DISEC 2012
BACKGROUND GUIDE

2012

Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Fourth Annual Session of the MIT Model United Nations Conference! My name is Anvisha Pai, and I will be chairing the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) along with my co-Chair, Ryan McDermott.

Dealing with matters of utmost global concern, DISEC is the General Assembly analogue of the Security Council. The issues on our committee's agenda are designed to include all nations in the discussion. They are crucial, applicable and time-relevant. Our issue for discussion will be the Responsibility to Protect, which was recently exercised in the Libyan war. Responsibility to Protect enables the global community to intervene when a country fails to protect its citizens from civil war, genocide or ethnic cleansing. By its very nature, this doctrine could be the source of heated debate. The other topic on the agenda is Media Reporting of Terrorism. With terrorists relying on the news to spread their message of fear, it is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain Freedom of the Press and security simultaneously. The lack of international guidelines for terrorism reporting needs to be met with innovative and constructive debate. Delegates, I have full faith that you will rise up to the challenge!

A little bit about me: I'm a sophomore in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science rediscovering my love for International Relations. I have 5 years of Model UN and Debate experience from back home (India) where I was the Secretary-General of an International MUN. I also attended THIMUN in The Hague and in Singapore. My co-chair Ryan is from Florida, and also has a considerable amount of Model UN experience under his belt with 3 years in high school, and a year as President of the MUN Club. He's a freshman looking to major in Mechanical Engineering, with an unfortunate interest in Economics.

We look forward to working with you all this coming February, tackling mankind's biggest threats one step at a time! My favorite Kofi Annan quote comes to mind, and is especially pertinent to the topics we are discussing in this session:

"More than ever before in human history, we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friend, is why we have the United Nations"

Signing off,

Anvisha Pai

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TOPIC 1:
Media Reporting of Terrorism

Introduction/Description

Oxygen is commonly known to fuel fires, increasing their severity. Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher famously called media publicity the "oxygen" of terrorism. With technological advances, this "oxygen" becomes richer because of the increase in reach and methods of communication. Information that would once take one week to reach the other side of the world can now make the same trip in less than a second thanks to cell phones and the Internet. In this age of mass communication, it is near impossible to separate the role of the news media from acts of terrorism.

In developed countries, many different forms of media exist. For example, 66% of Americans use the television to receive regular news, while 41% use the newspaper and 31% use the Internet. The presence of media is increasing in developing regions as well. During 2008, newspaper circulation increased by 6.9% in Africa. Globally in 2009, 1.9 billion people read a paid daily newspaper every day, and news via newspapers reached 41% more people than news via the Internet.

The media and terrorists have an almost symbiotic relationship. While the terrorists create stories, the media reports the message the terrorists want to deliver to the masses. The media provides the outlet for news to be released while the terrorists keep news subscribers interested. The news also possesses the ability to share government secrets to the global with ease, thus allowing terrorists to plot more easily against nations. In order for the globe to be secure and feel safe, this relationship must either be altered or removed.

Background

Because the media covers such a wide expanse of regions across the world, it appears that terrorist's device attacks in a way such that they receive the most attention as possible. For example, in 2005 about ten people were killed and scores injured after three blasts on the Underground network and another on a double-decker bus in London. This bombing happened while the G8 summit was meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, causing even more attention to be brought to the attack in close-by London, England. The terrorist attack essentially took over the news, causing the G8 summit story to be pushed aside. During the years between 1970 to 1978 in the United States, more time on the news was spent on discussing terrorism events than discussing murders, but only 80 deaths were caused by terrorists during that time period, compared to the 20,000 murders committed annually. Thus, acts of terrorism could perpetuate their goal of instilling fear into the people via the media to a greater degree than acts of homicide, occurring more frequently.

Another example of terrorist using the media to project fear and/or a message

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into the public took place during the 1972 Olympics in Munich, Germany. While the entire world was watching the Olympics, a group of Palestinian terrorists called Black September carried out an attack on Israeli athletes. The attack resulted in a hostage situation and a rescue attempt that millions of people around the world watched from their homes on television. In the end, eleven Israeli athletes and coaches were killed by the group of eight Black September members. The terrorist group was able to reform a period of time meant to promote peace and corporation between countries (the Olympics) into a period of sadness and distrust in front of approximately 800 million global viewers through the use of the media.

Both of these events and many others cause a domino effect in the media. After an attack occurs, the media typically begins to discuss the motives behind the assault. With the 9/11 Twin Towers attack in the United States, news reporters began to ponder the motives of these terrorists. The media causes people to wonder why this certain group of people have a dislike for another group and contemplate possible reasoning behind their actions. In this way, the terrorist are spreading their message and ideals.

Alongside the fact that news media ignites discussion, retaliatory government action can also cause the population to gain curiosity. In 2004, the Council of State ordered France-based satellite company Eutelsat to stop transmitting Lebanese station al-Manar within 48 hours of the order. The Council of State sent out this order to cease Anti-Semitic broadcasting on this station. Despite the ban on station, citizens of France could still use the Internet to receive the stories reported by al-Manar. The Internet makes it difficult to censor terrorist propaganda, especially in liberal states that strongly advocate the freedom of expression.

Terrorists also use the media to gain support and legitimacy. By spreading their message, the media enables the entire world to take a greater notice of that specific terrorist organization, possibly even increasing supporters for that group. If a terrorist organization executes an attack known worldwide, this group will most likely be considered more important than other terrorist groups. Al Qaeda's figurehead/leader, Bin Laden, utilized the media and created clear videos to become a well-known face, thus causing al Qaeda's message and group to be more recognized by the globe.

Irresponsible media reporting also furthers the terrorist cause by leading to security breaches and undermining rescue missions and anti-terrorist actions. Recent terror attacks have all been very well documented. In the 2008 terror attack in Mumbai, India the press indiscriminately showed footage of the locations held by the terrorists, and inadvertently released information about police and anti-terrorist squad formation. In 2005, the New York Times in the United States alerted al Qaeda that the US government had the ability to monitor a high volume of phone calls and e-mails in America and in foreign countries. It would not be a surprise if a significant amount of al Qaeda e-mails and phone calls suddenly dried up. By

reporting every bit of interesting news that reporters find, the media endangers the security and anti-terrorist operations of nations. For example, releasing hostage information would also compromise security in a hostage situation. In 1985, two Hezbollah gunmen hijacked a flight from Athens to Rome. They terminated negotiations with the Red Cross and forced the pilot to fly to Beirut due to an erroneous media report by ABC that the Delta Force (US Counter-Terrorism Unit) had flown to the region. The US Department of State heavily criticized ABC for their reporting of the event that compromised US Security, saying that for the price of a newspaper or television terrorists could have a "broad information network". ABC retaliated by saying this reporting made the terrorists reluctant to kill their hostages, the source of publicity.

Although the world does benefit from well-documented terror attack and media's unyielding drive to get news from the frontier, the security issues that are brought up cannot be ignored. The media compromises the security and confidentiality of a nation in the face of the right to freedom of speech, endangering the globe, not unlike how losing free speech compromises an individual's rights.

Challenges/Solutions

Since the Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) Committee deals with global security, it is high priority to prevent terrorism and the spread of terrorism. This includes the responsibility to give governments confidentiality to keep nations safe and reduce the negative impacts that the terrorists cause by using the news media as a medium to convey their message, steer the population away from other news, and spread fear. To improve safety, countries are faced with the question: How does one reduce the impact of terrorism through the use of the global media without imposing too much restriction of free speech?

While some countries allow near complete freedom of speech, others use governmental laws to enforce strict regulations on what can be expressed through the news. One theory, complete freedom of speech, called *laissez-faire*, means that no specific steps are taken concerning media coverage of terrorism at all, regardless of the situation. Another theory, media censorship of statutory regulation, is the belief that if the media does not report on any terrorist act at all, then terrorism will essentially disappear. A third theory, voluntary restraint, regards leaving the media to decide what should be aired and what should be censored. All three theories contain solutions and challenges.

With *laissez-faire*, reporters feel they are not being oppressed by their government. In general, the population is happier with having a government that is not attempting to control their lives. However, this theory may also make it easier for terrorists to spread their message and for confidential information to reach terrorist intelligence. Without any force stopping the spread of terrorism and security through the media, the globe may be in

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danger of radical and violent changes by terrorist groups.

If a government uses statutory regulation, the terrorist have almost no way of reaching a large mass of people, and the government can stop the media from revealing any secrets to terrorist groups. Although this reduces the spread of terrorism, it may anger many writers and reporters that desire free speech. Another challenge to this theory is the new media of this century. Because of the Internet, statutory regulation is nearly impossible for any government to implement (as in the example made earlier about the al-Manar network censorship).

Voluntary restraint allows the media to have free speech, but also censors some of the terrorist activity and government security information. It is not complete free speech and it allows dangerous news to spread, but it allows the media to report on almost any topic and stops some of the spread of terrorism. Each country has a different theory on how to increase confidentiality and safety without reducing freedom of speech.

Based on these theories and others that countries use, the goal of this committee is to create a solution that reduces the spread of terrorism and confidential information through the media without compromising the rights of the global population.

Blocs/Countries Involved

The challenges that the media and terrorists create for a nation are heavily dependent on the power and spread of the media in that nation. Countries such as Canada, Australia, and Germany do not have much restraint on their press while China, Saudi Arabia, and Iran restrict the publications of their press (see Figure 1 in Appendix).

Developing countries that lack large scale news corporations do not experience the same security risks as countries such as England and Russia that have major news organizations. Although the size and power of media in each nation varies, terrorism is an issue that affects all countries.

Appendix

Figure 1: Freedom of Press around the Globe
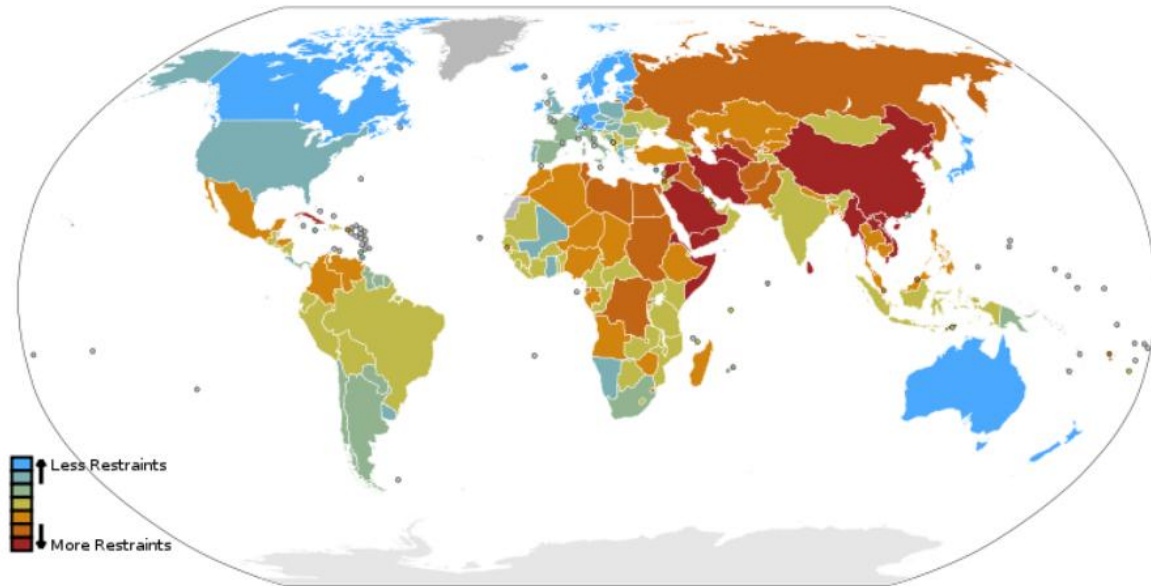
Source:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Reporters_Without_Borders_2009_Press_Freedom_Rankings_Map.svg

Further Reading

http://www.rand.org/pubs/papers/2005/P6627.pdf
http://www.transnationalterrorism.eu/tekst/publications/WP4%20Del%206.pdf
http://www.wan-press.org/article18148.html
http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/state/crs-terror-media.htm

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Topic 2:
Responsibility to Protect

Description

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is a doctrine that states [adapted from the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document]:

1. Every state carries the responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.

2. The international community has a responsibility to assist states in fulfilling this responsibility, if they are unable to do so themselves, using humanitarian/diplomatic means.

3. If for some reason a state still fails to protect its population, or is the perpetrator of crimes against humanity, the international community must (through the Security Council) collectively use force to fulfill this responsibility to protect.

While discussing this topic, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) should address the loopholes in R2P, and deliberate on which areas of it need to be strengthened in order to increase global security.

Background

In 1994, over a course of 100 days, 500,000 people were mass murdered in the Rwandan Genocide.[1] At the time, the United Nations and its peacekeeping forces in the country were unable to do anything conclusive. So as to not infringe upon Rwanda's national sovereignty, the international community was unable to intervene, as well. Kofi Annan called this a "failure of the UN", and called for increased international intervention in future humanitarian crises.

In response, the Canadians formed and funded the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS) to investigate what should be included in a doctrine on R2P. The ICISS Report published in December 2001 contained the first mention of the term "Responsibility to Protect". In fact, the report stressed that its focus was not the *right* of foreign nations to intervene, rather on the *responsibility* of each nation to protect their people – and what would happen if the country in question fails to do so. The report used egregious crimes in Somalia, Rwanda, Srebrenica and Kosovo as guiding examples and split up the R2P into three elements:

- **Responsibility to Prevent:** Calling prevention the primary method to address conflict, this tenet seeks to address the root cause of a problem by legal, political, military

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[1]Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genocide_in_Rwanda

or social measures. It also recognizes that political will must back any such reformation.

- **Responsibility to React:** This is the meat of the agreement. It calls for coercion (military or non-military in the form of sanctions), and lays out guidelines for military intervention.

- **Responsibility to Rebuild:** Often overlooked, rebuilding a country by assisting with post-military intervention or post-action security, justice & reconciliation (refugee rights, compensation), development (economic and otherwise) and the amelioration of the root cause of the conflict, so as to prevent its re-occurrence.

Unfortunately, this report came out after September 11th, 2001, when international dialogue was focused on anti-terrorist measures and US intervention in Afghanistan. Despite using the R2P guidelines, the UN faced another failure[2] in dealing with the genocide in Darfur. As per recommendations in the ICISS report, Secretary General Kofi Annan formed the High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change that identified new global threats such as terrorism, nuclear warfare and environmental degradation, and made a case for collective security, pointing out the problems present in the UN.

The 2005 World Summit saw the actual formal doctrine of R2P come into place. In addition to agreeing that each individual state has the primary responsibility to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing, the Outcome Document stipulates that when a state fails to honor these responsibilities, it is subject to the collective use of force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter (via the Security Council).

In 2009, Ban Ki-Moon (current Secretary-General) wrote a report on implementing the R2P: however, the General Assembly resolution that came out of it failed to address any of the relevant concerns brought up in the report (detailed in the Problems That Need to Be Addressed section). As of 2011, there is an ongoing "Informal Interactive Dialogue" on the issue but no further resolutions or decisions.

Libya (February 2011)[3]

The swift global response to civil war in Libya sparked off by the dictatorial leader Gaddafi can be considered an R2P success. This was one of the bloodiest conflicts against an Arab leader, with hundreds of unreported missing persons, and 900,000 refugees. Indiscriminate use of torture and the killing of civilians was a part of Gaddafi's strategy, and this turned the Libyan crisis into an international R2P issue.

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[2]Source: http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/crises/crisis-in-darfur

[3]Source: http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/crises/crisis-in-libya

The response was twofold, by regional bodies and the UN. An opposition government was formed and recognized by the European Union and the Arab League. The Arab league also imposed a no-fly zone over Libya and suspended them from the Arab League, and also called upon the Security Council to address the issue fully. The Arab League's backing prevented Russia and China from enacting their veto power, and NATO assumed responsibility of the UN Mission in late March, launching air strikes. The UN resolution also called for an arms embargo, travel bans, and financial sanctions on Libyan entities. As a part of the "Responsibility to Rebuild" tenet of R2P, the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Gaddafi, his son and his espionage chief – but before he could be brought to justice, Gaddafi was killed in October, trying to flee the country. The war officially ended on October 23rd, 2011.

Libya was an R2P success, but as former Australian minister Gareth Evans stated, "the stars were aligned in [this] case".[4] Universal hatred for Gaddafi's policies and regime are what enabled this decisive action.

Kenya (December 2007)[5]

A disputed presidential election set off the worst wave of ethnic violence Kenya had seen, with 1000 people killed and 260,000 displaced in a few months. France brought this issue up in the UN in January 2009. Mandated by the African Union, a team of mediators helped broker a power-sharing solution. This is an example of how non-coercive action could still lead to a solution. Like Libya, there was strong international consensus in this case. At the time, it was not labeled an "R2P" situation. Think tanks suggest that this was a positive factor, because R2P has come to be associated with coercive measures.

Problems that Need to Be Addressed

1.   Unilateral Action using R2P as justification
In 2008, Russia invaded Georgia by moving R2P,[6] and stating that the Russian citizens in Georgia were under threat. There is a partial truth to this, since Georgia had been committing atrocities in the separatist State of South Ossetia (recognized as an independent state by Russia). Though the Russia-Georgia war was short, economic sanctions and military aggression are ongoing. Since there is no R2P Treaty as such that has been accepted by the General Assembly, it is hard to define R2P situations and leaves the doctrine open to interpretation. The time taken to debate and analyze these issues also may exacerbate the problem.

2.   Selective tackling of issues
The Security Council is not always able to tackle all R2P issues, as the Permanent 5 nations (USA, Russia, China, France, UK) push their agenda using the veto power. In 2007, China and Russia vetoed a

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[4]Source: http://www.economist.com/node/18709571
[5]Source: http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/crises/crisis-in-kenya

[6]Source: globalr2p.org/media/pdf/GeorgiaRussia.pdf

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resolution on the human rights violations in Burma.[7] Even though this was an R2P issue, it was referred to the Human Rights Council, which did not have the same authority as the Security Council and could not resolve the conflict.

While Libya was a perfect case for R2P, Syria is not: the political violence and oppression occurring there currently is fairly crucial. Yet, because of Syria's powerful allies (e.g., Russia, Arab League), this issue is more problematic, and is not being conclusively addressed by the Security Council.

3.   Early Warning
Many R2P documents stress the importance of a Early Warning in tackling genocide, ethnic cleansing etc. The problem is that generally, the Security Council has to deploy a fact-finding mission (with adequate protection) before any decisions can be made about the situation. This generally delays action, and leads to increased loss of human life.

Suggested Solutions

It's crucial to understand that as a General Assembly committee, DISEC cannot give binding orders on military or financial intervention like the Security Council. **Our aim is not to solve the ongoing R2P crises** –rather, to set a framework by which the Security Council, the United Nations and regional bodies (African and European Unions, NATO, etc.) can address these issues. Also, note that these

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[7]Source:
http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/about-rtop/learn-about-rtop

solutions are simply suggested guidelines, and do not need to be followed explicitly.

1.   Increasing a state's capability to protect itself (Prevention)
Though this is hard to implement, ensuring that each nation has a mechanism for handling domestic disputes and preventing inter-group conflict is crucial. The Secretary-General suggests doing this by supporting the work of the Human Rights Council, and monitoring human rights performance of individual states using the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. This acts as an "early warning system". Each state should also ratify various refugee law treaties such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and recognize the legitimacy of the ICC as an international judiciary body.

Increasing coordination with humanitarian and non-governmental groups to prevent poverty and local strife from reaching conflict-levels can also be of assistance.

2.   Regional security/assistance blocs
Regional groups/organizations such as the European Union, NATO, Arab League and the African Union have been crucial in responses to R2P situations. Setting guidelines for these organizations to include R2P issues in their charters/rules would be beneficial, as would be working with them in a structured manner to prevent these groups from pushing their own agenda. For example, the Charter of the African Union enshrines many R2P principles. The Ezulwini Consensus, developed at one of the AU Sessions, embraced R2P and recognized the power

of the Security Council in resolving R2P issues. However, the AU's compliance with the United Nations is not absolute: before Gaddafi's death, they refused to arrest him for tribunal in the International Criminal Court, though this was a UN decision.

3.   Recommendations to the Security Council
The General Assembly could recommend to the Security Council what measures states can take to prevent R2P crises, and set guidelines for what the Council should use in given cases. These guidelines could be set explicitly (e.g., make sure a committee XYZ approves the use of financial sanctions before they are applied) or more generally (e.g., the P5 nations should refrain from using veto power where it directly contravenes the Outcome Document).

Blocs/Countries Involved

USA[8]

The US has a very oscillatory policy towards R2P. They were the enabling factor in NATO's Libya Operation, and recently sent in 100 special force troops to Uganda to protect civilians from war crimes. Though the Ambassador to the UN, Susan Rice, heavily endorses R2P, the Obama administration has not taken strong action against violence in Yemen and Bahrain since they are close allies with the governing parties. Additionally, as election time approaches, R2P policy is subject to change. Under the Republicans,

the US will tend to look inward, especially since they are aiming to reduce the defense budget.

NATO

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization consists of France, Germany, Italy, UK and the United States, and their group of allies in Europe. NATO ran the operation in Libya, and often contributes forces to UN Peacekeeping efforts. Within NATO however, each country has a different stance towards R2P issues. The US plays a big role, and contributes the most armed forces to NATO missions.

EU[9]

The European Union's support for R2P is reflected in the European Security Strategy (2003). They provided financial and technical support to the African Union force in Darfur, though this support was inconsistent.

African Union[10]

The AU consists of all African nations except Morocco. The AU worked with the United Nations to send a peacekeeping force to Darfur and broker a ceasefire agreement. However, the force never reached its authorized level: in addition, they are under-trained, under-staffed and ill-equipped. Since Africa is a continent of

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[8]Source: http://bigpeace.com/fgaffney/2011/10/19/obamas-responsibility-to-protect-is-to-us/

[9]Source: http://www.oxfam.org.au/resources/filestore/originals/OAus-EarlyWarningConferenceSummary-1110.pdf
[10]Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/01/AR2008050101585.html

unsurpassed civil violence, this makes it hard to deal with all major R2P conflicts.

Russia

Russia faced flak from the global community for stating R2P as a reason for invading Georgia unilaterally. Though they support R2P politically, they have not actually supported any R2P missions, and along with China vetoed the Burma issue in the Security Council.

Arab League

The Arab League consists of Arab states in North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. It actually has a politically pro-active attitude towards R2P. They condemned Libya and fully supported the NATO operation. They also suspended Syria on November 16th.

References

In addition to the footnotes, these websites were referenced during the writing of this Background Guide.

1. *http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/ : International Coalition for Responsibility to Protect, has a complete store of documents, current and past crises and country stands*

2. *http://globalr2p.org/ : Interesting articles by a think tank*

3. *http://www.economist.com, www.reuters.com : Up-to-date factual articles on current crises*