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A New Beginning

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Qatar's Controversy in Hosting the 2022 World Cup

by Sebastian Perdomo

The World Cup is one of the most anticipated events that football fans around the world look forward to, as nations compete to win the prestigious competition. The host country is one of the most important aspects of the competition, as it receives millions of tourists hoping to watch their countries succeed. So many countries have been in that role, and now the thriving Middle Eastern nation of Qatar is next to fulfill that role. Nevertheless, there has been quite a heavy amount of controversy with the selection of the country, as some criticize its treatment of human rights, infrastructure development, climate, and the timing of the competition.

One of the biggest outcries of Qatar's selection was the handling of workers and how they treated their workforce. As the nation lacks football history, it had to build the needed infrastructure from the ground up which requires massive amounts of resources and manpower. According to Forbes, Qatar reportedly hired 30,000 laborers coming from countries like Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. This massive hiring caused

controversy as it was reported that they had their salaries withheld, their passports taken away, and their conditions were unacceptable, which has resulted in around 6,500 workers dying from these conditions. In response to pressure from other organizations, Qatar has decided to implement new laws to protect immigrants. It is estimated that this will cost the country around 220 billion dollars, between seven stadiums, 100 new hotels, roads, an entirely new airport and so much more. Russia had but a fraction of this price, estimated at around 11.6 billion dollars. Critics have stated that there are much better places in which that money could be spent to improve the quality of life of the citizens.

Another of Qatar's defects is its extreme weather and conditions, affecting the athletes' health and recovery time. Temperatures in Qatar can reach up to 50 °C (122 °F), with such extreme weather being noted by health specialists that it will impact the athletes' performances. Recovery times could be longer and exhaustion could happen quicker, leading to worst performances and the likelihood of injury to be very high. Because of the demanding weather, it means more money needs to be spent in order to adapt to the weather, instead of building normal open stadiums. Indoor, air-conditioning stadiums are the ultimate alternative, leading to much more economic efforts.

It can also impact the carbon footprint of the country, as it could increase it, although Qatar states that they implemented renewable energy within the stadium infrastructure.

The legal status of homosexuality in Qatar is strictly illegal, with offenders able to face incredibly harsh penalties for this offense. One is up to seven years of imprisonment. This contradicts FIFA's message of football being for everyone, tarnishing its reputation worldwide for choosing such a location. Even demonstrations of public affection can result in punishment. This is worrying as the number of footballers, both male, and female who are homosexual, is increasing, and can consequently face backlash whilst in Qatar.

Countries have reacted in many ways to Qatar's treatment of the hosting of the World Cup. Denmark has been one of the most notable contributors, by launching a jersey that is "toned down", with the national team badge being barely visible and no sponsors displayed. This is done to display their disagreement with how the workers are being treated in the country.

It can be concluded that Qatar has received really bad backlash based on their position and rebuilding that reputation will not be easy, but all will be seen once the World Cup starts and how the country deals with all the incoming fans from all over the world.



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CCPCJ's Views on Female Mutilation

by Eitan Naor

In this year's PANAMUN conference, The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) will be addressing the criminalization of female genitalia mutilation. As mentioned in the issue bulletin, "More than 200 million girls and women have undergone female genital mutilation (FGM) in 30 countries including countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia. Female Genital Mutilation is a practice that is most commonly carried out from infancy to the age of 15. Female Genital Mutilation comprises all procedures involving the removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons. FGM can cause many health issues such as severe bleeding, problems urinating, cysts, infections, as well as an increase risk of newborn deaths and complications in childbirth."

World Health Organization (WHO) pointed out that, "The reasons why Female Genital Mutilation is performed vary from

one region to another as well as over time, and include a mix of sociocultural factors within families and communities.” Where FGM is a social norm, the social pressure to fit in with what others are doing and have been doing, the desire to be accepted socially, and the terror of being shunned by the community are all significant drivers of the practice’s persistence. This practice is considered to be a crucial step to prepare a girl for adulthood and, thereafter, marriage. The main goal of FGM is to, “maintain premarital virginity and marital fidelity.” This reinstates the cultural ideals of “femininity and modesty, which include the notion that girls are clean and beautiful after removal of body parts that are considered unclean, unfeminine, or male.” Individuals also use religious justification to carry out these actions.

The Delegation of China, Filippo Lockwood, desires to secure the safety of women in African nations by providing adequate education and safety measures to prevent Female Genital Mutilation from occurring. This will ensure that African citizens have the proper knowledge of the threats and risks of FGM on the female body and on their mental state. “Not only will this help prevent further activity regarding FGM, but it will help strengthen the relationship between the nation of China and African countries,” Filippo added.

The delegates are eager to discuss this subject in depth and find possible solutions for the issue, and put an end to Female Genital Mutilation.



**Complete This
Year’s Logo of A
New Beginning**



Afghans are Currently Facing One of the Largest Humanitarian Crisis in the World

by Paula Morgan



The UN has officially pronounced the Afghanistan crisis as the largest humanitarian crisis in the world right now, according to The Global Conflict Tracker's article. Afghanistan has been under the control of the Taliban after they regained control in August 2021, following the two decades of conflict with the US and the NATO-backed Afghan government. Since the Taliban's rise, the country has been living with famine, sanctions, and terrorist attacks. The most recent attack being on September 2022 with the bombing of the Russian Embassy, allegedly perpetrated by the Islamic State.

The violence and poor quality of living has forced the Afghan civilians to flee for safety through refugee and asylum systems. Already more than 6 million Afghans have been driven out of their homes and country because of this conflict. The majority of them are moving to their nearest

countries, Iran and Pakistan. According to the official UN refugee sites, there are around 1.3 million refugees in Pakistan and 780000 in Iran. Afghan refugees' situations have become so grave that the UN had to intervene and half forcible returns of Afghans whose refugee or asylum claims have been previously denied.

The UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) committee is currently debating solutions for Afghanistan's crisis and bringing valuable information about the crisis. While interviewing one of the delegates, Gabriela Ometto, she shared that Afghan refugees are not being allowed into institutions in their resettlement country. Such an issue opens a whole new crisis in which Afghan refugees are not being properly welcomed into their resettlement. This occurs in most cases to refugees and asylees, nonetheless, this could cause the Afghan refugees

to attempt to come back to Afghanistan which the UNHCR strongly discourages.

The UNHCR is doing everything in its power to ensure the Afghan population pulls through this crisis, especially the refugees. This task is being undertaken by responding to the most critical priorities. This includes providing shelter, food, and hygiene to the refugees. The UNHCR has also undertaken protection monitoring in Afghanistan.

Speaking Up on Behalf of Afghan Women

by Agnes Zeng

The Taliban is notorious internationally for its misogynistic ideals and violence against women. Recently, Hibatullah Akhundzada, the Taliban's reclusive leader, spoke against the criticism and protests on the Taliban's human rights restrictions, refusing to discuss any negotiations on a possible compromise of his Islamic System of Governance. Since the takeover, women's rights have never been as atrocious and repressive. "Afghan women and girls are facing both the collapse of their rights and dreams and risks to their basic survival," said Halima Kazem-Stojanovic.

The list of Taliban violations of the rights of women and girls is long and growing. They have banned girls' secondary education and women from nearly all jobs, claiming they are based on religious principles. However, gender-based denial of education has no religious justification, say Muslim scholars and activists. The basic right to education should not depend on an individual's gender or any other factor that makes up their identi-

tity. "It feels beyond belief that we could be having a conversation in 2022 about whether girls should be allowed to study," said Sahar Fetrat. Every day, millions of Afghan women are losing opportunities and dreams they can never get back, all because of the misogynistic views of the man that oversees the Taliban.

Furthermore, they issued new rules for how women have to dress and behave, regulating them through violence. At the moment of the issue, women with extraordinary courage took to the streets in protest, only to be beaten, threatened, pepper sprayed, abducted, detained, and more. This order strips women and girls of the shreds of autonomy they still had, the ability to decide for themselves, and the ability to resist. The Taliban has ordered women to wear head-to-toe clothing and a full niqab, which covers the majority of the face, excluding the eyes, which still have to be covered by a translucent mesh. Any form of reluctance towards the laws previously mentioned is met with punishment that varies from imprisonment to execution, depending on the severity.

Not only that, they have dismantled the system to protect women and girls from violence and made it difficult for them to get access to health care. At many facilities, patients are treated only by a health professional of the same sex, making it nearly impossible for women to receive healthcare since they are no longer allowed to work. This has been keenly felt in a country where there is a high birth rate, as it has caused women's death rates to skyrocket as they face barriers to receiving healthcare, getting a proper diagnosis, and obtaining treatment.

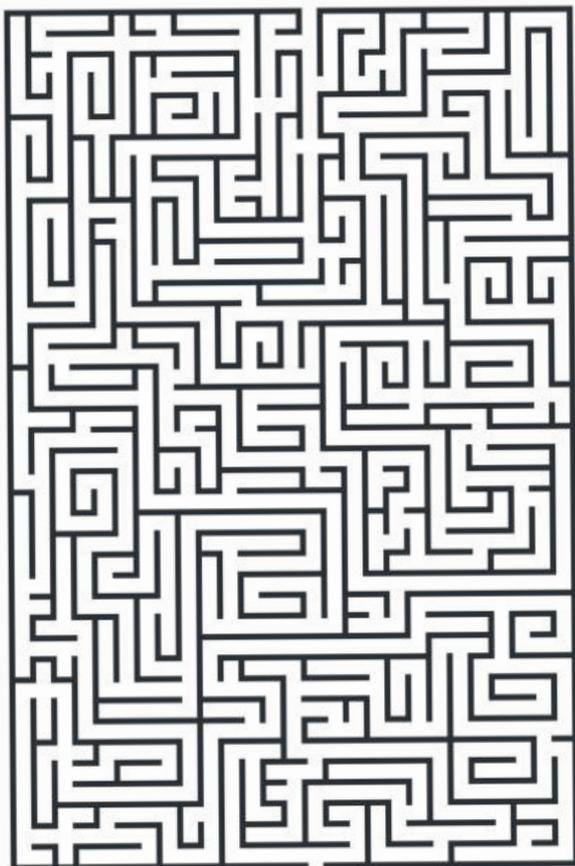
Having some of the worst health, economic and social indicators for women in the world, Afghanistan was reported

to be the worst country for women even before the Taliban's return to power. It is crucial and essential to stand up for the fundamental rights of women all over the world as they face oppression and gender discrimination.



**Go Through the Maze
Help a Delegate Arrive to
Their Committee**

Delegate



Committee

US Threatens to Return to Afghanistan

by Montgomery Lockwood

Drama has been stirring in the UNHCR committee room as the delegates debate on the topic of the Afghan Refugee crisis. The Delegates started the conference with their opening speeches with Afghanistan, Venezuela, France and India looking particularly strong. Soon after lobbying started, tension between the delegates started to rise. The delegation of Afghanistan started the spark that then grew into a flame by stating that the US would have to pay 1,000,000 dollars for every US troop found in Afghanistan, regardless if the US troops are there to help the internally displaced people. The Delegation of the United States quickly responded threatening to "return to Afghanistan", possibly to eradicate the existence of the Taliban. The delegation of the United States then strutted away yelling the words "MILITARY! WAR! YEAH!" When the delegation of Afghanistan heard about the threat, he called upon the delegation of the US, and threatened that Afghanistan has expensive equipment and military assets left by the US military when they fled from Kabul on August 30th 2021 and that they weren't afraid to use it to defend their land, religion and people. The Delegation of the US had no answer and quietly retreated to the group of delegates who were sided with him in the corner of the room.

As chairs eagerly await for the delegates to finish their resolutions, I have been going around interviewing the different delegates in their views of the situation and who they side with. The rest of this article will be the delegates' opinions and predictions of the future debates.

Russia has stated that they support the Taliban/Afghanistan and has provided donations in the past to Afghanistan. The US and Russia have a long history of conflict prompting Russia to go against the US. The Afghanistan group's goal is to attack the US using their resolution, but the US got defensive. This prompted the US to threaten Afghanistan. Russia's goal is to make the US pay for their actions, work to help the refugees, implement the Islamic religion and have assurance that the refugees are treated fairly.

France is on both sides, it supports whichever team gets things done quickly. France states the US has conflict with Afghanistan due to the 911 terrorist attacks. France stated that they participated in the Afghan War but withdrew when they felt the war was unnecessary. France's solution is to bring the refugees to Canada as it is multicultural and is willing to accept refugees.

Iraq is on Afghanistan's side, Iraq has the same points of view as Afghanistan because they have dealt with the same issues in their past. Iraq seeks to help the refugees but doesn't have the resources to do so. Due to this they are going to make the US pay off Iraq's debt and provide homes, therapy and provisions of food to the Iraqi people. Iraq wants peace but want it justly.

All the US wants to do is solve the problems it has caused before, reach an agreement and help Iraq fully rebuild itself. The US needs to know how much money it is going to pay Iraq in damages. The US states that it wants the UN to decide where the money goes, but it hopes it goes toward food education, shelters, etc. Regarding the Taliban and the threats, they are going back on their word and are not going to send troops to

Afghanistan; It seems that the US regrets its previous actions. The US is currently working with Canada to help settle the refugees, as they are going to stay away from the Taliban. Additionally, the US and the Taliban are doing their best to build trust between each other, even though they dislike one another.

In conclusion the tension is still in the room, but we don't know whether it's going to fade or continue on. The Afghanistan group is being careful when it comes to working with the US, plus the US and its allies are desperately trying to apologize for the US actions and help solve the issue.



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Some Pictures From PANAMUN Day 1

by Marina Aguiar, Simon Rodriguez, and Tiago Lemos



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