

MITMUNC 2012 Position Paper**Media Reporting of Terrorism**

Singapore, as a nation strongly disapproving all acts of terrorism and engaged to the resistance against terrorism, has so far played a constructive role to strengthen International counter terrorism efforts. Importance of alleviating the problem of terrorism has become especially clear to the Republic of Singapore after 2001, when thirty members from a terrorist group in line to Al Queda known as the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), tried to attack destined targets in Singapore. Although the terrorists were arrested and attempts to terror were prevented, this incidence further strengthened Singapore's stance on terrorism along with implementations of stricter domestic counter terrorism laws such as the Suppression of Bombing Acts and international constructive roles to strengthen international counter terrorism efforts.

Despite the insurmountable efforts the United Nations has and continues to make on behalf of terrorism, efforts continue to be abortive, especially due to the media reports of terrorism which often worsens the already dire situation. The Republic of Singapore has found strengthening media regulation the sole key to preventing and further discouraging acts of terror. Singapore has an outstanding reputation for censorship. A separate ministry in Singapore is currently responsible for imposing and enforcing regulations on media content including television channels, newspapers, and the internet, along with publications of foreign media. In a world of ubiquitous access to the Internet, Internet censorship of mass media reports must clearly be the core of the committee's solution, among all methods. Our nation currently holds a suitable model of Internet censorship which the global community can seek to guidance as means of censoring terror-related materials. The Singapore Broadcasting Authority, which only regulates material used for broadcasting, has adopted a creative solution of class license. Class licenses are certain types of content that are forced to be automatically licensed accompanied by a code of practice it is used with. Terrorism issues are also included in these "classes" and are given special attention on the Internet. When the code is violated, the license is withdrawn and harsh penalties are imposed upon.

Singapore assures that in order to win the battle against terror; stricter media regulation on reporting must be implemented. Although issue of freedom of rights to press rises to the surface of debate, Singapore does not see certain media regulation on media report as an invasion of rights when it comes down to the issue of terror, rather it the most prominent method to ensure the rights of safety to citizens. As our former prime minister had once said, "Freedom of the news media must be subordinated to the definition and integrity of the nation and to the purpose of elected government," Terror, which clearly goes against the integrity of all member states and to the purpose of all governments of member states, must be discouraged-not encouraged as it is currently being through the reports of mass media. Singapore is willing to guide other member states in means of strengthening media report regulation through its own model which has protected Singapore for the past decade.

Responsibility to Protect

Singapore since the 2005 World Summit has fully committed to the concept of R2P and to participating constructively in our future discussions, in means to ensure the protection and prevention of four crimes to which the R2P is limited to, namely genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing. As we have mentioned in the GA debate of 2009, "The primary responsibilities to protect populations from the four crimes and violations lies with the State, and that RtoP aims to enhance sovereignty, not undermine it."

As a member of the 'Small Five' group of states (S5) along with Costa Rica, Jordan, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland, Singapore has and continues to urge the UN Security Council to limit the use of veto on matters that are related to genocides and mass atrocities. Limiting such powers of the permanent member states is crucial and must be further pushed in order for the GA and the Security Council to respond more swiftly to humanitarian emergencies. Thus, we strongly urge the importance of ensuring non-selectivity of the Security Council, so that situations would be considered without 'fear or favor' and double standards. Incidents like the Rwanda Genocide where the resistance to the definition to massacres as genocide stopped the intervention must not happen again. Furthermore, Singapore argues for the permanent members to publicly elaborate on their reasons for vetoing draft resolutions to prevent hidden agendas and political biases, thus making the decision making process more transparent. Relationships between the GA and Security Council regarding the implementation of RtoP measures must also be further defined. Thus, it is among the responsibilities of the GA to define clearer parameters for deciding when RtoP applies to situations since there is continuous link of RtoP to humanitarian access in the wake of natural disasters such as the Cyclone in Burma. As for regional groups, Singapore is currently a part of ASEAN and continues willingly to promote R2P principles in Southeast Asia. Singapore requires strengthening cooperation of ASEAN and the UN in order for ASEAN to successfully protect civilians from violations of states under R2P.

All in all, Singapore fully perceives that the core of this issue is how the UN will translate the concept of R2P into action. The nation further invites all member states to engage with an open mind on this issue and work towards a solution towards indiscriminate unjust.