

TOPIC B.-

"The Middle East armed conflict and it's humanitarian crisis towards children"

"If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children." - Mahatma Gandhi

The Middle East is in turmoil, as the children and armed conflict mandate marked its 25th anniversary, and with at least seven countries with active armed conflicts which include Iraq, Israel, Libya, Syria, Iran, Yemen, and Afghanistan. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed and are suffering a humanitarian crisis, and the number of children forced to fight as soldiers, has doubled.

Thus, the Middle East requires a crucial international support and effort to improve conditions on the ground, mainly towards children, since during the period from 2005 to 2020, UNICEF found that more than 104,000 children were verified as killed or maimed, more than 93,000 children verified as recruited and used by parties to conflict and at least 25,700 were verified as abducted by parties to conflict.

The continuous war has caused a humanitarian crisis like no other recorded in history, having 36.5 million children displaced due to the armed conflict situations as of end of 2021. Children make up less than one third of the world's population, although, 40% of refugees are children.

These children suffer six grave violations: child recruitment and use; killing and maiming; abductions; rape and other forms of sexual violence; attacks on schools and hospitals; and the denial of humanitarian access, and it has been

recorded that the most violations have occur in Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Somalia, Syria and Yemen; realizing the urge to stand up for children within the Middle East armed conflict.

Children need peace and a healthy environment in which they can fully develop, and currently, many children have been taken off that opportunity, as 61 million children are reported to be affected directly by the armed conflict in the Middle East. These children are faced to live a "new reality" in which war, hunger and injustice is a part of it; and the social services in the region lack of capacity, funds, and resources to provide the help they need.

In 2002, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict came into force, which seek to prohibit the involvement of children under the age of 18 in military forces, or as the case may be, to provide guidelines and requirements in which in only specific cases, children in the age of 16 or 17 may be part of military forces.

Notwithstanding, the reports of underage children forced to enter the Middle East armed conflict as soldiers has only increased over the years.

This Committee acknowledges the importance this topic has, as this is primary issue every country, directly involved in the Middle East armed conflict, should attend and support, which is why the Security Council urges all its members to address this issue, and provide resolutions able to reduce risks and improve the safety of the children.

GUIDE QUESTIONS:

- Can the International Community intervene in the armed conflict of Middle East?
- Should the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child be strengthened or reinforced?
- How could social services in armed conflict countries improve?
- Is there a way in which a country could intervene against the recruitment of children into military forces?
- As a country accepting children refugees, which actions will be taken to ensure their safety?

SOURCES OF REFERENCE:

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