



# MUNITY EAST

THIMUN XV

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*Two Sides  
Emcompassing  
The Now*



# Guilty or Innocent?

## The ICC in Action

Written by: Aastha Gokani

Edited by: Hyoree Kim

Photograph by: Jerry Lin

Layout by: Jessie Liao



The International Criminal Court of Justice (ICC) is defined as the “court for criminals that have committed grave crimes or crimes against humanity that states are unwilling and unable to prosecute” by Kelly Yu (President of ICC, Shekou International School). This year it consists of five judges who will examine a case concerning the attack against buildings of religious and historical significance committed by the individual Ahmad Al Faqi Al Mahdi.

On the 20th of November, Wednesday, the committee sprung into the action of trying Al Mahdi. The defence and prosecution supported their cases with witness testimonies. The defence brought Mr. Al Mahdi to the podium, who gave the shortest testimony of all of the witnesses. According to Victoria Lee (Advocate of Defence of ICC, Pacific American School), Al Mahdi’s testimony was brief because “judges actually didn’t seem to want to attack him that much.” Lee said that the judges’ reluctance to attack Al Mahdi solidified some of the defence’s “duress”— defined by the Oxford dictionary as threats, violence, constraints or other actions used to coerce someone into doing something against their will or better judgment — arguments, but hasn’t made much of a difference to the case.

The day ended with the prosecution deciding to bring a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) representative, Mr. Francesco Bandarin (Romele Robe Marcial Arcos Rivera, delegate of Peru in SC, Kaohsiung American School), to testify.

On Thursday, judges had to come to a consensus on the definition of five highly contested key terms: duress, jurisdiction, military ob-

jective, gravity, and complementarity. Judges ask a series of thorough questions to both the defence and the prosecution. Through their responses, the defence successfully illustrated that they believe Mr. Al Mahdi to be guilty, but still believes that he shouldn’t suffer greater consequences than the leaders. Since Mr. Al Mahdi was compelled to demolish the religious building, there should be a higher criminal accountability for the higher leaders than for the accused.

To open the deliberation, Julia Wong (Advocate of Prosecution of ICC, Kaohsiung American School) stated: “prosecutors sincerely pray that the court will adhere to its purpose of serving justice to humanity and convict Mr. Al Mahdi of his appropriate charges.” Accordingly, the prosecution elaborated on the way that the maintenance of the cultural sites brings the community together. They explained that the maintenance of the sites are ways of worshipping and remembering ancestors, and Mr. Al Mahdi should be held accountable.

The questioning is currently distributed between judges, Prosecution and Defense, to come to a final decision. The judges will deliberate over the following days, until the long awaited verdict from the first ICC in THIMUN Singapore will be announced during the closing ceremony.

# WHY MUN?

Written by: Joshua Tang  
Edited by: Aastha Gokani  
Layout by: Jessie Liao  
Photographs by: Jerry Lin

The life of a MUN delegate consists of debating for multiple days nonstop, researching for hours on end during their free time, and attending conferences even on weekends and holidays. This raises the question: why exactly are delegates so passionate about MUN that they willingly make those sacrifices? Since their establishment in 1947,



more confident with what I have to say". MUN had helped her to feel more comfortable with sharing her thoughts and had built up her confidence.

Experience with MUN is also an asset when it comes to college application in two different ways: it shows leadership and can help participants become more informed.

Leadership— one of the traits that admissions officers look for most— is presented through accomplishments like winning awards, chairing committees and organizing conferences. MUN can not only demonstrate leadership but also educate participants on specific topics. Francesco Silva (Delegate of Cuba in GA2, United Nations International School

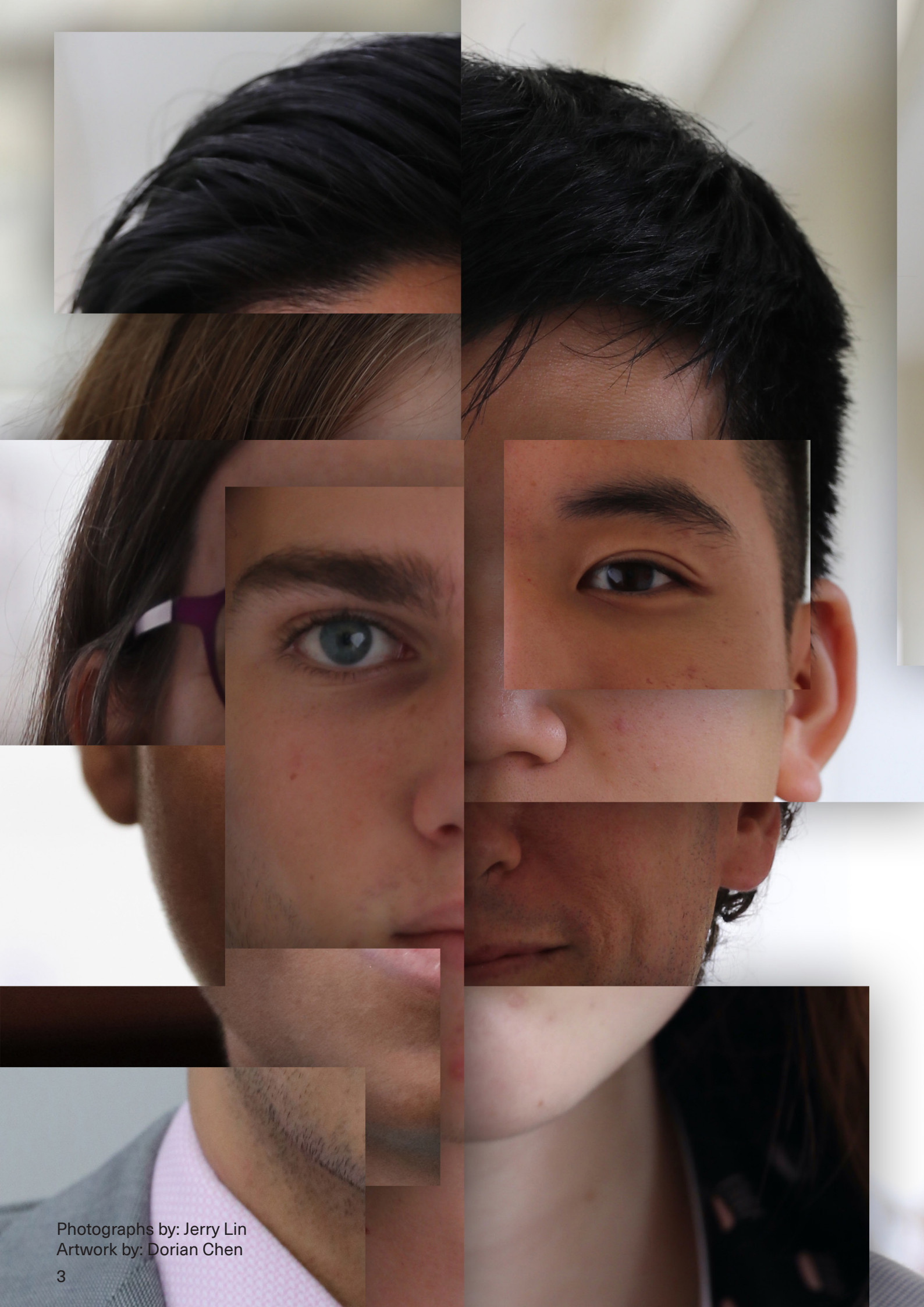
MUN conferences have been held all over the world for over 70 years. MUN is not only a great experience, it is also beneficial for the future. It educates participants on global issues at hand and allows them to form their own opinions. This is illustrated by Shaivi Rajesh (Deputy Secretary General, United World College Dover) and Evan Chiang (President of the General Assembly, Pacific American School.) They stated

that: "It's really good for learning about international relations and politics, especially stuff that's really pertinent [to] today's society, as we do debate things that are very relatable in the modern era". MUN also teaches many virtues: cooperation, confidence, patience, and many more. Clara Prieadux (Delegate of Czech Republic in GA2, British School Manila) exemplifies this, saying that "I think I'm not afraid to say dumb things anymore because I'm

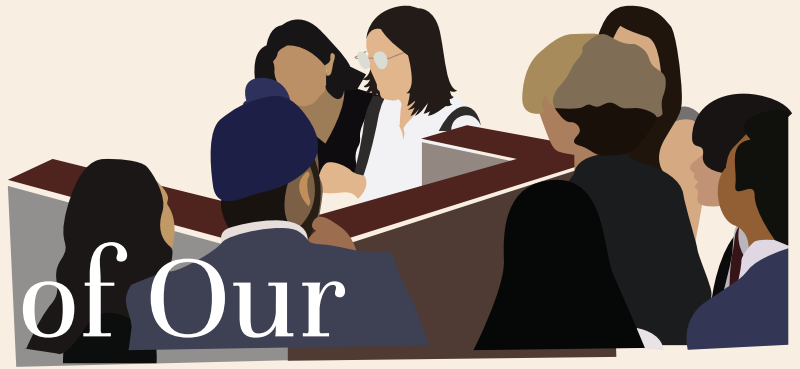
of Hanoi) said that "I decided to come to THIMUN because I'm thinking of doing international relations and global politics [...] in college". A similar answer came from Prieadux, who said that "I chose GA2 because I felt the economics would help me as when I grow up I want to do something in business so I think I need to know [the] problems the world is facing today and how to combat them." Evidently, MUN help delegates prepare for their future.

So why MUN? With all the benefits it confers, the real question is: why not?





Photographs by: Jerry Lin  
Artwork by: Dorian Chen



# The Pieces of Our Perspectives & Values

Written by: Priyanka Krishna  
Edited by: Hyoree Kim  
Photographs by: Dorian Chen  
Layout by: Ryan Hsiao

With over 950 participants this year, THIMUN Singapore boasts a diverse range of cultures. This year, the participants come from over 55 schools in 58 different countries, ranging from Singapore to as far away as Switzerland. Many of the delegates attending have been exposed to different experiences and societies throughout the world. This raises the question: how have experiences in different countries shaped the delegates?

Ansh Prasad (Delegate of Equatorial Guinea of Security Council, Dubai International Academy) lives in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was born in Bihar, India. When asked about the difference between his experiences in the two nations, Prasad stated, “[i]n Dubai, most of the items are branded and the area is rich in culture... India, on the other hand, is more ‘homey.’” Similarly, Prasad’s friend, Waleed Zuhair Eltayeb Yousif (Delegate of Equatorial Guinea of Security Council, Dubai International Academy), believes that there is a large discrepancy between

the lifestyle of his birthplace, Sudan, and the lifestyle of Dubai, where he currently resides. Despite Sudan being one of the poorest countries in the world, he said that “the lifestyle in Sudan for a student like me is a lot more relaxed than Dubai.” Furthermore, both Prasad and Yousif embrace the luxurious and modern city which Dubai has become, as well as the increase in diversity. To Prasad, this “has shaped [him] in a way to never judge people by their religion or culture as we are all taught that all are equal,” and has enlightened him on the nation’s rich history. On the other hand, to Yousif, he can “walk around the corner of [his] house and visit [his] Malaysian friend, then say hi to [his] Hungarian friend...”, allowing him to fully appreciate cultural diversity.

Malakin King (Delegate of Costa Rica of General Assembly 3, Australian International School Singapore) was born in Vietnam to a family originating from Australia. Having moved to Singapore in 2012, King believes that his experiences were different in each country

but that he “would have been brought up in the same way if [he] had been brought up in any other country.” Despite this, King believes that life in Singapore provides better exposure to multiculturalism than in Vietnam, especially in terms of lingual diversity as Singapore has a far broader range of languages. He believes that “MUN has really brought [the culture] together well and meeting people from all over the world is really fun.” To King, diversity has always been a strong value throughout his family, and his exposure to Singapore’s multiculturalism has only strengthened this value.

Global citizens from a rich array of backgrounds have gathered to create a melting pot of ideas and cultures. The conference is an opportunity for them to open their minds to diverse perspectives and broaden their experience. We are all individuals influenced by our interactions with different cultures and societies. We are all colorful individuals shaped from our many different values. We are all diverse.

# Will the Protection of Sacred Grounds Stop Terrorism?

Written by: Jade Henry  
Edited by: Priyanka Krishna  
Layout by: Angel Yang  
Artwork by: Jessica Hsu

Religious sites represent the history, social, tradition and faith of people all around the world, which must be fully respected as places of peace and harmony, where worshippers come to practice their rituals in a safe environment. However, terror attacks by extremists on these safe havens have risen over the years. According to an article by Religious News, since October 2010, listed 26 notable deadly assaults among many more.

The increasing number of attacks on these houses of worship proves that no faith or country is spared from these crimes. Look at the attacks in Sri Lanka earlier this April on Easter Sunday, which killed hundreds of Christians. The first suicide bomb detonated at 8:45 A.M. in St Anthony's Shrine, when many were praying. Minutes later the second bomb exploded in the Shangri-La Hotel, a

popular spot for tourists. 290 were killed and 500 were wounded by the end of the incident. A similar attack was launched on the Christchurch mosques, where a terrorist shot worshippers in New Zealand during their Friday Prayer on 15th March. A research report featured by the New York Times addressed that attacks like the ones in Sri Lanka and New Zealand are becoming more common. Christians and other religious groups have been increasingly targeted in South Asia, where faith-based identity politics has created a flammable atmosphere.

Thankfully, according to AP news, following the Sri Lankan attacks, the Indian prime minister, Narendra Modi, paid homage to the 250 Sri Lankans killed on Easter Sunday and agreed to step up cooperation to combat terrorism. Likewise, bikers have vowed to stand and pro-



tect New Zealand mosques while Muslims take part in their first Friday prayer following the attacks. The Mongrel Mob, King Cobra, and the Black Power are all gangs who promised to protect their local Muslim communities across the country. With New Zealand banning guns six days after the attacks, that shows solidarity and fraternity to their fellow citizens.

Furthermore, The United Nations has installed a plan of action to safeguard religious sites to prevent Jews from being murdered in synagogues, their gravestones vandalised with swastikas, churches torched, Muslims gunned down in mosques and any other violent acts against a religion. Affirmed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 18), people all around the world must be allowed to observe and practice their faith in peace and safety. The United Nation's Security Council emphasized that terrorism and violent extremism can't and shouldn't be linked to any religion.

Delegates wholeheartedly sup-

ported adopting measures to prevent these religious attacks, but had mixed opinions regarding how to accomplish that. Sophie (Xinyuan) Zhang, (delegate of the United States of America of SC, Beijing World Youth Academy) said, "We believe that [America] does not have the same situation as New Zealand. First, in the national constitution, the second amendment explicitly states the right to possess a gun. This amendment represents the history of the US and it's deepest roots, and to revoke it will mean the US loses part of its identity." She continued to say that "The outcome is not to ban guns, [because] those who want to harm [their] children and society will always find a way to do so." The United States recognises the grievances caused by these attacks in New Zealand, but the gun law ban is another topic to discuss.

On the other hand, Sam Cui and Steve Yar (delegates of the United States of America of ECOSOC, Beijing World Youth Academy) postulated that staffing security guards or the military at religious

sites would reduce the number of attacks, saying that "This will help reduce the death toll" caused by terrorist attacks and argued that "Religious believers will [...] see this as a positive act."

If a community is attacked as a result of their religion and beliefs, the society as a whole is weakened and harmed. It remains significant for all to prevent attacks against religious sites and provide assistance to guarantee the safety of the religious to worship in peace. However, inferring from the delegates' responses, there is still a long way to go before the international community can agree on how to most effectively value compassion and tolerance and prevent attacks on religious sites.

# Chernobyl

## Is It Really Wo

Written By: Isabella Wood  
Editted By: Aastha Gokani  
Layout and Artwork By: Ishwarya Krishna

Modern tourism usually takes the form of visiting historic sites that are pleasing to the eye and that embrace a new culture's traditions and values. On the other hand, some tourists enjoy the darker side of human history: everything dreadful that humanity has to offer. In actuality, dark tourism, involving sites that are associated with death and tragedies, are becoming increasingly popular. Sites that fall under dark tourism hotspots include the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland and the Anne Frank house in Amsterdam. Touring these locations can be fascinating if tourists respect the site and their history. However, some sites still pose risks to human lives and shouldn't be visited: yet tourism in these places has never been more popular. The most visited dark tourism site today is Chernobyl.

Pripyat is the location of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in the former Soviet Union, now modern-day Ukraine. On April 26th, 1986 an explosion occurred in reactor four which resulted in a nuclear meltdown, causing 30% of the 190 metric tons of uranium stored to shoot into the atmosphere. The accident happened due to both negligent training of the control room employees and a fatal flaw in the reactor design. Thousands of citizens, work-

ers and firefighters went into harsh radiation conditions of 300Sv/hr, enough to kill a human in one minute. When the explosion occurred, thousands of lives had been taken and has been estimated by The United Nations Chernobyl: The True Scale of the Accident report that thousands of lives would be taken thereafter. The health impacts of the Chernobyl accident are still being studied. Many victims who resided in Pripyat still face life long and possibly fatal diseases caused by exposure to radiation, such as Acute Radiation Syndrome (ARS) and thyroid cancer.

Despite the gruesome history behind the powerplant and the thousands of civilians forever displaced and suffering, it doesn't stop eager tourists from visiting the remains of the power plant. Tour booking websites have reported a 40% increase in tours of Chernobyl. The tourist boom can be attributed to the success of the HBO miniseries Chernobyl, which retells the events of the disaster from the initial explosion up to the trial of key figures involved with the human errors that contributed to the disaster. Vis-





# l Tourism

## rth Dying For?

itors were initially allowed only into the exclusion zone, an area surrounding Chernobyl which Pripyat falls under. According to Claire Corkhill, a nuclear-waste expert, people that tour the exclusion zone will only have very minimal radiation exposure.

At the time of the accident, Pripyat was not on Ukrainian soil but a part of the Soviet Union. This can play an important role in the increased visitation of the Chernobyl site, in the eyes of delegates. Artur Sardarov (Delegate of Angola of GA4, Brillantmont International School), a Russian delegate, said that Pripyat is “One of the cities that were saved from that time (the collapse of the Soviet Union),” a reason he thinks contributes to the increased tourism in the exclusion zone. Like many others, Sardarov considers visiting Chernobyl as a “bucket list” site to visit. The delegation of Ukraine echoed Sardarov’s sentiment. Preston Doll and Jonathan Kamendakos (Delegates of Ukraine of ECOSOC, British School Manila) discussed how the increased tourism in Chernobyl is “beneficial in restoring our country’s image and

socioeconomic standing”. Doll and Kamendakos take into consideration their people in the north of Ukraine when thinking about the benefits of tourism. They bring up how the area “used to receive few tourists” and how tourism to Chernobyl “helps balance of payment amount and the local economy.” Doll and Kamendakos and other delegates are positive that the nuclear wasteland will continue to increase in popularity. That being said, all three delegates acknowledge the danger that comes with visiting an area with such high radiation levels.

As Chernobyl is still a highly radioactive area, safety precautions need to be put into place to ensure the safety of the tourists and prevent them from developing any serious illnesses. Doll and Kamendakos support opening all of Chernobyl to tourism as long as agreements are signed that “migrates the hazards to the individual themselves rather than Ukraine”. There are various viewpoints on the issue of the health of tourists planning to visit Chernobyl. Some believe that radiation tests should be conducted within the exclusion zone to make sure radiation levels are safe enough for humans. Consequently, some are concerned about the number of hours tourists spend in specific areas, as the level of radioactivity can be much stronger depending on how long one stays there. Regardless of these opposing perspectives, delegates believe that even with the risks associated with touring Chernobyl, tourism should be allowed in the site.



# Is Southeast Asia really doing enough to protect its children?

Written by: Ella Hirmasto  
Edited by: Hyoree Kim  
Layout by: Jessie Liao  
Artwork by: Ishwarya Krishna

On the 2nd of September 1990, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) was passed, defending every child's right to survival, education, nurturing and protection from any and all violence. Unfortunately, this treaty has meant nothing for over 2 million children ranging from 2-18 who are victimized by child prostitution and sex trafficking rings each year. The threat of sexual abuse is something that looms over children all around the world, especially those in Southeast Asia.

Lalitha Sasindran (delegate of Costa Rica of GA4, Australian International School of Singapore) said that "it is not a new problem, yet the problem is still not being talked about as much as it should be" despite the fact that it "should be discussed and addressed more often". This low level of awareness regarding the issue has only created aggravation towards the issue.

Another aggravating factor is the internet. Cases of sexual crimes against children are commonly seen in developing countries because safeguarding capabilities cannot keep pace with advancing technology and the threat is likely to grow. With increasing access to the internet, children are being imperilled and put at greater risk of abuse and exploitation. The End Child Prostitution and Trafficking International (ECPAT), released a report in February 2018 claiming that the production

of online child sexual abuse material in the Philippines now generates up to \$1 billion USD of annual revenue. The same trends apply to other South Asian countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. Their widespread poverty, lax laws, and creaking judicial services are often taken advantage of by foreign and local paedophiles seeking underage sex.

Currently, "organisations like UNICEF and ASEANAPOL have effective frameworks set in place" to reduce exploitation of children as explained by Priyanka Chakravarti (delegate of Indonesia of GA3, International School Manila). Chakravarti provided examples of the strategies that the organisations take; they "subsidise education, offer cash incentives, set up rehabilitation or recuperation centres, criminalise acts of crimes, and implement better penalties, legal frameworks, and surveillance methods." Furthermore, they work closely NGO's and governments to enforce policies that will put a stop to child labour and exploitation.

The resolutions passed by the United Nations must also be recognised as they work to reduce the effects of sexual crimes around the world. Despite some shortcomings in previous measures taken to address sexual crimes in Southeast Asia, there have been some success with other resolutions such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (29 September 2003) that aims to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking. To make these steps more effective, the issue must also be tackled within a country's system through the creation of programs or new legislation. Singapore is recognised as a country that is instrumental in addressing the issue of sexually exploited children within their country. Through the introduction of legislative

bills, they are able to prevent the exploitation of children and provide security to children who require protection and rehabilitation as a result of sexual trafficking. Similarly, in the Philippines, there is a national action plan that helps the country to prevent crimes, protect children and rehabilitate them.

However, there are still large gaps in the understanding of sexual exploitation of children in Southeast Asia due to the lack of research and resources being put towards this issue. "Governments simply are not doing enough to tackle this issue, [and it is essential that there is] an implementation of legislation, legal prosecution for offenders, and the monitor of internet usage." Aaron Maes (delegate of Philippines, Harrow International School Hong Kong) commented.

If new legislation is implemented, the consequences of sexually exploiting children will become more severe and this would act as a deterrent. As mentioned before, the internet is posing a great danger to children, but by placing more emphasis on the development of firewalls and stronger security there could be the prevention of certain websites becoming widespread, and thousands of children could be protected.

The UNRC was signed on September 2nd, 1990, defending every child's right to survival, education, nurturing and protection from any and all violence. However, in 2019, for many, their rights still aren't being defended. Instead, they are forced to feel vulnerable and isolated- robbed of their childhood. Is Southeast Asia really doing enough to protect its children?

# CONQUER

# & CONVERT:



Written by: Joey Lin  
Edited by: Priyanka Krishna  
Layout by: Jessica Hsu  
Artwork by: Jessica Hsu  
Photographs by: Jerry Lin & Zara Yap

An ironclad monster rumbled off the coast of Guam. The native Chamorro people had never seen such terror before. The Spanish fleet that had approached them two centuries ago was nothing compared to the behemoth they now beheld. A white man in a black uniform, decked out with medals and ribbons, accompanied by even more white men with guns, marched onto the shores and declared the island of Guam now under the control of the United States of America.

Before its annexation in 1898 following the US victory in the Spanish-American War, Guam had a Chamorro majority. Now, the population of settlers exceeds that of the Chamorros, only half of them speaking Chamorro. Different types of cultural suppression have also been inflicted on ethnic minorities in Russian-occupied Crimea and on Syrians displaced by the Syrian Civil War.

On Thursday, the General Assembly Fourth Committee (GA4) discussed cultural suppression in Guam and Crimea following wars that upset those regions. Jonathan Lim (delegate of Libya of GA4, Yew Chung International School of Hong Kong) explained the motivation behind annexation and asserting the occupier's culture: supplying the conqueror with resources and military influence, as well as strengthening

nationalism and achieving power projection. Alysa Zhu (delegate of USA of GA4, Beijing World Youth Academy) agreed, expressing that the Americanization of Guam ensures "better control of the military base[s] and easier access to resources."

Anagha Chakravarti (delegate of Indonesia of GA4, International School Manila) saw such repression as natural, "since Crimea and Guam are current[ly] territories of Russia and USA respectively, so their influence, government system[s], and law spread as [the world has] seen."

Both delegates of GA4 and SC alike worked on and debated solutions to address the problem of cultural suppression of both occupied peoples and refugees. Peter Han (delegate of China of GA4, Pacific American School), staying true to China's stance, recommended to "brainwash the [occupied population via] education." Johnny Harrison (delegate of the Russian Federation of GA4, Marlborough College Malaysia), stated that Russia can allow occupied territories to learn their own language as long as they "accept Russian as the lingua franca" or common language. Harrison also stressed that occupation and independence are "governmental terms," which do not affect culture. He, representing Russia, regarded native culture as "deeply embed-

# Cultural Suppression Following War



ded inside the people.” On the other hand, Zhu called for a system like that of the British Overseas Territories, with “a country’s sovereignty over another country, but not [settling] the country.” Adrien Divo (delegate of DRC of GA4, Lycée Français Singapour) cited the success of the North Cambodian model, in which minorities are granted a “special status of being national heritage ... [and where] they don’t pay taxes and survive with the help of tourism.”

Another way cultural suppression occurs is when huge amounts of people are forced to foreign countries as a result of war. The Syrian Civil War has displaced 6 million Syrians and pressured 5.5 million more to flee to neighboring, yet culturally distant, lands. Usually, “these refugees are forced out of their country so as to avoid the risks [of] living in war zones,” said Waleed Yousif (delegate of Equatorial Guinea of SC, Dubai International Academy). He described in lurid terms: “imagine leaving your home country suddenly and seeing it crumble to pieces, then you see your dog crushed by a chunk of falling cinder...”

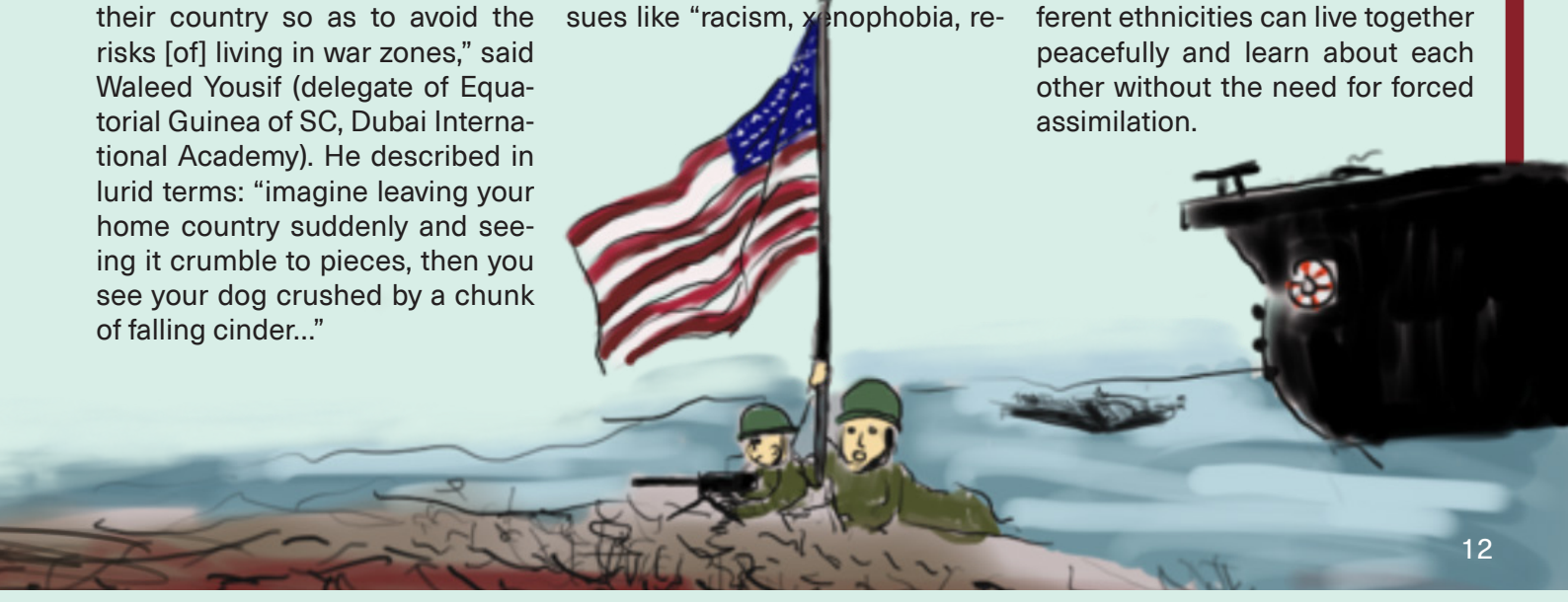
As a result of the Ukrainian Crisis, 1,414,798 Ukrainians were internally displaced while 925,500 more fled abroad. The massive waves of refugees are not welcome in most countries, as James Yang (delegate of Poland of SC, Lycée Français de Singapour) reinforced Poland’s stance and denied refugees’ ability to integrate.

Mia Tan (delegate of Germany of SC, Australian International School Malaysia) also explained why countries refuse to take in refugees: “refugees can have a large strain on a country’s economy and resources ... although Germany [has been] willing to handle this major intake of refugees, [refugees can urge countries to take] drastic measures to try to facilitate refugee repatriation.” She also believes that the displaced face issues like “racism, xenophobia, re-

ligious discrimination,” which can coerce them into giving up their own cultures and assimilate into that of their shelter.

Ansh Prasad (delegate of Equatorial Guinea of SC, Dubai International Academy) argued that the reverse situation also exists: “the overpopulation of refugees [can reduce] the original culture of the area.” An example would be Germany, where Turkish has become the second biggest language.

The delegates of GA4 and SC seem to agree on the unfortunate reality - wars and especially annexations almost always warrant widespread cultural suppression. However, by allowing the cultures to coexist, as suggested by Harrison and Tan, dissidents will be discouraged from rebelling, and different ethnicities can live together peacefully and learn about each other without the need for forced assimilation.



# Humans of THIMUN

Written by: Ping Tsai  
Edited by: Hyoree Kim  
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Layout by: Angel Yang

Every year, THIMUN Singapore welcomes delegates from all over the globe creating a melting pot of cultures. As relationships are forged between delegates, they are able to experience various cultures—without traveling around the world— by sharing their personal stories.

To get to know these stories better, we asked delegates about how their cultural background has affected their view of the world, how they feel greeting delegates from different countries, and what they have learned in this multicultural conference.



As a Japanese student living in

Ho Chi Minh City, Daigo Sasama (Delegate of Bahrain of GA1, Renaissance International School Saigon) expressed the difficulty of adjusting to the Vietnamese culture because he “could not speak English and no one spoke Japanese in [his] school,” forcing him to “survive with a language that [he] did not understand.” However, he believes that this experience was valuable for him because although “it was a very difficult time...it was also very valuable for [him] to improve [his] English.” Having lived in a foreign country, Sasama decided to widen his perspective further by joining an overseas conference. He believes that as a participant in THIMUN Singapore, “[he] can make many international friends”, as it exposes him to a wider range of cultures and experiences.



Stella Griot (Delegate of Chile of GA1, Lycée Français de Singapour) only lived in France for the first three years of her life. Now, she lives in Singapore with occasional summer visits to her home country. As a first-time participant of MUN, Griot is amazed by the opportunities provided by the conference such as “meeting new people, learning a lot of things about the world, and seeing different points of view change depending on how [they] see a common issue.” Overall, Griot wishes to acquaint herself with more delegates who will help shape her perspective and improve her MUN skills.

Claire Chung (Delegate of Greece of GA2, Kaohsiung American



School) is an avid debater from Taiwan. However, she has attended mostly domestic conferences,

and so THIMUN has really been an eye-opener for her view of the world. She explained that a major takeaway from THIMUN Singapore is that “even though an issue may seem straightforward, people would approach it from different angles. And with everyone coming together, [delegates] compose solutions that may be the most feasible and open-minded.” In the upcoming days, Chung wishes to see delegates devise solutions that tackle issues from interesting perspectives.



Sophie Zhong (Delegate of USA of SC, Beijing World Youth Academy) is a sixteen-year-old from Beijing, China. Since Zhong was a child, she had attended classes and summer camps outside of China, primarily in the United States. Consequently, she has always found herself surrounded by students from all around the world. Furthermore, Zhong is thrilled to represent the United States in this year’s THIMUN. As a student

attending a conservative Chinese school, Zhong feels “the urge to change” conservatism and obtain freedom and justice for the victims of bigotry. She believes that THIMUN Singapore has pushed her a step forward to achieve this.



Kim Jao and Seline Kawpeng (Delegates of Czech Republic of HRC, British School Manila), come from the Philippines. They reasoned that the Filipino culture has made them more passionate and more active during the debate. Aside from that, Jao and Kawpeng have personally witnessed the injustices in the Philippines, making them more aware of their global surroundings. Participating in THIMUN Singapore has further highlighted that “the world is not perfect”, and as such, they realize that the only way to improve the world is through “actively participating and making amendments.”

Numa Fecher (Delegate of Pakistan of ECOSOC, Australian International School Singapore)

was born in Singapore. Fecher is raised by a British and an Indonesian parent. The result of growing



up in a bicultural household is that Fecher is capable of making judgments that take into account multiple perspectives. What’s more, she thinks that her cultural identity has benefited her in MUN, as she would be able to share her unique cultural experiences with the new friends she made.

As delegates, MUN participants collaborate with each other because of alliances. But as people, they bond with each other because of the stories they share. Through participating in THIMUN Singapore, delegates have not only broadened their knowledge about world problems, they have also encountered people with different cultural identities. Perhaps, to effectively cope with global issues, delegates must try to know each other even better.

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