Cleveland Junior Conference
2019

Position Papers for:

The United Nations Human Right Council
Delegation of: Bolivia  
Represented by: Chardon High School

Position Paper for The United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Bolivia is dedicated to coming to a conclusion on these issues, while maintaining the sovereignty of all nations involved.

**Topic A: Loss of Human Rights Across the Middle East**

The Middle East has had a lot of conflict and unrest in the past. These conflicts would start from religious differences, terrorism, and many other things along those lines. Other people from outside the country such as Bolivia, start becoming involved in religious politics and human rights could become in jeopardy. As government's crackdown on their citizens who have already been excluded by society, such as, women, minorities, and refugees, there is potential for human right to be put into jeopardy.

**Topic B: Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**

People are disappearing and the citizens can't say anything because they are afraid of being punished. In Bolivia there are many problems with people disappearing. To solve this problem, Bolivia encourages the committee to work together to create a new system for locating missing persons.
Delegation from: Brazil  
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy


The issues before the UNHRC are Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts in the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. We, the delegation of Brazil, are looking forward to a civilized debate and hope that we can all come to a satisfactory resolution.

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

Good day to you honorable chair and delegates. I am Cole and this is my partner Brendan. We will be representing the country of Brazil in the Human Rights Council. We hope that we can come to a peaceful resolution today that finds a solution to this problem.

While Brazil is not a Middle-Eastern country, it is no difficulty to observe the conflict in the Middle East. The Middle-Eastern region has a particularly rough history of violence and war and must be addressed immediately. The countries in the Middle East need assistance, not to necessarily participate in the war, but to end it. For all conflict to end, it must be realized that there are other ways to resolve conflict than with war. Another major problem in the midst of this is that, in no means to be disrespectful or resentful, there are countries that violate many human rights in the process of these clashes between countries. In the depths of this great fog, there is a solution and a method that will save lives. It is now up to the HRC to aid all of the oppressed in this great time of need.

Brazil and many Arab countries share a fond human relationship. While Brazil has not been harmed by the middle-eastern conflicts, we keep a relationship with the countries in conflict. This may not give us any strategic or economic advantage, but it is believed that the sooner the conflict is resolved the sooner we can successfully address the human rights issue.

A very relevant problem occurring in many Middle Eastern countries is that of torture. Torture in the Middle East has become more and more prevalent. A very extreme case of torture was of hundreds of prisoners in Yemen, being attacked by a group of Emirati guards. One such method of torture was the victim being tied to a metal pole and prodded with electrical wires and smacked with steel poles. They were then thrown to the ground and beaten by the guards with their boots. A drawing also indicates the use of dogs.

This issue has become very prevalent in a large number of places, mainly the Middle East. Torture is an extreme violation of human rights, especially many other cases that have appeared. While this is easy to understand, to go into more detail the basic human rights must be laid out. These include Marriage and Family, Free Thought, Free Expression, Social Security, Workers’ Rights, and Public Assembly. These will be fundamental to put into account as the cases of loss of human rights are developed.

As human rights become a more widespread idea there seems to also be more violations of these basic human rights. Some major occurrences influencing these cases are the Syrian Civil War, the Turkish and Syrian conflict, and many other skirmishes in the Middle Eastern region. Lots of the losses of human rights stem from civilians caught in the crossfire, or political detainees being mistreated. In sum, the loss
of human rights is a very important issue, especially in the Middle East. This is an issue that cannot be ignored as it is an atrocity that must be addressed immediately.

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

The next issue before the UNHRC is: and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Topics that could be addressed in this area are as follows: political prisoners, kidnapping (and potential torture), and state involvement.

Political prisoners are usually found within many governments, but especially during war. Political prisoners are often mistreated, malnourished, and potentially beaten. In the Middle East, this is a very important problem, because conflicts have arisen so often that political prisoners have become a usual occurrence. One such example is a case in Egypt, where an ex-prisoner revealed his story and described that “[his] soul was stolen.” He was arrested for rioting against the very prison system he was put into. However, he claims that he didn’t even take part in these protests.

Kidnappings have been even more frequent with things like the Syrian Civil War and the many other conflicts, where people did whatever they could do, including kidnapping, to get what they want. They have become a lot more commonplace with the political war in the Middle East and the rise of ISIS. There was a case in Italy where a lady named Chloe Ayling was kidnapped and to be sold to a group in the Middle East for inappropriate actions. This practice is outlawed, and a more practical approach is necessary to prevent these happenings.

As previously stated, a better approach is necessary to prevent this practice. While it is used by governments as a way to maintain power, or order per se, it is still a violation of one’s basic human rights. A few noticeable basic human rights include the right to live freely, the right to life, and the right to have a fair trial. These, when taken out of context and put into use in enforced disappearance cases, are most likely violated. A few human rights violations are torture and restriction on one’s freedom of expression. And lastly, no matter how one party views it, there are set rules. In 1948, a resolution was passed titled the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stated that any human had all of the basic human rights, no matter what the situation.

A way to view these examples is through conflict. Much of these Human Rights Violations stem from the deepest of conflicts as forms of punishment, and ways to get revenge. These violent outbursts have become unignorable, as over 800,000 people go missing yearly, and that adds up to about 2100 missing persons per day. The UN needs to take immediate action as people are being ripped from their homes and family, all the while being forced to bear unspeakable traumas.

In conclusion, the vast amount of enforced disappearances is no small problem and needs to be addressed immediately. This is no simple political strategy, it is not policing civilians, it is flat out denying a person’s basic rights. There may be countries that support this and countries that don’t. But all in all, the fact that many countries are standing by and watching as these horrific events occur is a terrible thing and needs a solution that is beneficial to all parties, including those kidnapped.
Delegation from: Côte d'Ivoire  
Represented by: Beachwood Middle School

United Nations Human Rights Council

Position Paper for The United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues for deliberation before 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. Côte d'Ivoire strongly believes that these issues are a serious problem, and we are open to cooperating with other nations on solving these problems.

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

The Delegation of Côte d'Ivoire acknowledges the severe lack of human rights across the Middle East and is seeking to eradicate this. Thousands of reports of terrorism, discrimination of women, and the hostility against people of religion are all examples of the loss of human rights across the Middle East. The United Nations has tried many attempts to solve this debate and Côte d'Ivoire is honored to be present for the discussion.

Côte d'Ivoire believes that the loss of human rights in the Middle East needs to be addressed. Regardless of which country it is, human rights should be guaranteed by that government. Every day there are reports of human rights abuse and they are becoming more frequent as each day passes. In Iran, child labor is legal and is growing in popularity. In Egypt, there have been dozens of arrests of suspected gay men. 21 million children in the Middle East don’t have a form of education or are at risk of losing their education because of armed conflicts, poverty, discrimination against girls, etc. As a part of the human rights council, the delegation of Côte d'Ivoire despises these practices and pledges to help promote global recognition and respect for human rights.

Côte d'Ivoire has had its share of human rights violations and is sympathetic to the Middle Eastern countries. Côte d'Ivoire’s political conflict of 2000-2011 has caused inhumane conditions, but we have made tremendous progress in restoring human rights in our country. We have ratified many treaties related to loss of human rights including the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to combat human rights violations. Côte d'Ivoire also took action to outlaw discrimination against homosexual peoples, and we are actively trying to end discrimination altogether. We wish to have the same progress in the Middle East.
Côte d'Ivoire believes that there are multiple ways to improve human rights in the Middle East. We believe that creating new policies to try to end will greatly help with the situation in the Middle East. Cote d’Ivoire is looking forward to working with other nations to improve the loss of human rights in the Middle East.

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

Côte d'Ivoire recognizes that involuntary disappearances are a major problem globally and we believe that this issue needs to be addressed. These disappearances can happen anywhere and are often caused by poor human rights regulations. We believe that the progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances is essential if we want to make the world a safer place and we are willing to work with other nations to improve it.

Around the world, there have been thousands of Involuntary Disappearances. Decades of conflicts in the Middle East have caused more than 250,000 to a million disappearances. There have also been reports of enforced disappearances of high ranking officials, and journalists in the Middle East. In South Africa, more than 2000 enforced disappearances have been counted following the political violence in 1994. In Haiti, the 7.0 magnitude earthquake left around 300,000 people dead, some with unknown whereabouts. There are many more disappearances around the world, and Côte d'Ivoire thinks that we need to improve the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in order to reduce the number of people that have not been found in these disasters.

In the past, Côte d'Ivoire has experienced enforced disappearances during the Second Ivorian Civil War (2010-2011) which started when President Laurent Gbagbo refused to secede power to President-Elect Alassane Ouattara. Gbagbo ordered more than 700 arrests and 40 enforced disappearances that were used to terrorize the public. This caused massive fear in the public and it caused more than 450,000 Ivorians to leave the country. Since this conflict, Côte d'Ivoire has created the Special Investigative and Examination Cell, which is aimed at investigating human rights cases related to the Second Ivorian Civil War, has charged dozens of military and civilian officials with crimes against humanity or other human rights crimes.

Cote d’Ivoire believes that several things need to be acted on in order for the amount of cases on enforced or involuntary disappearances to be minimized. We suggest that there should be more support on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. We also think that there should be more policies on how countries handle Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances.
Delegation from: Dominican Republic  
Represented by: Roxboro Middle 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 on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. These topics will discuss ways in which these problems have affected peoples across the world, and how the Dominican Republic wishes to move forward with these issues.

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

For the past seven years, the Middle East has been under the attention of numerous countries and the media. Civilian rights’ infringements, journalist deaths, religious extremism, and military intervention have all been prominent and recurring examples of human rights deprivation. For example; the suppression of free speech and press has been a major issue in countries such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey. Countless newspapers have been censored, and those who spoke out were either incarcerated or unemployed soon after. In addition, more than 150 journalists have been murdered throughout the course of the Syrian Civil War, according to the Syrian Journalists’ Association, and religious extremist groups continue to be in action throughout Israel, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and the Palestinian territories. To quote the Pew Research Center, each of these countries have reported a “very high” level of religious hostilities throughout 2016, 2017, and 2018. Military intervention in these countries has been the prime cause of both the Middle East’s poverty rates and loss of security. Millions of refugees per year have fled the region seeking stability and peace away from the violence of wartime, losing money, rights, and in some cases, family. The Dominican Republic wants to improve the lives of all Middle Eastern people being deprived of human rights, but prefers to stay to the side of all wartime affairs.

Especially over the course of the past 15 years, civil, sectarian, and imperial wars have forced millions of people to flee their homes in search of stability, safety, and work. In perspective, roughly 1.5 million Syrians are forced out of their country each year, and lose crucial rights such as the right to education, the right to move freely, and right to freedom from discrimination. These three examples are all included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of which Middle Eastern countries such as Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Egypt, and Lebanon have acted as signatories, along with the Dominican Republic itself. According to the UNHRC, there are over four million total displaced refugees who face this issue in the Middle East. Many projects have been made to help people in the midst of such turmoil, such as the ADRA organization and the Help Refugees organization. In other countries such as the Philippines, China, and in South American regions, poverty can be connected to a loss of basic human rights.

The Dominican Republic emphasizes the importance of helping Middle Eastern citizens being deprived of their human rights. To improve the issue for both the Middle East and other countries facing the same situation, the Dominican Republic encourages exercising the available use of help programs to reach those in need. Since altering military action is most likely impossible, the next best thing would be to aid those deprived of rights as a result of wartime events though the actions of other people. Additional programs to spread awareness of human rights loss and to help children being denied education would also be a beneficial option. However, the country also respects the national/state sovereignty in deciding what exactly is done in the region. In conclusion, the Dominican Republic wishes to use the abilities of others to aid those being affected by a loss of human rights in the Middle East, but prefers to not be involved in wartime affairs.

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

People in the world have been severely affected by the serious problem of involuntary disappearances. Many families of people that have been kidnapped or trafficked are not taken very serious in many countries. The
likeliness of someone getting kidnapped is about 1 in 300,000 which is high when most don’t get recorded. People that did not get their case reported includes Juan Almonte Herrera, who worked for Dominican Committee of Human Rights. His case was noted, but was not acknowledged as a kidnapping. His family and friends wanted people to look into his disappearance, but no one did. Most were worried that he was dead, but no one heard any news of him at all. Another kidnapping was in Volgograd, a city in Russia. A reporter named Leonid Makhinya, a reporter and journalist, was missing for 3 months, many citizens started to get worried, “We are extremely concerned about Leonid Makhinya,” said Johann Bihr, the head of RSFs Eastern Europe and Central Asia desk. “His unexplained disappearance casts an intimidatory shadow over the entire journalistic profession. We call on the authorities to do everything possible to find him.” Another story was about Tonya, a standard girl that lived in America was trafficked like many others. She had a boyfriend pressured her into having sex with men for money, and beating her if she didn’t comply, “After nearly 30 more minutes of constant pressure, Tonya agreed to have sex with the man. What she thought would be a one-time thing became an everyday routine for the next few weeks.”

The UNHRC has been trying to find, and get back the people that have been kidnapped, or taken from human trafficking back to their families. The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances usually visits four times a year to a country to understand who is lost, where they are, how they can find them, and the reason they are missing, “During a country visit, the Working Group meets with government authorities, non-governmental organizations, legal professionals, and relatives of disappeared persons. Following the visit, the Working Group issues a mission report that details its conclusions and recommendations for the State,” according to the International Justice Resource Group on Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Many people that have been involved with kidnapping have had to pay a ransom to get the person back. The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1373 in 2013 from the UK for ransom kidnapping. The resolution states that “at the increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed by terrorist groups with the aim of raising funds, or gaining political concessions, in particular the increase in kidnappings by Al-Qaeda and its affiliated groups, and underscoring that the payment of ransoms to terrorists funds future kidnappings and hostage-takings which creates more victims and perpetuates the problem.” The UK is trying to make it so kidnappers don’t want to kidnap again. An Islamist extremist group gained more than $70 million dollars over ransom, and it has turned into a marketplace for some because of how much money people could make on it.

A charity called Action Against Abduction tries to make children safe among predators and potential kidnaping. This charity started in the UK, and we would like it to branch out to other places including the Dominican Republic. This program teaches kids about stranger danger, and how kids can avoid predators. “Action Against Abduction works to protect children from the threat of abduction. This includes abduction by a family member, by people who are known but not related to children, and by strangers. We aim to give parents the best information, and to ensure professionals have the right policies, so that we keep all of our children safe” (ActionAgainstAbduction.org). We would like resolution 1373 to be passed and included for all countries so that peoples do not use kidnapping as a way to earn money and power. A way we can help could be teaching kids about Action Against Abduction, or about abduction in a general form. Kids are usually in a safe atmosphere in school, and can be easily taught about abduction in classes. If this could either be supported in another charity, or just be put into children's learning activities in all countries, it would really help and have a great impact on their lives.
France
Berea Midpark Middle School

United Nations Human Rights Council

I. Loss of Human Rights Conflicts Across the Middle East

Across the Middle East, conflicts have arisen regarding religious persecution, terrorism, and violence in general. For decades, the Middle East has been known as a place with brutal violence, disease, and war. People in Syria, for example (according to CCWA’s background guide on Human Rights), have been killed, “by both Islamic State fighters and U.S. and Russian airstrikes, or by political action to silence dissents, like the murder of activists and journalists.” The Syrian War has also resulted in displacement of people in this region. Multiple terrorist attacks have also been committed from this region, causing severe unrest in The Western Hemisphere, including France. Minorities, refugees, and women have become targets for violence. Even people of different beliefs or social normalities have been assaulted. In reference to Article 2 of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.” Another problem to address is the conflict between the Sunni and Shia Muslims. Though people who follow religions typically are extremely firm in their beliefs, solving this issue would be another step forward towards peace.

Our nation believes that there is a severe loss of human rights across the Middle East. According to Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” France has been a strong adherent of this article, as well as all other proclamations of the Declaration. Because of this, France disagrees with the views of the Middle East, and believes that the progress they are making (or lack thereof) is only making that region worse internally. The international conflict, most prevalent being terrorism, especially in Western states is causing catastrophe and unrest.

UNICEF has been making slight progress by vaccinating children in need across the states, and has been hospitalizing people in need of immediate health care. The conflict, however, is slowly but surely reducing the progress made by children’s rights organizations, as well as UNICEF. These resolutions are not only aimed toward children, though. The UN has been working towards helping all citizens through this violence, such as getting everyone proper healthcare, bringing necessary items for survival, finding displaced citizens homes, and getting citizens that are in severe danger the help they desperately need.

France proposes several solutions to this problem. Being in the crossfires of the situation, France believes that the terrorism situation needs to be solved desperately, to stop other countries from living in constant unrest. Middle Eastern government officials need to provide safety for their citizens, to stop their countries from falling to more violence and conflict in the near future. A way to stop this conflict is to grant women more of the rights they deserve. Many problems can be solved by implementing equality throughout the states. Another solution could be urging developed countries to send help to the Middle East. Additionally, providing starving and/or
homeless individuals food should greatly decrease the amount of deaths in the states With these solutions, we may not come to an immediate solution, but these are propositions to help the process of coming to one.

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

According to the CCWA Human Rights Background Guide, enforced disappearances only recently became a priority. Circa 1992, citizens realized that this problem needed to be eradicated. This was happening--and still is happening--all around the world, especially in war-torn countries. These types of vanishings are a serious negligence to a person’s Human Rights, because it takes the sufferer’s freedom, dignity, and/or their life away. In many cases, these victims are sexually or physically assaulted, isolated from society, or even murdered. This not only endangers the victim, but affects their peers, family, and friends. France is committed to help in decreasing these disappearances. In doing so, perhaps the world could be just a bit safer.

Since this is a violation of Human Rights, France opposes these involuntary disappearances and that this is unjust. A human should be allowed to have his or her own freedom and justice without having to worry about going outside late at night or even conversing with any strangers. Nobody should have to feel this fear. Strongly committed to the policy of human rights, France has concluded that this should not be happening, especially if somebody’s disappearance has to do with their race, sexuality, gender, age, etc. According to Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, “No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.”

The majority of the time, the ways people prevent abduction is staying away from strangers and calling emergency services if somebody goes missing. This does not work in all cases, though. If law enforcement is called and the person leaves no trace, it can be extremely hard to track them down. Additionally, talking to strangers occurs almost every day. There is absolutely no way to avoid them. Not all strangers are corrupt. Typically, it is the government abducting citizens because of their religion, race, etc. More simply, they could abduct minorities. According to Amnesty International, they are actively campaigning cases of people who have been subjected to enforced disappearance, and is continuing to pressure governments to determine the fate and whereabouts of all those who have been disappeared.

France believes that there are several ways to help solve this problem. Referencing Amnesty International, the government feels could be a just solution. Of course, this alone will not solve it. You can’t exactly fight the government without causing commotion, but that does not mean we cannot help fight against non-governmental actions. Some ways to do that is making the jail sentence longer if an abductor is caught. Another way to help rebel this is warning friends and family. This doesn’t repel the abductors, but it will help peers become more aware and cautious. Additionally, public places could increase security, making it tougher for abductors to get away with their actions. Furthermore, educating children more about staying safe while alone can have a great impact on reducing involuntary disappearances. Having taken consideration of this problem, we believe we can help stop these abductions one step at a time.
Delegation from: Germany  
Represented by: Berea-Midpark Middle School


The Topics before the United Nations Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights across the Middle East; and Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

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

The Loss of Human Rights in the Middle East is not only a big issue for Germany, but for the entire world. The violence across the Middle East, initiated by a number of terrorist groups, has led to loss of human rights for citizens. Germany is a very progressive country and would like to see human rights as a priority for all nations.

Middle Eastern citizens are facing targeted attacks, forced displacement, sexual violence, forced conscription, indiscriminate killing, mutilation, hunger, disease, and loss of livelihoods. When citizens have to worry about basic rights, it makes it difficult for the country to grow. Speaking on behalf of the European Union and associated States, the United Kingdom vocalized that the gaps are clear for prevention, protection, humanitarian access, and impunity. This can only be fixed by peacemaker and peace support missions by the United Nations agencies.

Germany is especially concerned about violence in the Middle East because it destabilizes the region. There is also a large economic cost for refugees caused by the Middle Eastern fighting. Hunger and disease are also results of people being driven out of their homes due to violence. Germany wishes to work alongside the United Nations to bring human rights for all.

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

Enforced or involuntary disappearances are big issues in Germany. Two major issues about this topic are a lack of information and cooperation. The governments attempting to control its people is a considerable issue. People risk disappearing if they speak out or act against the government. Germany wishes to end this problem, and is and will continue to work hard to see that it happens.

Germany has invested its time and energy in trying to find a solution to continue to increase the progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. In 2001, Germany supported an initiative by France to implement an inter-sessional working group. Germany additionally committed itself against enforced disappearance and proposed the adoption of a convention against enforced disappearance by the United Nations General Assembly to continue actively contributing to the negotiations in the Working Group in 2005-2006. Germany has done many things to aid in the progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

Although Germany has already assisted in efforts to improve the progress of the Working Group, there is still much to be done. The United Nations, with the help of Germany, can increase the punishment for countries that participate in the enforced disappearances of its citizens. Another proposition is that countries, like Germany, can put more money into intelligence programs that can possibly support the United Nations in finding, and more importantly, preventing enforced disappearances around the globe.
Delegation from: The Republic of Ghana  
Represented by: Monticello Middle 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 on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Ghana is devoted to the protection of the rights of all people and strongly opposes any inhuman treatment and believes all people should be treated with respect and dignity.

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

What would you do if your rights were being disregarded for an issue you might not even be a part of? Your right of education and natural human necessities being stripped right from your grasp. Every human deserves their rights, and most would agree, but sometimes this is forgotten in certain situations. Many times into solving situations, basic human rights tend to be forgotten. Human rights protect people and have them live with the dignity of being human. There are written and verbal agreed human rights in the Middle East and in Ghana. People may try to live by them however; these tend to be forgotten in circumstances with authorities. The Middle East, including Ghana, is known suppressing rights such as religion. Ghana and most, if not all, Middle Eastern countries have issues with inhumane treatment and punishment from authority.

Ghana has made a few, but not many, groups to promote and enforce human rights. The Constitution of Ghana is very important to keeping everyone aware of his or her human rights in Ghana. However, there are specific people in Ghana who fight for their human rights. Ghana has called out and talked about issues of racism, LGBT+ and hate against children and women. There are harmful practices on women such as genital mutilation, forced marriage, domestic and rape, are widespread. Children suffer child labor and cruel and almost criminal punishments. Some government officials have called for gender and sexuality laws but LGBT people are still discriminated against in Ghana. In Ghana, Kenneth Adabayier is a part of a non-government official committee in Ghana. The commission of human rights and administrative justice (CHRAJ). Adabayier noticed that over 65 percent of people don't know their human rights. If you don't know your human rights, how are you supposed to protect them?

The world and Ghana cannot continue like this. Human rights should be given to people even in bad circumstances. The UN should create a committee to enforce, protect and educate on human rights. This committee would send out people to schools and places of work to speak and inform people of their human rights. They would also inform and enforce police officers to know peoples human rights so they will not devalue them while in investigation. Human rights issues can not be stopped unless everyone is in agreement of human rights and wants to live by them, but how are they supposed to agree on the if they don't even know them?

Topic II: Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Imagine this, you're minding your own business and doing your own thing when your taken unknowingly from your family, your life, and everything you’ve ever known. Just in that instance everything is gone. What would your family do, how would they know where you went? That’s what the working group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) specializes in, they assist families in determining the fate or whereabouts of their families who have “disappeared”. The WGEID not only assists families but also provides ideas and resolutions to the Human Rights Council. Often involving arbitrary detention and torture, sometimes by sexual assault or rape while in most cases the people who go missing are never found or even reported to be missing.

In recent times, Ghana has posted pictures of missing persons on their websites and Facebook account. Ghana’s constitution states that it doesn’t approve of involuntary disappearances they enforce this law as well, which helps families find their lost family members and friends. In Africa there is the international day of the victims of enforced and involuntary disappearances. The event raises awareness for the missing people, not only in Africa but also around the world. Neighboring countries including Ghana have missing person’s social media accounts that help law enforcement find people. The working group specifically

With disappearances in every country around the world the UN needs to provide families with a valid solution to help them discover the location of their friends and family. There are multiple ways that can help the problem but no real big solution to the problem as a whole. I think the most important thing the working group can do is help improve law enforcement in countries that don’t have much law enforcement. This would decrease the amount of disappearances, as police would have better training for various situations. The human rights council should add more delegates to the working group. In most cases people under the age of eighteen can be reported as missing persons but if you’re older than eighteen you can’t be reported as missing, there is no such thing. It would help people who are older than eighteen that go missing if after a certain amount of time they can be reported as missing giving some hope to the missing person’s family and a chance to find the persons that have disappeared.
Delegation from: India  
Represented by: Lakewood Catholic Academy


The issues to be discussed before the United Nations Human Rights Council are the Loss of Human rights in Conflicts across the Middle East and the Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

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

The Middle East has endured many different conflicts throughout history that have affected it’s nations such as India. Some conflicts include, terrorism, and religious discrimination, and discrimination against refugees, gender, race, and other minorities. These conflicts have prevented certain people from doing certain things, such as, in some places woman haven’t been able to attend school. The United Nations promotes equality for everyone no matter your gender, race, religion, etc.

One large conflict in the Middle East that has affected Indian citizens’ rights is religious conflict. In the past and to this day, India has had multiple different religions throughout its culture. India has a wide variety of religions that include, Islam, Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism. Across the Middle East there are ongoing conflicts that discriminate against certain religions. Even though the constitution of India states that men and women are equal, another conflict in the Middle East that has affected the rights of Indian citizens is gender discrimination. In some places of the Middle East women aren’t allowed to own businesses or attend schools. Women have not been able to work at certain workplaces. India's human development index is an organization in India that protects human rights and promotes them. It has lifted millions of citizens out of poverty and promoted human rights across India and the Middle East.

India’s human development index understands the loss of rights across the Middle East and has tried to prevent it from affecting Indian citizens. Even though the Indian government tries to promote human rights, the Indian government did not accept a number of key recommendations on human rights at its United Nations review. The Indian government should act upon recommendations made by the United Nations members. The recommendations that were made for the greater good of India were ideas that would help India to ensure its security forces and help ensure freedom and peace.

The Indian government should put forth a set of laws that ensure the human rights of citizens in schools, workplaces, and public places. The Indian government should make ensuring human rights for the Indian citizens a priority and it should accept recommendations by the United Nations. The government of India should form a couple more organizations that promote human rights across India. It should create organizations that promote human rights in the poorer cities and places in India because one group of people in India that is discriminated against is the poor and the people that live in poverty. The Indian government needs to have an open mind to all citizens and try to promote equality of human rights in India.
Topic II: Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The Working Group was first founded in 1980 when the Commission of Human Rights established a group of five of its members for one year. This group would focus on questions that had to do with the enforced or involuntary disappearances of people. The Working Group’s job is to help families with finding the whereabouts of their missing family members. Enforced disappearances are often the effect of political views. There are three elements to an enforced disappearance, deprivation of liberty against the will of the person, involvement of government officials, at least by acquiescence, and refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person.

The Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) estimates that 8,000 to 10,000 people are missing from the Jammu and Kashmir regions alone. The Working Group has hundreds of inquiries to the Indian government of missing persons with the majority going unanswered as well as requests to inspect detention facilities. Enforced disappearances in India happen most commonly in areas facing insurgency or armed conflict. For example, Kashmir, where the majority of incidents are reported, is a highly militarized zone. India has done very little to address the issue of enforced disappearances. Human rights activists around the world including the UN and the Working Group condemn policies by the Indian government including the controversial Public Safety Act (PSA). PSA was enacted in 1978. The law allows preventative detention of people whom have no recognized criminal offense. It also allows further detainment or delay in releasing individuals who have been acquitted in the court system. Although this law is meant for adult offenders, minors are often booked and detained as though they are adults. The recent development of a treaty named the International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance will significantly shape international law on enforced disappearances. The treaty will help human rights groups analyze Indian domestic law against the backdrop of India’s international legal obligations.

International law continues to develop norms to prevent, prohibit, and remedy enforced disappearances. India as a sovereign state in a global context has assumed some, but not all, international legal obligations. Developing strategies to assist advocates to promote remedies for victims of enforced disappearances as well as relief for families where the income producer has disappeared is a must, as well as properly training and holding accountable local law enforcement which is currently running rampant with corruption throughout the country. Continued analysis of international law as it pertains to enforced disappearances needs to be ramped up and advocates need to be given the resources to continue examining Indian law in light of the new international standards and expose areas where international legal standards can be used to argue reforms to Indian law and policy.
Delegation from: Iran  
Represented by: Campus International School  


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

Conflicts across the Middle East started when majority of wars broke out. The loss of rights harms the people of Iran because of military actions, airstrikes, political reason, or murder of a commissioned people. In majority of Middle Eastern countries, at least 33 Journalist or Activists has been killed in crossfire from different. The current resolution includes a Declaration that was made in 1948 and a resolution that was made in 2005 about preventing genocide, war crimes and other complex wars within the border. The people’s everyday life style ends in a negative impact because it reduces the amount of freedom that they have such as the rights to work, education, social security, food security, water, adequate housing and health. The United Nations World Summit created a resolution of peace and to use necessary force if not come to an agreement and they start a war.

This problem is related to our country because Iran always gets stuck in the middle of the conflict. Our country has issued a meeting on the problems with Syria. Iran has given resources to the Middle Eastern countries who need help making the loss of human rights difficult for people in the countries. This issue affects our country because us giving resources to other countries such as military forces causes to be vulnerable for an attack from other Middle Eastern countries.

Iran has been protesting against issues in the Middle Eastern countries. They have had help from other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Syria, Israel, and Palestine. We have also come up with resolutions and declarations in the past that has not worked or qualified for the resolution or declarations made. Some of the resolutions have been passed and has worked since then.

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

Currently we have been in the middle of war and our people have been going missing. Our children have been taken to join wars. We have come to the UN to ask that you help us keep our people safe.

Many people have gone missing in Iran, American and Iranian, and we know that our country has taken many american soldiers in the past but we need to meet each other in the middle so that we can resolve this argument or war between countries, to come to an agreement to stop these disappearances. According to the Working Group, an enforced disappearance is defined by three attributes: first, denying the person liberty against their will, second, the government has to have been connected in their disappearance, and third, refusing to recognize the disappearance of the person. A working group is an organization of people with different attributes who that get together to solve a specific problem. We have already established that our children are being forced into war but we haven't talked about how our people go missing from sex trafficking.
Our laws on human trafficking are reasonable, to say the least. We haven't done anything to change our laws and we may never change them. Our government has taken some action to address the matter although we will not share any details about the subject at the time.

Iran is being affected by this issue because it disregards our citizen's human rights. We've tried to make peace with some countries to stop the war that we get caught in. If our problem is going to be resolved, we'll need to change our sex trafficking laws and create alliances with neighboring countries.
Delegation from: The Republic of Kenya
Represented by: Roxboro Middle School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues presented for the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights Due to Conflicts in the Middle East; and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Republic of Kenya is very supportive of the United Nations’ efforts to minimize the loss of human rights in the middle east, and the rate of enforced disappearances in the world.

I. Loss of Human Rights Due to Conflicts in the Middle East

The Republic of Kenya is involved in protecting human rights due to conflicts across the Middle East. One example of how people are losing their rights in the Middle East is that Syria has detained, tortured, and killed medics who are fighting against the government and healing protesters, according to Amnesty International, a nongovernmental organization. In addition, as reported by BBC News, "In Yemen, more than 2 million people are displaced as of 2017." This is a large concern because millions of people are suffering from a loss of a basic human rights, such as the right to a shelter, in the Middle East. According to Brookings Education, "by the end of 2016 there were 40.3 million people living in internal displacement." This means that people have been forced to flee their homes but are still living within their country. This number is being lowered thanks to the UNHRC, but still remains significant. In Syria, more than 80,000 people have gone missing because of the civil war in 2011. In Iraq, there are still 1.6 million people missing from the war against ISIS and 8 million people who require humanitarian aid. The Republic of Kenya believes this issue is a prominent problem in society today and needs to be addressed.

The Republic of Kenya recognizes the importance of losing human rights over conflicts in the Middle East. The United Nations Human Rights Document states, “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control. (Article no. 25)” This article ensures basic human rights that have not been apparent in conflicts in the Middle East. The Iraq-Iran war has had many resolutions concerning the rights of the citizens. For example, Security Council Resolution 688 (1991), “Condemns the repression of the Iraqi civilian population, including a clause to protect Kurdish refugees on the Turkish border. To protect both ground troops entering the area and airdrops of aid to the Kurdish population, a no-fly zone over the area was implied.” The resolution also covers the ability for humanitarians to have immediate access to anyone that needs help.

The Republic of Kenya has signed many treaties protecting human rights, but conflicts are still remaining constant in the Middle East and so is the loss of human rights. We need to create an organization in order to create a better world for the citizens who are having their rights taken away because of the conflicts. The organization will be called the United Nations Middle Eastern Human Rights Program. This program will be essential in aiding those who have had their homes, sources of food, water, and family taken away because of conflicts in their country. The program will allow a safeguard for those being affected by conflicts in the Middle East. The program will provide camps in each Middle Eastern country currently being affected by conflict. Peacekeepers will be provided at and around the camps to ensure safety and the welfare of the refugees. The camp will contain a water pump, a food source or market, and tents or huts. To fund the program, countries will receive aid and donations from other countries. Countries in the Middle East that have moved on from past conflicts are recommended to oversee the program because of their experience. This program has the ability to help many people in the Middle East who have been affected by war and conflicts.

II. Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The problem of enforced disappearances is nothing to joke about, especially when one child goes missing every five hours in South Africa, and 460,000 children go missing in the United States every year. That’s nearly 1260 children every day. In addition to this, humantraffickingsearch.org stated that, "In
2017, 8,759 cases of human trafficking were reported to the NHTH (National Human Trafficking Hotline).” The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances was founded in 1980 to assist the families and individuals that were affected by enforced or involuntary disappearances. The working group helps organizations that have tried to find missing people but cannot using the resources available to them. One of the most recent occurrences of enforced disappearances that has been portrayed in the news is Jamal Khashoggi, the New York Times reporter from Saudi Arabia. The journalist went missing in a Saudi consulate in Istanbul. According to news.un.org The United Nations Human Rights office spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani told the press at a Human Rights committee conference in Geneva, “This apparent enforced disappearance of Mr Khashoggi from the consulate of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul is of serious concern.” The Republic of Kenya has tried hard to deal with the enforced disappearances that have happened within its borders. According to the Pambazuka News, “ICPC (International Center for Policy and Conflict) stresses its grave concern that enforced disappearances in Kenya are becoming a daily occurrence.”

Countries around the world, as well as the UN, are trying to solve the issue of enforced and involuntary disappearances. The online news paper www.thenews.com said that the chairman of the National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR), Ali Nawaz Chowhan, “Announced the formation of a Sindh-level core advisory committee comprising representatives from the civil society, media and lawyers organisations to monitor and take quick actions in cases of enforced disappearances.” In an article by the website www.jurist.org about a new law in Lebanon opposing enforced disappearances, The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances said, “a new law against enforced disappearances in Lebanon can be a major breakthrough.” The article also says that the UN “Urged that the law be implemented effectively in order ‘to give victims and their families access to truth and justice.’” The Human Rights Council itself has also taken measures to combat extrajudicial disappearances. For instance, in September of 2017, the Human Rights Council adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons From Enforced Disappearances or resolution A/HRC/RES/36/6. This resolution states that “No one shall be subjected to enforced disappearances and no exceptional circumstance whatsoever may be involved is justification for enforced disappearances.” The CED (Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance) is a treaty that was signed by nearly 100 UN countries to contest enforced disappearances around the world. As said by an article published by reliefweb.int in September 2018, “The United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances will hold its 116th session in Geneva from 10 to 14 September 2018 to examine 840 cases from 46 countries.” The group will also “meet relatives of those who have disappeared, state authorities from different countries, civil society representatives and other stakeholders to exchange information on individual cases and on the persistent trend of the phenomenon of enforced disappearances.”

The Republic of Kenya recognizes that involuntary disappearances are a significant world problem. We would like to see the United Nations encourage countries to put in place laws that discourage people or organizations from seizing people against their will. The Republic of Kenya would also like to see the UN create a program designed to assist governments in the arrest and trials of people accused of this crime. The program could do this by donating money and aiding with the training of police and judges in the handling of cases regarding missing persons so that they are dealt with correctly and fairly. Kenya would like to see this program named the Training Program to Assist Law Enforcement and Judicial Officers in the Just Trials and Arrests Regarding Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The program will acquire funding through donations and aid from UN countries. The Republic of Kenya wants the UN would establish a hotline phone number for the general public to call if they are concerned that a friend or family member has gone missing. This hotline would connect people with somebody who can help them locate their loved one. By implementing these resolutions, the United Nations Human Rights Council will help those affected by Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to get justice and assistants in their cases.
Position Paper For the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights in Conflict Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The delegation of Morocco feels strongly on improving our current laws on these matters in summits peacefully and openly with others. Morocco has also signed a peace treaty and established more protection at borders, to help with even more than finding refugees.

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

The delegation of Morocco feels strongly about striving towards the promotion of respecting human rights in the Middle East, especially during the current times of conflict. Because of are feelings, we have organized summits in the past, such as the Mano River Summit of February 2002, in Rabat.

The Mano River Summit strove towards peace in the Middle East when several Middle Eastern countries signed agreement to promote peace in the region, put an end to outside interference in national affairs, enhance joint border monitoring and cooperate in the repatriation of refugees. Currently, because of the refugee crisis due to conflicts in the Middle East, human rights are being neglected. Thee delegation of Morocco grants the displaced personnel a renewable one year residential permit as of current time period.

To work towards our goal, the delegation of Morocco wants to host further summits to discuss efficient ways to peacefully solve the situation with other countries. We would also like to go through current laws and update them as needed to provide nourishment to the growth of human rights in the Middle East. Finally, we hope to lengthen the time period of activity of residential permits.

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

The Moroccan government has taken actions such as signing peace treaties and assigning more protection around the country’s borders. The Moroccan government is very supportive of preventing enforced or involuntary disappearances. The Working Group has and does work with other governments, non-governmental organizations, government professionals, and the relatives of people that have disappeared.
Past laws passed to help the Working Group include, the Adoption of the General Assembly, the establishment of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and the creation of the Working Group. Morocco signed a peace treaty and assigned more protection around the borders of its country and the Moroccan government worked to help find missing people and Refugees not only in its own country, but in the countries around it as well. The Working Group meets with government authorities, other organizations, legal professionals and relatives of disappeared persons.

What Morocco wants do to help prevent Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances is to negotiate with governments to help them work on the prevention of disappearances, put all of the areas, including underground, in the world on Google Maps and Google Earth, host a summit discussing the situation and send Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes. Using these ideas, we can make, not just Morocco, but the entire continent of Africa a better place.

The issues that are presented before the United Nations Humans Rights Council are as follows: Loss of Human Rights in Conflicts across the Middle East and Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The Delegates from the Netherlands look forward to collaborating with other countries to remediate these issues.

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

Conflicts in the Middle Eastern are conflicts are an issue that has had, and continues to have, a negative impact on its people and the rest of the world. Besides being very dangerous and detrimental to the physical and mental health of a large population, the loss of human rights is an issue that continues to plague the world. In Afghanistan, the Afghanistan War, fought by the United States of America against terrorist organizations, the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, due to the terrorist attacks against the World Trade Centers has led to countless civilian deaths due to stray gunfire and drone strikes. This level of violence is also shown in Syria, where the fight against ISIS has led to numerous chemical weapon attacks on civilian settlements. The Netherlands strongly urges the rest of the United Nations to respond to these threats immediately.

The Netherlands has long been an advocate of ridding the Middle East of its terrorists. The Netherlands has sent 1,100 Dutch peacekeepers to southern Iraq in response to American and British calls for help. The Netherlands has also issued targeted airstrikes against ISIS in eastern Syria, and have been making more money available to provide moderate armed Syrian opposition groups with civilian resources and medical support.

The Netherlands hopes that in the future, the United Nations (U.N), puts more emphasis on resolving the conflicts that they do know of. Although there have been many peacekeeping attempts, the Netherlands would like to send more aid and spread the idea of human rights across the world. In addition, the Netherlands would like to make protecting citizens the priority over wiping out terrorist group and focus more on the needs of people, as well as nurturing the growth of the population to recover from trauma caused by conflicts in the Middle East.

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

Involuntary and Enforced disappearances are defined as disappearances that are caused by political or third parties pertaining to the government for political reasons, and are completely against a person’s will. This is violating people’s basic rights, which are life, liberty, and security. To help eliminate this problem, the U.N initiated the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in 1980, which was to meet and determine the best way to solve this heinous
problem affecting many across the globe from five representatives from around the globe meeting at regularly scheduled meetings and provide support to the family of the victims. Since then, many countries have followed the decrees passed by this group to set up countermeasures against enforced or involuntary disappearances and to make their countries a safer place, including the Netherlands.

The Netherlands has recognized this ongoing issue a “crime against humanity,” according to International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances held in 2014, that must be absolved and has set place measures to eradicate this issue. This country and kingdom was applauded by the Committee for the State for sanctioning almost all the United Nations core human rights instruments and optional protocols in March 2014 where the Committee on Enforced Disappearances evaluated the report submitted by the Netherlands. In addition, the Netherlands were also commended for applying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and for the overall capabilities of the Netherlands Committee of Enforced Disappearances. The Netherlands has become an avid supporter of all human rights, as well as supporting many committees such as the Committee against Torture. The Netherlands has put in place measures of compensation to the relatives of the victims and measures to protect children against enforced disappearances.
Delegation: Saudi Arabia  
Represented by: Campus International School  
United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

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’. Saudi Arabia is dedicated to its citizens and resolving the issues put before this committee.

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

Given its broad influence on 1.2 billion Muslims worldwide and its position in the world’s oil market, Saudi Arabia cannot be disregarded or surrendered to an absolute monarchy that encourages the oppression of women and religious minorities. Women's rights in Saudi Arabia are limited in comparison to the rights of women in many of its neighboring countries due to the strict interpretation of sharia law in place in Saudi Arabia. The World Economic Forum's 2016 Global Gender Gap Report ranked Saudi Arabia 141 out of 144 countries for gender parity. Among the factors that define rights for women in Saudi Arabia are government laws and traditional customs of the Arabian Peninsula. Among the many restrictions for Saudi Arabian women include women must ride in the back of the bus – even when it is empty. Saudi girls are not allowed to play in sports at school. They are unable to take certain subjects at school like chemistry and biology. Women are not legally allowed to drive; they are barred from participating in elections; and their testimony is only worth half that of a man’s in court. Male relatives arrange all marriages. If a woman divorces her husband, she loses custody of her children over six years old. These conditions violates Saudi women human rights and has terrible personal, social, and economic effects. Recently The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) elected Saudi Arabia to the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women for 2018–2022, even though women in Saudi Arabia only constituted 13% of the country's native workforce as of 2015 and are in constant violation of their female citizens’ human rights. Changes that Saudi Arabia has made regarding women’s rights include schools and universities for women. ID cards for women that allows them to prove who they are in legal matters. The end of force marriages; allowing female athletes to compete at the Olympics and attend events in sports stadiums. Permitting women to ride bicycles and drive cars. Also allowing women to vote and be elected. Currently Saudi Arabia has elected a woman government minister and a woman as head of the Saudi stock exchange. Critics compare the situation of Saudi women to that of Blacks and Colored Africans in South Africa’s apartheid system. They experience some of the same restrictions of travel, education and access to justice. Some ways to solve some of the Saudi women’s human rights violations are ending child marriages, making husbands pay alimony when divorcing their wives, allowing women to apply for government benefits without their guardians and allowing more women into positions in businesses and education. In order for these changes to take place, global pressure has be put on the Saudi Government to make good on these improvements to Saudi women’s rights.

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

Human rights have been around for hundreds of years, there have been documents based on this such as the Magna Carta (1215). The French Declaration on the rights of man and citizen (1789),
and the US Constitution and bill of rights (1791) are all connected to the modern day Human rights.

Now Human rights has brought to this council is Saudi Arabia's government has not accepted any minorities such as religion, women, and refugees. Which means they conflict themselves, which can cause the loss of human rights due to the dangers, posed to the citizens.

The loss of Human rights has caused the Middle East to carry out 146 killings, but 59 of them are for nonviolent drug crimes. A protest against Houthi forces in Yemen led to civilians getting killed. The conflict has come from religious differences; some are related to terrorism, outside of countries becoming involved in religious politics. Women, minorities, refugees and more are often excluded by society.

We have tried to solve this problem by protesting for freedom and rights. This issue has affected Saudi Arabia because people have been rejected from their government, but the country is a very wealthy country in fact they planning are to build a global financial center, there sovereign wealth fund has given him the investment to turn Tesla into a private company. The Middle East has succeeded in establishing a financial center. In the solution to the government problem they are working to build a culture and society that is open enough to draw a global expect community.
Delegation from: South Africa
Represented by: Hathaway Brown School

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

The issues being addressed at 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. South Africa is completely devoted to equality for all people and expresses its hope for further advancement in these basic human rights.

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

The Middle East has had a long and tumultuous history. It was first Mesopotamia, next the Ottoman Empire, and now the Middle East. There are many causes of unrest in the Middle East, stemming from the fall of the Ottoman Empire. After the empire fell, the Persian-Gulf War occurred, the Syrian Civil War is still ongoing and the Israeli-Palestine conflict has never stopped. Additionally, the countless civil rights infringements in Yemen have just made things worse. All of these separate Middle Eastern conflicts are causing human rights losses in an alarming rate across the region. These losses have occurred through restricting freedoms, breeding discrimination or, in the worst cases, taking away the rights to health, safety and life.

South Africa, though not a member of the Middle East, has taken the initiative to be involved in the human rights conflicts these countries face. Prior to the 1990’s, South Africa had not been as involved as it currently is, and was less concerned about the well-being and stance the Middle East had. The main shift in attention for South Africa towards the Middle East was triggered by the abolishment of the Apartheid, a set of segregational laws lasting from 1948 to 1994. In recent years, South Africa has developed diplomatic relations with many Middle Eastern countries. However, South Africa is a leader in the Non-Aligned Movement, an organization that has been very critical of Israel’s policies, and political relations with the Jewish state are more distant than with other countries in the Middle East.

South Africa is a human rights champion itself, values human rights not only for itself, but for other countries. Currently, South Africa is deeply concerned of the loss of human rights in Middle East region, especially in Israel/Palestine. South Africa remains uneasy and condemns the illegal settlement expansion by Israel. South Africa calls for the committee to consider the effective and immediate implementation of Resolution 2334 (2016), which reaffirms that Israeli illegal settlements have no legal validity. Additionally, the non-stop Israel/Palestine conflict has displaced many Palestinians seeking refugee mainly in the Middle East region. South Africa makes annual contribution to the United Nations Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and has pledged $1 million to assist women and children in 2017. However, South Africa’s clash with Apartheid, and the magnitude of the crisis in the Middle East region has demonstrated that international efforts are necessary to achieve peace and relieve the human rights crisis in the region. South Africa also believes that no military solution and only peaceful negotiation will create a lasting peace. South Africa will continue to play its part in solving the conflicts and improving the human rights crisis in the Middle East regions.
II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The first stage of an enforced or involuntary disappearance is people showing up at your house and taking one or more family members with them, without producing an arrest warrant or saying why. This is a heinous violation of the basic rights a human deserves. The Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearance, stated from General assembly in its resolution 47/133 of December 18th, 1992, an enforced disappearance is defined as when "persons are arrested, detained or abducted against their will or otherwise deprived of their liberty by officials of different branches or levels of government, or by organized groups, or private individuals acting on behalf of, or with the support, direct or indirect, consent or acquiescence of the Government, followed by a refusal to disclose the fate or whereabouts of the persons concerned or a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of their liberty, which places such persons outside the protection of the law." The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) has been renewed every year since to communicate with families, governments and other groups related to or affected by enforced or involuntary disappearances.

The Khulumani Apartheid Reparations Database contains the records of disappearances of approximately 1,200 people in South Africa during the Apartheid years, but there are believed to be over 2,000 people still missing. In comparison to countries such as Argentina, which has approximately 30,000 cases filed, South Africa does not have nearly as many of these disappearances. 477 out of the 1,200 cases were officially recognised by the TRC. The WGEID has only dealt with twelve cases from South Africa. Of those 12 cases, only the Simelane case is outstanding. Three cases were clarified by the state, NGOs and families clarified two cases and six cases were discontinued. Thus, surprisingly, the WGEID has only one South African case at present. South Africa’s commitment to deal with disappearances also seems to be lacking when viewed from the lens of South Africa lack of action when it comes to signing or ratifying the Convention. Despite this, our country recognizes the need for swift response.

Ariel Dulitzky, expert member of the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) says that South Africa is, “a place where creative solutions to respond to the phenomenon of enforced disappearance are in the process.” South Africa would like the committee to rethink its priorities and approach. Today, human rights advocates push for the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances. We, as a committee should look towards the international community to lead in undoubtedly censoring governments which use enforced disappearance as a political tactic and ensuring there can be no immunity for this horrible crime.
Delegation from: South Korea
Represented by: Campus International School

Human Rights Council

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’. South Korea is dedicated to its citizens and is enthusiastic to resolve the issues that we face.

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

The Republic of South Korea believes that the loss of human rights in conflicts across the middle is an important issue to be addressed because of the loss of human rights anywhere is something to be taken seriously. As a result of these conflicts, the Middle East has been responsible for many losses and a lack of human rights. Homosexuality has been outlawed in Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. Saudi Arabia has only allowed women to legally drive cars as of 2017. Many basic human rights have been lost in the Middle East across the last century all throughout conflicts in the Middle East.

The aforementioned conflicts had started in 1920. The countries involved in the conflicts are Egypt, Syria, United Arab Republic, Jordan, Israel, and Lebanon. The main reason for these conflicts in the first place is a deep-seated sectarianism within the Middle East, which has resulted in the formation of ISIS and many of the human rights violations within the Middle East. It’s important for the international community to address this topic, as the oppression of human rights in the Middle East has been seeded in bigotry and escalated to the point of torture within certain parts of the Middle East. In the past, Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi had made several articles lampooning the Saudi Arabian government, calling the King unfit to rule and comparing him to Vladimir Putin. The Saudi Arabian government had censored his freedom of speech, ultimately ending with Jamal Khashoggi’s death on October 2, 2018. This shows that the Saudi Arabian government, by extension, Middle Eastern governments are censoring the opposing opinions of others to keep people on the side of the government. These attempts at voicing opinions have been silenced by several Middle Eastern governments at the cost of the freedoms of their citizens.

South Korea’s desired outcome is for the Middle Eastern countries within these conflicts to improve relations with their citizens by giving them their human rights. We plan to achieve this important goal by working to aid in ending these conflicts in the Middle East with a peaceful resolution. We should organize a moderated summit for the countries, so the countries representatives and leaders can discuss with each other about the wants, needs, issues, etc. of each country involved in the conflicts. If it were to become too violent within the summit, the representative/leader responsible for the violence would be removed from the summit. This solution is best suited because it can end the conflicts in a peaceful manner. The topic of the loss of human rights in the Middle East because of conflicts is an important issue to be addressed because the loss of human rights is an issue to be taken seriously anywhere in the world. South Korea’s solution to solve this issue is best for the issue at hand because it can be a peaceful resolution to a violent conflict.
II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

Involuntary disappearances are when people are secretly kidnapped by either a state, political organization, and or third part against their will. Then forced not to tell about the kidnappers' whereabouts trying to keep the victim away from the protection of any sort. Often involuntary disappearances result in death. First, the victim is abducted, non-legally detained and then tortured while being questioned resulting in death. It’s pretty much the same thing with completely different reactions when it comes to voluntary disappearances where the “victim” does all of this free of will. 12-9-2016 is when the impeachment of president Park started and 3-10-2017 is when the court upheld the impeachment and then the park was arrested on March 30th.

By resolution 20 of February 29th, 1980, the Commission on Human Rights had decided to "establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons". The primary task of this group is to aid the families of those who have been abducted in finding the whereabouts of the abductee. This group serves as a way for the abductee in question to communicate with their families and possibly any governments who are concerned with this kidnapping. If governments may be concerned with the kidnapping, the group would contact said governments in an attempt to carry out investigations into the disappearance and to then inform the group of the results from the investigation. As of the adoption of the 1992 “Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances”, this group has also been able to monitor the progress of the investigation. On December 23rd, 2010, the “International Convention for the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances” had established the “Committee on Enforced Disappearances”. This Committee works with the group to achieve their goal of locating missing persons and preventing future disappearances.

South Korea’s desired outcome is for the rates of involuntary disappearances to dramatically lower. The ways that we can achieve this desired goal is through the cooperation of countries who do not usually cooperate with the UN and finding ways to limit forced disappearances while obeying government law. If other countries who don’t work with the UN begin to cooperate with the UN on this issue, then the rate at which the kidnappee is located and rescued would accelerate. A way to potentially limit forced kidnapping is through making the punishment for committing such a crime much more severe and through putting more money into investigations. Addressing the issue of progress on the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances is important because many people around the world are falling victim to abduction, and many of those victims are killed during or as a result of the said kidnapping.
Delegation from: Switzerland
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy


The issues before the UNHRC are the loss of human rights in conflicts across the middle east and the progress on the working groups on enforced or involuntary disappearances. We do not wish to tell any other country what to do so we would like all of us to come to a compromise on the resolution so this is peaceful. We the delegates of Switzerland want to find a simple and peaceful solution to resolve these issues.

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

There are many conflicts across the Middle East that can cause loss of human rights, mostly through military actions, such as airstrikes made by Russia and the U.S., terrorism. It could also be from political conflicts over countries. Many of these conflicts affect can cause people to have a really low status. Islam is the controlling religion of the Middle East.

The definition of our topic is the conflicts taking away the rights of people across the Middle East and are causing more conflicts about it. This topic takes place in the Middle East and includes countries such as Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Islam, the Islamic State of ISIS, and the U.S. who contribute into the loss of human rights in the Middle East. These conflicts between these countries affect millions of people across the Middle East. These conflicts take away homes, cause the loss of social status, deprives people of being able to speak out and have freedom of speech. The conflicts can be the cause of the start of more conflicts which leads to more loss of rights. This will get the people that lose their rights angered and want to rebel against the government and would want them to do something about it.

The Middle East has a deep history of conflicts with other countries that date back to the time of the Ancient Mesopotamians and up to the ottoman Empire. After the the Ottoman empire fell a sort of power vacuum was made and the other countries influences spread here and after all of this happened this area was spread up into states but, it was not based on beliefs, religions or governments which could have been one of the causes of conflict in the middle east. The Persian Gulf War was also a large contributor to this. The military wing of Hamas turned into a terrorist group with their suicide bombings and was a huge factor to the loss of human rights.

As a part of the United Nations we need to come to a conclusion like everyone else we need to solve the problem of these conflicts so we think that we should stop considering the economic benefit and start thinking of the wellbeing of our people. We should think of the result of these wars and the after effects because right now we are just thinking about the present. We should be thinking what the effects of this are. If we can find a plan of action then we could find a solution to this problem.
II. Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary disappearances

Currently the issue of involuntary disappearances has now arisen in places across the world. Involuntary disappearances are when the government kidnaps a person because they do not want to put them in jail so they will torture them after kidnapping. This factors to the loss of human rights because it is against the persons will. The victims of this have their basic human rights stripped away and are sometimes tortured to death. The people related with the person that has committed a felony are not told the whereabouts of them and the U.N. is supposed to help with finding information about this. The reason why we do this is because the family (in some cases) has trauma because they do not know where their loved one is.

The working group is a group of people that has the task of finding the locations of the victims of the crimes. They get together three times a year to discuss this topic and are highly paid. Enforced disappearances scare the public into doing what the government wants them to do. The public is scared into doing the right thing because if they do the wrong thing they are scare they are going to be tortured so this whole thing is to help the government stay in order and to keep those in power in power. This leads to an incredible toxic environment where the government is controlling their citizens like puppets on a string. And finally the reason why this works is because everyone is too scared to speak out about this problem so it is just an ongoing problem.

Some of the main causes of this are wars. Like the civil war in guatemala going from the 1960s to the 1996. Over this time period human rights activists were found and disappeared and right now there are as 45000 unsolved cases. Another example is in Chile the former president Augusto Pinochet saw over enforced disappearances for the people that challenge him in his military dictatorship which taught the public that you should not try to gain power. His regime is responsible for the loss of human rights for many people. The next example Argentinian Junta who launched a war on terrorism which resulted in a lot of innocent people disappearing from communities. But, these are all examples from the past now it is happening in even more places like India, China, Sudan and lots of other place around the globe.

The problem is that the working group is only finding the locations of the whereabouts of the victims and they are not doing anything about it which is also a problem because the governments that are abducting their citizens and are just saying it is just false information. But what is even worse is that this creates a cycle when someone goes missing the family of this person talks about it and this information spread to activists who talk about and in return are abducted which in turn just creates a never ending cycle where you have to just have peaceful protest where most likely everyone there will just be abducted or murdered a riot with the same result but more things are destroyed or you could just have the government abolished by the people. But, this has to be peaceful so keep quiet until the leader dies and then revolt because you have the right to because they are not protecting you natural rights.
Delegation from: The Syrian Republic
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

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

In the past few years, the loss of human rights in the Middle East has been a large issue. With the ongoing civil war and other issues that branch off of the war in Syria, most human rights are not paid any attention. An estimate of between 364,792 and 522,000 people have died in the civil war up to 2011. Syria cannot simply say just do not commit these crimes because laws will still be broken. In order to fix this problem, other smaller problems will need to be fixed and then a gain in human rights will follow for everyone. For example, if there is aid to the Syrian civil war to end it or shorten the lifespan of the war with a lot less conflict comes human rights. On top of that, if there is no civil war, more people will listen to the one government and will not be split. That would help enforce laws and consequences so if there is a violation of human rights, for example if life was not respected, there could be imprisonment or something else of that sort to make sure that individual does not violate the law again. If there is one government, another effect is more fair trials so people are not wrongly imprisoned. This links very closely to the other topic, Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. There is estimated to be 4,000 political prisoners still held unfairly even though an estimate of 700 has been freed.

Something that could be changed is that it is illegal to be, or encourage being homosexual. In 2010, 25 men were arrested because of homosexual acts and encouraging homosexuality. Their arrest later led to 3 years in prison for all of them. This is another big violation of human rights that needs to be addressed immediately. Another issue that will be much easier to solve after there is one government after the civil war. It will be much easier to make a law or repeal a law when the country is not divided.

Although the Syrian Constitution provides the right of freedom of religion, that is not always the case. That means that anyone is free to practice your religion as long as the practices do not disturb the public. The Syrian government monitors all activities of other religious groups and many people see that as a threat because practicing their religion is extremely limited in order to stay out of trouble with the government.

Finally, freedom of speech is extremely limited in Syria if people are not careful they could be severely punished. It is not unfamiliar to see journalists, reporters, or bloggers arrested and tried. You can also link this back to unfair trials. If the government wants to lock that person up there is a very good chance they will be imprisoned especially with the civil war going on because of the country being split. There is also internet usage monitoring, filtering, and blocking. Most of the websites blocked are for political reasons. For example, some of the websites that were blocked from 2008 to 2011 are, Wikipedia Arabic, Facebook, and YouTube.

In conclusion, The Delegation of Syria hopes to make Syria, as well as other countries safer for good. In order to do this, The Delegation of Syria believes that the smaller important issues need to be addressed so that after the issues are eliminated there will be less violations of human rights.
II. Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances was founded in 1980 and has been accepted by the United Nations every year since. The group’s main focus is, obviously, on enforced or involuntary disappearances, however it is important to understand what exactly constitutes an “enforced” disappearance. According to the Working Group themselves, such a disappearance has three main traits: first, the removal of rights against the will of the person, secondly, the involvement of government in some form, and lastly, the refusal to acknowledge the disappearance or whereabouts of the “lost” person. This group is also entrusted with monitoring and providing aid for the involved states to fulfill their promises regarding the Declaration on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

As a result of the naturally ambiguous nature of this crime, the general population can often develop a “mindset of fear”, which subsequently causes citizens of affected countries to divulge into frightened silence. This is also true with Syria, who has a (semi)Totalitarian government as of right now. Enforced disappearances are particularly effective as a political strategy or tool, which Syria uses to their advantage, and, in addition to that, doesn’t see as a problem.

The use of enforced disappearances has been widespread within Syria in recent years. In 2011, the pro-democratic movement was stifled largely due to this tactic, with many leaders being systematically “abducted”, so to speak. The exact number of forcibly detained persons is not known, however it is thought that nearly 20,000 persons, most of which were men. The number of civilian deaths was said to be around 3,500, many of whom being women and children. The security forces at this time were rumoured to have engaged in rather sinister acts as well, including taking hostages and even torture. According to released detainees, the forms of torture ranged from somewhat primitive types such as beatings with a stick to full on electrocution. Likewise, there were also many instances of humiliation, with detained prisoners being forced to orally please their own bipedal instruments (otherwise known as shoes) and to worship the Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad, whom they hate. Unsurprisingly, the condition of the detention centers were appalling as well.

Since 2011, it is estimated that nearly 65,000 people have been “forcibly disappeared”. In 2014, the UN Security Council adopted a Resolution (2139) that strongly decried the use of enforced disappearances as a means of political strategy, and, furthermore, demands that Syria promptly ends their cynical practices. Despite this, Syria has shown no intent to do anything regarding these issues. 2011 was a rather tumultuous year for Syrians it seems, with nearly all forms of human rights being violated during this time. However, as stated just above, Syria is in no rush to do anything about it.

It is with the best intent that the UN does not fully involve itself with Syrian affairs. In conclusion, The Delegation of Syria believes that the UN should value the sovereignty of Syria while still offering aid when necessary.
The issues of the Human Rights Council are: Loss of Human Rights in Conflict Across the Middle East and Progress on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The United Kingdom believes that all people should have basic human rights such as freedom, dignity, privacy, freedom from torture, and life. Both of these issues take away all of these rights.

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

The United Kingdom would like to help the citizens in the Middle East, but must concern itself with our priorities at home first before helping out. The United Kingdom is willing to help in anyway it can, although it feels it is limited in ways it can help. The United Kingdom is also interested in supporting its own interest in the area as well.

The United Kingdom would like to bring back human rights world wide. In 1689 the United Kingdom passed the English Bill of Rights and the Scottish Claim of Right Act. Over the 20th century, the United Kingdom has begun to help more people in their country obtain human rights. The United Kingdom has also looked to help their allies gain human rights around the world. The United Kingdom is very open to assist in coming up with solutions to problems in the Middle East. Although the United Kingdom would like to help in the Middle East, it feels it has limited resources at this time and cannot greatly assist at this time.

The United Kingdom feels that communication between Middle Eastern countries will help a lot in the Middle East. The United Kingdom is ready and willing to assist in negotiations for the promotion of human rights in the Middle East. Any action taken by the United Kingdom will be peaceful and will not be aggressive. The United Kingdom has high hopes this conflict can be resolved as quickly and peacefully as possible. The United Kingdom also hopes that the citizens in the Middle East are helped out of this conflict as well. The United Kingdom thinks that the possible, communication with other countries could bring a lot of useful resources to the table.

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

The United Kingdom has little to do with enforced or involuntary disappearances considering it is not a big problem in its country. Even though the United Kingdom doesn’t see it as a problem we are against the disappearances occurring and would like to see it resolved. United Kingdom does not have a lot to do with enforced or involuntary disappearances because we don’t stand for it. According to Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.” The United Kingdom will not argue with governments who might be more involved than them as they don’t want to interfere.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with has been around for almost seventy years and was founded in 1948 has been keeping track of missing people. The OHCHR lets family and friends know where a person is or of they have been found. The United
Kingdom would like to see people reunited with their families, friends and countries, and would like to take more action with finding missing persons.

The United Kingdom would like to take action on the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. The United Kingdom puts enforced or involuntary disappearances as the same importance of internal conflicts and would like the Human Rights Council to see this problem through as fast as possible. The United Kingdom sees this issue as a major importance and hopes it will be resolved swiftly. We would like to help with this conflict and see it ending but we aren’t involved as much as other countries and hope that the United Kingdom and other countries could work together to see it through.
Delegation from: Vietnam  
Represented by: Hathaway Brown

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issue presented 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. Vietnam has acknowledged that this is an issue. It is widespread among wars and dictatorships. Vietnam had a civil war in the past, it has taken measures to identify those involuntary disappearances through efforts of DNA led processes. Vietnam knows the consequences of war. It is unfortunate that much of what is happening in the Middle East is like Vietnam’s past war. The war brings many consequences of unlawful killings on both sides and many civilian deaths. Currently, Vietnam has no reason nor concern over the conflict beyond the many innocent civilian deaths that occur due to the fact this does affect them nor has Vietnam ever had a connection to these wars.

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

The Middle East has a lot of history involving wars and deaths all the way from ancient Mesopotamia to now. There was the powerful Ottoman Empire that started in 1299 and went up to World War I, when it collapsed when it slowly started losing power in 1918. Following the fall of the Ottoman Empire, the Persian Gulf war began in 1990. The Persian War started when the President of Iraq (Saddam Hussein) invaded Kuwait and refused to obey the UN Security Council. Most of Iraq’s defenses were destroyed by the U.S and allied forces ending this war in 1991. In 2002, President George W. Bush told Hussein that he could step down or the U.S would invade. Hussein did not step down, so the U.S took military action and instigated the Iraq War. Another conflict in the Middle East is the Syrian Civil War. This started when Syrian citizens began protesting to their president’s rule. More than 400,000 people have lost their lives, 5.6 million have left the country, and 6.5 million more have been internally displaced. Yemen has also had issues, when in 2011 President Ali Abdullah Saleh was forced to step down and resign his position to Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi. Many citizens were not happy with this, so different groups of citizens and supporters rose up to take control of Yemen. Hadi fled the country and the UN described this three year conflict as “the world’s worst man-made humanitarian disaster.” Thousands of people have died from this conflict and at the same time they are having the world’s largest cholera outbreak with over 2,200 deaths.

Middle East is being compared to Vietnam due to the fact right now the Middle East are having a similar situation much like that of the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War took the lives of 2 million civilians, left 3 million wounded, thousands of children were left as orphans, and destroyed the whole country of Vietnam. From 1962-1970, the U.S used 20 million gallons of herbicides to reduce the jungle along their borders with Laos and Cambodia. One main herbicide that was used was called “Agent Orange” and it has left a big ecological and human impact on the lives of the citizens in Vietnam. Many children today, in Vietnam are growing up with various diseases and disabilities from chemicals from the War. After the War many people tried to escape the new communist government, but thousands died at sea trying to escape. The U.S sent over thousands of American soldiers, but while many died survivors of the Vietnam War suffered from psychological after-effects. Slowly, Vietnam began to rebuild their country from its ruin. They built back up the economy and raised the annual income per capita, but the countries agriculture had been badly damaged and thousands of people were left homeless and unemployed. The government took over property and farmland in South Vietnam, and also sent Vietnamese people to go chase the Khmer Rouge to the mountains. Right now the conflicts in the Middle East aren’t Vietnam’s priority due to the fact that Vietnam only relates to the conflicts because they have experienced a war in their own country.

The main issue that is Middle East has many conflicts, past and present, going on constantly. This causing human rights to drop quickly, taking away rights of health, safety and life. Since the 1950s the Civil War has been the biggest conflict in the Middle East, but the government can’t really do anything about it due to the fact that they are part of the reason that there are so many wars going on in the Middle East. The UN could let other sovereign nations help out, but they have been debating on whether other nations could help. There could be the consequences of the war becoming even bigger, but they could also limit to how many countries are helping and which ones.
II. Progress of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

The Vietnam supports the progress of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances. Enforced disappearances are when these three things happen: one, the person is taken against their will, two, has some sort of engagement with the government, three, a refusal to acknowledge the disappearance or whereabouts of the person, as stated by the Working Group. Involuntary disappearances are when the person is taken against their will, but with no involvement from government. These two cases of disappearances are violations to human rights. They take away the person’s freedom, dignity, and possibly their life. In these cases torture is extremely common. For the families of the victims they may experience emotional distress or issues for not knowing where their loved one is, and possibly additional trauma for other reasons. This is might affects the country’s mindset and emotional state, if the cases of disappearances are extremely widespread. This can infringe upon their right to free speech in fear of being abducted for political reasons. This creates a gag on the general public’s power to speak on the issue, this deprives the citizens power to protest and speak out. Enforced disappearances only recently became a major issue. Their high prevalence is what brought them to light in the 1960s to 1970s. It has been noted in times of civil wars and dictatorships.

Vietnam acknowledges the disappearances as a major issue. They can say from past experience from the incident of the Vietnam War. The Hanoi Government believes the Vietnam War led to more than 1.1 million people being killed or missing in the 30 years of the conflict. In 2014 Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung passed a plan to locate and identify the people who have gone missing. The plan includes a DNA-led identification process. This effort is reported to have a budget of $24 million. It is planned that 20,000 DNA-based identifications will be determined yearly. From 1992, the US military forensic experts conducted investigations with the Vietnam office. There were brutalities on both sides, with deaths that caused by mistreatment. This was reported on by the International Commission on Missing Persons. Though since the war, there has been no reports of disappearances caused by the meddling of the government or government authorities as stated by state.gov.

The Vietnam government has many resources and time put dedicated to solve the involuntary disappearances caused by the Vietnam War, and there have been no incidents within the country on enforced disappearances. The United Nations council has already condemned enforced disappearances. The UN council could also implement a condemnation on involuntary disappearances, if the person who has gone missing for a certain amount of time with no efforts from the government to find that person. The reasoning is the fact that the more time that has gone by, the less likely it is for those who have gone missing to be found and alive. Of course there will be exceptions when the nation doesn’t have the resources to find that person in which they must contact the Working Group. The UN has already condemned enforced disappearances, but there must be further action to make these governments think harder about their actions, instead of spiriting away their citizens when it is useful to their schemes. An economic sanction would give more insensitive to not make this illegal action toward their own citizens. The Working Group could expand on into several smaller factions. One could be responsible to monitor if the nations are purposely disappearing their people, and large portions of cases of involuntary disappearances are being ignored. Two could be to reach out and warn them of the illegal activity and for them to comply with the steps necessary to locate the missing person. Third could be the faction in charge of executing the steps to identify the missing persons and collaborate with the nations government to find these people.