

**Cleveland Council on
WORLD AFFAIRS**



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Position Papers for:

United Nations Human Rights Council



Delegation from: The Republic of Angola

Represented by: St. Edward High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are as follows: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia; Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. The Republic of Angola remains committed to diplomatic and commercial relations with the Federation of Russia, but values the concerns brought to this council as outlined in both issues.

Topic A - Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

There has been much controversy surrounding the Russian Federation and its treatment of the press, specifically the detainment and arrest of members of the media including journalists. This controversy stretches back into the mid-2000s, with the tragic death of Anna Politkovskaya who was shot and killed in her apartment block in 2006. Politkovskaya's killers were subsequently detained and convicted, however, conspiracy theories about her death still circulate today about who ordered the murder. Her story is one of the most notable in a string of disappearances of different journalists in Russia, which have been alleged to have been orchestrated by the Russian government in many instances. The Republic of Angola remains convinced that the government of the Russian Federation will ensure that justice is upheld whenever possible in response to these disappearances. The Republic of Angola remains committed to its diplomatic and commercial ties to Russia and stands by the commitment of the Russian government to target fake news and disinformation throughout its borders.

The Republic of Angola has had a longstanding relationship with Russia ever since its inception in 1976 and is shocked at the insinuation by the international community that Russia is unjustly persecuting journalists. It is a firm belief of the Republic of Angola that any action taken by Russia misconstrued as persecuting journalists and independent media is merely an attempt by the government to prevent the spread of misinformation and fake news that poses an existential threat to the systems that uphold their society.

In February of 2006, Angola made major advances towards improving the freedom of the press and of information. The law, known as the Freedom of Press Act, eased restrictions on media and ensured that they could report freely on the national elections that were to take place the next year, which was 2007. This act was a huge advancement in ensuring the rights of Angolans to freedom of the press and paved the way for a better Angolan future, a future that ensures human rights for all Angolans.

The Republic of Angola would like to see this committee consider all perspectives of what can be interpreted as persecution of journalists in Russia, but also understands the Russian government's responsibility to its people to prevent the spread of fake news by whatever means possible.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship to Israel

Israel and Palestine share a long and complex history that is shrouded in controversy and is a conflict that has spanned hundreds of years. In more recent times the state of Israel has imposed border restrictions on the Gaza Strip, a Palestine controlled region – supposedly in response to repeated rocket attacks on Israel by the forces of Hamas in Gaza - that has crippled the economy of the Palestinian people, and makes access to basic necessities a real issue. This is recognized as an ongoing problem in and around both areas of Palestine, that being the both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well. Angola has maintained a healthy and prosperous relationship with Palestine throughout its history and would like to see that relationship continue as this body searches for a resolution to this issue.

In addition, the Republic of Angola acknowledges the hostile relationship that existed between herself and Israel in the infancy of her sovereignty but welcomes the newly found commercial relationship formed between the two countries. However, Angola respects and recognizes Palestine as a state and has condemned the actions of Israel in illegally settling areas of Palestinian controlled territory, as outlined in UNSC Resolution 2334. Angola commends the actions of Palestine in fighting for their freedom and wants to see the state prosper and economically develop, which the state of Israel is not currently allowing them to do. That is not to say that Angola disagrees with Israel on every matter, as Angola has developed a strong bond with Israel. Both nations have moved to strengthen bilateral cooperation over different fields including agriculture, the diamond industry, and security and telecommunications. Angola has worked closely with the Agency for International Development Cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MASHAV) in strengthening these bonds. While relations with Israel have been steady over the past 20 years, Israeli involvement in Palestine is not a policy that Angola can support, no matter how strong the commercial relationships are between the two countries.

Angola would like to see the Human Rights Council express deep concern for Palestine's struggles in trying to succeed economically and politically. However, Angola would also like to see this issue diplomatically resolved with as little detriment to the economy or stability of Israel as a state as possible, as many other states, including Angola, view Israel as a key trade partner. These states have many commercial interests in and around this region so any harm to those commodities or industries would not be looked upon favorably by the Republic of Angola.

Angola looks favorably upon Palestinian efforts to become independent and take back control of their own lands and peoples, therefore would like this committee to ensure that the people of the Gaza Strip have access to clean water, medical assistance, and educational opportunities. It is imperative that Palestinian voices are heard throughout all of this debate and discussion.

Delegation from: Australia

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The current issue presented to the Human Rights Council are as follows: the Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. Australia is committed to the protection of the rights of all people and is prepared to address the current issues which are in violation of said rights with the United Nations member states.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Russia, in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, is ranked at number 149 out of 180. This ranking can be credited to the control the government has over mass media. Journalists in Russia, often those who publish information deemed “extremist,” are threatened, attacked, and even killed in pursuit of exposing truths. The numerous high profile murders of journalists all confirm the risk and danger those in the media face. In the best cases, all media from literature to children's books alike face censoring, in the worst cases, journalists are subjected to terror, harm, and even death. In Russia, more than one thousand journalists have been murdered, and ninety percent of cases are left without prosecution of the murders.

Australia supports the work of international actors in protecting journalists and freedom of the press. Taking many actions to ensure the fair treatment of the country's own people, Australia is a party to seven of the core international human rights treaties. One of which, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), states that Australia recognizes each person's right to life, a right that greatly pertains to the issue of persecution of the press. In order to further protect Australian citizens, the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011* assessing current legislation as it relates to the seven core international human rights treaties Australia has ratified. It is through Acts and treaties like these that Australia recognizes and protects the certain rights each person holds.

Australia acknowledged the importance for freedom of the press in a vibrant and healthy society and the rights journalists possess concerning their ability to live without fear of persecution. Seeing that Australia has taken previous actions to protect the rights of its own people, it can be observed that the protection of rights of those world wide must be guaranteed. Persecution and treatment of journalists remains a current, world wide issue, endangering the lives of many, and Australia urges for the better treatment of these people.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The UN Special Commission adopted Resolution 181, officially recognizing the State of Israel May 14th, 1948, but this separation resulted in instantaneous conflicts with the Arab nations. Israel and Palestine struggle for control over lands, including Gaza and the West Bank, and the demarcation of borders between said lands. Close to 2 million Palestinians have been left unable to access educational opportunities, medical care, clean and drinkable water and other basic necessities due to current border restrictions. In June 2020, the United Nations stated that by invasion of the Palestinian West Bank would be a breach in international law by Israel. The UN also recognizes the The two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains an active factor in Australia's relationships with the Palestinian Authority. In December 2018, Australia recognized Palestinian desires for their own state. Furthermore, through the creation of The Australian Representative Office in Ramallah in 2000, Australia has been able to observe developments in Palestinian Territories. Through these solutions, relationships, and observations, Australia is able to understand the current human rights violations that have occurred in the Middle East and hopes to resolve the issues, protecting the lives of many. The Australian Representative Office in Ramallah, while observing developments in Palestinian Territories, also supports Australia's current efforts to the Middle East Peace Process and manages Australia's development program and humanitarian efforts in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

Australia urges for the necessary actions required to maintain peace and stability in the Middle East while protecting the rights of minorities. The two-state solution which Australia is committed to, ideally will allow for the peaceful and secure co-existence of Palestinian and Israeli peoples. Australia remains sympathetic to the Palestinian cause while recognizing the current need for protection of rights of minorities in the Middle East. Seeing that Australia is party to seven of the core international human rights treaties, the protecting of human rights remains a priority both within the country and worldwide.

great extent of human rights violations that have occurred in Israel and believes that invasion of Palestinian Territories would only further the severe mistreatment which many are subjected to.

Delegation from: Republic of Austria

Represented by: St. Edward High School

United Nations Human Rights Council

Topic A -Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Humans are curious creatures, and crave the knowledge of the world around them. For thousands of years, different forms of journalism and news have satisfied this craving. The reliance that people have on the industry makes it a very vulnerable piece of infrastructure for governments to manipulate. The prevalence of federally controlled media and news has consistently grown for years; and with the growth, more unjust attacks on freedom and life have occurred. Unfortunately, many independent journalists are being imprisoned, tortured, and slaughtered for doing nothing more than recording and presenting the truth. The CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists) estimates that nearly 880 journalists were killed globally between the years of 1992 and 2011. The Russian Federation is one of the nations that has abused the power of their government. Places that partake in the abuse of journalists must be reformed immediately to protect the rights of these people.

Austria has taken tremendous strides to protect the freedom of press within not only our borders, but others around the world. In July of 2019, Austria was one of twenty European nations to demand that the EU (European Union) Commission President, Ursula von de Leyen, make the freedom of press a priority across all EU member states. In April of 2020, in cooperation with the United States of America, Austria initiated and wrote a statement encouraging and calling for free press and access to information related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This statement is backed and supported by the OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) and the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). Austria recognizes the travesty going on in Russia, and demands change. From 1993 to 2000, a confirmed 200 journalists, including an Austrian, were killed. Note that 200 is only the number of confirmed deaths, the true number is likely far more. An estimated 39 journalists have been imprisoned in Russia since 1993, seven of which are still currently imprisoned, according to the CPJ. Although the topic presented today is focused on Russia, we should not fail to remember all the other nations that have persecuted and murdered journalists too.

The issue of the persecution of journalists, especially in Russia, is a tough issue to tackle. There isn't a clear way to stop the issue via pure force from the Security Council, which is the challenging aspect. The Republic of Austria believes that it is in the best interest of the United Nations Human Rights Council to work with Russia and its allies to create a peaceful solution that is not only quick to act, but effective as well. This could include summits with world leaders, peacekeepers, and other accusative methods to encourage an end to the horrendous slaughter, abuse, and torture taking place not only in Russia, but globally.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

When most people hear the words Palestine and Israel used together in a sentence, the first thing that comes to mind is the ongoing historical conflict that has plagued the nations and its peoples for many years. The issue of Palestinian independence is a complex one, causing much trifle and debate not only in the Middle East, but globally. The severity of the issue domestically for Palestine spans further than their crave for independence, however. Israel, who claims part of the Palestinian territory for its own settlements, has alleged to have partaken in many human rights violations against the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people not only deserves their right to sovereignty, but their right to survive.

Obviously, alleged human rights violations by Israel is a problem as are acts of terror against Israel – which are also human rights violations. Different attacks on Palestine’s people occur every day it seems. Despite being condemned several times by several nations for such

acts, the Palestinians allege that Israel continues curtail basic rights of access and control in many areas inhabited by Palestinians. Austria has voiced their support for the two-state solution, in which Palestine would become a free state with no conflict or plight between the two nations (Israel and Palestine). The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) has a goal of using surplus funds within Austria to benefit other places in need. The ADA currently has 10 projects in place in Palestine to benefit their citizens, costing Austria over 6.8 million euros. The largest portion of funding goes to PEGASE. “The European Union’s (EU) *PEGASE Direct Financial Support* programmes provide financial assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to cover its recurrent costs such as civil employee salaries and pensions, social expenditure, private sector arrears and essential public services.” (United Nations 2009 PEGASE Report, pg. 1) The ADA also works with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to help Palestinian refugees with provide medical support to the places and families that need it the most.

This issue is clearly multi-faceted. There isn’t one universal solution that will end all of the problems. Covering the sovereignty of Palestine, ending both human rights violations by Israel and terrorist acts against Israel, and maintaining the peace and balance between the two will not be easy. The Republic of Austria believes that the most logical and peaceful solution to this conflict is to continue promoting the gradual installment of the two-state solution. In doing this, Palestine will receive its sovereignty while Israel can receive guarantees of freedom against terrorist acts. The last aspect of the problem is Jerusalem. Both nations claim Jerusalem as their capital, making it a hard problem to solve. Austria believes that Jerusalem should be treated as an international territory, making it easy for Muslims, Jews, and Christians to practice their faith while preventing conflict within the city. An alternate solution would be dividing it in half. Israel gets the west, and Palestine gets the east. The issue with this, however, is that religious sites fall on both sides of Jerusalem.. In conclusion, Austria believes that the best way to effectively solve the conflict between Israel and Palestine, while also keeping the rights of the people in mind, needs to be as peaceful as possible to avoid breaking the already fragile tension between them.

Delegation From: The Republic of Azerbaijan

Represented by: The Gwinnett School of Mathematics Science and Technology

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human rights Council are: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

In recent years, there have been several allegations that Russia has been mistreating their journalists, and violating the freedom of the press. However, Azerbaijan firmly believes that a free press does not entitle journalists to be able to print false and misleading information, and ensuring that journalists are not spreading propaganda does not violate the freedom of the press. Recently, some journalists have had unfortunate deaths, such as Anna Politkovskaya. However, her killers were brought to justice; 5 men were sentenced. There is no evidence that the Russian state was involved with her death. Russia has also faced scrutiny for enacting legislation allowing them to censor extremist views and to protect children from things that are dangerous to their upbringing. Azerbaijan believes that this is a reasonable exercise of state control to protect the safety and security of its citizens, and should not be considered a violation of freedom of the press.

Azerbaijan supports a free press. However, a free press does not mean that journalists are free to print false and misleading information, or commit other crimes with impunity. We have faced similar pressure in the past; we have been under scrutiny for mishandling journalists. We were simply arresting criminals, and ensuring that propaganda was not distributed to our citizens. This was to protect our citizens, and ensure that they had access to the most accurate, up to date information.

The delegation from Azerbaijan looks forward to working with other countries within the Human Rights Council to find solutions that allow Russia to exercise necessary control over the media, while also acknowledging the importance of a free press.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

In 1967, after a victory in a six-days-war, Israel gained control of Palistianian territories. In 1993, the UN commission on Human Rights issued a mandate to establish the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory, an independent person who is responsible for investigating and reporting about the human rights situation in Palistine. Since the Isreli occupation, there have been several reports of human rights abuses against the Palistianian people. Israel restricts the movement of people and resources in and out of palestine, severely preventing economic growth in the region. Because of this, Palestinians in the occupied territories largely rely on humanitarian aid in order to survive, and it is estimated that without this aid, 70% would die. The legal protections offered to isreli citizens are not extended to the Palistianian people, and Palistianian people can often be arbitrarily detained without a legal trial, based upon secret evidence. Many of these egregious violations are done in the name of security.

There is also concern about the Israeli state cracking down on humanitarian organizations. They have been increasingly critical of humanitarian aid, claiming, without much evidence, that food parcels and bags of toiletries were being sent to Hamas. In early 2020, the Israeli government expressed interest in annexing the occupied territories. This would only make the situation worse for the Palestinians

Azerbaijan has always been a strong defender of the Palestinian's rights. Azerbaijan has financially supported relief movements, including donating the equivalent of \$632,000 USD to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in 2014. Azerbaijan firmly believes that it is possible to protect Palestinian rights, while not being anti-Israel. Being allies of both Israel, and of Palestine, we firmly believe that the Palestinian people are entitled to access to their inalienable rights, and that a two state solution is possible.

Azerbaijan firmly believes that the United Nations should put an end to Israel's illegal activities in the occupied territories, and should prevent Israel from annexing any further territory. The Delegation of Azerbaijan looks forward to working with other countries within the Human Rights Council to find solutions that allow the Palestinians to exercise their inalienable rights.

Country: The People's Republic of Bangladesh

School: St. Edward High School

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Topic A - Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Worldwide, authoritarian governments are suppressing independent media in order to propagate their own agenda and prevent the dissemination of information that may undermine their power. Many of these nations are experiencing civil and social unrest and silence reporters revealing the truth on sensitive subjects. Reporters face criminal charges and even capital punishment for their work. The Russian Federation is among the most notorious, going as far as to allegedly conduct a contracted assassination against a reporter. In 2006, journalist Anna Politkovskaya was assassinated in her Moscow apartment for criticizing the military for atrocities committed in the Chechen War. Although a series of trials and investigations have been conducted, the facts of the case are murky and much of it has been unresolved. The Russian government also implements more covert tactics to censor the media through excessive fines in an attempt to drive publications out of business. The laws surrounding the media and the press allow for these restrictive policies. Russian officials are permitted to suppress anything deemed as "extremist." Television and works of fiction are under constant scrutiny due to laws purportedly aimed at counterterrorism and the protection of children.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh recognizes the freedom of the press as a necessity to the general welfare of society but also understands the need to occasionally restrict the press from publishing false information. As recently as March of 2020, the government has arrested and jailed journalists. However, these arrests have been in connection with criminal activities and for spreading falsities. The Editor's council of Bangladesh falsely claims that these apprehensions were politically motivated in order to silence the journalists. Saifuzzaman Shikhor, a member of the Bangladesh parliament's ruling Awami League, did institute action against multiple journalists on March 9, 2020. However, he did not incite violence against them, instead he filed a criminal defamation complaint against them. The New York based Committee to Protect Journalists has scrutinized the nation's "Digital Security Act" as one that creates "extensive legal dangers for journalists carrying out their professional activities." This act allows the government to investigate, arrest, imprison, and fine anyone whose online activities are deemed anti-state or a threat to national security or public order. Between March and May of 2020, at least six journalists have been detained by Bangladesh Authorities and nine more are being investigated. This Act of Parliament is not intended to silence legitimate journalists, but rather to protect national security and the public against terrorism, incitement of violence, and the dangers of false reporting.

The safety and security of the nation should be the top priority to ensure the general public's welfare. Furthermore, the media should be streamlined. The Constitution of Bangladesh grants citizens the freedom of speech and expression and gives people the freedom to the press subject to legislation or other legal actions. However, the Delegation of Bangladesh believes in firm control over the press in order to protect national security. The Delegation will cooperate with any UN investigations but will not change legislation without proper reasoning. The Delegation also understands the worries concerning the Russian Federation's actions against journalists that go

beyond protecting national security. However, their legislation appears to protect the nation from false reporting, and the Delegation does not support full condemnation.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The state of Human Rights in Palestine is currently in disrepair. Although recognized as a state by the UN General Assembly, it is not a full UN member, meaning it cannot drive policy change or action. This non-member observer status has limited Palestine from negotiating power over territory disputes. Because of a long history of international intervention and much negotiation, the country of Palestine is divided into two parts, Gaza and the West Bank. This has caused a severe humanitarian crisis between the two regions as Israel controls the land between the two territories and has implemented severe border restrictions. Due to Israel's aggressive actions, over 2 million Palestinians in Gaza lack access to proper necessities such as food and water, education opportunities, and medical aid. Egypt and Israel are strident on devastating Palestine's infrastructure economy through their blockade of materials and supplies. In addition, Israel has implemented discriminatory building permit distribution practices. Because of this, many Palestinians are forced to live and work in substandard buildings, which under Israel's permitting laws, are subject to demolition. Finally, Israeli law unjustly incriminates Palestinians and does not guarantee the same rights and government aid and benefits given to Israeli citizens such as of the same occupied territory. Israel claims much of its actions are matters of national security in the face of repeated terrorist actions.

Bangladesh has had a long history of human rights issues and geopolitical conflict with neighboring nations. Bangladesh and India have had numerous military skirmishes at the border over illegal immigrants, with India instigating a majority of the conflict. Hostilities have been resolved and border discussions have taken place. Relations are currently positive. Bangladesh has also been making great strides to improve the status and safety of refugees, and to protect women and children. For example, the government has worked hard to help the Rohingya refugees fleeing religious persecution in neighboring Myanmar, providing humanitarian aid, medical supplies, and other services. The country now hosts approximately 1 million refugees. In relation to women's rights, the government has promised to end child marriage by 2041 and is attempting to increase enforcement of new protective laws. Furthermore, Bangladesh has achieved gender parity in primary and secondary school enrollment.

The Delegation of Bangladesh firmly believes that there should be international intervention to protect the rights of the majority Islamic population of Palestine and to protect the intrinsic human rights of the most vulnerable - women and children. To ensure the protection of these rights going forward, the state of Palestine should be recognized, and Israel should be held accountable for alleged atrocities against the Palestinian population, despite Bangladesh recognizing Israel's need for security against terrorism.

Delegation from: Canada

Represented by: Archbishop Hoban High School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia, and Human Rights in Palestine in the Relationship with Israel. Canada gives human rights top priority in creation of governmental laws and is hopeful that the United Nations can find a positive solution to the issues at hand.

Issue I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Russia, the largest country by land mass, has heavy control over its mass media. Government officials stifle individualistic ideas and promote sameness and throughout the state. Murders caused by reporting on governmental issues have been reported throughout Russia, and Government officials have been granted permission to suppress groups viewed as ‘extremist.’ Other states such as Turkey, Venezuela, and Ethiopia have similar stances on freedom of the press, leading to instances such as in December of 2016, when 81 journalists were jailed in Turkey. Even simple freedoms such as browsing the internet have been stripped of many Russians, with internet service providers being required to install network equipment to filter content and identify ‘dangerous’ sources. Furthermore, the Russian government has imposed excessive taxes on independent media to prevent them from dispersing sensitive information about the government to citizens. The United Nations acknowledges the necessary freedoms of the press and speech and firmly believes this issue must be resolved.

The state of Canada strongly believes in freedoms of speech and press, as outlined in its Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. In section 2(b) of said Charter, it is outlined that all citizens have “the freedom of thought, belief, opinion, and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication.” This can only be overridden by the government with the use of the *limitations clause*, outlined in section one of the Charter. Infringements of section two are only upheld if the right is “pressing and substantial” for a democratic society to function. Additionally, sections two and seven through fifteen are subject to the *notwithstanding clause*, where the government can suspend all rights within those sections for up to five years. This clause has not yet been invoked on Canadian citizens. In June of 2016, the Honourable Judy Foote issued a prior restraint statement prohibiting the Canada Post from distributing a free newspaper titled *Your World News*, which expresses negative opinions on minorities such as Muslims, women, Jews, LGBTQ+ communities. Freedom of expression outlines all opinions are permitted to be stated, and particularly protects unpopular opinions, unless criminal. The Minister did not explain justification for criminal speech, and was subject to challenge on grounds of due process and failure of natural justice. This proves Canada’s needs for improvement as well and the state is prepared to solve its conflicts based on solutions from the issue currently at hand.

The United Nations is prepared to work to find a solution to end violence towards the media and help to encourage freedom of the press in Russia, while still keeping the country safe. In 2015, Resolution 2222 created by the United Nations reminded states of international human rights, and reiterated violence towards media, who are still citizens, is not permitted. Although this may have stunted the growing violence towards Russian media, the crisis is still an ongoing issue. Canada's proposal to stop the violence is to create an International Press Verification Task Force, which has authority and no bias to deal with particularly controversial or damaging false press releases.

Issue II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The relationship between Israel and Palestine has become dangerous over the time of the 'Holy War.' For over fifty years, the two countries have been quarrelling over control of the Gaza and West Bank territories. There have been many international attempts to settle the dispute, beginning with Resolution 181, which partitioned Palestine into two states; one Jewish, and one Arab. This settled internal disputes among Palestinians, but Jerusalem became an issue, considering it was deemed a Holy city in both religions. Still, disputes continued between the two countries. Furthermore, in 1978, the Camp David Accord attempted to resolve the 'Palestinian Problem' by establishing a self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza, but neither country seemed particularly pleased with the proposal. In 2009, the HRC created a fact-finding mission (FFM) on this conflict to further investigate infractions on International Human Rights laws by Israel against Palestinians. Victims, witnesses, human rights defenders, military experts, and others were called upon to help with the investigation. It was found that citizens were being left homeless or murdered due to constant fighting, and the safety of these civilians has become a top priority since. Most recently, in June of 2020, the United Nations called on the international community to ensure the responsibility of them to prevent Israel from annexing the fought-over territory, as this action would break international law.

Canada expresses understanding for land disputes, as the state has had many border disagreements with the United States. However, the state believes there are many solutions for these disputes, such as the Hay-Herbert Treaty of January, 1903, which provided for a tribunal to settle the boundary dispute. There are however, disputes that have gone unsolved, but do not harm citizens in any way. For instance, the Dixon Entrance and fishing borders have been disputed over between the two countries, and although gone unsolved, many peacefully sail in the channel, and have gone unharmed. Canada is hopeful that similar actions can be taken for the Palestinian-Israeli border dispute, and the citizens will no longer be harmed.

Canada's proposal for ceasing disputes between Palestine and Israel is to create an international mediator group so the conflict can move to peaceful resolution rather than continuing violence. This tribunal would be made up of representatives from Israel, Palestine, and a few unbiased, mediator countries to continue and keep the conversation peaceful. As for the disputed area, increased security measures should be taken to provide safety for those already occupying the area. With these temporary fixes, the mediator group can find a peaceful solution to the problem without continuing to inflict hardship on citizens.

Delegation from: CHILE
Represented by: Beachwood High School

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The persecution of journalists and independent media is a prevalent issue throughout the world. In order to protect the state's images and ideals, authoritarian governments have taken measures to silence those who expose concerning problems to the public. Russia in particular is known for enforcing serious consequences including murder on journalists. Tatiana Voltskaya's criminal charges in 2020 and Anna Politkovskaya's death in 2006 are just some of the stories that support Russia's concerning stance on freedom of speech. In order to give citizens their voices in Russia and in other authoritarian countries, clear and effective resolutions must be implemented.

Standing 51st in the 2020 World Press Freedom Index, Chile respects freedom of speech, as shown through the government's supportive connection with the independent press and judiciary. Although journalism is not strictly regulated in Chile, two major press companies named Copesa and El Mercurio have taken a monopoly on mass media. The uneven distribution of voices in Chilean news has caused concern, and the establishment of a legislation to prevent such problems is still in question. Furthermore, similar to Russia, the rights of Chilean journalists have been violated when covering issues extremely sensitive to the government, such as the state of Mapuche communities.

Chile offers a comprehensive three-pronged plan, which aims to support journalism and independent media in Russia through diplomatic actions. First, Chile strongly suggests the exposure of Russia's oppression to international media. By informing the public on the suppression of voices in Russia, citizens throughout the world will be motivated to take small but significant individual actions which can urge Russia to improve freedom of expression. Second, Chile proposes a biannual global conference to discuss international support on journalism. Chile believes that discussion is the key to establishing universal rights across countries. Through the exchange of various ideas and information, Chile hopes to promote and improve the freedom of speech to other nations. Lastly, Chile wishes to create a nonprofit organization comprised of journalists across the world. By having journalists and workers in independent media come together, there could be a greater momentum to provide freedom of press to every nation. It is certainly a challenge to enforce this right to Russian government, but through a coalition of the press, the journalists will cause a significant change to the general dynamic of universal freedom of speech.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The current state of Palestine is divided into two regions—Gaza and the West Bank—after years of conflict and negotiation with Israel. While the West Bank is under the control of both governments, the Gaza strip is currently in imminent crisis due to the movement restriction placed by Israel in 1990. Because of this regulation, inhabitants of Gaza are essentially denied basic human needs and rights, including access to education, trade, and even clean water. With Gaza depending severely on humanitarian support and the majority of the West Bank under Israel's control, many Palestinians are forced to migrate or become homeless.

Chile strongly condemns the actions taken by Israel between their conflicts with Palestine. In order to effectively improve the state of Palestine, Chile believes in cooperation with other nations. In 2011, Chile recognized Palestine as a free, independent and sovereign state and is currently against Palestine negotiating with Israel. Furthermore, Chile has planned to create a delegation of lawmakers to support the well-being of those living in Palestinian territory. Overall, Chile hopes that the state of Palestine and Israel will eventually be able to live in peace with established and secure borders.

Chile introduces an all-encompassing plan to encourage the support of Gaza's inhabitants and peace between Palestine and Israel. First, Chile definitely encourages a creation of a humanitarian organization to support those living in Gaza. This group would be based upon resources and volunteers in willing countries, and would provide aid in multiple forms, such as education, medical treatment, electricity, food, clothing, and more. Chile recognizes the dire situation of the people in Gaza, and wishes that through this organization, many lives will be significantly improved. Second, Chile also urges for a program to solely focus on the welfare of children in Gaza. Not only do these children need a safe environment to grow in, they need protection from the oppression of the Israeli government. Understanding that children are especially vulnerable to injury and abuse, Chile wishes to relocate these children to safer locations with plentiful resources for their growth. Chile hopes that this program, only possible with the collaboration of multiple countries, will help these children live a better life. Last, Chile wants to establish a long-term plan, focusing on Palestine sustaining individually. This would focus on two aspects: an extended communication system between Palestine and supporting countries, as well as a clear plan on the future Palestinian government to promote trade, education, and many more elements of a well-functioning nation. By helping to devise a detailed proposal for the welfare of Palestine, Chile believes that Palestine will be able to thrive as an individual state. Through two short-term plans that focus on Gaza inhabitants and a long-term plan to support Palestine as an independent state, Chile hopes to see a positive change in the current situation of Palestine and Israel.

Delegation from: Arab Republic of Egypt

Represented by: Laurel School

United Nations Human Rights Council

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues that are currently placed before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) are those of Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. Egypt looks forward to hearing other perspectives and working hand-in-hand with other countries to improve these humanitarian issues.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The Arab Republic of Egypt is truly honored to discuss the controversy surrounding freedom of the press in Russia. We acknowledge that the UNHRC has placed several enforcements on the Russian Federation in order to encourage and incentivize greater livelihoods for independent journalists, but we also appreciate the nation's sovereignty. This being said, we believe in the firm conviction of the UNHRC in improving human rights globally. When multiple journalists have been harassed or killed under the authoritarian regime, this deserves the prompt attention of the United Nations. The constricting hold of the Russian government involves a combination of transparent and secretive censorship policies, repression and abuse of journalists who hold dissenting opinions, and a wide degree of self-censorship. This leads to the denial of the right to seek and disseminate information, which is fundamental to any free society. Egypt believes that fighting corruption and promoting tolerance are the pillars of a society that values human rights. This extends to media freedom, as the right for true and unbiased information is incredibly significant in fighting corruption and promoting tolerance. However, the Arab Republic of Egypt also believes that it is within the government's duty to protect against extremism, false news, and the exploitation of its citizens, especially during weak times of the country. In order to protect both of these rights in conjunction, Egypt is fully willing to support a resolution that accomplishes these goals.

Egypt has worked collaboratively over the years in the name of improving humans rights for its citizens and across the globe. This includes complying with the requests of the UNHRC, as well as incorporating these principles into our constitution. Specifically, it states that all citizens are allowed to exercise their right to freedom of the press, freedom of publication, and independence of public institutions. This being stated, our foremost concern is the maintenance of national stability, and we fully believe that each country deserves the right to manage it. Especially during times of crisis or conflict, it is necessary that the governing body be able to maintain the rule of law in a way that allows for the best protection of its citizens. This includes protecting people from false, extremist news that perpetuate threats of terrorism and warfare. These rights to sovereignty and national security must extend to the Russian Federation. However, Egypt has also pledged the creation of a civic community that encourages the rights of freedom of speech and freedom of the press. We have been working hand-in-hand with the UNHRC to create a 2018-2021 Management Plan that allows our citizens to thrive and to accomplish these goals tangentially. The Russian Federation must also take responsibility and work diligently to create a civic environment.

The Arab Republic of Egypt strongly believes in a plan that allows for the human rights of media freedom in Russia, but one that also allows for the Russian Federation to maintain governing power and regulation as it sees fit. We

suggest a global initiative that allows for more systematic monitoring of civic environment and freedom of the press, including threats to it. Following this, we believe in humane treatment of journalists who may violate Russia's set of codes. It is important the judicial control is in accordance with Russian legislation, and that journalists are treated with the standard principles applicable to any citizen. Ultimately, we will look favorably at a unified approach that takes into account the needs and demands of all countries concerned, all while preserving the autonomy of the individual country as to how it can handle its respective justice system. Egypt looks forward to working with like-minded countries to achieve this goal.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The Arab Republic of Egypt is greatly pleased and honored to address the pressing humanitarian problems amidst the Palestine/Israel conflict. We recognize the aid that the UNHRC has provided to date, but Egypt also believes that further attention to this issue deserves the UNHRC's prompt response and attention as the conflict has resulted in grave conditions for those living in the area. The reign of the Israeli government has gone unchecked for too long, resulting in the oppression of the Palestinian people through a restriction of basic human rights. Specifically, it has been found that in the Gaza Strip, Israel has been restricting the transfer of goods, transferring Palestinians to settlements in the West Bank, and limiting access to things such as education, clean drinking water, medical care, and electricity to an estimated 2 million Palestinians. Egypt does not support this unjust and inhumane treatment of people, and maintains the position that it is the duty of the Israeli government to address its mishaps and help to serve justice to the Palestinians. Additionally, this egregious behavior is also at the fault of the Hamas-- the extremist, terrorist group that demands to dictate over the Gaza Strip. Both the Israelis and the Hamas are breaking international law by continuing this conflict. Ultimately, Egypt covets to see an international plan that instates peace amongst Palestine and Israel and gives justice to the victims of this conflict. In order to accomplish this, we are fully willing to work collaboratively with other nations to find a solution.

Egypt strongly desires a peaceful resolution between Palestine and Israel, as well as Israel admitting its inability to resolve this adequately. We have taken several steps to date in order to play our role in this conflict and help the people who are impacted most by it. This includes acts such as sending medical aid across the Rafah border to help those without proper access, as well as assisting with providing COVID-19 supplies. However, we also have a long history of supporting direct and firm negotiations for peace between the two nations. The Egypt-Israel peace treaty was a landmark treaty that instated peace and, specifically, aided in the demilitarization of the Sinai Peninsula. Although signed in 1978, our president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, has pledged to maintain Egypt's role in providing and supporting peace. In 2008, we brokered a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas with the goal of peace and ending the blockade of Gaza. It also helped to rectify the humanitarian crisis, by increasing access to food, water, medicine and fuel by 20%. However, Israel was unable to comply with the conditions and continued its history of aggravation and warfare. Lastly, on July 7, 2020, Egypt met with other foreign ministers of France, Germany and Jordan to issue a statement that denounced the annexation of Palestinian territories, saying it would be a violation of international law. We specifically stated that adversaries to this proposal "would have serious consequences for the security and stability of the region and would constitute a major obstacle to efforts aimed at achieving a comprehensive and just peace." Through these various actions, Egypt hopes to make significant strides in achieving peace between Israel and Palestine and lessening the severe humanitarian crisis amidst the conflict.

The Arab Republic of Egypt strongly believes that the humanitarian crisis is a forefront concern and should be placed at great value. At the same time, we also acknowledge the importance of reaching peace between Israel and Palestine. We believe in justice for the Palestinian people, but also believe in the sovereignty and security of individual nations. To achieve this, we believe in a two-pronged approach that tackles the humanitarian crisis and the quest for peace separately. This should involve negotiations and political advancements made by the two groups, but also the reintegration of Gaza and the West Bank back into society. Egypt has helped to mediate ceasefires throughout the years in hope of peace, but the warring nations have not remained true. A resolution needs to include severe and grave

ramifications if Israel, Hamas, or Palestinians advert from an agreed plan. Once we reach greater peace, we can work on economic stabilization and the reinstatement of the Palestinian territories. This would include greater movement of goods imported and exported for Gaza and the West Bank, as well as greater opportunities for employment in these areas. Specifically, Egypt yearns for the United Nations and supporting countries to provide aid to the citizens, specifically the Palestinian victims. Egypt has aided in this process over the years, but hopes to see greater strides in the name of providing water, electricity, and medical care to these people. We hope to work with other like-minded nations as a coalition to accomplish this goal and to alleviate the humanitarian crisis among Israel and Palestine.

Country: The Republic of Fiji

School: St. Edward High School

Committee: The Human Rights Council

Topic A - Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The Republic of Fiji is a strong proponent of such a system by which the media is leveraged to convey the utmost truth to the public. It is right and appropriate that the media be regulated and regularly monitored by those designated to lead. We have also taken steps to secure for our government a firm hand in the operations of the media including in all that is published. The Media Industry Development Decrees of 2010 safeguard the strong relationship our political leaders enjoy with the media. All that is damaging to “public interest or order” is blocked. By the imposition of a two year period of incarceration and by fines, we discourage the press community from spreading fake and fallacious details. The Russian Federation shares the understanding of the Republic of Fiji that the press is a conduit for vital information and ideas which governments wish to share with their people. There is a mutual understanding between our nations that the government must protect the people from the dangerous instincts of the press to spread stories of lies and deceit aimed at discrediting national icons and leaders. The Republic of Fiji and the Russian Federation have developed a strong bond and relationship. The January 2016 sale of weapons from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Fiji in exchange for the continued maintenance of the Fjian peacekeeping operations site in the Golan Heights of Israel is but one example of the firm support and confidence the Republic of Fiji has in the Russian Federation. The Republic of Fiji regrets that the West lies about the intentions and outcomes of Russian policy, one that mirrors our own. An unregulated media often obstructs the truth.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and Relationship with Israel

The Republic of Fiji has a history of relevance in the question of human rights in Palestine and the relationship with the State of Israel. Being a nation annually subject to seasonal cyclones and the increasingly intense effects of the changing global climate, the technological advancements of the State of Israel sustain the Republic of Fiji so that the nation might continue to pursue achievements in agricultural production. Our responsibility in the relationship with the Republic of Fiji includes our commitment to act as a peacekeeping force in the region where the State of Israel exists. We are proud to hold the title of the largest contributor of troops per capita to United Nations missions of peacekeeping. Our soldiers are presently stationed and led by the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai region and on guard in the Israel-Syrian border undertaken in missions to bring stability to the region. The Republic of Fiji drafted a document entitled “Economic and Social Repercussions of the Israeli Occupation on the Living Conditions of the Palestinian People” with the help of the Republic of Turkey. The document submitted in ECOSOC, condemns “the construction and expansion of Israeli settlements and related infrastructure in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.” The Republic of Fiji defends the rights of the Palestinian people. The Republic maintains strong relations with the State of Israel at the same time. The Republic of Fiji is confident that dialogue and respectful debate will lead the world closer to a solution to the dispute.

Delegation from: the Republic of Finland

Represented by: Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council must facilitate the creation of resolutions for the following issues at hand: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia; and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. The Republic of Finland is looking forward to prioritizing the safety and well-being of all who are affected by these pertinent issues and ultimately cooperating with other member states to confront and solve them once and for all.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

In the pursuit of holding governments accountable for their actions, media sources are frequently punished for publishing distortion and revealing “fake” information to the public. Despite providing the freedom of speech and press outlined in the Russian constitution, the government is notorious for handling controversial publishings through detainment or even murder. In fact, between the years 2014 and 2016, nearly 85% of extremist expression convictions in Russia resulted in fines, community service, or prosecution to these journalists. Clearly, there is an abuse of power from the government that even produced their own biased state-produced news.

As a well-known country that ranked as one of the highest internationally on various press freedom indexes, the Republic of Finland strongly encourages other member states to glean from their expression policies for its citizens. From the beginning of its independence, Finland experienced the abuse of the Russian government first hand following a period of Russification due to growth of the Finnish nationalist movement. As a result, the press was silenced and a wave of censorship occurred on all Finnish media sources. Since then, the Finnish government has actively criminalized online harassment including defamation, threats of violence, stalking, and violation of one’s privacy to become a leader in expression and is the only nation in the world to make access to the internet a legal right.

First and foremost, guaranteeing freedom of speech in a country’s constitution is inadequate; the Russian constitution is evidence of this. The Republic of Finland would have continued to experience the adverse effects of Russification; however, the Kingdom of Sweden’s introduction of the Freedom of Information Act of 1776 supported Finland’s freedom of speech and press because Finland was still officially a part of Sweden at the time. Since then, Finland has defended movements for independence and human rights. Evaluating its own history of

oppression from Russia, the Republic of Finland would endorse the international community supporting and funding a nationalist movement for the purpose of pressuring the government. The inherent corruption of the Russian government is the clear obstacle and root of many problems in the country; any adjustments in human rights must start from the foundations and make its way to the top. However, seeing as this is infeasible against a regime of such strength, Finland urges countries to enforce economic sanctions against Russia since the freedom of speech and press should be a right to citizens of all countries.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

As the international community continues to pursue greater globalization, there is one outlier that remains an unofficial member of the United Nations: Palestine. The insecurity following a border restriction has left the State of Palestine in desperate need of assistance. In fact, nearly 80% of the 2 million Palestinian population located in Gaza must receive humanitarian aid for survival. However, Israel and Palestine have been in a severe series of conflicts over issues including sovereignty over the West Bank and Jerusalem ever since the institution of Resolution 181, or the Partition Plan, that divided the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. Since then, conflicts have persisted — resulting in mass casualties of innocent civilians.

Following the end of Soviet Union control in the early stages of the Republic of Finland, a more liberalised and intellectual period occurred that strengthened Finland's power in foreign policy and transitioned into being a member of the international community. Thus, equipped with experience from early Finns, Finland recognizes the importance of fostering a capable member state despite its current difficulties. As a matter of fact, the country had previously launched a cooperation effort for development in the Palestinian territory in 1994. Outlined in the Country Strategy for Development Cooperation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Finland has dedicated around 22 million euros to support state-building infrastructure and improvements in the education sector. The Republic of Finland stands in solidarity with facilitating cooperation to find a conclusion to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At utmost priority is Palestine's current concerns that require constant humanitarian aid. Finland endorses the expansion of the ongoing humanitarian aid to advance the Palestinian population's sense of security. The delegate of Finland maintains that the predominant force of the conflict is the United States' lack of acknowledgement of Palestine as a true state. Finland is disappointed at the U.S. response to the human rights issue in Palestine due to the United States' position as a superpower that should support globalization. Following stabilization of Palestine, the Republic of Finland strongly advocates for other member states to employ similar strategies that Finland has constructed to assist Palestine's transformation into an official member of the United Nations. In the end, the previous "two-state solution" by the United Nations that recognizes statehood for Israel and Palestine would be optimal. As a result, Finland urges the international community to pressure Israel and its allies to cease any construction of Jewish settlements on occupied Palestinian territory.

Delegation From: Republic of India

Represented By: Fuchs Mizrachi School

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. The Republic of India is devoted to finding solutions to both of these situations.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia is framed as a violation of free speech. Under the constitution in India, Article 19 guarantees all citizens the right to freedom of speech and expression. This core value is why the Republic of India condemns any country that is taking the freedom of speech and expression away from the citizens.

For over 70 years, India has cherished their relationship with Russia. India is the largest buyer of Russian military equipment and Russia is also one of India's largest trade partners. Moreover, Russia is India's principal defense partner. Technological developments further advance India and Russia's relationship with new areas of collaboration. India empathizes with Russia on the issue of journalistic integrity. India has also been falsely accused of restricting journalists. The United Nations Human Rights Chief, Michelle Bachelet, publicly came out and urged India to do more to protect journalists and other human rights activists. After these allegations and attacks, India explained that when people violate the law it will not be condoned under a justification of human rights. As Anurag Srivastava, a Minister of External Affairs spokesperson, said "a more informed view of the matter was expected of a UN body."

The Republic of India urges all nations to look carefully into this issue to see if journalists are actually persecuted by their governments, or if the Russian government is being wrongfully blamed for addressing journalists who were breaking the laws of their country. The Republic of India urges all Member countries to consider if human rights are actually being violated or laws being broken. Once this distinction is made and the real facts evaluated, together we can move forward to protect speech and end any wrongful persecution of journalists.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The Republic of India is proud that it has developed strong relationships with both the State of Israel and the State of Palestine. India recognizes the major complexities of these issues and believes solving this is of the utmost importance.

India has been designated by the United Nations to play a greater role in mediating many conflicts between these two states. This delegation is called the United Nations Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, and its goal is to address how India can play a larger role in resolving this conflict. India is Israel's tenth-largest trading partner with trade between them reaching over \$4.2 billion USD in 2016, and another \$1 billion USD focused on defense. Israel and India have also created trade agreements, agricultural cooperation, science and technology cooperation, education, and many more industries to grow their relationship. India and Palestine have also been partners and have fostered relationships over the years. According to the Palestinian Ministry of National Economy, India exports \$39 million USD and imports \$83,000 USD annually. India and Palestine have also collaborated on foreign office consultations, joint commission meetings, economic and social development, IBSA cooperation, and many other support initiatives. India has maintained an unbiased position on Israel and Palestine. On the United Nations Economic and Social Council, India voted in favor of Israel's decision to grant consultative status to Shehed. India has also passed resolutions that were aimed at granting more rights to the Palestinians. India has continuously noted that a two-state solution is the best way to end this conflict.

India strongly believes that its relationship with both countries can help accommodate the demands of both parties. India has voiced that there needs to be a balanced approach to this issue and stressed that it must be addressed strategically. Ending the Israel-Palestine conflict is beneficial not just to Israel and Palestine, but also to the entire world through economic opportunity and international cooperation. Noting the several Arab countries that have recently taken steps for trade and peace with Israel, now we have a better chance of resolving this issue. The Republic of India believes that it can lead the United Nations Human Rights Council to end this conflict and move forward to a new and stronger Middle East.

Delegation From: Indonesia
Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues presented before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on this date are: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia; and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. Indonesia is committed to making decisions on these issues that we believe will aid our citizens, along with other countries.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

There have been many instances of persecution of journalists in Russia. A total of 21 journalists have been killed in the country since the year 2000. The year 2000, is also the year Vladimir Putin became president. Attributable to this along with other things, there has been much controversy over his presidency and decision making.

Indonesia condemns the unfair persecution of journalists and the independent media. We do not stand for irrational punishment or treatment of anyone. We believe in freedom of the press and support foreign journalists trying to cover what's happening in other parts of the world.

However, as a part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), we stand with Russia in our view on journalists and the independent media. Indonesia believes foreign journalists have to respect the country they're reporting on and be aware of the rules and laws in that country. If Indonesia feels that journalists are disrupting harmony, causing commotion, or disrespecting our country, then we believe we have the right to inflict a rational punishment on them. ASEAN has partnered and committed to deepen relations with Russia in areas of importance. These areas include, but are not limited to: science and technology, education, health, trade, and combating transnational crime. Therefore, we work constantly with Russia on issues and will confront them when we believe necessary and just.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Palestinians living in Israel and Occupied Palistinian Territory (OPT), under Israeli rule have been unfairly discriminated against by the Israeli government. Laws of the Israeli government have been known to discriminate against and make life extremely difficult for Palestinians. Many Palestinians are forced to live in terrible conditions and are prevented from returning back to Palestine.

The discrimination of Palestinians in Israel is solely based on ethnicity and violates the human rights law. When compared to their Jewish counterparts, Palestinians have been extremely mistreated and the reason for this treatment is not legally justifiable, which is why it violates the human rights law. How Israel handled the land near the West Bank is also illegal and violates international humanitarian law. Israel moved part of their civilian population into the OPT. This is unacceptable under international humanitarian law and the actions of the Israeli government have been deemed illegal by the Human Rights Watch.

Indonesia condemns discrimination and racism. Therefore, we do not recognize the State of Israel. Indonesia supports Palestine and Palestinian people and we do not support the unjustifiable acts of Israel. Indonesia will refuse to cooperate with Israel until a peace agreement is reached between them and Palestine.

Delegation from: the Italian Republic

Represented by: Rocky River High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

As the premier inter-governmental organ on the promotion and protection of human rights, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has been tasked with addressing the issue of the persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia, as well as the issue of human rights in Palestine and the relationship with Israel. Being a key member of the UNHRC, Italy strives to cooperate and plan with other nations to combat these issues in order to create a better future for people everywhere.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The Italian Republic takes great interest in the situation in Russia on the persecution of journalists and independent media. Being a nation that takes pride in its democracy, Italy is focused on assisting Russian journalists and media in their fight against their persecution. The Italian Republic plans to use its power and place in the UNHRC to take action in this circumstance, and find a resolution that meets the needs of both parties-- journalists and independent media and the Russian Federation.

Since the early 1990s, the Russian Federation has increased the number of journalists persecuted for their writings and studies, and in more recent years, Russia has been responsible for a growing number of deaths, imprisonments, and missing journalists due to the more common use of online media. So far, there have already been 7 missing journalist reports in Russia within the first 10 months of 2020. The danger of persecution to journalists and media has also increased, most notably since 2009. Anna Politkovskaya was a well known Russian journalist, writer, and human rights activist. She reported mainly on the political events and happenings in Russia, and her reports on the Chechnya gave her an international reputation. Notably, she spoke out against the Russian President Vladimir Putin, and the government's actions in the Chechan War. On October 7, 2009, after her many years of speaking out against the Russian government and sharing her views on human rights, she was assassinated and found dead in the elevator of her apartment. Politkovskaya's death signified the end of the last bit of free media in Russia. Since her death, there have been seven confirmed killings of journalists that have been proven to be caused by a motive against the journalist's media. Additionally, there has been even more of a crackdown on the media since 2012. That year, Vladimir Putin returned to his presidency, leading many citizens to partake in mass protests. These protests led Parliament to take additional measures against the freedom of speech and information. Many of these new laws endanger online privacy and communications, giving virtually no safety to the people from Russian governmental interference. These laws ultimately have led the mainstream media to be mostly State-driven, meaning the information is almost always biased, skewed, and sometimes blatant lies. With the rise of social media and online information, journalists and independent media from the Russian Federation must be protected from not being imprisoned, killed, or missing.

As a member of the UNHRC, the Italian Republic is committed to the cause to help and assist journalists and independent media in Russia in their fight for their freedom of speech and expression, without consequences. In September 2018, Italy attended the 39th session of the Human Rights Council (UNHRC). This session included resolutions and actions regarding the safety of journalists, a topic important to the nation. The resolution was adopted, and expressed concerns regarding the spread of disinformation and propaganda, intimidation of the media from political leaders and officials, and violence and attacks against journalists and media workers. The resolution also spoke of establishing measures protecting journalists based on gender, releasing journalists and media workers who have been arrested, detained, or have disappeared, and ensuring accountability of any people guilty of committing,

aiding, planning, or covering-up crimes against journalists and media workers. Italy urges the Russian Federation to examine and adopt these resolutions as a step to protect Russian journalists and media workers. The Italian Republic views this as a critical issue and once again urges the Russian Federation to take immediate action to protect journalists and independent media now, in order to protect the freedom of the people.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Like many of its international neighbors, the Italian Republic has followed the disturbing course of the Israel-Palestine conflict and its effect on the region's civilians. More specifically, concern has been raised over Israel's treatment of residents in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as the nation's handling of the Gaza Strip blockade. The Italian Republic strongly believes in the protection of the inalienable rights of all people everywhere, and urges Israel to cooperate with the international community in preserving the rights of the Palestinian people even as the decades-long conflict between Israel and Palestine continues.

Today, Israel finds itself occupying the West Bank and blockading the Gaza Strip--both Palestinian territories--while facing persistent political pressure and even violence from pro-Palestine groups. Although this dispute poses clear security threats to Israel, the government's handling of the occupied territories has elicited concern from the international community over potential human rights violations. In Gaza, a partial blockade--imposed to prevent Hamas terrorists from gaining weapons--has left two million Palestinians in economic ruin, with an estimated 80% of the population living off of humanitarian aid. The crisis has prompted investigation by the UN over alleged human rights abuses against the Palestinian people, including a 2009 fact-finding mission that involved interviews with victims, witnesses, and legal experts; a 2014 commission of inquiry over Israeli military operations in Gaza; and a 2018 commission of inquiry over Israel's militarized response to civilian protests in the occupied territories. Investigations have also been launched into Israeli actions in the West Bank/East Jerusalem, where Palestinians are subjected to arbitrary detentions while being denied the legal rights afforded to Israelis. Israel has also faced criticism for its housing policies in the region, where discriminatory laws often result in Palestinian families being forced to relocate as their "unauthorized" homes are demolished. Palestinians have also been denied legal rights, benefits, and even access to water and electricity that are granted freely to Israeli residents of the occupied West Bank. Despite protest from the UN, the Israeli government has also moved forward with expansions to the controversial settlements in the West Bank--settlements that were the focus of a 2012 UN investigation into their effects on the local Palestinian population. As tensions continue to rise, Israel must reassess its handling of the situation so as to put an end to any potential human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Italian Republic, as a member of the UNHRC, is fully committed to working with Israel and Palestine in searching for a solution to the distressing state of Palestinian rights in Israeli-occupied territories. Most importantly, the Italian Republic joins its UN colleagues in calling for Israel to listen to its own security officials and cooperate with international law by surrendering its ambitions to expand and annex Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The Italian Republic also sides with the international community in calling for the preservation of the Palestinian people's right of self-determination. This could potentially result in a "two-state" solution to the Israel-Palestine conflict, which would certainly open up numerous opportunities for the return of displaced Palestinians to their homes and property. Finally, the Italian Republic urges Israel to end its discriminatory policies in the occupied territories and ensure that Palestinians living under Israeli rule are given equal opportunity to education and economic development. In the opinion of the Italian Republic, such reforms should be implemented as soon as possible so that even if the Israel-Palestine dispute continues for years to come, the human rights violations against the Palestinian people will have been properly redressed.

Delegation from: Japan

Represented by: Beachwood High School

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues brought before the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is as follows: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

As independent media has become easier to come across and consume, the censorship of such media has equally grown, a concerning display of such occurring in Russia. Although the censorship of information can be seen around the world, the Russian Federation has time and time again been seen persecuting the independent media of their country after painting their nation in an unfavorable light. Coming in 149 out of 180 on the World Press Freedom Index, Russia repetitively has been seen exercising state control over the media consumed in their nation. This most recently has resulted in the criminal charges set against journalist Tatiana Voltskaya in early May of 2020 after exposing the hidden lack of necessary supplies and employees in St.Petersburg hospitals.

The delegation of Japan strongly believes that the maintaining of freedom of speech and the prohibition of censorship is vital to a nation. Japan is proud to say that the freedom of the press is not only written in the 21st article of their constitution but is also continually kept up with, regardless of the government image that may be portrayed by media that comes out. The delegation Japan would like to see such censorship and the persecution of innocent people be brought to an end. Journalism can serve as the backbone of a nation, alerting the government of possible wrongdoings, but the continuous restrictions on independent media in place by the government of the Russian Federation is all in all a disappointing sight. Journalists, attempting to bring light to issues covered up with layers and layers by the state, risk their lives and their livelihoods through their work.

The delegation of Japan proposes a multifaceted solution aiming to prevent further persecution of independent media and journalists in Russia. This step would entail (1) the proposal of a reward-based system, providing incentives for the nation as a result of the Russian Federation laying off its state oversight of media and journalism and (2) the creation of a subcommittee based around the implementation of journalistic freedoms in nations in order to keep up to date on any threats on the rights of journalists in the world, to be dealt with in a manner similar to the matter at hand. The key to the solving of this issue is the checks on the state taking place, keeping the government of the Russian Federation from once again exceeding its bounds in the rules of free press, and continuing to persecute the journalists of their nation. The aim of the reward program is to gradually encourage the leaders of the Russian Federation to loosen their restraints on the media, a difficult move for a country that has been fairly reliant on the close monitoring and control of much of what is released to the public in their nation. Eventually, through the rewards that would be provided, Japan is hopeful that the Russian Federation would cease the outright persecution of their journalists on the basis of information simply unfavorable for the image of the nation and the government of the nation. Seeing that the Russian Federation is not the only nation in the world

persecuting their journalists for the release of such information, the second part of the plan proposed would ensure the solving of similar issues in other nations around the world, while also keeping an eye out for nations who may walk the line of needing to be discussed.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

As the conflict between Israel and Palestine continues to grow, it seems as though the questionable actions and methods to the perpetuation of this conflict continue to grow as well. Seeing that the Gaza Strip and West Bank are currently recognized by the United Nations as Palestine, it is important to recognize the innate issue at hand, Israel's ability to barricade these borders and completely control all that occurs within the confines of Palestine, under the justification of protection from Hamas, the militant group that governs over the Gaza Strip. Israel has enacted restrictions of travel outside the Gaza Strip and the West Bank in an attempt to keep Hamas from gaining weaponry, but in turn, has magnified a humanitarian crisis, keeping the over two million people in Gaza from participating in outside trade to stimulate the economy and also from exercising their basic human rights, such as access to clean water, educational opportunities, and being able to access medical assistance. With all of these resources and opportunities stripped from the citizens, it is safe to say that the situations those in Gaza are enduring are a violation of their human rights.

The delegation of Japan is in strong support of a two-state solution in regards to the Israeli-Palestine conflict. In order for such a solution to work, both nations must work together to reach compromises, allowing each other to go through with the exercising of their human rights. Japan fears that the actions by Prime Minister Netanyahu in the settlements on the West Bank and the IDF blockade of the Gaza Border foreshadow an inability to further reach compromises in the struggle for national identities. It is vital to the survival of both nations to reach a harmonious existence, each nation having its own sovereignty and the ability to do as they please for the betterment of their nation. The delegation of Japan believes the end goal should not be one nation earning all of the land possible rather for each nation to earn what they need and balance with the needs of the other. For this reason, it is obvious that the nation of Israel should be respecting the rights of all those living in Palestine, although the protection from Hamas may be a noble cause, it is not justifiable to put the citizens through inaccessibility to clean water and healthcare services to keep them safe from this threat.

The delegation of Japan sees a two-pronged plan most reasonable for the protection of the Palestinian people. This consists of (1) a plan to allow the Israeli Defence Forces to aid in protection from Hamas only when favorable to the Palestinian people, stopping any shutoff of necessary human resources to the over two million citizens of the nation, as well as (2) a plan to organize talks between Israel and Palestine, overseen by other nations, to elaborate on the compromises necessary for the enactment of a two-state plan. Seeing as though Israel is a very powerful country, it is important to ensure that the ability to protect the citizens of Gaza do not once again impose a breach on the human rights of the citizens. The overseeing of any talks between the nations by other biased nations is a way to keep both nations in line, respecting each country's sovereignty and ability to do as they please within the bounds of their own nations but not within the boundaries of other sovereign nations. The talks also aim to end the settlements in the West Bank imposed by Prime Minister Netanyahu, and completely stop this dangerous proposed plan of annexation, which is dangerous not only to Palestine but to Israel as well. All in all, the goal of the delegation of Japan is to bring forth the actualization of a two-state compromise that benefits both nations and keeps the citizens of both nations safe.

Country: Emirate of Kuwait

School: St. Edward High School

Committee: Human Rights Committee

Topic A - Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Despite clear laws against it within the Russian constitution the Russian Federation has been arresting and sometimes killing journalists within their country who disagree with the beliefs of the government. The Russian government has denied that they are doing anything wrong, citing many laws passed while President Putin has been in office that have effectively reduced many of the rights afforded to the press by the constitution. Many believe that due to the high fatality rate as well as assault rates of journalists that are reporting on sensitive issues in Russia that the Russian government is behind this.

The UN has passed many resolutions regarding the safety and security of journalists around the world however it has been very difficult to pass a resolution regarding this specific issue. The UN has no real power to confront this issue due to the fact that only the Security Council (UNSC) has the power to enforce a resolution and Russia maintains veto powers as a Permanent Member of the UNSC.

The Emirate of Kuwait would likely not support any resolution to solve this issue due to the fact that complete freedom of the press is also not considered as absolute within Kuwait, especially when judged against national security and religious interests. In 2013 Kuwait passed laws restricting the freedom of speech within Kuwait to eliminate criticism of the government on the grounds of national security interests. Voting to pass a resolution that guarantees complete press freedom would present problems for Kuwait as it may put their own laws in jeopardy as well as infringe on the sovereignty of Russia.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Israel continues to systematically violate the rights and discriminate against Palestinians living within occupied territories such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli forces unlawfully killed 39 civilians (11 of which were children) in demonstrations in 2019, for example. Israel has also blockaded the Gaza Strip, trapping many Palestinians within the area and denying them proper healthcare, violating many human rights laws in the process. This same issue is present in the West Bank where more than 100 checkpoints have been set up restricting the movement of Palestinians in the area. Kuwait, nonetheless recognizes Israel's right to be free of terrorist attacks and its right to defend itself accordingly.

In a resolution on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including East Jerusalem) the UN Human Rights Council demanded that Israel withdraw from occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem. The Council also requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the allocation of water resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to recommend measures to ensure the implementation of equitable access to safe drinking water in accordance with international law, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its forty-sixth session.

The State of Kuwait would be very open to further investigations into alleged Israeli human rights violations as a Muslim nation. Kuwait has always supported the nation of Palestine and does not recognize the nation of Israel. Kuwait would like to see Israel return all occupied territories as well as the city of Jerusalem back to Palestine the rightful owners of the territories.

Delegation from: United Mexican States

Represented by: Mentor High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The topics faced by the United Nations Human Rights Council are as follows: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia, and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. Mexico encourages protection measures for journalists facing persecution in Russia, and Mexico seeks solutions to the humanitarian crisis in Palestine through foreign aid and reducing Israeli settlements.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The persecution of journalists and independent media is a global issue spanning from high-profile cases of murder to harassment of journalists. The persecution of journalists threatens free speech and can have severe consequences internationally. In Russia, journalists have been charged with crimes related to distortion and fake news for questioning statistics relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic or reporting on other controversial issues. Independent media also face high fines from the Russian government in attempts to restrict their reporting. Freedom of expression is a right noted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and is of key concern to the freedom of the press globally.

Mexico is currently ranked 143 by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in the 2020 Press Freedom Index, where Russia is ranked 149. Mexico has high rates of violence towards journalists and independent media, and most news outlets are owned by just two media companies. In June 2012, Mexico promoted a law protecting journalists and human rights workers. A federal protection mechanism was established in 2012 as well, which provides protective measures to journalists who seek assistance. As of 2017, the mechanism has provided support to 380 journalists and states have begun establishing state-level mechanisms. These mechanisms have low resources that limit their effectiveness.

Mexico recognizes the difficulties in protecting journalists and independent media but acknowledges Russia's persecution of journalists as an issue of protection from the government and legal measures against journalists. Mexico encourages mechanisms to further protect journalists in Russia and a framework further outlining the rights of journalists facing persecution. Cooperation to protect journalists must take place to ensure freedom of expression.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Although Palestine is recognized as a state by the United Nations, it is not a member of the UN and is not recognized by many countries. Palestine is split majorly between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Israel and Egypt's military control over Gaza's borders have created a humanitarian crisis in the West Bank and Gaza. The Israeli blockade has prevented nearly two-million Palestinians from engaging in trade and gaining access to medical necessities and clean water. Israeli settlements in the West Bank have continued despite UN calls to halt expansions. The Israeli government responded with an announcement to annex their settlements. The threats to Palestinian human rights are severe and require a solution that considers the delicate history regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Mexico considers the expansion of Israeli settlements detrimental to peace talks and calls on the Israeli government to halt expansion and revoke these measures for the sake of peace in the region. Mexico does not recognize Palestine as a state but does acknowledge the Palestine Territories and the need to facilitate peace discussions to mitigate humanitarian crises. In 2014, Mexico supported the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the efforts to aid Palestinian refugees. Mexico increased its voluntary contributions to the agency from \$100,000 USD in 2013.

Mexico supports continued aid to Palestine refugees and recognizes the need to halt the expansion of Israeli settlements in Palestine Territories. These settlements contribute to the human rights violations of Palestinians and harm the chances of peace talks between Israel and Palestine. Talks with Israel on border control and opening channels for foreign aid to the Gaza Strip including medical resources, potable water resources, and educational resources.

Delegation from: the Republic of Nepal

Represented by: Avon High School

Position Paper from the Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia and human rights in Palestine and the relationship with Israel. Nepal is dedicated to resolving the issues for the people's rights and wants to advance the policies.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Many of the journalists in Russia have been in grave danger and this issue has been known since the early 1990s, however, concern was raised in 2006. Anna Politkovskaya, a bright journalist, was murdered in Moscow on October 7, 2006 which is what sparked the concern. There have been over 200 fatalities which is a problem that needs to be addressed urgently.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Russian federation have had cooperative relations for a long standing amount of time. A residential diplomatic presence is present in both of these countries. Nepal also gets an abundant amount of resources from Russia and they are very grateful. Nepal is angered to hear about the persecution of these innocent journalists and we feel like it is our responsibility to help our ally, Russia. Nepal asks the United Nations to form a document that protects the rights of these virtuous people. This document will protect the basic idea of human rights which include freedom of speech and freedom of press. There have been no actions taken to protect their rights, therefore, Nepal asks that we come up with a conclusion that will end this predicament once and for all.

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal proposes the intention of having severe consequences for these inadequate crimes. There must be punishment that matches up to the severity of these grim offenses. Nepal asks that the United Nations consider these young, innocent people who are being killed for solely doing their job. Having an opinion or a stance on something should not lead to someone getting killed, according to the idea of freedom of speech.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The Israeli government has enforced severe and harsh restrictions on Palestinians human rights, which has caused conflict between the two regions. There have been many bombings on both sides and brutal war which has caused torture and ill treatment within the nations. The Independent Commission for Human Rights in Palestine (ICHR) has issued many complaints which include 173 complaints of torture and ill treatment and 209 complaints of administration detention pursuant.

The republic of Nepal and Israel had celebrated their 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties on June 1, 2020. The 2 leaders of these countries were very proud of their accomplishment and they want to strengthen their future. Nepal has also maintained close relations with the Arab world and they want to bring peace to the Israel Palestine conflict. The Prime Minister of Nepal has in the past written letters to the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Yasser Arafat for their decision towards peace. Nepal and Israel have a relationship built on trust and understanding, therefore, Nepal wants what is best for both of the nations. Nepal asks that something happens towards this conflict, however they want to remain at peace with Israel.

The Republic of Nepal asks that the United Nations considers both sides of the argument and that everyone has equal human rights. Nepal proposes the idea of an agreement of some sort between the 2 nations that will compromise both beliefs. The Republic of Nepal asks the United Nations to look at both points of view and create a compromise that will also benefit both sides.

Delegation from: Norway

Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy

Committee: Human Rights Council

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues placed before the Human Rights Council are (1) Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and (2) Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. Norway acknowledges the universal nature of human rights and is devoted to their protection across the globe.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Norway places an enormous value on the freedom of the press. We acknowledge that the ability to practice journalism and the ability to consume and/or publish independent media are of paramount importance. It is for this reason that we condemn the Russian government's suppression of Russian journalists and independent media outlets. While censorship and suppression of the media are common faults found in every nation's history, it is the modern responsibility of all to combat this and to uphold the human right of expression through the media. Relatively recently in Russia, many journalists have been met with arrest, criminal charges, and even murder for practicing their profession. The Russian government has also taken the more subtle approach of implementing laws with ostensible purposes such as curbing extremism and protecting youth; and true purposes of suppressing journalist groups and ideologies that the government does not wish to promote. Larger media outlets have been burdened with huge, arbitrary fines, draining their budgets and making it more difficult for the outlets to survive. These acts of media suppression are completely incompatible with Norway's values. Norway views the right to express oneself through the media as an essential human right and pledges to encourage the universal recognition of its value.

While persecution of journalists and independent media is rampant in Russia, avoiding this is essential to the functioning of every country. Norway has continued to adapt to changes in media and has protected the freedoms surrounding the media by making amendments to Article 100 of our Constitution, which states that "Everyone shall be free to speak his mind frankly on the administration of the state and on any other subject whatsoever." In the advent of technological media, we amended the basis of Article 100 so that it is now freedom of expression, whereas it was priorly freedom of print. An additional way in which Norway has shown its support for journalists and independent media who exercise freedom of expression is by signing the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In Article 19 of the Covenant, it is stated that all persons have the right to express themselves using any media that they choose. The Covenant does state that that right to expression may be "subject to certain restrictions," but it goes on to state that, "these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary." The restrictions that the Russian government has imposed on journalists and independent media are often provided by Russian laws, but they are not necessary. Because of this, Norway voices its stance against the persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia, as such conduct is in direct contradiction to the guaranteed right to expression outlined in the ICCPR.

Norway hopes that the Human Rights Council will work alongside other councils to approach and communicate with Russia in efforts to reach an agreement granting Russian journalists and independent media the essential rights outlined in Article 19 of the ICCPR. In such an agreement, Norway would also hope to see significantly lower rates of impunity in cases of government officials murdering journalists and reimbursement for unreasonable fines. If said agreement proves unattainable, Norway hopes to work with other countries to apply peaceful pressure to the Russian government and to offer Russian media workers protection and aid. Chiefly, Norway recognizes the value of freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

We ultimately hope that, through international collaboration, we may continue adapting to the changes in media and regulating media as need be, while also protecting every individual from unjust regulations and related persecution.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

As a member of the United Nations, Norway believes that all countries should be held to the standards of the *UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Article 2 of the declaration states that all persons “are entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in [the] Declaration,” with “no distinction...on the basis of the political, jurisdictional, or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs.” With this and the freedoms encompassed by the declaration in mind, Norway deems the acts being committed by Israel against Palestinians in occupied Palestinian territories a violation of the Palestinians’ human rights that must cease as soon as possible. The severity of the crisis can be seen in the West Bank (Area C), an area of Palestinian land that is occupied by Israeli forces. In the West Bank, Palestinians face unlawful killing, home demolitions, displacement, detention within Israel, discrimination, torture, and beyond. Additionally, the Israeli government recently approved plans to build 5000 new homes on Palestinian territory, a decision that we believe calls for UN Security Council 2334 to be put in place. Combined with the educational, economic, and health-related struggles Palestinians face due to Israel’s restriction of movement on the Gaza strip, all of this has caused horrendous consequences for Palestine. Norway maintains that Israeli citizen occupation of the West Bank or of any Palestinian territory is in itself an illegal violation of Palestinians’ human rights. Such occupation as well as all movement restrictions and the additional breaches of Palestinian human rights must be stopped promptly, even if a full two-state solution is not reached by that time. The deeper animosity that has caused this situation is the product of a history that began at the inception of the Jewish state. Israel has had territorial issues with its Arab neighbors since its original founders settled on Palestinian land. Even after a large part of the land was officially granted to Israel by the United Nations Special Commission Resolution 181, there were invasions into Israel that only caused Israel to gain more territory and to continue annexing more Palestinian territory today. However, the historical rivalry between Israel and Palestine requires more time consuming and carefully-crafted solutions and therefore must be viewed as a separate task from the current humanitarian crisis.

Norway prioritizes human rights both domestically and internationally and continues to aid human rights development in Palestine. The country of Norway is a top contributor to the budget of the Palestinian Authority (PA). By providing support to the PA through development cooperation funding, we hope to promote human rights, democratic government, improved health and education, and other areas to achieve a strong, independent Palestine. We also aid Palestine by focusing humanitarian organizations in areas the PA’s budget fails to stretch to, such as East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, an area currently controlled by the Hamas. In terms of more collaborative, international approaches to the issue, Norway serves as the chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, a UN body with a focus in making arrangements for Palestine to receive humanitarian and developmental assistance.

Norway is fully committed to ending the human rights abuses in Palestine and mending the relationship with Israel to prevent future issues of the like. We believe that the political and historical facets of the conflict will require extensive, carefully-moderated negotiation to be addressed at a later date. The human rights abuses, however, call for immediate humanitarian aid to promote human rights in Palestine and access to resources so that Palestine may also recover itself. We also stress that the organizations administering aid must be carefully protected to ensure they may operate effectively. We hope that the Human Rights Council will hold UN countries accountable for offering aid via an official agreement. We also hope that the United Nations as a whole will take steps to hold Israel accountable for the release of innocent Palestinian detainees, the removal of the blockade in Gaza, and the end of impunity for Israeli authorities who have unlawfully killed Palestinians. We recommend that this is done in the most peaceful, most collaborative manner possible to prevent the emergence of new conflict/s with Israel.

Delegation from: Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Represented by: Solon High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues before the Human Rights Council are: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia; and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan promotes the protection freedom of expression within a nation's law and the protection of every person's human rights.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

As stated in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, freedom of expression is the inalienable right of every human being. In today's digital age, however, world nations are treading a careful line between protecting freedom of expression and maintaining integrity in the press and media. There is much debate regarding how much regulation is required to appropriately govern bodies of media around the world; this has led to tensions in nations like Russia, Turkey, China, and Pakistan itself, which are giving rise to public protests against censorship. A few notable examples are the 2019 Russian Censorship protests and the 2019 Pakistani protests against the nation's Blasphemy Laws.

Pakistan maintains that freedom of speech is an important human right that must be protected, within the purview of a nation's laws and expectations. A sovereign nation must have the ability to rightfully penalize media outlets that abuse this right to propagate incendiary and destructive views. According to A/RES/2200(XXI)[A] passed on 12/16/1966, the right to freedom of speech can be refused in order to protect the rights and reputations of others and to protect national security. Pakistan recognizes these exceptions to freedom of speech and defends the nation from such dangers through the Blasphemy Law sections of her Constitution. A recent example of Pakistan protecting the nation from such incendiary and destructive speech is the arrest of Bilal Farooqi- a man who spread disrespectful information on social media regarding the Pakistan Army that could potentially be dangerous.

Pakistan recognizes, however, that these governmental restrictions result in negative views of and pernicious effects on journalists, including but not limited to: being caused social harm by authority figures, facing violence from the angered public, kidnapping, and in some extreme cases, murder. Journalists are a critical part of any nation for they offer, within bounds, guidance for the government to improve and keep power usage in check. Being such an integral facet of modern government, journalists and media figures must be protected as such from violent acts by citizens of the nation. If these persons overstep the bounds of a nation's law, there should be proper channels for their punishment to discourage citizens from attacking them. Acknowledging the 7 Russian journalists who went missing in 2020 and the 59 Pakistani journalists killed since 2000, Pakistan would like to push for a formation of international policies regarding the

appropriate punishment for those who break a nation's free speech limitations and the protection of journalists against violent crimes within the bounds of a nation's laws.

I. Human Rights in Palestine and Relationship with Israel

Israel and Palestine have been fighting for land and control for over a century. As per the Oslo II Accord, Israel controls most of the disputed land with the exception of Gaza and West Bank, which are currently occupied by Palestinians autonomously or under Israeli military control. The division is as follows: Area A of West Bank is under Palestinian National Authority, Area B is jointly under the Palestinian National Authority's civil control and Israeli security, Area C is occupied by Palestinians and Israelis but fully controlled by Israel, Gaza is autonomously governed by the Palestinian National Authority.

As a result of these tense borders and land divisions, much pain is being inflicted upon Palestinians by the Israeli government. This includes the fierce blockades in Gaza that are causing an extremely weak economy and over 45% unemployment rate and the systematic economic and social oppression of Palestinians residing in the West Bank. As recounted by the UN Special Rapporteur Michael Lynk, Israel's exploitation of Palestinian resources is in direct violation of its responsibility as an occupying power, therefore constituting a human rights violation. Israel's discriminatory laws that institute de facto class segregation between Israelis and Palestinians are in violation of the UN Declaration of Human Rights A/RES/18/1904 and also constitute as human rights violations. Israel is currently encroaching on Palestine controlled West Bank which is in contradiction with the Oslo Accords and furthers the dehumanization of Palestinians in Israel. Israel's recent incendiary statements calling to annex Palestine are inexcusable. Pakistan firmly condemns Israel's un-humanitarian actions against Palestinians and radical claims on Palestinian land. Pakistan firmly refuses to accept Israel until Palestinians are given their social, economic, and human rights.

Pakistan encourages the formation of policies that further the interests of disenfranchised Palestinians and Israelis irrevocably protects citizens' human rights in the face of rising political tensions between the two nations. Pakistan calls upon the concerned nations to push for peace and a righteous division of land between Israel and Palestine within this committee and outside. Pakistan appeals to fellow Arab Nations and her allies to stand in support of Palestinians' rights and push for peace to be made between Israel and Palestine for the betterment of its citizens and in the world's best interest.

*The Republic of Peru
Human Rights Committee
St. Edward High School*

Topic A – The Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia.

Government prosecution of journalists and those who spread news stories that reflect negatively on the government itself has been a frequent feature of most countries for centuries. This has mostly been because of the fear that too much information might lead to a revolution or collapse of control because of pressure by the people. This fear may be justified and has thus been used as a tool by the powerful to maintain their positions of control and authority. Despite the growth of democracies across the world, the modern era is no exception and there have been countless cases of the persecution of journalists. Examples of this range from journalists being murdered in scandalous “accidents” in foreign countries to journalists being imprisoned by governments for getting a bit too close to some things those governments would rather hide. While many countries are guilty of this Russia is allegedly a common offender. Russia claims that this is part of an attempt to battle terrorism. The Republic of Peru understands Russia’s predicament as Peru too has had a long history with internal terrorism. However, The Republic of Peru also believes that the right of the freedom of the press is important and would like to see Russia and the other common perpetrators of persecution against journalism work with the Republic of Peru to find better and more humane solutions to battle this very unpleasant threat.

Peru itself has had a long history of persecution of journalists. From 1968 to 1980 the country was under military rule. This included mass press censorship with most media companies being shut down and the publishers exiled. Only a few pro-government news sources managed to stay which were heavily censored by the government. Following this regime there was a civil war where journalists were even more under pressure than before. Following the civil war the Fujimori decade began with President Alberto Fujimoro, who took control of the country in another authoritarian regime. Despite the continued persecution of journalists, media outlets were gradually given more freedom than before although they remained under pressure. After the fall of Fujimori and the establishment of full democracy many more rights and the freedom to operate were given to the press and despite noticeable problems (such as corruption practices) Peru maintains a relatively free press today.

Peru sees the main cause of Russia’s crackdown on journalism to be a response to terrorism. Thus if the committee can find better ways to address and fight growing radicalism and terrorism in Russia the need for the persecution of journalists will be greatly reduced. The Republic of Peru would like to form a coalition of states to tackle the matter in a collaborative manner, targeting support and funding towards specific countries that suffer from regular acts of terror. Spending controls will be maintained by a new body called the Anti-Terrorist Funding Committee (ATFC) accordingly. For a country to be eligible to receive financial support they will need to demonstrate a reduction of acts of persecution against journalists over the previous year, thus ensuring an extra incentive against the practice of persecution of Journalists.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The history between the people of Palestine and Israel has always been one of mutual disapproval and violence. After the 1967 Six Day War, Israeli forces - armed with Western (and increasingly American) weapons – occupied and took control of territory claimed by Palestinians (such as the West Bank and Gaza) and the negative effect on the Palestinian people was very marked. Many were forced out of their homes and claim brutal treatment against them by Israeli forces. Despite Israel withdrawing from Gaza after the Oslo Accords, the territory remains effectively under siege with restricted access, leaving 80 percent of the population reliant on humanitarian aid. Israel claims this is as a result of acts of terrorism from Gaza towards Israel. Furthermore, there has been an expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank which the Palestinian Authority views as a clear violation of international law. This expansion into Palestinian territory has further led the Israeli government to announce plans of annexing the area. The Republic of Peru – whilst accepting that Israel has the right to defend itself against acts of terror - finds the essential siege of Gaza to be detestable and advocates for this to end immediately. The other violations of international law are also condemned by the Republic of Peru which suggests further attempts at seeking a compromise between the opposing parties.

While Peru has certainly had a history itself of difficult internal race relations, the current government acknowledges its problems and continues to work towards a better future. Peru would like to see both Israel and the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table to take similar steps.

Peru suggests that the Gaza strip be demilitarized and that Gaza be formally linked to the West Bank to be consolidated in the formation of an official Palastinian state. All parties including other adjoining Muslim-majority States of the region should participate in discussions dealing with the redefining of borders. Another requirement of this deal is for international cooperative steps to be taken to stop the funding of Hamas so as to reduce acts of terror and as a practical means of demilitarizing Gaza, thus promoting a better chance of reaching a peaceful settlement. After the signing of these deals any movement of armed forces onto the opposing sides territory without consent will be seen as a violation of international law and the perpetrator will be condemned. Furthermore the Republic of Peru would like to see an improvement between the legal rights of Palestinians in Israel itself. Peru sees this as ultimately the key to introducing stability to the region.

Country: Republic of Senegal

School: St Edward High School

Committee: Human Rights Council

Topic A - Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Following the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Russian Federation was forced to establish an entirely new ruling party structure in a nation that had been a communist state for nearly 80 years. The Constitution of the new Russian Federation was written with the inception of an established principle of the freedom of speech and the media, but since then, various amendments have been put in place to limit the spread of what the Russian Government has deemed potentially dangerous information through the Russian media. These amendments, including the 2006 Federal Law on Combating Terrorism, have largely been in response to the global rise of terrorism, experienced by Russia particularly in the Chechen Civil War. Since then, numerous cases have been brought up in which alleged Russian Government agents have allegedly carried out the murders of anti-state journalists. However, none of these cases have been directly linked to the government, and in the case of Anna Politkovskaya, a third-party group acting independently was deemed to have killed her. Recently, journalists have been detained for a variety of reasons, but in most of these cases, the Russian government has cited ample evidence to support their arrests, and in the scenarios which they haven't, evidence regarding the trial has been kept classified so as to avoid a breach of national security in a pivotal case.

Compared to the remainder of West Africa, Senegalese private journalists are able to enjoy many rights regarding their content that cannot be felt when one leaves its borders. In Senegal, like in the Russian Constitution, journalists are granted the freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Journalists are able to publish whatever stories and information they so please, so long as it does not pose a threat to the nation of Senegal. Like Russia, the Republic of Senegal understands the need to restrict the rights of media if a threat is posed, and it is written into the law code of Senegal that journalists can be detained if they are deemed to pose a threat to the security of the nation, through excessive fearmongering and leaking of classified information, amongst other reasons.

In the HRC, Senegal would like to see a dialogue created regarding the extent to which governments should regulate the media so as to protect the people. In addition, Senegal would like to remind the United Nations that near-unlimited media freedom is not as positive as it is often viewed and that unrestricted media can cause many unforeseen consequences. If a resolution would be passed, Senegal would be opposed to opposition of Russian actions, but they would instead be interested in the delineation of the optimal way to both control the media and retain a functioning democracy in the increasingly interconnected world of the twenty-first century.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

For many years, Palestine and Israel have been at odds over the territories often referred to as “The Holy Lands” near Jerusalem, and control over this area has changed from time to time and the debate continues into the present day. Since the partition of the Holy Land into Palestinian Arab and Jewish areas of settlement and control after the conclusion of the Second World War - prompted primarily by the tragedies of the Nazi Holocaust during the War - the Nation of Israel was established in May 1947. Subsequently, both sides have committed violations against the other - in addition to the four major wars fought between Israel and surrounding Arab nations. Attempts at reaching a solution that allowed the creation of a Palestinian State - brokered by numerous US Presidents - have proven inconclusive. Palestinian territories have been the West Bank (controlled at first by the Palestine Liberation Organisation and latterly by Fatah) and the Gaza Strip - which Israel captured in the Six-Day War of 1967 and then ceded to Palestinian control as a result of the Oslo Accords. Gaza is now controlled by Hamas. Further groups of Palestinian refugees live in camps in Southern Lebanon - controlled by Hezbollah.

In recent years, there has been a growing trend of rocket attacks orchestrated by Hamas Hezbollah against Israel - usually producing military responses from Israel, mainly in the form of airstrikes against Palestinian targets, mostly in Gaza. In addition, the Palestinian authorities in the West Bank (Fatah), Gaza (Hamas) and Southern Lebanon (Hezbollah) have suppressed and crushed dissenting opinion, acts considered to be against basic human rights. Israel has retaliated in its own manner, suppressing protests through violent means, and restricting the movement of goods and people in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, thus being accused itself of human rights violations accordingly. Contrary to the intended original partition plan immediately after WWII, Palestinians allege that Israel’s strong military and aggressive actions in defense of its national security interests decrease the Palestinian’s hold over their land. The Israeli policy of establishing settlements across parts of the West Bank is regarded as further evidence of Israeli disregard for Palestinian rights to self-determination. Neither the Palestinian Authority nor the Israeli government is willing to compromise, and both sides have made continued human rights violations in recent years.

Senegal has had their own experiences of human rights violations in the past, and this is an issue that the Republic of Senegal has had to deal with. Since its independence in 1959, rebel groups have caused unrest and committed human rights violations of their own, and in response, the Republic of Senegal was forced to respond forcefully, sadly creating collateral damage. In addition, Senegal has accepted thousands of immigrants from Mauritania, and it remains exceptionally clear that the Republic of Senegal has protected the human rights of these people, and in certain cases, the government of Senegal has had to protect these people from its own citizens. Since 1975, the Republic of Senegal has been a part of the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and Senegal believes strongly that the rights of the Palestinian people need protecting - but also recognizes the rights of Israel to exist as a nation.

Delegation from: The Republic of South Africa

Represented by: Beachwood High School

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues for deliberation before the United Nations Human Rights Council include the persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia; and human rights in Palestine and the relationship with Israel. The Republic of South Africa is not only open to collaboration with other nations but committed to finding lasting solutions for issues of grave concern to the maintenance of human rights throughout the global community.

I: The Persecution of Journalist and Independent Media in Russia

Since the establishment of the protection of press freedom in the 1993 constitution of the Russian Federation, individual journalists, and independent media freedom has been rolled back aggressively. Accelerating most notably in 2005, the restriction of the freedom of information has been a continuous effort by the government of the Russian Federation in tension with the rights to freedom of information expressed in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Abuse of laws passed under the auspice of countering terrorism, child protection, and defamation are deeply concerning and a part of a troubling trend across the world that situates this body at a turning point regarding the protection of journalists and press freedom not just in the Russian Federation but throughout the world. The situation in Russia serves as an opportunity for constructive solutions to be developed to incentivize national governments to uphold the fundamental right to freedom of information and shape the next decade of Journalistic freedom and reverse trends that indicate growing violence against journalists and autocratic repression of independent journalism.

In South Africa, wide-ranging press freedom is enjoyed by the people of South Africa. The Republic of South Africa ranks 31 on the press freedom index. In comparison, that ranks higher than nations such as the United States, France, and South Korea. A free press has been a cornerstone of the ruling party ANC construction of a post-apartheid South Africa where persecution of journalists revealing the truth about apartheid was once widespread. We still face growing challenges related to online harassment of reporters, especially female ones. Our domestic and international policy focuses on creating international best practices on how to balance security and free expression.

The Republic of South Africa believes that the issue before this body will require the reaffirmation and implementation of stronger mechanisms to enforce current international law. To protect journalists and

independent media's role in our civil society we must create incentives to implement stronger protections of press freedom while also putting pressure on states who abuse the balance between security and freedom of information. Additionally, we must create international standards and initiatives to creatively and proactively deal with new challenges surrounding protecting citizen journalism and protecting journalists from online harassment, especially against women. While also affirming a greater global trust in the role of free media.

II: Human Rights In Palestine And The Relationship With Israel

According to Human Rights Watch, extreme restrictions on movement in Gaza and the West Bank have led to a lack of basic humanitarian needs and have had compounding effects amid the Covid-19 Crisis. Almost 80% of Palestinians rely on international humanitarian aid, a staggering number. Additionally, in 2019 nearly 50% of Palestinians were unemployed and that number has only been worsened by the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Common fuel shortages and power outages lead to critical infrastructures like water and sewage treatment plants and hospitals being nonfunctional. Critical stockpiles like that of Medicine and PPE are depleted and face extreme barriers to entry into Gaza and the West Bank. As a result of a coordinated effort by WHO and other UN agencies and NGOs, critical funding and relief surged to Palestine at the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic. Challenges remain however in addressing the immediate needs and longstanding complex human rights violations and humanitarian assistance distribution challenges.

The Republic of South Africa has long supported the full emphasis of international law regarding the situation in Palestine. We see the grievous Human Rights violations committed by occupying Israeli forces as a violation of our belief in nonviolent conflict resolution and the highest respect for Human Rights. We also recognize any violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people whether it be from violent groups like Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, or the Israeli Defense Force are detrimental to the maintenance of peace and must be condemned by the international community. In the long term, we believe in emphasizing a south-south cooperation approach, leveraging diplomatic engagement throughout the global south to chip away at critical long-lasting issues of human rights and sustainable development. In this respect, we affirm the crucial work of the recently established Palenstian international Cooperation Agency and welcome their voice and participation in the expertise the Palestinian people have to offer the world and us them.

Foundational to addressing any prolonged logistical challenges related to the promotion of Palestinian human rights in the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the acknowledgment from all international governmental and nongovernmental actors of the importance of this task. It is not just important for adherence to international law but the exact challenge this body was created to substantively address. While during our deliberations we must keep in mind the political situation, we must stay squarely focused on the human rights afflictions in Israeli occupied Palestine and thus on attainable solutions. The Republic of South Africa stands ready to foster international cooperation concerning upholding the Human Rights of our Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Delegation from: Kingdom of Spain

Represented by: Mayfield High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council

The issues before the United Nations Human Rights Council are: the persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia; and human rights in Palestine and the relationship with Israel. The Kingdom of Spain is extremely dedicated to making sure all people are given human rights.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

The persecution of journalists in Russia has been an ongoing point of discussion since the beginning of the communist regime in Russia; however, in the early 2000s, this topic became much more prevalent in society. In 2006, the murder of Anna Politkovskaya has led many countries to take action in fighting against the persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia. The Kingdom of Spain firmly believes that journalists and independent media should be given proper human rights in Russia to ensure people are given freedom of speech, expression and press to voice their concerns and cover new stories around the world. The Kingdom of Spain has taken the initiative to provide all citizens of Spain with these mentioned freedoms as Spain hopes that through granting these basic rights to people, they will be able to better express their opinions and views of current events. In Spain's constitution, written in 1978, Spain recognized the freedom of press which removed governmental censorship from the media. Through this freedom, Spain hopes to eliminate the persecution of media journalists and independent media agencies in not only Spain, but also internationally.

In order to slow, and eventually prevent, the persecution of journalists and independent media in Russia, Spain has taken a number of initiatives: one being joining the organization, Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The RSF aims to eliminate the persecution of journalists around the world in addition to providing services to help journalists in distraught situations. For instance, the RSF and American Express partnered to create a hotline for journalists to use if they need immediate help. This hotline can be used anywhere in the world and responders will help any journalist. The RSF also partnered with the Council of Europe to ensure the eradication of the persecution of media journalists and independent media in Europe and Russia. Spain is an involved member of the Council of Europe and promotes their programs. The Council of Europe tracks the number of journalists murdered and persecuted in many European countries, however, not in Russia. Due to the exclusion of Russia from the Council of Europe, and many other programs like the RSF, it is difficult to make human rights a point of focus in the country.

The delegation from Spain requests that the human rights of journalists and independent media organizations are respected in Russia. Through implementing organizations, like the RSF, the human rights of those in harm's way would be a step closer to being protected. More services to journalists should be available, like the hotline established by the RSF and American Express, in order to provide

journalists with the resources they need to stay safe while reporting and covering stories. If more measures like the hotline were implemented, the sovereignty of Russia as a country would not be infringed upon as it would be up to the journalists to use the service.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Throughout the Israeli-Palestineans conflict, many Palestineans, as well as Israelies, have either been deprived of human rights or been completely stripped of them. The Kingdom of Spain believes that all Palestineans should be given human rights regardless of Palestine's relationship with Israel. In recent years, Spain has voiced their support for Palestine to become an independent nation. Although Spain has strong ties with Israel, the delegation of Spain would like to make known that, through requests made by the Spanish citizens, Spain is willing to jeopardize relations with Israel in order to achieve justice for those in Palestine.

Starting in 1993, Spain has made several strides towards granting those in Palestine proper human rights. Spain has begun to solidify ties between Spain and Palestine. In 1993, Spain was the first country in the European Union to work towards improving relations with Palestine. In working with Palestine, Spain signed the Country Association Framework. This act established ties with Palestine and ensured that Spain would remain friendly and have diplomatic relations with Palestine. Continuing with this process, in 2014, an agreement, the VI Palestine Hispanic Mixed Commission, was signed by Spain to identify and enforce the previously made Spanish Cooperation Association Framework. The Spanish Cooperation Association Framework aims to make peace and cooperation between Spain and Palestine and in doing so, grants its people several rights. These rights include refuge, security, gender equality and more that are standard in many western countries. Through developing programs like the mentioned, Palestinians would be able to receive just human rights. Spain firmly believes that the human rights of Palestineans have to be honored even though turmoil between Israel and Palestine is occurring. Additionally, Spain is willing to devote resources in order to grant human rights to suffering Palestineans. In fact, Spain strongly supports the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), a United Nations organization that works towards achieving rights for Palestinian refugees. In 2018, through the UNRWA, Spain dedicated 19.5 million euros to building 2 hospitals in Jordan for Palestinean refugees. These hospitals are projected to serve just about 2.3 million refugees from Palestine. Not only did Spain support the building of hospitals for Palestineans, but Spain also devoted 2 million euros to another project with the UNRWA that supports the building of relief centers for Palestineans in need and Palestinean refugees.

The delegation of Spain hopes that other countries will join the fight in making sure that Palestineans receive proper human rights and access to proper services. Spain would like to see more countries supporting organizations to help Palestineans and creating acts that promote giving Palestineans' human rights, like the Spanish Cooperation Association Framework. Action needs to occur now in order to stop the unjust treatment of Palestineans in Israeli-Palestinean conflict zones. The delegation of Spain wants to make known that through granting Palestineans rights, countries would be in support of giving all people proper human rights which is what every country should strive for.

Delegation From: Togolese Republic

Represented by: St. Edward High School

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Topic A - Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Journalists in Russia have been under fire by the Russian Government for reporting that the Government regards as being against the national interest or which supports terrorism. This is despite the respect for the key principle of freedom of the press as expressed by the Constitution of the Russian Federation. reported. The Russian Government sees the threat of terrorism as more important than ensuring the complete freedom of the press to publish what it sees fit and has allegedly undertaken acts of persecution against journalists accordingly over several decades now.

The Delegation of Togo likewise regards the threat of terrorism and internal disorder as serious threats to the security of the State and has enforced several laws to ensure this, whilst at the same time respecting the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Togo does reject the excessive use of force, arbitrary arrests and detentions, torture and other ill-treatment, and impunity for human rights violations and abuses committed.

The Delegation of Togo recognizes that Russia – just like any other country – has the right to internal order and control and also accepts that terrorism is a serious challenge to civil society and national security. The Delegation of Togo would therefore support a balanced approach to the accusations against Russia whilst accepting that excessive use of force and imprisonment of journalists as a regular practice should be curtailed as far as is possible, notwithstanding the need to ensure internal security and control.

Topic B - Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

The Delegation of Togo recognizes the deep-rooted nature of the conflict between the State of Israel and the Palestinian people. Togo accepts that Israel has the right to defend itself and to take actions against perceived terrorist activities, but that the Palestinian people have basic fundamental human rights too, which have been regularly ignored by Israel. Israel became a State in 1947 following the agreed partition of land by the United Nations in the aftermath of the end of the Second World War and in recognition of the Nazi Holocaust against Jewish people during the war.

Subsequent wars between Israel and neighboring Arab States (in 1948, 1956, 1967 and 1973) have made the position of the Palestinian people all the more difficult. After 1967, Israel occupied The West Bank and the Gaza Strip against the principles of the UN Partition Agreement of 1947. Although Israel then withdrew from Gaza and gave control of the West Bank to the Palestinian Authority after the Oslo Accords in 1993, it is clear to Togo that Israel

still dominates both territories by its overwhelming military operations and Togo alleges that Israeli forces regularly commit acts that are against the human rights of Palestinians in both areas,. The Israeli policy of building settlements in the West Bank further complicates the matter.

Togo accepts that the shooting of rockets into Israel from Gaza by Hamas presents an intolerable situation for Israel but also accepts that Israeli forces often respond with even greater force, producing greater suffering for the Palestinian people in Gaza.

Togo would like to see a return to the negotiating table for further discussions by both Israel and the Palestinian authorities on a peaceful settlement that recognizes the autonomy and self-determination rights of the Palestinian people.

Delegation from: Ukraine

School: Lake Ridge Academy

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Position Paper for the Human Rights Council

The issues presented by the Human Rights Council are: Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. Ukraine aims to improve the working conditions for journalists and support Israel through these tough times.

I. Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

Russia and Ukraine have typically always had an unstable relationship. Russia ranked as one of the worst countries in the world for media freedom, and their treatment of journalists is horrific. In 2006 alone, there were 59 assaults on journalists. During the Crimea crisis, there were countless websites and posts denouncing the control of Russian leaders. These websites were forcibly taken down, silencing the voices of Ukrainians. The war in Crimea was the first war to actually start because of propaganda written up by the Russians. The history of persecution of journalists and media in Russia has been similar to the one in Ukraine. This obvious lack of freedom greatly impacts the country's improvement into a better society.

Before 2014, Ukraine and Russia had a manageable relationship but after Moscow's annexation of Crimea between February and March of 2014, their attitudes hardened towards each other. The relationship had generally always been rocky but one thing they seem to have in common is their control over the media. Both countries have their share of banned media and posts, but one thing Ukraine seems to have over Russia is the prohibition of Russian media. Ukraine encourages editorial independence but blocks the transmission of Russian news and information. Ukraine often blames Russia for many of the journalist deaths and in one instance they even faked the death of a journalist to thwart the Russian plot. Ukraine and Russia share many of the same ideals when it comes to the persecution of independent media and journalists. In Ukraine, most journalists are persecuted for their publishing and reporting on Russian information or principles.

In 2010 the UN began the Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. The goal of this plan was to create a safe environment for journalists to work in conditions that would otherwise not be safe. This plan also aims to recognize the rights of humans and have world leaders recognize the obvious flaw in their system if they monitor or ban the media. Even though this plan was put in place,

1,000 journalists have still been killed around the world. It is important for the citizens of these countries to come together in support of the journalists and their safety, as not much has been working.

II. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Israel and Palestine have fought over land for nearly fifty years, leaving millions of people displaced and homeless. Ukraine greatly is in support of Israel and gives them aid whenever they may need it. After the second world war, Palestine was split into an Arab state, and a Jewish state which caused even more conflict between the two groups. It divided the country and left it vulnerable. Soon after the divide, Israel gained control of the land and 700,000 Palestinians were displaced. In January 2020, President Trump proposed a deal to invoke peace between the two nations which hurt Palestine and allowed for potential annexation on Israel's part in Palestinian land.

Back in January of 2020, Ukraine pulled out of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People was established to allow the Palestinian people to exercise their inalienable rights which includes the right to self-determination, the right to national independence and sovereignty, and the right to return to their homes and property if they have been displaced. Ukrainians believe that it is an anti-Israel committee, which makes sense because they typically vote in favor of Israel. This act was meant to bring the countries together and offer aid to both, however, Israel still has the possibility of annexation which goes against international law and is extremely harmful for the Palestinians who are in need of aid and have been put into a place of poverty. Palestinians will never get out of that poverty unless they are given adequate education or economic opportunities, and only then will the cycle of poverty end.

The conflict between Palestine and Israel has risen to new heights, and the human rights issues are quickly getting worse. Religion, and past conflicts have put a rift between these two countries and as time goes on it simply becomes harder to overcome. Palestinians are not able to fight for their rights, as they virtually have none. The people in power in both countries should work together to negotiate a solution, while the UN works together to prioritize the rights of Palestinians along the West Bank and in other territories.

Delegation from: Venezuela

Represented by: Lake Ridge Academy High School

Position Paper for the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The issues before the Human Rights Council are as follows: the Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia and Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel. These issues both have a significant role to play in maintaining peace and international diplomacy around the world, especially during such a tumultuous time.

1. The Persecution of Journalists and Independent Media in Russia

In recent years, Russia has come under fire for seemingly bogus criminal charges and arrests of Journalists and other media personalities. 58 journalists have been killed in Russia since 1992, as well as an average of 7 journalists imprisoned each year. In addition, about 7 journalists go missing every year. Cases such as that of Ivan Safronov, a former journalist imprisoned for allegedly passing military secrets to the Czech Republic, have garnered much attention from Russian civilians. Protests and petitions have become popular movements against the Russian government, with some getting millions of supporters.

The Delegation of Venezuela firmly condemns Russia's persecution of Journalists, and recommends that measures be taken to cease these injustices at once. While Venezuela has used the controversial 'anti-hate' law against journalists in the past, freedom of speech and press freedom are protected under the Venezuelan constitution. In this instance, it is clear that Russian officials are infringing upon the accused's rights to freedom of speech.

The Delegation of Venezuela urges the UNHCR to enact the following: all journalist arrests, both current and past, should be formally investigated. The validity of many recent arrests has come into question, especially in those where evidence has not been released to the public. In an act of transparency, Russia should release all information on the arrests in question and allow a complete investigation into the validity of its claims.

2. Human Rights in Palestine and the Relationship with Israel

Israel has continually imposed institutionalized discrimination against Palestinians living in occupied territories. On July first, 38 Palestinians were killed, including twelve children, after participating in a protest against Israel's planned annexation of the West Bank. This demonstration, entitled the 'Day of Rage,' is one of many instances where Israel has failed to provide Palestinians with safe, effective leadership. In addition to compromising their safety, Israel has stunted the Palestinians ability to move freely about their country, initiating roadblocks and other checkpoints along many routes between the two countries. Along these checkpoints, government officials are unlawfully detaining many palestinians, holding them in unclean, inhumane facilities for undisclosed periods of time. The treatment of Palestinians is unconstitutional, and should be regulated immediately.

Venezuela has thoroughly advanced its human rights laws, having drafted a new constitution in 1999. This new constitution created more specific regulations on human rights issues, such as discrimination and health care. In addition, Venezuela ratified the American Convention on Human Rights in 1977. This added it to the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

The Delegation of Venezuela recommends that, whether it be through civil or military means, the UNHRC intervenes in the current Palestinian humanitarian crisis. The situation is escalating every day, with tensions and civil-war threats becoming widely popularized, and it is simply a matter of when a war will break out. As it is now, millions of Palestinians are being detained and subjected to unfair treatment, living in conditions that are arguably unlivable. Action must be taken, or millions of lives will inevitably be lost.