

SOCHUM

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Trinity Model United Nations Conference

Chair: Victory Unigwe

Moderator: Arjun Mithal

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Dear Delegates,

It's my pleasure to welcome you to the third annual Trinity Model United Nations Conference. I'm incredibly excited to help you all engage in meaningful debate about real world issues and to reach feasible solutions. My name is Victory Unigwe, I'm a senior here at Trinity and on February 28th, I will be your chair for the Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. This is my second year of doing Model UN and it's been an amazing experience; I wouldn't trade the skills and experiences I've gained from doing this for anything. It has taught me valuable lessons in leadership, confidence and compromise and I hope that you will all leave this conference having gained something more than just an award.

Beyond Model UN, I play lacrosse. My heart lies with all things science and I often procrastinate by coding or reading Wikipedia pages on diseases and complex proteins. I can often be seen with a pen and notebook creating new stories and expressing myself through writing. I do a lot of performing, be it with Trinity's Madrigal Chorus, singing solo in our talent show or with the interschool A Capella group I'm part of.

Over the few hours we will spend together at TMUNC, I hope you will glean a portion of the knowledge and merits Model UN has to offer. Arjun and I eagerly anticipate a day of passionate debate on the subjects of Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries and Prisoners' Rights in Detention Camps. My intention for our committee is that while striving to obtain a solution to these prevalent international dilemmas, you will grow as a leader and thinker. We trust that you all will be here ready and prepared to tackle some very difficult issues.

Best Regards,

Victory Unigwe

Chair, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Dear Delegates,

My name is Arjun Mithal and it is my honor to welcome you to TMUNC III. I am a current senior at Trinity and will be your moderator for SOCHUM. My interests range from math and physics to history and politics, though I plan on majoring in economics in college. I started Model UN as a naive freshman almost four years ago, and I am lucky enough to have been a part of Trinity's travelling team the last three years. Recently, I have strayed somewhat from the Model UN norm as I have represented football teams on NFL Team Owners committees for each of my past two conferences.

Outside the wide world of Model UN, I am an avid baseball player, fanatic, and enthusiast. I am currently a captain of Trinity's varsity baseball team, and I support the proud New York Yankees franchise.

At school, you can find me whiling away the time as the popularly-elected king of our 2x5 miniature pool table, throwing touchdowns on the turf, or arguing the merits of the minimum wage in the swamp.

I am sure you all will come well-prepared and ready to debate so that we have a worthwhile committee and conference. Remember that as part of SOCHUM, you will be making decisions in order to benefit as far-ranging a collection of people as possible. While you should have your country's best interest in mind, good delegates will effectively reach a consensus in committee.

Regards,

Arjun Mithal

Moderator, Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

TOPIC A: ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND ADEQUATE SANITATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Introduction to the Body

In 1945, the UN was born from the framework set up by the Charter of the United Nations and has now become one of the most influential international bodies in the world. One of the met goals of the Charter was the creation of the General Assembly, a set of "main committees" that would include all member states and would serve as a forum to discuss a variety of pertinent international issues. Today, each of the 192 countries represented in this body is critical in the decision making that goes forth to define and establish international humanitarian laws. General Assembly's primary goal is to make recommendations to international governmental bodies, to compile research and reports on global topics, and to raise discussion questions for the rest of the United Nations. The Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM), part of the United Nations

General Assembly since the beginning is a critical part of the UN. As the name suggests, this committee deals with issues relating to humanitarian affairs and human rights

The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee is the third UN General Assembly Committee that presides over the many matters of social, humanitarian, and human rights concerns across the globe. Historically, the committee has addressed issues such as the treatment of refugees, racial discrimination. enforcement of women's rights and their advancement, the protection of children, the right to self-determination, the rights of indigenous people and the issues that often arise in their treatment, crime prevention, and international drug control.

Statement of the Issue

"If you live in a slum in Manila, you pay more for your water than people living in London."

-United Nations Human Development Programme

11 percent of the world's population, which is roughly 750 million

people, does not have adequate access to sources of clean drinking water, some of which include: household connections. public standpipes, boreholes, protected dug wells, protected springs and rainwater collections.¹ Such lack is one of biggest killers in the world. Waterborne diseases remain one of the most significant threats to human health worldwide. More than 3.4 million people die each year from water, sanitation, and hygiene-related causes and of these deaths, around 99 percent occur in the developing world.² In many case, water scarcity occurs when either the quantity of available water is low to nonexistent or when the quality of existing water resources is unfit for human consumption and use. Rapid urbanization has outpaced the capacities of many countries to meet basic human needs for both distribution and sanitation. Simply put, most water industries within developing nations are incapable of supplying adequate and clean water to all citizens.

History of the Issue

"12 percent of the world's population uses 85 percent of its water, and these 12 percent do not live in the Third World."-Maude Barlow.

Between 1990 and 2012, 2.3 billion people gained access to improved drinking water resources. However as previously stated, a significantly vast percentage of the world still lacks adequate access to clean water. Prior to 2005, roughly 40 percent of people did not have access to even the most basic waste sanitation and close to 20 percent of the world did not have a safe drinking water source. Such lack of essential human commodities have resulted in millions of deaths yearly and approximately 3,900 deaths of children daily, due to diseases contracted from inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene.





"Diseases transmitted through water or human excrement are the second-leading cause of death among children worldwide, after respiratory diseases."

With such a widespread problem that wasn't going to get better without immediate action the UN declared the years 2005-2015 as the International Decade for Action "Water For Life".

The goal set by the UN to reduce the proportion of people without access to improved water sources was met in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. But the UN didn't stop there.

Current Situation

For water to be considered safe for drinking water of to be called "drinking water" it must fall under one of three categories used for domestic purposes:

- 1. The water must be adequate for drinking,
- It must be able to be used for cooking.
- 3. It needs to be able to be used for and personal hygiene.

To be considered accessible, the drinking water source must be:

1. Less than 1 kilometre away from its place of use.

Reliable enough to obtain at least
 20 litres per person per day.

What people consider access to water differ across the world but they may include the following: household connections, public standpipes, boreholes (a deep, narrow hole dug into the ground to locate water), protected dug well, protected spring, and rainwater.

The lack of safe water can be traced to the roots of water scarcity and/or the contamination of existing water sources. Insufficient investments and inadequate management of existing water systems have added to the growing crisis. Poor maintenance leads to illegal installations, leakage, and vandalism (World Summit of Sustainable Development). Delegates should pay attention to which methods of water access would be most efficient in their individual countries. They should also focus on water filtration systems, as well as the funding, maintenance, and security of the systems.

In addition to clean water access, a similar and pertinent problem that the developing faces is the issue of sanitation Over a quarter of the world's population has gained access to improved sanitation since 1990, however, 2.6 billion people, half the developing countries' populations, still lack access to improved sanitation facilities, resorting to open defecation. Different types of sanitation facilities include public sewer connection, septic system connection, pour-flush latrine, simple pit latrine, and ventilated pit latrine. Improved sanitation would increase the quality of life for millions of people, as well as improving the living conditions in impoverished communities. Delegates should be able to several propose sanitation measures to be taken that would increase the quality of life in their countries. The sanitation facilities should be able to reach the most people in the community as possible. Delegates should also research various ways their countries would fund such improvements.

The commoditization of water has also heightened the water crisis. Promoting water as a commodity has led to the increased control of water by multinational corporations and private sector companies. In turn the poor have been more and more shut out from access to water because

these corporations have a responsibility to their shareholders and to increase profit. As a result, though there may be many people in terms of market access, many people are too poor to afford the water. The World Bank, IMF and others have the championed the privatization of water in developing countries in the hope that there will be increased efficiency as well as. However as prices rise beyond affordability, the poor inhabitants of these developing countries are even further from water than they were before the implementation of corporate subsidies and privatization.

Bloc Positions

Asia and the Pacific

By 2006, 378 million South-eastern Asians had access to improved water sanitation facilities. In four of the eleven countries in South-eastern Asia sanitation coverage is less than 60% Coverage increased from 50% in 1990 to 67% in 2006. The South-eastern Asian population that lacks access to proper sanitation has decreased by 32 million, from 1990 to 187 million in 2006. The rate at which South-eastern Asians

have gained access to is sufficient to meet the MDG sanitation target.

487 million people in South-eastern Asia had access to improved drinking water sources in 2006. Coverage increased from 73% in 1990 to 86% in 2006. The South-eastern Asian population without access to improved drinking water sources has decreased by 41 million, from 119 million in 1990 to 78 million in 2006. The rate at which South-eastern Asians gained access to improved drinking water sources has reached 165 million people since 1990, and brought the region being very close to reaching the MDG target in 2006, nine years ahead of 2015.⁴

Africa

In March 2012, the WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation announced that the world has met the MDG drinking water target of halving, by 2015 the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and estimates that, 322 million Africans have gained access to an improved drinking water source since 1990 and 189 million have gained access to an improved sanitation facility. However, 65 million more people in

Africa lack access to an improved drinking water sources in 2010 than did in 1990 and the population without an improved sanitation facility increased significantly by 197 million since 1990.⁵

Europe

19 million people do not have access to adequately protected sources in the WHO European Region and about 100 million people still lack access to piped water in their homes. ⁶There has been increased

access in the last decade but there is still a visible disparity between the access that is available in rural



areas and that of the more urban areas. Such disparities can be seen especially in the Caucasus and central Asia, where only half of the rural population enjoys the use of piped water on premises. More than 66 million people in the Region still lack access to adequate sanitation facilities.⁷

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- 1. What proposed solutions are there to improve sanitation and water accessibility?
- 2. Where would the funding come from to carry out these proposed solutions?
- 3. If your country is a developed country: Do you feel stricter regulations, if any, should be put into place in order to conserve more freshwater?
- 4. What is your country doing to aid the developing nations in gaining access to clean water?
- 5. How would improvement of water accessibility and sanitation affect other major MDG issues in your country?
- 6. Do you foresee a significant impact?
- 7. What has your country done to improve its accessibility to water and adequate sanitation between 2005-present?
- 8. Do you anticipate any new policies or campaigns that will form within the next year?

TOPIC B: CONDITIONS IN DETENTION CAMPS AND PRISONER RIGHTS

Statement of the Issue

Detention Camps, also known either officially or pejoratively as internment

camps or concentration camps, are places of mass incarcerations and confinement of groups of people.8 While the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states in Article 9 that "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile."9 Detention Camps can be found in the early Assyrian civilisations as they served as forced relocation in border and territory control. It wasn't until the 19th and 20th centuries when non-combatant civilians were being concentrated in large prisons. A concentration camp can be defined as "A camp where persons are confined, usually without hearings and typically under harsh conditions, often as a result of their membership in group government has identified as suspect."¹⁰

It is these harsh conditions that have both plagued history and the world today and have established themselves as a pertinent issue that must be addressed so that things like the concentration camps of the Holocaust and the internment camps that held the Japanese in World War I remain a thing of the past.

These harsh conditions are ones that can be found in prisons around the world and raise a discussion of prisoner human rights. **Today** many people incarcerated wrongly without fair trial and are forced into deplorable conditions where they are stripped of their fundamental rights as humans and lack proper access to food water and relatively clean living spaces. They often lack medical care and plumbing and sometimes face solitary confinement. Many times these prisoners are incarcerated because of their beliefs, sex, race, and creed and are often rudely displaced without justifiable cause.

History of the Issue

One of the earliest recognised examples of such Human Rights violations was that of the Internment Camps in the Unites States in the days and months following the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbour. Growing hateful sentiments towards the Japanese citizens on American soil fuelled the push for their relocation and isolation.

"I am for the immediate removal of every Japanese on the West Coast to a point deep in the interior. I don't mean a nice part of the interior either. Herd 'em up, pack 'em

off and give 'em the inside room in the badlands... Personally, I hate the Japanese. And that goes for all of them." This kind of reason, if and when acted upon is a direct violation of the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners Clause 2 that "There shall be states that, no discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."12



People tried to mask their racial prejudices under a banner of national security, people like, Lieutenant General John L. DeWitt, who sought to conduct search and seizure operations aimed at preventing alien Japanese from making radio transmissions to Japanese ships¹³ The Justice Department declined, stating that there was no probable cause to support DeWitt's assertion, as the FBI concluded that there

was no security threat.¹⁴ However this didn't stop here. Executive Order 9066, signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942 allowed military commanders to designate "military areas" at their own discretions. White American had many reasons for wanting their Japanese American counterparts out of the picture. For white farmers, internment was a quick solution that allowed them to get rid of their competition. According to a 1943 War Relocation Report, the interned Japanese lived in "tar paper-covered barracks of simple frame construction without plumbing or cooking facilities of any kind." They had un-partitioned toilets, slept in cots and lacked the proper medical care that was recommended. There were cases in which the interned were essentially hunted by the guards. Many Japanese were shot by security guards after stepping outside of the camp demarcations. Education for the school age children was not thought through and not thoroughly planned which resulted in overcrowding and lack of education materials. The children didn't have desks, notebooks or books. Far too many lives were lost in the American Internment of

Japanese people in the name of national security.

We can see similar but graver actions in the concentration camps in Nazi Germany during World War II. Driven by racial prejudice, Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazis was directly and indirectly responsible for the deaths of more than six million Jews, not to mention the five million deaths of the smattering of other racial groups that were marginalized under Hitler's hateful rule.

For four years, from 1941 to 1945, Jews were targeted and killed in one of the largest acts of genocide ever recorded in history. Non-Jewish victims of broader Nazi crimes include Gypsies, Poles, communists, homosexuals, Soviet POWs, and the mentally physically disabled. The persecution and genocide started gradually and began as measures to first exclude the Jews from civil society. Then in 1933, an intricate system of concentration camps all over Germany and German occupied territories. What began as the Third Reich's attempts at mass incarceration quickly spiralled out of control and became the concentration

camps that are so quickly associated with Nazi German and the Second World War. With death rates as high as 50%, these "death camps" were not built to kill, however by 1942, camps were built in Poland whose purpose were killing centres. Originally used as labour camps, they were a place where Jews and other POWs were forced to work or be killed. Transporting the prisoners was often as inhumane as the conditions to which they were being sent to. Many died in dirty, cramped freight trains before making it to the camps.



Upon reaching the earlier concentration camps, the prisoners were forced into labour or killed. They were beaten starved and overworked. Others died from disease in the cramped and dirty quarters. Later on as the use of gas chambers became more popular, masses of people were killed daily adding to the already rising toll. Camps were often built near airplane factories, coal mines of rocket propellant plants so that the prisoners could act as unpaid labourers. Doctors who were supposed to be there for medical examinations took liberties with the patients, conducting experiments freezing prisoners to see how Nazi soldiers would react to such exposure. Eugenics was practiced often, lethal medications were tested on prisoners and female inmates were routinely raped in the camps. 15

Current Situation

Unfortunately, deplorable actions and questionable facilities are still a plague of today in many countries around the world. Most famous may be the case of Guantanamo Bay, a military prison operated and run by the United States government in Cuba. At the time of its establishment in January 2002, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld said the prison camp was established to detain

extraordinarily dangerous persons, to interrogate detainees in an optimal setting, and to prosecute detainees for war crimes. 16 A 2013 Institute on Medicine as a Profession report concluded that the health professionals working with the intelligence military and services "designed and participated in cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment and of detainees." torture Medical professionals were often asked to ignore ethical conventions in their abusive interrogations. They also participated in the practice of force feeding hunger strikers, beatings and sleep deprivation. One of the most repeated offenses is that of religious persecution. The type of anti-Muslim stigma that permeated the general public during the months subsequent to 9/11 flourish at Guantanamo Bay and many prisoners report blatant abuse that they suffered as a result of their religion. Other have reported sexual degradation and abuse during their time at Guantanamo Bay. Of the torture practices that have been reported, the most well known would have to be water boarding, one that has raised many ethical questions pertaining to the rights and treatment of prisoners and

forms of acceptable torture. While torture remains a large problem in detention camps, many of the ethical violations arise simply from the conditions in which constituents, especially children are subject to as seen in the North Korean Hoeryong Concentration Camp a political prison camp in the isolated northern North Korea. Former guard Ahn Myong-chol describes the conditions in the camp as harsh and life-threatening. He recalls the shock he felt upon his first arrival at the camp, where he likened the prisoners to walking skeletons, dwarfs, and cripples in rags. ¹⁷Ahn estimates that about 30% of the prisoners have deformities, such as torn off ears, smashed eyes, crooked noses, and faces covered with cuts and scars resulting from beatings and other mistreatment. Around 2,000 prisoners, he says, have missing limbs, but even prisoners who need crutches to walk must still work.¹⁸ Bunkhouses are horribly overcrowded, plumbing is scarce, working conditions are grossly unsafe and prisoners are worked to death every day. Ahn reports that vast numbers of prisoners die from exhaustion, malnutrition and the inhuman torture methods that are inflicted daily. Medical

testing and unnecessary medical procedures were common place in the camps.

In both cases, the blatant disregard for human life and rights is evident and appalling and often backed by the government. There have been repeated efforts to close Guantanamo Bay but nothing has been done for the people of Hoeryong.

Bloc Positions

Asia

The Hoeryong Concentration Camp is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to human rights violations that are part and parcel of political prison camps all over Asia. There have been reports of guard sexually assaulting women and killing their subsequent offspring.¹⁹ Assistance for Association **Political** Prisoners (AAPPB) has been calling for the release of prisoners in Myanmar but it's not an easy feat.²⁰ In China, serious human rights violations continue to be committed. This includes torture, execution (in which China is world leader), excessive use of force in public order policing, repression

of dissent and forced repatriation of asylum seekers without recourse to a refugee determination procedure.²¹

Africa

Generally speaking, those incarcerated in African prisons face years of confinement in often cramped and dirty quarters, with insufficient food allocations, inadequate hygiene, and little or no clothing or other amenities. While these conditions are not uniform throughout the continent, their prevalence raises concern and needs to be addressed through prison reform and attention to human rights. Moreover, there are also several barriers—including state secrecy, weak civil society, and lack of public interest—that inhibit the collection of reliable data on African prisons.²² The function of Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention was created during the 20th Ordinary Session of the Commission, following the Seminar on Prison Conditions in Africa (Kampala, 19 21 September 1996). The Special Rapporteur is empowered to examine the situation of persons deprived of their liberty within the territories of States

Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

United States of America

In 2009, President Obama signed an order to halt all proceeding at Guantanamo Bay for 120 days, however the camp remains open and questions of its ethicality are still raised. The American Civil Liberties Union is dedicated to ensuring American prisons and detention centres comply with international human rights measures. They have proposed prison reform that must address the following problems:

- 1. Medical Care in Prisons
- 2. Mental Health Care in Prison
- 3. Prison Conditions
- 4. Private Prisons
- 5. Restriction of Prisoners Rights
- 6. Solitary Confinement^{xxiii}

- 1. How can we foster awareness of the conditions in these camps?
- 2. Is there a way to prevent the existence of many of these camps?
- 3. What measures does your country have in place to address prisoner rights and how can they be expanded to address the issues as stated?
- 4. How can we increase accountability in governments in order to facilitate transparency throughout government actions?
- 5. What can be done for those in detention camps? How can their conditions be ameliorated?
- 6. Would you recommend direct international action?
- 7. How can leaders be discouraged from resorting to just means when it comes to detention camps?

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

¹ "Water." *Global Issues*. United Nations, n.d, Web. 18 Jan. 2014

²http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/water/#>
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Nations, n.d, Web, 07 Feb 2014

http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/background.shtml

⁴http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/1251452757-

A_Snapshot_of_Drinking_Water_in_SEA_Pacific_Final.pdf

⁵http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/Africa-AMCOW-Snapshot-2012-English-Final.pdf

⁶ Euro Who

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internment

⁹ <u>Universal Declaration of Human Rights,</u> <u>Article 9</u>, United Nations

¹⁰ "Concentration camp". American Heritage Dictionary. Web, Feb 7 2015.

¹¹ Neiwert, David. *The Eliminationists: How Hate Talk Radicalized the American Right*. 2009, page 195

12 "Basic Principles for the Treatment of
 Prisoners" *Uniter Nations Human Rights, United Nations*, 14 December 1990. Web, 8 Feb 2015
 13 Andrew E. Taslitz, "Stories of Fourth

Amendment Disrespect: From Elian to the Internment," 70 Fordham Law Review. 2257, 2306–07 (2002)

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Morrissette, Alana M.: *The Experiences of Women During the Holocaust*, p. 7.

16 "DoD News Briefing Secretary", New Transcript, US Department of Defense. Jan 22, 2002, Web. Feb 9 2015

¹⁷ "Typical Appearance of Prisoners" . *Daily NK*, *November 16*, 2005. Retrieved Feb 09 2015
¹⁸ "The testimony of An Myong-chol, an exquard at a political prisoners' camp in North

guard at a political prisoners' camp in North Korea", *Monthly Chosun Ilbo*, March 1995, retrieved Feb 09 2015

¹⁹ "North Korean prison officers 'cooked prisoner's baby and fed it to their dogs', more horrific accounts from UN report reveal". Heather Saul. *The Independent*, Dec 23, 2014. Web. Feb 09 2015 <

http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/north-korean-prison-guards-cooked-female-prisoners-baby-and-fed-it-to-their-dogs-more-accounts-from-un-report-reveal-9942934.html>
²⁰ MYANMAR: Final push on political prisoners

needed. CHIANG MAI, 27 September 2012. *IRIN News*

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=6&ved=0CEMQFjAF

&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.irinnews.org%2Fr eport%2F96402%2Fmyanmar-final-push-on-political-prisoners-needed&ei=T3vZVOm_LsK0sAS74oHYDQ&u sg=AFQjCNGldE46B4K638LGp0yq_25cN0y32 g&bvm=bv.85761416,d.cWc&cad=rjt>

²¹ Asia and the Pacific Human Rights, n.a, *Amnesty International*, n.d, http://www.amnestyusa.org/ourwork/countries/asia-and-the-pacific>

²² Prisons in Africa: An evaluation from a human rights perspective. Jeremy Sarkin, SurJournal n.d, < http://www.surjournal.org/eng/conteudos/getArti go9.php?artigo=9,artigo_sarkin.htm> xxiii Prisoners' Rights. American Civil Liberties Union, n.a, n.d, < https://www.aclu.org/prisoners-rights>