Building Confidence
Israel and Palestine

Continued on Page 6

By: Lulwa Al Theyab

While many of us would like to spend more time contemplating life by the QNCC Reflection Pool, perhaps we should spend more time devising measures to halt the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. With a history of disagreement dating back to 1917, it is no surprise that this particular issue is expected to produce a long and fruitful debate in the 1st Committee of the General Assembly [GA1].

Last year, the United Nations voted to recognize Palestine as a “non-member observer state.” Although many viewed this vote as a milestone in this conflict, the Israeli and American delegation objected to the UN Resolution, claiming it would only lead to an escalation of tension and violence between Israel and the Palestinian territories.

“Confidence-building” has been cited as an important factor in ensuring long-term peace since the late twentieth century. The Madrid Conference of 1991 is an early example of the international community’s efforts to kick-start negotiations between the Israeli and Palestinian leaders. The conference simply served as a discussion forum, and participants were powerless to enforce decisions and veto agreements. The signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993 closely followed, and lead to the creation of the Palestinian National Authority, or PNA. This was to act as a government body, whose responsibility lay in regulating the territory it controlled. In 1995, Oslo II was signed by the Palestinian and Israeli leaders.

So were these agreements enough?

Despite these efforts to bring peace between the two so-called neighbors, the agreements did not ad-
THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN

THE ARACHNATTACK AND HOW TO SURVIVE

DRIVING LEADERS TO DICTATORSHIP

THE QUESTION OF SYRIA

HOW GOVERNMENTS DEAL WITH THEIR DRUG TRADE DILEMMAS

TEACHING THAT KILLING IS WRONG BY KILLING

THIMUN GURU

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE SPIDER COMES TO LIFE?
The Question of **Syria**

By: Tala Ezedien

With the gradual calming of the Arab Spring the Syrian Revolution has erupted. On March 15th 2011, a protest emerged in the rural city of Daraa. Unarmed Syrians gathered to oppose the imprisonment of a group of young boys who had written an anti-regime slogan on the wall of their school. The opposition soon spread and the country was swept into a wave of chaos, thus the revolution began. Over twenty months later, the conflict remains with violent violations of human rights becoming all too common.

Bashar Al-Assad succeeds his father, Hafez Al-Assad, as Syria’s current president. For over 40 years, the Assad family has ruled Syria. This is not the first revolution condemning their rule. In 1982, the Hama Massacre occurred, where thousands of people united in Hama to oppose President Hafez. The city was besieged for a month and was bombarded with shelling and tank fire. The Guardian reports that approximately 25 – 40 thousand citizens were killed.

Last month, the UN stated that the overall death toll in Syria has exceeded 60 thousand. This is still increasing due to a daily routine of shelling, small-scale massacres and sniper attacks. The number of refugees is approximately 700 thousand as families are constantly attempting to leave the country and take solace in surrounding countries such as Turkey and Jordan. The brutal attacks on human rights appear in the forms of torture, assaults, random shelling on citizens and cities and unfair detainment. The Syrian Research and Communications Centre released that just this week, over 600 people have died in Syria due to the violence.

"The problems in Syria must be solved internally. Foreign intervention would mean infringing on the nation's sovereignty."

Delegate of Russia

Supplies run low across Syria, especially in the cities that are under siege. Many provinces like Homs are suffering as food, water and, most importantly, medical aid are very limited. Many die of starvation or disease. The heavy shelling causes countless horrific injuries that cannot be attended to properly. Foreign countries such as Qatar are working with the Red Cross to distribute medical necessities to the Syrian people.

"In addition to the UN mission in Syria, foreign military intervention is required to help solve the issues."

Delegate of the United States

The question of whether to accept foreign intervention as a solution remains an issue. The delegate of Russia states: “The problems in Syria must be solved internally. Foreign intervention would mean infringing on the nation’s sovereignty.” The delegate of the U.S, on the other hand, had a different opinion: “The U.S. believes that in addition to the UN mission in Syria, foreign military intervention is required to help solve the issues.”

The situation in Syria is worsening. Victims are piling up. There is fear of chemical weapons being used and the rise of extremists.

"Is it about time the President left the building?"

Photo By: Maryam Al-Muhanadi
By: Caroline Nunn

How Governments Deal with their Drug Trade Dilemmas

How effective are penalties in controlling the drug trade?

Illegal drug trade is an extremely lucrative industry. The demand for drugs has seen a growth of drug cartels, along with a possible rise in violent activities.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has attempted to prevent drug trafficking by establishing to work with UN member states to abolish the drug trade. Together they enforce domestic and international policies regarding the illicit trade. However, the ability of a nation to control the trade is still overshadowed by growing conflicts between clashing nations.

Conflict in Respective Nations

Many nations are under constant threat against illicit drug trading. These countries are often bordering areas where drugs are processed or are within the trade route of a producing nation and its recipient. Within these nations, drug cartels often resort to violence to protect their territory.

Mexico and USA

The border between Mexico and the United States is one of the most active drug trade zones. The owner of a cartel can have a net worth of up to $1 billion, according to CNN, allowing for frequent use of arms. The BBC claims the war on drugs has seen a death toll of over 55,000 since its emergence in 2006.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the world’s leading producers of opium and heroin. However, the control over this drug trade is dominated by the Taliban. The money gained from this activity is used to purchase weapons in order to combat foreign troops.

How do countries deal with drug trade?

Harsh penalties have been imposed to restrict drug trafficking.

United States

Drug laws vary according to the drug class and offense. After the second offence, the individual may be sentenced for life and fined up to $20 million.

Europe

Serious offenses may result in 12 years imprisonment, depending on which EU nation the individual enters. However, life imprisonment may also be implemented.

South East Asia

These nations are often caught geographically between drug trade routes, causing a need for harsh punishments. Indonesia, for instance, has a zero-tolerance policy, imposing the death penalty for drug traffickers.

Despite such penalties, the world has seen a tremendous growth in drug related crimes. A UN estimate of between 99,000–253,000 reflects deaths due to drug abuse. However, the violence that erupts due to this growing trade brings about more victims each year. The result: uncountable deaths worldwide.

By: Marika Mascarenhas

Capital Punishment: “teaching that killing is wrong by killing”

The concept of human rights has become a contradiction by taking the life of a convict, which can be granted or denied based on the whims of the government. Additionally, many argue that one can forfeit human rights for murderers; that the death penalty is the best form of retribution. Yet, a serious question arises now, what if the convict is truly innocent?

Amnesty International declares “the death penalty legitimizes an irreversible act of violence by the state that will claim innocent victims.” Since 1973, 130 executed American convicts were exonerated. The simple fact is that as the human race, the persecution of the innocent is inevitable. Sentencing a person to death is equivalent to granting absolution. However, sentencing a person to life imprisonment, without the chance of parole is a better way of forcing a convict to face the horror and reality of the crimes they committed.

The world is polarized between those who support capital punishment and those who are against it. However, one cannot “teach that killing is wrong by killing.” Death simply does not permit the time.
By: Vanlee Trinidad

The independence of South Sudan on the 9th of July 2011 has left the country with an abundance of natural gas and oil. As a developing country, the nation lacks knowledge on the issue of sustainable progress where a considerable amount of social and environmental changes are needed in order to save the degrading resources.

In an attempt to aid the South Sudanese president, Silva Kiir Mayardit, the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) has stepped in. After recently becoming the 193rd member of the UN, many of its sub-organizations have worked towards aiding the people and implementing changes to society. Due to the incredible amount of waste-dumping and pollution, UNEP was faced with the concern of education where, according to The Guardian News and Media, 27% of the adult population is illiterate.

As a main source of income to the underdeveloped nation, South Sudan was forced to exploit its fertile lands. A lack of infrastructure is a growing concern, leading this war torn country faced with the obstacle of establishing stability and harmony.

The lack of funds and social issues has become a major problem as it affects the already weak economy, disallowing investment into sustainable development.

UNEP has promoted many new workshops and campaigns such as “Keep South Sudan Green” and “Village Help for South Sudan,” in hopes of educating indigenous citizens about their local environment as well as providing solutions, educational programs, and improved lifestyles.

This issue was debated earlier today where delegates urged nations to pass a resolution upon the use of green energy.

Although the solution is efficient and eco-friendly, South Sudan requires a gradual development through business sectors in order to provide a long term change.

South Sudan requires a social change in order to progress economically. The UN’s constant involvement and investment of over $38 million into South Sudanese development has allowed for a gradual improvement. South Sudan has yet to experience the benefits of her independence.
include the question of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, Israeli settlement building, security, and borders. Also, neither of the Oslo agreements touched on the matter of Palestinian statehood.

"This is not about restoring confidence, it is about restoring belief."

The former American peace negotiator, David Ross, has suggested that the most pressing issue in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the “fundamental disbelief on both sides” that peace can be achieved. Moreover, “this is not about restoring confidence, it is about restoring belief.”

Dare we ask: Shouldn’t we contrive more creative measures to build confidence and trust between the Israeli and Palestinian people? Are negotiations really enough?

A THIMUN Israeli delegate gave the following reply: “This delegation believes that no negotiations are not enough, but they are a first step towards lasting peace. What is more, it is important to realize that trust and confidence will not be built overnight, it will be built over generations.”

The State of Israel has been criticized countless times for its refusal to halt settlement building in the occupied West Bank. The Palestinian organization, Hamas, is constantly under pressure to alter its position on Israel. Both sides have expressed their willingness to cooperate and establish peace, but this is easier said than done.

Benjamin Netanyahu’s recent electoral win has led to the formation of a coalition government even more right-wing than before, making it more difficult to apply a ban on settlement building. Furthermore, the 2006 parliamentary elections in the Palestinian territories saw Fatah [the group that governs the West Bank] lose its majority to Hamas [the group that governs the Gaza Strip].

Hardliners on both sides are gaining political momentum, making it tough to commit to ensuring the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel.

What do Arab delegations have to say about the issue?

The delegate of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], when asked what should be done to increase trust between Israel and the Palestinian people, replied: “In order for real peace to be achieved, certain factors have to be addressed. This delegation would like to spread the water supply equally between the two peoples. In addition, Palestinian and Israeli children should be educated without leniency towards either side to form an effective and long-lasting peace.”

In summary, governance plays a significant role in confidence-building between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people. It is clear that the conflict could take generations to resolve. However, it is also apparent that delegates must deliberate innovatively to ensure the establishment of confidence and trust between the two misunderstood entities.
Greed, excessive money, paranoia. What exactly drives a leader to dictatorship?

Leaders can be impacted by a variety of temptations and emotions such as...

FEAR: One of the most powerful forces that has the potential to change the mindset of a leader. The world of politics is a fast paced and stressful game. Therefore, it is only natural for a leader to feel fear, especially when placed in extremely tedious and delicate situations. One wrong move could easily be perceived as offensive to a certain party, and within moments, controversy could be born.

“When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fear the people, there is liberty.”

Thomas Jefferson

Paranoia constantly accompanies fear, causing us to make irrational decisions, hence the possible transformation from leader to a dictator.
Hello there fellow students,

As I write this I’m hoping you had a wonderful first two days… I know I did! The Thimun Guru approves the spectacular outfits that you are all wearing today; this could seriously turn into a successful fashion show.

1. To the ladies wearing heels, feel free to welcome the wonderful blisters - their destination, your feet. Remember, don’t take your shoes off no matter what; we don’t want the scent of the room to change.

2. To the men in suits, you have come prepared! The Thimun Guru has scientifically proved that men in suits are more attractive.

3. To the man with the marvelous moustache, you’re too awesome for words!

4. Just a reminder, do not sing to yourself if you happen to get bored during the debate because 9 times out of 10 you will not, unfortunately, sound like Beyoncé.

5. Back to the important subject, my quote of the day for all the delegates is “Act smart, look smart, even if you aren’t smart.”

Yours truly,
The Thimun Guru

What would you do if the spider came to life?

“Get a ride home”
( Oswin, Qatar Academy)

“Make my own video”
( Weshal, Qatar International School)

“I am the spider’s dad, together we would rule the world”
( Zohaq, Qatar Academy)

“Get to high ground, get fire extinguishers chuck them at the spider, then try to get underneath the spider”
( Joshua and Freddie, Doha College)

“Take its babies and run”
( Sara, UIS Kuwait)

“Team up with it, destroy everything and then pet it”
( Fozan, Al Khor International School)

“I would bravely pick you up, and feed you to it”
( Bowe, Qatar Academy Teacher)

“Hide in the bathroom, fight it with my heels”
( Clotilde, American School of Doha)
One in every eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common killer of women globally. Few countries establish policies and health care for those diagnosed with breast cancer (A.D.A.M. Medical Encyclopedia). We need to make a change, but Kerry-Anne McNamara, a student at Park House English School in Qatar, already has. Kerry-Anne created an annual event that raises money and awareness towards breast cancer.

Why have you chosen to raise awareness for breast cancer rather than any other illness?

It is almost impossible to determine which illness to raise awareness for. I, however, was personally inspired to raise money and awareness for breast cancer because of my family and friends who have fought through the disease. What I found with fundraising was that focusing on one illness makes people more aware of how vulnerable we truly are. Taking better care of yourself and others has a positive knock-on effect and fighting towards breast cancer can also raise awareness of other harmful diseases such as diabetes or other forms of cancer.

I am motivated by the work my aunt has done over the years to raise awareness and donations to help find a cure, and the people close to myself that have been affected by breast cancer.

How did you succeed in raising the money for this cause?

I’ve raised the money with the amazing help of my fellow students at Park House English School. Every year, I plan a Pink Day in which everyone makes a donation to wear pink. We have even had students shaving off their hair or remaining silent for a full week to raise awareness. The combined efforts has helped us raise significant donations to help the fight for a cure.

We have even had students shaving off their hair or remaining silent for a full week to raise awareness.

How much money have you raised towards this cause in total?

In total we’ve raised just over QR 60,000 for Breast Cancer.

Where does the money you have raised go and why have you chosen this organization?

The money I raise with the help of my school gets sent to Breast Cancer Awareness Scotland. Funds like this one are used by myself and the others because the majority of donations are used to find a cure, and very little of the donations are used in the administration of the organization.
You can find us on these social networks. Be sure to follow us on twitter, “Like” us on Facebook, check out our Youtube channel and visit our website! You will also be able to watch the opening and closing ceremonies streaming live online!

www.thimunqatarpress.org/

EDITORS IN CHIEF
Lana Mahmoud
Rana Abualsaud

PRESS DIRECTORS
Rebecca Cain
Lindsay Peak

REPORTERS
Tala Ezedien
Caroline Nunn
Marika Mascarenhas
Toby Gould
Amin Ahmed
Lulwa Al Theyab
Hannah Akhtar
Vanlee Trindade

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Aya Nassif
Sherif Ashraf
Mohammed Al-Malek
Maysam Al Ani
Haya Al Mana
Yousra Ahmed
Maryam Al Muhammadi

EDITORS
Sarra Hamid
Salem Rustom
Joy Atrach

ONLINE BROADCASTING
Dania Faidi
Ahmed Saadat
Shahd El Shafei

LAYOUT
Kevin Andrews
Montserrat Gutierrez
April Palencia

ARTISTS
Alia Hijaab
Prathamesh Aher