

United Nations Correspondents Association

-Cartooning- Committee Write Up

Committee Name: United Nations Correspondents Association- Cartooning

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Committee size: 25-30 (approx)

Agenda:

1. Reporting on the Conference Through Political Cartooning
2. Deliberating on the State Retaliation and Threats to Press Freedom Faced by Journalists in the Aftermath of the Panama Papers

Freeze Date: 3rd April 2016

In an age awash with information and yet governed by silence, an unnamed voice dared to speak through the hush of power. One mail, 11.5 million documents, 2.6 terabytes of enforced obscurity. On 3rd April 2016, what the world witnessed was not merely the biggest information leak of history; it was a collective outcry of truths long buried and voices long silenced. The Panama Papers exposed an intricate network of financial secrecy that entangled political leaders, multinational corporations, and elites across the globe. These revelations reverberated across the globe, faltering governments, intensifying public outrage, and dragging elites into the light of unforgiving scrutiny.

In the wake of the Panama Papers, journalists across the globe were reminded of the cost of deviance. Surveillance became routine, harassment and threats against journalists were orchestrated and the very institutions tasked with protecting free expression stood complicit in its erosion. Delegates, each one of you is entrusted to navigate through this profound rupture. Newsrooms work under siege, encircled by surveillance and intimidation of state machineries. The lines between national security and political self-preservation are actively being blurred. Will the press continue to challenge entrenched power structures, even at its own institutional cost?

Delegates, the fate of the press teeters on your pens.

Committee Structure:

At SMUN, cartoonists function as visual narrators, translating committee debates, negotiations and tensions into nuanced emotions and imagery. The committee sessions would be divided into

cartooning sessions and crisis sessions. During the cartooning sessions, delegates will work on their assigned task, while during crisis sessions, they will deliberate and debate on the crisis at hand.

Over the course of the conference, the delegates will be assigned various tasks, all of which must be completed and submitted by set deadlines. Tasks include, Illustratives, Comic Scripts, Caricatures, Perspective Cartoons, Object-Based Cartoons, amongst others. Their role is to observe the proceedings of their sub-committee and capture the essence of political speeches, debates, and crises, translating them into impactful caricatures that utilize humour and satire. Cartoonists will also be participating in a press conference, wherein they will be posing challenging yet indispensable questions to the delegates in their assigned sub-committee.

Cartoonists serve as representatives of their allotted news agencies and will be required to navigate through the finer distinctions of reporting. Delegates are expected to take into account their news agencies' political affiliations, ownership, the socio-political context, and demonstrate it consistently throughout the conference, in both their cartoons and the arguments they present during crisis speeches. They are required to actively partake in committee proceedings, adhere to the deadlines of task submissions, and convey their stance and propose viable solutions during verbal crises.

