

S B S m u N 2 0 2 1

# THE FOURTH ESTATE

DAY 2



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Artwork Featured- Anaanya Garg, Divisha Jain, Jasmin Alhuwalia,  
Meher Jhamb, Medhya Singhal





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# I Have Seen Enough

*Aaliyah Bawa unmasks the horrors civilians witness in  
the light of the Taliban resurgence*

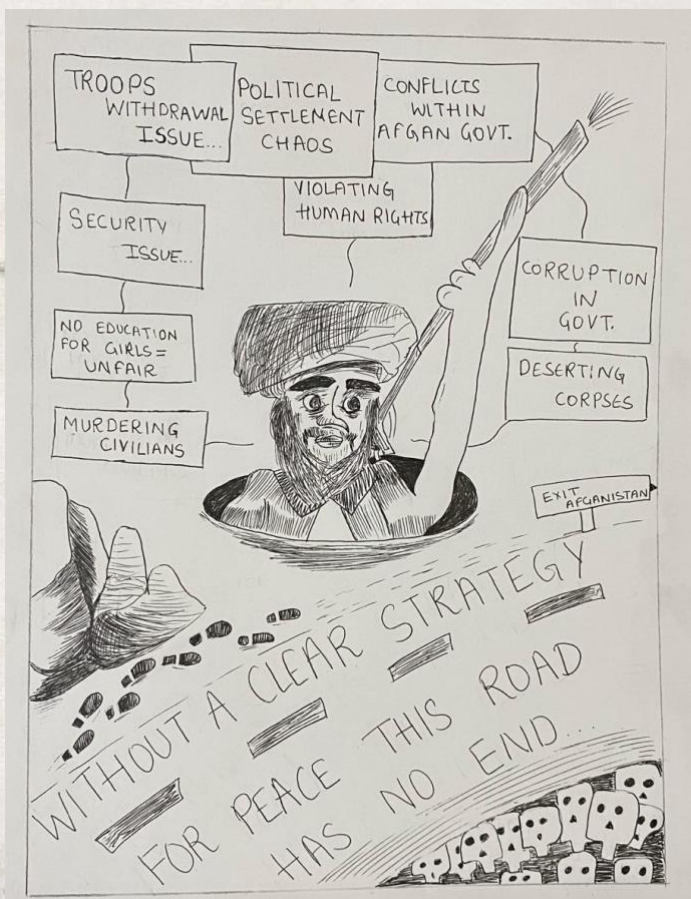
I see the map of my country covered in shades of red  
Plunging back into the jaws of death  
The whistles of rockets ring our ears  
In the dark I hear the soldiers  
Their march tells me they are afraid to be still  
I try to catch a few hours of sleep  
To find just a moment of relief  
To make some sense of what I've seen

I wonder why I brought my children back  
To this injured land after the Americans arrived  
This is their world now, it's drenched in red  
Their innocence died, screaming in a bloody tide  
The unease I feel eats me up from the inside  
They see the government weakening  
Clearly fighting a lost war  
My daughter asks when she will go to school again  
A voice inside me cries never  
But cannot bear to cause that pain  
How do I tell a child that her life is to be tied to that of a man?  
She's just someone's daughter, someone's wife or someone's mother  
They try to catch a few hours of sleep  
To find just a moment of relief  
To make some sense of how much they've seen

CONTD...



In our minds a reminder runs in the tears we cry  
 Thousands fleeing with no roof over their heads  
 Just the sky  
 Hostages being killed and showered with blows  
 Women forced back into the shadows  
 We are all on our knees  
 Some praying for their living, some for the dead  
 How cruel this world is, it's frightening to see  
 I saw as they destroyed my neighbour's home  
 I heard the children yell and their mother wail  
 I have touched the shattered glass  
 and seen the broken lives  
 I have read the Quran too  
 I wonder where it says that to kill  
 and rape is acceptable?  
 I have seen the men who destroyed  
 our world with their sins  
 I have seen what it does to the world  
 when men cannot make peace  
 I have seen enough



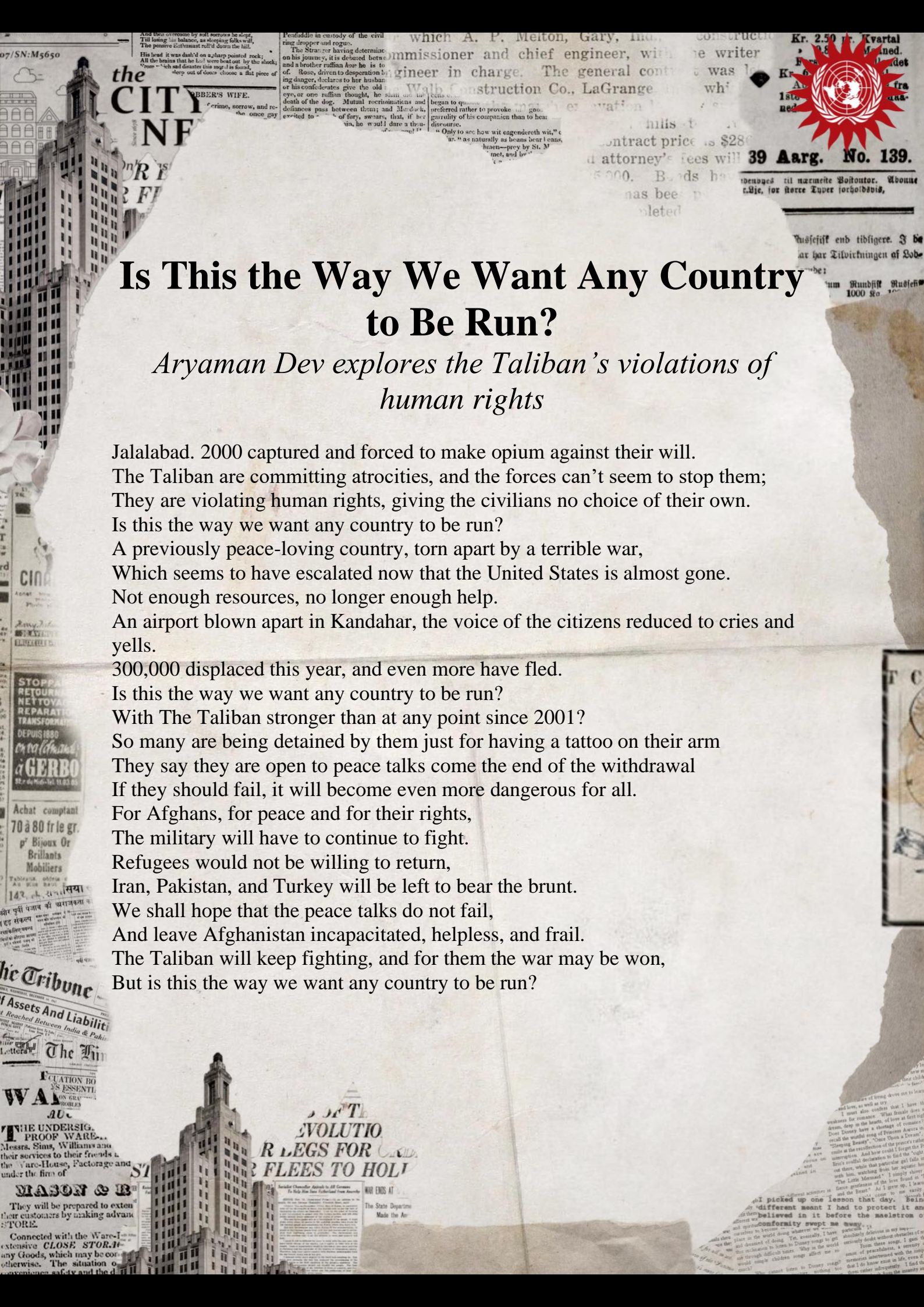
Art By Divisha Jain



# Is This the Way We Want Any Country to Be Run?

*Aryaman Dev explores the Taliban's violations of human rights*

Jalalabad. 2000 captured and forced to make opium against their will.  
The Taliban are committing atrocities, and the forces can't seem to stop them;  
They are violating human rights, giving the civilians no choice of their own.  
Is this the way we want any country to be run?  
A previously peace-loving country, torn apart by a terrible war,  
Which seems to have escalated now that the United States is almost gone.  
Not enough resources, no longer enough help.  
An airport blown apart in Kandahar, the voice of the citizens reduced to cries and yells.  
300,000 displaced this year, and even more have fled.  
Is this the way we want any country to be run?  
With The Taliban stronger than at any point since 2001?  
So many are being detained by them just for having a tattoo on their arm  
They say they are open to peace talks come the end of the withdrawal  
If they should fail, it will become even more dangerous for all.  
For Afghans, for peace and for their rights,  
The military will have to continue to fight.  
Refugees would not be willing to return,  
Iran, Pakistan, and Turkey will be left to bear the brunt.  
We shall hope that the peace talks do not fail,  
And leave Afghanistan incapacitated, helpless, and frail.  
The Taliban will keep fighting, and for them the war may be won,  
But is this the way we want any country to be run?





# The Girl and the Window

*Kashvi Kaul sheds light on the story of Afghan citizens impacted by the Taliban's tyrannical rule, through the narration of a little girl's thoughts*

The girl stared out her window observing the ground outside. It was the ground she freely played on, before some men came to her door and told her father not to send her outside. It started with the message of freedom and change, but she is now told to cover her face because the same men think it is a source of corruption. She wondered how a little girl's face was the source of corruption.

There was no more music, no more laughter, no more dancing with her friends. Her father had bags under his eyes and her mother never came out of her room. They took away what she loved most; they took away her right to learn. People chanted that this change was good, she wondered how? Why was it better for their land if girls couldn't read and learn?

She stared further on, looking at the abandoned military base just a few metres away. She remembered the day the white men came. She thought these men were their saviours, but hadn't she realised by now that they were selfish men disguised as knights in shining armour?

She took one last look at the ground below her window, she would never see her home again. She wondered if the US realised the damage they caused by fleeing. She wondered if they regretted it, she hoped they did, as any child would. She blinked back the hot tears welling up in her eyes for she knew they wouldn't survive to see tomorrow.

Her parents told her they would flee their home and never come back. She knew she couldn't do that. She would fight for her home, she would fight for her land, she would fight music, books, and laughter. She would fight what the many men sent from far and wide couldn't. She would fight for her and countless others' home.



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Till losing his balance, as sleeping folks will,  
The pensive Kichassant rolled down the hill.

His head it was dashed on a sharp pointed rock;  
All the brains that he had were beat out by the shock;  
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on his journey, it is debated betwe-  
and a brother ruffian how he is to  
of. Rose, driven to desperation by  
ing danger, declares to her husband  
or his confederates give the old  
eye, or one ruffian thought, he shall see the  
death of the dog. Mutual recriminations and  
defiances pass between them; and Madock,  
of fury, swears, that, if he  
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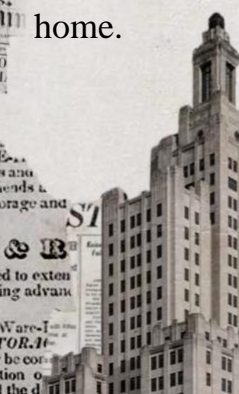
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dream, deep in the heart, of love at first sight  
Does Dorothy have a shortage of romance?"  
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"Sleeping Beauty". "Once There a Dream",  
could be the recollection of the prince's other  
interception. And how could I forget the "right  
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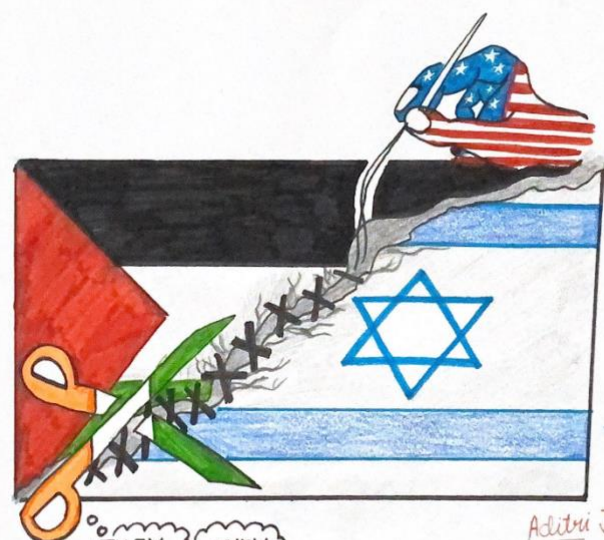


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FINANCIAL AID TO  
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MENTS.

Art By Aditri Jain



THEY WON'T  
LIVE IN  
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# The People of Afghanistan

## *Rujula Mathur illustrates the atrocities in Afghanistan*

In the market place of Herat, a boy, Anis1, stares at the deserted market place. His eyes trace the path his friends ran through in all their mischievous delight. Friends who are either dead or have joined the Taliban to save their lives. He must decide which group of friends he wishes to join.

Sitting in a corner at her new home, Aroos2 has decided that she won't have children. What is the point? Why bring a child to the world when there is nothing for the child to live for? Her parent's culture, her country's tradition and customs, they are now just the tale of old. She has nothing she can give them, no childhood and no future. Yes, it is better to not have a child.

Standing outside his house, Aman3, the patriarch of his family, looks at the appalling state of his city. He knows that at any moment there might be an attack and must find a way to ensure his family's safety. But how? There is no protection, from any side. There is no safety.

In Jalalabad the limp body of a little girl, Aaila4, lies on the dirt ground. The Taliban is killing them 5 at a time. The other citizens and refugees are battered and worn. All this ravaging and death just for power. There is no relief.

Far away from the destruction of a country, those in a false position of power squabble over the situation. They discuss whether the fate of thousands is worth more than money, not realising the mess that exists within the country. The mess of bombs, bodies, dirt and evil power.

When will the people of Afghanistan be able to call each other Azad and Azadah5?

1. Anis- male name meaning companion
2. Aroos- female name meaning bride
3. Aman- male name meaning safety
4. Aaila- female name meaning family member
5. Azad and Azadah- means free





# Voice Of The Voiceless

*Taira Arora sheds light on the unjust implications of wildlife trade*

A loud noise is heard,  
From the Indian rhino.  
As he cuts off its horns,  
For their medicinal value.

There is no fear in the poacher's eyes,  
For he is barely penalised for taking these lives.  
There is a desperate need for change,  
This issue needs to be contained.

Law implementation has to be strengthened,  
There needs to be a higher sanction.  
Wildlife is priceless,  
We must be the voice of the voiceless.

The big question then arises, "How can we help?"  
Raising awareness is an important step.  
Increased surveillance at ports and airports,  
Was a suggestion by Cyprus.

Another was to start an organisation  
With the purpose of observation.  
This would keep the ecosystems from collapse,  
This would slowly lessen the trade's impact.

CONTD...



France and Malaysia have offered to fund India's preventive measures,  
To properly prosecute the illegal sellers.  
The wildlife cries out,  
If not taken seriously, it faces extinction in massive amounts.

The rise in this crisis is exponential,  
Affecting not just animals but also humans.  
We have the ability to speak up,  
Animals don't.

Be the voice of the voiceless.  
Be an informed buyer,  
Purchase only what you require.  
Be the voice of the voiceless.



Art By Medhya Singhal



# The Debate On the Veto

*Aashna Nayyar discusses the UNSC session through a poem*

Dinner table discussions,  
Actions were taken,  
What are their repercussions?  
People waiting for aid amongst the loud noises of the grenades,  
Help was about to be sent, but a P5 member strayed.

On one side there is a chamber with countries discussing in comfort,  
While on the other side people are waiting for a decision in the dirt.  
Hope is the only constant they have left in their life,  
Help not being sent cuts through like a knife.

Different countries, contrasting views,  
Five countries hold most of the power, the rest are confused.  
Today the countries get together and meet,  
Discussing whether this restricted power matches the world's need.

Some believe that members should be expanded,  
This constricted power dynamic should be disbanded.  
Representation of different countries is vital,  
There should not be a select few who are entitled.

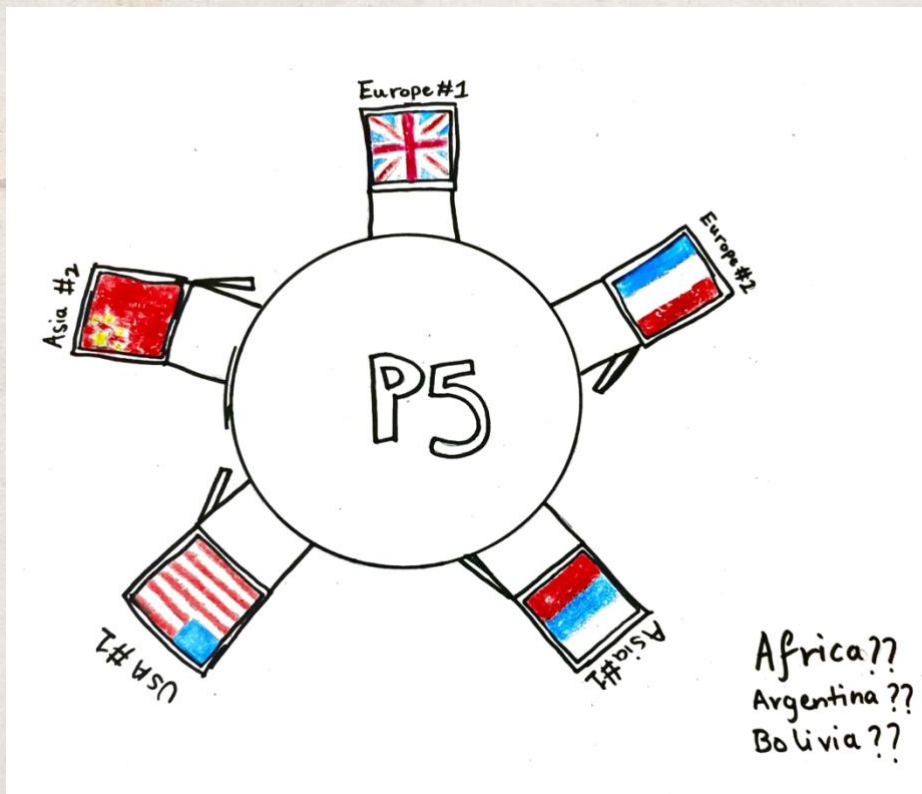
The UN claims that it gives importance to democracy,  
But doesn't the veto bend towards autocracy?  
Discussion and debates with tension in the air,  
At the end what will the council declare?

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Sides are chosen, blocs are formed,  
After all of this, will the council be reformed?  
Countries should be chosen on the basis of qualifications,  
But then doesn't every country deserve representation?

This is a council which aims for the world to be united,  
Of course, there will be debates but power should not be the reason why we are divided,  
As the discussion continues, we see how change is essential,  
Time will tell if this discussion was fruitful or inconsequential.



Art By Jasmin Alhuwalia



# History and the Veto Power

*Devina Gupta analyses the use of the P5's veto power over the years*

Over the course of the Veto powers tumultuous history, there have been multiple implementations of the power from 1946 to the present, by each of the five countries.

France has vetoed 16 resolutions as of now. The country has seemingly vetoed simply to protect France's colonial interests, but it also uses its power austere. The most recent effective employment of its Veto was in December 1989, when the United Kingdom, France and the United States vetoed a draft resolution condemning the United States invasion of Panama. The last time France interacted with its veto power was in 2003. The threat of a French veto of the resolution on the invasion of Iraq caused tension between France and the United States.

China has displayed its power by vetoing 17 resolutions. In 1971, the Republic of China faced protest against the Soviet Union's declaration for Mongolia's admission into the United Nations, which was replaced by the People's Republic of China. The Republic's first use of the veto would be in 1972 to block Bangladesh's admission into the United Nations. Afterwards, the country filtered their use of this power, preferring to abstain rather than veto resolutions not related to their interests. China's last unilateral veto was in 1999, and after 2011, China has been casting double-vetoes with Russia.

The United Kingdom has vetoed 29 resolutions as of the present. It had at first employed their veto power in 1956 with France, to refute a letter from the United States of America to the President of the Security Council regarding Palestine. The last use was in December 1989 when the United Kingdom, France and the United States of America vetoed a draft resolution condemning the United States of America's invasion of Panama.

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And then overcome by soft sorrow he slept,  
Till losing his balance, as sleeping folks will,  
The pensive Kucharski rolled down the hill.

His head it was dashed on a sharp pointed rock;  
All the brains that he had were beat out by the shock;  
From "such and dearest this morn'g I found,  
"From "such and dearest this morn'g I found,  
"From "such and dearest this morn'g I found,  
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Penelope in custody of the cir-  
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The Stranger having determined  
on his journey, it is debated betwe-  
and a brother ruffian how he is to  
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ing danger, declares to her husband  
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The United States of America has not overlooked their veto power, being one of the most frequent users of it with 82 vetoes. Most of these have been for Israel being condemned and criticised. This has been a constant cause of tension between the General Assembly and the Security Council. The frequent use of the power regarding Israel has been carried on by the Trump administration.

Russia's, or USSR's at the time, Vyacheslav Molotov was nicknamed 'Mr. Veto' in the early years of the United Nations due to their frequent use of the veto. They carried forward almost all the vetoes during that time, with 117 vetoes uptill now. The dissolution of the Soviet Union caused the Russian Federation to use its veto power sparingly. Russian vetoes increased in number in the early 21st century to block resolutions involving the Russian military, including Georgia, Syria and Ukraine.

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# European Parliament vs The Taliban or The Refugees?

*Kashvi Kaul critiques the response by the AFET committees's press-conference*

The European Parliament was subjected to a series of questions, challenging its refugee policies, questioning its political alliances, and probing its steps towards protection and rehabilitation of Afghan refugees.

Before the press conference the panel debated upon numerous topics related to the Afghan refugee crisis and it could be stated that some concise solutions were formed. Countries agreed to send financial aid and military aid, some agreed to send only one, and Luxembourg blatantly disagreed and was in support of the Taliban.

The conference began with questions about the protection of refugees seeking asylum in EU countries, and the possible solutions that could be implemented to help them. Germany replied by saying "we have been discussing possible solutions", "we would like to stop Taliban aggression, and as a result stop the immigration of these refugees." The country of France stated that it was open to refugees and would provide them with resources.

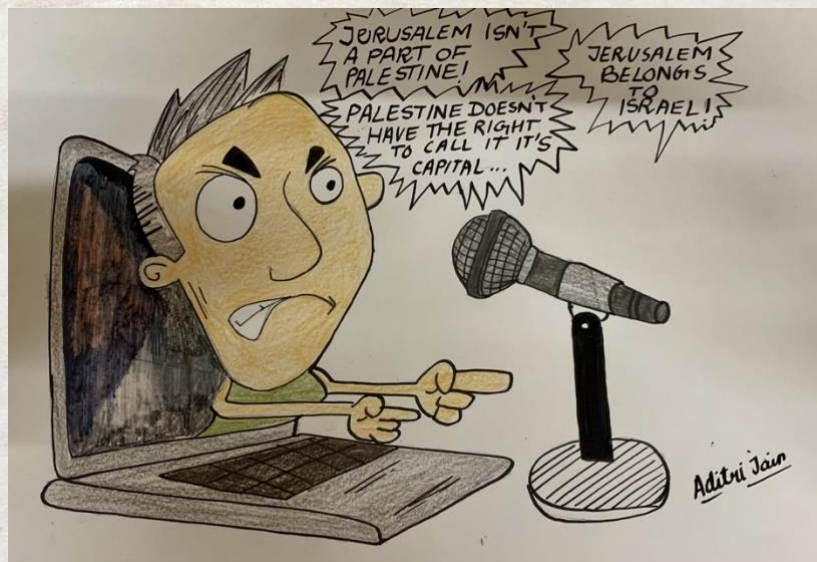
When asked the question about cooperation with non-state armed groups such as the Taliban, who have terrorised, killed, and violated the human rights of Afghan citizens on multiple accounts, Hungary had a rather vague response. The delegate responded with statements such as "we are not completely with the Taliban". Hungary was asked a follow up question regarding suggestions for peace talks that they agreed to conduct with the Taliban, the country did not reply with material relevant to the question, instead offered resources and aid to the Afghanistan government.

CONTD...



Furthermore, the question of holding the U.S. accountable for its unhelpfulness during this crisis was also raised and was answered by few countries who wished to. The delegate of Sweden stated that the U.S. has done enough for the Afghan citizens and Afghanistan "should not be spoon-fed". The delegate of Italy added onto this by saying "the U.S. has done a lot and cannot be expected to help anymore". A follow up question was raised again, stating that according to the 1951 Refugee Convention the U.S. is under legal obligations to protect the refugees, the delegates were asked to give their views on this. The delegate of Turkey replied with a statement "I completely agree with you journalist, the U.S. should be held accountable, and this situation must be discussed."

The closing question was directed towards the delegate of Greece. Asking the delegate to reply to the reason behind no prior talks with the NATO allies about the rehabilitation and extraction of refugees from Afghanistan. Once again, the delegate only replied to the part which asked how Greece is handling this situation, not the crux of the question.



Art By Aditri Jain



# Wildlife Trade: Biodiversity Loss

*Taira Arora analyses the causes and effects of wildlife trade and biodiversity loss*

Wildlife trade is a growing cause of mass extinction of species. In countries like Zambia, illegal trade is 7% of their gross product as it is one of the most remunerative businesses in the world, bringing in \$7-20 billion dollars a year.

Endangering of species is increasing without-bound and was one of the major concerns brought forward. As the delegate of Malaysia mentioned, their tiger population has gone down from 3000 to 300. The delegate also thought of ways to stay alert and monitor the wildlife trade. An interesting one being increased surveillance in airports, harbours, containment zones, etc. They also brought forward their concern on the insufficient penalties. This was seconded by many other delegates as well. The punishment of 3 years in prison and paying ₹25,000 as a fine is inadequate

The wildlife trade problem roots from the rapidly expanding demand. India faces many issues due to this economic factor and the riches involved in the trade. Many delegates pointed out where the Indian government needs to stand up and make changes. The delegate of Cyprus strongly recommended that the penalty be increased. The law implementation can be improved by doing so. This statement was corroborated by many other delegates, however, the delegate of the Dominican Republic believed that smaller steps should be taken to achieve an overall change. They proposed to fund the creation of a multi-national committee that would monitor trades and follow a simplified framework.

Living amidst a pandemic has been limiting in many ways, however, it couldn't stamp out the illicit trades. The coronavirus however has made wildlife trafficking trackable. Due to the travel restrictions, all forms of illegal travel activities came under the spotlight. Wildlife trading still hasn't come to a standstill in some countries, specifically France, India and South Africa. The delegate of South Africa brought forward valid points about the poaching of Rhinos. Rhinos make high-pitched noises when afraid and their wails can be heard throughout the day due to hunting activities. The delegate suggested to put a stop to trade of Rhinos for a start in Africa. Although this statement was controversial as many believed a ban should be placed on any animal trade.



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BBER'S WIFE.

the once gay

Pentafiddle in custody of the civil  
ring dropper and rogue.

The Stranger having determined on his journey, it is debated between him and a brother ruffian how he is to get off. Rose, driven to desperation by the danger, declares to her husband or his confederates give the old fellow a good eye, or one ruffian thought, he shall not see the death of the dog. Mutual recriminations and defiance pass between them; and Manderbuck, excited to a pitch of fury, swears, that, if he sins, he would dare a thousand deaths.

for which A. P. Melton, Gary, Ind., constructed the bridge. Melton is the city's commissioner and chief engineer, with the writer as engineer in charge. The general contract was let to the LaGrange Construction Co., LaGrange, Ind., which will build the bridge. The contract price is \$280,000 and attorney's fees will be \$30,000.

Kr. 2.50 pr. Kvartal  
• 2.50 pr. Måned.  
Elev- og Stud. bidet  
Kr. 6 pr. Måned  
Aarg. No. 139  
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Contract price is \$280,000 and attorney's fees will be \$5,000. Bonds have been completed.

**39 Aarg. No. 139.**



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**CINAR**

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*Romy Juliette*  
**BEST KAYAKING**  
**ALICE GARY**

**STOPPA  
RETOURNÉ  
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TRANSFORMÉ**  
DEPUIS 1880  
*en orafère*  
**à GERBO**  
32-r de Metz-Tel. 11.03.05

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# VETO: A Small Word That Holds a Lot of Power

*Aashna Nayyar examines the press conference held in the UNSC regarding veto powers*

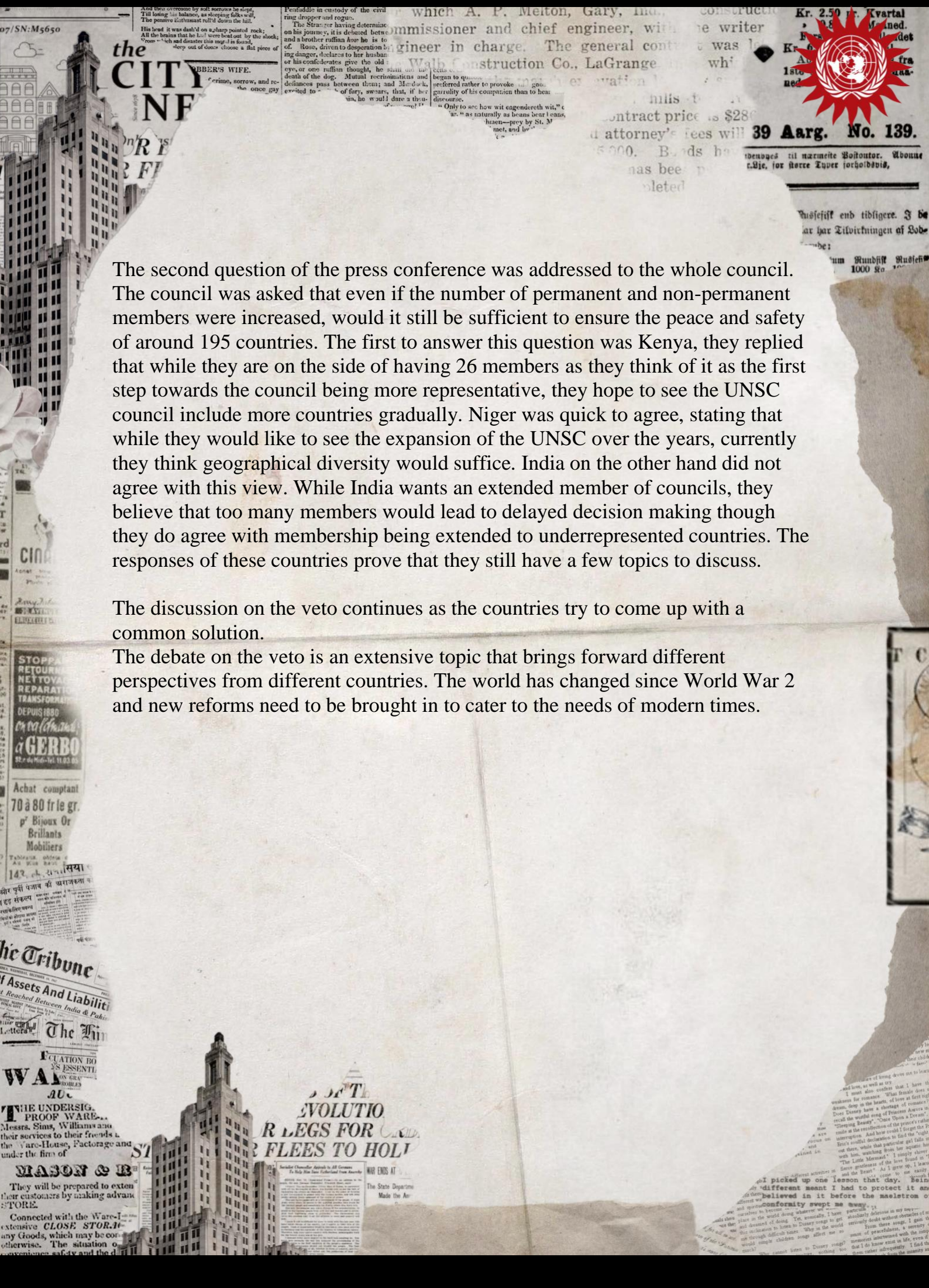
The veto is a power that the 5 permanent members of the UNSC have, this allows them to veto a resolution, which means that the resolution will not be passed. During the UNSC press conference, pressing questions were asked by journalists regarding the veto power and members of the UNSC.

Some of the permanent five members have been accused of using the veto power to promote their own national interests instead of safeguarding international peace and safety. Russia has been known to use their veto frequently, according to the security council report having used this power 117 times, which is more than any other member.

When confronted about Russia's use of the veto for their own interest, Russia denied that claim. While they accepted the fact that in the past some may have accused them of unjust use of the veto, they defended themselves by saying they have used the veto only to safeguard their own critical national security or international peace and security which they have implemented in a fair manner. When further asked about the time they used the veto for Ukraine Russia argued that Russian intervention was needed to protect the Russian citizens residing there they further accused the Ukrainian government of mistreating the Russians residing there. Russia defended itself by saying this was done to protect its national security. One can't help but wonder if this action was taken to protect Russian citizens in Ukraine or solidify their own power.

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The second question of the press conference was addressed to the whole council. The council was asked that even if the number of permanent and non-permanent members were increased, would it still be sufficient to ensure the peace and safety of around 195 countries. The first to answer this question was Kenya, they replied that while they are on the side of having 26 members as they think of it as the first step towards the council being more representative, they hope to see the UNSC council include more countries gradually. Niger was quick to agree, stating that while they would like to see the expansion of the UNSC over the years, currently they think geographical diversity would suffice. India on the other hand did not agree with this view. While India wants an extended member of councils, they believe that too many members would lead to delayed decision making though they do agree with membership being extended to underrepresented countries. The responses of these countries prove that they still have a few topics to discuss.

The discussion on the veto continues as the countries try to come up with a common solution.

The debate on the veto is an extensive topic that brings forward different perspectives from different countries. The world has changed since World War 2 and new reforms need to be brought in to cater to the needs of modern times.



# Illegal drug network funds the Taliban- Capture of innocent civilians Sparks Ransom Demands

*Kashvi Kaul examines how the Taliban gained \$200 million dollars a year through illegal growth of opium and are demanding ransom*

US military commanders in Afghanistan launched 'Operation Iron Tempest' in late 2017. A series of airstrikes were conducted, the main target being: a network of furtive opium production labs. The US officials later stated that the illegal growth of these drugs was helping to generate \$200 million per year for the Taliban. Within a year the operation was found to be unsuccessful. Many of the suspected labs turned out to be abandoned compounds and further airstrikes were cancelled due to the US concluding it as a waste of potential resources. Recent reports suggest the resurfacing of this illegal drug network.

About two thousand Afghan citizens have been captured by the Taliban and are being forced to work in illegal opium chains. The human rights of these citizens are being exploited and the Taliban is gaining funds for their activities through this drug money. The European Parliament deliberated on this issue and many countries were in favour of collecting funds/ providing the Afghanistan government with aid to help these citizens. The delegate of Turkey urged countries to invest in funds to help free the captured citizens. Countries like Estonia, Finland, and Belgium agreed to this statement. The countries of Germany, Italy, France, and the United Kingdom agreed to send financial aid. Turkey agreed to send military troops within their limits to help ease the situation.

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A recent crisis update stated that the Taliban is willing to kill the hostages if their demands of receiving \$50 million are not fulfilled. Germany was furious and called the actions of the Taliban violent and gruesome. The delegate of Malta suggested sending more financial aid and urged countries with larger economies to contribute more. The delegate of Italy stated that the Taliban should be marked a global terrorist organisation once again, as they were unable to abide by their earlier statements of leaving the refugees unharmed. Austria called the action of the Taliban inhumane and Sweden agreed to send financial aid in order to pay ransom for the release of these citizens. Many countries disagreed with meeting the demands of groups such as the Taliban but considering the situation they felt compelled to comply with such threats in order to free the captured citizens.

In conclusion, the Taliban seems to be earning their funds through illegal works such as drug networks, and are now also demanding large sums of money from the NATO allies for the safe return of the hostages. Discussions about the state of the hostages varied, but a concise decision has not been made till now. Only further updates can confirm the state of the hostages.



Art By Divisha Jain



# The Destination Dilemma

## Aryaman Dev analyses the Press Conference in the European Parliament's Committee for Foreign Affairs (AFET)

The American withdrawal from Afghanistan resulted in the Taliban rapidly gaining territory all over the country, causing another refugee crisis in Afghanistan. It is important that peace talks do not fail. Pakistan has refused to accept any more refugees, and Turkey has made it clear that it cannot accommodate another such crisis, yet hundreds of refugees enter its borders every day. Turkey has said that to combat this, it has sent a directive that is currently being reviewed by the Afghan government, through which it has said that it wants the number of refugees entering Turkey to be limited to only 3000. It will be ensuring this by placing its own troops at the Iran-Turkey border, as nearly all the Afghan refugees who wish to go to Turkey come through Iran. This decision seems practical and is bound to stop most of the refugees that enter Turkey. On the contrary, you could argue that there is still the question of the Afghan migrants taking a longer, more winding route to Turkey.

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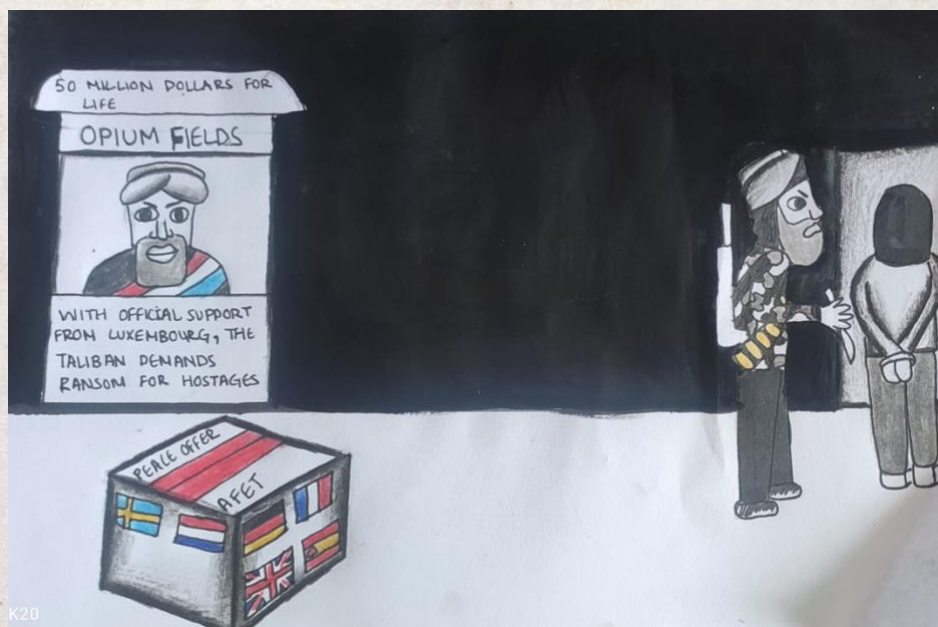


Art By Anannya Garg



However, this will not be much of a problem as the journey to Iran itself is extremely dangerous and tiring, even with sufficient supplies, and the refugees would probably not be willing to undertake another, much longer one after that. This, in turn, leads to the question of the protection of the refugees once they have made the journey. Turkey says that it will stop people from immigrating and establish a small military presence in Afghanistan aiding the government, effectively claiming that they would be safer there. But are they really? Should they not be allowed to leave their country if they think that the weak security system and the ongoing violence makes them feel exposed, or threatened? France also gave its views, saying that they would be prepared to accept more refugees and give them the shelter which they so desperately require after undertaking such a treacherous journey for their freedom.

As mentioned before, it is important that peace talks with the Taliban do not fail. In the possible case that they do, there will be more violence, more internal displacement, and another influx of refugees. If this happens, then it was said that people willing to escape will be given documentation to go anywhere they want within Europe. This proposed step is quite a good one and should decrease the tension the Afghan refugees have of their application for documentation being rejected.



Art By Anannya Garg



# Why the Taliban May Regain Control of Afghanistan

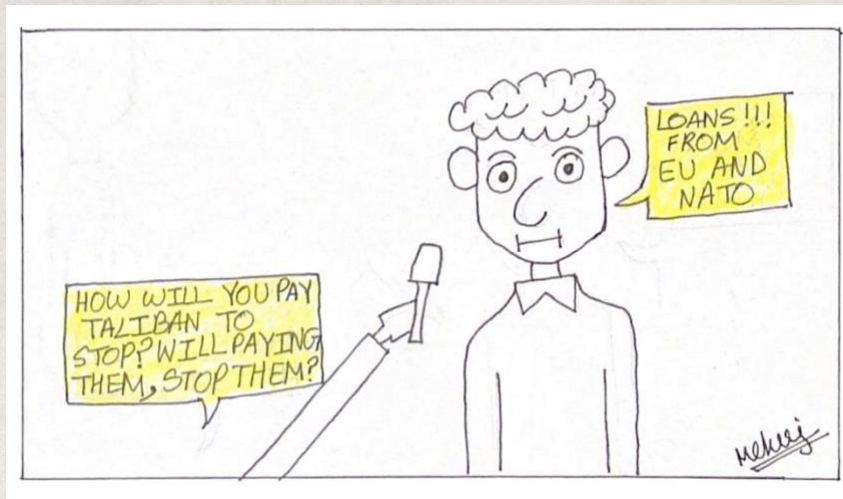
*Aaliyah Bawa expounds the possibility of the collapse of the Afghan Government*

Ever since the United States began its troop withdrawal, Afghanistan has witnessed the resurgence of the Taliban and the rapid expansion of their territorial control. A US intelligence assessment has said the Afghan government could fall in six months once the United States and other international troops leave. It makes it hard to see a Taliban takeover as anything other than extremely likely, if not inevitable. Though the Biden administration claims that the Afghan army is well equipped, the situation on the ground tells a different story.

The Afghan government itself seems divided in its stance to combat the Taliban. With Lashkar Gah being the most recent province to be taken over by the Taliban, the provinces under control of the Afghan government remain very few while most other cities are plagued with heavy fighting. Owing to the dire state of the Afghan economy, it is unlikely that the Afghan government will be able to hold off the Taliban for long considering that it receives funding from various international players, such as Pakistan and Iran. The Taliban is stronger now than at any point in the last twenty years. As the United States has withdrawn its remaining forces from Afghanistan, the Taliban has increased attacks on civilians, seized control of critical border crossings, and dramatically expanded its presence throughout the country. In July 2021, the group controlled an estimated 54% of Afghan districts, according to the Foundation for Defense of Democracies Long War Journal; just months earlier it controlled only about 20%.

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Art By Meher Jhamb

The refugee crisis as a result of the resurgence has already begun with thousands fleeing Taliban- occupied regions. The Afghans themselves seem to have lost faith in the government. If intra-Afghan discussions regain momentum, many such as power sharing, what will happen to Afghanistan's democratic institutions and constitution, and how women's and cultural minority groups' rights will be protected. Taliban representatives have said they would protect women's rights under Sharia but have given little detail on what doing so would look like in practice. The Taliban also seeks to establish Afghanistan as an Islamic emirate where authority will be drawn from the religious leader.

However, it would be incorrect to assume that the Taliban will win. The Afghan military too has significant forces in place. Foreign assistance is critical to Afghanistan to safeguard the provinces under their control.



# Increasing Losses by the Hour

*Rujula Mathur discusses how the Taliban continues to kill every hour the Committee wastes on Discussion*

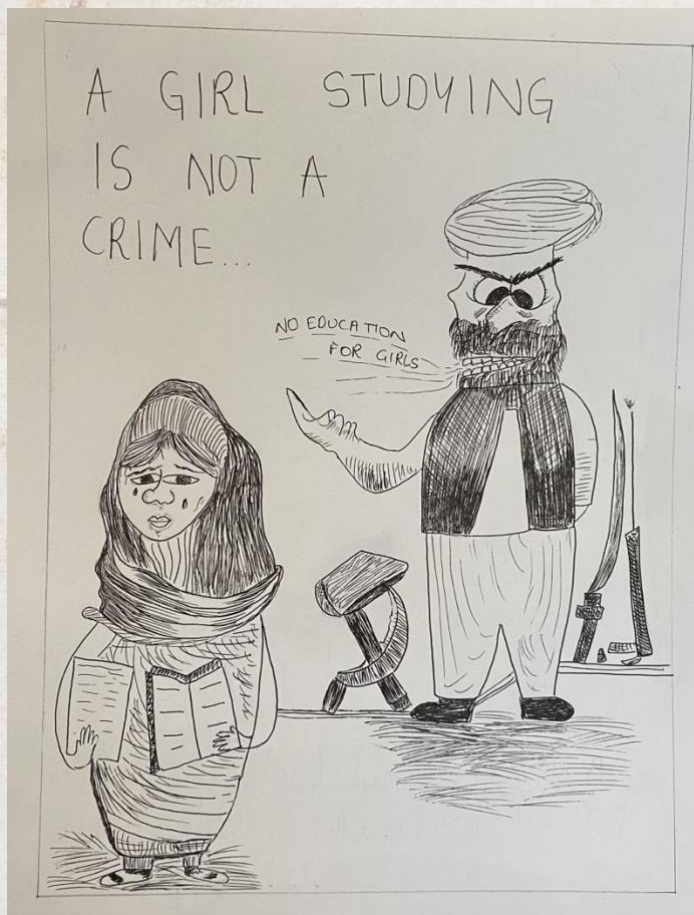
On Sunday, 1st August 2021, the Taliban group struck Afghanistan's Kandahar airport. They currently have taken over several districts in Afghanistan including Takhar, the country's north-eastern province. Recently they have captured 2000 refugees and civilians in Jalalabad and are holding them for a ransom of \$50 million. The Taliban has stated that every hour that the War Cabinet wastes, 5 people amongst the captured will be killed. The situation is dire and immediate action must be undertaken. We must try to understand it's severity. Herat is currently considered to be under the Afghan Government's control. An attack on its airport signifies that they are looking to take over the district and further reduce government control over Afghanistan. What worries the officials is that it seems Herat is going to join the various contested districts of the country. While the situation looks grim, it seems worse when the citizens are considered. Due to the attacks, the people in the region lack basic amenities such as electricity. The delegates of the War Cabinet committee are discussing ways to evacuate the citizens and provide medical aid. But this seems to be in the far future. They discussed the requirement for financial aid from international bodies, such as the EU.

The situation in Jalalabad shows that it may not be possible for the government to get back the districts under the Taliban's control. Further, while discussing the situation some delegates had wanted to negotiate the ransom with the Taliban. This thought was shot down by other delegates, as they realised that even considering negotiations would lead to more deaths of the captives. However, the conversation on whether they should pay the Taliban or take actions continued. Doubts were raised on whether the Taliban would follow through with their promise. It was also found that the Taliban had managed to implant a bomb without the military's knowledge. This further goes to show who truly has power over the Country.

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Luxembourg recently released a statement revealing that they sided with the Taliban, as Ghani's Cabinet had "committed war crimes and crimes against humanity". This could be taken as a reference to their delay in response to aiding its citizens. They also mentioned that they have made an appeal to the AFET committees to support the Taliban, and remove funding to Ghani's government. Whatever the case may be, if the delegates don't make a decision, and fast, they may not only lose further support from other countries, but also lose more of its citizens and control of Afghanistan to the Taliban.



Art By Divisha Jain



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# Why Change is Necessary

*Aashna Nayyar expresses her thoughts on the UNSC and its working*

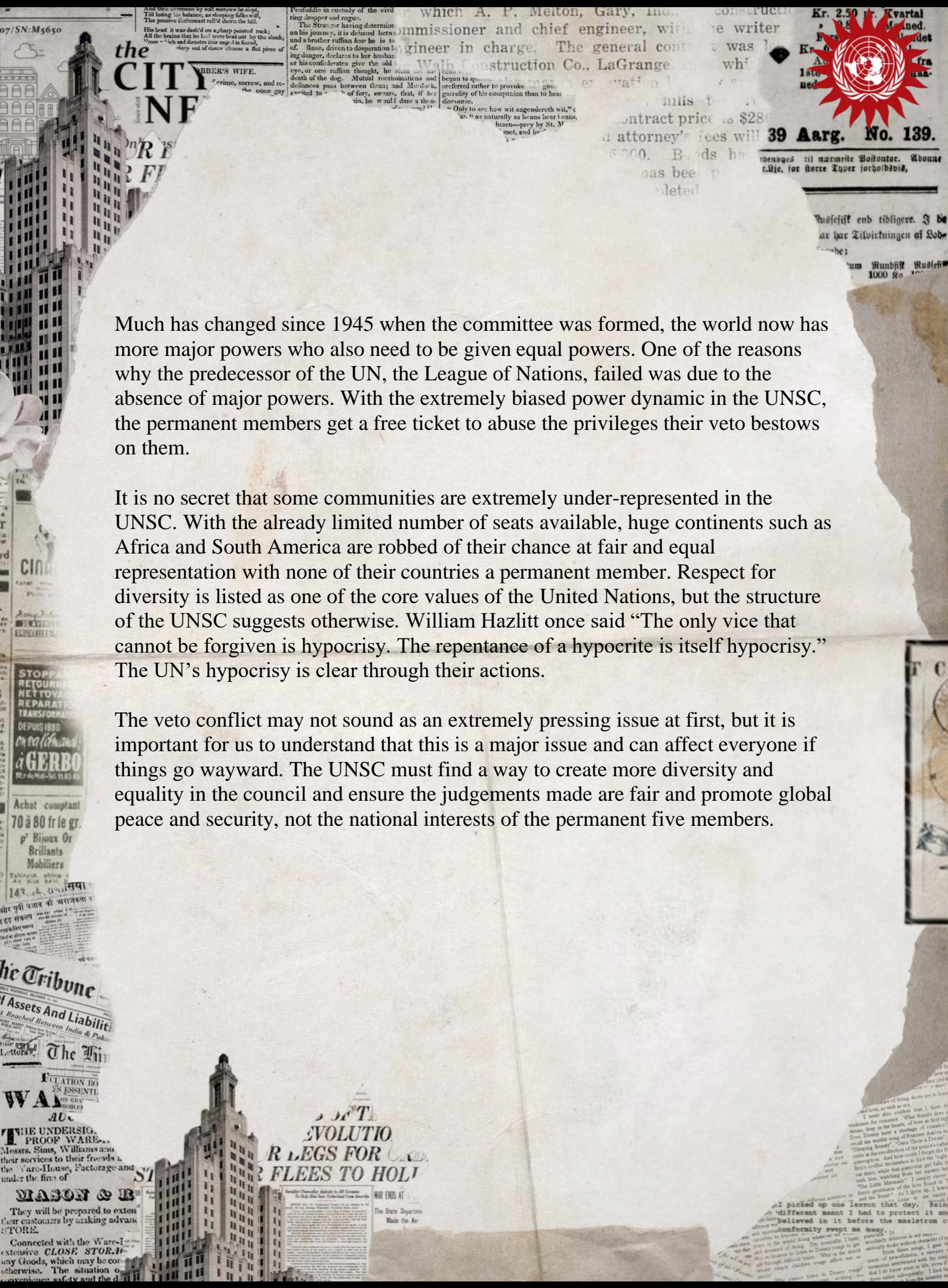
To veto or not to veto? Should there be more representation? Should more countries get permanent seats? These are some questions that may plague one's mind when thinking about the UNSC and its working.

Benito Juarez once said, "Democracy is the destiny of humanity; freedom its indestructible arm." The UN states on its website that democracy is one of its core values. Is it not ironic how one of its principal organs, the UNSC, seems to be extremely undemocratic? With it consisting of a mere 15 members out of which 5 are permanent, the scope for diversity and equal representation is not much. The five permanent members were decided on the basis of their importance in the aftermath of World War II which was around 75 years ago!

If the minimal representation is not enough, the five permanent members also have the right to veto, which gives them the power to stop a resolution from getting passed. Does this sound like a democracy? The ability to veto gives the permanent five a plethora of authority. They can use the veto to promote their own national agendas, rather than help ensure international peace and security. Unfortunately, there have been incidents where the use of the veto can be deemed questionable. One such incident is when Russia along with China vetoed the resolution that contained a one-year extension deal allowing aid deliveries to North-western Syria.

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Much has changed since 1945 when the committee was formed, the world now has more major powers who also need to be given equal powers. One of the reasons why the predecessor of the UN, the League of Nations, failed was due to the absence of major powers. With the extremely biased power dynamic in the UNSC, the permanent members get a free ticket to abuse the privileges their veto bestows on them.

It is no secret that some communities are extremely under-represented in the UNSC. With the already limited number of seats available, huge continents such as Africa and South America are robbed of their chance at fair and equal representation with none of their countries a permanent member. Respect for diversity is listed as one of the core values of the United Nations, but the structure of the UNSC suggests otherwise. William Hazlitt once said "The only vice that cannot be forgiven is hypocrisy. The repentance of a hypocrite is itself hypocrisy." The UN's hypocrisy is clear through their actions.

The veto conflict may not sound as an extremely pressing issue at first, but it is important for us to understand that this is a major issue and can affect everyone if things go wayward. The UNSC must find a way to create more diversity and equality in the council and ensure the judgements made are fair and promote global peace and security, not the national interests of the permanent five members.



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**Diva Datta Gupta • Kavya Sharma • Tanisha Bhatnagar**





# the CITY NF

## ROBBERS' WIFE.

And then overcome by soft sorrow he slept,  
Till losing his balance, as sleeping folk will,  
The pensive Kishassant rolled down the hill.  
His head it was dashed on a sharp pointed rock;  
All the brains that he had were beat out by the shock;  
From "such and deserts this morn'g I found,  
"Stern out of doors" choose a dail piece of

Pestilence in custody of the cir-  
ring dropper and roguish.  
The Stranger having determined  
on his journey, it is debated betwe-  
and a brother ruffian how he is to  
of. Rose, driven to desperation by  
ing danger, declares to her husband  
or his confederates give the old  
eye, or one ruffian thought, he shall see the  
death of the dog. Mutual recriminations and  
defiances pass between them; and Mandack,  
of fury, swears, that, if he  
sin, he would dare a thou-

which A. P. Melton, Gary, Ind., constructi-  
ommissioner and chief engineer, with the writer  
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Walsh Construction Co., LaGrange, Ind., which  
began to quarry and excavate the site of the  
preferred rather to provoke a quarrel than to  
garrulity of his companion than to hear  
discourse.  
"Only to see how wit engendereth wit,"  
as, "as naturally as beans bear beans,  
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and attorney's fees will be \$500. Bonds have  
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