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# THE FOURTH ESTATE

DAY 1



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## Artwork Featured-

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Meher Jhamb, Medhya Singhal



# Yet Another Refugee Crisis

## *Aryaman Dev comments on the looming Afghan refugee crisis*

The United States of America's withdrawal from Afghanistan has sparked a major refugee crisis in Afghanistan, with thousands of Afghans fleeing from their country due to the ongoing violence and destruction; the number of civilian casualties has risen by nearly 30% as compared to 2020.

The inevitable influx of refugees into Pakistan and Iran, the countries which host the majority of Afghani refugees, is likely to cause the struggling countries many more devastating problems. These countries have made it clear that they would not be able to handle another wave adding to their huge refugee populations. Pakistan, in fact, has chosen to not even open their borders for them, but has, however, said that they will create refugee camps across the border if the situation in Afghanistan worsens. After the Taliban's capture of key border crossings, however, it may become even more difficult for Afghans to leave the chaos in their country behind.

The Taliban has said that it is open to peace talks once American and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) troops leave Afghanistan. This will be essential in ensuring the safety of the citizens of Afghanistan and preventing neighbouring countries from being overburdened by the refugee exodus. If peace talks and negotiations fail to yield conclusive results, there is a strong chance that the entire country will fall under Taliban control as the weak government and army are likely to be overpowered.







# Vetoing the Veto

*Devina Gupta elucidates the proceedings of the UNSC*

How does the world decide the brevity of an issue, and who resolves it? The UNSC is considered the highest authority, the most powerful international organisation, it is the last place any quandary would reach. An issue reaching here is- to put it mildly- a big deal. A decision is taken to send concerns and cases to this council, so does the council get to decide whether to take the decision into consideration at all?

The UNSC serves to maintain international peace and security. Does the council see to this promise while simultaneously repudiating cases where maintaining international peace and security is necessary, if not obligatory?

The world has seen multiple examples of the case where the veto might not necessarily be favourable to the countries. A few valid occurrences of this would be the veto that the United States utilized in favour of Israel when the country was being questioned for various human rights breaches in Palestine, which may have been owing to trading and weaponizing ties with the country. We see this again when the Russian federation applied their veto power to escape and disregard condemnation for the pressing and severe crimes committed in Crimea. What do these veto powers say about the impetus of this committee's democracy?

This demonstrates how the veto manipulates the motivation of the committee, enough to make it dissolved. It illustrates how the veto has managed to reach extremities where we might have no choice but to dispute it, in order to maintain the surveillance that the UNSC has promised to display. Geopolitical rotations consistently occur, at least every month. At that quick of a pace, who gets to decide whether issues and their consequences should be resolved or not? Inherently, this shouldn't be the case at all. It is morally incorrect for the fate of the world to reside in the hands of five countries.



# US: Peacemaker or Instigator?

## *Kashvi Kaul gives her take on the resource and refugee crisis*

The gradual removal of US troops from Afghan soil has sparked a massive refugee crisis, causing the displacement of many Afghan citizens. Without the protection of the US, Afghan citizens have been left exposed to the violent ways of non-state groups such as the Taliban.

Over the past seven months an estimated 270,000 Afghans have been displaced in their own country, and have been left to seek refuge in other countries on their own. Can the people of Afghanistan afford that? Do they all have the resources to travel from their homeland to countries thousands of miles away?

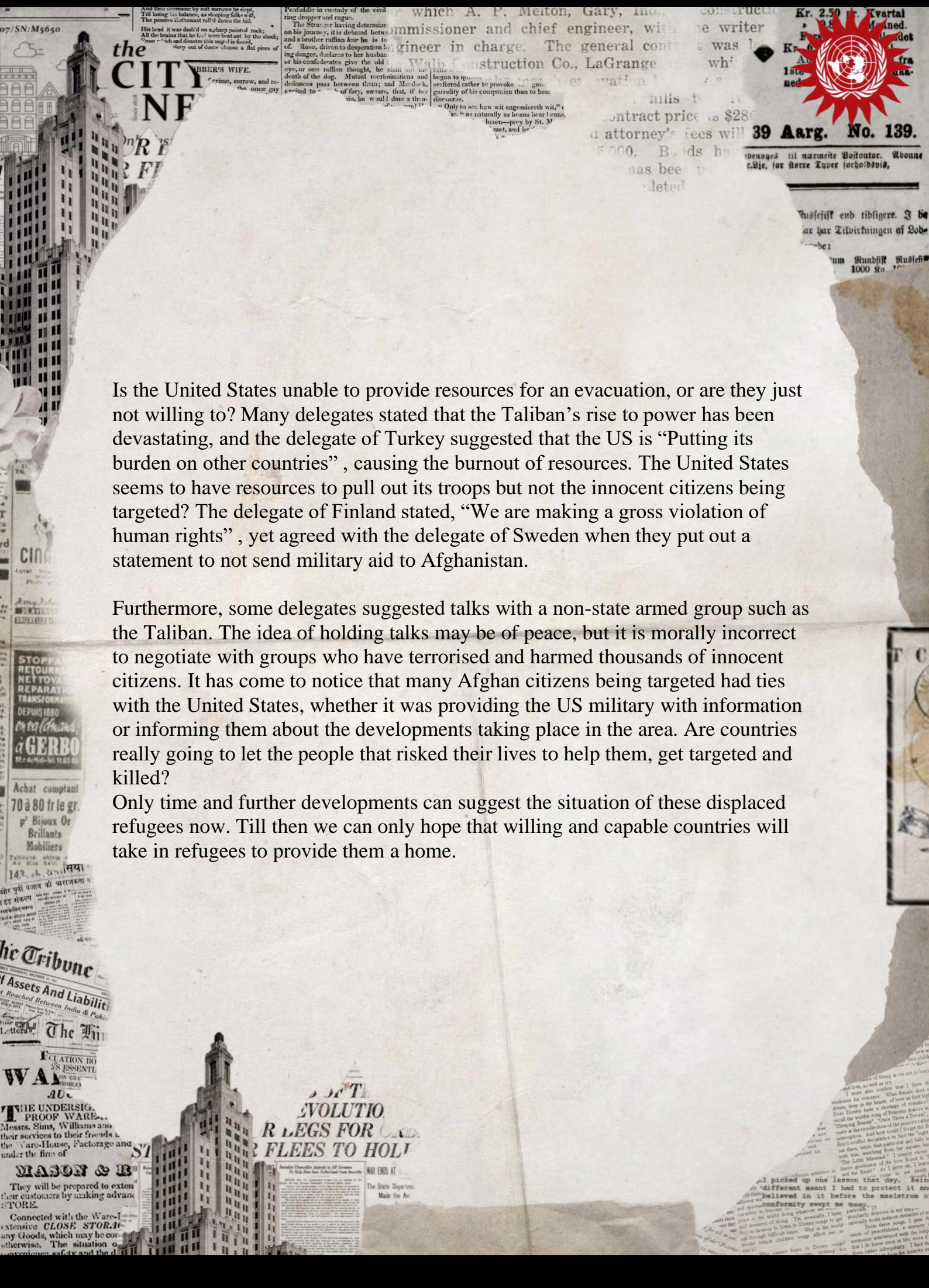
Many European countries stated that their resources are depleting and they do not have the security or strength to provide refuge to the displaced citizens. "We just do not have the resources to provide for the refugees", stated the delegate of Greece. Some countries agreed with the statement but were also willing to provide aid within their limits such as food, water, and refuge. According to the 1951 Refugee Convention, the US is under legal obligations to protect the refugees. However, recent reports seem to suggest that they are willing to take in refugees, yet will not help them leave.

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Art By Divisha Jain





Is the United States unable to provide resources for an evacuation, or are they just not willing to? Many delegates stated that the Taliban's rise to power has been devastating, and the delegate of Turkey suggested that the US is "Putting its burden on other countries", causing the burnout of resources. The United States seems to have resources to pull out its troops but not the innocent citizens being targeted? The delegate of Finland stated, "We are making a gross violation of human rights", yet agreed with the delegate of Sweden when they put out a statement to not send military aid to Afghanistan.

Furthermore, some delegates suggested talks with a non-state armed group such as the Taliban. The idea of holding talks may be of peace, but it is morally incorrect to negotiate with groups who have terrorised and harmed thousands of innocent citizens. It has come to notice that many Afghan citizens being targeted had ties with the United States, whether it was providing the US military with information or informing them about the developments taking place in the area. Are countries really going to let the people that risked their lives to help them, get targeted and killed?

Only time and further developments can suggest the situation of these displaced refugees now. Till then we can only hope that willing and capable countries will take in refugees to provide them a home.



# Taliban Shifts Attacks to Afghan Cities

## *Aaliyah Bawa analyses the crisis update in President Ashraf Ghani's War Cabinet*

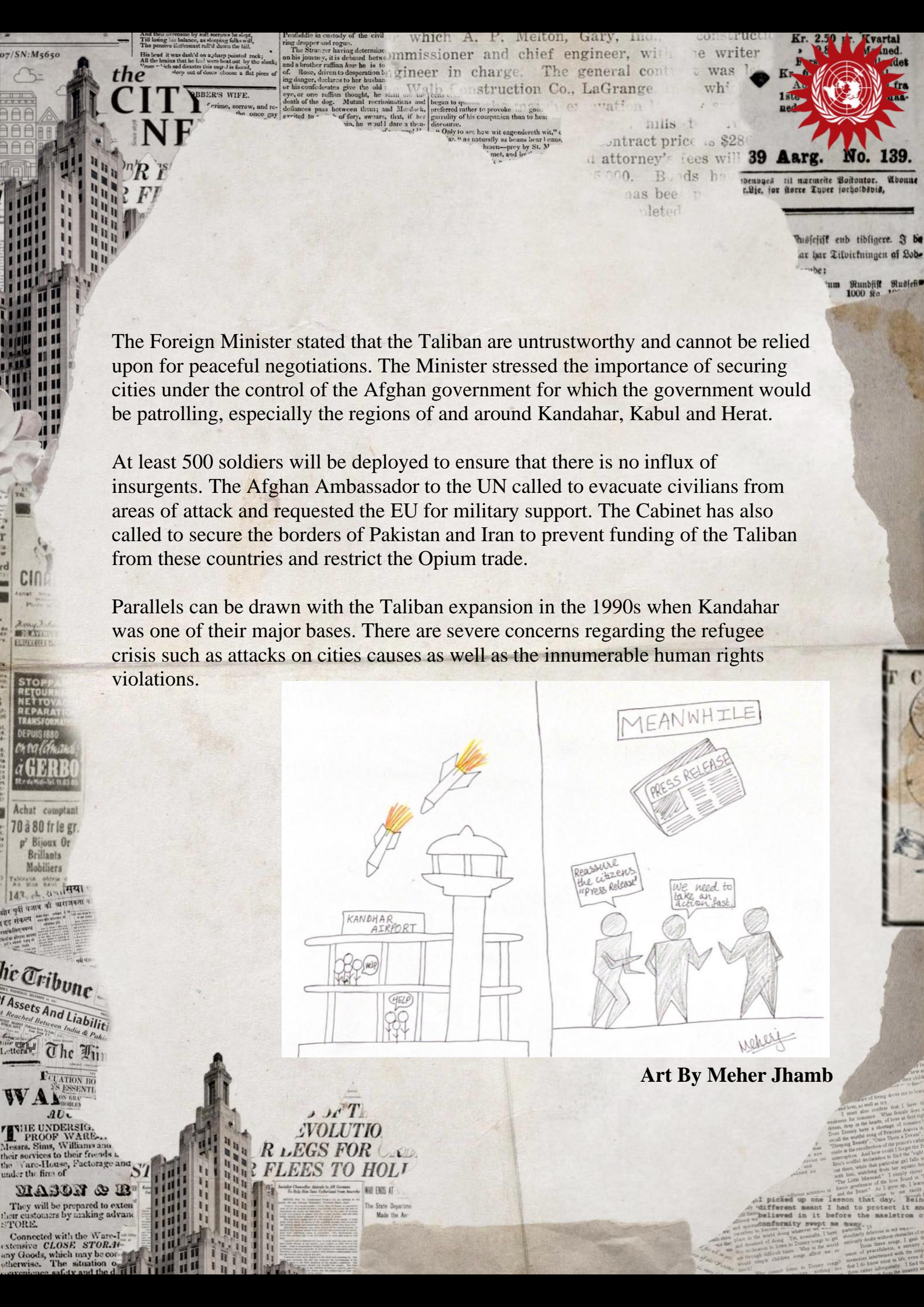
On August 1st, 2021, Taliban fighters struck the Kandahar airport in southern Afghanistan. The Taliban spokesperson stated the aim of the attack was to thwart airstrikes being conducted by the Afghan government. Flights at Kandahar airport were suspended after Taliban rockets struck the complex before daybreak, damaging the runway. Taliban fighters surrounded the city on multiple fronts and due to the large civilian population, it would not be feasible to use heavy weaponry. The city is at a high risk of succumbing to the Taliban, with tens of thousands already displaced and a looming humanitarian disaster.

Kandahar is not the only city that seems likely to fall. There has been heavy fighting in the city of Lashkar Gah which is on the brink of falling into the hands of the insurgents. Herat is also a major concern for the officials. Officials believe that it would be nearly impossible to hold off the Taliban considering the limited funding of the Afghan military.

The region of Kandahar is of great importance to both the Taliban as well as the Ashraf Ghani government from their respective viewpoints since if it falls into the hands of the Taliban about six other provinces would be lost as well. The Finance and Defence Ministers noted Kandahar is vital for trade since a large quantity of cargo comes in from the airport. They emphasised resistance to the Taliban to help maintain the economy.

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The Foreign Minister stated that the Taliban are untrustworthy and cannot be relied upon for peaceful negotiations. The Minister stressed the importance of securing cities under the control of the Afghan government for which the government would be patrolling, especially the regions of and around Kandahar, Kabul and Herat.

At least 500 soldiers will be deployed to ensure that there is no influx of insurgents. The Afghan Ambassador to the UN called to evacuate civilians from areas of attack and requested the EU for military support. The Cabinet has also called to secure the borders of Pakistan and Iran to prevent funding of the Taliban from these countries and restrict the Opium trade.

Parallels can be drawn with the Taliban expansion in the 1990s when Kandahar was one of their major bases. There are severe concerns regarding the refugee crisis such as attacks on cities causes as well as the innumerable human rights violations.



Art By Meher Jhamb



# Afghanistan vs. Taliban

*Rujula Mathur reports the possible responses and resolutions to the recent attack by Taliban discussed in Ashraf Ghani's War Cabinet*

On Sunday, the Afghan militant group, Taliban, launched at least 3 missiles onto the Kandahar airport, 2 of which struck the runway causing mass destruction. The Afghan War Cabinet discussed the urgency regarding this attack, and the need for a solution that could be followed through keeping in mind the Afghanistan government's limited resources.

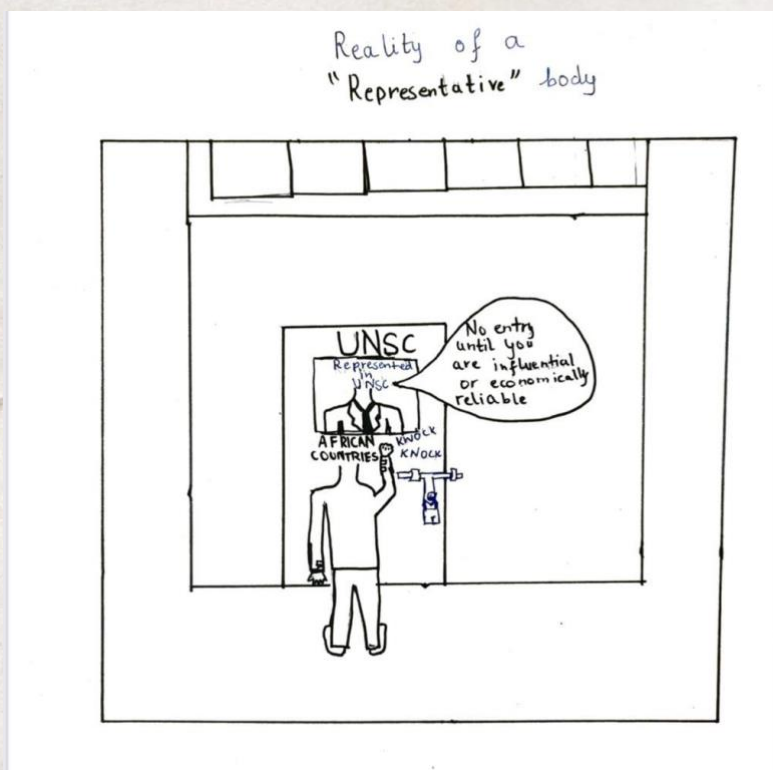
The pivotal concern amongst all delegates was to ensure the safety of the citizens in Kandahar and disintegrate Taliban's control of the city of Herat. The possible solutions listed included optimistic peace negotiations, reliance on aid from the United States of America and gaining assistance from the UN by requesting for specialised surveillance teams to monitor the borders where Taliban receives its funds. Evacuating citizens and providing amenities was also discussed. The Cabinet emphasised that the situation is under control and mass panic must be avoided at all costs.



# China & Mexico: Their Stance on the Veto

*Aashna Nayyar covers the response of China and Mexico in the UNSC*

Much has changed since the second world war as have the statuses of countries. However, the veto powers of the five permanent members of the UNSC has remained constant. Countries across the globe have contrasting opinions regarding this matter. In the UNSC session dated August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 various countries have gathered to represent their views about the veto system. China and Mexico are two countries that shared a similar stance opposing the veto.



Art By Jasmin Alhuwalia

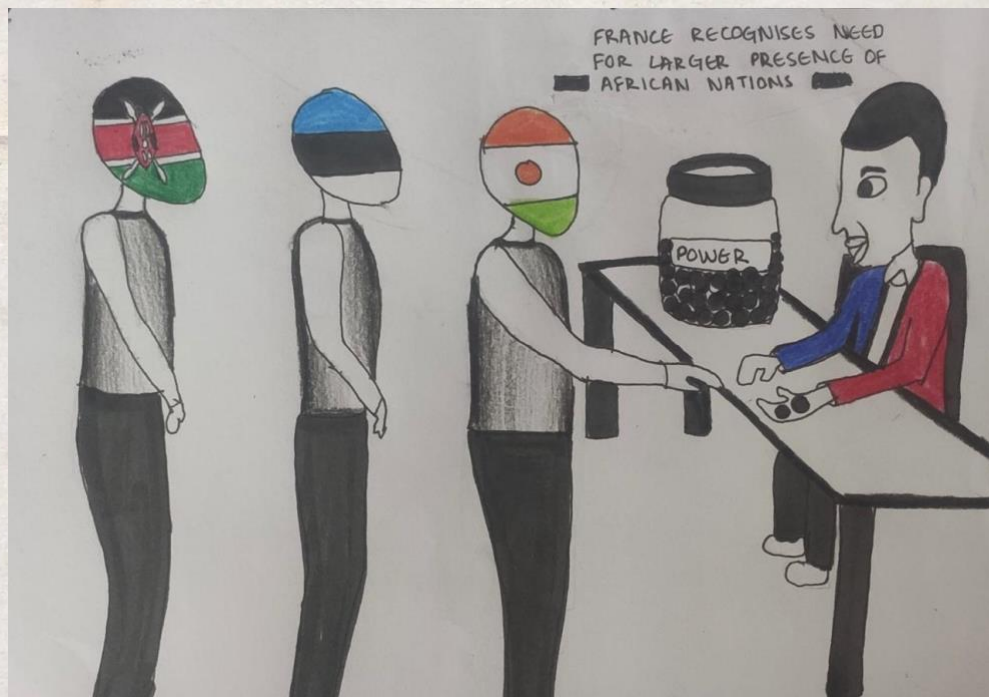
The People's Republic of China believes the veto is an unavoidable practice as it is the only system in place that can avert actions taken by a block of nations which can be damaging. They are open to the idea of having more permanent UNSC members. However, they do believe that there should be certain qualifications that a country must uphold for the position of permanent membership.

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Mexico pointed out instances involving the USA and Russia, where they believe the use of the veto was questionable. They suggested the formation of a committee consisting of high-ranking UN diplomats. According to them, this will ensure that the agreements passed are fair. They believe that five countries should not get to decide the fate of the world.

While the discussion regarding veto powers and the permanent seats in the UNSC continues, the contrasting opinion of different countries helps provide a diverse dialogue. The debate around veto powers is a vital, long one keeping in mind the mammoth changes in the world since the UN was formed in 1945. While the sessions are still in progress, the countries are yet to come up with a solution catering to the needs of all.



Art By Anannya Garg



# Wildlife Trafficking- Ecosystem Collapse

*Taira Arora examines the possible solutions to the global wildlife trade problem*

Wildlife trade is a global issue. Poaching and other unlawful interests result in the extinction of many species. This could cause a collapse of ecosystems, according to the delegate of the United Kingdom.

Preservation of wildlife is important to people all around the world. Japan and other countries have taken initiatives by joining The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) to ensure the survival of varied fauna and flora. The government of India established The Wild Life (Protection) Act in 1972 to focus on trade in India. The delegate of Switzerland also made their heed in collaborating with India for other such measures. A few of their proposals were to start awareness campaigns and positive incentives to people who report cases of wildlife trade or abuse around them.

The delegate of the Philippines stated some measures the country was willing to take to help in wildlife trafficking, the boycott of products made of animal skin or bones and increased penalties being the most notable. They also pointed out that the Indian government should be focused on funding proper law implementation and increased efficiency rather than campaigns for the time being.



# Big Changes Required Against the “Big Five”

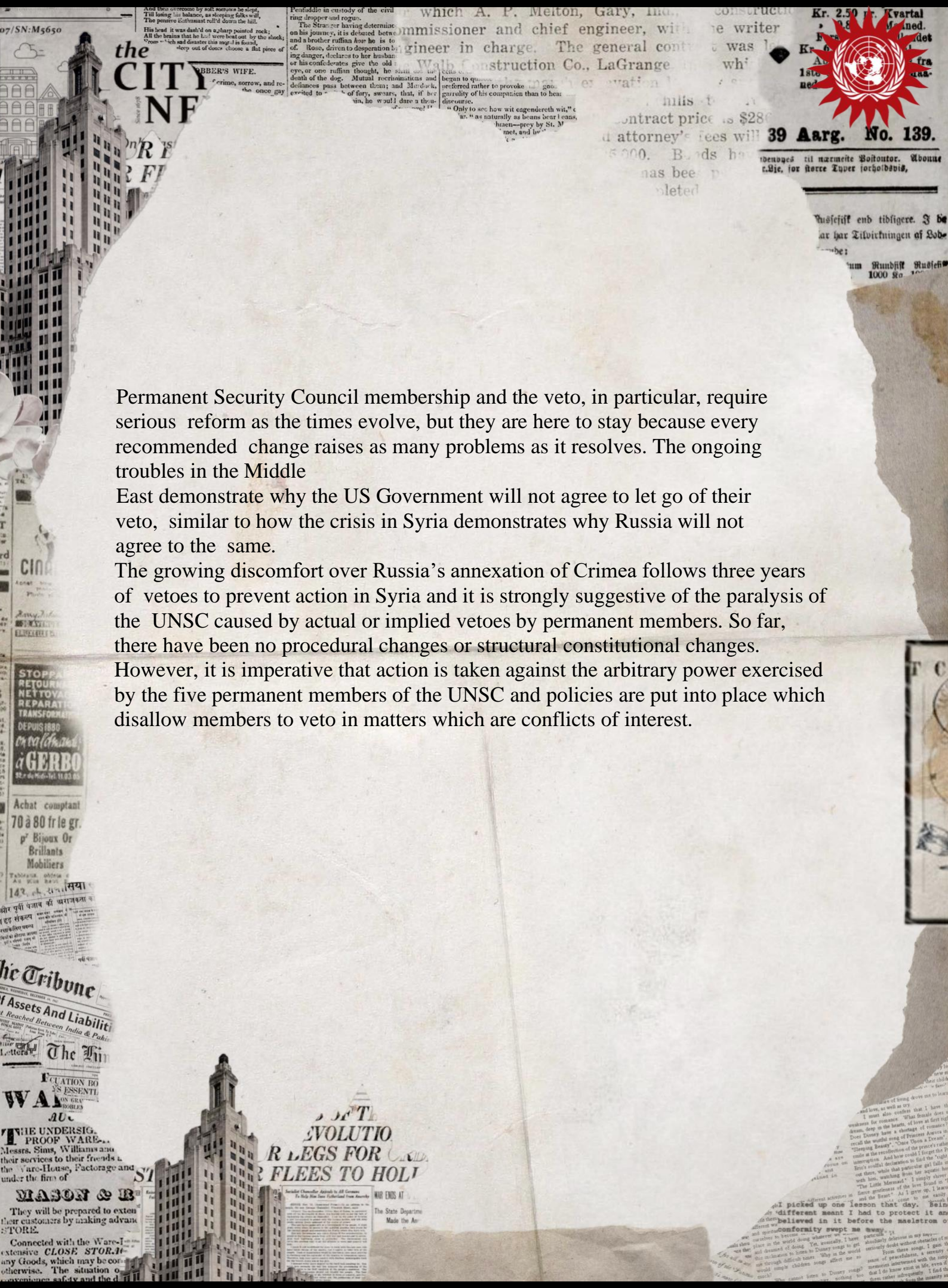
*Divija Jain expounds the reasons to re-examine the right to veto*

The UNSC is extremely flawed. Although there are many flaws, one of the main issues is that a single member nation can stand in the way of required action, or even condemnation, of anomalous behaviour that violates international law. There have been a total of 190 resolutions vetoed since the Security Council's first meeting on 17 January 1946. Diplomatic etiquette makes these numbers lesser than they are because a threatened veto often signifies that other countries rethink their plans rather than pushing for conflict.

The veto power is quite crucial for the unity of all nations in the UNSC. The UN oath states that the UN's decisions should not cause any harm and not make matters worse. The possibility of upsetting a powerful nation and going to war indubitably makes little sense. The main goal of the UNSC is to maintain peace around the world but maintaining peace does not mean the same as avoiding war. For instance, over the last three years, there have been three vetoes on the issue over Syria, despite the horror of over 150,000 deaths and over 9 million people forcibly displaced and left homeless. According to the UN, there are three proposals to reform the UNSC's veto system, assessed and extensively detailed in a report published in October 2015. The report highlights the UNSC's incapability to carry out an effective response to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. Just as Russia's interests in Ukraine have disrupted effective engagement on that issue, UNSC action on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is restricted by the US, which generally protects Israel's interests.

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Permanent Security Council membership and the veto, in particular, require serious reform as the times evolve, but they are here to stay because every recommended change raises as many problems as it resolves. The ongoing troubles in the Middle

East demonstrate why the US Government will not agree to let go of their veto, similar to how the crisis in Syria demonstrates why Russia will not agree to the same.

The growing discomfort over Russia's annexation of Crimea follows three years of vetoes to prevent action in Syria and it is strongly suggestive of the paralysis of the UNSC caused by actual or implied vetoes by permanent members. So far, there have been no procedural changes or structural constitutional changes.

However, it is imperative that action is taken against the arbitrary power exercised by the five permanent members of the UNSC and policies are put into place which disallow members to veto in matters which are conflicts of interest.



# The International Press

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Meher Jhamb  
Medhya Singhal

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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 folks will,  
The pensive Kishanant fell down the hall.  
His head it was dashed on a sharp pointed rock;  
All the brains that he had were beat out by the shock;  
From which and dearest this morn'g I found,  
"My out of door" choose a flat 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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# INTERNATIONAL PRESS

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weakness for romance. "What female does a  
dream, deep in the heart, of love at first sight  
Does Disney have a shortage of romance?"  
recall the wonderful song of Princess Aurora in  
"Sleeping Beauty". "Once Upon a Dream",  
emile at the recollection of the prince's valiant  
interference. And how could I forget the "right  
Emile's crucial decision to find the "right  
one there, while that particular girl falls in  
with him, watching from her window her  
"The Little Mermaid". I simply shiver  
and the heart". As I gave up, I leave  
different activities in  
I picked up one lesson that day. Bein  
different meant I had to protect it and  
believed in it before the maestro of  
and opera. Conformity swept me away  
place in the world doing whatever I  
and dreamed of doing. Yet, eventually, I have  
that inclination to listen to Disney songs to get  
out through difficult times. Why in the world  
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