



Our Voices Resounding **THE DAILY GAVEL**

PANAMUN 30th Anniversary

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A New Beginning

October 19, 2022

Cuba Requests Help From The U.S After Hurricane Ian Knocks Out Power

by Paula Morgan



After hurricane Ian left Cuba with no power and several damages, Cuba pleaded for help from The United States after years of tension, according to the Wall Street Journal. While hurricane Ian has affected several countries around the Straits of Florida, Cuba has been one of the most affected countries by this natural disaster. Ian struck Cuba on September 27 as a Category 3 storm, leaving 11 million people in the dark, several people injured, and at least three dead. It was announced that the blackout had resulted because of the nation's electrical system breaking down. The blackouts have caused an ongoing protest among the hundreds of people affected all over

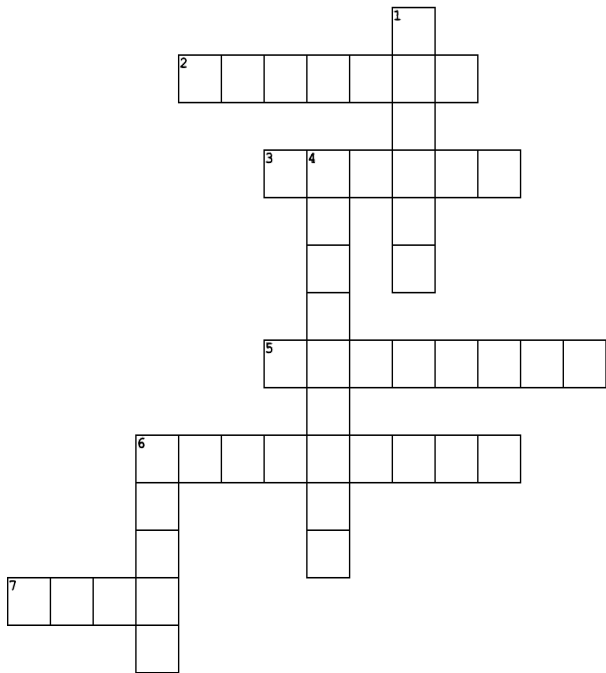
the country. They have been demanding power restoration for the last two days. Despite protesters in Calzada del Cerro trying to repair a pole and light transformer, the most protesters achieved were few signs of the internet returning.

Besides the blackout, Cuba has suffered critical agricultural loss and is currently undergoing a medicine shortage. The Pinar del Rio's Robaina farm, which is known for growing Cuba's famous tobacco, suffered tremendously with downed fences and destruction. Not only that, but an economic crisis has been gripping Cuba, leading to shortages of food, fuel, and medicine (Holly Yan-CNN) Some may say this is Cuba's

worst hardship since the decade-long depression following the collapse of the Soviet Union in the 90s (William Leogrande-RS). These desperate circumstances have forced Cuba to ask for emergency assistance from the United States. According to the Wall Street Journal, "Cuban authorities would place priorities on hospitals, water pumping facilities, sanitation and other critical infrastructure if the Biden administration were to provide aid." While the US has not answered Cuba's pleas yet, the people believe the Biden administration is likely to comply. As William Leogrande wrote "President Biden often says that he "stands with the Cuba people." Now is the time to turn those fine words into action." Especially after decades of hostility between these two countries as a product of the Cuban Missile Crisis, when the Soviet Union secretly began to install missiles in Cuba to launch attacks on the US, almost causing a world war just before an agreement ceased the conflict. While the two countries restored diplomatic relations in 2015, it is unexpected for Cuba to request US aid after keeping their distance for so long. Nevertheless, Cuba is in need of help and according to The Responsible Statecraft newspaper, this would be a perfect opportunity for the US to show their diplomacy by offering disaster assistance to Cuba and for Biden to act on his past statements about "standing with Cuba". This could be a big step in improving the diplomatic atmosphere between the two countries and set a stage for progress involving other issues of mutual interest.



Crossword Puzzle
PANAMUN Edition



- Across
- 2. What guys must wear all the time when debating.
 - 3. Passes notes around the room and makes committee doors
 - 5. The time where you do resolutions and disucss with other delegates
 - 6. Clauses that state the plan of actions
 - 7. This year's signature animal

- Down
- 1. In an amendment you can add, amend and ___ resolutions
 - 4. Award given to the delegate that demonstrates leadership in their committee
 - 6. Point of ___ calls for debate formality

Civil Unrest in Iran

by Montgomery Lockwood

Protests have emerged in Iran after a woman named Mahsa Amini was killed due to not having her hijab on per Iranian standards. Amini was arrested by the guidance patrol which is an Iranian law-enforcement task force that enforces Iran's Islamic dress code. Police stated that Amini had a heart attack at the police station and suffered from a coma, a couple of days later Amini passed away. The police have been accused of brutality and women who were at the station with Amini and several other

eyewitnesses stated that Amini was beaten severely. Medical records were later leaked and independent observers ended up diagnosing Amini with cerebral hemorrhage and stroke. It has been stated that the police beat Amini's head with a baton and later banged her head against one of their vehicles, which led to her heart attack and eventual death. In addition, Amini's family has gone against the claims that she had a heart attack stating that she was fit and healthy.

Amini's death created large-scale protests throughout Iran's cities with the protest being documented and shared through social media in an attempt to spread awareness and fight against the Iranian government. Individuals like the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees have even made a statement condemning the violence that is exercised against women in Iran. Beyond the UN, Several celebrities, organizations, and world leaders have been showing their support for the protesters and have condemned the Islamic Republic of Iran. The protesters have been seen removing their hijabs, and burning them in front of crowds who are cheering them on, whilst in some instances, protestors have been lethally shot by forces in Urmia, Piran-shahr, and Kermanshah. In response, the Iranian police have accused the protestors of murdering a couple of civilians in Kermanshah and a member of the police staff in Shiraz. Ebrahim Raisi has been furious with these events warning that he will not accept chaos, thus he has sent police around Iran to crash protests and crack down on protestors throughout the country. Ebrahim Raisi has stated that Amini's death has "saddened all", yet,that his government "could not allow people to disturb the peace of society through riots". Following Amini's death, the death toll has been increasing with different state media claiming that around 41 people including different authorities have been killed or murdered. It has also been stated that almost 1200 protesters have been arrested, and around 76 protesters have been murdered by different authorities who have been accused of using excessive force and live ammuni-



tion to dissipate the peaceful protests. As these protests are continuing, different videos have been posted online that display protesters chanting "death to the dictator" while others shouted "justice, liberty, no mandatory hijab". Different accounts have also been told through social media with a woman stating that when she participated in a protest in Rasht, she had bruises that were created as a result of being beaten by police with buttons, hoses, and other objects. In contrast, another woman describes the protest as a positive experience, as when protesting in Isfahan she told BBC,"while we were waving our headscarves in the sky I felt so emotional to be surrounded and protected by other men it feels great to see this unity I hope the world supports us."



The Asamblea Nacional: PANAMUN's Newest Addition

by Sebastian Perdomo

Aside from being PANAMUN's thirtieth anniversary, there are plenty of other aspects of the conference to look forward to. One of them is the brand new Spanish special committee, the Asamblea Nacional or AN. I had the luxury of conducting an interview with one of its chairs, Martín Camargo and all of the information below comes from his responses. The country. They have been demanding power restoration for the last two days. Despite protesters in Calzada del Cerro trying to repair a pole and light transformer, the most protesters achieved were few signs of the internet returning.

The Asamblea Nacional (AN) emulates the current legislative branch of the Panamanian government. Instead of delegates representing countries from the United Nations, they will take on the role of a particular deputy who is a current member of the Asamblea and they must research what their stance is on the issues being discussed. Their ultimate goal is to pass laws that affect Panama as an entire country, compared to other committees whose laws affect other nations. In terms of structure, it differs from other committees as it is a special committee. In the AN, there are three debates with different amounts of deputies being able to participate. As the resolution or proposed law keeps climbing up the debates, it eventually reaches the president who has the power to decide if it passes or to veto it as well. Procedure-wise, Martín and his co-chair Martina Garzonio along with the DSG of special committees have not yet decided whether or not to use the North American procedure or the THIMUN procedure, but this will be decided before the conference. When I interviewed Martín, he expressed his reaction when he got selected to co-lead this new committee and admits that he has learned so much about Panama. He experienced challenges like diverting away from writing in English and transitioning to developing everything in

in Spanish – coming from a school in which the majority of the topics are taught in English. Regarding the issues that the AN will have to tackle, being “Veda de Armas” (gun control) and “Libertad de la Prensa” (freedom of the press), he says that while doing research his perspective on the problems has been modified in different ways. He particularly emphasized on gun control, basing his idea around how eventually, every country will have to find a balance between letting citizens arm themselves and public safety as it is an issue that affects an important number of people. Martín also mentioned that this committee is a great opportunity to involve more Panamanian schools within PANAMUN. He believes that the introduction of the AN can be more attractive to local students since it focuses on national issues and its impact on the people of Panama rather than global problems. Similarly, he feels that this committee stands out from the other UN-based committees which tend to discuss topics and not necessarily properly solve them, as the Security Council is the only one who can directly approve the resolutions. Since the AN is the local legislative body of Panama and they pass the laws, he says that it offers an environment in which delegates can express their ideas and actually make a difference in the country.

Diverting the attention from the committee itself, Camargo also addressed expectations for delegates new to MUN and some advice as well. Events like PANAMUN bring students from different schools together to debate and discuss, but it only happens once a year. This is why Martín encourages delegates to interact with students from other schools, as these opportunities are rare and it is a chance to potentially develop new friendships. Most importantly, he wants delegates who might have a mixed view of MUN to be involved within their committees and take risks, as they will learn more about many important skills and how to act outside their comfort zone. Martín also praised PANAMUN's ability to

develop public speaking and the skill to defend one's beliefs in a debate scenario, thus he encourages students to take advantage of the conference and practice these life-changing skills. Regarding his expectations for the conference and his committee, he emphasized that this will be the first in-person PANAMUN after nearly three years with other schools participating, and hopes everyone will take advantage of the "real PANAMUN experience" as he says.

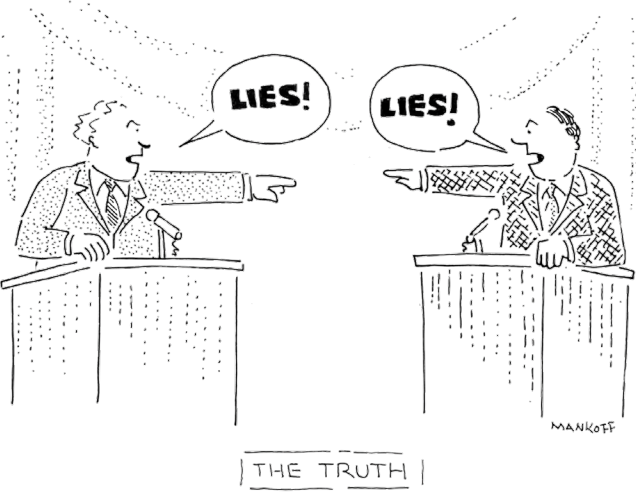
Martín also expressed that he is very excited to be a chair for the first time, after being a delegate for two years, and that this process has made him appreciate all the work that the members of the secretariat put in to make the conference better each year. He sees this as an opportunity to learn more about the country's political aspects, as he admits there is still much to learn. Finally, he recommends that delegates who enjoy this experience become chairs or participate in the making of PANAMUN the following year, as he states: "It definitely is an experience and it's a very fun one too, a lot of work sometimes but it's fun."



Word Puzzle
Secretariat Edition

J	K	B	E	B	D	A	C	P	O	P	F	G	E	V
H	A	N	N	A	H	F	T	P	T	D	R	G	M	F
E	S	O	L	H	S	T	D	N	G	L	T	U	M	S
I	M	V	F	U	I	B	P	A	A	U	H	M	U	M
U	Q	I	L	W	O	L	B	W	C	N	C	J	J	A
E	V	L	P	K	B	R	Q	P	M	R	D	T	Z	J
O	F	U	K	L	I	N	I	T	R	A	M	R	I	O
B	L	A	L	E	M	N	J	S	X	O	S	L	E	Z
U	B	R	L	C	Y	K	D	F	P	Z	X	Q	V	A
W	M	H	H	D	J	Y	Y	A	W	O	Y	R	L	G
F	Z	N	I	V	Z	L	E	H	V	N	H	J	D	Y
F	L	K	H	I	O	N	F	F	W	A	M	H	M	Y
J	Q	E	Z	Y	L	T	N	I	T	Z	K	V	X	H
L	F	S	Y	O	O	W	A	Y	O	D	A	G	T	D
D	T	O	E	I	N	C	B	C	K	N	F	Y	Z	E
T	Z	N	D	D	C	K	A	E	I	K	F	G	J	O
C	L	F	I	G	Z	T	D	N	F	P	P	F	N	Y
Z	R	S	R	W	N	G	D	N	A	A	V	O	V	W
B	E	S	J	K	J	I	N	Y	Q	D	M	D	H	X
V	R	P	U	S	L	Z	Z	M	U	L	R	D	A	O
L	V	Z	T	Q	G	D	P	O	U	D	V	O	I	D
W	I	P	C	V	K	D	O	A	B	F	P	N	I	U
F	Y	E	Q	M	Y	T	D	U	V	T	O	A	P	G
C	C	F	L	V	K	M	A	Z	Y	T	V	C	R	B
U	C	C	D	N	P	I	E	C	N	K	R	A	P	B
Y	F	G	Q	T	T	E	D	A	B	B	O	O	M	F
A	N	D	R	E	I	N	A	A	M	K	K	U	Z	K
V	N	Q	J	L	X	I	G	P	A	A	I	F	H	B
H	X	D	D	X	S	F	T	Y	E	E	U	L	E	T
N	D	T	M	A	I	N	U	I	N	A	Y	U	T	N

Word Bank
Martin, Mafe, Raul, Antonio, Andrea, Andreina, Majo, Hannah, Gabriel, Giordana



Explaining the Theme: A New Beginning

by Eitan Naor



The theme for this year's PANAMUN is A New Beginning. This theme is linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, as, after years of desolation and blemish, we have struggled to rebuild what was once normality. The economic and social disruption has had a devastating impact on our society, millions are on the brink of extreme poverty and experiencing malnourishment, and we've been forced to overcome unexpected challenges.

Yet, we have gradually surpassed this era of ruination and the world has begun to reopen. The era of "A New Beginning" has commenced.

It is time to open our wings and rebuild what was once destroyed. A beginning where we rise from the ashes of the past. This is a chance to move on to new circumstances and mend what has been ruined. We have recovered hope and raised our voices. "This is an era where we have developed a new attitude towards the world, and are intentional about not only trying new things but also taking the necessary steps for fundamental change and personal growth."

This theme aims to represent that the best is yet to come. A New Beginning motivates us to keep moving forward with optimism and to make significant contributions to this new planet and society as a whole.

PANAMUN coordinator, Mr. Miller, shared his idea of what this year's theme truly means. He believes that it encompasses the idea of "starting over" and commencing a new era. It presents a chance to "reassess how we make our systems and our societies more just." Ultimately, A New Beginning is an opportunity to "revisit mistakes we've made in the past" and rebuild our communities from previous flaws.

For Echopress member, Paula Morgan, A New Beginning is tightly linked to "the beginning of PANAMUN" as it occurred "two years after the invasion." Paula suggests that both this year's PANAMUN and the first PANAMUN "share similar traits" because "they both came from a state of catastrophe." Now is the time to remember "the roots of PANAMUN" and "continue forward" as a whole.

Italy's New Government Borders on Fascism

by Agnes Zeng

The Brothers of Italy, a recently elected government, challenges fundamental human rights and follows Neo-Fascist ideals. Giorgia Meloni, Italy's new Prime Minister, promises to "govern for everyone," however, her ideals seem to raise concern in the European Union. She has denied claims of being a Neo-Fascist, but her political campaign and platform appear to embrace certain beliefs that say otherwise. Although Meloni has tried to soften her image by showing support for Ukraine and diminishing anti-EU rhetoric, she leads a political party rooted in a post-war movement that rose out of dictator Benito Mussolini's fascists. Not to mention, at a very young age, Giorgia Meloni joined the Youth Front, a wing of the Italian Social Movement (MSI), a Neo-Fascist political party founded by Mussolini, and was a member until its dissolution.

Earlier this year, she stated, "Yes to the natural family, no to the LGBT lobby, yes to sexual identity, no to gender ideology... no to Islamist violence, yes to secure borders, no to mass migration... no to big international finance... no to the bureaucrats of Brussels!" This comment has enraged numerous people across the country as they worry about having their rights taken away. For example, many feminist groups have voiced their unease about abortion and reproductive rights as Meloni voices her strong agreement to anti-choice and prevention of termination of pregnancies while campaigning. In the same way, the pro-LGBTQ+ worry about having same-sex marriage and adoptions by same-sex couples illegalized due to Meloni's opposition to gay rights and her claim that conjugal families are made up of female and male couples. Additionally, in 2021, the Brothers of Italy opposed parliament proposals to extend and enforce hate crime laws to include prejudice based on sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity. This alone speaks volumes about the kind of

political party they are, one that feels that doing the bare minimum for minorities is sufficient.

It is also important to mention Giorgia Meloni and the Brothers of Italy's views on immigration and asylum seekers. During campaigning, they put emphasis on their vow to crack down on immigration and tighten Italy's borders. They brushed aside concerns regarding human rights abuses in Libya and stated that she wanted the European Union to pay Libyan authorities to stop migrants heading to Italy. Moreover, in her autobiography, Meloni stated that mass migration diluted ethnic identity and that Italy should lean towards welcoming in Christians and people "as compatible as possible with our own national community". The selection of residency in Italy should not depend on the color of someone's skin, cultural background, or ethnicity. That is not only racist and xenophobic, but it goes against essential human rights.

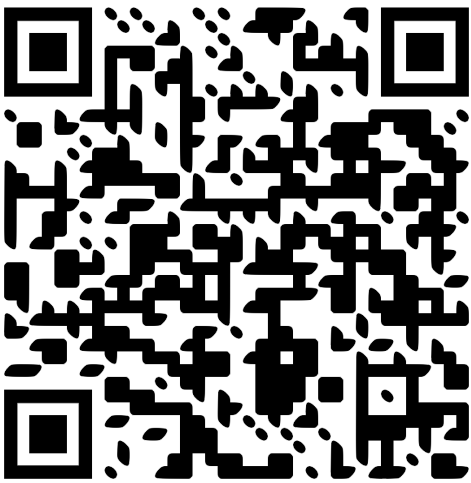
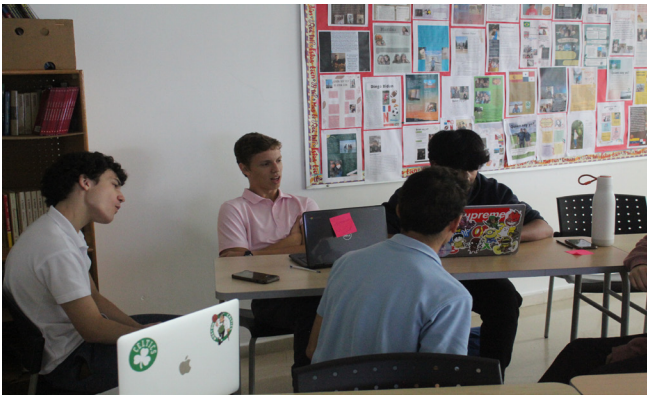
Furthermore, Giorgia Meloni has expressed controversial views and concepts regarding religion that places Catholicism at the top of the food chain and as the only religion worthy of rights. Merging religion with politics is troublesome and the very definition of theocracy. A country's government should never combine church and state, as not everyone follows the same beliefs and religion. Unlike the Left-wing political party, the Right-wing party believes that religious doctrines, such as the 10 Commandments, should play a role in governments and that they abide by the Bible when it comes to certain social issues. In other words, they essentially enforce Catholicism and Christianity on others, even if they are already part of distinct religions.

This recently elected government not only has Italians concerned for what their future holds but Europeans as well. If Meloni truly intends to "govern for everyone", her political party cannot pick and choose which groups deserve protection and fundamental rights and which do not. A government has the obligation to protect the rights of everyone in society, and right now, it does not seem like that is one of Giorgia Meloni's priorities.



Some Pictures From PANAMUN Day

by Marina Aguiar, Simon Rodriguez, and Tiago Lemos



If you want to see more pictures of that day scan the QR Code!!

