



MUNUM'18

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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

MUNUM'18

SECRETARY-GENERAL WELCOME LETTER

Dear friends, delegates: it is a matter of great pride and satisfaction to welcome you to a challenge that was born from the heart of the students, from the hearts and minds of those of us who are restless for knowledge, for the problems that affect us as a society, and of course, from those who look day after day to be agents of change, with the imperative to build and live in the future we want.

Confronted to a world of constant variables, of complex realities, composed of frenetic challenges that demand proactive solutions in replacement of the merely volatile and fragile answers, the United Nations Models emerge as academic exercises and propitious scenarios to approach to the problems, address them and solve them, without neglecting the multiple perspectives and interests that converge in them. In the same way, the personal and professional growth that those exercises allow constitute the main added values of participating in them.

On behalf of this family that for more than a year and a half has persisted and assumed the commitment of giving you a memorable experience in the three dimensions of this Model, academic, logistics and press; I invite you to take the leading role of this event. From now on, you will not only represent the ideas and positions that enrich the debates and land the possibility of living in a better world; from this moment we welcome you with open arms to take the preeminent role and extend this community, the MUNUM'18 family.

Once again, we warmly welcome you, without forgetting that from these spaces we are walking the right path in the construction of the society, the country and the world we dream of; that dear friends, is to have #DNAMunum in the blood.

Fond regards,

Abel A. Malaver
Secretary-General

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR LETTER

Friends; delegates: It is a real pleasure to welcome you to the second general version and the first one open to the public of the United Nations Model of the Military University Nueva Granada - MUNUM. For just over a year we have been building this project to make your participation a dynamic, academic, and entertaining experience: unforgettable.

In conjunction with the Academic team that I have had the honor of leading, we have achieved a high level of development that reflects the quality and characteristics of each member of this team. The goal was excellence and we did not take a step back; now we have the certainty that we will make a dent in the MUN spectrum in Colombia and Latin America. We put all our love, knowledge and effort into this process, so that you leave the best of yourselves in each intervention and make MUNUM- the challenge you assume today- the best UN-type experience of 2018. We hope that the development of the debate will shine for their professionalism and personal qualities, always within the framework of respect and tolerance.

From the Lannister in Poniente to the Lleras in Colombia, we expect the best representations and action plans that exercise the power they have in their hands and execute it. Remember "power is the ability to influence others to achieve an objective" (Nye, 2015).

Welcome to MUNUM; today we begin to break boundaries.

David Garzón García
Academic Coordinator

DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL LETTER

My name is Daniela Rodríguez, Deputy Secretary-General for the UN committees in MUNUM 2018, student of International Relations and Political Studies of the Military University Nueva Granada. I became involved in the United Nations Models as a natural space to promote ideas of change and develop debate skills and thanks to this I have not only explored my own potential, but I have met wonderful people. Additionally, I have seen for myself that good ideas and the desire to change unfortunate realities bear fruit, since I have had the opportunity to work within the United Nations system in Colombia, first in UNICEF and now in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

This year, I have the pleasure and the great honor of having an extraordinary team, which has worked hard for months to provide challenging and relevant committees to the global context. The UN Undersecretary will have the distinction of being interconnected and articulated on the famous principle of the Responsibility to Protect, so it requires preparation and responsiveness on the part of the delegates. With this in mind, we have the classic and key Security Council, which will challenge us with the need to answer an urgent question. How can the international community address the most pressing ethnic and political conflicts in the world today?

On the other hand, the General Staff Committee is full of surprises for those who like strategy and want to see how it can be operationalized; we will immerse ourselves in the colossal task of making military intervention a reality in areas of instability and proclivity to terrorism with a semi-open agenda that will give delegates more room for action and decision.

Are you not interested in direct conflict but in diplomatic solutions? We present you Human Rights Council, this committee invites you to discuss the human rights situation in a region in the shadow of the colossal Russia: the Chechen Republic.

We are waiting for you with open arms in which we are sure it will be an enriching experience!

Daniela Rodríguez Torres

Deputy Secretary-General for UN committees

WELCOME LETTER

My name is Juan Pablo Rodríguez, I am a second semester student on political sciences at the Universidad de la Sabana. I have been participating in Model United Nations since I was 10 years old and it has been an amazing and fascinating journey since then and actually MUN has been one of the greatest things that has happened in my life, becoming one of my most important passions. As it is my passion, it is a matter of great honor to be in charge of this committee with Leonardo, and I encourage you as delegates to make it an important learning and reflexive experience, since human rights are a subject that interests us all. It is going to be my first presidency at a human rights committee and it excites me a lot to explore new scenarios at MUN.

My name is Leonardo Rodríguez León, I'm a Biologist from the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana. I love United Nations as the real solution for International conflicts and debates, thus the young people that participate in this kind of spaces are growing to create a real change. This is an academic space where I enjoy learning and listening ideas of every person and checking thoughts. Along with Juan Pablo, we are going to work for you, building a great debate and challenging every delegate to fly abroad the study guide and try to relate the cases and situations with the global and dramatic change that the real world presents to everyone day by day. Never consider the Human Rights Council as an easy committee, because as you may know, the people choices and participations affect what happens in a country to some communities or specific groups of the population.

We expect you enjoy the committee as much as we are going to. every single doubt and question regarding this semi open agenda and the committee itself don't hesitate to contact us via email.

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COMMITTEE

INTERCONNECTION WORLD PRESS CONSORTIUM (WPC)

Delegates, remember, in MUNUM 2018 the press correspondents (delegates in the CMP committee) are an essential part for the transversality of this Model. Starting from their relevant role in the transmission of the development and the critic moments of each committee, the press in this sense seeks to achieve the purpose it pursues in real life: the communication and information dissemination. We emphasize the press must be seen by delegates and participants as an additional tool at their disposal, since interviews and negotiations can be taken, as well as data crossing that serve the interests of the different parts. Finally, the invitation is extended to all the participants of the Model in order to have high expectations in the press, as it will challenge and surprise you in unpredictable ways. The best is yet to come!

What is it and what is the mandate?

The Human Rights Council, which was created on March 15 of 2006 by the general assembly of the UN, is the main interstate governmental body within the United Nations structure responsible of addressing human rights violation across the world. This Council receives information and reports on thematic and country-specific situations made by different expert organizations such as Human Rights Watch and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Human Rights Watch, 2014). This organism functions as one of the most important bodies in charge of the promotion and protection of human rights all over the world, condemning violations and supervising several decisions and actions made by the different governments in the states that may compromise human rights for a certain population or in any specific geographical area.

General topic: Supervising the humanitarian void in Chechnya's case: semi open agenda

Note: Taking into account the mandate of this committee and the recent events that have been occurring recently within different countries regarding human rights violations, we are going to work with a semi open agenda, considering Chechnya's specific case as our main case of study and the guideline in which the debate has to be mainly focused due to the complexity of the situation in the Russian federal subject. Furthermore, considering the different human rights violation that are occurring in Chechnya, we encourage the delegates to highly prepare this topic, but bearing in mind that the committee will work around different situations that can be related to Chechnya in context, events or other relevant aspect that might contribute to the central topic of the humanitarian void and its supervision.

General context:

Entering more into subject, it is well known that human rights are based upon different principles: their universality, interdependence within them, their equality, their indivisibility and finally the correspondence between rights and responsibilities (Oficina del Alto Comisionado para los Derechos Humanos, 2017). Those principles, will be explained briefly here, due to their importance in the comprehension of human rights, their application, their transcendence and their few limitations within the context of the committee and the case study (in which the use of this concepts might be important and basic)

Universality and inalienable character:

This principle defines one of the most important bases of the international law, committing states to promote and protect human rights in their territories without any sort of exception, no matter what are their political, economic or cultural system. Hence, this principle obligates any country in the world to respect every one of their citizens as human beings with the corresponding rights that cannot be taken away from them

Interdependence and indivisibility:

All the human rights, no matter of what type, are all related to each other and indivisible among them. Moreover, this means that all human rights must be respected and protected without exception.

Equality and no discrimination:

The no discrimination is a transversal principle within

the international law for human rights and it is present in every treaty about human rights. This important principle is applied to every person in relation to each human right and the inherent freedom of every human being without any kind of discrimination of race, sex, color, etc. Furthermore, equality is conceived as the first article of the Universal Declaration of the Human Rights states: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights” (United Nations, 1948)

Rights and responsibilities:

In the individual aspect, as human beings we must demand our rights but make sure to respect others rights as an important obligation. Additionally, states must assume the responsibility to respect and protect human rights, abstaining of intervening or interfering in the access of every single human being to his or her rights as an inherent feature built upon the simple characteristic of being a human. Having cleared these basic concepts off, it is important to now understand that these principles give sense to the human rights, then none of these characteristics have to be violated nowhere, in order to guarantee the proper use of human rights in the whole globe. Nevertheless, these important aspects of human rights have been corrupted and violated, giving them a partial application rather than a universal scope, which they are intended to have. As it is can be observed among different scenarios in the world, radical discrimination has started to take place, violating wildly the human rights and restricting its scope even by governmental actions. Then, that is why the Chechen case has been chosen as the central case of study in this committee.

CENTRAL CASE OF STUDY:

The Chechen Republic, or more commonly known in the international community as Chechnya is a federal subject of Russia and it is located in the North Caucasus, situated in the southernmost part of Eastern Europe and approximately at 100 kilometers from the Caspian Sea. This specific zone has been a pretty affected due to the asymmetric conflict created by delivered actions coming from some powerful countries causing mayor international difficulties such as the Chechen wars, which put the zone in a dispute against Russia for its independence after the division of the area in two when the Soviet Union was terminated in 1991. Now a days Chechnya comprehends an important strategically vital location for the Russian federation due to the easy access to both the Black and Caspian sea routes from this region and the connections of gas pipelines that run there to Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.



Location of Chechen Región in a geopolitical map. Taken from Google Maps.

Discrimination

Besides its geographical importance, Chechnya has been recently one of the zones where human rights are violated the most. In general, LGBTQ community in Chechnya has been presumably affected by different aggressions supposedly made by the government due to the reported existence of concentration camps for gay people in this region (evidence is based on testimonies of several people that claim being there). Right now, survivors from these incidents have informed reporters and different human rights organizations, that they were captured and tortured by the police for being homosexual. And it is of course unlikely for the police to record crimes they are reportedly perpetrating. Nevertheless Chechnya's leader has been claiming that there are no gays among Chechen people, but fake Chechens. (Oppenheim, 2017)

For several months now, a brutal campaign against LGBTQ people has been sweeping through Chechnya. Law enforcement and security agency officials are doing so under control of the head of the Chechen Republic, Ramzan Kadyrov. This information was first published by Novaya Gazeta, a leading independent Russian paper. Their report came out on April 1st, which is consistent with Human Rights Watch recently received reports from various trustworthy sources, making Novaya Gazeta a consistent informative mean to take into account, putting into evidence what we have to perceive as truthful. (Lokshina, 2017)

It turns evident that there exists a huge homophobic trend within Chechnya, and it has been reinforced by the local government and their public forces, committing crimes such as abuse of power, violation of human rights and even violent murders. Moreover, what is more worrying is that recently, people suffering of these abuses from the government are too afraid

to even dare to speak to any kind of human rights organizations or journalists due to the increasing climate of fear. Additionally, as it has already been stated, it is almost impossible to make any efficient complaint against local authorities, because they are the ones perpetrating the crimes and retaliation from them is inevitable and severe. Furthermore, investigation cannot take place effectively in the region because not even the Kremlin has been able to put efficient control over Chechnya. According to Human Rights Watch LGBTQ humans are being affected by the campaign promoted in Russia to stop "homosexual Propaganda" and "the obnoxious effect in the population". In fact, president Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov has stated that the Kremlin was not aware of this situation. (Lokshina, 2017).

Going to the facts and the overwhelming reality, Chechnya has detained a lot of gay men in first concentration camps since the Holocaust (Human Rights First, 2017). The arrests are being performed as part of a widespread anti-LGBTQ purge in the area that started after an application for a gay march in the Chechen capital of Grozny (Smith, 2017).

Some international organizations are looking for the global empowerment in order to protect the humanitarian law and respect the Universal Human Rights Charter, as the fight against gender and sexual equality has been decreasing around the globe. Some of the signatories are Following this eminent tragedy, it is evident to conceive the need of a humanitarian action with a wide scope and negotiation in accordance with the universal Charter of human rights and the Russian Government in order to guarantee the protection of the LGBTQ minority in Chechnya, compromising to avoid violation of any human rights, and assuring the equality of them for every citizen within Russian territory.

Press Freedom.

Regarding the press freedom problems reported by both Human Rights Watch and Reporters Without Borders, the Russian territory has a lot more issues about the protection of information and the use of mass media to distribute information, due to the fact that the Political and social environments are connected and the information must be approved by the Government in order to reach the citizens. At this point a journalist has been killed in Russian territories and many others had to migrate to countries where they could be protected such as Poland and Norway (Reporters Without Borders, 2017).

The development of new Laws regarding how information must be delivered and distributed in Russian territories since the Crimea annex process, caused the rise of impartial bans and dangers to some reporters, as Lydia Tomkiw reported in 2015, Censorship exists in internet, in formal media information and informal mass media, such as Internet web pages, blogs, podcasts and instruments that can be banned due to the content related to “nonfunctional” opinions regarding the government and the participation of the News outlets. Some bills and maybe crime penalties are cases of somber Reporters that tried to express their opinion about what currently happens in the country, but still, the legislation established since 2014, controls this process. Prosecuting and restricting access to many pages to the civilians preventing the information that criticized the Kremlin (Civil Rights defenders, 2016).

The UNESCO, has been fighting for the press freedom and truth ways of using media for the correct information of the people of the globe and by doing so, making the Civil and Political Rights charter a valid empowerment document that can help the population. Since 2014, the Organization developed a plan

in order to develop some strategies that might help the most affected countries and continents and a future contingency plan in case the violation of the freedom of expression grows in the years to follow (Radsch, C. C. 2014).

Guidelines.

As there is a Case of Study, the relations of the world participation and the solutions must bear in mind the current situation and also a global measure in order to prevent the current issues from growing. first it must be considered that every country has its own needs and also, that the situation affecting a region might turn the tides to a continent or maybe the whole globe. It's necessary to take into account The Universal Human Rights charter, The Civil and Political Rights Charter and the regionals Human rights Charters in order to create a proposal that, is in fact, part of the scope of the Human rights Council, including the prevention measures and the organisms that are needed to complete this task.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS.

1. Is the European region affected by discrimination of any kind?
2. The discrimination index regarding gender equality, Sexual preferences, and freedom of expression, is Increasing or decreasing in each of the countries and regions of this Council?
3. Are the rights in the into account The Universal Human Rights charter, mandatory to every country in this Committee or, it is not "Binding" by nations that consider this as not legitimate to their sovereignty?
4. What Kind of NGOs, Funds, committees or commissions work in the protection of human rights and have participation in conflict territories or are capable of doing so?

PROCEDURE

The committee Will have some differences with a common Agenda committee.

First, A motion to establish a topic will be in order as the semi open Agenda lets the delegate create different approaches to the Case of study given.

- There, a motion to establish a sub agenda will proceed, as it creates an order to discuss the topic in every type of debate or lobby time.

Second, the committee will only generate ONE resolution that will try to tackle every single topic referenced during the debates.

Third, the dais might consider a motion not accurate for the committee as it might cause any disruption or issue during the sessions or interventions.

Finally, every single rule established in the MUNUM'18 Handbook will be respected and considered for evaluation and possible warnings for the Delegate.

GLOSSARY

1. Discrimination: Represented in the international Law And developed by the UNESCO as any type of unfavourable attitudes (any kind not only actions), towards persons in different categories. Many examples are the Racial discrimination, Sexual discrimination, Gender discrimination among many others. It can be direct or Indirect.
2. Sexuality: Preference or interest of an individual towards others not linked to sex or gender, variable in context and in regions across the countries.
3. Freedom of expression: As written in the Universal Human Rights charter, its the fundamental right 19, consisting in the capability of every individual to give and opinion regardless frontiers or limits consisting on the thoughts of the person involved.

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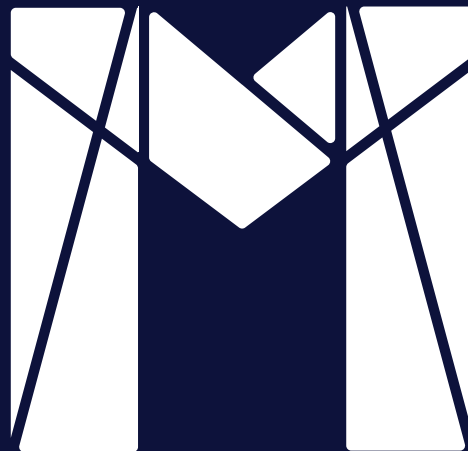
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