



Munificence

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PARIS MODEL UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS

Issue 1

PAMUN's First Glance: An Interview with Your DSG

By: Sofia Camacho

Head of Press

Upon scrambling to make sure everything is set and ready for this year's PAMUN conference, I was able to catch this year's DSG, Sara Kamboj for a quick interview.

What is your role? And how do you feel about having this position?

I have the honour of being Secretary General for PAMUN XVI. Being Secretary General is one of those unique positions where what you learn is irreplaceable. I feel extremely grateful to be given this opportunity, and to work with an exceptional team, especially the three Deputy Secretaries General.

How long have you been in MUN?

Technically, since 7th grade, but I began seriously engaging in MUN since 10th grade.

How many PAMUN conferences have you attended? Every year, PAMUN has brought something unique and exciting to the table. Ever since I joined the American School of Paris two years ago, I have had the privilege of attending PAMUN. I have served as a delegate and as a Deputy Secretary General.

What are you most excited about for this conference? Watching an idea become an opportunity. When I interviewed for the position of Secretary General, I knew I wanted PAMUN to be an opportunity for all its participants. An opportunity to strongly debate with passion, an

opportunity to voice opinions with eloquence, an opportunity to lead with grace and of course, an opportunity for growth. For 9 months, the Executive Team and I have only envisioned the conference. But there is an extraordinarily unique feeling to actually see the product of all the work that has gone into making PAMUN.



Behind the Writing of Munificence

Amy Lee

Deputy Head of Press

The Press Team of PAMUN serves as an important role in spreading the words. We write articles and underscore the fact that what we say, although it may seem unrealistic and trivial, can influence big changes.

The Press Team focuses on encouraging people to learn more about the contemporary dire issues around the world and have a say about them. Granted, our words are not powerful enough to make a

dramatic change and influence the world. However, each of our attention and concern in problems around the world are big enough to influence those who have the power for such change.

In Munificence, our paper throughout this conference, we will focus on external topics as well as those that are discussed in the various committees throughout the conference.

Our team will provide an inside glance at the conference within the different committees, we have access to different members, teachers, and speakers. Stay tuned for the issues that follow.



Reevaluating the role of the United Nations (through the UN charter)

Oksana Nikitenko

Staff Writer

There is no doubt about the significant role the United Nations plays when maintaining international peace and security, equality, human rights, and justice; however, to what extent is it successful in addressing issues pertaining to the 21st century?

Arguably the largest issue in this charter is its creation date, which was June 26, 1945. As many people have studied in history, the United Nations, formerly known as the League of Nations, was officially created on October 24, 1945. This was almost two months after the end of World War II, hence why many of the charter's clauses (both preambulatory and operative) are largely aimed at establishing the United Nations as a peacekeeping force and expanding its power in order to prevent future conflicts. In other words, it is meant to prevent World War III. This action is commendable, however there are quite a few flaws in the charter which need to be addressed.

According to the PAMUN XVI Research Report, the following issues are the main parts that need attention: "Outdated Material and Updating to the Modern

World" - the UN charter has not been changed in 70 years and thus does not take into account new technological advancements and their consequent issues, such as cyber attacks. Additionally, it has not updated country names, such as the Soviet Union, and has failed to include some of "today's major political and economic players" such as Germany and Japan into the P5. "Spreading Itself Too Thin" - the UN is able to freely create "new subsidiary organs, branches, programs, agencies", hence why there is a substantial amount of inefficient agencies. "Economic Fragility and Recklessness" - with a mix of poor and wealthy member nations all being a part of the UN, it is reasonable to expect that the latter would contribute more economic aid; however, this dependency comes with a risk of insufficient funding if one of these members is reluctant to pay, as was the incident with the United States after the Cold War. "Undemocratic" - the Security Council has been frequently accused of utilizing undemocratic methods of voting, especially regarding the veto power of permanent member states (who often do so when resolutions go against their personal agendas). Moreover, there have been several instances regarding the appointment of peers by leaders instead of following the proper method of voting.

Taking all factors into consideration, it is apparent that the United Nations, and its charter, is in need of reforms. Ultimately, if it wants to regain its recently lost pertinence to the 21st century, and not be left in the past, as was the League of Nations, it needs to take some drastic efforts to improve their system and documents, after which it definitely has the potential to once again be an effective organization.



NEWS

Human Rights and “Modern Slavery”

Laura Aguila

Staff Writer

In 1948, Paris, a milestone document entitled The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This document states in its 4th Article that “no one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms”. Today however, this universal ban isn’t yet respected.

Today, adults and minors – men and women can be victims of modern slavery. This can happen to anyone, regardless of the region, the religion or even the social class of the country where they live in. No region of the world is exempt, especially region in Africa, North Korea, Uzbekistan, China, or India. In these developing and even developed countries, modern slavery is the highest in numbers, and thus the most concerning to human’s eyes.

According to Modern Slavery.uk, forms of modern slavery can vary, yet the exploitation of children, teens and adults doesn’t even quiver. Child trafficking is one of the most concerning slavery there is. This is when kids are taken and moved away from their homes unwillingly to be exploited in any possible way. This connects

to what’s called debt bondage, forced labour, and domestic labour. Sometimes, some families in poor countries have to sell their kids because of big debts. Those kids are then forced to work so they can make up the debts which has been passed on on them unfairly. However, some people see these kids as machines for many sectors of the economy, from mining to tarmacking, hospitality or food packaging. Sexual exploitation can happen to anyone in modern slavery, affecting from old to young to women to men. These victims are forced to “jobs” like prostitution, escort work and /or pornography. Yet, victims can also be exploited by other victims.

This is commonly known as criminal exploitation, and it doesn’t just mean forcing them to work for military. Often controlled and maltreated, even forcibly drugged, these people are forced into crimes such as cannabis cultivation or pick pocketing unwillingly. For example, it is known that in Africa some children are even forced to perform rape to gain acceptance. And whenever they try and refuse, they have the only option of either being killed, or being drugged. Most of them don’t get these options, but those who do usually take the option number two.

Organizations scattered around the world focus, individually and cooperatively, the prevention of slavery and its abuse in people in different regions. Most of them centralize in developing countries, but the platforms are elsewhere around the world. For example, UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation) and UNODC (United Nations Organisation for Drugs and Crime) focus on the trafficking and selling of people around the world (especially in Africa), aiding the prevention of more slavery to grown on. Another called ILO (International Labour Organisation) which centralizes in improving the workers’ economic status and working conditions; in other words, this organization bargains the right to proper conditions for people, especially those who suffer from modern slavery and trafficking.

Yet the trafficking of people hasn’t stopped. In fact, according to a report by Walk Free Foundation, entitled “Global Slavery Index”, this year of 2016 there would be 45.8 million people who are estimated to be trapped in some form of slavery and suffer from it in 167 countries worldwide. The number of enslaved people hasn’t gone down this past couple of

years; it has gone up. This injustice has to be stopped some way or another, which is why organizations (some already mentioned) try to act and prevent it. The solutions are cutting and condemning the sources of slavery trading; raising a voice to the world for those who can’t; saving as many people as possible from cruel fates so they can be judged fairly if necessary. The world doesn’t need more misfortunes, and neither do its people.



Photograph by Steve McCurry

An Inside Look at the Environmental Committee



Caitlin Fowlds

Staff Writer

While one quarter of the Earth’s population lives without access to electricity, the US burns over 100,000 tons of coal every hour. Meanwhile, as predicted implications of fossil fuel usage only worsen, developed countries steer LEDCs towards renewable energy sources such as solar to avoid increased carbon emissions.

Imminent consequences of our environmental destruction are preached to us like gospel. We know that deforestation, industry and use of non-renewable energy increases atmospheric carbon dioxide levels, resulting in changed climates, altered habitats, and demolished ecosystems. We know that our behaviour will hurt humans, such as through the spread of malaria from a warmed planet or halted flow of the Gulf Stream, which currently heats Europe. There’s a need to maintain some biodiversity, and switch to renewable energy sources, but why are we pushing LEDCs to make this switch before we do?

As predictions of future temperature increases only become more alarming, the world points fingers at countries like China, who recently surpassed the US as the largest coal con-

sumer as it developed. We also push less-developed nations to skip out on coal use and industrialize using clean energy. Later, MEDCs argue, developing nations will not experience issues that MEDCs are now experiencing with impending fossil fuel shortages.

Nevertheless, this argument is hypocritical, with developed countries having relied on their coal reserves to become industrialized. Not only is clean energy often unreliable (for example, solar and wind energy rely on there being sun and wind), but renewable sources are much more expensive than coal, a fossil fuel. To tell developing countries that they may not deplete their own non-renewable resources for fear of more greenhouse gas emissions, is to tell them that they may not develop. Forcing LEDCs to become industrialized at a slower rate than possible compromises citizens’ current standards of living, and leaves nations in poverty for longer than necessary.

Renewables, such as solar, do have a useful place in developing countries, offering electricity to those living off the grid. Organizations such as SolarAid provide solar panels to those in remote locations, who don’t have access to any form of modern energy sources. Solar energy provides

artificial light, transportation and an alternative fuel to wood or charcoal, which release dangerous byproducts when burned.

The Environment Committee’s conversation on preserving ecosystems will be interesting: despite the urgency of environmental issues, conservation can be a barrier against prompt and swift economic growth. Considering that no country’s energy use is completely sustainable, expecting developing nations to industrialize with only minute use of fossil fuels is unrealistic and unfair.

A Peek Into the Political Committee: The Question of Western Sahara

Lenoy Christy

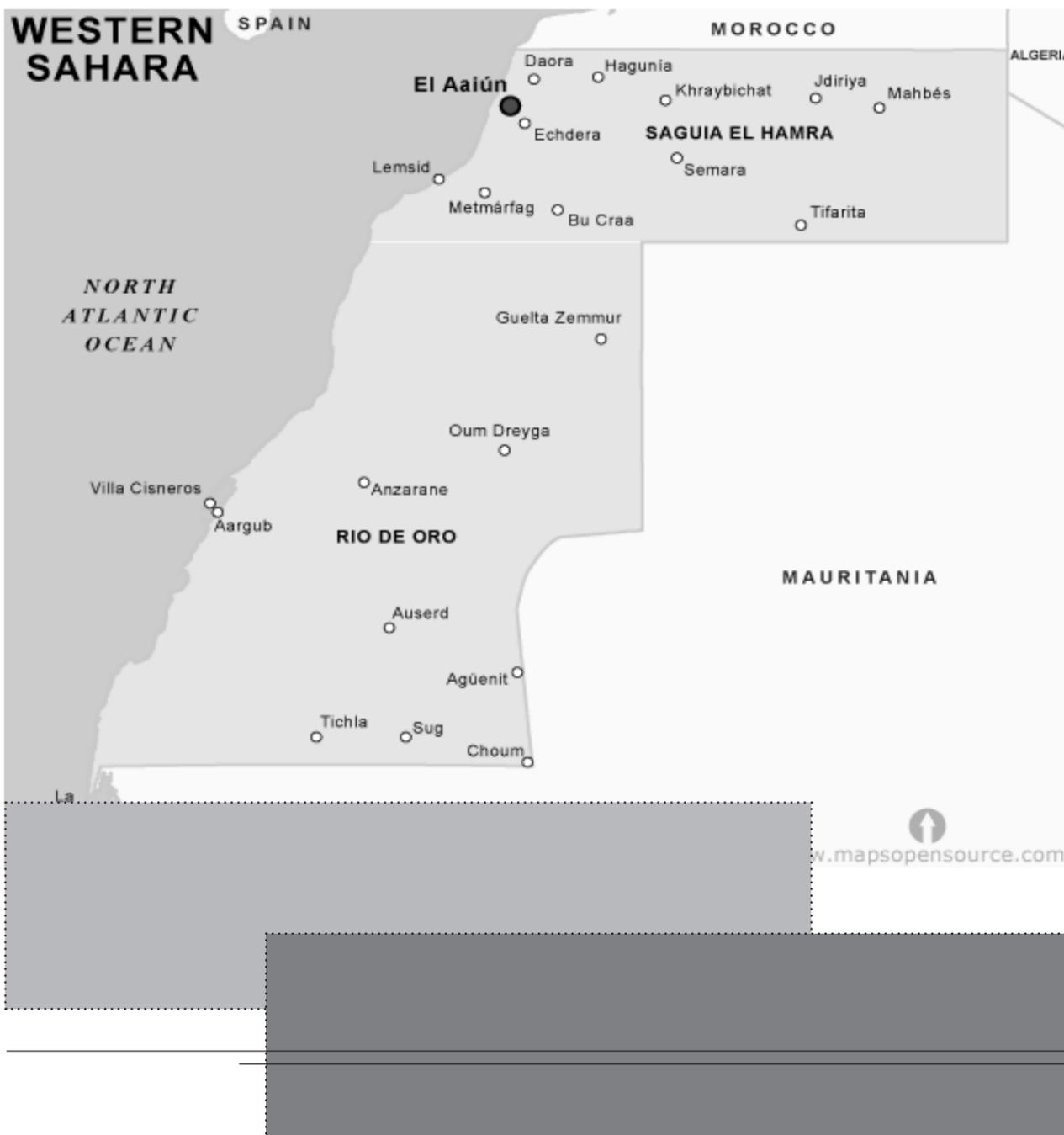
Staff Writer

The Western Sahara Conflict describes the territorial dispute in Northern Africa between the country of Morocco and the Sahrawi tribe, a minority in the region. The Sahrawi people and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) believe that the Western Sahara land belongs to them, and have many times in the past, called for it's freedom from the governing body of Morocco. However, these pleas have often been refuted by Morocco, under the claim that the Western Sahara land was once part of a "Greater Morocco" before Spanish rule, although it is clear to see that due to its plethora of natural resources and burgeoning fishing industry, Morocco's involvement in this conflict is mainly economical. Over the course of this conflict, the Moroccan government has carried out many measures against the Sahrawi, including breaking apart families to form smaller settlements, and ignoring the SADR's sovereignty. Morocco's actions have been condemned by international peacebuilding organizations such as the UN, but not much else has been done in terms of resolution to this conflict, other than a ceasefire more than 30 years ago.

Previous attempts to solve this dispute have fallen flat, strictly due to a lack of willingness to compromise from both the SADR and the Moroccan government. Plans such as the Baker plans, which aimed to create a referendum in the region and split the decision making regarding the region between the two parties, were unsuccessful due to a lack of co-operation. However, the settlement plan, enacted in 1991 has successfully maintained a ceasefire in the region, but has not done much to quell the overbearing lingering tensions.

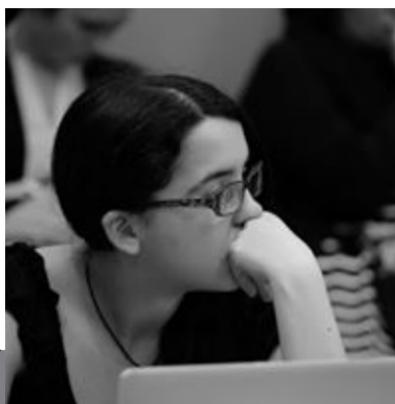
There is not much that can be done to help the situation, especially with influential world powers such as the US and France supporting Morocco. A small group like the SADR does not wield much power in terms of negotiation when it has to face up against world powers like these, and so in order to get to a point where compromise can be made freely, the scales have to be balanced.

This conflict is often overlooked by the international community for those more "exciting" as portrayed by the media, however that does not undermine its importance. Now more than ever, especially with the rising concerns about Islamic Terrorism in the region, the world has to draw its attention to this dispute, so as to not throw off the balance in an already volatile area.



Taking a Step Back: PAMUN 2015 in Photographs

Luigi Maruani



Delegates at work, Luigi Maruani 2015

Chloe Olsen, PAMUN 2015 DSG



The Question of Limiting Access to Arms by Terrorist Organizations

Rhina Houinato

Staff Writer

A great problem we are now facing is terrorism. This can be defined as the act of accomplishing political, economic, or social goals (PAMUN XVI RESEARCH REPORT—The question of limiting access to arms by terrorist organizations) through violence or inflicted fear, often towards civilians. Terrorists are usually funded by wealthy supporters who facilitate access to ammunition and arms. Arms, in this context, refers to devices designed to injure or kill citizens and destroy infrastructures. Terrorists acquire weapons through the black market or post war zones, where they have seized military bases and equipment. The quantity of weapons available is rising and the black market is expanding. "According to Transparency International, corruption in arms trade makes up about 40% of corruption worldwide."- (PAMUN XVI RESEARCH REPORT—The question of limiting access to arms by terrorist organizations). Certain loopholes in the law may be breached due to lack of oversight or international collaboration as expressed in the essay on arms to terrorist organisations by LawTeacher.

In 2013, the Arms Trade Treaty was adopted to monitor arms exports and to ensure that the use of weaponry was not for terrorism or human-rights violations. Its purpose was to promote international and regional peace, security, and stability while reducing human suffering (UNODA). Article 12 (3) identifies the need for detailed record keeping of exported/imported arms: "Each State Party is encouraged to include in those records: the quantity, value, model/type, authorized international transfers of conventional arms covered under Article 2 (1)..." Some countries have signed but not ratified this treaty- especially major gun manufacturing countries- limiting to overall effectiveness of the ATT (US, UK,

Russia, France, etc).

Astonishingly, terrorist acts have expanded since the creation of the ATT. There has also been a dramatic increase in gun production. The ATT was created while the world was healing from the tragedy of 9/11- the day on which the "war on terror" began (Trading Arms to Terrorist Organizations | Law Teacher)- to limit the activities of groups such as Al-Qaeda. Its purposes should be reviewed in order to combat present day terrorist attacks, and delegates should take a very realistic approach regarding how to control and secure arms trading. Terrorist dominated areas have formed mafia-like protection systems where they force citizens to pay them for protection. Reform measures could include: stronger anti-corruption laws and U.N. enforcement, sanctions, contesting illicit arms trade - i.e., the black market-, taking steps to confront bribery and tracking imported/exported arms - (Trading Arms to Terrorist Organizations | Law Teacher). Iran for example, has sponsored programs providing funding, refuge, arms and training to terrorist groups, though it denies any accusations of involvement. Stronger guidelines and regulations should be implemented to produce effective change, from our response to the rebels, and evaluate all possible and favourable solutions.

Coffee, Paper, and Interviews: Reflections on the Press Room

Lea Moukanas

Guest Writer from PAMUN XV

In the heart of the Palais de la Mutualité, far from the vociferous and overwhelming debate rooms, cozily rests the press team solely composed of editors, photographers and writers. Yesterday, as we were handing out the New Edition of PAMUN's newspaper, we received numerous questions on our job at PAMUN: What is like to be a journalist at PAMUN? What do you spend your days at? How many issues of the MUNificence are they and what does this word mean?

It is 8:10 when I cross the door of the Salon de Poissy, on the fifth floor of the Palais de la Mutualité, after having successfully passed the security check and humbly shown - ok no, shown with a lot of pride and excitement - my Press Officer Badge. Instinctively, I sit at my designated desk, turn on my staunch computer and start writing an article for the issue that is to be published and distributed this afternoon.

Around 9 o'clock, allowing ourselves a break and regretting staying out late the day before, we try to sneak in the room next door to get coffee and croissants brought by our attentive editor-in-chief. The pause is short, yet invigorating: each warm sip of coffee makes us gradually forget weariness. We soon have to get back to our HQ: the deadline is in two hours.

Using interviews and researches done the previous day, using our opinion or imagination, we work quickly and efficiently as a team to meet the deadline: it is now almost 11:00 a.m. .

I cannot write further on the day to come as I have to submit my writing in fifteen minutes. However, I know that in an hour, some of us will have finished writing, others will be stressing out to be able to finish their articles on time. I know that some of us will have lunch outside discovering of beauty of the Boulevard Saint Germain. Others - including the editors who will tear their hair out in a couple of minutes to be able to edit and meticulously lay out every page of Munificence - will have lunch in the office. I know that this afternoon, at five o'clock, we will all face Blank Page Syndrome: What should I write about tomorrow? And at 5:50, we will all be distributing the new edition of the newspaper, exhausted but proud. And, I know that tonight, I'll fall asleep on my computer, just wishing I could start this day over and over again.

Out to Lunch? Food is Around the Corner

Caitlin Fowlds

Staff Writer

Everyone knows that the most important part of travelling is the food. Paris, with its wide array of cuisines, has offered mixed experiences for our delegates. With the PAMUN halls housing such a diverse population, one is offered comparisons between delegates' local cuisine and Parisian food. Also, one can shatter stereotypes about what actually makes up the typical French diet (turns out, it's more than just snails and frogs' legs!).

The Good Stuff (Last Year's Recommendations)

"The Metro Cafe, around here, it was good. It had good pasta and burgers."

- Malik Al-Arnaout

"I saw a pizza place which looked nice. There's something called Aux Verres Des Contact, which looks nice but is quite fancy. And there's Cafe de Flore, which is a really famous cafe. It's where all the famous people have their coffee, but (a coffee) is seven euros. And that's for the espresso at the bar. Picasso and the whole gang used to get their coffee there."

- Chloe Francois

"Honestly crepes with cheese were the best"

- Rose Vedrinelle

The Not So Good Stuff

" We were tricked by the Michelin guide and we were deluded by this restaurant called Pavillon Le Doyen. Can you please write in your article to never ever go there, because they are all horrible cooks - I could cook better than them. Other than that, Parisian food is amazing, I love it. "

- Sangwook Park

The aftermath of the Arab Spring in Libya: When Terror Overcomes

“This was a disaster. This was not a failure. It was a disaster. We made it worse.” claimed Mr Flynn, the head of the DIA. From December 2010 until August 2012, the Arab Spring occurred. Whilst it was originally aimed to achieve peace and democracy; the uprising, today, is causing profuse Terror. It is a priority for the United Nations to attempt countering the aftermath of the Arab Spring in Libya, such a task will be completed today by the Security Council.

From the uprising of the Arab Spring resulted a Civil War. In October 2011, Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown by opposite forces. His regime was charged for being excessively authoritarian. Officially, Liberation was proclaimed and this first Civil War led to the election of the General National Congress in 2012. Yet, in reality, Libya’s posture was less complying. Militia forces originated terror and violence through guerrillas and small attacks in the country. Severe tensions could be perceived in the country and a Second Civil War occurred. Since May 2014, four dif-

ferent groups have been conflicting each other. Accusations and disagreements upon the adverse parties have led to a continuous fight still ongoing today.

Death, Terror, Human Rights Abuse; such issues are now common to Libyans. The aftermath of the Arab Spring in Libya is to be urgently countered. Not only did thousands of civilians die, but censor is restored, women rights are ignored, oppression has become a common state. Previous attempts to counter the issue have revealed to be unsuccessful. Peace talks in Geneva and the proposition of no fly-zones have not managed to better Libya’s actual issues.

The Arab Spring in Libya led to great issues still ongoing today. Previous attempts to solve them have failed; and it is now time for the Security Council to try countering the matter in order to make Libya great again.

Laura Marcoul

Staff Writer



Photo by Stephen Lavonk

Our Venue: Maison de la Mutualité

Sofia Camacho

Head of Press

Consectetuer adipiscing elit, sed diam non. Uummy niThe Maison de la Mutualite is a conference venue at 24 Rue Saint-Victor, in the 5eme of Paris, France. It resides in what is believed to be the heart of Paris, near the flowing Seine, the famous Notre Dame Cathedral, and multiple surrounding gardens worth taking a stroll on.

The venue holds many kinds of events ranging yearly from political meetings, small companies, and shareholders.

Due to the variety of events it may hold,

the Maison de la Mutualite contains multiple different spaces. Its theater can be said to be the highlight of the building. The 1728 seat room has ideal acoustics with parallel high quality speakers. This is where our opening and closing ceremonies will take place on the first and last days of our conference.

Despite the beauty of many rooms in the venue, the conference rooms are key to holding a successful conference. There are nine modular rooms with wide windows to allow for maximum natural lighting. These rooms are also ideal for events ranging from workshops to professional dinner settings.

Of course, only a first hand experience can really bring out the beauty of this building, and fortunately, we are able to enjoy it for this year’s PAMUN conference.



UNHCR

Redefining the Role of Neighboring Countries in Refugee Crisis

Understanding the Situation Through Visuals

Magdalena Klett

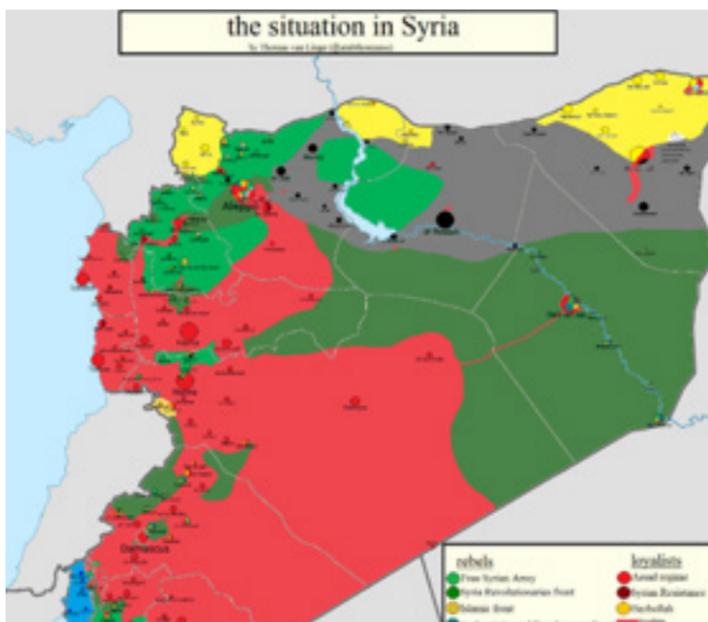
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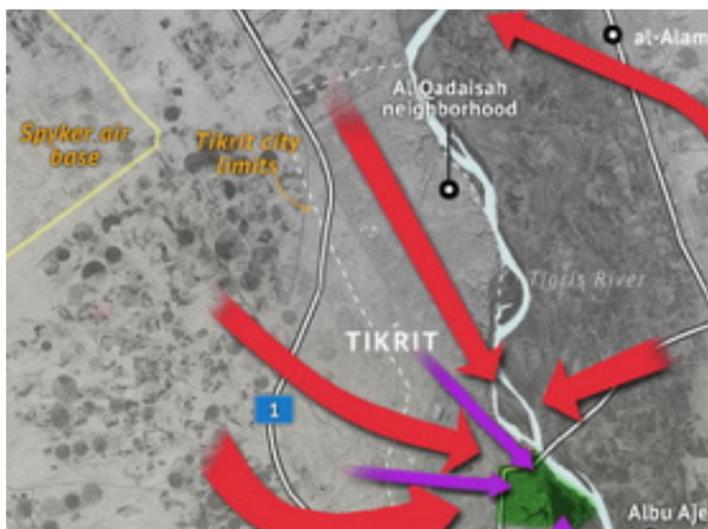
UNHCR

The UN Refugee Agency

The UNHCR, have been working to provide refugees with their basic human rights, and promote development projects as well as leading the Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP) and the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) specific to the CAR crisis. Through their input and work many refugees have been helped and the UNHCR is also seeking to provide 4.8 million refugees in neighbouring countries and 13.5 million people in Syria.



The 5 years of civil war in Syria (and still ongoing), is a result of Democratic forces, Salafi jihadist groups, Syrian rebel forces and the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS). This makes it a humanitarian conflict.



Map of Syria (above) and Iran (below)



Regarding the CAR civil war, this image represents the battles late 2012. The rebel alliance "Seleka", a predominantly Muslim party, created and fought most of these battles.

PAMUN Entertainment

PAMUN XVI WORDSEARCH

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PRESS TEAM

Staff Writer



A Look at the PAMUN Website



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Welcome To PAMUN 2016

Affiliated to THIMUN and in official partnership with UNESCO, PAMUN is a vintage conference on the MUN circuit, ever blazing a trail as a laboratory and incubator of the future.

THE PAMUN PHILOSOPHY

PAMUN is designed to provide a joyful and meaningful experience of negotiation, compromise and consensus building, on issues of concern to the global community. Students are confronted with the challenge of defending and furthering the interests and goals of the countries they represent, while seeking to accept with due respect and consideration other countries' goals and interests, and strike an appropriate balance.

While PAMUN offers students the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding the issues

tunity to acquire knowledge and understanding the issues debated as well as the complex processes in an international body such as the United Nations, it is aimed first and foremost as an educational experience for the students, in which they are invited to develop two important human skills: listening for comprehension and not for controversy, and keeping an open mind. Our hope is that students participating in PAMUN will experience the thrill of debating and the joy of finding solutions, while experiencing first hand the power and the

limitations of a multilateral organization like the United Nations, and that they will come away with a better grasp of its purpose and potential both today and in the future.

WHAT IS AN MUN CONFERENCE?

Model United Nations is an authentic simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and its Committees, which catapults students into the world of diplomacy and negotiation. In Model UN, students step into the shoes of ambassadors of UN member states, from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe to debate the current issues on the organization's vast agenda. The students, better known as delegates in Model UN, prepare positions and speeches, plot strategies, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, debate and seek to resolve conflicts, while navigating the UN complex "rules of procedure" – all in the interest of mobilizing "international cooperation" to resolve problems that affect almost every country on Earth.

VISIT: <http://asp-edu.net/pamun/about/> to read more about PAMUN XVI