



DPS-East
Model United
Nations
Conference
2018

Committee: United Nations Human
Rights Council



Background Guide
Human Rights in Afghanistan with
special reference to the Drug War.

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates,

It is an honour to be serving as the executive board of the United Nations Human Rights Council at DeMUN 2018. The committee which you will be a part of will be discussing the crucial topic of the state of human rights and the drug crisis in Afghanistan. You will be gathering for a formal meet during a span of two days, representing different countries and hopefully, coming to a conclusion. To help you with your research, we have prepared this background guide for you so that you are familiar with the agendas. Please note that this guide, as the name suggests is to merely provide you the basic idea regarding the agenda, so it is a must that you go beyond this guide and research well. We are looking forward to having you in our committee and hope that you find this study guide helpful for your extensive research.

Sincerely,
The Executive Board

INTRODUCTION

Opium has been cultivated in Afghanistan for centuries but it was not until the 'Saur Revolution', the ensuing Soviet invasion and the emergence of the anti-Soviet resistance, the Mujahedeen, that opium cultivation increased dramatically. For most of the 1980s, the Mujahedeen groups fought an effective war against Soviet forces. Much of the countryside became a battle zone. The fighting destroyed the irrigation systems, mined the pastures, levelled the cities, cratered the roads, and blasted the schools, while the various factions arrested, tortured, killed, and expelled the skilled and educated people. Half of all farms were abandoned, and there was a 70% decline in livestock. Cereal production per capita fell 45 % from 1978 to 2000.¹⁴ in total; one-fifth of the population was forced to flee abroad. The war also led to a complete collapse of state institutions, particularly in the countryside.

Throughout the Soviet occupation, farmers began relying on opium cultivation – especially in remote and mountainous regions – as part of their subsistence strategies. Opium poppy provided farmers a relatively secure and substantial cash income. Opium generally offers higher returns than any other crop. The poppy is also relatively weather- resistant. There are few major natural diseases and it has a high cash value. Whereas legitimate crops (e.g. cereal) cannot be sustained without storage, marketing and transportation facilities, opium can be stored with minimal risk of perishing, is easy to transport, and can be traded throughout the year, making it an ideal saving deposit for farmers. There is a relatively short time of six months between planting and harvesting, which means that farmers can plant a second crop in the same season. Lastly, opium serves as a source of credit where a formal financial system does not exist.

As the Soviet withdrawal did not lead to a lasting peace – or a reestablishment of state authority and economic normalisation – farmers continued the practice of cultivating opium to survive. War-induced suffering and traumatising of the population, the break-down of social and cultural values, the vulnerability of people in refugee camps, and the easy availability of illicit drugs led to an increase in consumption of drugs like opium and heroin.

CAUSES FOR THE RISE OF OPIUM PRODUCTION

In 2009, Africa rose as a major heroin trafficking course to Europe, North America and Oceania. Drug seizures and the capture of traffickers showed that African drug traffickers especially West African states are progressively transporting Afghan heroin from Pakistan into East Africa for forward shipment to Europe and elsewhere. Amid the main quarter of 2011, there were two noteworthy heroin seizures (every was over 100 kg) detailed by Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. The rise of Africa as a heroin trafficking centre point is more likely than not because of progressing defilement, far reaching destitution and restricted law enforcement and additionally security along conventional drug trafficking courses which has forced the traffickers to find new routes to smuggle their products through. In spite of the fact that opium creation in Myanmar has been on a decline since

the 1990s when Afghanistan rose as the key worldwide opium maker generation had been sufficient to fill nearby and even some local demands. In any case, current seizure information and drug abuse estimates show that Myanmar's heroin generation has additionally declined and was inadequate to take care of local demand in 2009. Bigger quantities of Afghan heroin are presently trafficked into the locale to fill the void – there are even unverified reports that Afghan heroin may be accessible in Myanmar itself. Given Myanmar's decrease, it isn't astounding that Afghan heroin is progressively trafficked into China and other South-East Asian nations to meet household utilisation needs. Albeit little sums are trafficked overland into China, it is likely that most of the share of Afghan heroin enters China by means of sea transport from Pakistan, or through other South-East Asian nations. The level of Afghan heroin trafficking into China is subject to the level of opium generation in Myanmar. For instance, in 2010, opium is not creation in Myanmar expanded by 76 for each penny, bringing about less Afghan heroin reaching China in contrast to the reports from 2009.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN

Human rights in Afghanistan are a topic of some controversy and conflict. While the Taliban were well known for numerous human rights abuses, several human rights violations continue to take place in the post-Taliban government era.

On March 12 2018, the Attorney General's Office issued a report on prosecutions under the Elimination of Violence against Women (EVAW) law revealing that mediation remains the preferred route for most prosecutors, which women are often compelled to accept due to pressure from family and justice officials. Registered cases represent only a fraction of the actual crimes of violence against women. In late 2016, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) investigated 5,575 cases, noting that most cases of violence against women go unreported. A long-standing effort to reform family law, including divorce provisions, remained stalled.

An April report documented the highest levels of torture of conflict-related detainees in police custody since 2010. The report singled out the Kandahar police for torturing 91 percent of detainees by forcibly pumping water into their stomachs, crushing their testicles with clamps, suffocating them to the point of losing consciousness, and applying electric current to their genitals.

In May, a report by the UN Committee Against Torture described “numerous and credible allegations” of severe human rights abuses, including torture and extrajudicial killings, and urged that all alleged perpetrators “be duly prosecuted and, if found guilty, convicted with penalties that are commensurate with the grave nature of their crimes.”

In January 2017, the Afghan attorney general ordered nine of First Vice President Abdul Rashid Dostum's guards to answer questions in connection with the abduction, illegal imprisonment, and sexual assault of rival Uzbek politician Ahmad Ischi. Dostum refused to allow his guards to report to the attorney general, who then settled for interviewing seven of them on the premises of Dostum's compound. On November 1, seven of the bodyguards

were convicted in absentia of sexual assault and illegal imprisonment, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. As of December 2017, none was in custody.

MAJOR TRAFFICKING ROUTES

All opiates trafficked from Afghanistan enter the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan or Central Asia. In 2009, some 365 tons of heroin was exported from Afghanistan. Of this amount, 160 tons was trafficked to Pakistan, 115 tons to the Islamic Republic of Iran and 90 tons to Central Asian countries (Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan). In addition to heroin, 1,200–1,400 tons of opium was trafficked from Afghanistan, the majority of which 1,050 tons was smuggled to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Opium trafficking routes, traffickers and methods are almost exactly the same as those used for heroin trafficking to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Central Asia. As the majority of opium produced in Afghanistan is grown and processed in Southern Afghanistan, heroin trafficking also begins here. Heroin is trafficked in three main directions from Helmand and other Southern Provinces:

- To Niimroz, Farah and Hiram provinces in Afghanistan along the border with Iran.
- To eastern and Northern Africa.
- To Baluchistan or regions around its border.

THE TALIBAN AND THE DRUG TRADE

To the land by fighting the Afghan government and even fence off certain cultivation areas by planting mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Above all, the Taliban's former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour, before taking the leadership, was responsible for the drug market at Gerdi Jangal, located in Baluchistan, which touches Helmand province.

Opium not only logistically fuels the Taliban, but the drug dealers influence the highest decision-making body of the Taliban, the Quetta Shura. The now-deceased Mullah Akhtar Mansour's selection as leader of the Taliban owed to his successes within the drug business, which bought him loyalty within the Taliban's command.

Due to the high profit from illicit drugs, Taliban groups have even fought each other for control of drug trafficking routes and the collection of taxes. Mullah Mohammad Rasool, another well-known commander, had fought Mansour's men couple of times for control of drug trafficking routes and this was one of the reasons he opposed the selection of Mansour as leader of Taliban.

In the field, Taliban-affiliated dealers provide seeds to farmers, particularly in Kandahar and Helmand, and collect opium after the harvest. The drug dealers also supply farmers with tools, fertilizers, and even cash in order to urge farmers to cultivate opium.

The drug trade not only supports the Taliban financially, but garners them political supports as well, winning them the backing of local drug lords, drug dealers, and youth who work in poppy fields, lancing opium at equivalent to \$4 per day wages.

The Taliban impose two additional types of taxes over their illicit drugs business, the land and road taxes – the land tax for opium production and the road tax for trafficking. For the

protection of drug convoys, the Taliban also attack military checkpoints. The drug dealers, apart from providing taxes for trafficking, also provide Taliban with weapons, vehicles, motorcycles, and satellite phones. Recently, drug dealers have also set up hospitals in Baluchistan in Pakistan, where wounded Taliban get treated.

As the connection between the Taliban and opium grows stronger, the fight against narcotics in Afghanistan must join the agenda of war like never before. Unless, counternarcotic operations are made a priority in the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan by NATO and the NUG, the insurgency will continue.

IMPACTS OF THE DRUG TRADE

Drug addiction is the main impact of the illicit narcotics trade across the world. According to the UNODC survey report of 2005, around 3.8% of Afghanistan's population (approx. 1 million people) we're addicted to drugs. The report also goes on to say that around 740,000 men were addicted to drugs while another 120,000 females were addicted and over 60,000 children had fallen prey to these drugs. If things couldn't get worse, the Global Afghan Report by the UNODC suggested a 53% increase in the rate of addicts across the country.

Another impact of the drug trade is that it renders the future generations incapable of doing anything. The addiction to drugs prevents the children from working or doing anything to sustain themselves which ends up affecting the economy in the long run. Therefore, curbing the production and supply of narcotics is the key to combat global poverty as well.

The use of injection drugs is likely to contribute in the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and many other such diseases as the sharing of syringes helps in the transfer of the viruses or pathogens from the infected to the recipient.

One of the major impacts of the drug trade is the increased rates of crime. Crimes like murder, robbery, corruption all manage to find a link to drug use or drug abuse. According to a UNODC report, 50 out of 92 prisoners in Kandahar's Sarpoza prison have claimed to use drugs. Female drug abusers in Afghanistan have also been involved in crimes such as prostitution and the selling of children. SJPUCMUN 2017- UNODC 17 There are various other social, economic, and political impacts of the drug trade and the executive board urges the delegates to discuss the Causes, Impacts and Solutions in complete detail.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER

- What role can alternative development play in combating the growth of poppy?

- Is legalization of drugs a possibility?
- Is intervention by more powerful countries an option?
- How can the government help combat human rights violations by the Taliban?
- What should be done about the drug addicts?
- How to cut off the link between farmers and the Taliban?
- What steps should be taken to counter the high rates of corruption within the government?
- Are the current measures against narco-terrorism effective? If not, how can they be made so?
- How can the border security of states improved?
- What actions, if any, can be taken by the UN to ensure reduction of trafficking in this region?

If any of you delegates need any help, feel free to contact us:

Yohaán Alexander Thomas (Chairperson):

yohaanthomas@gmail.com

Ganeev S Chadha (Vice-Chairperson):

ganeevschadha@gmail.com