

**XXXII**

**TECMUN Jr.**

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Committee Against  
Torture

XXXII TECMUN Jr.  
Session Schedule

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**Wednesday, November 13th**

Registration	8:00 – 9:00 h.
Opening Ceremony	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Break	10:00 – 10:30 h.
First Session	10:30 – 12:30 h.
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Second Session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Third Session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

**Thursday, November 14th**

Master Conference	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Fourth Session	10:00 – 12:30 h.
Break	12:30 – 13:00 h.
Fifth Session	13:00 – 15:00 h.
Meal	15:00 – 16:00 h.
Sixth Session	16:00 – 18:00 h.

**Friday, November 15th**

Seven Session	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Break	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Eight Session	10:00 – 12:00 h.
Break	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Ninth Session	12:30 – 14:40 h.
Meal	14:40 – 16:00 h.
Closing Ceremony	16:00 – 18:30 h.

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**General Agenda**

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*General Secretary: Paulo Souto Núñez*

**GENERAL COORDINATION**

*Subsecretary of General Coordination: Brenda Noreña Mejía*

*Supervisor of General Coordination for Media Content: Gabriel Morales Villanueva*

*Supervisor of General Coordination for co. Secretariat: Samuel Alejandro Herrera Tapia*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*General Subsecretary: William Vázquez Hernández*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: Jennifer Montserrat Abonce Padilla*

**Reunión de Alto Nivel para la Asamblea General**

*Presidente: Samantha Salgado Nájjar*

- A) Estrategias para frenar el desplazamiento masivo en el Sahel Central y en las subregiones de la zona a causa de la carencia de recursos vitales dentro de la región.
- B) Medidas para contrarrestar la privación de los derechos humanos en la República de Colombia y la República Bolivariana de Venezuela, haciendo énfasis en las acciones cometidas por el Ejército de Liberación Nacional (ELN) colombiano.

**First Committee on Disarmament and International Security**

*President: Fátima Fuente del Campo González*

- A) Actions to curb the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear ambitions to enhance security cooperation among countries in East Asia and the United States of America to mitigate the risk of military nuclear conflicts.
- B) Strategies to eradicate illicit weapons' trafficking in Latin America and the United States of America to minimize the number of homicides and crime due to criminal organizations in the region.

**Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe**

*Presidente: Beatriz Mena Torres*

- A) Acciones para contrarrestar las implicaciones económicas en América Latina como consecuencia del lavado de activos, garantizando el crecimiento económico, con énfasis en la República Federativa de Brasil, la República de Haití y los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.
- B) Estrategias para asegurar un impulso y productividad en la región, abordando la cooperación internacional y proyectos regionales, para potenciar el desarrollo económico de la República de Chile y la República de Colombia.

**Committee on Enforced Disappearances**

*President: Daniela Alexa Alcántara Sosa*

- A) Actions to prevent enforced disappearances of migrants crossing the border between the United States of America and the United Mexican States in the presence of the Mexican Cartel, with emphasis on smuggling of migrants in the border state of Tamaulipas.

**B)** Measures to lower enforced disappearances due to human trafficking of women and children with emphasis on the People’s Republic of China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland by the criminal Chinese groups known as the Chinese Triads.

**Fondo de Población de las Naciones Unidas**

*Presidente: Sofía Dominique Morin Anguiano*

**A)** Medidas para erradicar la crisis de salud de las mujeres, madres e infantes en la República Islámica de Afganistán tras el mandato talibán.

**B)** Mecanismos para deconstruir normas sexuales y de género en potencias coloniales con énfasis en salvaguardar los derechos reproductivos y salud sexual de la comunidad transgénero.

**Committee Against Torture**

*President: Eirik Alvin Otto Halvorsen de la Peña*

**A)** Measures to stop torture and other offences to human rights by the militant group Boko Haram in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

**B)** Strategies to eradicate actions of torture and crimes against humanity towards prisoners in penal institutions in the Arab Republic of Syria perpetrated by the prison personnel.

**United Nations Industrial Development Organization**

*President: Ana Mercado Garduño*

**A)** Measures to reduce air pollution as a consequence of the release of toxic substances in the region of South America focusing on the scarcity of sustainable pharmaceutical industrialization.

**B)** Actions to prevent unemployment due to economic crisis in agribusiness value chains located in Africa, emphasizing in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and the Republic of South Africa.

**Grupo Intergubernamental de Expertos sobre el Cambio Climático**

*Presidente: Andrea Abigail Salazar López*

**A)** Medidas para frenar los cambios en el océano y la criosfera vinculados al cambio climático, procurando la seguridad de comunidades afectadas por el nivel del mar y deshielos en los polos.

**B)** Acciones para consolidar la modernización y reformación del uso de fósiles tradicionales hacia fuentes de energía sustentables y renovables con enfoque hacia el cumplimiento del cero neto.

**Organización de los Estados Americanos**

*Presidente: Paulette Mayen Alvarez*

**A)** Mecanismos para contrarrestar el uso erróneo de inteligencia artificial dentro del ciberespacio, con el objetivo de erradicar la piratería de información en la región de Latinoamérica.

**B)** Acciones para verificar el sistema electoral de la República Bolivariana de Venezuela para las elecciones presidenciales, con enfoque al Gobierno que integran la Iniciativa Democrática de España y las Américas (Grupo IDEA) y sus implicaciones sociales dentro de la población.

**ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**  
*General Subsecretary: Miranda Senties Carmona*  
*Supervisor Of General Coordination: María Fernanda Haro García*

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime**  
*President: Guillermo Pacheco Infante*

- A) Actions to combat the large-scale trafficking of synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, between Eastern Asia and America, with an emphasis on the People's Republic of China and the United Mexican States.
- B) Measures to combat drug trafficking via deep web platforms due to the ease of access, focusing on the European region.

**Comité de los Derechos del Niño**  
*Presidente: María José Zárraga García*

- A) Medidas para eliminar la explotación infantil en las minas de la República Democrática del Congo debido a la crisis económica y la falta de regulaciones públicas.
- B) Estrategias para contrarrestar el reclutamiento de niños por parte de grupos armados en la República Federal de Somalia debido al actual conflicto armado civil.

**Office of Legal Affairs**  
*President: Amaya López de Uralde Argüelles*

- A) Measures to guarantee national security in the Republic of Haiti due to the presence of gangs, caused by the civil conflict.
- B) Strategies to assure political freedom in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar given the current increase of tensions due to the military coup of 2021.

**Departamento de Asuntos Políticos y Consolidación de la Paz**  
*Presidente: Claudia Guadalupe Pfeiffer Benítez*

**Tópico único)** Procedimientos para favorecer el diálogo y mediación en el actual conflicto armado entre la Federación Rusa y Ucrania.

**Histórica Organización para la Prohibición de Armas Químicas**  
*Presidente: Patrick Eduardo Cunillé Paniagua*

- A) Medidas para detectar y destruir arsenales químicos en el Estado de Libia tras la caída del régimen de Muamar Gadafi. (2011-2014)
- B) Estrategias para investigar y prevenir el uso de armamento químico en la República del Sudán enfatizando el conflicto de Darfur. (2003-2014)

**Organisation Mondiale de la Santé**  
*Président: Emiliano Melchor Romo*

- A) Mesures pour garantir le bien-être des enfants et des femmes qui allaitent dans la bande de Gaza en raison du conflit et de son impact sur leurs systèmes de santé.

**B)** Stratégies pour aider les femmes et les filles de la République du Yémen face à l'impact de la crise humanitaire, en donnant la priorité à la garantie de leurs droits et à la réduction des effets sur leur vie quotidienne.

#### **Unión Africana**

*Presidente: Leonardo García Mercado*

**A)** Medidas para contrarrestar la crisis alimentaria y sus efectos en la población africana, con énfasis en el Cuerno de África, y la región central y occidental del continente.

**B)** Medidas para mejorar la infraestructura en el comercio intraafricano dentro del Zona de Libre Comercio Continental Africana (AfCFTA) debido a su limitante económica.

#### **Historical Commission on the Status of Women**

*President: Abril Valdés Calva*

**A)** Measures to eradicate the forced abortion and female infanticide with emphasis in People's Republic of China and the Republic of India. (2007 - 2014)

**B)** Strategies to eliminate discrimination and family violence against women in the Arab Republic of Egypt including spousal abuse and female genital mutilation. (1996)

#### **Mercado Común del Sur**

*Presidente: Daniela Melian Briseño González*

**A)** Medidas para disminuir el impacto del cambio climático en la seguridad alimentaria con énfasis en la República Federativa de Brasil.

**B)** Estrategias para combatir la desigualdad de género en el ámbito laboral y educativo con énfasis en la República del Paraguay y la República del Ecuador.

#### **SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND REGIONAL ORGANISMS**

*General Subsecretary: Aranza Michelle Castro Rivero*

*Supervisor of General Coordination: Aarón Badillo Aguilar*

#### **International Law Commission**

*President: Mariana Carolina Guerrero Zárate*

**A)** Measures to enhance the legal response, creating a balance between national sovereignty and international justice; taking as a starting point the case of Omar Al-Bashir, the Republic of the Sudan's longtime ruler, accused of genocide.

**B)** Actions to reduce the impact of the New Pact on Migration and Asylum approved by the European Union, which infringes the international migration law management regime and represents a threat to refugees and asylum seekers leading to forced displacement from Africa.

#### **Organización del Tratado del Atlántico Norte**

*Presidente: Sara Sofía Govantes Cruz*

**A)** Estrategias para contrarrestar la crisis de seguridad migratoria y de refugiados provocada por los conflictos y la inestabilidad en las fronteras meridionales del Mar Egeo, haciendo hincapié en el tráfico ilegal de personas y las redes delictivas.

**B)** Mecanismos para frenar la militarización del Mar Negro y el Mar Báltico debido a la lucha por la influencia creada en el conflicto ucraniano entre miembros de la OTAN y la

Federación Rusa, a fin de salvaguardar, gestionar y cooperar en conjunto para la seguridad marítima.

### **Organismo Internacional de Energía Atómica**

*Presidente: Dulce Regina Ramos Redonda*

- A) Medidas para prevenir accidentes y proteger centrales ante ataques nucleares con énfasis en el reciente caso de Zaporíyia.
- B) Estrategias para promover la accesibilidad a la energía nuclear con fines médicos, con énfasis en zonas rurales de África Subsahariana.

### **International Criminal Police Organization**

*President: Ana Paula García López*

- A) Strategies to combat illicit attacks due to the business and sale of counterfeit medicines in Africa, with emphasis on improving security measures and regulatory compliance.
- B) Actions to counter cybercrime and cyber attacks in the Asia-Pacific region, focusing on the strength and enhancement of cybersecurity measures.

### **Consejo de Seguridad**

*Presidente: Paulina de la Victoria Patiño*

- A) Estrategias para resolver y prevenir un conflicto armado entre la República Popular de China y la República de China ocasionado por los desacuerdos en torno a la unificación del territorio con énfasis en las provocaciones existentes en el estrecho de Taiwán.
- B) Acciones para frenar las constantes tensiones militares en el Mar Amarillo ocasionadas por el latente conflicto entre la República Democrática Popular de Corea y la República de Corea.

### **Counter-Terrorism Committee**

*Presidente: Renata Monroy Montalvo*

- A) Strategies to halt the recruitment and radicalization of members for extremist groups with a focus on countering the influence of the ISIS group in the Middle East.
- B) Measures to strive against the organizational structure of extremist attacks led by the Lashkar-e-Taiba entity, with emphasis on South Asia.

### **Convención de las Naciones Unidas contra la Corrupción**

*Presidente: María José Parra Meza*

- A) Medidas para neutralizar la crisis política dentro de la región del Reino de Tailandia, como consecuencia del conflicto institucional dentro de la región.
- B) Acciones para criminalizar la corrupción de alto nivel por parte de funcionarios públicos ocasionada por inestabilidad gubernamental en la República Bolivariana de Venezuela.

### **World Bank**

*President: Gabriel Salazar Valdovinos*

- A) Strategies to establish post-conflict reconstruction in the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, aiming to reactivate the economy and restore the damages caused by the Tigray civil warlike conflict.

**B)** Strategies to prioritize the economic and social development in the Republic of Haiti, emphasizing on improving the life quality, as political instability and natural disasters have stopped their development.

**Corte Internacional de Justicia**

*Presidente: Yésika Pamela García Trejo*

**A) Aplicación de la Convención contra la Tortura y Otros Tratos o Penas Crueles, Inhumanos o Degradantes** (Canadá y Reino de los Países Bajos v. República Árabe Siria).

**B) Incidente aéreo del 8 de enero de 2020** (Canadá, Reino de Suecia, Ucrania y Reino Unido v. República Islámica de Irán).



*“You gotta have game if you wanna get work”*

*-Rick Ross*

In a world that is ever-changing, with competition being instilled in people from a young age, we must find what makes us different and unique to therefore excel in whatever we decide to do in our lives by bringing something new to the table with our own character in it. TECMUN is an event that for 3 straight days everyone that is involved has the opportunity to try and show their best diplomatic version of themselves. It is an event that changes you as a person for better, it takes you out of your comfort zone which is something incredibly hard to do and many people struggle to leave this zone, so the fact that you are going to be participating is already a big achievement on its own. Even though you may sometimes feel as if your effort does not mean anything out in the real world, believe me it does. You are becoming and helping other young people become informed about the problems that exist in the world with enormous possibilities to make a significant change.

I have now been involved two times in this wonderful event and can say with confidence that it is the highlight of my school experience, and I hope it can be for you as well. As long as you put in your best effort to this model I can assure you that you will find it extremely fun, interesting and full of new knowledge that you would never have imagined to learn, all the way from getting to know new people to learning how to investigate more efficiently. Don't ever underestimate the value of learning something new, a person who is open to criticism and is focused on learning will become the more complete and fulfilled version of themselves.

I believe that the most beautiful thing about these three days is the fact that when you are experiencing it, you feel like nothing else matters or exists. You will unconsciously give it your all which makes it seem as the most important thing in the world, and in those days it genuinely becomes the most vital thing in your life. Coming back to the initial quote, these three days are the perfect moment to get game, you have all the tools, energy, motivation and capabilities to learn, so use this golden moment in your life to make a change and be the change.

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Eirik Alvin Otto de la Peña Halvorsen  
President of the Committee Against Torture for the  
XXXII TECMUN Jr.

# Background

By the article 17 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Committee Against Torture (CAT) was established in 1988 with the aim to eradicate the practice of torture in the world. The commission is conformed by 10 experts on human rights who fulfill the purpose of a monitoring body upon its State Parties, where the State Parties must report within one year of ratifying the Convention, subsequently every four years the actions taken to ensure protection for all persons against torture, inhuman or degrading treatment as well as punishment, and other cruelty. Besides the examination of reports from each State Party, the Committee works on several different activities such as adoption of general comments, consideration of individual communications and the undertaking of inquiries.

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## Faculties

With the goal of protecting all persons against any form of torture or other cruelty; the Committee Against Torture is enabled to:

- Advise States Parties on the implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and may cooperate with other international, regional, and national bodies to promote the objectives of the Convention;
- Initiate confidential inquiries when it receives reliable information indicating that torture is being systematically practiced in a State Party;
- Assist States in developing and strengthening their mechanisms to prevent and respond to torture, providing technical assistance and guidance;

- Request States to take interim measures to prevent irreparable harm to the complainant while a case is under consideration;
- Provide authoritative guidance by giving general comments on the interpretation and application of specific provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- Conduct on-site visits with the consent of the State Party to investigate allegations of systematic torture.

## **Topic A**

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Measures to stop torture and other offences to human rights by the militant group Boko Haram in the Federal Republic of Nigeria

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*By: Eirik Alvin Otto de la Peña Halvorsen and Oscar Avila Pérez*

## ***Background***

Western education is a sin. The English translation of Boko Haram, a Nigerian Islamic militant sect that was founded in 2002 in the northeastern Federal Republic of Nigeria by a man named Mohammed Yusuf, who founded it with the political vision of creating an Islamic state. The creation of the group came with the establishment of a religious complex and schools to attract Muslim families with a lack of resources from across the nation and neighboring countries to join the group, as well as a center for recruiting jihadis<sup>1</sup>. The group started to gain significant amounts of members, mostly unemployed youth, by denouncing the corruption by the police and the State. For the first seven years of operation, Boko Haram allegedly operated mostly peacefully, isolating itself in rural northeastern regions and focusing on building strength and power before engaging in jihad. Despite repeated warnings about the organization's growing militant and aggressive nature, the authorities disregarded them.

In July of 2009, an anti-government revolt led by the leader of the group, Mohammed Yusuf, was provoked by a common practice that the group had, which consisted in hit-and-run attacks on police posts. The conflict between the two sides lasted a total of four days, and took place in five northern Nigerian states; Bauchi, Borno, Kano, Katsina, and Yobe. The conflict came to an end when the police caught Mohammed Yusuf in his residence. They took him into custody for a few hours before he was brutally deprived of his life by police officers, although the official statements alleged that he was deprived of his life while trying to escape. During the revolt more than 1,000 members of Boko Haram were taken their life away and hundreds were arrested.

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<sup>1</sup> **Jihadis:** in Islam, a person who is involved in a religious struggle against evil in themselves or in society. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

Since the attack, the sect has evolved from a unplanned group who led open confrontations with State security forces, to one that increasingly works with explosive devices, targeted exterminations, guerrilla warfare and suicide bombings. There is large documentation of numerous human rights violations perpetrated by the group, specifically targeting civilians. These actions include, severe beatings and mutilations, electric shocks, sexual assaults, and other forms of physical as well as psychological torture. These actions are designed not only to terrorize and control the local population but at the same time to punish those who oppose the sect's ideology or resist their control.

### ***Leadership and factions***

After the murder of Mohammed Yusuf in 2009 due to the revolt, the sect had to undergo massive changes to the group, most importantly the necessity for a new leader. In July 2010, Abubakar Shekau, in a video, claimed to be at the head of the organization. He fashioned the sect into a violent jihadist movement dedicated to destroy the Nigerian state and establishing its own vision of Islam<sup>2</sup> as the law of the land. The goal was taken to such an extent that between July 2009 and January 2012, the group conducted around 160 different attacks, leaving more than 1,000 people dead and internally displacing hundreds of others.

By 2013 the situation inside the country could be described as a warlike conflict, even though the government tried to downplay the seriousness of the problem both to the local civilians and international community. Meanwhile, the group was expanding outside of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, so in 2015, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), rebranding the group into the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP). The goal of the alliance was to boost the group's capabilities as well as gaining international recognition. However, internal disputes<sup>3</sup> arose about the leadership of the group

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<sup>2</sup> **Islam:** the Muslim religion, and the people and countries who believe in it. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

<sup>3</sup> **Dispute:** an argument or disagreement, especially an official one between, for example, workers and employers or two countries with a common border. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

when Abubakar Shekau refused to step down as leader, which forced a split into two main factions: Boko Haram and ISWAP.

Even though the split should have had a negative impact on the insurgency<sup>4</sup>, while it did create complicated efforts because of internal operational disorganization for Boko Haram, the group has become more resilient as different factions can adapt to local conditions and evade coordinated military attacks. The sect has always shown great capability to adapt as seen when Abubakar Shekau committed suicide to avoid being captured by the ISWAP in 2021. Up to the present, Boko Haram has remained with various parts of the group still functioning in their respective areas. The rivalry between these two groups has resulted in an increase of violence as a way to show dominance and acquire resources.

### ***Boko Haram's violations against human rights and acts of torture***

Due to the groups' intense focus on their mission and its loyal members, Boko Haram has for many years now committed acts that violate many basic human rights ever since the inception<sup>5</sup> of the sect, although these actions have increased heavily after their change in leadership in 2009. Their major attacks have mostly taken place inside the Federal Republic of Nigeria, where the attack that brought the most attention worldwide to the group happened in 2014, when dozens of Boko Haram fighters abducted 276 schoolgirls, mostly from the age of 16 to 18, from their school dormitory in Chibok. Within hours of the act, 57 girls were able to escape by jumping out as they drove to Boko Haram's hideout and hiding in bushes. The schoolgirls that weren't able to escape, were victims to physical and mental torture in the camps. They were threatened to be sold as slaves if they didn't cooperate, they had to start practicing Islam, marry their captors and bear their children; they were often married many

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<sup>4</sup> **Insurgency**: an occasion when a group of people attempt to take control of their country by force. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

<sup>5</sup> **Inception**: the beginning of an organization or official activity. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

times in case their husband died in battle. Currently 82 of the schoolgirls are unaccounted for, while the others have been able to escape or be freed.

The abduction of these schoolgirls was an unprecedented action by the sect, creating a wave of shock to the world but it isn't the only time the group has committed such an action. There is another similar case where they abducted 110 schoolgirls in Dapchi, but they were released a month after, due to negotiations. Although most of their major attacks involve large-scale fatalities and bombings, which are hallmark<sup>6</sup> tactics of extremist organizations, Boko Haram's methods are not limited to these forms of violence. One of their deadliest attacks was when the sect attacked the town of Baga, where they deprived around 2,000 people of their lives and practically made the town where more than 300 thousand people lived into a ghost town.

Their actions are part of a broader strategy to intimidate, control, and indoctrinate<sup>7</sup> both their members and the civilian population. A commonality that can be seen in the entirety of these attacks is the persistent and flagrant violation of numerous human rights by the group. Women and girls who are abducted by Boko Haram have faced forced marriages, sexual abuse, sexual slavery and other forms of gender-based violence. Those who escape or are rescued often face stigma<sup>8</sup> and discrimination in their communities. Their violent attacks are carried out by thousands of child soldiers who are forcibly recruited to serve, in some cases, as suicide bombers.

### ***Interaction between the government and the group***

In the beginning, the menace that signified Boko Haram failed to be acknowledged by the Nigerian government and was severely ignored. This was until the revolt that occurred in

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<sup>6</sup> **Hallmark:** a typical characteristic or feature of a person or thing. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

<sup>7</sup> **Indoctrinate:** to often repeat an idea or belief to someone until they accept it without criticism or question. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

<sup>8</sup> **Stigma:** a strong feeling of disapproval that most people in a society have about something, especially when this is unfair. (Cambridge University, n.d.)



2009, where the government officials had a direct confrontation with the group. After this event, the government was forced to start recognizing the humanitarian threat that Boko Haram was for the country. Subsequent to the passing of the group leader, which led to the end of the revolt of 2009, thinking they had defeated Boko Haram, the Nigerian government proclaimed the group eradicated, a statement that turned out to be false as later that year the sect would proclaim their new leader Abudakar Shekau.

Unfortunately, the Republic of Nigeria has not been the only State affected by the group. Since the territory that the group controls is a direct border with the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of the Niger and the Republic of Chad, these countries are also victims to the threats of the attacks. All nations together have tried to manage the situation with border control operations being organized. The Western rejecting organization is known for the violent attacks against the authority, which many times has backfired<sup>9</sup>. In some cases the government would not only target the Boko Haram members or as a group, but occasionally civilians in suspicion of hiding members within their homes, helping with resources or any other way of assistance.

During 2013, president Goodluck Jonathan, declared a state of emergency in the three most affected States by the actions of the group. Later in 2015, president Muhammadu Buhari, launched a military programme called *Operation Lafiya Dole*, deploying new strategies to answer the threat by creating counter-insurgency operations, where they try to reclaim territory held by Boko Haram. The call for help was not ignored and a fair number of countries such as the Republic of Cameroon, the Republic of the Niger and the Republic of Chad helped through the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) providing military aid and even Nigerian allies launched airstrike defense, with a special regional counterterrorism mission from behalf of the African Union (AU). The Nigerian authorities had called for

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<sup>9</sup> **Backfire:** to have the opposite result from the one you intended. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

international help, for the reason that their military forces and civilians are vulnerable to the attacks due to the group being heavily armed and highly unpredictable. Security was intensely enforced throughout the country, although this effort was not enough; suicide bombers, mass shootings and mass kidnappings kept on happening, some of the scare tactics the sect implements mostly as a demonstration of power over the Nigerian authorities.

### ***The Federal Republic of Nigeria's compliance with the Convention Against Torture***

As a signing member of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or to degrading treatment, the Republic of Nigeria has certain obligations that they need to answer to, such as: an initial report a year after the creation of the committee; to have a legal framework that strongly motivates the punishment of torture and to execute it in relation to their local law focusing on the nationality of the author presumed, thus as implementing measures of anticipation for torture; prohibit the extradition<sup>10</sup> of anyone if there is a risk of torture that has occurred to them; and submit a weekly report every four years.

Their first obligation as a delegation to create an initial report failed to be met by the government of the country as they never delivered it or any other document. In 2012, the committee recalled the delegacy about the obligations acquired by joining the committee. Several years later, in 2019, the committee reminded again the relevance of the initial report and offered their help to redact it; which was accepted, and later that year, the delegation would be notified that its situation would be analyzed in two Committee Against Torture (CAT) sessions. The report finally came through and it included several data and accusations against the Nigerian government among others: violent responses and causing deprivations

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<sup>10</sup> **Extradition:** the act of making someone return for trial to another country or state where they have been accused of doing something illegal. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

of life from the military, police extrajudicial<sup>11</sup> homicides and extortion<sup>12</sup>, sexual violence from behalf agents of peace and the deprivation of the right for the women detained to have proper legal aid. All of these accusations are allegedly on top of the Nigerian government and are serious accusations which were programmed to be considered later.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the analysis was postponed; as a result, this reunion took place later in 2021 with willingful participation of the delegation. During the sessions, the committee analyzed the country's situation thoroughly and congratulated them for their recent adherence to different conventions and laws organized by different UN organizations. Some remarks were made in the implementation of the treaty regarding different topics like the strengthening of their judicial system to be equal for everyone, the external surveillance of the authorities and penitentiary centers, measures to combat extremism, restitution to torture victims and called for the implementation of the Convention's definition of torture into their justice system. In each of the topics the Committee made suggestions looking forward to improvement.

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<sup>11</sup> **Extrajudicial:** done without the permission of or without using the official legal system. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

<sup>12</sup> **Extortion:** the act of getting something, especially economic resources, by force or threats. (Cambridge University, n.d.)

## References

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## Topic B

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Strategies to eradicate actions of torture and crimes against humanity towards prisoners in penal institutions in the Arab Republic of Syria perpetrated by the prison personnel

## *Introduction*

Almost 1.2 million Syrian citizens have been arrested and detained during the Syrian regime, with around 130,000 individuals who are still locked inside penal institutions in the Arab Republic of Syria. These prisons are hosts to many types and variations of torture, humiliation, stress, and other violations towards human rights. The actions perpetrated within the facilities are done by the personnel in charge of the prisoners; they are instructed by the government to give this treatment to all persons detained to instill fear and demonstrate the power of the government over them, this means that the personnel is allowed to commit any type of action that they want against the prisoners and it will be backed by their superiors. Although the situation is currently in the worst scenario it has ever been, the problem has existed for more than 60 years inside the country.

In 1963, the Ba'ath Party came into power, establishing a pervasive security system that included a lot of violence. During the rule of Hafez al-Assad from 1971 until the year 2000 and followed by his son Bashar al-Assad, the reports of torture inside Syrian prisons became widespread. The situation grew into a greater scale in 1970, when a penal institution named Tadmur, started detaining hundreds of members of the opposing political movement of the Muslim Brotherhood<sup>13</sup>. The prisoners were subjects to many forms of torture and degrading acts with the objective of shutting down the movement by instilling fear. A decade later, in June 1980, in just under an hour, the Assad regime deprived around 1,000 political prisoners from their life who were detained in the infamous prison. The justification for this massacre was due to a homicide attempt on Hafez al-Assad, the regime blamed this attack on the Muslim Brotherhood and sought out to avenge it by targeting the imprisoned members of the movement. The detainment center continued to operate with the same objective in sight,

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<sup>13</sup> **Muslim Brotherhood:** a group who follows the religion of Islam. (Cambridge University, n.a.)

until in 2015, when the Islamic State (IS) gained control of the territory, and the Tadmur prison was destroyed as an act against the Assad regime.

For the years to come after the massacre, the treatment of prisoners in the Arab Republic of Syria has gotten even worse. During the current reign of Bashar al-Assad, in 2011, there started a lot of uproar<sup>14</sup> and protests in the countries of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Tunisia. Later, these manifestations made their way to the capital of the Arab Republic of Syria, Damasco, but this time more intense and violent where the people were demanding better conditions in various aspects such as economic, social, political and international factors. These uprisings were met by the government with violence and homicide, which led to a lot of casualties. The response of the government caused the creation of different groups such as the Free Syrian Army (FSA), Islamist groups, Kurdish groups, and extremist groups, leading to the beginning of the Syrian Civil War.

The civil war took a different turn when the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) entered the conflict in 2015 and started attacking and taking control over considerably large amounts of territory of the country. Therefore, the government decided to release islamic extremists and jihadis from penal institutions with the goal of creating more friction between the opposing movements. This is a complex situation due to the fact that there are ongoing political conflicts that lower the possibilities to intervene in any way, including civil outbreaks and international violent situations. Parallel to the year that ISIS joined, the United States of America intervened as well by helping with resources to the rebel groups, while the Russian Federation came into the picture starting an alliance with the Syrian government.

### ***Torture tactics inside the penal institutions***

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<sup>14</sup> **Uproar:** a situation in which a lot of people complain about something angrily or make a lot of noise. (Cambridge University, n.a.)



Torture perpetrated by prison personnel by order of their superiors happens in almost every penal institution in the Arab Republic of Syria. These prisons serve the government by creating a sense of power and repressing any opposing movement against them, it also helps to keep people under control and can easily manipulate the situation inside where no traces are left. Although there exists some evidence, people that have been freed from these institutions after their arbitrary<sup>15</sup> detention have been interrogated and have helped to create knowledge on the conditions that the prisons live through. A report done by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic (COI) states that there is currently documentation of 72 methods of torture in detention centers all over the country.

Firstly, during the time of preventive prison, the detainees are severely mistreated by the staff so that they accept the charges on which they are held inside for. “There was no specific day or specific hour, or a way of torture...”(Yusuf, 2024), stated a former prisoner of the Sani detention facility. The victim in an interview with Amnesty International, talks about all the suffering and inhuman conditions that they put the prisoners through. Some of the actions that the personnel of the prison commit on the detainees include beatings, whipping with electrical cables, suspension from the wrists in stress positions, sexual violence, and electric shocks. It has also been declared that there existed massive execution halls, where they told the prisoners that they were going to be moved to another center, although they stayed in the same place and gave their personal information to later be executed; after this, they were dumped in a mass grave which was referred to as the ditch<sup>16</sup>. The prisoners are deprived of fundamental rights such as the right to life, freedom from torture and cruel and the right to a fair trial, which are included in the Constitution of the Arab Republic of Syria.

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<sup>15</sup> **Arbitrary:** based on chance rather than being planned or based on reason. (Cambridge University, n.a.)

<sup>16</sup> **Ditch:** a long, narrow open hole that is dug into the ground, usually at the side of a road or field, used especially for supplying or removing water or for dividing land. (Cambridge University, n.a.)

There is an ongoing investigation by Amnesty International which confirms that torture is still being practiced in most penal institutions across the country. Although the investigation focuses on the prison of Saydnaya, which is under jurisdiction<sup>17</sup> of the Minister of Defence and operated by the Military Police, it gained recognisance in 2008 after a riot by the detainees, which was responded with the use of torture and excessive force. The situation of torture in Saydnaya is not used to gain information, so the prisoners can't confess to escape it, but its mission is to spread fear, degrade, punish and humiliate citizens. The detainment center shows how the conditions in all the prisons of the country treat their detainees as a result of the orders coming from the government, such as in most other penal institutions, which gives the prison personnel the authority to torture the prisoners without consequences.

### *Effects on society and the victims*

Psychology states that the impact on the brain that comes from being victims of either psychological or physical torture and other forms of abuse is a cause that leaves a trauma on their life and is extremely difficult to overcome. The effects that each person experiences can vary depending if the action was inflicted physically or mentally, but usually the aftermath is shared regardless. Some of these damages include scars, musculoskeletal pains, cardiovascular and respiratory problems, sexual difficulties, depression, anxiety, difficulty to focus and sleeping problems. All of these acts of torture are a recurring practice done by prison personnel towards detainees in Syrian penal institutions.

Furthermore, these actions create a tension in the community, and as a result, it does not allow individuals to act freely in their environment. These acts of torture are responsible of creating an erosion of trust in institutions by the citizens of the country, Syrian people lose

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<sup>17</sup> **Jurisdiction:** the authority of a court or official organization to make decisions and judgments. (Cambridge University, n.a.)

faith in their ability to protect their rights and justice which lead to a breakdown in the social contract that exists between the State and its citizens, that also weakens the legitimacy that the government has, leading to great conflicts such as the current Civil War. Acts of violation against human rights also contributes to the fragmentation of Syrian society, creating groups and enlarging the division between them, as the regime's realization of torture is usually targeted against a specific community. Those dwellers enough to survive the violence inflicted upon them that have returned to their families often decide to flee the country at the moment when they gather enough resources to pay smugglers, and those who decide not to escape the country are arrested again or regularly questioned by officials, which furthermore inflicts an impact on both their mental and physical health. The smuggling route of the Arab Republic of Syria's usual destination is the Republic of Türkiye, families pay from hundreds to even thousands of dollars to get help to cross the border; nevertheless, it does not assure their safety as around only 60 percent of clients successfully get into Turkish territory.

### ***Citizens response to the violation of human rights***

During more than 60 years of torture being practiced in detainment centers all around the country, the Syrian people have several times taken action to try and stop these violations from keep occurring. Currently there exists organizations such as the Syrian Network for Human Rights (SNHR) and the Violations Documentation Center (VDC) who have focused on documenting the cases of torture and abuse in Syrian prisons. They collect testimonies, photographs, investigations and other material to present as evidence to bring international attention to the situation. This evidence has worked for Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW) to spread the voices of the victims that have survived. In collaboration with the assistance of these organizations, the survivors and their families have created

reports and even lobbied<sup>18</sup> for sanctions and other measures toward the Syrian officials responsible for violating human rights.

The Syrian uprising, which began in 2011, was started by citizens protesting against the harsh repression of the government, which included the brutal treatment experienced inside detainment centers. Besides, the arrest and torture against children that took place in Darra for having written an anti-government graffiti was one of the main sparks that caused the whole country to cause uproar. These protests turned into a movement that initiated the Syrian civil war fighting against the Assad regime's authoritarian rule. The persistent activism and protests of this movement have contributed to international sanctions against the regime and have helped to keep ongoing legal efforts to hold the perpetrators accountable for their actions.

### *International measures to combat torture*

During 2010, the delegation of the Arab Republic of Syria was questioned about their initial report which was submitted in 2009 as a consequence of the allegations of torture perpetrated in the penal institutions of the country made the Committee Against Torture (CAT); which requested a special report about the legal framework that is in force against torture and the lack of definition in the judicial Syrian system. Nevertheless, the delegation denied those claims by saying that they were not supported by any type of evidence and remarked on the fact that it is no longer possible to disclose arbitrary or illegal detention by any Party. After the Syrian delegation's reply, it brought up several articles in their constitution that grant certain guarantees for inmates. Torture interdiction has been included in the country's laws since 1949 in the Syrian penal code and it states the following rights of an individual in case of imprisonment: illegal imprisonment is forbidden, meaning that without charges of a

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<sup>18</sup> **Lobby**: to try to persuade a politician, the government, or an official group that a particular thing should or should not happen, or that a law should be changed. (Cambridge University, n.a.)

judicial order, no one can be imprisoned any period longer than 30 days; any penitentiary personnel who does not comply the judiciary orders will be imprisoned up to four years; no extra judiciary violence will be allowed with the objective of extracting information or evidence from the inmate; if abuse is committed and reported, the imprisonment of working personnel guilty of the abuse is mandatory for at least a year depending on the severity of the case.

Despite the measures taken, there are still allegations of torture within the country's frontiers and facilities; the international community has imposed sanctions on the alleged perpetrators. The delegation shows itself reluctant and their responses continue to note that the laws that protect inmates do exist but show to be ineffective in consequence of the 15<sup>th</sup> article of the State of Emergency Law. Revise paragraph 57 of the Initial report of the Syrian Arab Republic instability in the territory as the State of Emergency had been declared by the president of the country. It is important to recall that the CAT continues to intervene in the issue and the delegation is on supervision, thus, the lack of closure and cooperation in their practices makes it almost impossible to keep track of the actions committed by the penitentiary and judicial authorities in detention centers throughout the country.

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**Glosary of Forbidden Words**

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***Forbidden Words***

*Defined by the United Nations, are non diplomatic terms participants must avoid to mention during their speeches on the debate and in the writing of resolution projects*

<b>Forbidden Words</b>	<b>Permitted equivalentents</b>
First world countries	Developed countries
Third world countries	Developing countries
Gay	Member of the LGBTIQ+ community
War <sup>19</sup>	Belic conflict
Rape	Sexual Harassment
Terrorist	Extremist
Kill or murder	Deprive someone of their life
Death	Casualties
Assassination	Homicide
Army	Military forces
Money	Economic resources
Poor	Lack of resources
Okay	Yes or agree
Black <sup>20</sup>	African American

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<sup>19</sup> The word war can be used in order to refer to historical contexts, such as the Cold War, the First World War, etc. It can only be used in the Security Council to refer to armed conflicts.

<sup>20</sup> The word black, with regard to race, is not forbidden but it is recommended to limit its use and refer to this sector as African American or Afrodescendants.

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**Glosary for Resolution Projects**

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***Preambulatory Phrases***

*Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.*

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

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**Glosary for Resolution Projects**

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***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. They must be written in italics and bold.*

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly
Congratulates	Further reminds	Affirms
Considers	Further recommends	Strongly
Declares accordingly	Further requests	condemns
Deplores	Further resolves	Supports
Designates	Has resolved	Takes note of
		Transmits
		Trusts



