Cleveland-Winter Conference
2018

Position Papers for:

The United Nations Human Right Council
Delegation from: Afghanistan
Represented by: Vermilion High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The country of Afghanistan is looking to receive help in both of these areas due to the fact that both are are having to do with the provisional government set in place by the United Nations.

I: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The loss of human rights in conflicts in the middle east have affected Afghanistan and have been a topic for controversy. Fighting between Afghan government and taliban forces leads to many civilian deaths. Afghanistan has problems with torture, hate, and their government. These have all been a serious problem in Afghanistan and we need help regulating these problems.

The government in Afghanistan has to battle the Islamic State of the Khorasan Province and the Afghan extremist group, Islamic State also known as ISIS. The Afghan National Security Forces has to rely on irregular military forces which most of the time kill and assault civilians. In the first nine months of 2017, The United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan documented 2,640 war related civilian deaths and 5,379 injuries. Taliban groups were responsible for two-thirds of these. Afghanistan has also had a problem with torture. In March they enacted an anti-torture legislation. The law left out a system for victims of torture by state security forces. The Afghan Constitution prohibits torture but has still not prosecuted any senior officials accused of torture. The Afghan Journalists Safety Committee has recorded 73 cases of violence since January including threats against journalists, deaths, beatings, and detentions. Government officials were responsible for about half of these cases.

The government in Afghanistan has tried to make some progress on adopting a legislature to stop the violence and torture, but have failed to prosecute offenders. Women have been taken into custody to be examined and for morality crimes. But only a small amount of cases have resulted in prosecutions in cases of violence against women. There are many cases where government officials are the ones that are causing the conflicts and Afghanistan's government hasn’t been able to do much about that. Afghanistan needs support from the UN to get money and to stabilize the problems happening.

II. Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
The country of Afghanistan is aware of certain disappearances occurring within its own borders. Cruelties such as torture and the detention of some citizens have been brought to our attention. There is also a presence of discrimination towards persons with disabilities, race, religion, gender, and sexual orientation has continued with little accountability. There has been a widespread disregard for the law and official impunity towards those who have committed human rights abuses. This has been a serious problem in our country. The country of Afghanistan does not condone these actions and is looking to bring order into our country.

The country of Afghanistan, in its constitution has laws that prohibit arbitrary arrest and detention of innocent persons. The government of Afghanistan has many programs in place to help with this issue. The Bonn agreement set in place by the United Nations by creating a provisional government to help for a more permanent one in Afghanistan. This would also help with the human rights situation as well.

The country of Afghanistan would like to receive help from the United Nations due to the fact that we have stressed funds and low quantities of food. Due to the fact that Afghanistan has a provisional government and not a permanent government it has been difficult to build up these funds and food and therefore the human rights issues has been set aside as there are more pressing matters. The country of Afghanistan would like to see the United Nations assistance with respects to the human rights issues brought before this council.
I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East
The Kingdom of Belgium has been working closely with several Human Rights councils and initiatives since the birth of the United Nations, as well as the European Union. As the conflicts in the Middle East continue to grow and infringe on basic human rights, Belgium sees the need for more work to be done within the Human Rights Programme for the Middle East and Northern Africa Region. While this programme has many sound attributes and steps in place, Belgium feels that more must be done. A way that the delegation of Belgium feels this could be improved is through further education of public officials and leaders. Another would be more partnership with other United Nations committees in order to preserve the dignity of the lives affected by this ever-growing human rights disasters. We would be happy to work with other delegations to discuss reworking the plan of the OHCHR MENA Programme, and look forward to lively debate over these pressing and important human rights matters.

II. Progress on the Working Group On Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
The Kingdom of Belgium is striving to seek out the eradication of enforced or involuntary disappearances. As of 2014, Belgium has not had any cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances since World War II. Recognizing the deprivation of citizens' liberty that enforced or involuntary disappearances cause, Belgium has criminalised all involuntary disappearances. Belgium also believes in providing for those that have been deprived of their liberty, such as but not limited to appropriate monitoring, and allowing for the proper training of fundamental rights for those deprived of the rights to law officials. Belgium believes that one way to eradicate enforced involuntary disappearances would be to allocate appropriate monitoring in areas where enforced or involuntary disappearances rates are higher in number. Implementing preventative systems in various cities worldwide would also aid in lessening enforced or involuntary disappearances. Belgium also would like to express the importance of countries working closely with the OHCHR, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Kingdom of Belgium is looking forward to working with other countries in order to eradicate enforced or involuntary disappearances, as well as participate in fruitful and beneficial debate over this crucial topic.
Delegation from: Federal Republic of Brazil  
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy  


The issues before the Human Rights Council are A Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East; and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Federal Republic of Brazil is committed to acknowledging these problems and collaborating with our fellow countries to ensure that all persons are able to exercise their human rights without discrimination of sex, gender, religious and political beliefs, or social and economic status.

I. A Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The Federal Republic of Brazil believes that the issues on civil rights should be addressed in order to strive for a world where every person need not fear persecution for only wanting to exercise their basic human rights. Whether in their countries’ constitution or not, all persons deserve these human rights by virtue of being human and therefore a person of equal rights to others around them. There are worldwide reports of human rights abuses, more frequently with each passing day. In Syria, an increasing amount of deaths and displacements occur resulting in the inability for citizens to attend school and work. The Syrian Arab government tortures and slaughters detainees and citizens alike. The subjugation of women, oppression of homosexuals, and prosecution of persons of different religious beliefs persist worldwide. Brazil, being a country of the United Nations, reaffirm our belief in fundamental human rights and the worth and dignity of each person, hereby pledging to promote the universal respect for equal human rights.

As of September 28th, 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted five new resolutions including Human Rights in the Syrian Arab Republic; Brazil along with 26 other countries voted in favor. The resolution demands the Syrian authorities protect Syrian citizens, especially women and young children, who still remain most vulnerable to violence. The urge for parties to absolutely comply with their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law and refrain from attacking civilian population and institutions is prominent. Great concern is expressed in the matter of sexual and gender-based violence and the unlawful manner in which women and girls are victimized. Strong disapproval for the continuation of widespread disappearances, arbitrary detention, and ill-treatment and torture of detainees is displayed. It also states that the only sustainable solution is a Syrian-led political process, overseen by the UN in which the participation of women is meaningful and their voices are equal to those of their male counterparts. The resolution demands that the Syrian authorities cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council. Brazil has also voted in favor of resolutions pertaining to the human rights of indigenous people; we did, however, abstain from a resolution regarding the rights of peasants and workers in rural areas. We were concerned that the resolution would negatively impact our large commercial operations, and we wished for a chance to improve the draft in order to support small producers without overlooking larger commercial operations.
Brazil realizes that being able to see a future we hope for will be a daunting task, but we believe that the outcome we hope for is possible with the collaboration of our fellow countries. We hope that together we can find answers that ensure the safety and security of all persons. We are passionate about making an impactful change and are committed to finding solutions to the abuse of human rights in the Middle East, ensuring equity for all persons alike regardless of race, sex, religion, or language.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The Federal Republic of Brazil believes that the progress made on the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances is essential to making this world a safe and secure place for all persons. Brazil acknowledges that enforced disappearances cannot be completely erased within a short period of time, but if Brazil and other nations give the help needed, the number of disappearances would diminish greatly. The UN defines an enforced disappearance as the arrest, abduction, detention, or the deprivation of liberty of citizens. Enforced disappearance is defined under these cumulative events: the deprivation of liberty against will, the involvement of government officials, and refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty and concealment of whereabouts of disappeared persons.

Across the Middle East, thousands have involuntarily disappeared. In Iraq, 250,000 to one million people have gone missing over the decades due to conflicts and human rights abuses. One thousand of those people disappeared in Kuwait when Iraq invaded on August 2, 1990. During that period, over 6 hundred people from Kuwait went missing as well. In Libya, there are over 10 thousand missing persons, including the 2011 conflict, Gaddafi’s 42-year rule, and the 1977 war against Egypt. In Syria, 2012, enforced disappearances were used to eliminate opposition to the government, as in the Free Syrian Army. A major facilitate to reducing these numbers of missing persons is an organization ICMP, whose mandate is “to secure the cooperation of governments and others in locating and identifying missing persons from conflict, human rights abuses, disasters, organized crime, irregular migration, and other causes and to assist them in doing so.” ICMP collaborates with countries like Iraq and is functioning to assist this country to create the institutional capability that may enable its citizens to handle this issue. We have taken action on the enforced disappearances in Brazil by signing and agreeing to the UN Treaty series vol. 2176: the proposal of corrections to the original text of the Convention. This was drafted on January 2, 2009, and Brazil signed and agreed to the corrections on November 29, 2010. In this treaty, it states that all countries should be “Determined to prevent enforced disappearances and to combat impunity for the crime of enforced disappearances.” Brazil is dedicated to helping those undermined by enforced disappearance to gain back the safety and freedom all countries should strive to have.

Many organizations, like ICMP, are helping to recover these missing persons and help combat the state that is persecuting these disappearances. These problems should be a priority of every Middle Eastern country, and those involved in carrying out the solution. Through the meeting of MUN, Brazil hopes to be able to find a solution that will benefit all and bring peace and safety to all countries.
Delegation from the Republic of Cuba
Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The topics before the Human Rights Council (HRC) are the loss of human rights in conflicts across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Republic of Cuba is honored to be able to participate in the debate over a solution for these issues.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The Middle East has faced many conflicts surrounding the issue of human rights. These conflicts include the issues of terrorism, discrimination, and religion. Over the past decades, the United Nations has made attempts to solve these disputes and the Republic of Cuba is honored to be present among the discussion.

The Republic of Cuba can sympathize with the international view of the Middle East’s history with human rights struggles. However, as a nation, Cuba has worked to expand some rights to our people. In the past, the country has had issues with the struggle of human rights. In the last few years, Cuba has made great strides against this history. Education in the country is free to all and there has been a moratorium placed on the use of capital punishment. Cuba signed the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights in 2008. In 2017, the nation announced that it would gradually expand internet access to all of its citizens, in an effort to lessen censorship.

These steps toward reformation are very important for countries facing these issues. The United Nations must take steps toward enforcing this in the Middle East. Following this same process in the Middle East would ease tensions surrounding the conflict. The United Nations has been very strict in its attempts to fix the issues of discrimination and censorship in Cuba; if the committee took a similar approach to the issues in the Middle East, we believe it would have similar results. The Delegation of Cuba recommends a focus on the Middle East’s crisis. The countries involved must also work to reform their governments so that the given policies will take effect.

The Republic of Cuba is willing to help in the discussion and effort to ease these international tensions surrounding the conflicts in the Middle East. The delegates suggest an effort to help organize these countries before passing policies to end the conflict.

II. The progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

In The Republic of Cuba, the safety of the nations citizens is a priority. Despite the country’s past issues with the topic, Cuba ratified the International Convention for the Protection
of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED) in 2009. It’s stance on the use of involuntary disappearances has been unclear, due to the nation’s past. Since the ratification of the ICPPED, Cuba has shown a change in view of the issue. The delegates of Cuba believe that the United Nations is taking strides against the issue of involuntary disappearances. The ICPPED has worked to begin the task of ending involuntary disappearances.

Although common use against citizens is opposed, Cuba as a nation does not oppose the use of enforced or involuntary disappearances against serious terrorists who pose a threat to the nation. The safety of its people is a priority and must be protected. The United Nations work to lessen the use of involuntary disappearances internationally has been a success thus far and must be continued. The ratification of the ICPPED across all members of the United Nations must be prioritized. The Human Rights Council should consider discussing how to enforce it internationally.

The OHCHR has also begun a database of missing peoples in order to find and notify their families. This has helped families gain information on their cases and whether or not they have been resolved. This work should continue to expand so that the families of the missing persons can be helped.

The Republic of Cuba is supportive of the effort to limit the enforced or involuntary disappearances internationally. The delegates are open to discussion of solutions and recommend further work in contacting families of missing persons and collecting information. The committee should also work toward the further ratification of the ICPPED.
Delegation from: the Democratic Republic of the Congo
Represented by: St. Vincent-St. Mary’s High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The current matters pressing the United Nations Human Rights Council are Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is committed to combating this issue as a solution betters the global community.

1. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

In the Middle East, the Human Rights issues can be broken down into three categories. The first being capital punishment, or death penalty. Only one nation in the Middle East does not use capital punishment for common offenses. Because of the often theocratic nature of Middle eastern nations, many governments believe that the punishments come from the Quran. Since the termination of a life is in direct conflict with Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), this matter is a violation of Human Rights. The second issue is freedom of religion. Only a few nations in the Middle East provide for mild religious toleration. In Article 18 of the UDHR freedom of religion is a right, and since a majority of the nations in the Middle East do not provide freedom of religion, this is a clear violation of human rights. The third and final issue is women’s rights. Women’s rights have seen drastic improvements since the 1990s, but women still lack many of the rights men have in the region. In many countries in the Middle East, women are not allowed to work after dark, are often subject to less wages, and are not allowed to work in certain professions. Not one country in the region offers protection against domestic abuse. Since these predicaments violate Article 2 of the UDHR, these matters must be fixed in the region.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has combatted several of these Human Rights issues in its own history. The DRC still enforces capital punishment, but has been making great strides in the current century to limit its practice. Many groups have arisen to combat the issue. The DRC has legislation creating the freedom of religion in the nation, and it believes that every nation should implement a system that betters the rights of its people. An ongoing issue surrounding human rights in regards to women in the DRC is female genital mutilation. The DRC has passed legislation to outlaw this atrocity; however, many issues still surround women in the nation including better access to contraceptives and healthcare.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is looking forward to working with every nation in the United Nations Human Rights Council to effectively combat the issue of human rights not only in the Middle East, but also in every part of the globe. Every individual deserves equality in
rights as granted in the UDHR. The integration of policies may create conflict within regions, the Middle East for example, so integration is an aspect the DRC is hoping to work on.

2. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Enforced or Involuntary disappearances could possibly be one of the most overlooked tragedies that our global community faces. It is an issue that puts families in a state of terror. This issue is often overlooked by many countries, but it is a matter that must be taken care of rapidly. Working Groups are formed to help the relatives of disappeared persons to find the whereabouts of their disappeared family members. The working group often communicates with governments in order to work on cases. As well as working on cases with the government, these groups also request the government to investigate certain cases in which they can report to the working group. These groups not only work as communication systems between these families and the government, but they help find people who have disappeared. The Working Group is made up of five experts. They hold about three sessions per year, with each session lasting between two and ten working days. The mandate of the Working Group lasts for a period of three years. The working group often takes part in country visits in order to gain a first-hand understanding of what is going on in a country.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is highly affected by this issue. In 2004 a committee was created in order to establish a pursuant to resolution 1533. This committee was made up of 6 experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo in which this committee is based. This committee was appointed by the Secretary-General to watch over the implementation of the sanctions regime with particular focus on North and South Kivu and Ituri. The government provides this committee with information that is important to the designation of the missing person. This committee continuously works with other forums to make sure their citizens are safe.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo prompts all countries to understand how important this issue is and to take part in Working Groups. The Democratic Republic of Congo is planning on creating Working Groups that will make many check-ups on countries that of sent an invitation to the Working Group and have many allegations of missing people. These visits will include meetings with governmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as legal professionals. For individual cases, these meetings will include important persons to the disappeared person. The Working Group will help identify factors that contribute to the disappearances and provide aid to these families. We urge the Working Group to look to the government to take steps to protect the rights of not only the disappeared person but their families as well. The Democratic Republic of Congo believes we must work in cooperation in order come up with solutions that will benefit any and all countries.
Delegation from: The Arab Republic of Egypt
Represented by: Avon Lake High School


The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are the Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Delegation of The Arab Republic of Egypt is honored to be present in the discussion of these pressing issues and is eager to formulate ample resolutions to these topics in order to benefit the United Nations agenda.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

Egypt has been a troubled country for many decades. The government and people have suffered from insurgents and revolutionaries, forcing our hand and making it necessary to curb certain freedoms in order to maintain order. However, the government has been working to improve by establishing an independent Human Rights Council which has set a goal to work with foreign diplomats to improve the situation. In times of crisis, sometimes individuals must give up certain liberties in order to contribute to the greater good of the nation. It is a part of the collective mindset of Egyptians to be more than willing to make necessary sacrifices for the safety and security of their fellow countrymen.

Historically, Egypt has maintained a positive position on human rights, supporting several resolutions over the past several years. Additionally, we are creating sixty human rights departments to further boost our human rights stance\(^1\). Despite this, the United Nations must recognise that the foremost concern of any government is maintenance of its national stability, and each country’s approach is best managed by the body most familiar with it --its government. Within our borders, particularly during times of conflict, it is important that we are able to maintain our rule of law as we see fit. Unfortunately, there are points in time where we are forced to take drastic measures, including the necessary curbing of certain rights in order to keep a lid on terrorism, domestic violence, and government stability. This is a popular practice, seen even in the most democratic of countries, such as the United States, with elements like their “necessary and proper” and “clear and present danger” clause that limit certain liberties in extreme cases. This was seen in practice by the USA PATRIOT Act, which was seen as a necessary step to combat an extreme threat. Yet when our government does the same it is seen as an outrage and a violation of human rights.

Courtesy of the individualistic approach that Egypt supports, we would look favorably upon a unified solution that considers the needs and requirements of all countries involved, all while
II. **Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**

The Arab Republic of Egypt recognises that involuntary disappearances are unfortunately all too common in our modern day and age. The Egyptian government commends the actions of Samaritan groups, such as the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, on any and all progress made against unjust disappearances. Since their founding in the 1980s, this working group has made positive headway in the human rights field and have helped bring to light several unjust cases. The government of Egypt, though, does not have an internal issue with this problem, as we believe this is not an issue within our borders. With this in mind, Egypt will happily cooperate with the Human Rights Council if they wish to pursue this matter further, given national sovereignty is respected in all regards.

Involuntary disappearances occur when there is the deprivation of liberty against the will of the person, when there is some form of involvement by government officials, and there is a refusal to acknowledge the disappearance or whereabouts of the person. In all cases where these requirements are fulfilled, the Republic of Egypt will happily cooperate to attempt to relocate the whereabouts of this person, but we wish to remind the Human Rights council that this is an entirely subjective definition. There are cases where the government will support what is branded as an “involuntary disappearance” by outsiders, but is an unfortunate step we had to take to ensure peace within our government. We wish to remind the international community that this, involving our government and its occupants, is within our national jurisdiction. Additionally, this form of near-arbitrary governmental imprisonment in the name of national security is not all that uncommon. Guantanamo Bay, operated by the United States is a perfect example of indefinite imprisonment of excommunicated and dehumanized prisoners.

The Arab Republic of Egypt will cooperate with the Group as best it can. Egypt plans to extend our support to the other nations in the Group and focus on adapting our justice system to the standards set in the Group. While we have to take such steps now out of necessity, we hope to eventually better the situation so that so-called, “enforced disappearances,” are no longer necessary.
The issues being discussed at this conference are the question of Loss of Human Rights in the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

I. Loss of Human Rights in the Middle East

According to article 1 of the United Nations charter, the purposes of the United Nations include, but are not limited to, maintaining “international peace and security” as well as “the suppression of acts of aggression” to be brought “about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law”. As such this delegation fully supports the use of diplomatic means and non-violence methods in the resolution of the issue in full accordance with the United Nations charter.

The Middle East has been plagued with violent armed conflicts that stem from religious differences, terrorism and politics. In all of those conflicts, the rights and protection of civilians/non-combatants in those areas are heavily compromised in direct violation of article 51 of the Geneva Convention, which states that “civilian populations must be protected against dangers arising from military operations”. Given that the recent Syrian Civil War caused more than 400,000 deaths, 5.6 million people to flee, as well as the displacement of more than 6.5 million people, it is imperative for the Human Rights Council to find an urgent means of resolution that focuses on the maintenance of civil rights in areas of armed conflict.

In order to achieve its agenda, this delegation recommends the usage of the UN Department of Political Affairs in an effort to defuse tension in areas of armed conflict to some degree in order for more political stability in such areas and to allow for future progress to be made to ending armed conflicts in that area. It also emphasizes the importance of ensuring the rights of refugees and the conditions of refugee camps so that the rights of those who have fled areas of armed conflicts are also ensured. Furthermore, it is also imperative to build a support system for those who have survived sexual assault or torture and to ensure that this system is accessible and finally, this delegation would also call upon member states who have not already done so to sign and ratify Protocol I of the Geneva Convention so as to show a degree of commitment towards ending human rights abuses.

II. Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

According to article 2 of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), an enforced disappearance is defined as the deprivation of a person’s liberty through “arrest, detention, [or] abduction” by “agents of the State” or others with authorization by the State, and is followed by a “refusal to acknowledge” the whereabouts and repression of civil liberties of those affected. According to article 1 of the ICPPED, no person “shall be subjected to enforced disappearance” and accordingly there are “no exceptional
circumstances whatever”. In order to achieve this goal, this delegation supports the universal enforcement and expansion of these rules, and seeks the support of other powerful nation states, in order to ensure the protection of those at risk for enforced disappearance.

On the 26th of September 2007, Germany signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and ratified it on the 24th of September 2009. Upon ratification of the convention Germany declared its methods of adherence to the articles of the convention. Germany also extended an invitation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in March 2011. One of this group’s primary goals is assistance to “families in determining the fate or whereabouts of their family members who are reportedly disappeared”. Germany is a country which fervently supports the protection human rights and seeks to support those who are at risk for political repression.

To achieve the goal of protecting the civil liberties of those who currently are or may be forcibly detained in the future, this delegation finds it imperative that other powerful nations such as China, Russia, and the United States of America join the aforementioned conventions to support those who cannot defend themselves against their governments. The ratification of these conventions by these countries would provide more help for those forcibly suppressed by their governments and would put more pressure on transgressing States to stop such an unjust practice and reveal the whereabouts of those who they forcibly oppressed. This delegation also seeks to expand the scope of protection of organizations like the Working Group to include those civilians who are forcibly detained by terrorist groups and other unrecognized States. Such a change in definition would ensure the protection of many thousands of civilians at risk for involuntary disappearance and would be a step in the right direction for the universal protection of human rights.
Delegation from Avon Lake  
Representing Iceland  

Position paper for The United Nations Human Rights Council  

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are the Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The delegation of Iceland is honored to be present in the discussion of these pressing issues and is eager to formulate ample resolutions to these topics in order to benefit the United Nations agenda.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts across the middle east  

The delegation of Iceland is honored to be given the opportunity to discuss human rights in conflicts across the middle east. The conflicts of the middle east have been brutal, especially to the women, minorities and refugees. The religious difference throughout the region has caused great tension and chaos. These conflicts can limit people on functioning in everyday life, such as going to work, and going to school. The United Nations Human Rights Council promotes human rights around the world with the goal of creating equal rights and freedom for all people.

Iceland would like to promote the idea of having some type of humanitarian assistance to temporarily give short term relief. According to the Guardian, Iceland has the happiest people on the Earth. This is due to our 6th highest GDP per capita in the world, our country being the country that sells the most books, where life expectancy is the highest for both men and women, and being the only country in NATO with no armed forces. Although we have almost no connection in the middle east, we believe that an attempt to make peace would be the best chance for creating better human rights for this region.

The delegation of Iceland understands the loss of Human rights in conflicts across the Middle East. If we create and all agree on a set of laws to ensure, or at least attempt peace, that could in turn limit the conflict in this region. By creating a set of laws that would ensure the safety of human rights for the people, and peace for the rest of the countries in the Middle East.

II. Progress on the working group on enforced and Involuntary Disappearances  

The main purpose for the working group on enforced and Involuntary Disappearances is to help the relatives of disappeared persons ascertain the whereabouts of their disappeared family members. Unfortunately this is a problem that occurs too frequently throughout the world. These people face oppressive and horrible government that cause this problem. Iceland recognizes the issues faced by these people, as well as understanding and supporting the working groups.
progress against this problem. Although Iceland doesn’t face this issue first hand, we are more than willing to support a paper ending this horrible crime, as well as supporting the groups progress on the issue.

Iceland's support of this group shows how much we care about the disappearance of these missing peoples. We believe that if enough countries band together, this problem can be significantly lessened and even eliminated at a point. Although this problem directly, we have done much work with the other countries towards the group to help alleviate the problems in the affected countries.
Delegation from: Iraq  
Represented by: Vermilion High School

**Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council**

The matter in front of the United Nations Human Rights Council are the Loss of Human rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Delegation of Iraq is privileged to be discussing these urgent issues and is avid to put together resolutions to these issues in order to convenience the United Nations agenda.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The delegation of Iraq is privileged to be given the chance to debate the conflicts across the middle east. The Middle East has come across issues relating to refugees, hate crimes, terrorism, and the treatment of women. Because of these conflicts, there been have numerous complaints detailing the horrific human rights abuses the victims have suffered. The United Nations Human Rights Council advocates protection and equality around the globe in an effort to advance human rights.

Many changes have occurred in Iraq in recent history. In 2005, during the the invasion and occupation led by the United States, Iraq has created a constitution and have held public elections leading to a Council of Representatives consisting of 275 members. Nuri al-Maliki was the Prime Minister for many years, but decided not to run a third term. In 2014, Iraq held a fair election and chose Haider-al-Abadi to lead as a new Prime Minister. Since his election, the government has been working hard to expel ISIS from each of the territories. During their takeovers, ISIS committed unspeakable human rights violations against people in Iraq. They have occupied territories, taken over medical buildings and hospitals, and denied our civilians medical care. They even shot civilians who were trying to escape from the fighting, and then hanged their bodies in public to terrorize people. They have carried out attacks in stores, supermarkets, and religious buildings killing innocent people.

The women of Iraq know that the security of the country is more important than individual freedoms. Iraqi women have the rights that are given to them by their father and husbands. They do not have their own rights. Iraq has heard women speak of sexual assault, but within the bonds of marriage, a man may do what he please with his wife, and it is not the concern of outsiders.

The Iraqi government is in a fragile state and currently working to end the ISIS reign of terror in Iraq. Because of that, it is sometimes necessary to remove freedoms from our citizens in order to protect our nation and fight ISIS. We will stop all forms of protest against the government, and
we reserve the right to use any means available including violence which could result in severe physical damage or death.

The delegation of Iraq is aware of the loss of human rights among people. Iraq is troubled by the amount of damage ISIS has caused and is devoted to capturing ISIS members. Furthermore, Iraq believes the victims of human rights abuses have a right to justice. One of the solutions is to work with women’s and children’s organizations to seek ways to protect helpless groups from violence and improve medical support.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The Maslow’s Hierarchy of needs states that the most fundamental necessity for mankind is physiological needs. Food, shelter, clothing and water and being ripped from innocent hands. With the advancements of our world, what we are facing with involuntary disappearances should never occur. Involuntary Disappearance is an ongoing occurrence where people are taken from their families and tortured or killed. They have no rights and are forced to do things under their will. This should have been demolished many years ago, due to the rights that are deserved. Iraq has been dealing with this issue for many years now. We as people are calling out to nearby countries that can help us strengthen the safety and human rights of our country. The Involuntary Disappearances must stop now before it continues to plague our country.

This situation stretches well beyond Iraq and is happening in many other areas. In attempts to create a law to stop involuntary disappearances, it has failed. This problem has become a bigger issue than just our country. We now have to take a further step and unify with the countries that are willing to help us take control and bring reassurance to future families that could deal with this problem. It is a basic human right because freedom is a very important necessity for our world. Without freedom, corruption is created and cruelty will strengthen as the years go on.

The process of demolishing involuntary disappearances can become more efficient with the help of countries that are going to be there with us, along with the other countries that have already. The desperation within this issue has only grown because of the inability to fix this problem. We hope to continue and grow our unity to better our country along with others. We hope to end all of the atrocities involuntary disappearances and eradicate within each country.
The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Ivory Coast wants to show support for the Middle East and help them regain sustainability. Although, the Ivory Coast still struggles with the obstacles of disappearances, we would like to continue to support the working groups with a better database to expand the knowledge of the group. Therefore, it would be more likely to discover the location of the people who have disappeared.

At the moment in the Middle East, there are not an abundant amount of freedoms being offered to the people. Therefore, this causes people to rebel and cause countries to go through a complete change of government. The main point needed to better understand is to create a sustainable environment for the Middle East’s governments to grow from. With that being said, there needs to be strong solutions to be put in place in order for the Middle East to maintain control over the multiple countries.

The next issue to take into account is the Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. These groups are forced in during hard times for countries, and are expected to provide results. With that being said, the system used by the working groups are outdated. The results from these groups are high, but are expected to grow exponentially. Therefore, an improvement is needed in order to see results from these various groups.

In order to help resolve the loss of human rights in conflicts across the Middle East, there needs to be a strong bloc of countries to provide support. Whether that be sending in troops, providing aid, or providing any other resource for the betterment of the Middle East. Therefore, countries need to work together to help keep the Middle East stable for the time being. We as a committee need to look into long term solutions to extend the stability of the Middle East.

In order to help the working groups dedicated on enforced or involuntary disappearances, there needs to be a stronger structure of support provided by the country. Therefore, a system could be provided by countries globally to provide these working groups with more details. For instance, if a person was located in another country, there could be records on file that link to the person. With that being said, the job of these groups will come easier, and they will be more likely to bring someone back to safety.
Delegation from: The State of Japan  
Represented by: Beachwood High School  
Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)  

The issues placed before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) are: (1) The Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts across the Middle East; and (2) Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Japan is committed to working towards effective and long-lasting resolutions for both issues.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

As a result of intensifying conflicts in the Middle East, many human rights have been violated, disrupting the everyday lives of an alarming amount of civilians. A wide range of ongoing crises, including the Israeli-Palestine dispute, the war in Yemen, and the Syrian civil war, infringe upon rights to life, health, and safety through violent military action and political attempts to silence dissent. With an overwhelming number of authoritarian regimes in the Middle East, the displacement of citizens and destabilization of governments are often allowed to spiral out of control as issues grow increasingly violent. In response to this concern, many countries in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), including Japan, are advocating for peace in the Middle East. The United Nations has previously supported several documents recognizing the importance of human rights, the most prominent of which is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which serves as an foundation for international human rights laws. However, the UN lacks international human rights treaties that are legally binding, developing a concern as to how to appropriately intervene conflicts that violate human rights while respecting national sovereignty. With regards to the Middle East, the Security Council has passed multiple resolutions since the mid-1900s, including principles for a lasting peace in the Middle East in Resolution 242 (1967). It is indispensable that all countries work together to protect such basic human rights and prevent the aggravation of further conflict.

Having historically played an important role in the Middle East, Japan recognizes the urgency of restoring human rights in the war-ridden region. In fact, in the first Japan-Arab Political Dialogue held in 2017, Mr. Taro Kono, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, reaffirmed his strong commitment to peace and prosperity in the Middle East as one of his five pillars of his foreign policy. Regarding the conflict in Syria, Kono expressed deep concern over the possibility of a large-scale military conflict and further use of chemical weapons during the High Level Meeting on Syria (2018), which agreed that the only way to solve the Syrian crisis was to avoid military action and advance the political process in Geneva. Japan also pledged humanitarian assistance worth about 10 million USD through WHO to support the health sector in Syria. Since 1993, the country has contributed 1.7 billion USD to support the socioeconomic development of Palestinians. At the same time, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has recently engaged in economic relations with Israel, paving the path for Japan to assume a balanced and respected position in the Middle East. While Japan has strongly condemned missile attacks in Saudi Arabia, Japan supports the legitimate government in Yemen, intending to assist them in improving their humanitarian situation and the resumption of the peace process. In respect to human rights across the globe, Japan adopted the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights in 1979, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in
1999, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2007, among other international agreements. As a mature democracy with an established rule of law, Japan is convinced that nonviolent progress towards comprehensive peace in the Middle East will result in regional prosperity and eased tensions.

Japan asks all nations to unite in response to these pressing issues in the Middle East, which are placing basic human rights into jeopardy. Japan thus presents a three-pronged plan, reflecting the principles of Foreign Minister Kono, in order to improve the stability in the Middle East: (1) promotion of intellectual and human contribution; (2) commitment to humanitarian aid; and (3) enhancement of political efforts. First, Japan supports the provision of intellectual contribution that will provide ideas for conflict settlement and pledges to work more proactively to restore human rights in the Middle East. Japan hopes that other countries will develop systems similar to Japan’s International Cooperation Agency and Overseas Cooperation Volunteers in order to work with people in the Middle East. Secondly, commitment to humanitarian aid may involve socioeconomic initiatives similar to Japan’s “Corridor for Peace and Prosperity,” which provides employment to many Palestinians through regional cooperation, and investment in those who will create the future of the Middle East through improved education and projects that will provide multilayered education and holistic human resources development to those who are in need. Countries, in conjunction with international organizations, also have the moral obligation to support the Middle East in times of refugee crises, disease, famine, and other emergencies. Lastly, and most importantly, it is crucial that all countries, both in and outside of the Middle East, strive to improve their political efforts in solving the crises in the region by fostering peaceful discussions on political and security issues. Countries must have the political initiative to promote multilateral dialogues and negotiations that will help build confidence among multiple parties. It is imperative that all nations condemn violent military action in the Middle East, which will only contribute to the tragic loss of human rights. The Japanese delegation thus looks forward to reinforcing peace and stability in the Middle East and looks forward to working with others in committee in order to reach effective resolutions that will secure a future in which civilians can live side by side in peace, security, and mutual trust.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Abductions conducted by a state or any related individuals directly violates the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guarantee the right to life, the right to liberty and security of the person, the right not to be subjected to torture, and the right to recognition as a person before the law. In addition, disappearances result in the deep anguish of family members, who are left with no knowledge of the whereabouts or conditions of their missing family members. In the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances, the UNHRC affirmed that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearances in any circumstance and established the Committee on EnforcedDisappearances (CED), a monitoring body that submits any concerning case to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Although many resolutions have been passed by the UNHRC to prevent and handle disappearances, only 404 cases of abductions of the 50,000 cases reported to the Working Group were clarified by 2018. As such, many countries, including Japan, believe that it is of the utmost importance that an efficient and effective measure is passed in order to prevent this massive violation of human rights.
Abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korea are of grave concern to sovereign Japan. The country fully supports and contributes information to the Working Group and the initiatives established by the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances. The country established the Headquarters for Abduction Issue, consisting of all the Ministers of State, in January of 2013 in order to investigate the truth behind abductions and return all abductees to Japan. Furthermore, the government of Japan provides financial, medical, educational, and residential support for the abductees and their families. Each year, Japan and the European Union co-submit resolutions on the “Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.” These resolutions have been adopted eleven times for eleven consecutive years by the UN General Assembly and by the UNHRC eight times for eight consecutive years. In 2013, Japan and the EU co-submitted a resolution that established the Commission of Inquiry (COI), which investigated and exposed the crimes and abduction issues involving the DPRK; in 2014, Japan and the EU co-submitted an even stronger resolution that encouraged the UN Security Council to take appropriate action to ensure accountability of abductions, recommended consideration of the referral of the DPRK to the International Criminal Court, and suggested effective targeted sanctions against those who appear most responsible for human rights violations. Japan is committed to continue combating enforced disappearances and urges the cooperation of the DPRK.

Japan urges other countries to recognize the violation of an abductee’s human rights and the emotional toll on their families. With this in mind, the delegation of Japan presents a three-pronged plan for effective solutions to this issue: (1) assurance of the safety and return of all abductees; (2) investigations of the truth of abductions; and (3) guaranteed trial and publication of all perpetrators of abductions. Japan recommends reassessing the progress of the Working Group and delegating the Working Group liberties to ensure the completion of the previous points. This may involve the ability to recommend commissions of inquiries or special rapporteurs to examine prominent countries by collecting and documenting witnesses’ accounts of violations of human rights. Lastly, states must be held morally and legally responsible for abducting anyone and violating human rights. In correspondence to Japan and the EU’s 2014 resolution, Japan encourages the UN Security Council to take appropriate action to ensure accountability of crimes by a referral of all concerned states to the International Criminal Court and by suggesting effective targeted sanctions against those involved in human rights violations. In continuing to ensure the protection of human rights, Japan recognizes the importance of international cooperation, has set forward an agenda open to discussion, and hopes to effectively work with other countries regarding this pressing issue.
The Delegation of The Islamic Republic of Pakistan  
Represented by North Royalton High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The issues presented before the UNHRC are Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Forced or Involuntary Disappearances. The delegation of Pakistan hopes to resolves these issues in a manner befitting and benefiting all nations involved.

I. The Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The loss of human rights has been an issue not simply in the Middle East, but all nations of the world. In all times, governments have had to restrict the power of the individual in order to strengthen the collective. Pakistan believes that, while the rights of the individual ought be respected, we cannot, in this council, disregard the need for strong central power in times of such conflict.

Though the loss of human rights and the disappearance of activists is a great evil, a greater evil is disruption of the lives of thousands as can be seen in the ongoing Syrian Civil War. This conflict has resulted in the deaths of more than 500,000 people. One must see that this conflict would not have begun in the first place were more policies of national unity enforced in pre-war Syria. Perhaps, in this alternate reality, a group of 100 to 1000 activists would have been killed, but the lives of so many innocent civilians who merely wished to live peacefully would have been saved.

The restrictions on human rights in places such as Turkey are not merely meant to discriminate or to cause hatred, but it is because of hatred that they must be put in place. For the protection of the general populace, it is necessary to restrict some, and it is the duty of the government to make these difficult decisions. Because of the restrictions put in place, countries in the Middle East will not crumble but prosper, and good will come to all.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Forced or Involuntary Disappearances

Pakistan is of the belief that the current group is working efficiently enough within the bounds it ought regard to not warrant further modifications. Though there have been issues in human trafficking in the Middle East, the use of individual government’s powers is superior to some sort of international coalition, especially in regard to respecting the native culture of the regions affected.

Certainly, in this issue between Turkey and Saudi Arabia, a resolution satisfying both of the demands of the countries is necessary, but we must not forget that the decisions made here have ramifications for how the Working Group will operate in the future. With this in mind, we
must craft a resolution that will not restrict the rights of an individual country to handle matters in its own borders.

There is also the issue of generalized human trafficking in the Middle East, often taking advantage of conflicts. While this issue is very pertinent, generally speaking the EU ought to respect the sovereignty of nations by regulating only international affairs, and political issues between large countries as the two discussed.
Delegation from: Rwanda
Represented by: Saint Joseph Academy

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the council are: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East; and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Republic of Rwanda is committed to working alongside all states hoping to secure

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East.

These brutal conflicts across the Middle East take root in several historical conflicts; the emphasis on oil and gold as a vital resource, religious conflict, and the complex relationships forged with certain democratic regimes. The Republic of Rwanda recognizes that the conflicts across the Middle East also adversely affect Human Rights across the region. The Republic of Rwanda’s approach to foreign policy rests on two pillars, the first of which is to contribute to the attainment of peace, security, and stability not only within its borders, but around the world as well. This is why it is vital to take action on such human rights abuses. Rwanda is hopeful that the United Nations will exercise its far-reaching supranational powers to provide aid to the marginalized and misplaced across the region and to collaborate with the countries affected to establish long-term, stable solutions that can help each country flourish.

The Issue of Human Rights abuses that is before the council today is one that the Republic of Rwanda takes frightfully seriously, having experienced our own serious violation of Human Rights during the Rwandan Civil War. During that time, the UN took it upon itself to create a special commission to ensure the implementation of the Arusha Accords which sought to mitigate the conflicts between the Rwandan government and the Rwandan Patriotic Front. This commission was so aptly named “The United Nations Assistance for Rwanda,” and although its efforts were noble, it notoriously failed due to a severe lack of understanding of Rwandan culture. “The world failed Rwanda,” voiced UN staff members to then Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In recent years, Rwanda has been able to rebuild tremendously with the gracious help of the UN, but it is important to remember the failures of such an exploit so the council can look towards these shortcomings as possible solutions in addressing the Human Rights Abuses in the Middle East

Today, Rwanda looks forward to supporting any resolution that ensures security, safety, and liberty across the Middle East. Having looked at the past shortcomings of the UN with regards to Human Rights issues in times of conflict, Rwanda will look most favorably upon a resolution that provides long term stability, building a framework for a more equal society. While immediate solutions do provide an element of relief to a nation, follow-through is the most
important piece to any action taken today. The Republic of Rwanda calls upon this committee to not only provide immediate relief, but to explore plans that work with each nation that cultivate a system that promotes the growth and full-flourishing prosperity of all Human Rights. Rwanda supports actions taken to increase transparency and accountability alongside not only immediate, direct action, but to ensure a peacekeeping plan that endures in the years to come that both understands and respects the culture of each nation.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Moreover, the issue of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances poses a threat to life and liberty across the globe. While Rwanda is committed to helping to solve such an issue, once again the Republic believes that greater measures must be set in place to help in the location of the victims of such a heinous crime.

Moving forward from the Rwandan Civil War, the act of threatening involuntary or enforced disappearances was a common tactic among the perpetrators in order to silence the opposing population. This fear mongering tactic only worked to sow fear and doubt in citizens’ minds, essentially breeding distrust among the people and the Rwandan government. Since then, Rwanda has been taking concrete actions against enforced disappearances that were largely committed by the previous Hutu regime. In decreasing involuntary disappearances, citizens across nations will be able to restore their confidence in global leadership. As seen in Rwanda, these disappearances only create for a larger humanitarian crisis down the line and adversely affects the inherent human rights endowed to every citizen of this world.

Rwanda wishes to lend its support to any resolution that seeks to reinvigorate the Working Group’s efforts to locate and resolve past involuntary disappearances. The Republic of Rwanda also strongly believes that the Working Group and the citizen’s of the world would stand to benefit from a mutual alliance with other international organizations seeking to combat such a pressing issue. In sharing resources, those who have been personally affected by involuntary disappearances can only stand to benefit. As with the previous issue before the Council, Rwanda also will look favorably upon any resolution that provides concrete ways to integrate this program in the years to some until this issue can be ascribed to the books of history. While immediate action is favorable in this particular situation, solutions must be presented in order to decrease the likelihood of such an epidemic emerging in the coming years; securing a safe and equitable future for children across the globe.
Delegation from: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia  
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

**Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights Across the Middle East; and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Saudi Arabia hopes for the quick resolution of both internal and external conflicts across the Middle East with only the direct, efficient, and necessary interference of international forces.

### I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes and hopes to put an end to the terrible conflicts across countries in the middle east which have resulted in chaos. However, Saudi Arabia strongly disapproves of the interference of the United Nations and other allied countries in the preliminary actions taken toward conflict ridden areas in the region. The delegation of Saudi Arabia believes this is the wrong approach in order to eliminate the recurrence of conflicts especially for the people of Saudi Arabia and allied middle eastern countries jointly.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has historically intervened in humanitarian conflicts in the Middle East. A number of these conflicts are ongoing such as the wars in Iraq, Yemen, and Syria. The people and delegation of Saudi Arabia are vigorously dedicated to the resolution of these conflicts as it concerns maintaining peace and the long-term impact in the region. This dedication and diligence is displayed in Saudi Arabia's opposition to the acquiring of nuclear power in Iran and many other issues that could result in the violation of human rights.

Currently Saudi has allocated many resources and time to prevent the advance of Houthi rebels. These Houthis have been accused of countless war and humanitarian crimes that are horribly affecting lives throughout several countries. These crimes include kidnapping and torturing of civilians, launching airstrikes and missiles resulting in the death of dozens, recruiting children, and altogether preventing foreign aid. Saudi Arabia has been on the front line of ending the disaster in Yemen and hopes to do so as efficiently as possible. However, the countries efforts towards resolving the issue are being unnecessarily constrained by the United Nations’ ongoing probe. The delegation of Saudi Arabia strongly believes the United Nations should properly use its resources to deal with matters such as preventing the advancement of the Houthis and putting an end to the war in Syria. The Syrian war has caused great upheaval as well as political and economical complications for all the countries involved. Refugees from the country having had to face serious human rights violations and the possible removal of American troops leading to free reign of Iran in Syria, has been noticed and resulted in the aid of Saudi Arabia. The
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not condone this turmoil and encourages both regional and international countries in the United Nations to focus their attention on the current threats and conflicts concerning human rights which directly impact the future of the Middle East.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Saudi Arabia recognises the danger of a plethora of enforced absences, however Saudi Arabia expresses its concern with the unnecessary involvement of the UN in national matters. As a result of this belief, Saudi Arabia has and will not sign nor ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED). The UN was created to make countries equal, not to allow countries to play the vigilante. The ICPPED infracts on countries’ freedoms and will lead to worsening relations between countries, which the UN formed to achieve. Additionally, the ICPPED is enforced by the Working Group which is composed of five independent experts and holds three sessions per year, with each session lasting between two and ten working days. The mandate of the Working Group lasts for a period of three years. These workers are well paid and consequently, large amounts of money and valuable time is spent on a needless committee. Furthermore, any interference into a country would be very costly in life and money, and would ultimately be wasted.

Several times, Saudi Arabia has been accused sometimes wrongly of enforcing disappearances. These accusations are detrimental to the government as it portrays Saudi Arabia as an unjust place or a place where human rights are blatantly violated. To judge another's government based on the values of another is inherently illogical due to the fact that different countries have different styles of governing their people. To use harsh descriptions like has been done for a myriad of countries, would be to prejudice the rest of the world, often without concrete proof that the country has committed an offense so egregious that it merits international involvement. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia has and will continue to give everyone who faces the law a fair trial. Additionally there have been numerous amounts of enforced disappearances across the globe, many with perfectly stable regimes, such as the US which has engaged in forced disappearances with over 40 people. For example, Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi, a saudi arabian national is to this day missing, last seen in US custody. Additionally, Mohammed Naeem Noor Khan was an unarmed Pakistani national apprehended with the help of the CIA. Abdul Basit is the next of the Saudi nationals apprehended by the US. It is hypocritical to criticise other countries of something that is a common practice around the world for good reason: enforced disappearances are a tactic to keep order in a country, much like normal police duties.

Currently, resources including money and personnel are lacking in several areas in the world and to continue wasting these valuable resources on a nonstarter would be being oblivious and
hypocritical to all parties involved. In order to keep freedom for countries, save large sums of
time and money, Saudi Arabia proposes the disbandment of the working group on enforced
disappearances. Additionally, major offenses would be brought directly to the United Nations
Human Rights Council. This would greater achieve political equality for all countries due to the
fact that unfounded prejudice against countries would not exist. This would also maintain the
inability to sustain absolutistic dictatorships which harm the entire world. Furthermore, Saudi
Arabia does not condone these enforced disappearances, rather expresses the desire for freedom
for all countries and the ability to do whatever their respective government feels necessary,
provided that human rights are not violated blatantly or to an extreme. To allow other countries
to decide how another country governs would be to strip that country of their freedoms that
should be unalienable. Ultimately, it would be contradictory to strip countries of freedom for
using their right as a governing body to take the freedoms of one of their own citizens.
Delegation from: the Republic of South Africa  
Represented by: Westlake High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues beforehand are the Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and the progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID). The delegation of South Africa is delighted to participate in the discussion for Human Rights and would be eager to bring forth resolutions that would create a safer environment for everyone across the globe.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The delegation of South Africa is delighted to engage in a discussion to promote human rights in conflicts across the Middle East. As an African country, South Africa itself has experience atrocities related to human rights. Dating Dutch and British colonization of South Africa, violations of human rights were a prevalent issue for many South Africans. Despite gaining independence in the early 1900s, the infringement of human rights can still be seen in South African culture today. Specifically, the subversion of women and minorities during the Maritz Rebellion proved to be a horrific violation of human rights. Additionally, the loss of human rights during times of conflict is persistent among the Anglo-Zulu War and the First Boer War. Thus, with its own experience dealing with the loss of human rights, the delegation of South Africa believes that all countries can work peacefully and diplomatically to successfully resolve this issue.

The Middle East has served to be an invaluable location due both to its distinct geography and its religious importance. Because of these factors, violence has been manifested across the Middle East as adversarial groups seek gain control over access to oil resources and religious sacraments. These conflicts has persistently resulted in the loss of human rights. Minorities, refugees, and foreigners have all been targets from authoritarian governments and terrorism.

The delegation of South Africa seeks to promote human rights during times of conflict and reprimands any violation to it. Though there have been international laws reconciling the loss of human rights, the delegation of South Africa believes that there should be a stricter enforcement upon these rules and regulations. Because of this, countries in the Middle East should be held accountable for their actions and should be disciplined by the UNHRC for any violations on human rights in the Middle East. Because of the decision reached by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, a internationally governing body, such as the UNHRC, has the sovereignty to guarantee human rights when a state fails to achieve this. Thus, reprimands and disciplinary actions can legally be exercises by the UNHRC. Though many resolutions have been brought up to deal with the question of human rights, the delegation of South Africa believes that enforcing this proposal will diminish the chances of the loss of human rights.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) is an international institution, overseen by the UN Human Rights Council, whose main purpose is to inform the families of missing persons about those persons’ whereabouts. Established in 1980 under Resolution 20 (XXXVI), the WGEID has seized approximately 54,000 cases of disappearances between 1980 and 2015. Following World War II Germany and the 1960s and 1970s in which hundreds of thousands disappeared in Latin America, more cases have been uncovered regularly with the establishment of this institution. Some examples of recent findings of enforced disappearance are the 250,000 disappearances having been reported in North Korea with tens of thousands being held in North Korea detention camps. In addition to North Korea, tens of thousands of people have disappeared in Sri Lanka during the two and a half long civil war there. Under-reporting is a challenge to the WGEID, as many cases go unreported to authorities and international mechanisms. Another detriment is how the number of cases handled by the WGEID usually do not reflect the real situation. An example is in Rwanda where a million people possibly disappeared in 1994, with the WGEID only recording a total of 24 cases from that country. With state action being a constituting part of enforced disappearances, the WGEID defines enforced disappearance as (1) the removal of liberty against a person’s free will, (2) involvement of some form of a country’s government/government officials, and (3) refusal to acknowledge the violation of a human right or covering up the fate and whereabouts of the missing person(s). Enforced disappearance was from the start a serious human rights violation, acting as a double edged sword of doom, in which victims are kept uncertain of their fates along with families facing trauma in their desperations to know the whereabouts of their loved ones.

During the Apartheid era, a black Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK) courier by the name of Nokuthula Aurelia Simelane disappeared in 1983. Out of the twelve cases faced by the WGEID in South Africa, the Simelane case proved to be the most incredible. Being in her 20s at the time of her disappearance, she was sent to a meeting in the basement of the Carlton Centre in Johannesburg. It turned out to be a trap set by the Security Branch, which was soon followed by five weeks of torture and interrogation. She was last seen cuffed in the boot of a vehicle, with the rest of the details being somewhat blurry. It’s alleged that two officers shot her, burying her remains near Rustenburg. Thembi Nkadimeng, the younger sister of Nokuthula, expressed their family’s struggle to have the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to finalize the case. South Africa is one-hundred percent on the Simelane family’s side, and hope to investigate the disappearance of Nokuthula Simelane further. If we were not sympathetic enough to the family’s plight, we are quite sorry. The Republic of South Africa hopes to collaborate with the WGEID in order to decrease high levels of crime, violence, and inhumanity by looking at early warning signs of these kind of disappearances. To properly ensure justice for the families of disappeared persons, we will prosecute anyone involved in the disappearance of the people families love, strengthen organizations involved in enforced disappearance, and investigate cases with the WGEID like that of the Simelane family to someday reach a fruitful conclusion. Let it be known to the world that South Africa supports the WGEID and the right to a person’s privacy and liberty.

The topics before the United Nations Human Rights Council are: addressing the loss of human rights in conflicts across the middle east, and discussing progress on the working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances Spain recognizes that these are both pressing issues and is eager to assist in any way possible.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

Conflicts in the Middle East are causing serious human rights risks. Many uprisings and conflicts are due to the fact that people have long been denied their rights to democracy, freedom, and equality. In recent times, however, many living in the Middle East started revolutions, both big and small to fight for their rights. This has resulted in the overthrow of many long standing political leaders. While it may seem like progress and in some respects is, these power vacuums have left large portions of the Middle East with no solid government. These situations are ripe for occurrences of human rights violations caused by both new corrupt governments, terror groups such as Isis, general lack of proper oversight, and many more factors.

To address these issues, the UN is working with other entities in order to instate solid democratic governments. The UN is already placing a strong emphasis on having these new governments address previous issues in the country to ensure trust in the governments, and make ensure citizens are invested in their success. With a stable foundation for nations to grow off of, there will be much less opportunity for human rights violations to occur. Additionally, the United Nations is prioritizing investigations and reparations for past human rights violations. Finally, they are working to eliminate any laws that may inflict upon the freedoms of people, especially those that limit freedom of expression, target marginalized groups such as women, ethnic or religious minorities, and members of the LGBT+ community, as well as laws that may infringe upon human rights.

Spain believes that the United Nations should continue to work with other entities to foster these new governments. We believe that with the support of their citizens (strengthened by the accountability and reparations for past actions) new, representative governments will be able to form and be stable. With stable governmental institutions and governments accountable to the people, there will be much fewer opportunities for human rights violations to occur.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The working group on enforced or involuntary disappearances was started by the United Nations in 1980 in with the purpose of examining questions in relation to enforced or involuntary disappearances. Enforced or involuntary disappearances are defined as when a government, political group, or third party backed by a government or political group takes or imprisons a person or persons. They then refuse to acknowledge or disclose the person’s location or situation
and intend to place the victim outside of legal protection. While enforced disappearances occur all over the world, in both developed and developing countries they are of course most prevalent in nation states with already shaky human rights and a lack of stability. These include but are not limited to, Argentina, Syria, Sri Lanka, Russia, and Venezuela. These disappearances effect those fighting for justice, such as human rights advocates, most. This means that while the tragedies affect advocates directly, they also shake families and communities, as well as set back the global struggle for human rights and equality.

The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances serves several purposes in an attempt to remedy this pressing issue. Firstly it works to helps affected families to be informed and communicate with resources to find their loved ones and collect information on the problem. Since 1992, the working group has also worked with governments to investigate disappearances. By meeting with families, reviewing cases (over 800 in just it’s latest session), and investigating and working with governments, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has done a lot to help this severe problem.

Spain suggests that the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances be continued and be given more resources to do its duties. The Working Group is addressing an important problem that affects not only the lives of individuals, but of communities, and the global struggle for human rights. It only logically follows that the Working Group should continue their work with the full backing of the Human rights council and the United Nations behind it.
Delegation from: The Republic of Tunisia  
Represented by: Avon Lake High School

**Position Paper for The United Nations Human Rights Council**

Today, the dilemmas facing The United Nations Human Rights Council are twofold: this council must address both the loss of human rights in conflicts across the Middle East, and the progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Both of these issues are of the utmost importance, and must be dealt with swiftly before the situations escalate into more consequential issues. The Republic of Tunisia eagerly awaits the opportunity to confer with the other nations of this council with the hopes of eventually reaching cohesive, comprehensive solutions to these affairs.

I. Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

According to enlightenment thinker Thomas Hobbes’ social contract, individuals in a state are more willing to exchange their human rights to their government for protection in times of crisis than in times of peace. While this may be true to a certain extent, this is not the current situation in the Middle East. Throughout southwestern Asia, citizens, who rely on their government to protect and uphold their human rights, are having those rights unwillingly stripped away by the corrupt regimes who rule them. A number of conflicts in the Middle East have led to this abridgement of rights, whether it be religious disputes, terrorist acts, or the external effects of developed countries’ spheres of influence in that region. This region’s governmental instability, particularly with regards to the rampant corruption in Iran, Pakistan, Syria, and Afghanistan, is an issue that must be thoroughly addressed.

In 2011, the Tunisian people called for their rights with the Tunisian Revolution, which the Ben Ali government did not provide them. Since then, the Tunisian government has taken important steps towards the consolidation of women’s and detainees’ rights. The Republic of Tunisia ranks 4th among all African countries on the Human Freedom Index, which ranks nations based on their human rights policies. The Republic of Tunisia has developed extensively since the revolution with the creation of multiple independent judicial bodies, the expansion of its constitution concerning human rights, and the ratification of eleven international treaties regarding human rights. Tunisia sees human rights as an important topic that should be addressed in every country due to its pivotal role in development and stability, both within a country's borders and abroad.

In order to ensure positive change for the Middle East as a whole, this council must approach the issue of human rights on a country-by-country basis. No two Middle Eastern countries are the same, so it is impossible for there to be one all-encompassing solution. That being said, there are things that this council can do that will benefit all parties involved. The Republic of Tunisia suggests that this council implements a system of monetary incentives to Middle Eastern states whose Human Freedom Index ranking is not in the top 100 worldwide in order to urge them to revise their current human rights policies for the better. These incentives
could be funded by developed democracies of the world who wish to see human rights expanded in the Middle East. Funding this system would benefit these nations through a now stabilized Middle East, which would allow for more efficient global trade negotiations. The Republic of Tunisia recognizes that positive change as a result of this new system will not be seen overnight, but it firmly believes that the implementation of this system would be a major step in the direction of strengthened human rights throughout the Middle East.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Every year since it was founded as a one-year working group in 1980, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has been renewed due to the growing need of its services in contemporary society. The main purpose of the WGEID is to help the relatives of disappeared persons ascertain the whereabouts of their disappeared family members. The main ways that they do this are through awareness-raising and training in human rights education, registration of deprivation of liberty, and victim/witness protection. This is important work because citizens cannot perform their civic duty or advocate for social change in their countries when they are fearful for what may happen to themselves, their friends and their family members if they take advocate action. Issues with regards to this topic that this council must discuss include possible reasons as to why the WGEID is not making as much progress as expected, and how to solve these problems.

The Republic of Tunisia emphasizes the importance of pursuing efforts against the crimes of enforced or involuntary disappearances, as well as other unjust practices that limit human rights. It agrees with the WGEID with regards to the gradual elimination of arbitrary detention in all nations and the importance of fair trials and the abolishment of torture in governmental procedure as stated at the previous WGEID progress check. Since the time when Tunisia ratified the International Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance in February of 2006, no cases of enforced disappearance in the sense intended by the Convention have been recorded in Tunisia. However, as of the date of submission of this report, no decision had been handed down by the Tunisian courts in three pending cases where the victims are suspected of having been subjected to enforced disappearance under the former regime. Although Tunisia is looking to reform, it seems more drastic measures must being enacted to see any real change.

The main problem that the Republic of Tunisia sees both at home and abroad with regards to this issue is that the Working Group is forced to work with limited resources and they are achieving less than optimal success as a result. The Republic of Tunisia firmly believes that this council should find a way to expedite the WGEID’s efforts through more funding, whether it be through an increase in monetary aid from certain NGOs that are already assisting the WGEID such as Chatham House or Service Civil International, or through the generous contribution of certain developed nations who wish to see the WGEID succeed. Contributing nations would benefit from doing so by being globally esteemed as nations who bring basic human rights to the areas of the world that need them the most. The Republic of Tunisia is resolute in its position
that if the WGEID were to receive more funding it would finally be able to do what it was founded to do: help people.

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are the Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East; and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The delegation of the United Arab Emirates is committed to working with any public or private groups to ensure that human rights are protected.

I. The Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The Middle East has been a center of human rights atrocities in recent years including the civil war in Syria, the rise of global terrorism, and the humanitarian crisis on Yemen. Many of the human rights violations stem from international conflict, with wars in Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen. All of these conflicts have led to a disastrous state of living for citizens in these countries, exacerbated by the intervention of foreign nations attempting to support rebels working against the governments in power. The United Arab Emirates affirms that in all situations of conflict, it is best for states to maintain their own sovereignty and decide for themselves what is best.

Within the United Arab Emirates, the country is focused on a flourishing economy that provides the most opportunities for its citizens. According to the IMD World competitiveness yearbook, the UAE is the most competitive country in the region it its ability to manage resources for long-term value creation. The recent investment in 2015 to foster an innovation and knowledge-based economy has launched over 100 initiatives geared towards a greater economy and place to live for all UAE citizens. The UAE and its leaders are focused on ensuring that all citizens are happy, as affirmed by H. H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The UAE is dedicated to the feedback and consultation of all its citizens, and is dedicated to crowdsourcing for ideas to better cybersecurity, sustainability, and public health. Furthermore, the UAE is one of the few members of the international community that actively combats the issues of human trafficking within the Middle East. In 2007, the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking was established (NCCHT), and since then has taken on many initiatives to protect human rights.

In terms of the Human Rights Violations in the rest of the Middle East, the UAE believes that no further intervention on behalf of the international community is required. The laws that govern several of the countries in the Middle East are grounded in the Quran, and thus these faith-based countries simply carry through the wishes of the holy text. Intervention on behalf of foreign countries is not needed, unless it is to strengthen the economies and established governments of the Arab nations. The international community should be focused on real issues that can affect
any of citizens, such as human trafficking, and should reaffirm established countries rather than tear them down.

II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The issue of enforced or involuntary disappearances have been on the rise and don't seem to be going down any time soon. In Saudi Arabia, tens of people have gone missing and/or killed within the past two years; in the United Arab Emirates, almost 10 people have had involuntary disappearances within the past six months. Several other countries, like Honduras, Colombia, and Nepal, have had enforced or involuntary disappearances and the WGEID has been hard at work to investigate these disappearances and to prevent more from happening. People have become traumatized about the whereabouts of their family and the WGEID’s primary mission is to protect the human rights of those who are missing and respect the families they belong to. So, the UN — more specifically the WGEID — is faced with the colossal issue to find the missing people, protect their human rights, and to find who is the root of the disappearance and issue a punishment appropriate for these situations.

The UAE has yet to have a visit from the WGEID, but a request from the UN has been put in to visit the UAE. Just within the past six months, 8 people have gone missing. Princess Latifah, daughter of the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, or the ruler of Dubai, was kidnapped by Indian and Emirati forces. 7 other people were kidnapped in the process; people like the captain of the ship and her sister who lives in the UK. The WGEID was the first to respond to the situation and was later made aware of all the disappearances of the Emiratis who chose to stay in the UAE. The UAE has been presented with lots of troubling (an fake) news in the past, so they thought this particular but was not real and was just being used as leverage for the Emirates to earn the UAE’s fear. So, there was a complete media blackout on Latifah's case to help keep the citizens under control and to limit their fear. The WGEID has continued to spot out and help with the cases the UAE is unable to identify as real or cannot figure out due to limited resources and information.

The UAE believes the check-ins the WGEID has in place with countries is enough protection. The UAE further believes other countries do not have the right to intrude into their countries and would like for national sovereignty to be further enforced. Although cases that result in someone missing and killed are unfortunate, it is not the UAE’s job to make sure every single person in the world is home by a certain time or is obeying the laws 24/7. There will always be someone who breaks the law and it is not the government’s job to babysit and watch the people. Stricter rules must be applied in households and guardians must look after their family, not the government.
Delegation from: The United Kingdom
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Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues presented before the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The United Kingdom fully supports the protection of human rights for its citizens and wants to commit in helping citizens in the Middle East.

I: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts Across the Middle East

The United Kingdom, unfortunately, does not have all of the resources at this time to address the issues involved within the Middle East. The United Kingdom is currently withdrawing from the European Union, which produces a lack of assistance from our country. Our people decided that the EU was too expensive and leaving it would decrease terrorism. The United Kingdom does wish to address these issues in a timely and effective manner and hopes to communicate with other countries to aid in the matter. We realize that this issue is very pressing, but also acknowledge that this is not something that only requires the support of some, but rather a global effort to help our Middle Eastern counterparts.

The United Kingdom is in firm belief that the violation of human rights in any circumstance is deplorable. We have been fully committed to help accentuate human rights throughout our country’s history. Our country’s latest act was the Human Rights Act of 1988 that states that the people are allowed to defend themselves and their rights in the UK Courts, and gives them the right to fair treatment in those courts. We have also continued our pursuit of global humanitarianism with our Middle East Minister, Alastair Burt. He stated that there is a need for a global reform and coordination between the countries in order to preserve international human rights and the ones who need it the most among the Middle East.

The United Kingdom believes that international communication and an increased amount of action from the Security Council will ultimately increase the amount of human rights in the damaged Middle East. We understand that combative force is not the path to take, and we need to solve all actions peacefully and effectively. The United Kingdom also believes in the idea that these humanitarian actions should not be politicised and should be constructed towards helping citizens in the Middle East achieve the full rights they deserve. We believe that the Security Council should resolve these issues peacefully, with full intentions on receiving justice to the people of the Middle East. We are willing to assist in any communication in order to resolve this immense issue.
II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The United Kingdom believes that solving the issue of enforced or involuntary disappearances to the utmost importance. This issue is not only one of mere kidnapping, but has resulted in the voices of journalists, political activists, and everyday people being silenced. As some of our own citizens have disappeared, we not only actively work to find them and return them home, but also work to comfort the families of the disappeared. As a country that embraces free speech, we hope that this council will work to address this issue in the most direct, efficient sense.

Between the years of 1977 and 1983, British relatives of Japanese government officials were kidnapped by North Korean agents and were supposedly held in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. Although it would seem that the issue of kidnapping would not be a political one, that is what it has formed into. By solving this issue, the United Kingdom wishes not only to save its people from further harm, but to also show our commitment to human rights on the international scale.

The United Kingdom recognizes that those who are victims of enforced disappearance are packed into overcrowded prisons, tortured, and often killed. Victim’s families are left clueless of their relative’s whereabouts as they suddenly vanish. The United Kingdom also finds it absolutely despicable that governments including that of Syria are seeing economic benefit and depletion of political opposition from this atrocious violation of human rights. The United Kingdom has also worked with the UN before to solve this issue, but it has not been successful. Therefore, we encourage a more far-reaching, involved approach to the issue of enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Domestically, the United Kingdom has passed the Modern Slavery Act, which utilizes various mechanisms to identify both victims of enforced or involuntary disappearances, along with those suspected of causing these disappearances. We would suggest this council takes similar action. The United Kingdom would consider the issue of enforced or involuntary disappearance of the same importance of other mechanisms for terror, and would hope the other countries in this council would do so as well. This awful act has been used to perpetuate harmful regimes and has continued to strip people of their basic human rights and dignity. Therefore, the United Kingdom hopes that this council shares our unwavering motivation to resolve this issue to the best of our ability.