# Welcome to



Dear Delegates,

It's our pleasure to welcome you to the twelfth edition of MMUN, and it's our delight to be your presidents in the Security Council Committee this

As you already know, the United Nations Security Council is one of the United Nation's most important organs, and with that 'status' comes a lot of responsibility along with resources that can only be used by it. Alongside the secretariat of the model, we've prepared the committee in order for you to take part in debates regarding some of the most controversial

We expect to receive delegates with the appropriate preparation, that have clear what they can and can't do in the UNSC as well as a very wide knowledge of the topics at hand; that are willing to defend their country's point of view with strong arguments and listen to other's ideas.

Lastly, we want to remind you that we are here to help you and guide you before and during the model so don't hesitate to contact us if you have any doubts. Remember to make this experience your own; learn from and teach to each other. Use this opportunity not only to grow as a delegate but also as a person and enjoy the experience that MMUN XII will give you.

Sincerely,

María Carolina & María Paula

The Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations which was founded in the year 1945 under the UN Charter. The council's utmost responsibility is to threat to Peace and/or the existence of an act of aggression. In accordance with the UN Charter's Chapter V, the Security Council must achieve this while establishing friendly relations between Nation-States and protecting Human Rights which are stipulated under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Hence, the UNSC has the power to call upon any party to dispute in order to, as a first and vital resource, solve any contention in a peaceful manner. The council may also endorse a wide range of recommendations to the parties in terms of settlement. And, in the case where the UNSC sees pertinent, it has the faculty to authorize the use of the force, which must be grounded on the terms of the maintenance of Peace, or in the case, the restoration of it. All resolutions that are passed by the council are binding in accordance with International Customary law and will have an immediate effect. All of the members of the United Nations have agreed to accept and effectuate the decisions that are established through the Security Council. Furthermore, it becomes especially valuable to mention how the UNSC, out of any other organ of the UN, is the only one with the power to make recommendations that all member states must implement under the Charter.

There are fifteen members of the Security Council, with five of them being permanent members, which are also referred to as the P-5, and include: China, France, the Russian Federation, The United States of America and the United Kingdom. There are, as well, ten Non-permanent members who are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. Another important role that must be taken into consideration, is the one of those states which are classified as the non-Council Member States, which are, in summary, those states that are part of the United Nations, but not of the UNSC, and hence, may be invited, to any session whenever they are to be considered as a party to dispute, in order to take part of the discussion, but without a vote.

As the chair for the committee, we encourage you to take a look at "What is The Security Council?" section of the UNSC Official webpage. In there, delegates will find a brief summary of the functioning and mandate of the Council, which will be key for all delegates in order to understand and appropriate the procedure of the committee, which will allow the debate and the experience to be more enriching. (United Nations, n.d)



**María Paula Franco** Colegio Santa María mpfranco@csm.edu.co



**María Carolina Forero** Colegio Tilatá mforero97@colegiotilata.edu.co

# TOPIC

Drone Strikes: The Drone war in Pakistan

**Intra-state Conflict:** Involves the conflict and might include the use of violence between groups of people that belong to one same state. (Murphy and Gleek, 2016)

**International Humanitarian Law:** Also known as armed conflict or war, it is a set of rules that limits the actions and hence the effects of armed conflict in order to avoid a state of total war. (Griffiths. M, 2002)

> international law, refers to a situation in which a state actor "A" enforces an operation of military nature, for example, in a territory of a state actor "B". In other words, in a geographical boundary that falls out of its territory. (Griffiths. M, 2002)

**Extraterritorial Intervention:** In

<u> Unmanned Aerial Vehicle</u> Also referred to as drones, purposes. In military terms, of attack. (S. Mahmoud 2021)

Signature strike: Refers to the attacks executed through drones (UAVs) in which the object of attack has been previously identified as to fit in a specific profile that enables them to be targeted.

Sovereignty: A state's right or claim to jurisdiction over all actions and individuals that are nationals to its borders. The ability to rule itself. (Murphy and Gleek, 2016)

<u>Hors de combat:</u> Refers

range of individuals or institutions to be accepted by conforming or going in line with agreed laws. (Murphy and Gleek,

**<u>Legitimacy:</u>** Groups or actions

that are considered by a wide

2016)

### Introduction

The Islamic Republic of Pakistan is a country located in South Asia and is bordered by India, Afghanistan, Iran, and China. Due to its location and proximity to countries in which intra-state conflicts have escalated to regional stances, for example Afghanistan, Pakistan has suffered the consequences of extraterritorial interventions executed by countries such as the United States, as part of their counterterrorism strategies. As a matter of fact, hundreds of Pakistani civilians have lost their lives as a result of the hostilities and of the signature strikes that have been tracked down to be perpetrated by the US. In that order of ideas it is then important to assess the following; What are the stances that have allowed the conflict in the Middle East to escalate from National to Regional levels? To what extent has the international response been able to curb the effects of the conflict?

The use of pilotless aircraft, or drones, with surveillance and military objectives on behalf of the United States' CIA and the military's Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC) has become one of the most controversial topics nowadays. In Pakistan, the vast majority of such attacks are conducted in the Tribal Area of North Waziristan, which borders Afghanistan and is a "hot spot" of the armed conflict. Two major problematics have been identified on the issue, when determining the lawfulness of the actions perpetrated by the United States; In the first place, the United States has refused to release detailed information on the drone

strikes, only complying with the claim that such are extremely accurate in targeting members of non-state armed groups like the Taliban or Al-qaida. Secondly, the Pakistan's government has not precisely prosecuted, in fair trials, the perpetrators, without appealing to the use of the death penalty. Keep in mind that all governments are in full responsibility to protect people under their jurisdiction, following what's stated in the national and international law, as well as International Humanitarian Law when required. (Amnesty International, 2013)

AFGHANISTAN

NORTH Waziristan: What hapbened after
Miranshah

SOUTH WAZIRISTAN

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN

PAKISTAN

The military use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) consist of a weapon system that conducts a life-threatening

operation from air, with the advantage that the vehicle pilot is outside the aircraft. Such, represents an evolution in military phenomena, and puts in question factors such as State sovereignty, legitimacy, and international policies or regulations regarding the topic, in other words, it is unclear if these sort of occurrences are illegitimate and represent a breach to customary International Law, or are legitimate justifiable actions. Taking into consideration what has been mentioned above, we extend our invitation to all delegates to assess the following: What is your delegation's stance on the military use of UAVs? What is your delegation's view on the use of force in extraterritorial stances?

### Historical Context



The terminology related to the so-called war on terror despots from the 9/11 attacks in New York. On september 20 of 2001, during a live stream session of the US Congress, former President George Bush stated as follows: "Our war on terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated." (Bush, 2001). After the statement, the US started to launch attacks towards Afghanistan, and Iraq primarily, however the conflict escalated to a regional level. Due to these attacks, belligerent groups have fled and settled in the north-west tribal zones of Pakistan, an area that is especially difficult to guard, since it is a mountainous region that has no clear roads, which has allowed the proliferation and settlement of non-state armed groups to take place. Since the US hasn't entered into an official state of war with Pakistan, the use of drones is directly deterring the sovereignty of Pakistan.

During the Bush administration (2001-2009), it was claimed that the strikes were executed based on a "kill list", and then, under Obama's administration (2009-2017), the strikes intensified. Nevertheless, the strikes require the US to have specific confirmation on the individual's participation in hostilities as part of an belligerent group, in other words, the legitimacy of the actions is questioned since, for the strike to be lawful, the objective must be involved with the hostilities, rather that just a membership to an armed group. Moreover, there are records on

cases in which the strikes target immediately after the first attack, the same objective or those who are hors de combat or who come to assist the injured or dead, giving rise to the question of how might the

TOP DALEGAL DRONE AT THE MUTAHIDDA SHIP

Abbass, M. (2013). US should replace drone strikes in Pakistan with outreach to tribal areas. [Photographthtps://www.samonitor.com/Commentary/Opinion/2013/0530/US-should-replace-drone-strikes-in-Pakistan-with-outreach-to-tribal-areas

US justify the legitimacy of the strike or against hors de combat individuals? In fact this is prohibited under Rule 47 of International Humanitarian Law. Since the US has not yet provided any legal justification for the attacks, these could constitute war crime or extrajudicial execution. For example, it is considered a war crime to assign the civilian population or an individual civilian to be the object of attack, as well as to initiate an uncritical attack that might cause unjustified and excessive injury or loss of civilians.

The Pakistani state, over the past years has presented a number of declarations and resolutions regarding the drone strikes executed by the CIA. In fact, the drone strikes escalated the situation to a point in which the government and opposition united in order to demand the US to ultimately cease the drone strikes, among other requests through a Parliamentary resolution made in 2012. Nevertheless, it is important to take into account that another previous resolution was passed in the year 2008, but the drone strikes did not end. One of the main purposes of the resolutions was to make it easier for the US to follow up a negotiation with the Pakistani government while establishing a network that would allow the talks to take place. Regardless of the request made by the government and opposition, the US has disregarded them. Thus, there is a clear transgression of international customary law and treaty law, in relation to the use of force by state actors in foreign territory. Moreover, this suggests that the actions executed go against what's stipulated in Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which addresses the existence of breaches to peace and security, as well as to acts of aggressions and hence the follow up action necessary to restore peace and security which must be addressed by the Council.

# **Current Situation**



Signature strikes were executed under the assumption that the, yet unknown individuals' identity, had suspicious behaviours that allegedly indicated their membership to a belligerent group. Nevertheless, since the main aim of the US is to fight such groups, the mere use of drones as a form of Power is not affecting non-state armed groups considerably, since they don't have the same obligations nor worries that state actors might have regarding International Customary Law.

As a matter of fact, one of the main limitations to the committee is the detail that the United States has denied to release further information on their strikes and its executions. Hence, it is of vital importance that the committee takes into consideration the data and information that has been gathered and provided by Non-governmental organizations such as The Bureau of Investigative Journalism and Amnesty International.

The Bureau of Investigative Journalism has tracked the drone strikes perpetrated by the United States, as well as other actions that have been executed by this actor within the geographical boundaries of Pakistan and other States. The reports on civilian death showed the indiscriminate nature of the targeted killings and have served as a primary resource in the way to hold accountable the White House on its actions along the years. The organization has confirmed approximately 2,515 to 4,026 deaths that are subject of

the drone strikes, which include children and civilians. (The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, 2021)

Current Statistics: Pakistan

430

MINIMUM CONFIRMED STRIKES

2,515-4,026

TOTAL KILLED

424-969

CIVILIANS KILLED

172-207

CHILDREN KILLED

The figures above are running totals of US actions and resulting deaths since the Bureau began

On the other hand, Amnesty International (AI) has provided records on the humanitarian concern of the International community from a qualitative perspective that has resulted from detailed field research. One of the most valuable conclusions is the fact that such arbitrary deprivation of life certainly constitutes the violations of the Human Rights of the Pakistani people. It is then important to highlight that the fact that the US has denied coming up with the basic information and legal basis that can explain the reasons behind the strikes targeting innocent civilians, makes it difficult to reach accurate conclusions on the lawfulness of the actions. (Amnesty International, 2013).

We would like to open up to questions such as: How might the Security Council approach the information provided by these NGOs? How can the UNSC use this data to provide solutions that are accurate and relevant to the situation? Is the SC in the position to carry out another investigation on the subject, different from the ones presented by such NGOs?

Figure 1. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism. (2021). Strikes in Pakistan. [Image]. https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/projects/drone-war/charts?show\_casualties=1&show\_injuries=1&show\_strikes=1&location=pakistan&from=2004-1-1&to=now

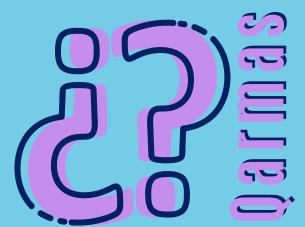
### Relevant Actors

Regardless of how involved or related your delegation is to the issue at stake, we encourage you all to take a stance during the committee. Your participation within the Security Council is not to be determined by your delegation's proximity to such Global political issues. Although it is of vital importance that the main delegations involved such as

the United States are contributing at all times during the debate, it is also essential for the development of the committee that every delegation has the opportunity and initiative to be open up to a debate. We acknowledge the academic and formative nature of MMUN, and hence, expect all delegates to do as well. Each delegation has an important contribution to make at all times. Nevertheless, we suggest that, for the topic, all delegations have an accurate understanding of the participation of the United States and Pakistan, and keep in mind how the different perspectives and ideological approaches that might be adopted by distinct delegations, may create an institutional gridlock within the committee.



- 1. <u>Investigation</u>: All states are in the obligation to carry out investigations, unnecessary, in order to protect the rights of its population. A state must be in the capacity to do so
  - a. The United States shall fall in with the obligations of International law to carry out investigations that follow the Rule of Law, as to assure accountability to be held regardless of the outcome of such inquiry. A clarification of the matter must be done regarding the hostilities
  - b. The Pakistani state is also obliged to protect its population above all. A main concern is the extent to which the State has been able to correctly curb the incidents and the effects of the Drone War. Lawful investigations are to be considered
- 2. <u>Human Rights:</u> Taking into consideration the Humanitarian aspects of the situation, it is of vital importance to consider HR from its three main principles; Inalienability, Universality and Indivisibility. In other words, these must be approached and taken into consideration as rights that are inherited to all human beings regardless of any differential factor that may be thought of.
- 1. What resources can be approximated to ensure accountability is being held?
- 2. How can International Humanitarian Law be implemented in the case study?
- 3. Is it pertinent to consider a further military intervention on behalf of the International community?
- 4. To what extent has Pakistan been able to curb the effects of the conflict within its boundaries?
- 5. How can the Pakistani government be supported in order to restore socio-political stability?
- 6. How might the geographical limitations of the drone-affected areas be outgrown by the solutions proposed?
- 7. How may the Security Council ensure that a resolution will deescalate the conflict rather than escalate it one again?
- 8. To what extent are the drone strikes in Pakistan a Legitimate act of war conducted by the United States?



## USEFUL OURGES

- The Bureau of Investigative Journalism research on Drone warfare: <a href="https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/projects/drone-war/pakistan">https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/projects/drone-war/pakistan</a>
- Amnesty International "WILL I BE NEXT?" US DRONE STRIKES IN PAKISTAN report: <a href="https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/will-i-be-next-us-drone-strikes-in-pakistan/">https://www.amnestyusa.org/reports/will-i-be-next-us-drone-strikes-in-pakistan/</a>
- New America article by Peter Bergen, David Sterman, Melissa Salyk-Virk on the counter terrorism strategy of The US: <a href="https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/reports/americas-counterterrorism-wars/">https://www.newamerica.org/international-security/reports/americas-counterterrorism-wars/</a>
- Article on the Lawfulness in the international spectrum of the drone strikes: https://www.hsdl.org/?view&tid=812421
- \*Important covenants and charters that might help during the debate include the UN Charter, the Rome Statute, the Geneva Convention, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Administrative detention:
A term used to explain punishments carried out without trial or charge, manifesting how a person plans to commit a future offense. (B'Tselem, 2017)

Belarus than before.

Human rights violation: A human rights violation takes place when a state or entity disregards or violates what is stated and outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Human rights violations can take place either directly or indirectly by either active action or failing to protect these rights. Additionally, the violation can be physically violent in nature, such as torture; or they can take place in non-violent settings such as neglecting the right to a fair trial. (Human Rights Careers, 2020)

Freedom of speech:
According to Amnesty
International, freedom of
speech and the right to
freedom of expression
refers to expressing and
conveying ideas of all kinds,
even though they might be
offensive.

Police brutality: This term refers to human rights violations performed by the police. Some of the actions this includes are beatings, racial abuse, unlawful killings, torture, or indiscriminate use of violence at protests to the marchers.

### Introduction

Belarus is a country located in Eastern Europe, and it shares its borders with Russia to the east and northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest. Belarus is quite a young nation, having just emerged merely 31 years ago after the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1990. Since then, the country has been through tough times which are still

present nowadays. Belarus has been in the eye of the storm with several news and scandals that range all the way from political to social. Due to how much these conflicts have increased in recent years, the international community is starting to pay much more attention to the situation in

One of the cases that brought attention to Belarus happened in August 2021, after the Belarusian olympian Krystsina Tsimanouskaya refused to board a plane that was to take her from Tokyo back to Belarus claiming that she had received threats from officials and punishment was awaiting her in Belarus. This all started when the athlete criticized and complained about the management of her

Figure 1: Belone political may with its religiblor countries from Available at cuttors/livens/limites/livens/livens/limites/livens/liv

Olympic team when they enrolled her to compete in another race at the games with very short notice and no prior training after some competitors were unable to compete. After this, she took on social media to say that they made her pack her things and forcefully took her to the airport, forcing her to fly home early. Already at the airport, she asked the Japanese authorities, and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for help, she said that she feared for her life if she had to go back to Belarus but that at that moment, with the authorities, she felt safe.



lete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya is escorted by police officers at Haned Tokyo, Japan August 1, 2021. Retrieved from: REUTERS/Issei Kato When the IOC asked for clarification from the Belarusian officials, they said Tsimanouskaya had been removed from the team because of her "emotional and psychological condition". The IOC kept on supporting her, she later went to the Polish embassy in Tokyo looking for asylum; Poland granted her a humanitarian visa. ("Belarusian Olympic athlete says 'punishment' awaited her at home", 2021), ("Belarus Olympics: Krystsina Tsimanouskaya refuses 'forced' flight home", 2021).

During August 2020 presidential elections were carried out in Belarus. However, the outcome was different from what people expected: the official results stated that Aleksandr Lukashenko had won again. People were very distressed by this and started

saying that the elections had been fraudulent and rigged, which sparked massive protests in which the Belarus's authorities violated several human rights. There are many cases such as this one in Belarus, and it is time for the international community and the Security Council to get involved.

"The most egregious crackdown on freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association in Belarus' post-independence history. Opposition candidates, their campaign teams and associates were arrested on false charges or forcibly exiled. Police used excessive and indiscriminate force to disperse demonstrations. Tens of thousands of peaceful protesters and bystanders were detained, and many of them tortured or otherwise ill-treated. Journalists, medics, students, union leaders and others were also targeted with arrest, beatings and prosecution... Death sentences continued to be imposed." ("Belarus 2020 Archives", n.d.)



Before continuing, think about what would your delegation do in regards with this situation, what would their stance be?

## Historical Context

Previously known as the Bielorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the country declared its sovereignty in 1990 and independence in 1991 after the dissolution of the Soviet Union and it is now known as the Republic of Belarus, or simply Belarus.

In 1994 a new constitution was established and the first elections were carried out. Due to how complex the election system was "to be seated, candidates had to capture 50 percent of the vote of a turnout of 50 percent of eligible voters" (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2021), there had to be various rounds before the winner, pro-Russian Aleksandr Lukashenko, took his office.

In 1996, Lukashenko held a referendum although its legitimacy was widely disputed. It gave him approval for a constitutional change that gave him almost absolute power and extended his five-



year presidential term. After this the parliamentary opposition tried to impeach Lukashenko and eliminate the office of president, however they were too late because Lukashenko signed the revised constitution, which created a new legislative body in which the opposition was excluded and with greatly reduced powers.

After 1996, many international observers, especially the European Union, started to criticize the authoritarianism in Lukashenko's government, considering it the most repressive regime in Europe; this added to the fact that despite the opposition, he is still in power after 26 years, which has given him the nickname: 'the last dictator of Europe'.

There have been several staged undemocratic elections, suppressed political opposition, and silencing of the press. There have also been cases of anti government figures that have been beaten, jailed, or have 'disappeared' and are never heard of again. All of these are several violations of human rights that concern the International Community.

Since the beginning of the 21st century, Lukashenko has made several other decisions that have sparked suspicion and discomfort within his country and in the global community. First, there were the 2001 elections, considered illegitimate by man. Later he passed another referendum that would allow the president to serve more than 2 terms, afterwards in 2008's parliamentary election, the government reported more participating voters, yet, the opposition won no seats. This sparked protests in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. And once again in 2010 Lukashenko won yet another presidential term.

Belarus has had a lot of highs and lows throughout the 21st century. It went through a period where its relationship with

Russia was unstable, and its relations with the European Union (EU) were getting stronger. Its economy went through a very complicated period, where its currency was highly devalued and inflation peaked at 110 percent. At some point, Aleksandr Lukashenko also started being more flexible with the politically unrelated press; he freed some political prisoners on more than one occasion, which raised hopes within the EU and international community. ("Belarus | History, Flag, Map, Population, Capital, Language, & Facts", 2021)

What else happened in Belarus between 2010-2021?



Belarus is quite a young nation. Explore more about its history keeping in mind the following questions: How has Alexandr Lukashenko's rule been? What have been some contributions and repercussions of his rule? At what point in Belarus's history did human rights violations start being evident to the international community?

# Current Situation

#### i. Presidential elections

Starting with the presidential election campaign in May, Lukashenko stated that he easily won while his competition was Svyatlana Tsikhanouskaya. Then, in early August the president made misogynistic remarks on national television while arbitrary arrests, politically motivated prosecutions, and other reprisals against opposition candidates and their supporters were happening. Some members of the Opposition were arrested on trumped-up charges or forced into exile. Then, the citizens noticed how their fundamental rights were being disregarded by the authorities, by that time the government confirmed the detention of 6,700 protesters.

The 2020 election had a lot of effects that are not seen in depth here. The chair highly recommends and encourages delegates to investigate more about the elections due to its tremendous impact.

As the Belarussians were peacefully protesting the police made wrong use of their authority and force by detaining and subjected to torture or other ill-treatment. Journalists, medical professionals, students, union leaders, among others were also detained, beaten, and prosecuted.

#### ii. Journalists, media, and the freedom of expression

The media was under strong government control. Causing printing houses to refuse printing local newspapers, such as Komsomolskaya Pravda in Belarus, which criticized the authorities. Also, journalists and media organizations were subjected to harassment and prevented from carrying out their legitimate work. One of the victims was the journalist Natallia Lyubneuskaya, of the independent newspaper Nasha Niva, who was one of the three members of this field who were shot by police with rubber bullets in August. She reported how she had to undergo surgery and was hospitalized for 38 days.

As shown before the right to freedom of expression was prohibited in an attempt to exclude all opposition and nonconformity, including targeted attacks on individuals and the media through legislative changes and administrative pressure, and with the use of technical means such as Internet blockades.

This led to the authorities using their influence with Internet providers to force a near-total shutdown of mobile Internet services during the first three days of post-election protests and subsequently during weekly protests to prevent coordination of demonstrations and hinder information sharing.

#### iii. Serious damages on Belarussians and health concerns

Aforementioned, there has been an abuse of power by the government of Belarus. Especially the police using excessive and indiscriminate force: by firing rubber bullets at close range into the crowd and using stun grenades, chemical irritants, water cannons, automatic weapons with blank ammunition, besides other means to disperse peaceful crowds and apprehend individuals.

Students, athletes, academics, religious and cultural figures, and many people from other enterprises were expelled or dismissed. Many had to face administrative and criminal sanctions for speaking out against the authorities, supporting peaceful protests, or participating in strikes.

Furthermore, women were facing sexism and being threatened on their deficiencies, for example, threats of sexual violence or that their daughters and young children would be placed under state guardianship.

In the past few months, detainees (including minors and women) were humiliated, brutally beaten, suffered sexual violence, and starved; deprived of clean water and medical care during long periods of detention. These citizens could not inform their families of their whereabouts, in some cases for the entire period of "administrative detention", and were denied access to their lawyers. Packages and letters were withheld, and warm clothing and hygiene products, including menstrual products, were confiscated. This allows us to conclude that the authorities also violated the right to health.

On the COVID-19 matter, according to international amnesty, president Alexander Lukashenko downplayed it as a "psychosis," blamed the first dead people for their lifestyle, recommended driving tractors, drinking vodka, and going to the sauna as remedies, and refused to impose major restrictions.

#### iv. International community

Relations with most of the international community deteriorated, and sanctions were imposed on dozens of Belarusian officials implicated in electoral irregularities and human rights violations. On the other hand, Russia expressed its support for the Belarusian

authorities, providing them with economic assistance.

Simultaneously, UN human rights experts received 450 testimonies of ill-treatment of detainees backed by video footage, photographs, and medical reports documenting a range of horrific abuses. National authorities admitted to receiving nearly 900 complaints of police abuses in connection with the protests but, by the end of the year, not a single criminal investigation had been launched and no law enforcement officers had been charged with committing these human rights violations.

Retrieved from BBC

## Relevant Actors

Just like with topic A, the chair considers that all delegates should take an active part during the debate. This topic specifically treats issues such as human rights violations that concern everyone in the international community regardless of their involvement with the particular situation in Belarus. However, there are some countries that have been more

involved such as Russia, the United States, and the European Union in general from whom the chair expects a very active participation throughout the whole duration of the debate.

Once again, remember that any contribution to the debate is important, therefore, don't be afraid to speak up. Use to your advantage the fact that this topic is very broad and all points of view and stances are important for the debate.



Tip from the chair: Research what your country has done for Belarus and/or if your head of state has spoken specifically about the situation in Belarus. You can also find what human rights violations are 'prioritized' within your country and see if those are seen in Belarus currently; this can help you with some points to put on the table in the debate.

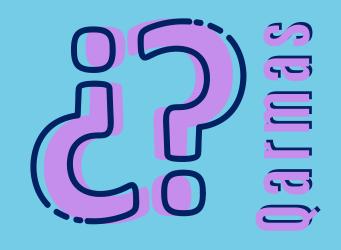


As this topic is very broad, it has a lot of possible approaches. The chair will recommend some points for delegates to have a more organized and fluent debate.

- The situation regarding the athlete Krystsina Tsimanouskaya can be a good start to introduce some of the cases that are being seen in Belarus.
- The mass protests and the possible fraud of the presidential election are also topics that need to be debated throughout the committee
- Humanitarian crisis due to the overall situation of Belarus as a social approach to this problematic situation the country is facing. Focus on violations of Human Rights
- The media being restricted by the government, freedom of speech, and how it affected journalists. The chair considers this topic fundamental because by censoring the media the reality of several citizens is being covered up, showing only one perspective of the conflict.
- Involvement of the UN, UNSC, and the international community regarding the situation. At this point, the delegates need to dive into the actions that the committee could take in order to appearse the situation in Belarus.

Also, the chair suggests that the delegates keep up to date with the recent Belarus news since this country is still going through various events that can end up being quite problematic, and of great importance for the debate.

- 1. What is the international community going yo do regarding the situation in Belarus?
- 2. Are there going to be sanctions because of the Human Rights violations? Which ones? Who will be sanctioned?
- 3. What will happen to Alexandr Lukashenko? How will this affect Belarus?
- 4. What does the international community want for Belarus' future? How will this happen?
- 5. How is the UNSC going to make sure that no other situations of the sort arise in the future?



## USEFUL OURCES

- <a href="https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-internacional-53802607">https://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-internacional-53802607</a>
- <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26069">https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=26069</a>
- <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/belarus/report-belarus/">https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/belarus/report-belarus/</a>
  <a href="https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/belarus/report-belarus/">https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/europe-and-central-asia/belarus/report-belarus/</a>
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