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TECMUN Jr.

Economic and Social
Commission for Asia and
the Pacific

Outline of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The origins of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific -hereinafter referred to as ESCAP- can be traced back to the creation of the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East (ECAFE) in 1947 which was created in Shanghai, China, with the purpose of helping reconstruct the economy after World War II.

The Commission changed its name from ECAFE to ESCAP in 1974 to establish that the objective was to promote the development of the member countries in Economic and Social ways. Nowadays, the biggest challenge the commission faces is to improve the life standards of the 680 million people that live in poverty.

ESCAP is formed by 53 members that include big countries like the People's Republic of China to small islands like Samoa, Fiji and Tonga. The commission also counts with the support of nine associate members that do not have the same privileges as the member countries. The commission's objectives include:

- Promoting and strengthening the economic and social development by implementing policies and programmes.
- Using and taking advantage of trade agreements among countries and regions.
- Creating good relationships in Nongovernmental Organizations and Companies.
- Observing and registering the progress of member countries in the development goals and regional targets.

Topic A

Measures to prevent and decrease violations
against the Rohingya People in the Pacific

Brief introduction of the topic

The origins of the current situation in Myanmar (formerly known as Burma) especially in the Rakhine State are traced back to the early 1800's with the migration of different Muslim communities, including the Rohingya, to Myanmar hoping they could find better opportunities to develop a better lifestyle. Afterwards, the buddhist citizens of Myanmar started developing hard feelings against the Rohingya community. Nowadays, the buddhist community has achieved to repress the Rohingya population arguing that the community does not have the right to establish at their territory since they are not recognized as citizens in Myanmar's 1974 Constitution.

In 2010, the first democratic elections in twenty years were held in the state of Myanmar, even when the improvement is noticeable, elections were considered to be manipulated since the former government party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party - hereinafter referred to as USDP-, had access to state resources and persuaded citizens to support the party. Areas where ethnic groups established were declared unsafe meaning there were many people left without the opportunity to vote. Nevertheless, people voted for the party of their choice, showing preference for the USDP which ended with the 78.5% of the seats in the Parliament. With the new organization chosen, Myanmar's citizens hoped for a change but the change arrived until 2012 when Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize winner, was declared as part of the State Parliament.

As hope started growing in the Muslim communities, tension between ethnic groups increased. The Buddhist hard feelings reached a violent degree after a Rakhine Buddhist woman was raped and murdered by three Muslim men. Arakanese Buddhists responded by killing ten men on a bus before both sides erupted into mobs. After this, the government increased suppression and left Muslim regions in a state of disarray. Worried about the situation, at least 125,000 members of the Rohingya community have fled their residing state, leaving their homes and families becoming Internally Displaced People (IDP)¹.

Cultural Structure of Myanmar

In 300 BC, Burma (Myanmar) was predominantly formed by a Buddhist community known as the *Mon people* which fled Thailand and Cambodia. The arrival of the Mon marked the region's first contact with Buddhism and lead to the actual structure of the country since this ethnic group remains present along with other Buddhist communities. With the passing of years, the Rohingya population

¹ According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees "Internally displaced people (IDPs) have not crossed a border to find safety. "

appeared and settled in the Rakhine State where tensions between both ethnicities are most palpable since Burmese Muslims are continually subjugated and isolated.

In 1531, the country was formally united by Toungoo dynasty and the country underwent a period of militaristic expansion. In 1824, the Anglo-Burmese War broke out in the region. The Burmese lost to British India and were forced to recognize the Manipur, Cachar, and Jaintia provinces of Burma as British territories, with this, an economic subjugation started in Burma. It was not until 1948 when the country became a stable and independent State.

After the end of the Second World War, ethnic tensions between the Rohingya and Buddhists began to increase in the eastern regions. This was due to the lack of recognition of ethnic minorities within the Burmese government since the 1982 Burma Citizenship Law excludes the Rohingya from a list of 135 ethnic minorities present in Myanmar and denies them citizenship, the government claims that the people who call themselves Rohingya are actually undocumented Bengali people from Thailand. Only people who can prove that their ancestors settled in Myanmar prior to the 1823 Anglo-Burmese War are eligible for citizenship, but in 2013, the International Communications Group estimated that 70% of Rohingyas do not have “sufficient proof” of their ancestry. As a result, the 1982 Burma Citizenship Law allows the government to disenfranchise the group and allows them to be treated as IDPs within Myanmar.

Political and Economic Situation in Myanmar

In 1947, elections put in power the Anti-Fascists People's Freedom League, which then created the Union of Burma. Prime Minister Thakin Nu (U Nu) came into power and the public viewed him as a weak leader for the already unstable state of Burma. The Prime Minister appointed General Ne Win to several cabinet positions, all of which he occupied until 1958. General Win took power as the head of the Burmese Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) in 1962 during a military coup d'état. It was under General Win's rule that the Rohingya first lost their right to citizenship.

After General Win abdicated in 1988, the militia took power for two years until democratic elections were held in 1990. The results showed considerable gains for the oppositional party, the National League for Democracy since the party resulted elected. Even though, the military forces chose to place NLD's leader Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest several times in order to leave the status quo of the democratic movement within Myanmar until she was left free in 2010. During the

aforementioned arrest, a militaristic regime was established under the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) party, and remained in power until 2011. The military government did little to unify the country despite its ethnic differences and, in fact, only encouraged further repression towards the Rohingya community.

In 2007, the economic situation in Myanmar rapidly deteriorated. The government removed subsidies on natural gas and oil, causing wages to decrease and gasoline prices to rise. Those government actions were answered with public protest, which led to a crackdown on activists. Buddhist monks, who are seen in the country as symbols of the common man, began to criticize the government action in several states, which led to even greater distrust of the government. The Saffron Revolution, as it would later be called, was brutally crushed by the government. Monks were publically tied to lampposts and beaten, while protesters and activists were arrested.

Myanmar's Government Reaction

The government of Myanmar still does not acknowledge the Rohingya as an ethnic minority and consequently increases the hostility towards the community. On 29 June 2012, Buddhists began calling for an ethnic cleansing by implementing the isolation of the Muslim population, disseminating pamphlets condemning their presence in Myanmar and urging Arakanese people to stop associating with the Rohingya or Bengali people. Additionally, they began to cause fear of the NGOs that were providing aid to the communities. Subsequently, the government launched an investigation into the Rakhine State which showed that 858 people, including UN workers, had been detained in connection with ethnic violence, 5,000 houses had been burnt down, at least 100 people had been injured during violent outbursts, 40,000 people were displaced, as well as 70 Muslims killed in the Mrauk U province, including 28 children. The military forces and the government were condemned during this period of relatively less violence due to the lack of intervention when the aforementioned conflict started.

The government does not recognize the refugee issue as a problematic that concerns the state even when two boats filled with people claiming to be from Myanmar were rescued. Foreign Minister states that, after further investigation, they appear to be international trafficking victims lured with the promise of better jobs in other country. Besides, the government stated that aid will be provided to them beyond the initial emergency services if the victims are revealed to be Burmese citizens.

Association of Southeast Asian Nations Heeds Concerns for the Rohingya

Myanmar was recognized as member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, commonly known as ASEAN, in 1997. The country has faced many obstacles in the Association since it does not adhere to the code of conduct, economic fluidity that the organization promotes and human rights standards, these obstacles are the source of tension between ASEAN member countries due to the fact that Myanmar does not fully implement Human Rights.

The organization argues to the international community that it does not have a place to intervene in the persecution of the Rohingya people within Myanmar since a violation of fundamental policies would be carried out. Additionally, any action that the organization takes must be passed by a consensus vote.

Western states have said that ASEAN's eagerness to provide Myanmar with a platform to increase their economic status without improving their Human Rights status has changed the course of Western sanctions which were placed on Myanmar and cause them to disregard the severity of their actions. Many of the Rohingya have sought refuge in Indonesia and Malaysia due to the high concentration of muslims in the region. it was only after 2012 that countries began to feel public pressure to act against the Burmese government. Indonesia had previously accepted Rohingya "boat people" after a warning from the non-governmental organization (NGO) Human Rights Watch for the community to make arrangements for more refugees, the Indonesian government looked for ASEAN to provide more support.

In August 2012, the Secretary-General of ASEAN released a statement saying that ASEAN would monitor the situation and requested that the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) set up camps in destination countries. However, UNHCR rejected his request and countries in the area had to seek alternative methods of funding, as well as to rely heavily on NGOs. According to UNHCR, the reason for its refusal was that despite the one million Rohingya living outside of Burma, no country had formally accepted refugees and thus it did not have the jurisdiction to intervene. The 2012 ASEAN Summit commented that one possible outcome for a coordinated effort was via the Bali Process, a comprehensive ASEAN program that works to address human trafficking and associated transnational crimes, in 2013 the issue of the Rohingya refugees was left off of the agenda.

Since 2010, multiple international influences want to impulse Myanmar's democratic system there have been a lot of international influences by powerhouses to impulse Birmania to have a better democratic system by including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights given by the United Nations into their laws to stop the racism and violence that happen in this country. Important people

as the president of the United States has affirmed that the process of Birmania to become a more democratic country has began but it will take more time to arrive to a more established governments.

Big international organizations and countries like the European Union, United States and Australia have imposed special punishments to the government of Myanmar because of the violation of the Human Rights against the Rohingya population expelled by the military gabinet that caused some economic and politic blocks to let the government understand the kind of misbehavior that this people is having against the people of Rohingya.

International concern

In the international aspect, this problem has remain under the darkness and only a few countries and presidents of each country have mentioned what is really happening in this place and taking measures strongly enough to stop the violence that happens to this minority in Myanmar.

Some of the Rohingya people have tried to scape of all this violence to their neighbor counties and ask for help or just a place to live peacefully. Most of the immigrants escape to Malaysia, Bangladesh, Indonesia or Thailand by ships and searching for a place to not be discriminated, which the governments of those countries have accepted them temporarily while the whole violence situation is solved.

Presidents of important powerhouses and also some delegates of the United Nations including the United States and Australia have demanded to the Birmanian government to reject the articles that aloud the racism and violence against the minorities of the country and begin a process of freedom of expression, and including the statement that aloud this minority to obtain the citizenship to the country and get all the Birmanian rights as Human Rights.

This requirement has been rejected by the Birmanian government arguing that this minority does not even represent the 15% of their total population meaning it is not enough to make a juridical change in their constitution even because of the fact that the Rohingya people do not belong to the Muslims.

Recently the European Union has taken off almost all of the punishments given to Birmania by the great progress during the process of democratization but the presidents of this institution have affirmed that the work is not over. The president of Birmania accept to make changes to the politics but there are also social aspects to consider in this problem, it is needed to eradicate the racism and violence in the Birmanian population to convert them in a peaceful society.

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Glossary

A

Achieved: to bring to a successful end; carry through; accomplish.

Aforementioned: cited or mentioned earlier or previously.

Afterwards: at a later or subsequent time; subsequently.

Agreements: an arrangement that is accepted by all parties to a transaction.

Among: in, into, or through the midst of; in association or connection with; surrounded by.

C

Commission: an authoritative order, charge, or direction.

Concern: to relate to; be connected with; be of interest or importance to; affect.

D

Disarray: to put out of array or order; throw into disorder.

Disenfranchise: a person or group of people who are stripped of their power.

E

Erupted: to break out of a pent-up state, usually in a sudden and violent manner

Ethnic: pertaining to or characteristic of a people, especially a group (ethnic group) sharing a common and distinctive culture, religion, language, or the like.

H

Hereinafter: afterward in this document, statement, etc.

I

Implementing: to fulfill; perform; carry out.

L

Lure: anything that attracts, entices, or allures.

M

Migrating: to go from one country, region, or place to another.

Militia: a body of citizens enrolled for military service, and called out periodically for drill but serving full time only in emergencies.

Mobs: a disorderly or riotous crowd of people.

O

Outcome: a final product or end result; consequence; issue.

P

Palpable: readily or plainly seen, heard, perceived, etc.; obvious; evident.

Pamphlets: a complete publication of generally less than 80 pages stitched or stapled together and usually having a paper cover.

Promoting: to help or encourage to exist or flourish; further.

R

Raped: an act of plunder, violent seizure, or abuse; despoliation; violation

S

Standards: something considered by an authority or by general consent as a basis of comparison; an approved model.

Strengthening: to gain strength; grow stronger.

Subjugated: to bring under complete control or subjection; conquer; master.

T

Traced: a barely discernible indication or evidence of some quantity, quality, characteristic, expression, etc.

Transnational: going beyond national boundaries or interests.

U

Undergo: to be subjected to; experience; pass through.

Topic B

Humanitarian implications of human
experimentation in the Democratic People's
Republic of Korea

By: Yael Ruiz Morales

Brief introduction to the topic

The existence of human experimentation can be traced back to the ends of the 1900 when Edward Jenner looked for an antidote to smallpox and discovered that dairymaids did not have smallpox and inserted samples of dairymaid blood in an eight-year old. This type of experimentation is defined as the usage of human beings as subjects.

Human experimentation in North Korea has only been proved by defectors that left the country, in most of the cases, they report execution and torture. The most known case is the one shared by the scientist known as Mr Lee, he claimed that he had evidence on a 15 GB storage device.

The former military chief of the North Korean embassy in Beijing, Kwon Hyuk said to Anthony Barnet, reporter of the Guardian "I witnessed a whole family being tested on suffocating gas and dying in the gas chamber,' he said. 'The parents, son and and a daughter. The parents were vomiting and dying, but till the very last moment they tried to save kids by doing mouth-to-mouth breathing.'" (Hyuk quoted by Barnet, 2004).

In the borders of North Korea with China and Russia, the modern concentration camps are located, this place is known as Camp 22. This camps hold between 1, 500 and 2, 000 prisoners. Few are the people that have lived to tell the truth about the camp.

. The different types of experiments can be classified into three principal categories:

- a) **Freezing experiments:** Basically performed by the German air force and the German Experimental Institution for Aviation, experiments related to pressure at chambers (especially at flying). Also the human body was exposed to different freezing temperatures and the reaction of it was studied.
- b) **Nutrition experiments:** Taken into performance by different scientists specialized on nutrition. The objective of these was to create new aliments which resulted cheaper and more nutritional, however, sometimes the reaction of the body after eating certain substances was studied. A destacable experiment from this area was the search of transform seawater into potable water.
- c) **Diseases experiments:** This classification is the one which was more often, emphasised on the immunization and treatments to diseases, either contiguous or genetical. Many substances and procedures were applied in these. The search for cures and treatments for some diseases impulsed this type of experiments.

- d) **Contraceptive method experiments:** Procedures for avoiding pregnancy and also to stop it were developed. These experiments involved violations to women and extreme violence.

Prisoners becoming human “guinea pigs”

Since 1979 there had been reports of human experimentation in North Korea, these reports were made by non governmental organisations such as Amnesty International. More than 120,000 people are believed to be held in experimentation camps where they are exposed to food deprivation, torture, surgery without anesthesia, chemical and biological weapons testing.

Many witnesses have defected about the crimes against humanity committed by North Korea, one of them is Dr. Kim Mengele, former North Korean research chemist who relates that the main purpose of the experimentations during the 1990’s was to determine how long takes for a human to die. They determined this by exposing innocent citizens to chlorine, hydrogen cyanide, sarin and a variety of mustard gases.

“In a country like North Korea, when the state tells you what to do, you are supposed to follow orders. Now when I think of the death of that political prisoner, I feel like a war criminal. The purpose of this experiment was to determine how long it takes for a human being to die when X amount of gas is put into X Cubic metres of space. Since this was for military purposes we wanted to determine how much gas is necessary to annihilate the whole city of Seoul.”
- Dr. Kim Mengele

Another defector is Im Cheon-yong an officer in North Korea special forces, related during 1990’s that he saw test being carried out in kids with disabilities. He explained that *“For the biological and chemical warfare tests, we needed ‘objects’”*.

Camp 22

The idea of establishing concentration camps that held prisoners originates in 1929 when Stalin’s Politburo considered that concentration camps should be moved to the country borders in the farthest part of the country without taking into consideration the conditions of the aforementioned. Once the camps were finished, prisoners were transported and, months later, forced to work.

In North Korea, there are numerous labor camps and detention facilities but, Camp 22 is considered to be one of the largest and most terrible, this due to the fact that as former guards and staff stated experiments taking place in the camp do not distinguish between sex or age.

The experiments that are made in the camp mainly have a medical purpose, according to Ahn Myung Chul, Former Guard of Detention Settlements “political prisoners are used for surgery practice, without anesthesia or other necessary medical provisions.” (Myung, 2006). On the other hand, some of the prisoners are taken to gas chambers made out from glass where scientists observe and take notes. The aforementioned experiments are often used to know the amount of gas needed to murder a group of people.

Other cases of Human Experimentation

- **Nazi Medical Experiments**

During World War II (1939-1945), the nazis retained people at concentration camps. There, they were treated as prisoners and were abused in almost every possible form. The concentration camps were populated mainly by jewish people. They were submitted to be participant of inhuman treatments in very painful and often deadly experiments. During those times of war, scientists at these places, had the mission of experiment for medical purposes and develop new medicines or quirurgical treatments; this lead to constant experiments where people was obligated to be part of these mortal experiments.

- **Unit 731**

The unit 731 was one of the biological warfare research centres. Led by lieutenant-General Ishii Shiro, thousands of japanese people working at the headquarters of the Unit 731 infected live human beings with diseases such as the plague and anthrax and then eviscerated them without anesthesia to see how the diseases affect human organs.

- **Aversion project**

This project is considered mainly as a medical torture because of the treatments the people involved received, it was programed in South Africa led by Dr. Aubrey Levin. The objective of this project was to “cure them” of homosexuality with chemical castration and electric shock treatment. In this project they were shown pictures of naked men to incite them to fantasize, if they arrived at a point in which they reply in a sexual way, the person-in-charge would administer a shock. This project was financed by the Republic of South Africa but was not recognized by it. Many Human Rights of people who suffered and were

participants of the project were violated from people who suffered and was participant from the project, mainly the right of freedom, having a good treatment, not being tortured, expression liberty and more.

- **Tuskegee syphilis project**

Was developed in the city of Tuskegee, Alabama, United States. In 1932 the public health services worked with 600 afroamerican men (399 with syphilis and 201 who did not have the disease). This study was executed without the benefit of patients and they did not receive the appropriate treatment needed to cure their disease and lasted 40 years. The main purpose from the experiment was to discover how syphilis manifested in humans and their reactions and consequences of it. Treatments against the disease were investigated as well as syphilis itself.

Social Implications

These experiments attempt in many ways to the victims' integrity since they violate their human rights, principally the right of life, right of liberty, right of no slavery, right of not being exposed to tortures or cruel behaviours, right of not being overwhelmed, etc. This abuses can not be passed out, none of humans deserve such a bad treatment. As one of the UN's objectives is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character North Korea's place in the organization is at risk.

Government involvement

An official publication in The People's Korea² proclaimed, "...there is no 'human rights problem' in our Republic either from the institutional or from the legal point of view."¹² North Korean diplomats at the United Nations in Geneva continue to deny that there are any violations of human rights in Korea.

There are no laws on the North Korean constitution that bind these actions as bad, North Korea is known because the supreme mandatory of Kim Jong-un who has the complete power and decides how laws are; by doing this, none of the laws in North Korea is being broken (despite there is no evidence for proving all this), however, Human Rights are not being respected nor defended. According to the government of the country, the prisoners are humanely treated, this occurs due to the fact that there is no prove that human experimentation is taking place.

² The People's Korea is a website that reports North Korean news

International Concern

In 2014 the 38 North, a website run by the US-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies published a report that said that North Korea had the capability to produce approximately four thousand five hundred tons of chemical substances, weapons and gases. This agents are tested on prisoners in concentration camps.

By the other hand the same study revealed that North Korea is providing chemical weapons, and technology to countries such as Syria, Egypt, Libya and Iran, this has caused polemic among the United Nations members. This country has been subject of economic sanctions by the United Nations, but the North Korean government has not ceased the experimentations neither the exportations of chemical weapons.

The North Korean government claims to be successful in the chemical and biological test, this has waked an international concern. The international community has set up several forums and meetings to solve this problem, with no result.

Biological weapons can kill hundreds of thousands of people, and maybe even millions if deployed over a wide enough area. While exact facts and figures aren't perfect, there is strong evidence to suggest Pyongyang could possess anthrax weapons as well as possibly cholera, plague and even smallpox. And now that North Korea's missile arsenal is becoming ever more sophisticated by the day.

The RAND corporation reports that:

“The North Korea special forces are a likely means for delivering North Korean biological weapons. North Korea has some 200,000 special forces, a small fraction of which could deliver devastating biological attacks against South Korea, Japan, and even the United States. North Korea could use biological agents in isolation, perhaps as an escalated provocation in which it seeks to infect a limited number of people, or it could use biological agents as the leading edge of an invasion of the ROK, hoping for thousands or even more infections to weaken the ROK's defenses and will to fight. Biological weapon use in the latter context is particularly worrisome.”

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Glossary

B

Bind: To relate or define something.

C

Concentration camp: a type of prison where large numbers of people who are not soldiers are kept during a war and are usually forced to live in very bad conditions.

D

Defector: a person who deserts from a cause, country, alliance, etc.

F

Former: what someone or something was in the past.

L

Lieutenant: an officer in the army, navy, or air force with a fairly low rank.

O

Overwhelm: to defeat (someone or something) completely.

P

Political prisoner: a person put in prison because of his or her political beliefs

Proclaim: to say or state (something) in a public, official, or definite way.

S

Smallpox: a serious disease that causes fever and a rash and often death.

T

Traced back: find out or describe how it started or developed.