



Political

Chairs: Alex Ramil, Irini Fournier

Topic 1: The Mitigation and Termination of Modern Slavery in Africa

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KzuXdr6ZUzU>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cIaGJewHdDM>

Articles: <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/series/modern-day-slavery-in-focus+world/africa>

Overview:

Women forced into prostitution. People forced to work in agriculture, domestic work and factories. Children in sweatshops producing goods sold globally. Entire families forced to work for nothing to pay off generational debts. Girls forced to marry older men. Slavery has never stopped, and has never been fully abolished.

Although modern slavery is a universal problem, there are over 12 million people in Africa undergoing slavery. Every 100 people in Africa, 1 unfortunate child, woman or man is forced into modern slavery. This conflict has been acknowledged by several parties, for example; Anti-Slavery International believes that “we have to tackle the root causes of slavery in order end slavery for good. That’s why we published our [Anti-Slavery Charter](#), listing comprehensive measures that need to be taken to end slavery across the world.” This is just a blueprint for what the UN should be doing.

Certain regions in Africa are more vulnerable to enslavement. The sub saharan region is responsible for 13 percent of the modern day enslavement. Thus, making it the most enslaved region of the world, where 47% of the population has undergone modern slavery. Major player to this crisis in Africa would be: Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Mauritania because they have the highest rates of modern slavery.

The reason being for this being a major problem in Africa is because of the levels of poverty. This makes it easier to be lured into being exploited, either sexually or physically. The numbers of modern slaves in Africa have increase dramatically in the past years.

There is evidence that the governments of Eritrea and Swaziland actively sanctioned the use of forced labour. In Swaziland, a practice of 'royal tribute labour' exists whereby royal chiefs are alleged to enforce forced labour projects such as cattle herding. Indeed, the government attempted to backtrack on its intentions when its use of unpaid child labour was reported by international media.

While there have been positive developments on reducing the use of children in armed conflict within Sub-Saharan Africa, the issue of child soldiers remains a problem across the region. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), children continue to be recruited by armed groups. In 2015, the United Nations documented evidence that 241 child soldiers were recruited, 80 were killed and 92 were maimed in DRC. The recruitment of children into armed conflict reflects wider social and economic issues, as children often enlisted voluntarily for protection and financial stability.

The UN agencies have created The International Labour Organization [Forced Labour Protocol](#) which “requires countries to take effective measures to prevent and eliminate forced labour, and to protect and provide access to justice for victims,” said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder in a joint statement with the heads of the International Organisation of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). The ILO estimates that forced labour generates \$150 billion in illegal profits every year. In other words, history will repeat and hundreds of slaves will be not have rights worldwide and could eventually lead to a war with goals of liberating the enslaved.

If this problem is not stopped generations to come will be born into slavery and will not have the opportunity to accomplish goals, or even do something important with their life.

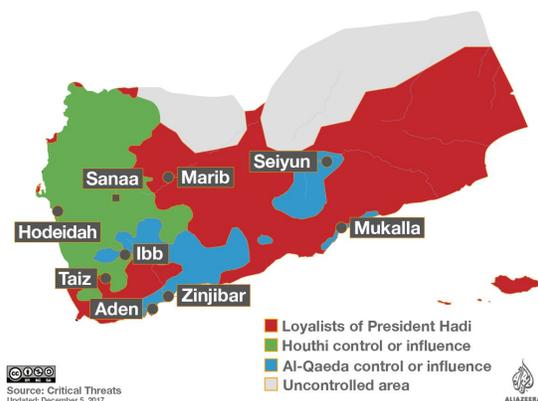
Topic 2: Resolving The Yemen Conflict in Order to Achieve Peace

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLRgdFP-s30>

Article: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-2931942> * includes videos and links to other Sources

Overview:

Yemen: Who controls what



Two years of conflict have left 18 million Yemenis in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. According to UN research reports and the Security Council, more than 7,600 civilians have been killed and almost 42,000 injured ever since the conflict between forces loyal to exiled President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi and those allied to the Houthi rebel movement escalated in March 2015. Houthis, a political Shia rebel group and people loyal to Saleh, still attempt to take over Yemen. Feeling threatened and fearing Iran would take the opportunity to gain a foothold on their border, Saudi Arabia established an alliance and began a military

campaign with the purpose of restoring Hadi's government. Fighting on the ground and air strikes on rebel-held areas by the Saudi-led coalition backed by the US and UK have displaced more than three million people. Meanwhile, Al-Qaeda, the Arabian and affiliates of ISIS are taking advantage of the chaos by seizing parts in the south and attacked Aden. Destruction of infrastructure and restriction from food and fuel imports are causing millions of Yemenis to face famine which has now led to a cholera outbreak. Although Saudi airstrikes have exacerbated the outbreak, the majority of the outbreaks have occurred in the garbage-filled streets of Houthi governed areas. Two thirds of Yemenis have no access to clean water. Since both sides refuse to back down, the United Nations has been actively engaged. Since the uprisings in Yemen began in early 2011 the UN, through the exercise of its good offices, is helping Yemenis to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and enable the resumption of a peaceful political transition. If a solution of some sort is not reached, Yemenis will continue to starve and suffer.

Topic 3: Working towards Transparency in Elections

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VYxs2j0qyVs>

Article: <https://www.nfoic.org/election-transparency>
<https://www.ndi.org/e-voting-guide/transparency>

Overview:



Here, the United Nations Political Committee is aiming to find a method for election officials to observe the results of an election and know that every vote cast was counted as intended in a short lapse of time.

Transparency is a key principle for credible elections. Providing transparency in an election helps establish reliance and public trust in the process, as voters have ways to verify the results reflect the will of the people accurately. Electronic voting and counting technologies challenge the ensurance of transparency, since many visually-verifiable steps in a traditional

election, such as how ballots were marked, are converted inside a machine and, therefore, cannot be seen by the voter and others. In such situations, particular efforts must be made to provide transparency in each step of the process. Nowadays, electoral procedure has become a lot more technologically advanced. An increase on cybersecurity and protection against hacking in elections is long overdue. The UN has been actively concerned with ameliorating its own transparency when counting votes but has not lingered on the election process of nations. Due to the aforementioned rapidly developing technology, if a solution to this issue is not found, electoral results may be rigged more often, old fashioned and an unwanted ruler may come to power.