

Hofstra University

Model United Nations Conference 2022



Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM)

Rebecca Fulman, Co-Chair

Senya Huda, Co-Chair

Dear Delegates,

I am a sophomore neuroscience major on a pre-med track. Since participating in high school Model UN, I loved the concept of being able to simulate what actually happens in world policymaking. I eventually became president of my high school's MUN and learned a lot about leadership, public speaking, collaboration, patience, and maintaining a positive mindset. Seeing others debate current pressing topics is certainly stimulating and exciting! Last year I was a co-chair for HUMUNC in the SPECPOL committee and I currently serve on the MUN executive board as Secretary.

Outside of academics, my interests are pretty widespread; I am a member of a variety of clubs that include pre-Med, dance, culture, Leaders for Environmental Action and Fellowship (LEAF), and Hillel. Furthermore, I assist my friend, the founder of the non-profit, Efforts in Youth Development of Bangladesh (EYDB), with website editing and college advising for students. In addition to these interests, I pursue several hobbies which include: listening to a wide variety of music, watching movies, dramas, and anime, as well as playing tennis, volleyball, and badminton (for which I participate in club activities as well). One of my favorite pastimes is working alongside my best friend in creating our very random podcast called "Chipping In" where we share short stories, chat with friends, and discuss whatever sparks our interest.

In SOCHUM, one of the topics we will be debating is the freedom of assembly. It's especially relevant today when countries attempt to control the civil body by limiting or responding violently when citizens protest peacefully and attempt to express their views. Defining and protecting these rights, as well as considering how to respond to regimes that violate them, will be the focus of our debate.

A word of advice to my lovely participants: please portray the agendas of the countries you represent as accurately as possible. Be in accordance with what resolutions they've supported in the past and continue to support today.

My goal is for all committee participants to have a good time and enjoy the moment, as hippie as that sounds. I can't wait to meet and work with everyone to facilitate debate, making this conference experience an exciting and memorable one!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Fulman
SOCHUM Co-Chair
HUMUNC 2022

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

Hello everyone! My name is Senya Huda and I am from Long Island, New York. I am a junior majoring in Pre-Medical Studies and minoring in Psychology and Biochemistry. This will be my sixth year of participating in Model UN and I am so excited to be your Co-Chair for the SOCHUM committee!

As a high school delegate, I participated in the National High School Model United Nations (NHSMUN) Conference for all four years in ECOFIN, SOCHUM, UNEP, and FAO. I also attended the Metropolitan Model United Nations Conference (METMUNC) at Plainview-Old Bethpage John F. Kennedy High School during my sophomore year. I am currently the Social Media Chair for Hofstra's chapter of Model UN. In my first HUMUNC, I was the photographer for the Opening Ceremony, and in my second, I was the dais for Historical Crisis, where we discussed the world of pirates.

Outside of school, I love using my drone to take pictures and videos, especially of different parks during sunset. I also try to train my Indian Ringneck Parrot named Cheekoo. I enjoy traveling and have been to countries including Pakistan, the UAE, the UK, and Canada. I have also been to nineteen states in the United States, including California, Georgia, New Hampshire, and Illinois. My favorite destination so far has been Dubai, where I got to hold a falcon on my arm! In the future, I would like to go to Turkey. I also enjoy learning new languages. I am fluent in Urdu, Spanish, and Hindi, and can read Arabic. I hope to learn sign language in the near future.

I chose the topic of internment camps as it highlights one of the many injustices that are occurring in the world today. I urge you all to constantly educate yourselves and share your knowledge on inequalities taking place not only in the United States, but other parts of the world as well, such as Palestine, Cuba, and Afghanistan. I am very excited to see what we accomplish as a committee and cannot wait to meet you all!

Sincerely,

Senya Huda
SOCHUM Co-Chair
HUMUNC 2022

Introduction to the Committee

The Third Committee of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly is the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee (SOCHUM). In 1945, SOCHUM was established as the third out of the six committees in the General Assembly. Focusing on social, humanitarian, and cultural issues, its mission is to make the world safer and more respectful/tolerant. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was created.¹ Decades later, the Human Rights Council was established in 2006, allowing for the committee to have jurisdiction over an extensive array of topics.² Some of the specific topics covered include

...questions relating to the advancement of women, the protection of children, indigenous issues, the treatment of refugees, the promotion of fundamental freedoms through the elimination of racism and racial discrimination, and the right to self-determination. The Committee also addresses important social development questions such as issues related to youth, family, aging, persons with disabilities, crime prevention, criminal justice, and international drug control.³

In terms of voting and polling making, the third committee does not have the power to sanction or pass binding resolutions, meaning it cannot enforce the resolutions implemented. Rather they make careful, comprehensive recommendations through non-binding resolutions, which apply for all committees in the General Assembly.⁴

The current chairperson to the seventy-sixth session is Ambassador H.E. Mohamed Siad Doualeh (Djibouti). The committee also has three vice chairs and one reporter.⁵ During 2021, the committee addressed topics, including violence against women and children during the pandemic, preventing disinformation, accountability for torture, and digital inclusion for people with disabilities.⁶

Introduction to Topic 1: Internment Camps

Internment camps are defined as prison or concentration camps used to restrain a group of people based on political, social, or religious ideologies and/or ethnicity and race.⁷ They differ from prisons as a person does not need to be convicted of a crime to be interned. Instead, the camps are created as a method of punishment for people who identify with a certain group. Oftentimes the conditions within these camps are unsanitary, and involve human rights violations that may include starvation, forced labor, and medical experimentation.⁸

In the past, many different groups have faced these conditions. An early example of the use of internment camps occurred during the Second Boer War, which took place between 1899 and 1902. During the war, fought between Great Britain and the Afrikaner republics of Transvaal and Orange Free State in what is today South Africa, the British placed thousands of civilians into concentration camps to prevent guerilla warfare from spreading and to inhibit aid to Afrikaner forces. Over 26,000 civilians, mostly women and children, died from the starvation and unsanitary conditions of these camps.⁹

During World War II, a notorious example of internment camps was those used by Nazi Germany during the Holocaust. The camps in Germany were originally used for political prisoners, including "German Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats—as well as Roma (Gypsies), Jehovah's Witnesses, homosexuals, and persons accused of 'asocial' or socially deviant behavior." However, after annexing Austria in 1938, the Nazi concentration camp system grew to over 44,000 camps and incarceration sites to persecute Jewish people in the countries occupied by the Nazis. The camps that functioned as killing centers were responsible for the deaths of nearly 3 million Jewish prisoners.¹⁰

Uighurs in China

One of the groups that the United Nations is actively working to address is the internment of Uighur Muslims in China. As of March 2021, there are approximately 11,000,000 Uighurs living in western China. The internment of the Uighurs began in April 2017, with thirty-nine camps that increased in size three times between their creation, and August 2018. Currently, over one million detainees are estimated to be in these camps,¹¹ which not only include Uighurs, but other Muslims from Turkic ethnic groups that include Uzbeks and Kazakhs.¹²

Confined to what the Chinese government calls “re-education camps”, detainees are required to denounce their religion, Islam, and are forced to learn about Marxism and to speak Mandarin. They also face human rights violations, including sexual abuse, and torture in the forms of electric shock, beatings, and being confined in painful positions.¹³



The development of a detention camp in Xinjiang.¹⁴

Forced labor is also a common feature of these camps, as detainees are used to make “...gloves, hair products, polysilicon, textiles, thread/yarn, tomato products”, and fish products. Workers are subject to constant surveillance, long hours, little or no pay, threats made to family

members, as well as other dangerous conditions.¹⁵ Over eighty-three global brands have used this labor, including Amazon, Apple, Google, H&M, Land Rover, Nike, Nintendo, Nokia, The North Face, Samsung, Zara, and more.¹⁶



The image depicts detainees in the camps forced to sit blindfolded at a train station.¹⁷

Other rights violations include control of women's reproductive rights, through forced sterilization, birth control, and abortions. Women were also forced to undergo gynecological exams to detect any unreported pregnancies.¹⁸ Families are also forcibly separated, as parents may be sent to reduction camps or flee into exile, while their children are placed into state-run orphanages without consent from the parents.¹⁹

Many countries in the United Nations have spoken out against the camps. The British Ambassador of the UN, Karen Pierce, criticized China and advocated for the closure of the camps.²⁰ This was supported by:

Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States.²¹

For the Rohingya, in 2018, the Join Response Plan (JPR) was put into motion by the UN and included \$951 million in aid.^{22,23} As of 2021, the financial aid is expected to increase protection, assistance, and the recovery of 1.4 million Rohingyas, many of whom have fled to Bangladesh.²⁴

Case Study: Uighurs in China

One of the accusations of abuse by the Chinese government against Uighurs, Kazakhs and other minorities is the attempt to control the growth of the Uighur population through forced birth control. Gulnar Omirzakh, a Chinese-born Kazakh woman who is described as "the penniless wife of a detained vegetable trader", reported being ordered by the Chinese government to have an intrauterine device (IUD) inserted after she had her third child in 2016. But her persecution was not stopped there. In January 2018, Chinese officials fined Ms. Omirzakh \$2,685 because she had more than two children. She was threatened with detention in an internment camp, where her husband was already detained, if she did not pay. Ms. Omirzakh described her plight by saying, "God bequeaths children on you. To prevent people from having children is wrong. They want to destroy us as a people."²⁵

Sayaragul Sauytbay is a Uighur woman who was sent to a camp for five months from 2017 to 2018. In the year prior to her sentence, she explained how the government took DNA samples from Uighur citizens, seized SIM cards from phones, and installed cameras to monitor their neighborhoods. Later, after she was arrested and questioned about her family in Kazakhstan, she was brought to an internment camp without trial.²⁶

When Sauytbay arrived at the camp, she was ordered to teach inmates about Chinese language and culture, and was threatened with death if she refused. Sauytbay also mentioned some of the daily requirements that detainees were forced to perform:

... it began at 6am with a wake-up call before breakfast of rice or vegetable soup with a small piece of bread. After that they were taken for lessons which included learning Chinese, rehearsing propaganda songs, and repeating political slogans praising the Communist party. After a break for lunch – another meal of soup and bread – pupils were told to ‘confess’ sins including not knowing the Chinese language or cultural traditions. Those who failed to think of sins or invent some were punished, she said. After dinner “the pupils were required to stand facing the wall with their hands raised and think about their crimes again,” she added. At 10 o’clock, they had two hours for writing down their sins and handing in the pages to those in charge. The daily routine actually went on until midnight, and sometimes the prisoners were assigned guard duty at night. The others could sleep from midnight until six.²⁷

Rohingya in Myanmar

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority that reside in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. They descend from Arab traders, speak their own language, follow their own cultural traditions, and practice Islam in a country where Buddhism is the most-practiced religion. Rohingya have also been denied rights to citizenship by virtue of Myanmar’s 1982 Citizenship Law, despite having lived in the area for generations.²⁸

In August 2017, extremist Rohingya Arsa militants attacked thirty police posts. The response by government forces, the Tatmadaw, left 6,700 Rohingya civilians dead, including children. Government forces are also accused of abusing and raping women and girls as a part of their campaign of retribution.²⁹ As a result of the violence caused by the Tatmadaw, over 700,000 Rohingya crossed the border from Myanmar into Bangladesh—actions that the International Course of Justice in the Hague is prosecuting as a case of “genocide.”³⁰



A Rohingya village destroyed by the Myanmar military, while a Rakhine village remains intact nearby.³¹

The Rohingya have also faced mass detention in camps. These camps confine both the Rohingya and Kaman Muslims and were first reported to be operating in 2012³² with twenty-four camps holding over 130,000 Rohingya.³³ The camps lack adequate access to education, health care, food, and shelter. Rates of malnutrition, waterborne illness, and maternal and child mortality are very high.³⁴ Although the World Food Programme has sent rations of rice, chickpeas, oil, and salt, workers report that it is not enough to aid the malnourished. Additionally, Rohingya who attempt to fish are beaten by security officers.³⁵ Doctors Without Borders was also unable to offer aid due to the scarcity of resources provided by the government. Instead, each local nurse is relied upon to treat over forty patients a day. Other illnesses, such as tuberculosis, HIV, and malaria also plague the camps.³⁶

Human Rights Watch has pushed for ending the detention of people in the camps. Investigators from the UN published a report in August 2018, also deeming that the mass killings and rapes had “genocidal content.”³⁷ A report using commentary from sixty interviews of

Rohingya, Kaman, and humanitarian workers—along with information cited in other reports—details restriction of movement and insufficient space to build or maintain camps, which enclosed by barbed-wire fence. For those detainees found outside the camp, security officers have been reported to abuse or torture them as punishment.³⁸

Case Study: Rohingya in Myanmar

Mayyu Ali is a Rohingya who left Myanmar in September 2017 and is now a refugee living along the border between Bangladesh and Myanmar. He recounted that his birth certificate was confiscated by the Nasaka security force. According to Ali, “Since violence started in June 2012, life changed from restriction to extermination.”³⁹ He was forced to terminate his studies for a Bachelor of Arts in English at Sittwe University. When the Myanmar army and Border Guard Police began an ethnic cleansing campaign in 2016, many Rohingya fled to Bangladesh. Though conditions in the camps in Bangladesh are not ideal, Ali said that the refugees at least felt “safe,” as compared to the persecution they experienced in Myanmar, where Rohingya are killed, trafficked and stripped of their rights, including citizenship.

Mayyu Ali further explained the current situation for Rohingya:

In Myanmar, there are some thousands of Rohingya still inside. Still the human rights violations are continuing. Last week, a dead body was floating in the stream of Taung Bazaar in Northern Buthidaung. Sources say the man is a Rohingya clerk from Taung Bazaar killed by BGP [Border Guard Patrol] and thrown into the water. No one dares to bury the dead. Moreover, no one is allowed to move one place to another. They can't access markets, schools, health centers, or mosques. All are in fear and despair.⁴⁰

Cresa Pugh is a PhD Candidate for Sociology and Social Policy at Harvard University who was given permission by the Myanmar government to visit a camp near Sittwe, in Rakhine State, Myanmar, on Eid al-Fitr in 2018. On this holy day for Muslims that marks the end of their

month-long fast during Ramadan, she was told by those she interviewed that they were unable to participate in religious celebrations due to a curfew imposed by camp officials. Pugh also detailed how many mosques were destroyed or closed, and it was illegal to construct new ones. The lack of adequate places to pray with other Rohingya hurt social relations and the Rohingya's sense of community. Furthermore, for the past decade, the Myanmar government has forbidden Rohingya from performing Hajj, the holy pilgrimage to Mecca.⁴¹

Other journalists were allowed to visit the Thet Kae Pyin camp near Sittwe. Fenced in and guarded by soldiers, the camp contained six thousand Rohingya who lived in bamboo or plastic huts, with only some having metal roofs. When asked if any improvement in conditions was observed in the camps from 2012, Kyaw Hla Aung, a leader of the camp, responded "No. Also, [the conditions] decrease. From education, from health care, and [on] every side. And economically, there's no improvement." He also worries that younger Rohingya may become dependent on these camps as there are no jobs and the only sources of food are from foreign donations.⁴²

Despite \$300 million of aids from the United States, Myanmar has done little to arrange for the return of refugees from Bangladesh, besides building shelters outside of the camps that are built to last only a few years. As for the land that the Rohingya were forced to flee, the military has been securing ownership of land, which will prevent the return of the refugees to these areas.⁴³

Bloc Positions

China and Myanmar are among the most recent examples of countries abusing citizens through the use of internment camps. One way to protect themselves from international condemnation is to use their economic ties with developing countries as a way to deter their

partners from joining international criticism for their actions. For example, Pakistan and China have the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that aids in developing the infrastructure of Pakistan, such as modernizing modes of transport that will help with trade (i.e., railways and roadways).^{44,45} Due to this, Pakistan has been following many of China's demands to take measures against Uighurs, in manners such as kidnapping and suppression.⁴⁶

Delegates should research potential ties, trade deals or economic assistance provided by countries that utilize internment camps when determining how to approach the committee through their country's perspective. Figure 1 lists some of the countries that claim to accept China's explanation for the camps, along with others who condemn the camps.

Figure 1: Position of member states on internment camps^{47,48,49,50,51}

Parties Supporting Internment Camps	Parties Against Internment Camps
Angola, Bahrain, Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Dominica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gabon, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Iran, Iraq, Kiribati, Laos, Madagascar, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, the UAE, Venezuela, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.	Albania, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, Nauru, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Guiding Questions

- Is your country a signatory, sponsor, or voting for/against/abstaining of UN resolutions that support/condemn China's actions towards Uighurs and/or Myanmar's actions against the Rohingya?
- Does your country have a history of human rights violations against the people of other nations and/or its own citizens? How did they resolve this or was it not resolved?

- What policies has your country implemented to monitor and punish human rights violations? Are there any policies currently being passed pertaining to a particular (domestic or foreign) issue?
- If the nation you represent is in defense of internment camps or chooses not to speak out, is it possible that your nation is being silenced due to economic help from governments of countries committing these violations?
- Is your country limiting information about certain genocides/violations? Or are there social media trends popular in your country? (i.e., #boycottDisney in support of the Uighurs)

Introduction to Topic 2: Threats to Freedom of Assembly

The freedom to assemble peacefully and express views, or even protest, is a fundamental right outlined in Article 20 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, which simply states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.”⁵² The right has been recognized as so important that it is not only enshrined in this pact between all United Nations members—but it can also be found in treaties of several major regional organizations (Figure 1). It is also defined in the constitutions and laws of individual countries.

Figure 1: Freedom of Assembly in Regional Treaties^{53,54,55}

Region	Organization	Document/Location	Key Text
Africa	African Union	African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights/Article 11	Every individual shall have the right to assemble freely with others. The exercise of this right shall be subject only to necessary restrictions provided for by law, in particular those enacted in the interest of national security, the safety, health, ethics and rights and freedoms of others.
Europe	European Union	Charter of Fundamental Rights/Article 12	1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association at all levels, in particular in political, trade union and civic matters, which implies the right of everyone to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his or her interests. 2. Political parties at Union level contribute to expressing the political will of the citizens of the Union.
Americas	Organization of American States	American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man/Article XXI	Every person has the right to assemble peaceably with others in a formal public meeting or an informal gathering, in connection with matters of common interest of any nature.

But large masses of people filling the center of the capital is not the only way to practice freedom of assembly. “To exercise the rights in Article 20, you do not have to march down the

Champs-Élysées or take over your local equivalent of Egypt's Tahrir Square. Freedom of 'peaceful assembly' also covers sit-ins, walk-outs, vigils, group discussions and theatre performances."⁵⁶ By this logic, meeting for online discussions should also be covered.

Although the freedom to assemble protects those who want to use their voice, it also protects societies by stating in the law what constitutes legal expression and any limitations on assemblies—such as the need for permits, safety guidelines to be followed, and the prevention of violent acts. However, laws defining the right to assemble should help people get their messages across and protect citizens; they should not be directed toward stifling expression.

States not only have an obligation to protect peaceful assemblies, but should also take measures to facilitate them...The former UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and association, Maina Kiai, pointed out that 'Participating in peaceful protests is an alternative to violence and armed force, as a means of expression and change, which we should support. It must thus be protected, and protected robustly.'⁵⁷

SOCHUM's mandate includes oversight into human rights issues, including the freedom of assembly. Member states should act properly to ensure that their citizens can exercise their rights safely, and to avoid persecution by state and non-state actors. Recent events have seen protests in several countries turn violent, with troubling responses from member states. This committee should examine these, and other cases, to ensure that the freedom of assembly is correctly interpreted and protected by all member states.

Cast Study 1: Protesting for a Better Belarus



“Blogger Sergei Tikhanovsky speaks during an opposition rally before the upcoming presidential elections in Minsk, Belarus, May 24, 2020.”⁵⁸



Belarusian opposition leader and human right activist Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. Dec. 14, 2021.⁵⁹

Vladimir Lukashenko has ruled the nation of Belarus since 1994. Due to sanctions imposed by the West for his dictatorial presence in Eastern Europe, the nation has grown more dependent on its neighbor, Russia.⁶⁰ This relationship dynamic is evident in the construction of the first nuclear power plant in northern Belarus, funded by Russia.⁶¹ Lukashenko would like to keep a firm grip on his reign for as long as possible, so he proposed constitutional reforms to keep him in power until 2035.⁶²

The main opposition of Lukashenko, Sergei Tikhanovsky (photo above), is a famous video blogger in Belarus who used videos to highlight problems in Belarus and to criticize Lukashenko. Although he tried to bring his efforts for reform to another level by running for the presidency against Lukashenko, he was blocked from the race and arrested. Shortly after Sergei's arrest, wife Svetlana Tikhanovskaya (photo above) continued the mission to remove Lukashenko out of office by running in place of her husband. She spoke about her husband's beliefs, as well as what she wishes to see be improved.⁶³

The election results indicated that Lukashenko won eighty percent of the votes during the August 9, 2020 election, while only ten percent of the votes were cast for Ms. Tikhanovskaya.⁶⁴ Due to growing support for Tikhanovskaya, Belarussian authorities took action to limit political expression, as they "severely restricted access to the internet, which was wholly or partly unavailable on election day, for the third day in a row. Most mobile online communications platforms [were] disabled, and many websites, including those of leading independent news sources, [were] blocked inside the country."⁶⁵ Leading up to the election, the government further shut down opposition "by arrests of opposition political candidates and their supporters, bloggers, journalists, and peaceful protesters."⁶⁶

When the election results were announced, Belarusians poured out into the streets to protest. During the August 2020 protests, 7,500 citizens were detained, with the human rights group Viasna Human Rights Center recording "at least 500 cases of torture."⁶⁷ In the year since the election, "more than 35,000 people have been detained, according to the United Nations. Tens of thousands of Belarusians have fled abroad. The list of political prisoners...includes 577 individuals."⁶⁸

Ms. Tikhanovskaya declared victory, but was forced to flee the country to avoid arrest. Living in exile in Lithuania, she has observed that the Lukashenko's regime has not halted its punishment of those who protested the election results. "Now it's impossible to fight openly...It's difficult to ask people to go out for demonstrations because of a sense of fear. They see the brutality of the regime, that the most outstanding leaders and prominent figures are in jail. It's really scary." As Ms. Tikhanovskaya continues to coordinate the opposition, her strategy is to not encourage protests, but to meet with Western officials in order to gather support that can put international pressure on Lukashenko's regime. However, some observers think that this decreases her legitimacy, as those who remain in Belarus and protest in the street are more in touch with the feelings of the people and have stronger credibility.⁶⁹

Case Study 2: In the Streets of Kazakhstan

In January 4, 2022, Kazakhstan experienced a wave of mass protests in the capital Almaty due to rising fuel prices. One witness claimed that the crowd was represented by all types of people—young and old, men and women, students and workers—and were peacefully protesting until "authorities threw stun grenades and fired tear gas to disperse the crowd, leading to clashes between police and protesters." On January 5th, in addition to the peaceful protesters, others arrived with weapons and masks, thought to be "provocateurs" to invite a stronger crackdown.⁷⁰

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev described the protests as terrorism, and invited Russia to lead a coalition of foreign forces to quell the protests. The coalition, organized under the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) deployed 2,300 troops to regain governmental

authority.⁷¹ The CSTO is “a security alliance of former Soviet countries dominated by Russia”, including Armenia, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan.⁷²



Protesters in Almaty on January 6th holding a banner that says: “We are not terrorists.”⁷³

On January 6th, protesters returned to answer the accusation of the president, holding the flag of Kazakhstan and a large banner that said ““We are not terrorists, we are peaceful people.”” However, that night, the military forces sent to respond shot into the crowd. Some protesters reported that people in the back of the crowd were shot, as well, indicating that snipers were used. However, a police spokeswoman claimed that “security forces used lethal force only in self-defense.”⁷⁴

The protests were deemed by *Time* magazine as Kazakhstan’s “most dramatic political upheaval in 30 years” since the nation gained its independence from the Soviet Union.⁷⁵ “Officially, 225 people were killed and many more were injured. Some 10,000 people have been detained in the wake of the disturbances, the authorities say.”⁷⁶

Questions to Consider

Here are some questions to keep in mind before debating in this committee. This will help you look inward and understand the history of the nation you represent and whether they hold themselves accountable for any past actions/violations:

- What is your country's stance on freedom of assembly? What are the domestic laws and rules that govern this freedom in your country and/or region?
- What explanations are given by governments that have been accused of suppressing the freedom of assembly? Are they justified in their views?
- As a member state that's subject to these rules, under what conditions would you be willing to be sanctioned for violations?
- Has your country experienced restrictions to assembly under past regimes? If so, what changes were made to enable civilians to exercise their rights?
- What are the opinions of neighboring nations on this issue, and what are the similarities and differences?

-
- ¹ “Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>
 - ² “Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee).” United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>
 - ³ Ibid.
 - ⁴ “About the General Assembly.” United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml>
 - ⁵ “Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee).” United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/>
 - ⁶ “Press Releases.” Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues (Third Committee). <https://www.un.org/en/ga/third/pr.shtml>
 - ⁷ “Concentration Camp.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/concentration-camp>
 - ⁸ Ibid.
 - ⁹ “The Second Boer War.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*. <https://www.britannica.com/event/South-African-War>
 - ¹⁰ “Nazi Camps.” Holocaust Encyclopedia. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/nazi-camps>
 - ¹¹ “China’s Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang.” Council on Foreign Relations. <https://www.cfr.org/background/chinas-repression-uyghurs-xinjiang>
 - ¹² Ibid.
 - ¹³ “New details of torture, cover-ups in China's internment camps revealed in Amnesty International report.” NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/new-details-torture-cover-ups-china-s-internment-camps-revealed-n1270014>
 - ¹⁴ “How China brainwashes ethnic minority Uighurs in its mass detention camps.” Quartz. <https://qz.com/1755018/chinas-manual-for-uighur-detention-camps-revealed-in-data-leak/>
 - ¹⁵ “Against Their Will: The Situation in Xinjiang.” Bureau of International Labor Affairs. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/against-their-will-the-situation-in-xinjiang>
 - ¹⁶ “The Fate of Uighur Muslims in China: From Re-education Camps to Forced Labor.” *Forbes*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ewelinaochab/2020/04/04/the-fate-of-uighur-muslims-in-china-from-re-education-camps-to-forced-labor/amp/>
 - ¹⁷ “China bristles at Pompeo's criticism as video challenges narrative on Uighur camps.” CBS News. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/china-xinjiang-camps-mike-pompeos-criticism-as-video-challenges-claims-uighur-re-education-today-2019-09-23/>
 - ¹⁸ “China cuts Uighur births with IUDs, abortion, sterilization.” Associated Press.

-
- <https://apnews.com/article/ap-top-news-international-news-weekend-reads-china-health-269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>
- ¹⁹ “China sending children of exiled Uighur parents to orphanages, says Amnesty.” BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-56454609>
- ²⁰ “China Again in UN Hotseat Over Xinjiang Abuses.” Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/03/06/china-again-un-hotseat-over-xinjiang-abuses>
- ²¹ “Countries Blast China at UN Over Xinjiang Abuses.” Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/10/30/countries-blast-china-un-over-xinjiang-abuses>
- ²² “Myanmar: Mass Detention of Rohingya in Squalid Camps.” Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/08/myanmar-mass-detention-rohingya-squalid-camps>
- ²³ “Rohingya Emergency.” UNHCR. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/rohingya-emergency.html>
- ²⁴ “2021 Joint Response Plan for the Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis.” UNHCR <https://reporting.unhcr.org/2021JRP>
- ²⁵ “China cuts Uighur births with IUDs, abortion, sterilization.” Associated Press. <https://apnews.com/article/ap-top-news-international-news-weekend-reads-china-health-269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>
- ²⁶ Pleasance, Chris. “Whistleblower who escaped Chinese ‘re-education camp’ reveals horrors of the gulag.” The Daily Mail. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7599941/Whistleblower-escaped-Chinese-education-camp-reveals-horrors.html>
- ²⁷ Ibid.
- ²⁸ “Myanmar’s 1982 Citizenship Law and Rohingya.” Burmese Rohingya Organisation UK. <https://burmacampaign.org.uk/media/Myanmar%E2%80%99s-1982-Citizenship-Law-and-Rohingya.pdf>
- ²⁹ “Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis.” BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561>
- ³⁰ “What Myanmar’s Coup Means for The Rohingya.” National Public Radio. <https://www.npr.org/2021/02/11/966923582/what-myanmars-coup-means-for-the-rohingya>
- ³¹ “Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis.” BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41566561>
- ³² “Myanmar: Mass Detention of Rohingya in Squalid Camps.” Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/08/myanmar-mass-detention-rohingya-squalid-camps>
- ³³ Ibid.
- ³⁴ “These Aren’t Refugee Camps, They’re Concentration Camps, and People Are Dying in Them.” TIME. <https://time.com/2888864/rohingya-myanmar-burma-camps-sittwe/>

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ “Myanmar: Mass Detention of Rohingya in Squalid Camps.” Human Rights Watch.
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/10/08/myanmar-mass-detention-rohingya-squalid-camps>

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ “A Rohingya Refugee Describes His Flight from Violence in Myanmar.” Refugees International.
<https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/interviewwithrohingyarefugee>

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ “I visited the Rohingya camps in Myanmar and here is what I saw.” The Conversation.
<https://theconversation.com/i-visited-the-rohingya-camps-in-myanmar-and-here-is-what-i-saw-94202>

⁴² “‘Deeply Disturbing’ Conditions for Rohingya in Myanmar, And Those Yet to Return.” National Public Radio. <https://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2018/05/29/615101339/deeply-disturbing-conditions-for-rohingya-in-myanmar-and-those-yet-to-return>

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ “How Pakistan Is Helping China Crack Down on Uyghur Muslims.” The Diplomat.
<https://thediplomat.com/2021/06/how-pakistan-is-helping-china-crack-down-on-uyghur-muslims/>

⁴⁵ “China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).” Britannica.
<https://www.britannica.com/topic/China-Pakistan-Economic-Corridor>

⁴⁶ “How Pakistan Is Helping China Crack Down on Uyghur Muslims.” The Diplomat.
<https://thediplomat.com/2021/06/how-pakistan-is-helping-china-crack-down-on-uyghur-muslims/>

⁴⁷ “2020 Edition: Which Countries Are for or Against China’s Xinjiang Policies?” The Diplomat. <https://thediplomat.com/2020/10/2020-edition-which-countries-are-for-or-against-chinas-xinjiang-policies/>

⁴⁸ “UN, Bangladesh sign deal to aid Rohingya relocated to island.” AP News.
<https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-myanmar-bangladesh-bay-of-bengal-f54153fd5af8e8750ce7b34b227a425c>.

⁴⁹ “United States Announces Nearly \$180 Million in Humanitarian Assistance for the Rakhine State/Rohingya Refugee Crisis.” U.S. Department of State. <https://www.state.gov/united-states-announces-nearly-180-million-in-humanitarian-assistance-for-the-rakhine-state-rohingya-refugee-crisis/>

⁵⁰ “EU mobilises international donors to support Rohingya refugees and countries in the region.” European Commission. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/eu-mobilises-international-donors-support-rohingya-refugees-and-countries-region_en.

⁵¹ “International donors pledge nearly \$600m to support Rohingya.” Al Jazeera.
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/10/23/international-donors-pledge-nearly-600m-to-support-rohingya>

⁵² "Universal Declaration of Human Rights." United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

⁵³ "EU Charter of Fundamental Rights." European Union. <https://fra.europa.eu/en/eu-charter/article/12-freedom-assembly-and-association>.

⁵⁴ "American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man. "Organization of American States. <https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/mandate/Basics/declaration.asp>

⁵⁵ "African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights." African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. <https://www.achpr.org/legalinstruments/detail?id=49>

⁵⁶ "Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 70: 30 Articles on 30 Articles - Article 20." United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23954&LangID=E>

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ "Belarus Jails Husband of Opposition Leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. *ABC News*, ABC News Network, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/belarus-jails-husband-opposition-leader-svetlana-tikhanovskaya-18/story?id=81748568>.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ "Belarus' Constitutional Reform: The Fate of Alexander Lukashenko's Reign." RSS, <https://www.diplomaticcourier.com/posts/belarus-constitutional-reform-the-fate-of-alexander-lukashenkos-reign>.

⁶¹ "Nuclear Power in Belarus." World Nuclear Association. <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/country-profiles/countries-a-f/belarus.aspx>.

⁶² "Belarus' Constitutional Reform: The Fate of Alexander Lukashenko's Reign." RSS, <https://www.diplomaticcourier.com/posts/belarus-constitutional-reform-the-fate-of-alexander-lukashenkos-reign>.

⁶³ "Belarus Jails Husband of Opposition Leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya. *ABC News*, ABC News Network, <https://abcnews.go.com/International/belarus-jails-husband-opposition-leader-svetlana-tikhanovskaya-18/story?id=81748568>.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ "Belarus: Violence, Abuse in Response to Election Protests." *Human Rights Watch*, 28 Oct. 2020, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2020/08/11/belarus-violence-abuse-response-election-protests>.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ «Весна», Правозащитный центр. "Ситуация с Правами Человека в Беларуси. Август 2020." *spring96.Org*, Правозащитный Центр "Весна", 1 Sept. 2020, <https://spring96.org/ru/news/99334>.

⁶⁸ Hopkins, Valerie. "Pulling Levers in Exile, Belarus Opposition Leader Works to Keep Her Influence Alive". *The New York Times*. Updated August 5, 2021.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/22/world/europe/belarus-opposition-svetlana-tikhanovskaya.html>

⁶⁹ Hopkins, Valerie. "Pulling Levers in Exile, Belarus Opposition Leader Works to Keep Her Influence Alive." *The New York Times*. Updated August 5, 2021.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/22/world/europe/belarus-opposition-svetlana-tikhanovskaya.html>

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Reeve, Patrick. "Kazakhstan's president says order restored after mass protests." *ABC News*. January 11, 2022. <https://abc7.com/kazakhstans-president-says-order-restored-after-mass-protests/11449660/>

⁷² "Russian-Led Alliance Says It Will Send 'Peacekeepers' to Kazakhstan over Protests." *MSN*, <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/russian-led-alliance-says-it-will-send-peacekeepers-to-kazakhstan-over-protests/ar-AASsGLh>.

⁷³ Abdurasulov, Abdujalil. "Kazakhstan unrest: 'If you protest again, we'll kill you'." *BBC News*. January 21, 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60058972>

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Barry, Eloise. "Kazakhstan Protests: What to Know." *Time*, Time Magazine, 7 Jan. 2022, <https://time.com/6137439/kazakhstan-protests-russia/>.

⁷⁶ Abdurasulov, Abdujalil. "Kazakhstan unrest: 'If you protest again, we'll kill you'." *BBC News*. January 21, 2022. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-60058972>