

جيمس مدرستنا الهندية
GEMS OUR OWN INDIAN SCHOOL



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United Nations Simulation Conference

United Nations Human Rights Council

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

It is with great honor and privilege, we welcome you to the United Nations Simulations Conference, 2020 hosted by Gems Our Own Indian School, Dubai.

As the Executive Board of the UNHRC, it is our pleasure to have you all for what will be a truly engaging and exciting committee. After days of planning and revisions it is finally here! This background guide is designed to give you crucial bits of information that will aid you through your days of preparation. The agendas we have selected after careful consideration are promising ones meant for exhilarating debate.

One on hand, we have the human rights violations in prison systems; a topic that sheds much light on the ineffective justice systems of many nations. Thousands live in neglected conditions, leading a miserable life and it's up to the delegates to actively partake in negotiations and better their lives. On the other, we shall delve into the catastrophe that is ethnic cleansing. The implications it holds and the morality of the same are some challenging questions we expect the delegates to base their dialogues on.

We have tried our best to make an inclusive background guide applicable to each of your allocations, but it is upto you to read between the lines and research well so as to lead a fruitful debate. We look forward to hosting each one of you and hope to nourish the diplomats in you. Remember delegates, the UN works on the cooperation and goodwill of its 193 member states. This is exactly what we are expecting from each one of you. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of us if you have any queries. Until then, Cheers!

Wishing you all the Best of luck!
Sincerely,

Chairs of HRC,
President- Shruthi Satish
Vice President- Aditya Mayuresh Thite

The United Nations Human Rights Council

1. History of the HRC
 2. Functions
 3. Membership
- The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations, through which States discuss human rights conditions in the UN Member States.
 - The Council’s mandate is to promote “universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all” and “address situations of violations of human rights, including gross and systematic violations, and make recommendations thereon”.
 - The Human Rights Council was formed as a subsidiary body to the UN General Assembly in 2006 through Resolution 60/251. It replaced the previous Human Rights Commission, which served from 1946 through 2006.

Functions

- The Council acts as a forum for international consultation, with input from other stakeholders. The Council may issue resolutions calling on States to take specific actions or uphold certain principles, or it may create mechanisms for investigating or monitoring concerns.
- However, an important point to be kept in mind is that UNHRC is only a recommendatory body and its decisions are non-binding. Whatever consensus is reached in the HRC is further sent to the UNGA and UNSC for voting and if it passes it may become international enforceable law.

Membership

- The Council is composed of 47 Member States, elected by a majority of the members of the General Assembly of the United Nations by direct and secret ballot. The General Assembly takes into account the contribution of the candidate States to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.

- The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution. Members of the Council serve for three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.

“Human Rights Violations in Prison Systems”

The United Nations Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR), one of the foundational documents from which a multitude of human rights agreements subsequently spawned, states that all human beings are equal in dignity and rights. It guarantees equal treatment, or at least a standard minimum treatment, to all people, regardless of the nature, situation, and degree of their transgressions. Unfortunately, there are situations where conditions go unchecked by any regulatory authority, taking away the rights of those imprisoned due to the nature of their crime.

Penal institutions such as prisons, jails and other forms of correctional facilities hold an estimated 11 million people in the world. Prisoner numbers continue to rise in countries all over the world, resulting in severe overcrowding of prisons and other detention facilities. Despite the existence of several international treaties which yearn to safeguard the rights of prisoners, brutal and inhumane treatment in prisons is an ongoing phenomenon either proliferated or ignored by both state and nonstate entities.

Prisons and jails in even the richest and most developed countries are plagued by massive overcrowding, decaying physical infrastructure, inadequate sanitation, lack of medical care, guard abuse and corruption, and prisoner-on-prisoner violence. In many countries abysmal prison conditions are life threatening, leading to inmate deaths from disease, malnutrition, and physical abuse. Moreover, prisoners in general are mistreated differently on account of race, whereas those requiring unique treatment, such as the mentally ill, are in turn not provided special resources they require. Solitary confinement, which is causing more problems than solutions as inmates may not even receive basic food, light, ventilation, or sanitation.

Therefore, it is of utmost importance to recognize that every prisoner, no matter their crimes, is afforded the fundamental human rights as outlined by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and supporting documents such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and United Nations Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Key terms

1. **Prisoner:** An individual who is kept in prison as punishment for a crime.
2. **Detainee:** A person who is held in custody even though he or she has not yet been convicted of a crime.
3. **Prisoner of War** According to the Oxford Dictionaries, a prisoner of war is a person who has been captured and imprisoned by the enemy in war.

4. **Solitary confinement** A place where a prisoner is completely isolated from others.
5. **War Crimes:** an act that constitutes a serious violation of the laws of war that gives rise to individual criminal responsibility.
6. **Rehabilitation:** the action of restoring someone to health or normal life through training and therapy after imprisonment, addiction, or illness:
7. **Penitentiary:** a prison for people convicted of serious crimes.
8. **Recidivism:** the tendency of a convicted criminal to reoffend

Timeline

DATE	DESCRIPTION OF EVENT
1552	The world's first prison opens in London, England as Brideswell House of Correction. The purpose of Houses of Correction was to industrially train petty offenders and beggars through labour.
16th and 17th century	Prisons of this period were badly maintained and breeding grounds of diseases. Criminal behaviour sanctions tended to be public events that were meant to deter and shame people from committing crimes, with the death sentence reserved for the most heinous crimes.
1704	Two incredibly famous prisons were The Hospice of San Michele and the Maison de Force in Ghent, Belgium. Inmates were whipped and had to adhere to the rule of silence. These prisons were considered to be ideal models of the prison institution at the time.
19th century	Introduction of the state prison. Although prisoners were allowed to associate with one another, they were kept in separate cells in the penitentiaries. Labour was also mandatory, but usually consisting of menial tasks such as, picking tarred rope and weaving.
1842	Labour was no longer used to train prisoners but rather acted as further punishment. Other forms of punishment included the psychologically

	endangering tactics of solitary confinement that has since become known as a form of torture
1873	The first separate female prison established. Before instituting the first female prison, women were housed with men. They also received the same punishment as men. For that reason, women were preyed upon by both inmates and prison guards. In the early female prisons, women were often housed in cottages. The conditions for women in state prisons remained the same. They were subject to abuse and often required to endure long hours of hard labour
1898	The UK's prison act Prison Act of 1898 reasserted that the main purpose of prison was rehabilitation. Onset of the rehabilitation and progressive era. Around this time, the philosophy behind imprisonment saw a shift - even the names of prisons were changed to “correctional institutions”. The main goals of this period were to increase job opportunities and to ensure the psychological health of prisoners.
1899	A special court for underage offenders was established (Juvenile court). This type of court was informal, and the goal was for young offenders to be rehabilitated. Vocational and academic programs were encouraged. Judges were expected to avoid custody if possible. Parole began at the end of the 1800s. When it was instituted, many prisoners were already receiving clemency, pardons and early release for good behaviour. Parole began with reformatories but spread to all prisons
August 12, 1949	The Third Geneva Convention revises and replaces the Geneva Convention adopted in 1929. The Third Geneva Convention defines prisoners of war and secures their rights, including the right to humane treatment, which prohibits different types of violence and torture.
1974	The Attica Riot in New York results in 43 deaths and becomes known as one of the most significant uprisings of the Prisoners’ Rights Movement. The prisoners were fueled by a demand for better living conditions and political rights.

1990	With the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the General Assembly adopts the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners.
March 1997	Russia's prosecutor general announced that about 2,000 inmates had died of tuberculosis in the previous year.
September 1997:	A special commission of inquiry, appointed after the 1995 death of a prominent businessman in India's high-security Tihar Central Jail, found that the 10,000 inmates held in that institution endured serious health hazards, including overcrowding, "appalling" sanitary facilities, and a shortage of medical staff.
October 2001	The UN special rapporteur on torture, Juan Mendez, calls for the eradication of long-term solitary confinement punishments.
January 2010	Prisoners in Haiti riot in the wake of the earthquake that had left prisons in inhumane conditions. The police kill over 12 rioters.
March 2010	Norway's Halden prison officially opens and further improves. Norway's prison system reputation as the world leader in humane and respectful treatment of prisoners
2011	A prison in Switzerland undergoes a complete renovation after the Council of Europe criticizes it as unsanitary and overcrowded.
January 2013	A riot between prisoners kills 25 in Venezuela's Caracas prison, marking the third year where there is a violent prison riot in Venezuela
December 2014	The UN General Assembly adopts its fifth and most recent resolution on curbing the use of death penalty.

Key issues

Prisoners, even though sentenced to spend a certain amount of time in prison for a crime, still have rights, which are granted internationally by binding and supported by nonbinding documents. Most of the time their rights are being ignored and they have to endure a traumatizing time in prison. As delegates, we expect you to tackle the following issues in the prison system:-

1. Inhumane treatment

Most of the inmates are subjected to an inhumane treatment, which comes from either their fellow inmates or from the staff members. Very often inmates are made victims of rape, physical and verbal violence, threats, psychological manipulation, and other methods of physical or mental torture. In most cases, inmate victims are too scared to reach out for help because they believe they will worsen their situation or they simply cannot ask anyone for help. Unfortunately, such events can leave victims with physical and physiological traumas for life, making their adaptation back into society even harder.

2. Punishment

Sometimes inmates get punished during their sentence for reasons such as being violent, trying to commit suicide, or for not respecting other prison regulations. Usually, the punishment consists of solitary confinement, which is considered by many as a measure that is causing more problems than solutions. During their stay in solitary confinement, inmates might not receive basic food, light, ventilation, or sanitation, which is completely out of order, as prisoners cannot be denied fundamental human necessities. Moreover, solitary confinement can be seen as a breach in treaties such as the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

3. Conditions

Globally, the existing number of prisons that do not offer adequate conditions and basic human necessities is still high. For instance, due to overcrowding, prisoners have to live in an unhygienic environment, which can cause an easy spreading of diseases. Furthermore, many prisons lack medical supplies, adequate food, ventilation, and enough sanitation facilities.

4. Classification of prisoners

In some countries, such as India, prisoners are classified in different classes, which are not based on their criminal records. Such classification can represent a serious issue as more dangerous prisoners can easily take advantage of and abuse new prisoners who do not impose a threat.

5. Staff indifference

Prison staff often ignores cases of rape or any type of violence, even when it happens right in front of them. In many cases, staff members abuse inmates themselves. The reasons behind their indifference could be the lack of training they receive, low salary, the few promotion opportunities, and the fact that they never get punished for their illegal actions.

Major parties involved

NORTH AMERICA

North America does hold relatively high standard prison systems, which is unsurprising given its development as a continent. However, its prison systems are far from faultless. The United States in particular has been criticized for overcrowded prisons and rampant use of solitary confinement, both factors that have led to several prisoner riots. In fact, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world. Recidivism has also stayed at 40% despite the country's massive investment on incarceration. La Salle prison in Louisiana has exhibited abusive behaviour which has caused the deaths of several inmates. A prolonged issue in the USA is the unjust treatment of coloured, and the ethnic communities. All these inhumane conditions of prisons are something that must be addressed immediately.

SOUTH AMERICA

The prison system in South America is notorious for being one of the worst in the world in terms of overcrowding and violence. Little to no care for human rights of prisoners and rehabilitation has also led to high recidivism riots and a plethora of riots. In Venezuela, the gruesome treatment meted out has led to prisoners with bruises and scores on their bodies. The infirmaries of several prisons held prisoners who had been badly beaten or shot by members of the Guard. The violations of the internationally guaranteed human rights of women incarcerated in prisons and jails in South America is to a disturbing extent. The violations include rape and other forms of sexual abuse, the inhuman and degrading use of restraints on incarcerated women who are pregnant or seriously ill, inadequate access to treatment for physical and mental health needs, and confinement in isolation for prolonged periods in conditions of reduced sensory stimulation.

EUROPE

European prisons arguably set the golden standard for penal institutions worldwide. The success of their prisons begin with their underlying rationale that focuses on rehabilitation; the primary goal of imprisonment in Germany, for example, is to enable prisoners to “lead a life of social responsibility free of crime upon release.” The successful reintegration of prisoners is emphasized as a key component of public safety, along with the removal of offenders from society. European prisoners are also given much more control than those of other countries. Socialist European countries in particular such as Denmark and Netherlands have low recidivism and occupancy rates, which can be attributed to a heavy reliance on prison alternatives. Despite all this there still exists prisons with high violence and abuse cases. For example, in one of the most merciless prisons in Russia commonly referred to as the Black Dolphin, inmates are given excruciatingly painful living conditions.

ASIA

The prison systems of Asia and the Middle East are no exceptions when it comes to the pattern of abysmal prison conditions, with countless instances of overcrowding, prisoner abuse, and violence. Less developed countries require significant increases in funding to achieve effective and human systems, whereas countries such as Japan have prisons under capacity but face criticism for harsh disciplinary measures. The prison system in Japan enjoys low recidivism rates that can also be attributed to the employment of rehabilitation programs in prisons. On the other hand, the prison systems in the Middle East mirror the volatile status of the region itself. Amnesty International reported horrifying accounts of torture, mass deaths, and inhuman conditions in Syria. One of the major issues in the Indian system is the classification of the prisoners on the basis of caste, religion and social standards. Prison systems need to be rectified and massive reforms are to be brought in this region.

AFRICA

The alarming conditions in the majority of African prisons has brought enough negative publicity that it has sparked some reforms. Unfortunately, the strides that the African prison system has put forward are overshadowed by far more withstanding issues. Prisons are underfunded and overcrowded, with sewage, ventilation, and general hygiene problems along with an inefficient justice system. In 2013, a UN report found that more than 100 prisoners in Congo had died in a year. While most died from the malnutrition and poor healthcare, more than 10% died after mistreatment or torture from prison and security forces. The two former conditions are not unique to Africa’s prisons -- the entire continent is deprived of resources -- but

the instances of torture needs to be addressed. African prisoners are also especially at risk of the HIV/AIDS that are easily spread due to the close proximity and high amount of prisoner rape.

Past actions

- Setting up NGOs such as Amnesty International or the Human Rights Watch, who have been making great efforts to protect the rights of prisoners by observing and publishing violations made upon them, and by suggesting measures to combat this issue.
- Launch of different specialized committees such as the CAT, the CPT, and the SPT whose primary function is to investigate as many detention places as possible and make sure that the Conventions are being respected.
- Establishment of UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, and the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Person under Any Form of Detention and imprisonment. (These were penned guided by the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)
- Other international instruments to tackle this issue are the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

Focusing Questions

1. What steps can the international community take to ensure accountability for prison conditions?
2. What should the UNHRC's long-term role be in upholding human rights in prisons? How can we hold prison staff and wardens accountable?
3. How can we delineate the basic human rights of prisoners, drawing upon and reinforced by past agreements as well as current events?
4. What is the degree to which treatment of prisoners may vary based on the prisoners' personal attributes, such as in the case of those with pre-existing physical and medical conditions or those of foreign origin?

5. Does your country allow for the infringement of its worst offenders' human rights? Would your country still support their protection if they have conducted crimes such as rape, murder, or cannibalism

Recommended Readings

Basic Principles of Treatment of Prisoners.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/BasicPrinciplesTreatmentOfPrisoners.aspx>

Ethical Management of Prisons

http://www.prisonstudies.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/handbook_2nd_ed_eng_8.pdf

United Nations Declaration of Human Rights

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

WHO Health reports on prison inmates

https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/99018/E90174.pdf?ua=1

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[Protecting the human rights of prisoners](#)

[Monitoring Prisons to Prevent Abuse](#)

[Health and human rights in prisons - ICRC](#)

[Abuse Of The Human Rights Of Prisoners In The United States: Solitary Confinement](#)

[Violations of Human Rights of Prison Inmates](#)

[Inmates' rights & sexual abuse in South Africa's prisons – Sonke Gender Justice](#)

[History And Development Of Corrections 1700 Present Timeline](#)

[Abuse Of The Human Rights Of Prisoners In The United States: Solitary Confinement](#)

“The Issue of Humanitarian Cleansing”

Humanitarian cleansing is the systematic forced removal of ethnic, racial and/or religious groups from a given territory. It can further be divided into ethnic cleansing and genocide. Ethnic cleansing is a term which came into common use in 1992 during the war in the former Yugoslavia. It was initially applied to describe Serbian attacks on Bosnian Muslims with the intention of driving the Muslims from territory claimed by the Bosnian Serbs.

According to a report issued by the United Nations secretary-general, the frequent occurrence of ethnic cleansing in the 1990s was attributable to the nature of contemporary armed conflicts, in which civilian casualties and the destruction of civilian infrastructure are not simply by-products of war, but the consequence of the deliberate targeting of non-combatants. In many conflicts, belligerents target civilians in order to expel or eradicate segments of the population, or for the purpose of hastening military surrender. Ethnic cleansing as a concept has generated considerable controversy. Some critics see little difference between it and genocide.

Defenders, however, argue that ethnic cleansing and genocide can be distinguished by the intent of the perpetrator: whereas the primary goal of genocide is the destruction of an ethnic, racial, or religious group, the main purpose of ethnic cleansing is the establishment of ethnically homogeneous lands, which may be achieved by any of a number of methods including genocide.

Ethnic cleansing has not been defined and is not recognized as a crime under international law, according to the UN. In reality, the lines between ethnic cleansing and genocide are often blurred. The United Nations first defined genocide in 1948 in the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. The treaty outlines five acts that can constitute genocide if they are done “with the intent to destroy an ethnic, national, racial or religious group”. To qualify as genocide, the actions must be done with intent to eliminate an entire group of people. Without provable intent, a group or individual can still be guilty of “crimes against humanity” or “ethnic cleansing” but not genocide.

“Your motivation may be that you want the people out, but if in doing that you intend to destroy the group, then it’s also genocide,” said James Silk, a human rights professor.

Ethnic cleansing has not been recognized as an independent crime under international law. The expression “ethnic cleansing” has been used in resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and has been acknowledged in judgments and indictments of the

ICTY, although it did not constitute one of the counts for prosecution. A definition was never provided. However, the ‘Responsibility to Protect’ doctrine says that if a state is unable to protect its own populations from “genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” then the international community must do something. But again, international law cannot be enforced without support from both individual states and the international Community.

Key Terms

1. Ethnic cleansing

Ethnic cleansing is the attempt to create ethnically homogeneous geographic areas through the deportation or forcible displacement of persons belonging to particular ethnic groups. Ethnic cleansing sometimes involves the removal of all physical vestiges of the targeted group through the destruction of monuments, cemeteries, and houses of worship.

2. Genocide

Genocide is the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group. It is an internationally recognised crime.

3. Responsibility to Protect Doctrine

The Responsibility to Protect is a global political commitment which was endorsed by all member states of the United Nations at the 2005 World Summit in order to address its four key concerns to prevent genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

History

Humanitarian cleansing is not just a phenomenon of today’s day and age. It had been widely present in the ancient and medieval periods as well. Some scholars have pointed to the forced resettlement of millions of people by the Assyrians in the 9th and 7th centuries BC as perhaps the first cases of ethnic cleansing. Among other examples cited are the mass execution of the Danes by the English in 1002, attempts by the Czechs to rid their territories of Germans in the Middle Ages, the expulsion of Jews from Spain in the 15th century, and the forced displacement of Native Americans by white settlers in North America in the 18th and 19th centuries. Others argue that ethnic cleansing, unlike earlier acts of forced resettlement, is the result of certain uniquely 20th-century developments, such as the rise of powerful nation-

states fuelled by nationalist and pseudoscientific racist ideologies in conjunction with the spread of advanced technology and communications. Examples of ethnic cleansing understood in this sense include the Armenian massacres by the Turks in 1915–16, the Nazi Holocaust of European Jews in the 1930s and '40s, the expulsion of Germans from Polish and Czechoslovak territory after World War II, the Soviet Union's deportation of certain ethnic minorities from the Caucasus and Crimea during the 1940s, and the forced migrations and mass killings in the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda in the 1990s.

Key players and major incidents

Ethnic cleansing, a staple of geopolitical crises in the 1990s, is making a comeback. According to Freedom in the World, the annual report on political rights and civil liberties published by Freedom House, the number of countries earning a score deduction for some form of forced demographic change increased from three in 2005 to 11 in 2018.

In Syria's multi sided war, belligerents including the Assad regime and the Islamic State have engineered mass displacement, starvation, and purges of entire communities. And in South Sudan, both pro-government and rebel fighters have committed atrocities against civilians from rival ethnic groups, though government-aligned forces have been responsible for the worst abuses. In Bahrain, the repressive Sunni monarchy has engaged in a long-term attempt to erode the Shiite majority and tip the country's demographic balance in favor of the Sunni minority.

The failure of the United States and other democratic powers to respond effectively to these abuses has encouraged major autocracies to embrace more extreme measures, like forced demographic change, in pursuit of their domestic or geo-political agendas. Since its seizure of Crimea, the Kremlin has systematically enhanced the Russian military and civilian presence in the territory while deporting Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars, or forcing their departure through acts of persecution.

China is engaged in campaigns to transform the populations of three regions with sizable ethnic minorities: Tibet, Inner Mongolia, and Xinjiang. While all three feature organized, long-term efforts to encourage settlement by members of the Han Chinese majority and suppress the cultures and languages of the indigenous minorities, the most ambitious and brutal project is under way in Xinjiang.

Timeline

Date	Description Of Event
5th September 1955	The Istanbul Pogrom, secretly backed by the Turkish government was launched against the Greek population of Istanbul. The mob also attacked some Jewish and Armenian residents of the city. The event contributed greatly to the gradual extinction of the Greek minority in the city and throughout the entire country, which numbered 100,000 in 1924 after the Turko-Greek population exchange treaty. By 2006 there were only 2,500. Greeks living in Istanbul.
5th July 1960	Five days after the Congo gained independence from Belgium, the Force Publique garrison near Léopoldville mutinied against its white officers and attacked numerous European targets.
26th March 1971	During the Bangladesh War of Independence of 1971, the military of Pakistan carried out genocide killing between 300,000 and 3 million people, and around 10 million Bengalis, mainly Hindus, fled the country. Additionally, Many died in the poorly and hastily set up refugee camps in India.
August 1972	Idi Amin's regime forced the expulsion in 1972 of Uganda's entire ethnic Asian population, mostly of Indian descent.
July 1983	In 1983, in Sri Lanka, there were anti-Tamil riots targeting Tamil businessmen in Colombo.
November 1984	In the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, the ruling party Indian National Congress supporters formed large mobs and killed around 3000 Sikhs around Delhi in what is known as the 1984 anti-Sikh riots during the next four days. The mobs acting with the support of ruling party leaders used the Election voting list to identify Sikhs and kill them.
1987-1988	In the 1987 and 1988 Al-Anfal Campaign, the Iraqi government under Saddam Hussein and headed by Ali Hassan al-Majid launched Al-Anfal against Kurdish civilians in Northern Iraq. The Iraqi government Massacred

	100,000 to 182,000 non-combatant civilians including women and children and destroyed about 4,000 villages (out of 4,655) in Iraqi Kurdistan.
February 1990	In 1990, inter-ethnic tensions escalated in Bhutan, resulting in the flight of many Lhotshampa, or ethnic Nepalis, from Bhutan to Nepal, many of whom were expelled by the Bhutanese military.
1991	In 1991, following a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims in Burma, 250,000 refugees took shelter in the Cox's Bazar district of neighboring Bangladesh. According to Helsinki Watch, the campaign of ethnic-cleansing was orchestrated by the Ossetian militants, during the events of the Ossetian–Ingush conflict, which resulted in the expulsion of approximately 60,000 Ingush inhabitants from Prigorodny District.
1991	In Jammu and Kashmir, a separatist insurgency has targeted the Hindu Kashmiri Pandit minority and 400,000 have been displaced, and 1,200 have been killed since 1991. Islamic terrorists infiltrated the region in 1989 and began an ethnic cleansing campaign to convert Kashmir to a Muslim state. Since that time, over 400,000 Kashmiri Hindus have either been murdered or forced from their homes.
April 1992- December 1995	Widespread ethnic cleansing accompanied the War in Bosnia (1992–1995). Large numbers of Croats and Bosniaks were forced to flee their homes by the Army of the Republika Srpska, large numbers of Serbs and Bosnians by the Croatian Defence Council, and Serbs and Croats by the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
April 1994	In 1994, a horrific genocide took place in the central African nation of Rwanda. In 1990, the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), a rebel group composed of Tutsi refugees, invaded northern Rwanda from their base in Uganda, initiating the Rwandan Civil War.
May 2003	In 2003, Sinafasi Makelo, a representative of Mbuti Pygmies, told the UN's Indigenous People's Forum that during the Congo Civil War, his people were hunted down and eaten as though they were game animals.

11 May 2008	South Africa Ethnic Cleansing erupted on 11 May 2008 within three weeks 80000 were displaced the death toll was 62, with 670 injured in the violence when South Africans ejected non-nationals in a nationwide ethnic cleansing/xenophobic outburst.
June 2010	The killing of hundreds of ethnic Uzbeks in Kyrgyzstan during the 2010 South Kyrgyzstan riots resulting in the flight of thousands of Uzbek refugees to Uzbekistan have been called ethnic cleansing by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and international media.
August 2017	In 2017 a new wave of government-sanctioned ethnic cleansing against Rohingya Muslims amounting to genocide with thousands killed and many villages burned to the ground with their inhabitants executed has been reported in Myanmar.
2011–present	During the Iraq Civil War and the consequent Iraqi insurgency, entire neighborhoods in Baghdad are being ethnically cleansed by Shia and Sunni militias.

Past attempts to solve the issue

Following the atrocities committed in the 1990s in the Balkans and Rwanda, which the international community failed to prevent, and the NATO military intervention in Kosovo, which was criticized by many as a violation of the prohibition of the use of force, the international community engaged in a serious debate on how to react to gross and systematic violations of human rights. In September 1999, while presenting his annual report to the UN General Assembly, Kofi Annan reflected upon “the prospects for human security and intervention in the next century” and challenged the Member States to “find common ground in upholding the principles of the Charter, and acting in defense of common humanity”.

The challenge was taken by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), set up by the Canadian Government, which at the end of 2001 issued a report entitled The Responsibility to Protect. The concept of the responsibility to protect drew inspiration of Francis Deng’s idea of “State sovereignty as a responsibility” and affirmed the notion that sovereignty is not just protection from outside

interference – rather is a matter of states having positive responsibilities for their population’s welfare, and to assist each other.

The subsequent report of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, entitled *A more secure world: our shared responsibility* (A/59/565) and the Secretary-General’s 2005 report *In Larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all* (A/59/2005) endorsed the principle that State sovereignty carried with it the obligation of the State to protect its own people, and that if the State was unwilling or unable to do so, the responsibility shifted to the international community to use diplomatic, humanitarian and other means to protect them. Neither report asserted a basis to use force for this purpose other than Security Council authorisation under Chapter VII of the Charter as a last resort, in the event of genocide and other serious international crimes.

At the 2005 high-level UN World Summit meeting, Member States finally committed to the principle of the responsibility to protect by including it into the outcome document of that meeting (A/RES/60/1). Though the concept adopted omitted some of the aspects proposed initially by the ICISS, it retains its fundamental aspects in relation to prevention of and response to the most serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law

Focusing Questions

1. Why do situations in certain countries devolve into humanitarian cleansing?
2. Do leaders in a nation play a major role in dividing a nation and inciting targeted violence against certain communities present in a country?
3. Does foreign intervention in such matters further worsen the situation in a country?
4. Is an increasingly nationalist viewpoint of the masses a warning sign of a future ethnic conflict?
5. Does the neglect of the majority community in a country play cause agitation that results in ethnic tensions?
6. Are the minority communities the sole victims of ethnic cleansing?

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