

General Assembly Position Statement

Australia

Delegates: Destiny David, Danial Abbas

School: Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies

Australia 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

1. Press freedom in Australia is not constitutionally guaranteed. However, the High Court has ruled that language in the constitution implies a right to freedom of expression, and the government generally respects this principle. Although in the state of Victoria, press freedom is explicitly protected under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities.

Australia 's Stance on Clean Water

Australia has clean water access through its oceans and surrounding bodies of water . According to the Australian bureau of statistics , in 2004, 93% of households were connected to mains/town water. It is deemed to have high quality water supply by world standards. According to the Guardian, the australians have a 100 percent access to improved sanitation and clean water .

Australia 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

1. Australian laws banned semi-automatic/automatic rifles and shotguns. It also instituted a mandatory buy-back program for newly banned weapons. Semiautomatic guns and rifles, are only for professional shooters: someone would have to have a registered business and prove that they are earning an income through shooting. Other regulations concerning handguns are quite strict. For example, an H license is for handguns and if someone wanted to buy a pistol in Australia, they would have to be a member of a target pistol club. Australia is so strict on gun control on everyday situations that weapon trafficking is almost nonexistent.

Sources

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/06/23/what-happened-after-australia-banned-lots-of-guns-after-a-massacre/?0p19G=c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/06/23/what-happened-after-australia-banned-lots-of-guns-after-a-massacre/?hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-guns%3Aaustralia%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&hpid=hp_hp-top-table-main-guns%3Aaustralia%3Ahomepage%2Fstory)

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/australia>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2009/mar/03/access-water>

Entry:1

General Assembly Position Statement

Israel

Delegates: Adrija Bhattacharjee, Kennedy Andara

School: Haynes Academy

Israel's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Israel's reporters often experience a higher amount of freedom than those in neighboring countries. In the "Freedom of the Press" report released in 2013, Israel was ranked 31st out of 100 in degrees of freedom; It fell into the category of "partly free". Reporters Without Borders report on Israel states: "The country's journalists enjoy a freedom not found elsewhere in the region (2007). Although Israel does have a few censorship actions in place, the Israeli Military Censor has the power to prevent publication of certain news items such as military issues, the oil industry, and the water supply. Israel will rarely take measures such as arrests and newspapers, but those are some implications of violations that the laws set. Israeli laws also outlaw hate speeches and "expressing support for illegal or terrorist organizations". In addition, every journalist working within Israel is required to be accredited by the Israeli Government Press Office.

Israel's Stance on Clean Water

Israel has recently come up with new ways to increase their scarce clean water supply while also helping neighboring countries too. Global problems include: reduced rainfall, increased population, and the rapid development of impoverished societies. These problems will occur all the time and finding solutions to them have been difficult. However, Israel is often the country that the world turns to in the middle of a global water crisis. Irrigation and water engineering are extremely important in Israel. Since more technological advancements are being made. Israel is trying to create a vast supply of clean water by desalinating seawater, directing water from rivers and reservoirs, using groundwater, and reclaiming flood overflow and sewage.

Israel's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Israel is one of the most prominent countries involved in weapons trafficking, and is the sixth largest arms seller in the world by volume and number one as a percentage in the overall economy. Israel's trade market produces earnings estimated at US\$1.5 billion annually. Israel's arms trade is just a small part of their economic activity, which also makes it somewhat "popular". A lot of other countries, such as Chile, Iraq, and even the United States use weapons from Israel and made trade agreements because of them. However, Israel's involvement in the trafficking of weapons has led to several scandals and criticism on their behalf. Israel does experience some issues with illegal trade such as some of the weapons may be used for violent crimes, such as terrorism, mass shootings, and wars. Although Israel stays pretty ambiguous about their weapons and trade agreements, several reports conclude that Israel is in fact one of the most popular countries involved in the legal and illegal use of destructive arms and weapons.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/israel>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship_in_Israel

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/israel-downgraded-in-press-freedom-report/>

<https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/Global%20and%20regional%20tables.pdf>

<http://www.theamericanconservative.com/articles/who-will-control-israels-arms-dealers/>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/08/201381410565517125.html>

<http://www.thetower.org/article/how-israel-is-solving-the-global-water-crisis/>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_Israel

Entry:2

General Assembly Position Statement

Nepal

Delegates: Sophia Wilhelm,

School: Haynes Academy

Nepal's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Nepal's constitution, as of 2015, guarantees freedom of the press and prohibits censorship. However, some "reasonable restrictions" are allowed such as those that "undermine national unity, stoke ethnic tension, or damage public morality." Multiple journalists have disobeyed this.

Nepal's Stance on Clean Water

Though, in some areas in Nepal, there is access to water, it is mostly contaminated. The water is polluted by sewage and surface water waste. Nepal does not have the resources to fix this problem, being one of the poorest countries in the world.

Nepal's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The smuggling of firearms in Nepal is very prevalent, posing a threat to security. The majority of firearms in Nepal are not legally registered. Firearms are often trafficked through the open border with India. Generally the trafficking of small arms is through individuals or loose groups. Efforts have been made to limit the trafficking of small arms in Nepal, but have not all been successful.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/nepal>

<https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-nepal>

http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/2014RRC/0._Resources/Draft-briefing-NAVA-Small-arms-smuggling.pdf

Entry:3

General Assembly Position Statement

Russia

Delegates: Rose Coats, Luisa Zavala

School: Haynes

Russia's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Russia believes in government controlled press and little influence from outside countries. Russia is moving towards full control and censorship of the press in order to preserve civilian patriotism. Reporting in Russia is dangerous and the threat of closure is enough to censor most news outlets but when the government feels the need to step in it does.

Russia's Stance on Clean Water

10 million Russians lack access to quality drinking water and approximately 30% are in desperate need of new pipelines. Clean Water was launched in 2006 in order to upgrade water supply and sewage systems across Russia as well as to change legislation to protect water resources and to establish a Russian brand of water and the machinery to create it. The initiative gets an annual investment of 10 billion roubles along with the initial 150 billion. The initiative plans to promote drinking quality water, to continue scientific research, and to establish regulations on water quality. Opponents in the government oppose the use of nano technology proposed for this initiative and instead argue to simply replace worn pipes with plastic counterparts. But either way Russia is actively looking into economically feasible ways to provide clean water for its citizens.

Russia's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Russia possesses the largest number of weapons in the world and is the largest exporter of weapons. Arms trafficking is a major problem in Russia and we are currently trying to prevent illegal arms trafficking from occurring. We have adopted programs dedicated to mitigating this potential threat by securing or destroying facilities, materials, and weapon systems, as well as employing former scientists in non-arms related work. We intend to pursue constructive policy and we are ready to co-operate with all delegations.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2016/russia>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/05/ten-years-putin-press-kremlin-grip-russia-media-tightens>

<http://www.waterworld.com/articles/wwi/print/volume-25/issue-4/regional-spotlight/easter-europe/russian-water-industry-remains-at-crossroads.html>

<http://www.poa-iss.org/CASACountryProfile/StatementUNMeeting/23@Russia%20e.htm>

<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/russiaprofile>

<http://www.warmongersinc.net/files/status-on-weapons-trafficking-in-russia-and-ukraine/>

Entry:4

General Assembly Position Statement

Libya

Delegates: Evelynn Coffie, Malak Mohammed

School: Haynes Academy

Libya's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The Libyan government controls all media outlets to prevent the possibility of violence and rebellion. Under Article 132, people of the press have the substantial right to express and publicize anything that is within the means of the laws of Libya. This article also protects secreted information, and prohibits racism, violence, and malign.

Libya's Stance on Clean Water

Clean water is a primarily scarce source. Libya only receives about a little more than 100mm of rain yearly. Little rainfall provided meager resources for the people of Libya. The Great Manmade River, launched by Muammer Gaddafi, produced fresh, clean, and safe water that Libyan can rely on. Clean water is an important necessity for Libya whilst considering the inadequate amount of rainfall yearly. This fresh-water provides a drinking resource along with the opportunity for Libyan people to wash and bathe.

Libya's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Libya believes has eliminated materials and equipment which are forbidden internationally. The production of nuclear weapons has ceased to continue. Libya has agreed to relinquish and destroy chemical munitions.

Sources

<https://cpj.org/reports/2006/05/10-most-censored-countries.php>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/libya>

<https://www.koshland-science-museum.org/water/html/en/Sources/Fossil-Water-in-Libya.html>

<http://www.amusingplanet.com/2015/07/the-great-man-made-river-of-libya.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Libya_and_weapons_of_mass_destruction

Entry:5

General Assembly Position Statement

Morocco

Delegates: Grace Dragna, Ella Kutner

School: Mandeville High School

Morocco's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The 2011 constitution of Morocco guarantees freedom of the press; however, its vague language allows for many governmental restrictions on what subjects the press can cover. Journalists can be fined or imprisoned for criticizing the Moroccan monarchy or Islam, and independent media outlets cannot report on restricted subjects, such as the Western Sahara conflict or the royal family. In October 2015, the Ministry of Communications of Morocco announced plans for legislation that would expand citizens' access to online information. A committee has been established to review all public information and censor any information that is deemed a threat to public order. Even though 70 percent of Morocco's publications are privately owned, the government still holds the authority to censor all content. In addition to domestic regulations, the Moroccan government represses foreign media by censoring or banning anything that does not comply with Morocco's press laws. Overall, the press is not entirely independent of the Moroccan government as they are bound by strict press laws and censorship and can face severe punishment for violating such laws.

Morocco's Stance on Clean Water

Morocco is faced with severe water scarcity, as the country's groundwater reserves are depleted. Agriculture heavily relies on rainwater for irrigation; in fact, only 15 percent of total agricultural land is formally irrigated. Water treatment and sanitation systems are often inefficient, allowing raw sewage to infiltrate the minimal water supply. One local water source often sustains many families, leading to the spread of disease throughout rural communities. The USAID is working with local governments in Morocco to develop innovative ways to conserve water while maximizing its use throughout the town. These efforts have been focused on encouraging small farmers to become aware of water scarcity and encouraging involvement of the private sector in developing sustainable water treatment and distribution systems. Because water scarcity and environmental contamination disproportionately affect Morocco's rural poor, it is vital that sanitation systems are established and water conservation is emphasized.

Morocco's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

In Morocco, the transfer control law limits the import and export of firearms. However, the activities of transfer intermediaries and arms brokers are not bound by law. In 2001, Morocco supported and agreed to the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In addition to this and many other regional agreements, Morocco ratified the United Nations Arms Treaty which prohibits the illicit trade of all arms with the intention of keeping destructive weapons out of the hands of militant groups. However, Morocco consistently ranks low in its commitments to these agreements to stop arms trafficking. In fact, Africa has seen a 45% increase of weaponry imports in the last decade, partly due to the rise of militant groups like Boko Haram in the neighboring country of Nigeria. Morocco continues to import arms from France and other nations in large quantities despite its UN agreements to stop the illicit arms trade.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/morocco>

<https://www.usaid.gov/morocco/water-and-sanitation>

<http://www.socialwatch.org/node/14006>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mo.html>

Entry:6

General Assembly Position Statement

Cote d'Ivoire

Delegates: Ainsley Reardon, Sokhna Wane

School: Mandeville High School

Cote d'Ivoire 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

In our countries constitution we do grant our citizens the right to free speech and press but we have set very strict rules against what can be printed and reported in the media. Media is controlled by the government. Audiovisual communications are regulated by the Council national de la communication audiovisuelle (CNCA), an administrative arm of the national government.

Cote d'Ivoire 's Stance on Clean Water

More than 8 million people 43 % of our population lack appropriate sanitation facilities and over 4 million people still use unsafe drinking water sources, especially in rural areas. Consequently, many children die every day from diarrhea and other diseases related to the lack of water and appropriate sanitation. the lack of clean water in our country is huge and is a major problem we need to take steps to fix this problem.

Cote d'Ivoire 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

We do get lots of weapon trafficking across our borders and within the country. many people don't feel safe and they want to be able to protect themselves against the government. many people even join local militias. After the 2011 election was held there was a breakout of violence where some 3,000 people were killed and police stations were raided of their weapons. in an effort to disarm our citizens we formed the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Authority (ADDR), replacing six different disarmament bodies. Because of all of this violence and crazy illegal weapons trade we want and are trying to fix this problem.

Sources

<http://www.irinnews.org/news/2013/04/16/cote-d-ivoire-awash-weapons>

<https://www.unicef.org/cotedivoire/wes.html>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/c-te-divoire>

Entry:7

General Assembly Position Statement

United States of America

Delegates: Elisabeth McLaughlin, Athena Cai

School: Mandeville High School

United States of America's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The United States have one of the world's strongest legal protections of freedom of press. The First Amendment guarantees the press freedom, so even though this right has come under pressure several times throughout history, the court had repeatedly issued rulings that protect and expand the right of journalists to be free from state control. About 40 states have laws that protect journalists from orders to reveal sources or information they gather in their work, but the federal government offers no such protection, and attempts to adopt a federal shield law have not been successful. The latest congressional attempt expired in 2014 after the Senate failed to bring the bill up to vote. This means that the freedom of press in the US is not absolute.

United States of America's Stance on Clean Water

The United States is on the verge of a national crisis as hundreds of cities and towns are at risk of sudden and severe shortages in water, either because available water is not safe to drink or because there simply isn't enough of it. The U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence now ranks water scarcity as a major threat to national security alongside terrorism. The nation's aging infrastructure and antiquated water systems are increasingly likely to break down or spread contaminants like lead. Cities across the country are unveiling plans to replace their lead pipes. Drought conditions are expected to get worse straining the amount of water available even further. Conflicting viewpoints limit progress as some federal lawmakers seek a new system of dams, reservoirs and aqueducts to help move water and others call for new desalination, efficiency and recycling projects. The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

United States of America's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The United States is one of three countries that have not ratified the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA). In addition, to requiring parties to criminalize the illegal manufacture, import, or export of high-powered weapons, the treaty encourages information exchange and cooperation on initiatives including the marking and tracing of weapons as well as the identification of criminal transit routes. The United States has signed The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a multilateral treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional arms. The United States worked closely with our international partners during the negotiations to secure a treaty that advances global security and respects national sovereignty and the legitimate arms trade.

The flow of high-powered weaponry from the United States to Latin America and the Caribbean exacerbates soaring rates of gun-related violence in the region and undermines U.S. influence in the Western Hemisphere. The Senate has rejected measures to expand background checks on firearms sales, reinstate a federal assault-weapons ban, and make straw purchasing a federal crime.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/united-states>

<http://www.encyclopedia.com/social-sciences-and-law/political-science-and-government/political-science-terms-and-concepts-58>

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/277269-a-nation-over-troubled-water>

<http://www.cfr.org/arms-industries-and-trade/strategy-reduce-gun-trafficking-violence-americas/p31155>

<http://www.state.gov/t/isn/armstradetreaty/>

Entry:8

General Assembly Position Statement

Ireland

Delegates: Maya Aufdermauer, Alexander Planche

School: Lakeshore High School

Ireland's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The press in Ireland is given right in their constitution, there have been some issues with freedom of the press. Between 1971 and 1994, there was restrictions on broadcast systems reporting on violent issues so that it did not seem like they were supporting the protesters. Most of these issues were secluded to the northern region, but effected the entire country.

Ireland's Stance on Clean Water

While Ireland has a large supply of clean drinking water, they waste more of it than most European countries by more than double. Dublin, the Capitol of Ireland, is currently having a shortage on freshwater, and there is currently no word on any attempted effort leading to water conservation. Most of the waste is pointed towards the fact that Irish Households do not currently pay for water, regardless of how much is used.

Ireland's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The IRA, or Irish Republican Army, have been getting their weapons from the US and Libya mainly. Many of their weapons were shipped to Northern Ireland from Libya in the 1980s. Ireland's trade with the US can be traced all the way back to the nineteenth century. Ireland's fighters have a heavy dependency on US weapons and money.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_of_the_Republic_of_Ireland

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2013/11/20/in-ireland-water-will-no-longer-be-free/>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/ira/inside/weapons.html>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/1985/0115/anor2.html>

Entry:9

General Assembly Position Statement

Peru

Delegates: William Dunford, Claire DiCorte

School: Mandeville High School

Peru's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Legally, freedom of press is guaranteed in Peru, but there are still issues with that right being upheld. For example, journalists are often oppressed or coerced, sometimes even murdered, after publishing an opinionated article. Private Interest groups (such as gangs or businesses) and in some instances even the government have been know to be the cause of this oppression. For example, a journalist was shot and killed during his writing of a piece on local gangs. Politicians also often sue after they are accused of corruption. Even though freedom of the press has been guaranteed since 1993, recent elections of officials involved in the murder of journalists have led to some questions over whether we actually support freedom of the press.

Peru's Stance on Clean Water

Though access to clean water has greatly improved for Peru, many citizens still do not have access to clean water. 4 million out of 31 million Peruvian citizens do not have access to clean water, largely because of the lack of public infrastructure or facilities that would promote clean water.. More urban citizens than rural citizens have access to clean water. Though many citizens lack clean water, charity organizations such as water.org are actively improving access.

Peru's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Weapons trafficking is not a large issue in Peru. The amount of ammunition smuggling is low. This likely stems from Peru's restrictive gun policy and lack of guns in Peruvian culture. However, there are some isolated incidents involving gun control. For example, three military members were arrested for illegally selling weapons.

Sources

Freedom House 2015 Report of freedom of the press in Peru: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/peru>

"Peru's water crisis" <http://water.org/country/peru/>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/arms-theft-from-peru-army-supplies-points-to-official-complicity>

Gunpolicy.org report on Peru <http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/peru>

Entry:10

General Assembly Position Statement

Iceland

Delegates: Isabelle Zelaya , Camryn Anderson

School: Mandeville High School

Iceland's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Iceland does not believe in the restriction of a citizen's beliefs by anyone. The government is not permitted to limit or censor the freedom of expression, unless it is in the interest of public order or the security of state. The restriction of expression is excused for the protection of health and morals, and for the protection of others' reputations if the restrictions are deemed necessary. It is stated in the constitution of Iceland that everyone has the right to have and openly express personal beliefs.

Iceland's Stance on Clean Water

Iceland is a strong advocate for the availability of clean water because much of its exports are fish and fish products. Since its economy relies so heavily on fishing industries, clean water is extremely important. Iceland is actively attempting to find cleaner sources of energy so there will be less pollution in the water. Clean water is widely available to all of Iceland's citizens.

Iceland's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Iceland heavily regulates the sale and ownership of guns. We have one of the largest gun ownership rates, yet one of the lowest gun-related crime rates. Iceland has signed international treaties, like the National Atlantic Treaty Organization, showing our support in cracking down on the illegal weapons trade. Iceland's domestic regulation of gun ownership and trade reflects its views on international weapons trafficking. Iceland believes that weapons trade and ownership should be heavily regulated by the government, ownership should be limited, and every weapon should be registered officially with a unique identifying mark.

Sources

<http://www.iceland.is/the-big-picture/nature-environment/environment>

<http://www.government.is/constitution/>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/iceland>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-22288564>

<http://www.government.is/constitution/>

Entry:11

General Assembly Position Statement

Italy

Delegates: Sydney Tardy, Sarah Kate Casey

School: Mandeville High School

Italy's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Italy guarantees the freedom of expression and press in our constitution. We have signed and ratified multiple relevant international treaties that establish the right to freedom of opinion and expression. We consider defamation a criminal offense. The passage of a defamation bill in 2014 increased the fine for defamation up to 50,000 euros but abolished imprisonment as a punishment. It also provides compensation for journalists involved in failed lawsuits and extends penalties to online newspapers and blogs. Our country supports a generally unrestricted internet, but we are actively blocking websites involved in criminal activities, such as selling counterfeit goods, unlicensed gambling, and illegal video streaming. Although we have had issues with political influence over the media system, steps have been taken to minimize political interference with the passage of the Gasparri Law, which reformed antitrust rules.

Italy's Stance on Clean Water

Italy believes that water is to be considered as an essential component of the natural ecosystem that needs protection in a long-term perspective, with special attention to water resources fit to human consumption. We consider water a commodity for the satisfaction of needs, rather than as an individual human right. Because of the agriculturally-based economy in the southern Italy, more than half of the region's population does not have sufficient drinking water available for at least a quarter of the year. Generally speaking, water deficiencies are present in all parts of the country and this phenomenon is mainly due to structural flaws, obsolete infrastructure, inefficient maintenance of the network or deficiencies in management. Because of the severity of the problem, Italy welcomes solutions to water shortages based on fixing infrastructure and increasing accessibility to clean water. In 1996, the Italian Constitutional Court recognised that water has to be preserved against waste and pollution, taking into account its character of fundamental right. However, from that moment on, Italian jurisprudence has mainly considered water as an environmental priority rather than as a fundamental human right.

Italy's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Italy makes a clear distinction between military and personal use with many of their military arms exports going to Israel. Italy has a history of supporting bills that favor regulation of military arms trade treaties but has not considered the regulation of sports or hunting weapons. In order to maintain both efficiency and peace, Italy believes an international treaty regulating weapon trade would be beneficial. Italy has been fully supportive of the UN's proposed arms trade treaties. We believe that the regulation of legal arms trade will allow for the international community to more effectively deal with the issues of trade diversion and illicit arms trafficking. We believe regulations should cover military conventional arms and systems, small arms, munitions, and related technology, but not cover hunting weapons. The only way forward is to secure arms and provide capacity-building for border guards and police while bolstering regional cooperation. For its part, Italy has worked on a range of efforts, including cooperating with interested States on marking and tracing any weapons categorized for military use.

Sources

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11889.doc.htm>

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2012/dc3366.doc.htm>

<http://www.ielrc.org/content/f0801.pdf>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/italy>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/italy>

General Assembly Position Statement

Estonia

Delegates: Adam Moeller, Nick Agnelly

School: Mandeville High School

Estonia's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The Reporters Without Borders freedom of the press index describes the safety and freedom that journalists and the media possess in a particular country. In 2016, Estonia was ranked 14th in the world with a score of 14.31. The index is out of 100 points with lower scores receiving a better ranking. In previous years, Estonia has been among the top 10 countries in the world for free speech, but a number of high-profile defamation lawsuits brought against reporters in 2015 marginally lowered their ranking. Estonia believes that free speech is an important part of preserving the democratic process. The country's numerous media outlets carry a wide variety of views, generally without government interference.

Estonia's Stance on Clean Water

Our government believes that it is important to ensure that the tap water in Estonia is drinkable. For example, the water in the capital of Tallinn is purified using minerals, which eliminates the presence of contaminants in the water. Through efforts like this, we provide 91%- 100% of the population with access to clean drinking water.

Estonia's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Estonia is a signatory to the 2014 UN arms trade treaty which regulates the international trade of small arms, military vehicles, and other weapons. In addition, we have implemented other measures to prevent the illegal sale of weapons within or across our borders. In 2014 there were 19 deaths from firearms in the country of Estonia - or 1.49 per 100,000 people - which is well below the standard for most Western countries.

Sources

"The Arms Trade Treaty UNODA." UN News Center. UN, Web. 16 Nov. 2016.

"Drinking Water - ESTONIA." UNICEF DATA. UNICEF, Web. 16 Nov. 2016.

"Estonia." RSF. Reporters Without Borders, Web. 16 Nov. 2016.

Entry:13

General Assembly Position Statement

Ethiopia

Delegates: Lindsay Reardon, Caleb McKay

School: Mandeville High School

Ethiopia's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The press status in Ethiopia is not free. A crackdown in 2014 on journalists and bloggers before the May 2015 elections. Six members of a blogging community who actively write on topics of human rights and the government were arrested in this. The constitution does state freedom of press but the 2005 criminal code contains many provisions that limit this right, including restrictions on "obscene" communication, defamation, and criticism of public officials. A terrorism law enacted in 2009 has been used to incriminate journalists, for working with anti-government terrorist groups. Many fines and laws have been put in place to limit the power of the press and censorship is a routine practice.

Ethiopia's Stance on Clean Water

Water and sanitation are very poor in Ethiopia. Less than half of the population has access to a modern water supply with only 21% having access to sufficient sanitation. In some places, mothers and older children have to walk close to 6 hours just to find a water source. These sources are also not sanitary because they are subject to animals or rainwater can wash in feces from animals and humans. The jugs women carry can also weigh up to 40 pounds. In recent history, Ethiopia has been through many droughts and famines. During these droughts, water-related diseases flood through the population as springs and ponds dry out. With the lack of water, people go to extremes such as not washing hands or bathing regularly in an effort to save what water they have. These practices just open the gate wider for more diseases and infections to spread. Ethiopia would be open to any help with their water sanitation issues.

Ethiopia's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Arms trafficking in Africa has perpetuated conflicts and most efforts to stop conflicts have had no success due to the easy access to weapons. Weapons can be purchased and traded by cash-poor countries for diamonds, gemstones, and other commodities. The international community's inability to control arms transfers and trafficking contributes to the persistence of these devastating conflicts. Ethiopia takes advantage of the easy access to arms and has had weapons trade relations to North Korea in the past, and continues formal diplomatic relations with DPRK.

Sources

<http://water.org/country/ethiopia/>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/ethiopia>

<http://www.defense-aerospace.com/article-view/verbatim/16134/arms-transfers-and-trafficking-in-africa.html>

Entry:14

General Assembly Position Statement

Djibouti

Delegates: Savannah Weisensee, James Tickner

School: Mandeville High School

Djibouti's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Djibouti is one of the most restrictive countries in Africa, and restriction of the press is an daily difficulty for most journalists.. Djibouti does not have a law guaranteeing access to public information; there are no private television or radio stations everything is state run. The government owns the principal newspaper, La Nation, as well as Radio-Television Djibouti, which operates the national radio and television stations. The penal code and the 1992 Freedom of Communication Law allow criminal penalties, including jail time and heavy fines, for media offenses such as libel and distributing false information. All mass printing companies are also state run, which makes it difficult to print criticism of the government for wide circulation. To put into perspective how the Press works in Djibouti, The National Communication Commission, a group designated to issue private broadcasting and radio licenses, accepted its first application in 2012, yet no license has been issued to this day. Surprisingly enough, foreign radio broadcasts are available from the British Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America, and Radio France Internationale, offering alternative sources of information to the public. Djibouti's government claims to be for freedom of the press, but in reality the press is far from free.

Djibouti's Stance on Clean Water

Access to clean drinking water has historically been an issue for the Republic of Djibouti. 10% of the population does not have access to an above-average drinking water source. This issue impacts the rural population of the country, of which 35% does not have access to an improved water source. In 2007, Djibouti worked with UNICEF and the EU to improve these conditions and attempt to bring clean drinking water to 25,000 of its poorest rural residents. Before this initiative, an estimated 50% of Djibouti's rural population did not have access to a protected source of water. This problem has been exacerbated by a drought that has plagued the country since 2007. Djibouti was well below the water scarcity threshold before the drought and continues to struggle with access to this necessary resource.

Djibouti's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Djibouti has minimal legislation on small arms control, and authorization for gun possession must be obtained by the Head of State. One of Djibouti's only pieces of legislation meant to curb weapons trafficking, Act 62-621, has in fact done the opposite of its intention, thus creating a huge weapons trafficking hub within the country. After gaining authorization for gun possession, there are only a few restrictions on who can own guns, what kind of guns can be owned, or how many can be owned. The laws on the importation of weapons are very loose as well. Due to this, weapons trafficking has been a problem for Djibouti. Very few records are kept by the government in relation to arms sales; as a result, not much information is available on weapons trafficking in Djibouti. Djibouti is known to be a popular center for other types of smuggling as well, primarily human trafficking.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/djibouti>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/dj.html>

Entry:15

General Assembly Position Statement

Cuba

Delegates: Ben Scott, Gabby Sorina

School: Mandeville High School

Cuba's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Cuba's internal media is highly restricted. The country's constitution will only allow private press corporations to publish anything as long as the content appeals to the socialist nature of the country. Cuba uses harsh prison sentences to punish those who go against the requirement and to act as a deterrent for anyone thinking of criticizing the country. As evidence, in 2003, an event known as the Black Spring occurred where 29 journalists across the nation were sentenced to 27 years in prison. These journalists supposedly collaborated with the enemy's media. Punishment for these crimes haven't lightened in recent years; the government still arrests, beats, and surveils journalists, with even foreign journalists being affected by the country's repressive nature on the press. Cuban citizens can hardly access foreign news networks because internet is so limited; only 23% of all Cuban citizens have access to it.

Cuba's Stance on Clean Water

Cuba's water supply, for the most part, is accessible and fairly clean to a majority of the population. However tourists are generally warned to not drink the tap water when visiting, they are advised to drink only bottled water. In addition, due to Cuba's recent economic downturn, the water supply has slowly deteriorated. Water shortages are quickly becoming a common throughout the country, causing citizens to stockpile water whenever it is available. This stockpiling leads to more contaminated water supplies for the people garnering the water. Some local cisterns are hubs for transferring disease since the quality of the water is so poor. Citizens have to fix or even build filters themselves in order to retain a clean water supply.

Cuba's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Cuba has recently been mixed in violating international sanctions by participating in illegal arms trafficking with China and North Korea. Before the violations, Cuba proposed to the UN a bill to ban all illicit arms trades. The security council of the United Nations has considered Cuba's offenses to be egregious. So as far as its stance, the government may publicly be against weapons trafficking, but clearly the Cuban government takes advantage of the lax regulation of illegal transpacific trade and will continue to commit these offenses.

Sources

<https://www.idrc.ca/en/article/coping-water-crisis-cuba>

<http://www.capitolhillcubans.com/2015/03/cuba-caught-illegally-smuggling-weapons.html>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2012/cuba>

Entry:16

General Assembly Position Statement

Gabon

Delegates: Festin Osimbo, Matthew Gravois

School: Mckinley Senior High School

Gabon's Stance on Restriction of the Press

A completely free press and freedom of speech is guaranteed to citizens by Gabon's constitution. It has a national press service that publishes papers daily that are circulated to 18,000 people per print. As a country, they are against restriction of the press because it is considered a human right and is guaranteed by our constitution.

Gabon's Stance on Clean Water

The country is currently working on providing safe drinking water to its population. In 2000, 70% of the population had access to safe drinking water, and 21% of the remaining had adequate sanitation. The numbers have been rising ever since, thanks to a 110 billion CFA (~180 million USD) dedicated budget to rehabilitate water refineries and protect water sources from illegal dumping and pollution. Gabon is for clean water because it has been working towards providing clean drinking water for all of its population.

Gabon's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

There is a moderate amount of weapon smuggling in Gabon. Legal imports and exports of firearms are regulated by law. However, activities of arms brokers and transfer intermediaries are not regulated. Citizens do not have a constitutional right to bear arms, however they are allowed to, but they must pass background checks, and weapons are regulated. The government failed to pass an anti-trafficking bill in 2013. It does not abide by the UN's minimum trafficking prevention standards, but it has been making significant progress since to do so. The country's law enforcement does work against all forms of trafficking. Gabon is against weapons trafficking because it is working to abide by UN standards.

Sources

der.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Gabon1991English.pdf

Gabonese Press Agency

<http://www.ipsnews.net/2003/04/environment-gabon-access-to-clean-water-still-a-big-problem>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/gabon>

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2826.htm>

A Workman Is Worthy of His Meat: Food and Colonialism in the Gabon Estuary

"The World Factbook". www.cia.gov.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gb.html>

<http://confinder.richmond.edu/admin/docs/Gabon1991English.pdf>

Entry:17

General Assembly Position Statement

Fiji

Delegates: James Hitchcock, Carlos Zelaya

School: Mandeville High School

Fiji's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Freedom House is an organization that grades the safety and freedom of journalists within a nation. On a scale of 0 to 100, 0 being the best, 100 being the worst, Fiji receives an overall score of 52. The score is moderate due to Fiji having laws against defamation. However, the score has recently improved due to the lifting of official censorship by the government.

Fiji's Stance on Clean Water

Aside from the large tourist cities of Nadi and Suva, most of Fiji's tap water is unsafe to drink. The tap water has been known to contain typhoid, shellfish particles, and on occasion, small amphibians. The majority of the country lacks clean water due to the Fiji Water company's ownership of the only clean aquifer on the island. In addition, the government of Fiji lacks both the money and the will to improve the rusty, cracked pipes that most citizens use.

Fiji's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Fiji was absent from the signing of the UN Arms Trade Treaty. Fiji is working in cooperation with the UN Security Council Resolution 2117, which aims to intensify embargoes on small arms and SALW control protocol. The overall import and export of firearms in Fiji is low due to the heavy restriction on them. Fiji is able to boast a total of zero gun related deaths, including homicides and suicides, as of 1996.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/fiji>

<https://www.worldnomads.com/travel-safety/oceania/fiji/fiji-drinking-water-safety>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Small_Arms_and_Light_Weapons#UN_SALW_control_efforts

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/fiji>

Entry:18

General Assembly Position Statement

Republic of Korea

Delegates: Taylor Brint, Mary Chandler Ford

School: Captain Shreve

Republic of Korea's Stance on Restriction of the Press

South Korea has a Presidential Republic with a legal system consisting of a combination of European civil law, Anglo-American law, and Chinese classical thought; this allows citizens to have technically have the right of freedom of the press. However, there are some restrictions, Article 7 of the National Security Law states that if citizens openly sympathize or praise North Korea they are sentenced to prison, which is a common issue for journalists. All commentators, journalists, and reporters are watched closely for defamation and will be sentenced to seven years in prison if they do not abide by the law. In November of 2015 the Newspaper Act was passed, requiring five or more editing staff members; this shut down smaller newspapers and created stricter guidelines for new newspaper registration. All citizens have the right to access public information technologically or by paper copy due to The Act on Disclosure of Information by Public Agencies. This act states that government agencies must reply within 15 days of request with all the information requested unless it is protected by national security.

Republic of Korea's Stance on Clean Water

There are 1,476 water quality monitoring stations in South Korea amongst rivers, lakes, and marshes: 49 of which are automatic operating systems. Most South Korean lakes serve as artificial reservoirs for irrigation, industrial, and domestic purposes which creates controversy because it is where most drinking water comes from as well. However, there are not many biological standards in the country and little is known about the aquatic life. Water quality standards create a major issue due to 3/16 Class I lakes and 4/16 Class II lakes meeting the standards for 2007. Clean water has been an issue in South Korea for a multitude of reasons, one being the droughts in 1993. Most restaurants and businesses offer bottled water or purified water, meanwhile citizens tend to boil tap water in their homes. South Korean Tap Water Delegation met with the National Drinking Water Alliance in October of 2016 to learn about tap water efforts practiced in The United States. The CitizenÇÖs Network for Tap water is mainly focused on reducing the amount of bottled water used for economic and environmental purposes.

Republic of Korea's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Gun trafficking in South Korea is starting to become a bigger issue. In South Korea gun possession is prohibited except to those in the military and the police department. The amount of smuggled guns is decreasing, but they are facing a problem with shooting/ killing of people using illegal guns. South Korea's punishment of selling guns illegally is up to ten years in prison. Also, you could pay up to a 18,000 dollar fine. South Korea states if to own a toy gun that look like a real gun it is prohibited and the law enforcement will take it away. South Korea is known to be one of the major gun trafficking countries as exporting guns. People who are caught exporting guns out of South Korea can receive death row. The government is doing the best they can to stop all gun trafficking and bring all those guilty of importing and/ or exporting guns to justice.

Sources

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/south-korea>

<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/12/strict-gun-control-laws-in-south-korea/>

<http://www.deathpenaltyworldwide.org/country-search-post.cfm?country=South%20Korea>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/south-korea>

<http://www.drinkingwateralliance.org/single-post/2016/10/13/South-Korean-Tap-Water-Delegation-Meets-with-National-Drinking-Water-Alliance>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/resources/the-world-factbook/geos/ks.html>

<http://www.azocleantech.com/article.aspx?ArticleID=552>

<http://www.who.int/whr/2002/chapter4/en/index10.html>

General Assembly Position Statement

Luxembourg

Delegates: Noah Boudreau, Nathan Rowley

School: Captain Shreve High School

Luxembourg's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Luxembourg is very lax towards what the press can and cannot say. Based on reports from organizations such as the Freedom House, Luxembourg has reportedly ranked very highly on civil freedoms, including freedom of the press. Though, they are not completely free of censorship in the press, and some people claiming that press publications have very strong ties towards different political parties. This claim is illustrated in an accusation that unfavorable comments towards a political figure were removed in a publication after a conference about shale gas. Journalists admitted in private that the comments were removed based on request from the politician, and that no one made a fuss about it. This incident was also part of the reason why Luxembourg fell from fourth to nineteenth place in the 2015 World Freedom Index. The Prime Minister has started reforms to the press system, and has made it so civil servants are required to provide information when requested by the press, and to answer questions posed by reporters directly, through an appointed spokesperson for the government.

Luxembourg's Stance on Clean Water

Luxembourg is entirely in favor of people having access to free, clean drinking water. While many small countries with a high population density may worry about having clean water, Luxembourg boasts an ultra-filtration system that connects to all fourteen sources of water that already connects to treatment plants. 85% of people in Luxembourg say that they are happy with the quality of water there, which is higher than the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) average of 81%. 100% of Luxembourg's population has sustainable access to clean drinking water sources, and 100% of the population also has access to improved sanitation. Luxembourg has also partnered with the Global Water Challenge, which has helped provide clean water sources and improved sanitation to over 500,000 children in underprivileged countries.

Luxembourg's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Luxembourg is very lax when it comes to weapons trafficking, and is also open to the idea of owning a firearm, with 19.3% of the public population owning some kind of firearm. The annual value of guns leaving Luxembourg is equivalent to \$969,080 while the value of imports is equivalent to \$6,427,599. Through strict regulations placed on arms brokers, the amount of guns smuggled into Luxembourg yearly is negligible, the country finds itself in the middle of the arms trafficking route from eastern Europe to the rest of western Europe. While the buying and selling of illicit arms in person is heavily regulated and monitored, the buying of these weapons online is very easy, with a person being able to buy an assault rifle online, and have it delivered within seven days. While other countries have banned all shipments from AFG security, which manufactures these weapons, Luxembourg has not, and citizens continue to do trade with them.

Sources

Alpers, Philip. "Guns in Luxembourg - Firearms, Gun Law and Gun Control." Guns in Luxembourg - Firearms, Gun Law and Gun Control. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

Amiotte, Sylvain. "[Exclusif] Le Luxembourg, Plaque Tournante Du Trafic D'Armes De Guerre." Le Quotidien. N.p., 20 Mar. 2016. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

@FreedomHouseDC. "Luxembourg." Freedom House. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

"Luxembourg." OECD Better Life Index. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

Pardon Our Interruption. N.p., n.d. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

Rogers, Simon. "Access to Clean Water." The Guardian. Guardian News and Media, 09 Mar. 2009. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

@Wort_EN. "Illegal Weapons Trade: Buying Kalachnikovs Online from Luxembourg Is Child's Play."

Wort.lu. N.p., 17 Mar. 2016. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

@Wort_EN. "Press Freedom: Polish Ambassador Lambasts Luxembourg for Press Freedom Hypocrisy."

Wort.lu. N.p., 15 Jan. 2016. Web. 12 Nov. 2016.

General Assembly Position Statement

Japan

Delegates: Elizabeth Feltner, Morgan Ross

School: LSU University Laboratory School

Japan 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Article 21 of the Japanese Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and prohibits formal censorship. However, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's administration is indirectly spreading a message of self-censorship towards media outlets and journalists. News organizations have toned down their criticism of Abe out of fear of the government and repercussions. The media has stopped criticizing the government, which has been a positive influence on Japanese citizens accepting the Abe administration. Then, in 2013, a law was passed in Japan allowing journalists to be jailed for up to five years for asking about something that is a state secret. This policy protects important classified information from being unintentionally or intentionally leaked to enemies of the state. Because of these relatively new censorship laws and according to the non-profit group Reporters Without Borders, Japan came in 72nd out of 180 countries in the 2016 press freedom index, higher than 60 percent of the countries on the list. Japan believes that the media should have freedom of expression, but that freedom cannot infringe upon public safety and the smooth running of the government.

Japan 's Stance on Clean Water

The country of Japan has been working very hard in order to provide its people with clean water. 100 percent of Japan's population has access to an improved drinking water source. In order to provide its citizens with clean drinking water, Japan passed the Local Public Enterprise Law in 1952, which according to Jagnathan, Mohamed, and Kremer, requires water utilities to supply water to improve public welfare, while operating economically as independent and autonomous business entities/public enterprises. (2009). Japan has planned to replace its lead pipes with those made of stainless steel in order to reduce the risk of lead poisoning. There are also plans to replace old distribution pipes and some ductile iron pipes with newer pipes. Both Japan and its allies use water in a responsible manner. Japan has reached 7.3 percent leakage by using a system of measures to prevent leakage. Several of Japan's allies such as Vietnam, Cambodia, Egypt and Jordan have all decreased their water leakage percentage by at least 5 percent. Japan covers the reasonable management of water waste through the Sewerage Law which was passed in 1958, which controls water quality standards and pollution levels for corporations and manufactures. Japan can influence world policy towards the conservation of water by investing in water-preservation.

Japan 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

In Japan, civilians are not allowed to possess handguns, military rifles, machine guns, fully automatic weapons, semi-automatic assault weapons, or privately possessed handguns. Civilian possession of rifles, shotguns, and hunting guns are strictly regulated by law. The highest penalty one can receive for illegal firearm ownership in Japan is 15 years in prison, so Japanese citizens do not typically break the gun control laws. Due to these strict firearm regulations, almost no one in Japan privately owns a gun, and in 2008, Japan only had 11 firearm-related homicides while the United States experienced 12 thousand deaths. This method of gun control allows Japan to have the second-lowest murder rate of any country in the world.

According to a bulletin issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA) in 2012, Japan has been a strong proponent of international efforts on disarmament and has voluntarily implemented strict standards for the import, export, and transfer of conventional weapons. Japan believes that an arms trade treaty should establish the highest possible common international standards for the export,

import, and trade of conventional arms, especially small and light arms, considering the overwhelming number of deaths due to unregulated small arms and munitions.

In general, Japan does not benefit from the illegal arms trade. Japan believes that arms should be regulated more strictly than they are at present and is willing to cooperate with ally nations to restrict the illegal weapons trade through whatever means necessary.

Sources

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/02/25/national/media-national/japanese-media-self-censorship-seen-growing-abes-reign/#.WC3XVeErLLY>
<http://www.latimes.com/world/asia/la-fg-japan-press-freedom-20160420-story.html>
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ja.html>
http://www.wssinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/resources/JMP-Update-report-2015_English.pdf
http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/policy/health/water_supply/8.html
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTMENA/Resources/Water_Arab_World_full.pdf
<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/japan>
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/un/disarmament/arms/att/view1203.html>
<http://www.mofa.go.jp/policy/un/disarmament/policy/>

Entry:21

General Assembly Position Statement

Ukraine

Delegates: Kendel Fenner, Austin Waldon

School: Captain Shreve High School

Ukraine's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Restrictions on the press in Ukraine have gone from "Not Free" to "Partly Free" in September 2015. Constitutionally and legally, Ukraine has one of the most progressive media stances in Eastern Europe, but while Viktor Yanukovich ruled the media was not given the rights assigned to it in the constitution. When the Euromaiden Revolution in early 2014 took place, Yanukovich fled, but a rise in attacks on journalists during this time period was noted. Later, the level of hostility toward the media/press from governmental and legal pressures began to ease. Improvements were made to the laws regarding access to information and increased independence was given to broadcasting outlets. With these changes, an improvement in status to "Partly Free" was granted.

Despite improvements, there is still concern over pro-Russian propaganda, ownership of private outlets by a small group of wealthy businessmen, and continued high levels of violence against journalists, especially in the East.

Ukraine's Stance on Clean Water

Under Russian control there was poor management of the water resources and how people accessed clean water. The groundwater and waterways were contaminated due to lack of functioning treatment plants, outdated pipe systems, lack of water filters and dumping of sewage and untreated waste from hospitals into waterways and water systems. Infectious diseases were being spread by the water people were using and drinking.

According to UNICEF, 40% of people in Ukraine do not use any water treatment methods. Rural areas are hardest hit, and sanitation issues are of major concern, with 91% using latrines and septic tanks that are not under any sort of governmental control, leading to contamination of ground water. When sanitation was delegated from a national approach to local officials, funding was not provided to keep up with the needs of the different communities. Educating the citizens about clean water and how to avoid tainted water is ongoing.

Ukraine's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Ukraine is one of the top 10 world arms exporters. Ukraine often receives international criticism regarding a number of big arms trafficking scandals due to selling weapons without a due control of end use. With the large inventory of nuclear weapons, military-industrial complexes, warehouses of military arms that were inherited when the Soviet Union collapsed, it left Ukraine in a unique situation - Ukraine relinquished the nuclear weapons, partially destroyed the military-industrial complexes and converted them to mass production sites for other non-weapon goods. The military weapons warehouses were left and that is when the trafficking began its upswing. In more recent years, Ukraine has benefitted from contracting with Iraq and Thailand for heavy military machinery.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/ukraine>

www.oecd.org/env/outreach/40637560.pdf

countrystudies.us/Russia/25.htm

<http://www.pecob.eu/arms-trade-and-trafficking>

Entry:22

General Assembly Position Statement

Uzbekistan

Delegates: Heaven Cauble, Savannah Cutliff

School: Mandeville High School

Uzbekistan's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Uzbekistan's Constitution gives citizens the right to freedom of speech; however, crimes against the government can result in up to five years in prison. We believe that the media should depict our country in a favorable way and not corrupt others' opinions of our government. As of 2014, online media content has been restricted from expressing extreme or inaccurate views. Additionally, Uzbekistan blocks out foreign news organizations and exile group websites.

Uzbekistan's Stance on Clean Water

Clean water is a growing problem in our country. Despite numerous investments in piping systems, more than half of our households do not have access to suitable, sanitary water. Those who do not have access retrieve water from irrigation canals and rivers. Recently, Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) services have committed to helping Uzbekistan provide every region of the country with clean water. We are willing to accept foreign help and research to end the water crisis in our country.

Uzbekistan's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Uzbekistan has noticed the illegal smuggling of arms across its borders for decades, but little to no effort has been made to stop it. In fact, government workers have been frequently involved in weapons trafficking throughout the years in an attempt to gain firearms. Over a quarter of law enforcement officials have confessed to being involved in the trade and do not reject the idea of illegal smuggling. Weapons trafficking greatly increases the amount of government trust and support by allowing the citizens to feel safe in their own homes.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/uzbekistan>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/02/11/modernizing-uzbekistans-water-sector-with-citizen-engagement>

<http://www.country-data.com/cgi-bin/query/r-14500.html>

Entry:23

General Assembly Position Statement

Syrain Arab Republic

Delegates: Mi'kel Granville , Natalie Barnhill

School: Alexandria Senior High

Syrain Arab Republic 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

In Syrian Arab Republic, there are many restrictions on broadcast and election news media. The government has control over internet use, although several thousand other citizens in Syria bypass the censorship by connecting via internet service providers in Jordan and Lebanon. If any citizen violates the nation restrictions, they will be detained and tortured by the government or armed extremists. The government's hold over all of the media shows no signs of changing how the government operates with freedom of the press. The human dignity and the human right of freedom of expression, it remains that the human rights organization will continue to support journalists who are brave enough to continue to speak their conscience.

Syrain Arab Republic 's Stance on Clean Water

Due to the lack of sanitation water in Syrian Arab Republic, Organizations such as UNICEF has made it beneficial for citizens to have access to clean water. Water supply and sanitation facilities were under severe pressure because they have to provide sanitation water for numerous people living in their country. In the year of 2013, UNICEF, goal was to target 15,000,000 citizens with clean water, but only reached to 10,000,000 citizens. Since children have a lack of clean water their health also has a huge effect from this situation. The UNICEF provides Healthcare, Nutrition, Clean Water, Protection and Education for children. Syrian Arab Republic constantly struggles with the lack of sanitation water, they always find a solution to provide clean water for their citizens.

Syrain Arab Republic 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The government in Syrian Arab Republic, allows citizens to a possession of a small arm in public. The Trafficking arm has to be met by a certain license applicant in order for the arm to be licensed in their country. Syrian Arab Republic control the possession of small arm by giving citizens six months to notify the state of any arms in their possession and license them. If a citizen does not meet the requirements of the State, the citizen will receive an appropriate compensatory sum. Many citizens have surrendered their arms to the State. Those arms were licensed & were able to be carried in public.

Sources

1. <http://www.pressreference.com/Sw-Ur/Syrian-Arab-Republic.html>
2. https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/syria_82641.html
3. https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/HAC_2014_Syria_-_FINAL.pdf
4. <http://www.poa-iss.org/CASACountryProfile/PoANationalReports/2005@188@Syria%20English.pdf>

Entry:24

General Assembly Position Statement

France

Delegates: Meghan Carrigan, Alexandra Basse

School: Lakeshore High School

France's Stance on Restriction of the Press

While France recognizes freedom of press, the French government reserves the right to limit it. Some examples of restrictions the French government has placed on speech/press are: prohibited hate speech (speech used to encourage discrimination or violence towards a person or group or speech that advocates/justifies terrorism), banned child pornography, and stopped the media's ability to imply that a suspect is guilty until proven so. The punishment for violating these prohibitions on speech range from a fine to time in jail.

France's Stance on Clean Water

France is in proposition of getting the majority of the population access to free and healthy water. Since the UN's 17 sustainable development goals contain a specific goal for access to water, it has become very important to us. Water pollution has been a serious problem in France due to the amount of industrial contaminants, agricultural nitrates, and waste from the nation's cities. France's cities produce about 18.7 million tons of solid waste per year. France has 180 cubic kilometers of renewable water resources with 73% used for industrial purposes and 12% used for farming. France's lack of clean water has extremely effected the country. As of 1994, 20% of France's forests were damaged due to acid rain and other contaminants.

France's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

In the past, France has used strict weapons laws to try and deter weapons trafficking. Restrictive licensing attempts to reduce firearms violence by substantially reducing the number of firearms in circulation. Even with these actions, weapons trafficking is still a major threat to our national security. With the recent attack in Paris we are in need of a weapons reform. The attack was made using illegal guns that slipped through our borders. When talking about more radical weapons such as nuclear weapons, France has aligned itself with the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO). The CTBTO has been focused on working towards a safer world and general disarmament.

Sources

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/france>

<http://www.gouvernement.fr/en/news>

<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/development-assistance/the-international-development-agenda/article/sdg-6-clean-water-and-sanitation>

<http://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/Europe/France-ENVIRONMENT.html>

<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2015/03/falqs-freedom-of-speech-in-france/>

Entry:25

General Assembly Position Statement

Switzerland

Delegates: Alex Carpenter, Blythe Kelly-Atol

School: Baton Rouge High School

Switzerland 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Article 17 of the Swiss constitution guarantees freedom of the press, while Article 93 explicitly outlines the independence of broadcast media. The penal code prohibits public incitement to racial hatred or discrimination, spreading racist ideology, and denying crimes against humanity. The law does not specifically prohibit anti-Semitic speech or Holocaust denial, but there have been convictions for such expression in the recent past. It is a crime to publish information based on leaked secret official discussions, particularly regarding banking information.

Switzerland 's Stance on Clean Water

Swiss drinking water is a quality product from natural resources of which 80 percent stems from natural springs and groundwater, and the rest from lakes. Strict regulations concerning water and the quality of it have led to such positive development that, in some places, you can drink straight out the lake without second thoughts! Swiss tap water also demonstrates a more balanced ecology as opposed to water purchased in bottles and mineral waters travelling from near and far.

Switzerland 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Switzerland has a comprehensive gun-control regime that is governed by federal law and implemented by the cantons. This regime may be somewhat less restrictive than that of other European countries, yet since 2008 it has complied with European Union requirements. The Swiss Weapons Act requires an acquisition license for handguns and a carrying license for the carrying of any permitted firearm for defensive purposes. Exceptions exist for hunters. Automatic weapons are banned. Reports suggest that the level of firearm and ammunition smuggling in Switzerland is moderate.

Sources

<http://www.myswitzerland.com/en-us/drinking-water.html>

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/firearms-control/switzerland.php>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/switzerland>

Entry:26

General Assembly Position Statement

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Delegates: Jaden Wood,

School: Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Stance on Restriction of the Press

During the Bosnian War, most of the media was treated as a tool for propaganda for the armies and factions. In the wake of this, the country has tried to develop media that surpasses cultural/ethnic boundaries. In 2015, the US-based Freedom House called the country's press "partly free." It took into account that the press is free under the constitution, but journalists risk lawsuits and losing financial aid if critical reporting occurs. TV is the main news source, the internet is unfiltered, and social media is instrumental for public protests. The country, on paper, supports free press, but applies pressure in actuality.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Stance on Clean Water

Since one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's environmental issues is water shortages, the country would readily support clean water legislation if it increases the water supply or creates facilities to supply more water.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

During the 1992-1995 ethnic cleansing in the Bosnian War, the country readily accepted and traded arms for the fighting. After the Dayton Accords, peace was achieved for the country. Now, it faces a huge drug trafficking problem, and the weapons that come along with it. Bosnia and Herzegovina has become a major transit point for heroin and other money-laundering activity. Drug or weapon traffickers are drawn to the country because of its a weak law enforcement, cash-based economy, and instances of corrupt officials. Bosnia and Herzegovina would eagerly support control of weapon trafficking.

Sources

bbc.com

CIA world fact book

Entry:27

General Assembly Position Statement

Honduras

Delegates: William Schott,

School: Jesuit High School

Honduras's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Honduras believes in freedom of the press and grants that right in its constitution but also understands that restriction of the press is necessary in certain circumstances. If the press were allowed to say whatever it desires to say, there would be great fear of being persecuted by the media among government officials, regardless of whether or not they had done anything wrong. This should not be tolerated because it is crucial to allow the government to function properly. In addition, the withholding of government documents is necessary in many instances to keep crucial, life-saving information out of the wrong hands, thereby protecting the Honduran people. In regards to the persecution of journalists who have not acted unjustly, the National Congress passed the Law on Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators, and Operators of Justice in June of 2015 to help prevent this. For the most part, the government believes this is a nonissue.

Honduras's Stance on Clean Water

Honduras believes that access to clean water is important and, as a result, officially declared it a constitutional right for all Honduran citizens in 2013, but due to a slew of economic and environmental problems, access to clean water is still not something all Hondurans have. In 1998, Hurricane Mitch hit Honduras and polluted many of the country's water supplies, leaving many citizens, especially those in rural areas, without clean water. Since then, the government and external organizations have been gradually rebuilding the country's water supplies, doing the best they can with the limited amounts of money that they have. Getting clean water to every Honduran citizen is an ongoing process, and with more support from other nations and organizations it can be done.

Honduras's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Honduras believes that illegal weapons trafficking is a major problem that needs to be eliminated because it is a well established cause of unnecessary, preventable violence. Due to the fact that millions of dollars worth of these illegal arms are imported each year into Honduras, the government has been reevaluating current laws and has been trying to reform them to bring down the high rate of gun violence in the country. To stop illegal arms from traveling into the country in the first place, border patrol agents have been working harder lately to stop these shipments and are actually seizing between about 35 to 40 arms shipments every single month. The main problem is that, as these agents are becoming more diligent in searching for the illegal weapons, the smugglers themselves are becoming stealthier and much better at hiding the weapons. More reform is still necessary to prevent this key issue.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/honduras>

<http://www.bothends.org/en/News/Laatste-nieuws/newsitem/395/Groundbreaking-local-water-law-in-Honduras>

<http://water.org/country/honduras/>

<https://www.waterforpeople.org/where-we-work/honduras>

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/honduras-illegal-firearm-seizures-rise-amid-ongoing-insecurity>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/honduras>

<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Americas/Latin-America-Monitor/2012/1018/Honduras-to-reevaluate-gun-control-laws-How-will-it-impact-violence-in-the-region>

Entry:28

General Assembly Position Statement

Czech Republic

Delegates: Ferol Schoonmaker, Elizabeth Haslitt

School: Baton Rouge High School

Czech Republic's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The Czech Republic believes in freedom of the press with a few government restrictions such as a ban on inflammatory rhetoric pertaining to one's race, ethnicity, or country of origin, threats to national security, morality, and personal health. In the past the Czech Republic's courts have ruled in favor of the independence of the press. A majority of their print media is self operated and self regulated. Their media broadcasts are regulated by a government council. In summary the Czech Republic supports freedom of the press with slight limitations, and is against major restrictions of the press.

Czech Republic's Stance on Clean Water

The American CDC warns Americans traveling to the Czech Republic get vaccinated for Hepatitis A which has been found in the water. Independent studies done by the European Union have found many impurities and air pollution in the water supplies of the Czech Republic. The Czech Republic has taken independent measures in cleaning up their water supplies and have shown to be in favor of heavier regulation on their water.

Czech Republic's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The Czech Republic is a major small arms exporter and their firearm industry is regulated by the government at a mediocre level (not good, not bad). Studies show that the Czech Republic has very little firearm trafficking going through it. In the past the Czech Republic has stood in favor with aiding the United Nations in ending weapons trafficking; however, they have stood against any effort by the United Nations to create a correlation between firearm ownership and an increase in firearm violence.

Sources

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/czech-republic>

<http://www.agriculturejournals.cz/publicFiles/06733.pdf>

<http://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2015/countries/czech-republic>

<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/traveler/none/czech-republic>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/czech-republic>

<http://www.rrtv.cz/en/>

Entry:29

General Assembly Position Statement

Mexico

Delegates: Revathi Menon, Abigail Dorsa

School: Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Mexico's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Mexico, though not official in its censorship of the press, still provides a toxic environment for reporters. Journalists are often killed, kidnapped, or threatened after writing controversial stories. Self censorship among the press is prevalent and widespread due to harassment from drug cartels in alliance with the Mexican government. Media outlets have been suffering from cyber attacks of unclear origin that are meant to disrupt the flow of information to the people of Mexico. Female reporters are more likely to face sexual harassment as well as physical. Media outlets are pressured by public officials and private actors to abstain from negative coverage. Journalists face low wages and no benefits, and this leaves them open to bribery and attacks. Mexico is in need of solutions to better protect the press and provide a safer environment for reporting news.

Mexico's Stance on Clean Water

Mexico puts urban development ahead of efficient and sustainable ways to attain clean water. Using hydro-engineering, billions of liters of water are pumped up from hundred of meters underground. This system is inefficient and energy consuming, and does not address the growing problem of the frequently occurring floods and shortages of water, and as a result, residents must pay incredibly high prices for each litre of water. Tensions grow between conservationist groups and government teamed with big businesses over the violation of indigenous peoples' land and the possible privatization of water. In Mexico city alone, seventy percent of the population has less than twelve hours of running water per day. The future of clean water in Mexico is dangerously unpredictable, and Mexico is open to effective solutions to overcome this crisis.

Mexico's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Mexico is currently struggling with major weapons trafficking issues. Mexico took in over 73,000 guns in five years from the U.S. alone. The majority of its illegal guns are purchased legally along the Mexican-American border, and are then smuggled across the border. Recently a new problem with smuggling has made things even more difficult. The smugglers have started buying weapon parts, which are much easier to get across the border, in order to assemble them once they reach their destination. This makes them harder to find and harder to track. Mexico's weapons trafficking issues are closely linked with drug trafficking, and it hopes to find a solution that tackles these issues together. While Mexico has made strides of improvement over the past few years, it is very open to more aggressive solutions to weapons trafficking.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/mexico>

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/nov/12/mexico-city-water-crisis-source-sewer>

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-223>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2016/01/12/462781469/in-mexico-tens-of-thousands-of-illegal-guns-come-from-the-u-s>

General Assembly Position Statement

South Africa

Delegates: Rylee Haggard, Peyton Gunn

School: CE Byrd

South Africa's Stance on Restriction of the Press

South Africa has generally has freedom of press and speech but some things are off limits. Journalist cannot report on issues of national security. Due to the apartheid era key points act journalist cannot go to designated key points. They are slowly losing freedom of the press.

South Africa's Stance on Clean Water

South Africa likes to boast about having good water but in reality there's a good chance it will give you a water born disease. Over time 91% of the people have gotten access to clean water but there is no national water and sanitation company. So the government does not promote clean water through funding but promotes health and hopes to reach sanitation separately.

South Africa's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The leading cause of violent death in South Africa are gun shot wounds, many of which are bought illegally. Over 1900 police guns went missing over that last year. They mainly stay on top of this gun trafficking through use of police stings.

Sources

<http://theconversation.com/illegal-guns-fuel-violent-crime-wreak-deadly-havoc-in-south-africa-49006>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/south-africa>

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_South_Africa

<https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-south-africa>

Entry:31

General Assembly Position Statement

Kiribati

Delegates: Mason Guillot,

School: Baton Rouge Magnet High School

Kiribati's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Kiribati has an open and free press. Freedom of the press is guaranteed in Article 12 of Kiribati's constitution, but this right does feature some restrictions. Under the Newspaper Registration Act, all Kiribati newspapers must register with the government. Censorship is very rare, and in certain cases, journalists will censor themselves for fear of repression from the Kiribati government. There is but one radio station in Kiribati, and that station is state-owned but often features governmental news, which has led the station to be accused of irresponsible governmental reporting. Nevertheless, Kiribati is against restriction of the press, and Kiribati will support those countries which do not have freedom of the press in order for them to attain this freedom.

Kiribati's Stance on Clean Water

Typically, clean water is tapped from ground water in wells, but because of climate change. Kiribati is slowly being enveloped by rapidly rising sea levels, to the point where in the next fifty years, the whole country will be underwater. The levels of salt-water intrusion and flooding cause great volatility in the access of fresh, clean drinking water. The coral limestone that sustains atolls purifies some of the salt water, but the lack of clean water may cause many of Kiribati's residents to die from a lack of clean water before the island is submerged. Kiribati is continuing to seek a source of clean drinking water, and it also wishes for other countries that do not have access to clean drinking water to work together to figure out where they can obtain clean water.

Kiribati's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Kiribati is strongly against the trafficking of weapons. Kiribati has proposed, in the past, a UN resolution to prevent the manufacturing and trafficking of weapons to other countries, especially biological and nuclear weapons. Kiribati does not, however, have a large weapons trafficking problem, however, as it has a transport control law, as well as a lower rate of weapons ownership. Kiribati, because it is not in a position to be able to help other countries prevent weapons trafficking, urges countries which have more resources and money to implement an effective program to eliminate weapons trafficking to be an active part of the solution and will support such efforts.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2008/kiribati>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Media_in_Kiribati

<http://www.climate.gov.ki/category/effects/water/>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/kiribati>

http://www.nti.org/media/pdfs/kiribati-1540-initial-report.pdf?_=1316809122

<http://www.nti.org/analysis/articles/kiribati-1540-reporting/>

General Assembly Position Statement

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Delegates: Laurance Hagan, Grant Kimble

School: Lakeshore High School

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea allows all its citizens to do as they wish and while they are free to say as they wish and petition, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea will not hesitate to silence those who are a threat to our glorious nation. As with any nation, we take threats to our government seriously. We believe that the "suppression" of the press may be necessary.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Clean Water

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea does have some issues assessing clean water for our citizens due to pollution from some of our glorious factories and industrial centers. We strive to provide clean and safe water to our citizens. We are in favor of clean and safe water to all, water is the root of life.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is not involved in illegal weapons trafficking. We deny all western allegations and the allegations set forth by the UN. We are a government, not a den of crooks and thieves. We do not condone illegal weapons trafficking. That being said, we will not stand by any legislation that inhibits on the movement of military goods from one nation to another. We will also oppose any resolutions that call for a cessation of the manufacture of small arms in any way shape or form.

Sources

<http://www.korea-dpr.com/index.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Korea

Entry:33

General Assembly Position Statement

Qatar

Delegates: Lura Stabiler, Erin Alpandinar

School: Episcopal High School Baton Rouge

Qatar's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Journalists in Qatar are subject to prosecution if they criticize the government or ruling family. They are only permitted to report on critical information on foreign policy and updates on leaders.

Qatar's Stance on Clean Water

Qatar struggles to secure fresh, drinkable water in their country. This lack of water could be due to their low levels of rainfall. Although they struggle with water, Qatar consumes about 460 liters a day. They are forced to rely on underground sources and recycled water.

Qatar's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

In Qatar, there are laws to limit the export of guns and weapons. Their weapon imports are also regulated by laws.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/qatar>

<http://www.theedge.me/qatars-fresh-water-challenges/>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/qatar>

Entry:34

General Assembly Position Statement

Poland

Delegates: Abbe Kantrow, John Carleton

School: University Lab School

Poland's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Regarding restriction of the press, Poland has fallen under disapproval. During 2015, we experienced a large political shift, and as expected, many nations do not support our new aims. Currently, a claim surfaces that nationalism inspired our press amendments, so our nation may gain stronger party control (Media freedom and pluralism in jeopardy). We reject this idea, and I shall use a popular example as to why. Recently, our nation has sought justice against an historian for his remarks that Poles actually killed more Jews than Germans during the war (Gera). This claim against Poland, a nation which felt the brunt of Nazi hostilities and led the Warsaw Uprising, is humiliating. Despite the historical truth, the blunt, insulting nature lead us to challenge this claim. Poland is not in a position to suffer national insult. Due to intensifying situations with Ukraine, Russia, and Estonia, Poland takes its media very seriously. We understand potential disagreement on this subject; however, we stand by our handlings of press and believe that it secures the best interest of the Polish peoples, and European peace.

Poland's Stance on Clean Water

Poland views water scarcity and pollution as a serious issue that should be addressed and managed. However, the country has not always made responsible decisions regarding the handling of water. Communist Poland (1945-1989) relied heavily on industry. The effects of this industrial overreliance were not seen until the late 1980s and the early 1990s. It resulted in the creation of excessive amounts of municipal and industrial waste and acid rain, which eventually resulted in the pollution and contamination of water in many of the nation's rivers and in the Baltic Sea. In addition, Poland was taken to court and sued for not abiding by the policies of the Water Framework Directive, the European Union's main legislation that regulates water use.

On a different note, compared to other countries in its region, Poland consumes little water via agriculture. Poland's weather conditions make for little use of irrigation, resulting in lower amounts of water consumption. Poland is also drafting legislation entitled the Water Law that will make the procedure of paying water usage fees a stricter process and reform water management throughout the country. Poland has learned from mistakes in the past and is working to do more to solve the worldwide problem of water scarcity.

Poland's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

As a nation bordered to the Ukraine, a region under extreme political and military stress, we understand the concerns of illicit weapons trafficking, and its threat to human rights issues such as supplying belligerent paramilitary and terrorist groups. Poland currently has restrictive gun laws regarding both civilian use, and the exportation of weapons (Alpers and Marcus); however, firearm trafficking still maintains a key issue to Poland and Ukraine (Alpers and Marcus; Porter). Ongoing conflict in our neighboring nation means a demand of weapons, and our nation recognizes the United Nations stance on weapons trafficking, stated in Article 39, as harmful to peace and general well-being. In our recognition, Poland vows to continue scrutinizing imports and exports, and prosecuting weapons smugglers.

Sources

Alpers, Philip and Wilson Marcus. Poland Gun Facts, Figures and the Law. 28 October 2016. Sydney School of Public Health, The University of Sydney. Website. 14 November 2016.
<<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/poland>>.

Gera, Vanessa. Poland's treatment of Princeton Holocaust scholar tests speech freedom. 4 November 2016. The Associated Press. Online News Article. 14 November 2016.
<<http://www.trentonian.com/article/TT/20161104/NEWS/161109857>>.

Media freedom and pluralism in jeopardy. 2016. Reporters Without Borders. Website. 14 November 2016. <<https://rsf.org/en/poland>>.

Porter, Tom. Poland: Weapon smuggling following Ukraine war arming organised crime and terrorists in western Europe. 25 January 2016. News Article. 14 November 2016. <<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/poland-weapon-smuggling-following-ukraine-war-arming-organised-crime-terrorists-western-europe-1533683>>. <https://earthzine.org/2012/01/09/water-availability-in-reference-to-water-needs-in-poland-the-importance-of-correct-estimation-of-water-resources/>

<http://countrystudies.us/poland/25.htm>

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-dangersub/index.htm>

<http://www.cms-lawnow.com/ealerts/2016/07/new-concept-of-water-resources-management-in-poland>
Alpers, Philip and Wilson Marcus. Poland Gun Facts, Figures and the Law. 28 October 2016. Sydney School of Public Health, The University of Sydney. Website. 14 November 2016. <<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/poland>>.

Gera, Vanessa. Poland's treatment of Princeton Holocaust scholar tests speech freedom. 4 November 2016. The Associated Press. Online News Article. 14 November 2016. <<http://www.trentonian.com/article/TT/20161104/NEWS/161109857>>.

Media freedom and pluralism in jeopardy. 2016. Reporters Without Borders. Website. 14 November 2016. <<https://rsf.org/en/poland>>.

Porter, Tom. Poland: Weapon smuggling following Ukraine war arming organised crime and terrorists in western Europe. 25 January 2016. News Article. 14 November 2016. <<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/poland-weapon-smuggling-following-ukraine-war-arming-organised-crime-terrorists-western-europe-1533683>>.

Entry:35

General Assembly Position Statement

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Delegates: Manuel Molina, Ethan Erhardt

School: Jesuit High School

Iran (Islamic Republic of)'s Stance on Restriction of the Press

Iran is the one of the least free in regards to the press in the world. Criticism of the country's leaders, especially of the Ayatollah, is heavily censored both in traditional media and online. Many media outlets have been shut down by the Iranian government, and various journalists have been jailed. Since the election of moderate, Hasan Ruhani as president, the media has been allowed to further brush on more delicate topics. Iranian law and the country's constitution restricts any content detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam or the rights of the public. Most media outlets are owned or partially owned by the Iranian government. Private broadcasting, from which 80% of Iranians take in news, is illegal and satellite receivers which can access international channels are banned and subject to confiscation. Iran is considered Not Free by most international, nonpartisan watchdogs on free press. Iran believes that such restrictions on the press are necessary for the good of the people and that the government has a duty to protect its citizens from malicious press and to defend the principles of Islam from attack by the media.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)'s Stance on Clean Water

Because of Iran's shortage of clean water access and past crises regarding water access, Iran has been a proactive supporter of clean water access. As a member of the Islamic Development Bank, it has devoted over 1 billion dollars in loans to fund wastewater projects throughout the Middle East, especially in Iran. Iran has made efforts with UN councils to train Iranians in clean water and wastewater technologies. Iran, although it does not have receive much aid from clean water NGOs, has encouraged their activities to increase rural access to clean water and for research in water contamination in poor communities. The World Bank has made hundreds of millions of dollars in loans to Iran to improve its water-access infrastructure; but because of sanctions, the programs have largely failed because of sanctions which limit the amount of materials needed for improvements which can enter the country.

Iran (Islamic Republic of)'s Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Because of the UN Security Council's arms embargo on Iran, it has found itself needing to supply its military with weapons that are acquired illicitly. Iran requires that the arms embargo be lifted for it to participate in resolutions which control the trading of arms. Iran also supports certain non-state actors around the globe which are considered terrorist groups by the United States and the EU. Therefore, Iran is against resolutions which limit its trade in weapons with groups it sees as fighters for the Islamic faith. Because the arms embargo and Iran's resignation to acquiring illicitly obtained arms, it is not able to join any registry of weapon imported/exported. Although Iran is opposed to illegal arms trafficking, it feels as though because of the UN's actions to limit its military capacities, which as a sovereign nation Iran feels it should be allowed to have, it has no choice but to engage in less than conventional forms of obtaining arms and arming its military.

Sources

http://www.wssinfo.org/documents/?tx_displaycontroller%5Bregion%5D=&tx_displaycontroller%5Bsearch_word%5D=Iran&tx_displaycontroller%5Btype%5D=country_files
<https://lobelog.com/irans-position-on-the-arms-trade-treaty/>
<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/iran>

Entry:36

General Assembly Position Statement

Austria

Delegates: Preston Warwick,

School: Jesuit High School

Austria's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Austria supports freedom of the press and the basis of this is the Media Law of 1981. Many advocates have urged for the revision of the stringent civil and criminal defamation laws, as well as restrictive laws on freedom of information. The Austrian Communications Authority regulates broadcasts and frequencies. Media ownership is very concentrated in Austria.

Austria's Stance on Clean Water

Austria in 2002 adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. This strategy helps Austria to develop annual work programs to improve the sustainability of its clean water. The government did this by working with sustainability coordinators and an expert panel to devise workable plans. The Water Act, which had received a major amendment in 1990 and a last major amendment in 2003, makes national laws to protect the rivers that flow through the country. This act does this the requirements of the EU WFD to be made into law.

Austria's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The Austrian government believes that small arms trafficking is helping to cause conflict and crime throughout the world. Austria has strict gun laws and this will carry over to the fact that the illegal gun trade should be eliminated. That is because an excess of guns in the wrong hands with cause more crime and conflict.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/austria>

<http://www.un.org/esa/agenda21/natlinfo/countr/austria/freshwater.pdf>

<http://www.poa-iss.org/CASACountryProfile/StatementUNMeeting/311@Austria.pdf>

Entry:37

General Assembly Position Statement

Republic of Turkey

Delegates: Samy Amkieh, Dylan Meyer

School: Jesuit High School

Republic of Turkey's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Turkey's public policy is strong support for freedom of the press. However, the Turkish state's actions in recent years seem to contradict that stand. On March 4, 2016, the Turkish police seized the Zaman newspaper to initiate a takeover by court-appointed trustees. These infringements on free press are occurring in the name of state security. President Erdogan and his government have targeted newspapers and organizations that are believed to be in support of former imam Fethullah Gulen, who now lives in exile in the United States. Any article that is seen as derogatory to the Erdogan bloc in government is labelled as a potential threat to the state. The labelling of Fethullah Gulen as a terrorist is used to justify the arrest of journalists and the shutdown of news agencies across Turkey that protest the government.

Republic of Turkey's Stance on Clean Water

Turkey's stance on clean water is that while it is a scarce commodity in the region, it will be pivotal in the country's further advancements in food and energy production. Due to the fact that 70 percent of the country's freshwater comes from rivers, it is not surprising that as rain-fed water sources are nearing their capacity, irrigation is being turned to in hopes of expanding the capabilities of the country. Potential membership into the EU has also spurred reform in Turkey's water policy. Turkey acknowledges its duty to its neighbor's water security, since Turkey contains the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates River, life-giving waterways that need to maintain steady water levels for the safety of Iraqis, Syrians, and Turks. Turkey has many policies regarding how water should be accessed in responsible ways that do not encroach on other areas in the region. A recent Water Law (2013) increased water management coordination, established a water management council for appropriate water basin use, and formed flood management plans. Turkey must work on providing access to clean water for all of its citizens, but it is heading in the right direction in terms of water reform and better management of this precious resource.

Republic of Turkey's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Following suit with many European countries, Turkey has made large strides toward a safer society through the control and disarmament of weapons that lead to organized crime and terrorism (assault rifles, small arms, explosive devices, etc.). To that end, Turkey has adopted the policies set forth by the UN regarding the problem with weapons of mass destruction. In addition Turkey is a part of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism, the Proliferation Security Initiative, the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and both the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions. However, there is a large amount of weapons trafficking occurring mainly at Turkey's southern border. A large flow of foreign fighters and weaponry constantly pours over the border from Syria and Iraq. Beginning in August of 2016, Turkey has been participating in Operation Euphrates Shield, a joint offensive of Turkish military units and Syrian rebels against mainly ISIS. Huge amounts of up-armored vehicles and weapons have been flowing into Syria through Turkish military channels, escalating the risk of those same weapons falling into traffickers hands. Turkey has taken a strong stand against weapons trafficking but has a long way to go until the conflicts and potential hotbeds around its borders are dealt with.

Sources

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/03/press-freedom-attack-turkey-160309101558006.html>

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/water-law/turkey.php>

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/arms-control-and-disarmament.en.mfa>

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/turkeys-al-bab-operation-is-at-stake-.aspx?PageID=238&NID=106312&NewsCatID=429>

General Assembly Position Statement

Mali

Delegates: Samuel Vaughn, Jaira

School: McKinley Senior High

Mali's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Mali is opposed to any restriction of the press. However, the Superior Council of Communication regulates the media. The citizens want the rights to the freedom of press that have been declared by the constitution.

Mali's Stance on Clean Water

Mali is a landlocked country that is also a desert, so both water quality and water scarcity are big issues. To supply the 460,000 people in need of drinkable water, and sanitize the water as well, the government has to make this a real national priority.

Mali's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Weapons trafficking is highly illegal in Mali. However, note that Libyan weapons still and will continue to make its way to Mali despite increased pressure by operation Barkhane. Arms transfers and trafficking have continued to spiral, in part, because the international community has not effectively enforced UN sanctions, criminalized embargo violations, penalized financial institutions that act as conduits for weapons purchases, failed to promote indigenous controls over African arms production and sales to countries under UN arms embargoes, or taken actions against countries that serve as arms transshipment points.

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_rights_in_Mali#Freedom_of_Speech_and_Press

<https://wsp.org/sites/wsp.org/files/publications/CSO-Mali.pdf>

<http://www.defense-aerospace.com/article-view/verbatim/16134/arms-transfers-and-trafficking-in-africa.html>

Entry:39

General Assembly Position Statement

Germany

Delegates: Gavin Skipper, Neehar Desai

School: Jesuit High School

Germany 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Media in Germany in most circumstances is completely free and strong within the country. Most media landscapes were free to report from many different view points, but in 2015 there were a few concerning events regarding the media in Germany. Although there are no censoring laws, the German court system has attempted to remove certain online articles in German news. Chancellor Merkel has called for Twitter and Facebook to remove certain things that "incite hatred." Nearly two thirds of Germans read the newspapers, and the media has great influence amongst the people. In December of 2015, ECPMF reported that 29 journalist had been physically attacked by right wing actors in 2015. By the end of 2015, investigations were taking place with at least two cases, one being a case of arson on a news station, while the other was a case of assault on a columnist.

Germany 's Stance on Clean Water

Germany, after having to deal with major problems with water sanitation in the 1970s, has become a leading country on the topic of clean water. Germany recently partnered with china in an effort to help the Chinese access and keep clean water for there citizens. The program the two countries developed dealt mainly with things such as waste water treatment, clean industry, and water resource protection. This program, along with their own clean water solutions has made Germany a leader in clean water solutions throughout the world.

Germany 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The German government has been very active in suppressing weapons trafficking over the past several years. Just as recently as 2007, Germany banned exports of firearms to certain countries because they suspected the firearms were being used for human rights violations. Although the ban has been put in place, a company just admitted to selling thousands of guns to states in Mexico that Germany banned. Heckler and Koch, a Germany arms dealer, is under investigation by the German government for illegal gun trading. The company has also been accused of bribing Mexican officials to increase weapon sales. Although the German government supports the export of firearms, it actively monitors and investigates companies that are doing such exporting.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/Germany>.

<https://www.fona.de/en/german-chinese-research-and-innovation-programme-clean-water-16839.html>.

<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/germany-gun-trafficking-mexico>

Entry:40

General Assembly Position Statement

Spain

Delegates: Amanda Tsai, Chanler Turnley

School: Episcopal High School

Spain's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Spain is a democratic country. Freedom of speech and of the press is highly regarded. Public and private press can publish freely without intervention of the government. Under Franco (1936-1975), Spain did not execute freedom of the press.

Spain's Stance on Clean Water

The government of Spain has committed to creating a world with clean water. Spain had pledged to bring water and sanitation to 3.5 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean through two international funds, including the MDG Achievement Fund. Spaniards believe water sanitation is a step toward eliminating poverty, and Spain is a proponent of clean water.

Spain's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

There is regulation of trade of weapons in Spain. Smuggling weapons into Spain is moderate. Spain has created laws to limit weapons trafficking, making the industry highly regulated.

Sources

<https://freespeechfreepress.wordpress.com/spain/>,

<http://www.mdgfund.org/node/4261>,

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/spain>,

<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/firearms-control/spain.php>

Entry:41

General Assembly Position Statement

United Kingdom

Delegates: Megan Denicola, Mason Charrier

School: Baton Rouge High

United Kingdom's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The United Kingdom has freedom of the press, with a few exceptions. The 2006 Terrorism Act prohibits speech that encourages terrorism. The 2006 Racial and Religious Hatred Act prohibits inciting religious or racial violence. The media can be forced to turn over reporting material according to the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act. The UK is fairly similar to the United States in terms of freedom of the press and its restrictions.

United Kingdom's Stance on Clean Water

The United Kingdom believes there is an international human right to clean and safe water. The UK considers the right to water should grant everyone in the world "reasonably affordable and accessible water necessary for survival, i.e. drinking, cooking and personal hygiene." This right does not include water for transport, recreation, or industry. In terms of water allocation, water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene should take priority. It is up to each country to decide how to fulfil its obligation to the human right to water, but every country has a duty to take every step that they can to ensure that every citizen enjoys the right to water, without discrimination. The DFID (Department for International Development) supports developing countries by "Supporting partner governments to fulfil their obligations under the ICESCR [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights] and we will strengthen the ability of people living in poverty to claim their right to water. We will review and update our policies and programmes in line with our commitment to supporting the right to water."

United Kingdom's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The United Kingdom supports treaties such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Chemical Weapons Convention. The British government has reduced its stockpile of nuclear weapons. Firearm and ammunition import and export are limited by transfer control law. Reports suggest that there is a moderate firearm and ammunition smuggling problem in the UK. Within the country, the right to private gun ownership is not guaranteed by law. Many of the international organizations that the UK belongs to bind it to opposing international weapons trafficking.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/united-kingdom>

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/36540/uk-position-human-right-water.pdf

<http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/united-kingdom/>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/united-kingdom>

Entry:42

General Assembly Position Statement

South Sudan

Delegates: courtney wadkins, vanessa galvan

School: Alexandria Senior High School

South Sudan's Stance on Restriction of the Press

South Sudan's restriction of the press, shows that they have still remained in a repressive civil war against the rebel forces. South Sudan is not very friendly when it comes to the press apparently this year security forces ordered the closure of two newspapers and a producer of radio content. Also this past January there were 5 journalists killed in an attack at a Government convoy. Therefore that displays that South Sudan is resistant against the press and doesn't want them involved.

South Sudan's Stance on Clean Water

South Sudan's stance on clean water is they very badly kids and women spend up to eight hours a day trying to get water. The water that the people often drink is dirty and contaminated it comes from marshes, ditches or even hand-dug wells. The water is very nasty and often contaminated with parasites, bacteria and diseases. They still drink it and they often end up extremely sick or even dead.

South Sudan's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

South Sudan's stance on weapon trafficking is well South Sudan is very heavily armed. It is a big problem a lot of normal civilians have got their hands on the arms and it has turned potentially dangerous. Illegal gun ownership is a big thing we were getting guns from places that aren't South Sudan therefore there is a lot of illegal weapon trafficking going on so a solution must be found to this problem.

Sources

www.theguardian.com

www.waterforsouthsudan.org

Entry:43

General Assembly Position Statement

Guatemala

Delegates: Rachel Posner, Chima Mbagwu

School: Episcopal High School

Guatemala 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

- Press status: partly free
 - Press Freedom Score: 60
 - There were increasing press freedom violations in Guatemala in 2014 (the government used courts to target journalists and media organizations, but no killings of journalists have taken place recently)
-

Guatemala 's Stance on Clean Water

- There is no law granting all people the right to clean drinking water in Guatemala
 - There are a multitude of government entities involved in water and sanitation (although no group has a clear leadership role)
 - The drinking water supply and sanitation sector has low and inconsistent service coverage (especially in rural areas), unclear allocation of management responsibilities, and little or no regulation
 - 93% of its citizens have access to improved water (but only 87% of people living in rural areas have access)
 - Most of the water systems that do exist are low quality
 - However, there are many movements to give Guatemalans access to clean drinking water
-

Guatemala 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

- Between Mexico, America, and the United States there is a huge problem with weapon trafficking
 - The majority of the weapons are US in origin
 - Weapons trafficking contributes to Guatemala being considered one of the most dangerous places on Earth
 - Guatemala is set to gain access to the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) weapons tracing system, to track arms confiscated from criminal groups in the country.
-

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/guatemala>
www.sam.usace.army.mil/Portals/.../Guatemala/Guatemala%20WRA%20English.pdf
<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/guatemala-arms-trafficking>
<http://www.insightcrime.org/news-briefs/guatemala-atf-trace-illegal-weapons>

Entry:44

General Assembly Position Statement

Serbia

Delegates: Claire Smith, Catherine Hebert

School: Saint Joseph's Academy

Serbia's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The Serbian government will punish those who, on the media, threaten the safety of the citizens of Serbia and the stability of the government. Anyone who, whether on media or on paper and presiding in Serbia, shows hostility towards the country of Serbia will not go with a lesson untaught. People will always create a larger issue on things that don't deserve that much thought, and therefore they get consequences. All throughout history there have been instances of citizens being put in danger due to other dangerous citizens who believe in the wrong things, and the Serbian government is intent on not letting it happen again for the safety of its citizens.

Serbia's Stance on Clean Water

Nearly all Serbian citizens have access to clean water. As a result, Serbia is interested in expanding access to clean water around the world. Historically, Serbian citizens have not always enjoyed high quality of life, because of this we seek to provide higher quality of life to other nations. Through the European Union and other Pan-European institutions Serbia is interested in using all power it possesses to achieve this goal.

Serbia's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Serbia finds that weapons trafficking is a major issue, and needs lots of attention. There are many deals of weapons trafficking that occurs in Serbia so getting rid of it is a very big ordeal. The government has done many things to abolish the trafficking because it is such an issue and there has been a little success though not as much as needed. Since it is such an issue, they have launched numerous investigations on finding out and revealing the many criminals in charge. Serbia is not content with the situation with weapons trafficking and are therefore working very hard to make sure there is no more and so it will be a safe place for all citizens.

Sources

http://www.srbija.gov.rs/cinjenice_o_srbiji/ustav.php?change_lang=en

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2015/country-chapters/serbia/kosovo>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbian_Progressive_Party

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ri.html>

Entry:45

General Assembly Position Statement

The socialist Republic of Vietnam

Delegates: Faith Woods, Emma Perrault

School: St. Joseph's Academy

The socialist Republic of Vietnam's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Vietnam is one of the harshest environments for free media. The government often punishes critical reporters and journalists in various ways including physical harassment. Vietnam's constitution does recognize freedom of expression yet speech critical of the government is prohibited in Vietnam's criminal code. If violated this can lead to jail time.

The socialist Republic of Vietnam's Stance on Clean Water

Finding clean, potable water remains a major health issue in Vietnam. Vietnam has made considerable progress in the past decades, such as a community lead project that provided clean water for 1.3 million rural residents. However, many areas populated by ethnic minorities, which are often the poorest, have not been affected by the strives to change.

The socialist Republic of Vietnam's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Vietnam supports action to prevent illegal trade of small arms and light weapons in Southeast Asia. Vietnam believes illegal trade can strain relations between counties and add fuel to local conflicts. However Vietnam supports each countries individual right to produce, import, and retain weapons. Support for international cooperation was also stated by Vietnam's UN ambassador.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/vietnam>

<https://www.unicef.org/vietnam/wes.html>

<http://english.vov.vn/politics/vietnam-supports-calls-to-eliminate-illicit-small-arms-trade-17326.vov>

Entry:46

General Assembly Position Statement

Egypt

Delegates: Jade Woods, Christiana Bennet

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Egypt's Stance on Restriction of the Press

After a turbulent period of government, Egypt ratified a new constitution in January of 2014. In this constitution, the government promises a free media without any censorship and a transparent new government. However, these promises are not true. Journalists opposing the new constitution or anyone seeming to support the president's opponents can be prosecuted and imprisoned. President Al- Sisi's administration has also considered supporting a bill that would forbid any publication-- whether on the radio, on television, or even social media-- of news about the military.

Egypt's Stance on Clean Water

Egypt is suffering from a national water crisis. Many factors have caused this situation, such as the nation's growing population, very little annual rainfall, and poor, outdated irrigation techniques along the Nile, the source of 95% of the country's water. Additionally, the Nile has been polluted by chemicals, industrial waste, and even animal carcasses. Citizens have received aid from agencies such as USAID and UNICEF which drill wells to procure potable water and teach families how to handle unsafe water, respectively. The Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation is responsible for the distribution of Egypt's water and has instituted several programs, but it has not been able to address the nation's problems.

Egypt's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Egypt forbids ownership of a firearm without a permit. However, this law is not enforced. Following the "January Revolution" in 2011, the Egyptian black market for weapons boomed. Since that time, the government has attempted to lower the usage of these illegal weapons through several programs. One way weapons have been recovered is by the establishment of checkpoints on highways or near borders. Another of the government's efforts was to offer amnesty and a license to carry a weapon for self defense for anyone who voluntarily turned over an illegal weapon. However, these programs have not had any lasting effect.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/egypt> <http://www.ecomena.org/egypt-water/>
https://www.unicef.org/egypt/wes_131.html <https://www.usaid.gov/egypt/water-and-sanitation>
<https://www.loc.gov/law/help/water-law/egypt.php> <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/firearms-control/egypt.php>

Entry:47

General Assembly Position Statement

Lebanon

Delegates: Shreya Reshamwala,

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Lebanon's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Lebanon's press remains partly free, although one of the least restricted in the Middle East.

Lebanon's Stance on Clean Water

Due to civil conflict, water infrastructure has deteriorated. Citizens who are able to afford water usually purchase water bottles instead of relying on the government supply. Water quality has mainly been affected by pollution and improper waste system management.

Lebanon's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Gun trafficking rates are low in Lebanon. The import and export of guns is limited by law. Firearms are regulated by the government. To obtain a gun, the applicant must be 21 years of age, undergo a background check, and supply a genuine reason to own the firearm.

Sources

Middle East: Lebanon. The World Factbook 2013-2014. Washington, DC: Central Intelligence Agency, 2013.

Water and Sanitation. USAID, October 21, 2016, <https://www.usaid.gov/lebanon/water-and-sanitation>.

Alpers, Philip and Marcus Wilson. 2016. Lebanon Gun Facts, Figures and the Law. Sydney School of Public Health, The University of Sydney. GunPolicy.org, 23 February. Accessed 30 November 2016. <http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/lebanon>.

Entry:48

General Assembly Position Statement

Greece

Delegates: Catherine Cox, Ellie Enright

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Greece's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The constitution and various laws include provisions for freedom of speech and the press. However, there are some legal restrictions, particularly on speech that incites fear, violence, and public disharmony, as well as on publications that are obscene, offend religious beliefs, or advocate violence against the political system. Defamation and insult are criminal offenses, both carrying imprisonment as a possible punishment.

In the past five years, however, freedoms of the press have been dramatically restricted due to political interference in enacting restrictive legislation, monopolies in the media, Greece's economic troubles, and politically biased news coverage.

Greece's Stance on Clean Water

Overall, Greece lags behind in clean water efforts by both EU and WHO standards. Although Greece's largest cities meet clean water and wastewater discharge standards, its smaller towns and islands do not. The quality of water in Greece's largest cities of Athens and Thessaloniki, where the majority of people live, is good quality. The source of water for these cities is good and the treatment plants and distribution networks are well maintained. However, in other areas of Greece, the water quality and treatment plants are not good nor effectively monitored, so bottled water is recommended.

Greece's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

As a member of the EU, Greece is subject to EU legislation regulating and restricting the acquisition, possession, and transfer of weapons, including the prohibition of the export of firearms to anyone in another country under the age of 18, and the protocol against the illicit manufacturing and trafficking in firearms.

The level of weapons being smuggled in or out of Greece is estimated to be low. Greece is neither a large exporter or importer of arms. In fact, the crime rate in general is low in Greece, with over half of criminal activity committed by immigrants.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/greece>

<http://www.newsweek.com/greece-sees-biggest-decline-press-freedom-world-report-326237>

<http://greece.greekreporter.com/2016/05/28/is-it-safe-to-drink-tap-water-in-greece/>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/greece>

<http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS1503.pdf>

General Assembly Position Statement

Georgia

Delegates: Elise Saloom , Christina Mack

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Georgia 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Georgia has one of the freest and most diverse media environment in the South Caucasus. Strong ties remain between media outlets and political parties or interests. Article 19 of the 1995 constitution and the Law on Freedom of Speech and Expression contain protections against censorship.

Georgia 's Stance on Clean Water

Georgia's water issues stem from waste and pollution caused by human activities. The Constitution of Georgia includes laws concerning environmental protection. Water is property of state and is only permitted under a license, such as licenses for water diversion from surface and ground water bodies, waste release to surface water bodies, and surface water use for recreation and sportive purposes. The Minister of Environment Protection approved rules on surface water bodies' protection from pollution to determine water quality standards. The Monitoring Center of Georgia monitors surface water, but it is impossible to monitor all water due to lack of financing. Georgia's current economic situation makes most water unsanitary and the water quality does not meet standards because of weak water quality control. Wastes are released to surface water bodies due to the diminishing operation of treatment facilities, and infectious illnesses are becoming more prevalent.

Georgia 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

In Georgia, the right to private gun ownership is not guaranteed by law. Civilian possession of automatic weapons, handguns, rifles, and shotguns is regulated by the law. One can only lawfully acquire, possess, or transfer a firearm or ammunition if he or she is a licensed gun owner. The law requires that a record of the acquisition, possession and transfer of each privately held firearm be retained in an official register. State agencies are required to maintain records of the storage and movement of all firearms and ammunition under their control. Dealing in firearms by way of business without a valid gun dealer's license is unlawful.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/georgia>

http://www.gwp.org/Global/GWP-CACENA_Files/en/pdf/georgia.pdf

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/georgia>

https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/georgia_statistics.html

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/gg.html>

Entry:50

General Assembly Position Statement

Azerbaijan

Delegates: Michael Ingram, Reese Leonhard

School: Jesuit High school of New Orleans

Azerbaijan's Stance on Restriction of the Press

In creating the constitution of Azerbaijan, after gaining independence from the USSR in 1991, freedom of the press is presented as a right of the people; but the State has a strong hold over media outlets. Defamation charges against the president and other political entities can cause one to serve prison time; Many online news and media outlets have arisen in the country, but they are subject to be shut down by the government if deemed slanderous. Foreign grants and funding are restricted from local non governmental organizations, including media rights groups. Government sanctioned raids have shut down local media centers, such as one raid on The Institute for Reporters Freedom and Safety (IRFS) and the Media Rights Institute, who are known to be the leading media watchdogs of the country. Also, International organizations have come under harassment inside the country; The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) ended its operations when its offices were raided and had its assets frozen by government authorities. Progression towards less government involvement in Azerbaijani media has and is occurring, but progress has been slowed due to struggle of building a recently founded nation and lack of action on previous enacted reforms; the country has yet to fully foster a hands-off relationship with their media outlets and many are turning to foreign sources because of the government's actions.

Azerbaijan's Stance on Clean Water

Clean water access is an important issue of towards the country of Azerbaijan, and in the past the nation has struggled to supply its rapidly booming population while stuck using Soviet Era technology. The Kura, Araz and Samur rivers--the country's major sources of the water--all originate outside of Azerbaijan and have been polluted by the nations north of Azerbaijan; these pollutants threaten the safety of the country's citizens, especially small villages located alongside the rivers. In Addition, since Azerbaijan is highly dependent on irrigation for its agriculture, the problem doubles to include the vitality of the country's crop output. However, the country is making great strides to increase access to clean sources of water by dedicating large sums of money towards new infrastructure: water pipelines, purification plants, and underground drilling projects to search for new sources of water in remote villages. The use of rainwater to supply towns and villages has also been experimented with and there are plans in place to collect drinking water from the Caspian Sea in the future if required. Having successfully supplied the capital of Baku and the other major cities with clean water, the next step for the Azerbaijani government is to ensure that the smaller settlements have clean water access.

Azerbaijan's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Azerbaijan's stance on weapons traveling both in and out of the country is a very strict one. During the oil boom between 2010-2014, Azerbaijan spent nearly \$4 Billion dollars on arms, most of which came from Russia. Although it has strict importation laws on arms, Azerbaijan is a major importer of weapons in Europe. The nation is the fourth highest importer of weapons in Europe (13%) behind only the U.K., India, and Italy. However, Azerbaijan is majorly concerned with illegal weapons trafficking. Surrounded by two countries that are major illegal arms dealers: Russia and Armenia, Azerbaijan strives to keep illegal arms in the country to a minimum. The country is a signatory on the U.N prohibition of Chemical and Biological weapons and believes that arms trades and development of weapons of mass destruction as a foremost concern of national security. Not only does this issue pose a threat to the fragile state of government Azerbaijan is in, but illegal arms trades also threaten the economic stability of the country. Since the country believes that illegal arms trade is a threat to the stability of the nation's security and welfare, Azerbaijan puts itself at the forefront of this issue in the U.N.

Sources

<http://www.pressreference.com/A-Be/Azerbaijan.html>

<https://www.cpj.org/2015/04/10-most-censored-countries.php>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/azerbaijan>

http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/investments/azerbaijan-5-jan-16.pdf

https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/water/npd/Pres_Rafig_Final.pdf

<http://www.azernews.az/nation/89247.html>

https://www.ccwa.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/DISEC_Topic-B.docx

http://www.academia.edu/210610/Azerbaijan_in_Smuggling_Chain

Entry:51

General Assembly Position Statement

Yemen

Delegates: Emma Barbin, Delaney Campagna

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Yemen's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Yemen does not have complete freedom of the press. The civil war that arose in 2015 created added difficulties to the already troubled environment of the media. Rival factions buckled down on press freedoms and the protection of journalists. Houthi forces have carried out multiple raids on media outlets and have detained journalists in an attempt to suppress dissent. The constitution of Yemen allows for freedom of expression within the limits of the law which are rather restrictive. However, these freedoms have been largely unenforceable due to the breakdown of government functions in the past couple of years.

Yemen's Stance on Clean Water

Clean water is a huge crisis in Yemen. About 50% of the population struggles to find or buy clean water. Because of the extremely hot climate there, Yemen has always experienced problems with water, but the condition has gotten much worse due to the increasing population and mismanagement of the available water. The country relies on drilling for groundwater instead of collecting rainwater. The issue is that no one knows how much groundwater is left and some predict that they could run out of water within the next year to decade. Only 40% of the houses are connected to the municipal supply because Yemen does not have the money to connect all of the houses. Because of this, people are forced to buy water out a tanker which cost 10 times as much. Even those who are connected to the state's supply can usually only get water out of the taps twice a week or less. The situation is even worse in rural areas of the country where water is sometimes taken from to give to the urban areas. There is a huge gap of inequality between the urban and rural areas of the country concerning water.

Yemen's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Weapon trafficking has greatly increased along the coast of Yemen and its borders in the past ten years. The ports along the coasts of Yemen have a large security weakness in their ability to control the ports. Large weapon shipments are coming into the ports to benefit the armed movements in Yemen, especially the Houthi movement in which the government of Yemen has been accused of getting weapons from Iran.

Sources

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/yemen>,

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/apr/02/water-scarcity-yemen-conflict>, <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2014/03/yemen-smuggling-drugs-weapons-human-trafficking.html>

Entry:52

General Assembly Position Statement

Peoples Republic of China

Delegates: Benjamin Bennett, Jack Rittenberry

School: Catholic High School

Peoples Republic of China's Stance on Restriction of the Press

My countries status on restrictions of the press is strongly for it, seeing that we are a centralized government and a communist nation, it is best that the government regulations incoming and outgoing information.

Peoples Republic of China's Stance on Clean Water

My countries stance on clean water is that we stans strongly for it and that we are to clean shatwe feed to our people, they arent to know what we give them, but we shall give them what they need.

Peoples Republic of China's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

My countries stance on weapons trafficking is that we stand strongly for it, as we are known for weapons trafficking and it takes in funds for the government.

Sources

CIA World Factbook

Entry:53

General Assembly Position Statement

Brazil

Delegates: Charles Landry, Rami Moukarzel

School: Catholic High School

Brazil 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Brazil believes that the press should be completely free of restriction, aside from racism and other forms of bigotry. Also, journalists should not remain anonymous. Brazil hopes to see worldwide freedom of the press, aside from the above, because censorship creates fear, which leads to political and civil instability.

Brazil 's Stance on Clean Water

Developed nations should do everything they can in order to assist poorer countries with getting clean, accessible water to their citizens. In 2013 Brazil adopted the National Sanitation Plan that made municipalities draft ways to clean their waste water and those who didn't would not receive government funding.

Brazil 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Stricter checks should be put in place to identify weapon trafficking hubs or smugglers, as well as on illegal weapons. Weapons trafficking fuels terrorism and wars. This is a huge epidemic in Brazil because a majority of gun related deaths have come from illegally obtained firearms. Under Michel Temer he will have stricter penalties for those who use illegal firearms in crimes and loosen Brazil's strict gun control policy.

Sources

Title II, Chapter I, Article 5 of the Constitution of Brazil states in part that "IV - the expression of thought is free, anonymity being forbidden"

<http://www.npr.org/sections/parallels/2016/03/28/472157969/brazil-has-nearly-60-000-murders-and-it-may-relax-gun-laws>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_supply_and_sanitation_in_Brazil#National_Sanitation_Plan

Entry:54

General Assembly Position Statement

Bangladesh

Delegates: Varland Owens, Lara Nicholson

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Bangladesh's Stance on Restriction of the Press

The constitution of Bangladesh provides for freedom of expression however, it is subject to reasonable restrictions. Penalties for stories by the press are detention of up to 120 days without trial under the Special Powers Act of 1974. Amendments have been made as late as 2013 to the Information and Communication Technology Act to uphold the rights of law enforcement agencies during the investigatory period for online crimes of defamation, blasphemy, and similar offenses. The Ministry of Information controls broadcast licensing for commercial and community outlets. Bangladesh has censored the internet, blocking YouTube, Facebook and some high profile Bengali blogs, however there have not been new cases of this since 2014.

Bangladesh's Stance on Clean Water

Problems with providing the people of Bangladesh with clean water has been a rising problem since the 1970's. Water supplies from shallow wells have become contaminated with arsenic which can lead to a multitude of problems for the people of Bangladesh. This issue has been getting attention from other countries and activists since the 1980's. The Bangladeshi Government is making movements to improve the infrastructure and to mark the known contaminated wells. The government is also working to improve the amount of rain water captured.

Bangladesh's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

To obtain a legal gun license in Bangladesh, a police verification report, gun license application, payment of required fees, and documentation of annual income, tax return, and notarized declaration of present arms status must all be presented. Firearms are not extremely easy to obtain in Bangladesh. However there are 119 known places where smugglers are trying to bring firearms into Bangladesh. The Border Guard of Bangladesh states that at least 237 pistols, 26 revolvers, 152 guns, 5159 rounds of bullets, 196 magazines, 60 bombs, three grenades, 36kg of explosives, and 69kg of gun powder in the past 4 years. Despite limitations, such as lack of vehicle scanners, border fence, and other limitations there is a movement to curb firearm smuggling. After an attack in Dhaka during July of 2016, the government is growing in concern about firearms coming into the country without the proper procedures.

Sources

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/crime/2016/11/13/use-illegal-firearms-rise/print>

<http://archive.dhakatribune.com/crime/2013/may/15/illegal-arms-flowing-through-our-porous-border>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/bangladesh>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-04-06/millions-drinking-arsenic-laced-water-in-bangladesh:-report/7305730>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/bangladesh>

<http://water.org/country/bangladesh/>

General Assembly Position Statement

Papua New Guinea

Delegates: Julia Henderson, Anna LeJeune

School: St. Joseph's Academy

Papua New Guinea 's Stance on Restriction of the Press

Freedoms of speech, the press, and information are guaranteed under Section 46 of the constitution.

Papua New Guinea 's Stance on Clean Water

Only 33% of rural people have access to clean water, a major factor in the 2009 cholera outbreak that affected 14,000 people, whilst diarrhea is the seventh biggest killer.

Papua New Guinea 's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

The regulation of guns in Papua New Guinea is categorized as restrictive. In Papua New Guinea, civilians are not allowed to possess machine guns, and pistols or high-powered firearms not licensed before 1999.

Sources

<http://www.adi.org.au/health-in-png-2/png-health-statistic/>

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2015/papua-new-guinea>

<http://www.gunpolicy.org/firearms/region/papua-new-guinea>

Entry:56

General Assembly Position Statement

Pakistan

Delegates: Donald Webster,

School: Jesuit High School

Pakistan's Stance on Restriction of the Press

151 out of 178 in press freedom by Reporters without borders. Pakistan allows "reasonable restrictions in the interests of the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan or public order or morality."

Newspaper, radio, television, and internet are monitored critical of Islam or the government is censored, and suicide bombing or kidnappings of journalist by Islamic groups is often not investigated.

Many Journalist are bribed by the government. Defamation of Muhammad is required to be punished by death.

Books and Magazines entering the country are checked and Indian books are partially banned.

Pakistan's Stance on Clean Water

Pakistan is trying to improve water infrastructure and has 16 million people(10% of populations) without access to safe water.

Pakistan's Stance on Weapons Trafficking

Pakistan has a maximum ceiling on arms importation, however there has been much black market trading and frauds causing weapons trafficking to be a large problem.

Sources

<http://www.wateraidamerica.org/pakistan>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pakistan>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1104296>

<https://rsf.org/en/ranking>

Entry:57