



THE BHAWANIPUR



THE BHAWANIPUR EDUCATION SOCIETY COLLEGE
ASSEMBLY OF NATIONS

STUDY GUIDES

BESCAON

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Letter from the Executive Board:

Greetings delegates, As the Executive Board of the United Nation Human Rights Council at the BESC AON 2024, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you all. This background guide is intended to provide some direction for your research, but it is important to note that your real research lies beyond this guide. We expect you to do your own research and apply all of your extensive knowledge of the topics discussed in this committee. We understand the importance and complexity of the issues we will be discussing, and we strongly recommend that you come prepared and well-researched.

We also encourage you to participate actively and make it a learning experience for all of us. During the course of this committee, we will be putting you in various diplomatic and negotiating practices to give more substance to the discussions. Our hope is that you come to this committee with motivation and a willingness to discuss the situation at hand, brainstorm together to find solutions, apply frameworks, and in the process, learn the art of diplomacy. Our goal is for you to have an enriching experience by solving real-life problems happening in the world.

Please Note: There is no Freeze Date, we will simulate the conference as per current timeline

Best regards,

Executive Board,

United Nation Human Rights Council

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The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is a vital intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for promoting and protecting human rights around the world. Established in 2006, the UNHRC replaced the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, aiming to enhance the effectiveness and credibility of the UN's human rights mechanisms.

Key Features:

Mandate: The UNHRC is entrusted with the mandate to address human rights violations, conduct periodic reviews of the human rights records of UN member states through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and make recommendations to improve human rights situations globally.

Membership: The UNHRC consists of 47 member states elected by the UN General Assembly through a regional group allocation. Members serve for staggered three-year terms, with the possibility of reflection, and are expected to uphold the highest standards of human rights.

Sessions: The UNHRC holds regular sessions throughout the year at the UN Office at Geneva, Switzerland. These sessions provide a platform for member states, observer states, UN agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to discuss human rights issues, present reports, and adopt resolutions.

Special Procedures: The UNHRC appoints independent human rights experts, known as Special Procedures, to monitor and report on specific thematic or country-specific human rights issues. These experts conduct fact-finding missions, issue reports, and make recommendations to address human rights violations.

Thematic and Country-Specific Resolutions: During its sessions, the UNHRC adopts resolutions addressing various human rights concerns, including civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights. These resolutions may focus on specific countries or thematic issues such as women's rights, children's rights, freedom of expression, and minority rights.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR): The UPR is a unique mechanism through which the human rights records of all UN member states are reviewed every four to five years. During the review process, states are assessed based on their human rights obligations and commitments, and recommendations are made to address any shortcomings.

Engagement with Civil Society: The UNHRC actively engages with civil society organizations, including NGOs, human rights defenders, and grassroots activists, to ensure their meaningful participation in its work. Civil society plays a crucial role in advocating for human rights, providing valuable information, and holding governments accountable.

Overall, the UN Human Rights Council plays a central role in promoting universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide. Through its deliberations, resolutions, and mechanisms, the UNHRC contributes to the advancement of human dignity, equality, and justice for all.

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Agenda: Addressing Human Rights Concerns in Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories

Within the intricate geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, recent deliberations in an assembly convened to address the dire human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories have provided a platform for nuanced discussions. Participants moved beyond mere political rhetoric to engage in a thorough exploration of the intricate legal frameworks governing the region's dynamics. This comprehensive guide aims to elucidate the key legal dimensions discussed, offering a professional and diplomatic perspective on addressing human rights concerns in the region.

Violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL):

- Deliberate scrutiny of numerous violations of IHL by Israeli occupation forces formed a cornerstone of the assembly's discussions. These violations encompassed a spectrum of egregious acts, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and forced evictions.
- The gravity of these actions was underscored as clear breaches of established international legal standards, particularly within the framework of the Geneva Conventions designed to protect civilians and regulate conduct during conflicts.

Legal Framework:

- The Geneva Conventions:
- Emphasize the protection of civilian populations during armed conflicts and prohibit acts of violence against non-combatants.
- Article 3 of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibits violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, mutilation, cruel treatment, and torture.
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 2334:
- Reaffirms the illegality of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, under international law.

Illegality of Settlement Expansion:

- Central to the discourse was the persistent expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied territories, fervently condemned as unlawful under international law. This expansion not only violates the territorial integrity of Palestine but also undermines prospects for a peaceful resolution to the conflict.
- Reference to the Fourth Geneva Convention served to highlight the unequivocal prohibition on transferring civilian populations into occupied territories. Settlement activities and subsequent demographic alterations were unequivocally denounced as stark violations of international legal norms.

Legal Framework:

- Fourth Geneva Convention (Article 49):
- Prohibits the occupying power from transferring parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies.

Principle of Self-Determination:

- Throughout the assembly, there was a resounding reaffirmation of the principle of self-determination for the Palestinian people—a principle deeply ingrained within various international legal instruments. The denial of this fundamental right was not merely construed as a breach of international law but also as a perpetuation of systemic injustice and disenfranchisement.

- Participants stressed the imperative of safeguarding the rights of Palestinians to determine their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development unhindered.

Legal Framework:

- United Nations Charter (Article 1):
- Affirms the principle of self-determination as a fundamental right of peoples.
- United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 (III):
- Affirms the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and property from which they have been displaced.

Calls for Accountability:

- Robust discourse centered on the urgent imperative of accountability for human rights violations, with impassioned calls for the establishment of effective mechanisms to ensure perpetrators are held accountable for their actions. Such mechanisms, meticulously aligned with established legal standards and frameworks, are essential to fostering accountability and ensuring justice for victims.
- Proposals included advocating for the pursuit of international tribunals, independent investigations, and truth-seeking initiatives, all designed to uphold the principles of justice and accountability enshrined within international law.

Legal Framework:

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court:
- Provides a legal basis for the investigation and prosecution of individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

Role of World Countries:

- The international community plays a crucial role in addressing human rights concerns in Palestine and occupied Arab territories. Various countries have expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people and have taken diplomatic measures to advocate for their rights.
- Countries with significant political influence, such as the United States, European Union member states, and regional powers like Saudi Arabia and Iran, have a responsibility to use their leverage to push for a peaceful resolution to the conflict and ensure compliance with international law.
- Diplomatic initiatives, economic pressure, and support for multilateral efforts, including those led by the United Nations, can contribute to advancing human rights and promoting a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
- However, geopolitical interests and alliances often complicate efforts to achieve consensus and meaningful action on the issue, highlighting the need for sustained diplomatic engagement and international cooperation.

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Unanswered Questions and Considerations:

- What concrete steps can the international community take to ensure compliance with UN resolutions and international legal norms regarding the situation in Palestine and occupied Arab territories?
- How can diplomatic efforts be intensified to overcome political obstacles and facilitate a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
- What role do regional actors play in addressing human rights concerns in the Middle East, and how can their engagement be leveraged to advance peace and stability in the region?
- Are there innovative approaches or alternative frameworks that could be explored to address the root causes of human rights violations and promote reconciliation among conflicting parties?
- How can grassroots movements

Conclusion

In navigating the intricate legal dimensions underlying human rights concerns in Palestine and occupied Arab territories, this comprehensive guide underscores the imperative of upholding international legal standards and principles. Through meticulous analysis of violations of international humanitarian law, the illegality of settlement expansion, and the principle of self-determination, it becomes evident that concerted action is needed to address the pressing issues facing the region.

The calls for accountability for human rights violations resonate strongly, highlighting the need for mechanisms to ensure perpetrators are held responsible for their actions. Additionally, the role of the international community, including world countries with significant political influence, cannot be overstated. Diplomatic initiatives, economic pressure, and support for multilateral efforts are essential in advancing human rights and promoting a just and lasting solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

As we reflect on the discussions and unanswered questions raised in the assembly, it is clear that there are no easy solutions to the complex challenges facing the region. However, by remaining committed to the principles of justice, accountability, and respect for human rights enshrined within international legal frameworks, progress can be made towards fostering peace, stability, and dignity for all individuals affected by the conflict.

Ultimately, the path to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and addressing human rights concerns in the region requires sustained engagement, dialogue, and cooperation among all stakeholders. Only through collective action and a genuine commitment to upholding the rule of law can we hope to achieve a future where the rights and aspirations of all people in Palestine and occupied Arab territories are fully realized.

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Resources Link

Human rights in Palestinian occupied territories: UN Special Rapporteur's Briefing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7NiPqSU2sk
Palestinians on the situation in Gaza - Media Stakeout Security Council United Nations	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJaur1EWzJw
UN Chief's Call for Ramadan: Ceasefire and Hostage Release in Gaza	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xM51Dm06XEw
Eighth Hearing: ICJ on Israeli Policies in Occupied Palestinian Territories United Nations	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFRpTc7HCw4
Rafah Displaced Flee Military Incursion Fears: Humanitarian Coordinator United Nations	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGbokyVvf0

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