

Hilton 2021

Legal Political

Committee Overview

Solitary Confinement in Prisons

Nordstream 2 Pipeline

Violence in Myanmar

Committee Description

This committee will be run Harvard Style, meaning that resolutions should only be written during the conference itself. It is suggested that each delegate write at least one position paper, which is the minimum requirement to win an award. However, we encourage delegates to write position papers on as many topics as possible to ensure that delegates are able to participate in all debates. Position Papers must be submitted, at latest, by the first day of the conference. Electronic copies of position papers can also be submitted via email.

Delegates are expected to research ahead of time and come to committee with a basic understanding of every topic and their countries' policies. As the Legal Political Committee, we deal with issues primarily related to international law and justice. Even though some of our topics are specific to a region, similar issues exist worldwide. Finally, keep in mind that Model UN is not all about winning awards, so please don't make that your number one priority and enjoy the committee!

Chairs

Kevin Xue | xuek2022@outlook.com

Hello delegates, my name is Kevin Xue, and I am a Senior at Brighton High School. I have participated in MUN since Sophomore year, and I participate in other clubs, including Speech and Debate, DECA, and Programming Club. Outside of school, I have an interest in app development and tennis. Good luck in this MUN committee and have fun! Questions can be directed to my email.

Isaac Gray | isaacgray52@gmail.com

Hi delegates, my name is Isaac Gray and this is my third time chairing, and I have been doing Model UN since freshman year. I am a Senior at Brighton High School where I run cross country, I also participate in many clubs such as Masterminds and DECA. Outside of school, I play hockey and soccer and I am the captain of my Science Bowl Team. I can't wait to meet you all and have a great

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Solitary Confinement in Prisons



Solitary confinement is a form of imprisonment in which a prisoner is kept in a cell without any significant contact with other inmates. It can last for a few days up to weeks or even months at a time. Solitary confinement is used to segregate inmates that are considered a threat to themselves or others from the rest of the prison population for safety and security reasons. It is extremely controversial because of the many negative mental health effects it has on prisoners, which have led many advocacy groups to call for an end to the practice.

Solitary confinement can occur for a variety of reasons. One of the most common ones is if a prison has a particularly dangerous inmate, then that inmate will likely be put in solitary to protect other inmates as well as guards and other prison staff. Another reason could be if an inmate, such as a witness, needs to be protected they will be put in solitary to keep them safe from other inmates. Lastly, solitary can be used to prevent inmates who might be involved in crime outside of the prison, such as those involved in drug rings, from continuing to run their operations.

Solitary confinement has many well-known detrimental mental health effects. Research has shown that it can lead to anxiety, depression, hallucinations, paranoia, and psychosis. Many prisoners that are put in solitary confinement already have preexisting mental health conditions and the time they spend by themselves only compounds their issues, possibly leading to permanent changes in their brains' structures. Self-harm is another issue, with rates being seven times higher for inmates in solitary confinement than for those in the general prisoner population.

In 2011 the United Nations called for the ban of solitary confinement except for in some extreme cases in its member states. They say that the practice, especially for more than a week or two, is torture and is unacceptable. They also called for a total ban of solitary confinement for children and those with mental health issues. Nevertheless, this practice is still widely employed, so the UN must further discuss how to best deal with this issue.

How should the UN establish guidelines on the use of solitary confinement? How can the UN work to prevent the use of long-term solitary confinement, especially for children and inmates with mental health issues? What should be done about countries or prisons that abuse solitary confinement?

Sources:

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/10/392012-solitary-confinement-should-be-banned-most-cases-un-expert-says>

https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/12/08/solitary_symposium/

<https://www.afsc.org/resource/solitary-confinement-facts>

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Nordstream 2 Pipeline



The Nordstream 2 pipeline was established as a gas pipeline through the Baltic Sea, connecting the countries of Germany and Russia. Russia uses this pipeline as a gas export route, and Germany purchases and imports the gas, distributing it across Europe. While this pipeline may seem extremely beneficial to all parties involved, various controversies have arisen as a result.

Russia has often extracted gasoline from its less powerful neighbors, often militarily. Past Russian military expeditions have been repeatedly condemned by the United Nations, but Russia continues to exploit its neighbors for gasoline politically and economically. The existing pipeline connecting these regions is the Ukrainian-Polish pipeline. This pipeline brings in billions in revenue for countries it crosses. For example, Ukraine makes approximately \$1 billion per year from the pipeline, which contributes to a significant part of its economy. The political situation between these countries is very tense, and relations are threatened with the construction of the Nordstream 2 pipeline.

The situation's complexity intensifies when the opposing viewpoint is considered: To others, including Germany and other European countries, the Nordstream 2 pipeline is a welcome change and opportunity for economic interdependence and strong EU and Russian ties in the future. This pipeline would provide cheaper gas at a lower price to all European residents and would overall benefit the economies of all countries involved, facilitating future projects and economic developments in developed and developing countries.

Several years ago, the US, under the lead of President Donald Trump, imposed a sanction on this pipeline, causing massive uproar by European countries, especially Germany, and Russia. The US was concerned about Russian influence on the pipeline and therefore the rest of Europe.

However, recent developments led by US President Joseph Biden have removed this sanction. Yet, the issue remains controversial on both sides, as supporters of the sanction continue to condemn Russia's complicated political history and opponents see the pipeline as a necessary step towards economic interdependence. The UN has not taken a stance on the issue, and thus, the delegates must find a solution to the problem without infringing on national sovereignty.

How can the UN take a more active stance to defuse tensions between countries? Should the UN support the removal of sanctions or reimplement sanctions? What are the benefits and consequences to all involved if the pipeline continues use?

Sources:

1. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/blog-post/security-implications-nord-stream-2-ukraine-poland-and-germany>
2. <https://www.cleanenergywire.org/factsheets/gas-pipeline-nord-stream-2-links-germany-russia-splits-europe>
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-waive-sanctions-firm-ceo-behind-russias-nord-stream-2-pipeline-source-2021-05-19/>

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Violence in Myanmar



On February 1, 2021, after Ms. Suu Kyi’s National League for Democracy (NLD) party won in a landslide in the Myanmar general election, the Myanmar military, which had backed the opposition, seized control and called for a revote. They claimed there was widespread election fraud, despite no evidence to support these claims. After the coup, Ms. Suu Kyi was taken to an unknown location where she remains, facing multiple charges including violation of Myanmar’s official secrets act and publication of information that may “cause fear or alarm.”

As a result of the power vacuum created by the coup, the commander in chief of the military, Min Aung Hlaing, has taken power. His attacks on ethnic minorities such as the Rohingya Muslims have been internationally condemned. He claims that the military will hold “free and fair” elections once the crisis is over, but he recently appointed himself prime minister and says the next elections will only happen in 2023.

People from all walks of life in Myanmar have protested the coup and the military's actions. The military has imposed curfews and limits to public gatherings, but protesters have still come out en masse to fight against it. So far, hundreds of people have been killed protesting, with more than 100 deaths on March 27th alone.

This crisis has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has hit Myanmar especially hard. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), it is facing “a 70% funding shortfall” in Myanmar which has caused millions of people to become food insecure as Myanmar has heavily relied on foreign aid throughout this pandemic. The many problems facing the Myanmar people necessitate the UN to discuss this topic and find ways to help them.

How should the UN respond to the coup and disposal of the democratically elected prime minister in Myanmar? How should the UN respond to increasing evidence of a genocide occurring in Myanmar? How can the UN respond to the increasing violence by Myanmar security forces against civilians?

Sources:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55902070>

<https://www.npr.org/2021/03/27/981894604/at-least-91-people-killed-in-myanmar-as-violence-continues-to-escalate>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097252>