills *By Laurie Goering, Chicago Tribune (KRT)*

Gay Activists Say the U.N. Ignores Their Rights *By Thalif Deen, INTER PRESS SERVICE*  
Aug. 4, 2003, n.p.

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Protecting the human rights of populations affected by land and environmental degradation

**Student Officer:** Sehoon Joo

### **General overview of the issue:**

Land degradation is where the quality of the land corrupts due to human activities. The problem is serious for food is grown on less than 11% of the global surface area. 3% of this area is perfect for agriculture and the other 8% is under going degradation at an alarming rate. Land clearance, poor farming practices, overgrazing, pollution, industrial wastes are all factors that are exacerbating this problem. Soon we will lose the 8% of the land while the population continues to grow. The problems this situation will cause are dire.

Environmental degradation is the exhaustion of resources such as water and soil that ultimately makes the environment deteriorate. It leads to the destruction of wildlife and the ecosystem.

For many people both of these problems are far off. This is because despite the problems in our world, food still manages to show up on our tables. However, many people in the world live in close contact with nature. Their livelihoods depend on the stability of the soil and ecosystem. Once the cycle of life is broken or disturbed, these people lose their source of income and way of life. Some may feel that it is the problem of these people for they have not taken care of what is most important to them. This opinion is not totally inaccurate for lack of knowledge by farmers for example, are exacerbating the land degradation problem. The problems caused by land and environmental degradation are real, affects everyone and is ongoing. Therefore, the people suffering from these degradations must be protected to ensure further exacerbation is stopped.

### **Definition of Key terms:**

*Land degradation:* Soil degradation due to human activities.

*Environmental degradation:* Exhaustion of resources such as water and soil that ultimately makes the environment deteriorate.

### **Background to the topic:**

This problem has been around ever since humans started farming. Soil is often overworked and incorrect methods are used to preserve it during the seasons it is resting. This results in soil erosion which

blows all the nutritious top soil away. Pollution of soil is also a major cause in soil degradation. Toxins such as mercury when not disposed properly seeps through the earth resulting in contamination of the soil that will take centuries to clear up. Machines that are supposed to help in the production of our crops are also a factor that is corrupting our soil. In parts of the United States of America, huge machines were used to collect crops more quickly. These machinery weigh so much that it packs the dirt underneath the wheels. As these lands are worked continuously, few feet below the surface becomes a layer of hard packed dirt that does not allow nutrients such as water seep through. In time not only will these lands produce fewer crops, it will become barren. The first moment man-kind figured out how to tame the soil and produce goods for us, the problem began.

### **Major countries and organizations involved and their positions:**

China currently has the worst soil degradation problem. During Mao's reign, he promoted something called the Dazhai Way which has now destroyed most parts of China's arable soil. Haiti also has one of the worst soil and environment degradation problems. Only 4% of Haiti's forests remain and although Haitian's eat rice daily, their rice is mostly imported from other nations. Due to Haiti's inability to grow their own crops, the nation still remains poor and hopeless against the situation. By losing its soil, Haiti has lost the means to feed itself and is the source of many more problems than just the environment.

Countries with serious soil and environmental degradation will all be major players in this issue.

*Some organizations that are involved in this issue:*

UNESCAP: United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

UNEP: United Nations Environment Programme

UNFCCC: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organization

IACWGE: Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality

ILO: International Labor Organization

UNCCD: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNIFEM: United Nations Development Fund for Women

UNDP: United Nations Development Program

OHCHR: Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN System Network on Rural Development and Food Security

WomenWatch

### **Relevant UN treaties and UN resolutions:**

UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Hours of Work (Industry) Convention 1919

[A/RES/62/195](#) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-fourth session

[A/RES/61/295](#) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### **Previous attempted solutions: analysis of their failure/success:**

In our world, many problems have exacerbated beyond control because we did not fix it when we had the power to. When scientists first warned about the effects of global warming, governments were slow to act. Only when sea-levels started to rise and there were more concrete evidence that global warming was occurring, governments took action. Still, some governments choose to believe that global warming occurring in our world is nothing more than a reoccurring pattern in our weather. In order to stop problems that may arise from this issue, governments and organizations must take action now. It is always much easier to extinguish a small fire than a big one.

What delegates must suggest to do is propose actions that can protect the human rights of populations affected by land and environmental degradation. Some measures may be to supply food, basic medical care and even education for these people. Short-term solutions like the above must be addressed, but long-term solutions are equally important. Some solutions could be sharing of agriculture methods amongst countries so that countries with serious land degradation problems can stop the damage on their soils. Promoting research will be critical.

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<http://www.un.org/documents/>

<http://www.ilo.org/>

<http://www.ilo.org/ilolex/english/constq.htm>

<http://soils.usda.gov/use/worldsoils/landdeg/ld99.html>

## **Appendix:**

<http://www.unsystem.org/>

<http://www.uncjin.org/Organizations/index.html>

<http://www.answers.com/topic/environmental-diplomacy>

<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>

**Committee:** Human Rights Council

**Issue:** Question of Genocide Denial

**Student officer:** Aman Biswas

## **General Overview**

“It is the eighth stage that always follows genocide. It is amongst the surest indicators of further genocidal massacres.” The quotation by Gregory H Stanton, the founder of Genocide Watch exemplifies how denial of the genocide is as unlawful as the biggest crime against the humanity—genocide. The extreme seriousness of genocide always results in denial party’s attempt to ward away notorious reputation and serious repercussions against the parties or the nations concerned. Genocide denial is usually an illegitimate historical revisionism about a universally accepted genocide. It may also be termed as ad hominem by those who argue against the denial. The occurrence of genocide is arguably the result of most primitive desire of human beings—to kill. Since genocides are a threat to international peace and security. It is responsibility of the international community to stop human right violations in any country and to bring to justice those who are responsible for it.

## **Definition of key terms**

*Genocide*: the deliberate and systematic extermination of a national, racial, political, or cultural group. (dictionary.com)

*Genocide Denial*: Genocide denial occurs when an otherwise accepted act of genocide is met with attempts to deny the occurrence and minimize the scale or death toll. (Wikipedia article: Genocide Denial)

*Historical Revisionism*: historical revisionism is the reinterpretation of orthodox views on motives or process surrounding an historical event. (Wikipedia article: Historical Revisionism)

## **Background**

All cultures are divided into categories according to ethnicity, race, religion or nationality. It is important to establish rules and institutions which transcend these divisions and to promote tolerance and understanding. This is especially true in the cases of bipolar societies where ethnic tensions may rise to a civil war very quickly. Very often motifs and symbols are associated with a group of people and these are later used to perpetrate hate.

It is important for the governments and neutral organizations at the status quo to outlaw motifs and symbols to represent a group or a race although laws never work with full efficiency since new symbols take

place of the previously banned ones. Genocide is mostly characterized by dehumanizing of one group by other. The process overcomes the natural revulsion of killing another fellow being. The group or the mob instigates each other creating an organized mob against another.

A society with secular distribution is better at dealing with this problem than a bipolar society where polarization of the two groups leads to immediate identification of the other and extermination. After the act the fear of repercussions bring in denial.

It is very important, therefore, to have a neutral institution carry out documentation of extra judicial and summary executions. An early warning system should be set up to provide information of the deteriorating situation in a country where such signs are visible. United Nations and its associated bodies can be such neutral watchdogs which can help in prevention of genocide.

### **List of all governments, NGOs and other parties involved:**

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
  - Established on November 16, 1945, its purpose is to contribute to peace and security by promoting international collaboration through education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the UN Charter. (Wikipedia Article: UNESCO)
- Amnesty International
  - Its mission as stated is “to conduct research and generate action to prevent and end grave abuses of human rights and to demand justice for those whose rights have been violated.” It was founded in 1961. (About Amnesty International)
- Human Rights Watch (HRW)
  - NGO that conducts research and advocacy of human rights. (Wikipedia Article: Human Rights Watch)
- UN Department of Public Information (UNDPI)
  - Its aim is to inform the global audience on the activities and aims of the UN.
- Genocide Watch
  - Its aim is to attempt to predict, prevent, limit, eliminate, and punish genocides throughout the world through reporting, public awareness campaigns, and judicial or quasi-judicial follow-up. (Wikipedia Article: Genocide Watch)
- Anti Defamation League (ADL)
  - Founded in 1913, its aim is "to stop, by appeals to reason and conscience and, if necessary, by appeals to law, the defamation of the Jewish people. Its ultimate purpose is to secure justice

and fair treatment to all citizens alike and to put an end forever to unjust and unfair discrimination against and ridicule of any sect or body of citizens." (About ADL)

## **Timeline**

- The Armenian Genocide is considered as one of the first modern genocides. The date of the onset of the genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915. The Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Constantinople. Thereafter, the Ottoman military uprooted Armenians from their homes and forced them to march for hundreds of miles, depriving them of food and water, to the desert of what is now Syria. Massacres were indiscriminate of age or gender, with rape and other sexual abuse commonplace.
- The Republic of Turkey has long disputed the mass killings of Armenians as genocide and maintains that crucial documents supporting the genocide thesis are actually falsifications. The notion of an Armenian Genocide has been minimized through historical revisionism. However, Turkish authorities do acknowledge that the issue should be left to the historians and furthermore, an academic conference was held on September 24, 2005 in Istanbul to discuss the early 20th century massacre of Armenians.
- The most notable genocide is the Holocaust of Nazi Germany which included the genocide of approximately six million European Jews during World War II, as part of a program of deliberate extermination planned and executed by the National Socialist German Workers' Party (Nazi) regime in Germany led by Adolf Hitler.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly in 10 December, 1948.
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was adopted by the General Assembly in December 1948 and came into effect January 1951.
- Another important genocide was the 1994 Rwandan Genocide where hundreds of thousands of Rwanda's Tutsis were killed by the Hutu militia.
- As a response, there have been several denials the most notable being:
  - Harry Elmer Barnes was one of the first holocaust deniers (after the Nazis) and became a leader in historical revisionism. Another notable holocaust denier is David Irving who was imprisoned in February 2006.
  - Samuel Weems wrote "Armenia, a big deception. A mystery of Christian-terrorist state" (June 2002) which denied the Armenian Genocide and labeled it as a civil war.
- The most recent genocide is the war in Darfur, Sudan which started in February 2003.
- 2005-2007: Number of resolutions passed on holocaust denial (refer to list below).

## **Relevant UN treaties and UN resolutions:**

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - The UDHR represents the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled. It was written after the experience of the Second World War (10 December, 1948).
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
  - This document is a United Nations treaty based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created in 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1976. Unlike the UDHR, the nations that have signed the ICCPR are bound by it on human rights and concrete obligations.
- Charter of United Nations
  - It is the document forms and establishes the International organization of the United Nations. All of its members are bound by its articles; the Charter states that obligations to the UN prevail over all treaty obligations.
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
  - The document defines genocide in legal terms; all of the participating countries are tasked to prevent and punish actions of genocide in war and in peacetime. A total of 137 nations have ratified the convention.
- Resolution by General Assembly on Holocaust Remembrance (A/RES/60/7, 1 November 2005)
  - The resolution rejects any denial of the Holocaust as an historical event, either in full or in part, and commends those states which have actively engaged in the preservation of sites which served as Nazi death camps, concentration camps, forced labor camps and prisons during the Holocaust. It also sets January 27 as an annual International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and tasks UNDP to encourage development of educational curricula regarding the Holocaust by UN member nations as well as mobilize civil society for education and awareness.
- Resolution by General Assembly on Holocaust Denial (A/RES/61/255, 22 March 2007)
  - The resolution condemns any denial of the Holocaust and urges all Member States unreservedly to reject any denial of the Holocaust.
- UNESCO Resolution 34c/61 on Holocaust Remembrance
  - Requests the Director-General to consult the Secretary General regarding what role UNESCO can play in order to increase awareness and then report the results of the consultation and his recommendation.

## **Previous attempted solutions**

Past resolutions have recognized the occurrence of genocide denial and have condemned it. It has tried combating the problem through increasing awareness through means of media and education by UNOs such as UNESCO and UNDPI. However, no firm initiative has taken place.

Only recently has the EU tried to pass a law criminalizing racism and genocide denial in 2001. However, it met with stiff opposition as historians and other academics see it as stifling free speech and academic freedom. Finally, in 2007, a watered down compromise was reached where states were free to implement the legislation as they saw fit.

## **Plagiarism Checklist**

- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- Resolution by General Assembly on Holocaust Remembrance (A/RES/60/7, 1 November 2005)
- Resolution by General Assembly on Holocaust Denial (A/RES/61/255, 22 March 2007)
- High Commissioner for Human Rights on Human Rights situation in Darfur (E/CN.4/2005/3)
- High Commissioner for Human Rights on Human Rights situation in Sudan (E/CN.4/2005/1/Add.2)
- High Commissioner for Human Rights on Human Rights situation in Afghanistan (E/CN.4/2003/3/Add.4)
- Statement from Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, 27 January 2007
- Message from Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion of the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, 27 January 2008

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