

Committee: Special Conference on Ethical Dilemmas and Responsibilities (SPECON)

Topic: Agreeing on the ethical treatment of the Prisoners of War (POW) issue in modern warfare

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Position: Deputy President

Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

My name is Marilia Giannakaki, and it is my utmost honor to serve as your Deputy President in the Special Conference of this year's Campion School Model United Nations Conference. I currently am an IB1 student at Pierce-The American College of Greece. October 2022 marks one year since my entrance in this wonderful community; I was in my school's MUN Club and now I am proud to say that I am a part of the Organizing Team of the 6th ACGMUN Conference.

MUN has shifted my view on the world radically and has helped me develop an interest on political affairs, as well. It is a wonderful experience for students to expand their knowledge on issues that affect modern society, improve their public speaking and, at the same time, have fun and make unforgettable memories. Moreover, the friendships that are made during conferences are an inevitable part of this extraordinary experience. I hope I can pass on to all of you the love and fondness I have for this hobby of mine and make memories together that we cherish for the rest of our lives.

In this year's agenda for the Special Conference, we are faced with two very important issues, "Agreeing on the ethical treatment of the Prisoners of War (POW) issue in modern warfare" being one of them. This will be the topic of my expertise. This guide aims to provide you with all the information you will need for the conference, including past attempts to resolve the issue, important Treaties and Conventions, as well as possible solutions, which will be very helpful regarding the construction of



resolutions. Of course, I would recommend that you conduct your own personal research on the topic and regarding the policy of your country on it, and not rely solely on this guide. If you have any questions regarding the Rules of Procedure or the topic itself, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at mariliageannakakes@outlook.com; I will reply as soon as I read your mail!

Looking forward to meeting you all in October!

Yours truly,

Marilia Giannakaki

Topic Introduction

Armed Conflicts have, unfortunately, been a part of and have affected people's lives all throughout humanity. Alongside war, though, comes another unfortunate event-the fall of soldiers, also known as combatants, and many civilians, as well, to the hands of the enemy force; those people are formally termed as Prisoners of War (POW). The most characteristic example of Prisoners of War, one could say, are Americans, who have been arrested by the opposing forces during the First and Second World War (WWI AND WWII), as well as the Vietnam War. The widespread issue among such situations, though, is not the confinement Prisoners of War face, but the inhumane treatment they receive and the unsanitary and brutal living conditions they are forced to live under, during their incarceration in concentration camps. Some examples of events that take place in such camps are forced labor and execution, which has shown to result in phenomena such as genocide, with the most prominent example being the Jewish Genocide in Auschwitz, from 1943-1945 (WWII).

All of the aforementioned events are considered a violation of the principle of Human Rights and another series of Conventions that are made to tackle this issue, namely the Geneva ones, but as far as of now there are no official legal sanctions for the unethical treatment of Prisoners of War. Therefore, it is crucial that an immediate solution is found, in order for prisoners to not only be faced ethically, but to also be ensured a secure return to their country of origin, after the conflict is ceased and the enemy forces have left the battlefield and overall territory.





Figure 1¹: Conditions in the Auschwitz concentration camp during the Second World War.

Definition of key terms

Prisoner of War

“A member of the armed forces of a nation who is taken by the enemy during combat”². In simpler terms, a Prisoner of War is a person that has been captured and confined by the enemy in times of war. It is crucial to mention, though, that this person doesn’t necessarily have to be a member of the armed forces but can also be a civilian. A popular example of civilians arrested in times of warfare is the Jewish, mostly, population, in Germany, that was placed in concentration camps like Auschwitz, during the Second World War.

¹ Frost, Natasha. “Horrors of Auschwitz: The Numbers behind WWII’s Deadliest Concentration Camp.” *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 21 Jan. 2020, <https://www.history.com/news/auschwitz-concentration-camp-numbers>.

² Prisoner of War Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/prisoner%20of%20war>.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

“International humanitarian law (IHL), also known as the laws of war or the law of armed conflict, is the legal framework applicable to situations of armed conflict and occupation. As a set of rules and principles it aims, for humanitarian reasons, to limit the effects of armed conflict.”³The reason IHL was created was to distinguish, primarily, civilians and combatants and to protect people not directly engaged in hostilities (hors de combat) from attacks and unnecessary suffering.

Retaliation

“The action of returning a military attack; counter-attack.”⁴This is a strategy that was used in the Cold War, as well, in order to create and ensure balance during these times of war and also to stop the Soviet Union’s influence from arriving at Western Europe (Massive Retaliation).

Combatant

“A person, group, or country that fights in a war or battle”⁵. Every person, with the exception of medical and religious personnel, who is actively engaged in hostilities is considered a combatant.⁴ In simpler words, combatants are members of the armed forces that serve during warfare.

Concentration Camp

“A place where large numbers of people (such as prisoners of war, political prisoners, refugees, or the members of an ethnic or religious minority) are detained or

³ “International Humanitarian Law.” *International Justice Resource Center*, 15 Feb. 2018, <https://ijrcenter.org/international-humanitarian-law/>.

⁴ “Retaliation: Meaning & Definition for UK English.” *Lexico Dictionaries | English*, Lexico Dictionaries, <https://www.lexico.com/definition/retaliation>.

⁵ “Combatant Definition & Meaning.” *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/combatant>.



confined under armed guard”⁶. In such camps, people lived under inadequate living conditions and in small facilities, where they were forced to do labor, or awaited execution. Most of the time, when using this term, it refers to the camps created by the Nazis in Germany, during the Second World War (1943-1945), with the most known ones being Auschwitz, Belsen and Dachau.

Repatriation

“The act or process of restoring or returning someone or something to the country of origin or citizenship”⁷. In this instance, we are talking about the Prisoners of War who return, after the cease of armed conflict, to their homeland. For example, during the Second World War (WWII), an operation in England was established to help New Zealand citizens return and reunite with their homeland.

Armistice

“Temporary stopping of open acts of warfare by agreement between the opponents”⁸. In simpler words, it means truce. Truces can either last a significant period of time, like the one that was declared during the Korean War, or last a day or few, taking for example the 24-hour truce that was declared on New Year’s Day, 1968, between the United States and South Vietnam, during the Vietnam War.

Background Information

In every armed conflict there are combatants, but civilians as well, that are captured and confined as Prisoners of War. Of course, the living conditions in every prison, and especially during war, are not ideal, but the most infamous and

⁶ “Concentration Camp Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/concentration%20camp>.

⁷ “Repatriation Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/repatriation>.

⁸ “Armistice Definition & Meaning.” *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/armistice>.



characteristic examples of inhumane treatment towards Prisoners of War in history are the following.

First World War (WWI)

The First World War lasted 4 years and took place from 1914-1918. Approximately, 8-9 million soldiers were captured as Prisoners of War and Germany had captured, by 1915, more than 1 million of them, a number significantly larger than the Prisoners of War in Britain or France. Germany was not prepared for a long war and, by 1915, prisoners who were transported to its fronts faced exposure, since they had to sleep in the fields, until the camps were constructed. Many of them were used, as well, in order to construct these camps.

Unsanitary conditions were evident in such camps, as well. A typhus epidemic in Germany, Russia and Austria-Hungary in 1915, which was fatal to thousands of prisoners. In the Austrian-Hungarian camp called Mauthausen, up to 186 prisoners died daily due to typhus, in January of 1915 and 10,000 out of 25,000 prisoners were killed for the same reason in Totskoe, a Russian Camp. All of the aforementioned, though, led to the creation of more sanitary conditions for the prisoners, in German Camps, with regular disinfections from lice, access to bathrooms for the prisoners, etc.

In 1915, Germany started putting Prisoners of War to work in units of agriculture, mining, or even forestry, since, due to the war outbreak, these areas were short of manpower. In Russia, labor conditions differed in every camp, with the worst ones taking place during the Murman Railway building, in which approximately 25,000 out of 70,000 Prisoners of War died.

Death rates varied, according to each nationality. 100,000 out of 600,000 Italian Prisoners of War, that were arrested by the Central Powers, died. Moreover, Romanian prisoners who were confined in camps in Germany had a death rate of 29%. On the other hand, though German Prisoner of War death rates in Britain were only 3%, which highlights the awful conditions and brutal labor in other camps, with higher death rates, had to have had.



Second World War (WWII)

American Prisoners of War Captured by the Japanese

During the Second World War, meaning from 1943-1945, about 40% out of the 27,000 captured American Prisoners of War, meaning 4 out of every 10 American Prisoners of War captured by the Japanese died, according to the United States Congressional Research Service. In Auschwitz, on the contrary, only 1% of American Prisoners died. Labor was also formed under slave-like conditions; they were beaten on a daily basis, starved and even endured forced labor in mines and other war-related factories, events that clearly violated the Geneva Conventions. Approximately 60 companies who took advantage of Prisoners of War labor used employees as guards and prison officers, according to the US-Japan dialogue on POWs, a non-profit organization in California.

Jewish Civilians Arrested and Confined in Concentration Camps

The first concentration camp created by the Nazi System opened in Dachau, in March of 1933. At the end of the Second World War (WWII), the number of camps was estimated to be around 40,000 and were located all across Europe. The division in these camps was made according to a hierarchical system. Social status was key; people who were higher up the scale were granted less physically demanding jobs, such as administrative positions, or even the work supervisors (kapos) who could decide upon the fate of other prisoners. On the contrary, people who had a lower social status were assigned tasks such as mining, construction, and work in factories, which is an event that also contributed to the higher mortality rate of this social group.

Jewish people were the main target of the Nazis, which also explains the fact that they endured mass genocide and that the overwhelming majority of Prisoners of War in these camps were Jewish. All prisoners wore a triangle on their jacket, according to their nationality, in order to be recognized easily. Over 6 million Jews were killed in concentration camps during the Second World War, which makes official their participation in a Holocaust. The conditions in there were considered deadly, since the prisoners were often used for medical experiments, gassed or even shot at; the worst



piece of evidence was the fact that an estimated 1 million Jews were killed⁹, just after their arrival in the camps, in gas chambers.

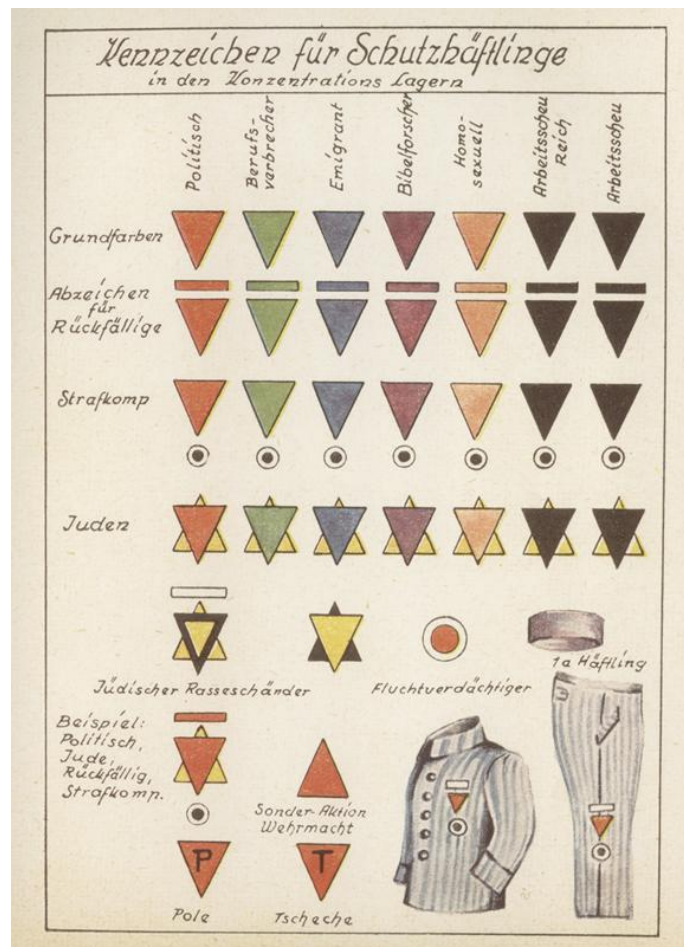


Figure 2¹⁰: Catalogue of triangles and their color, in accordance to the origin of each prisoner (Jewish prisoners wore stars)

⁹ "The Nazi Concentration Camps." Overview | The Nazi Concentration Camps, <http://www.camps.bbk.ac.uk/overview.html>.

¹⁰ "Primary Documents." Purple Triangles - Arnold Liebster Foundation, <https://www.alst.org/pages-us/primary-documents/purple-triangles.html>.

Korean War

The Korean War took place from 1950, until 1953. It is considered a civil war, since the two parts that Korea was then divided in, North and South Korea, engaged in hostilities that were relevant to the future of the country and the type of government it would follow (communism-democracy). As for the people that were captured as Prisoners of War (POW) in the Korean War, the United Nations (UN) Troops were arrested and confined either by the North Korean People's Army (NKPA) or Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) and were placed in camps all throughout North Korea.

In October of 1950, a few months after the start of the war, approximately 800 POWs left the Manpo area to go to camps closer to the border of China near Chungung. These camps were known as the Apex Camps. As for their reputation, the camps were termed "Tiger Death March", since the treatment the Prisoners of War received was brutal. Even the North Korean Colonel recognized the atrocities that were taking place in the aforementioned camps he was in charge of, and, therefore, called himself the "Tiger". One example of the inhumane treatment POW had to endure was the 100-mile march through the terrain, during which many of them died. The "Tiger Group", as it was called, remained in the Apex camps until October of 1951 and afterwards were relocated to permanent camps, further south on the banks of the Yalu River. It is notable that less than half of the POWs that left Manpo the year prior made it out alive, which, once again, reveals the cruel nature of these camps towards their prisoners.

Major countries and organizations involved

India-Pakistan

During the 20th century, two very prominent conflicts took place between India and Pakistan, namely the ones of 1965 and 1971. It is crucial to mention, though, before delving deeper into the issue regarding the Prisoners of War, the legal arrangements for the ceasefire of all hostilities. Two treaties were ratified; the Tashkent Declaration of 1966 and the Simla Agreement of 1972. Both of them were mainly



focused upon the obligation of both nations to repatriate the Prisoners of War the had confined during the war. The problem, in this case, though, is that the information about prisoners is limited, mainly due to the fact that India published its data in 1978, mentioning that negotiations about their release and repatriation were going to be held privately and, also, due to the International Committee on the Red Cross' (ICRC) decision to publish hidden records of the 1971 war in 2035. Both India's, as well as Pakistan's approach on the issue could be termed confusing and suspicious, at the same time.

India

On the one hand, the Indian government had initially stated that 15 out of 54 missing prisoners had been confirmed to be dead. When India continued to state that all 54 prisoners are still missing, the case was taken to court, which didn't lead to any new information coming in light, since the Indian Defense Ministry announced that it does not obtain any details for the 54 POWs. The last confusing information that came to surface recently, specifically in July 2020, was that there were an additional 83 soldiers, aside from the 54 who were in Pakistani custody.

Pakistan

On the other hand, there is Pakistan, who has adopted a similar, quite confusing, stance on the matter, as well. In 1982, it was agreed upon that 6 families of Prisoners of War could visit the prisons where it was suspected their loved ones were incarcerated in, which did not end up being successful, as no trace of them was found. After the incident and up until 1989, the Pakistani government denied the overall existence of the missing Indian prisoners; in 1989, however, the Pakistani Prime Minister, at the time, told Indian officials that the men were under their custody, which was something that was hinted by other media outlets and reports, as well, but without having real evidence.

All of the aforementioned events that took place hint to the case where the Geneva Conventions are overlooked, not only due to the incomplete and inefficient repatriation of Indian and Pakistani soldiers, respectively, which also violated the



treaties ratified by the two nations, but also due to the lack of exploration on the situation by the ICRC.

Ukraine

An example of an ongoing war taking place at the moment is the Ukrainian-Russian War. In March of 2022, an event was recorded that captured the attention of the media. The Security Service of Ukraine (SBU), which is considered the main security organ of the government of Ukraine published, on social media, confined Russian soldiers who were forced to reveal personal information, putting at risk not only themselves, but their families, as well. The International Committee for the Red Cross mentioned that any footage or material from which an individual can identify any of the prisoners shall not be shared online or broadcasted, without exceptions. The Third Geneva Protocol I protects all prisoners from humiliation, intimidation, and any kind of insult, including the disclosure of recordings and other forms of information capture.

United States-National League of Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Families

The National League of Prisoners of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) Families focused its action in Southeast Asia and was integrated in the District of Columbia on the 28 May 1970. It consists of blood and legally related family members of Americans who were or are considered Prisoners of War, Missing or Killed in Action and former American Prisoners of War in the Vietnam War. Its funding relies on donations from veterans and families and its main purpose is to ensure release of all prisoners, the best possible financing for the missing and return of all recoverable remains of veterans who were killed during the Vietnam War.

International Committee on the Red Cross

The International Committee in the Red Cross, also known as ICRC, was initially founded in 1863, but until 1870, it didn't focus upon providing humanitarian aid to



people who are deprived of their liberty. In 1870, at the time of the Franco-Prussian War, the organization they developed a correspondence and information agency for prisoners, basing their actions on the International Conference of the Red Cross resolution. The agency, that goes by the name “Agence de Bale”, transmitted information relating to the Prisoners of War and, also, gave them the ability to communicate with their families.

Timeline of events

October 1863	The First Geneva Convention was signed
29 July 1899	The 1899 Hague Regulations are formed during the First Hague Peace Conference
1907	The 1899 Hague Regulations are revised during the Second International Peace Conference
28 July 1914-11 November 1918	First World War (WWI) era
27 July 1929	The 1929 Geneva Convention is adopted
September 1, 1939 – September 2, 1945	Second World War (WWII) era



13-15 May 1945	Operation Revival is set in action
12 August 1949	The Third Geneva Convention replaces the 1929 Convention
25 June 1950-27 July 1953	Korean War era
27 July 1953	The Panmunjom Armistice Agreement is ratified
Late 1960s-1974	Establishment and completion on the International Humanitarian Law
28 May 1970	The National League of POWS/MIA Families is set in action
21 November 1970	Operation Ivory Coast is executed
8 June 1977	Protocol I and II are integrated into the Geneva Conventions

Previous attempts to solve the issue

Panmunjom Armistice Agreement (1953)

The aforementioned agreement was made on July 27, 1953, between the Commander-in-Chief, United Nations Command and the Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army and the Commander of the Chinese People's volunteers, regarding a military armistice in Korea. This armistice formally put an end to the war in Korea and later on, on 27 April 2018 the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification on the Korean Peninsula was ratified. The reason this Agreement is



important is because it did not only cease hostilities in the Korean region, but it also succeeded in repatriating the Prisoners of War.

Operation Revival (1945)

Operation Revival was carried out from May 13 to May 15, 1945, by the 8th Air Force. They targeted Stalag Luft I, which was a Prisoner of War Camp in Barth, Germany, during the Second World War (WWII). Its purpose was the liberation of approximately 8,500 Allied Prisoners, British and American, by transferring them to France and proceed with their repatriation.

Operation Ivory Coast (1970)

Operation Ivory Coast was executed on 21 November 1970. Its goal was to free American Prisoners of War from the camp Son Tay, near Hanoi, North Vietnam. The mission placed their allied air bases in Thailand and was termed “Mission of Mercy”, since, if the operation succeeded, the plan was to take the freed Americans to the White House for Thanksgiving dinner. Also, by the success of the rescue attempts, hope would be brought to other families who had family members confined in North Vietnam to be liberated and return to the United States. Even though the raid showed that well trained joint special missions could complete such operations in prohibited areas, the Operation did not succeed. The Prisoners of War continued to live in inhumane living conditions up until April of 1973, when the last prisoner was liberated.

Relevant UN Resolutions, Events, Treaties and Legislation

Hague Regulations of 1899 and 1907

The Hague Regulations of 1899 is the Convention which made reality the purpose of the First Hague Peace Conference, that took place in 1899, which was "the revision of the declaration concerning the laws and customs of war elaborated in 1874



by the Conference of Brussels, and not yet ratified"¹¹. The 1907 Regulation is the revision of the 1899 Convention, during the Second International Peace Conference and has only endured subtle changes. These Regulations mention, even in a brief matter, the definition of a Prisoner of War, tackle the issue, and state what treatment towards them is considered acceptable. The lack of preciseness, though, led to the creation of the following Geneva Conventions.

Geneva Conventions

The Geneva Convention consisted of numerous international diplomatic meetings, which resulted in the formation of a series of agreements, that go back as far as 1864. These agreements include the Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflicts and international laws that set the standards for humane treatment for civilians, military soldiers, and other kinds of personnel during war. Even though these agreements are of great importance in instances of armed conflict, the following ones refer to and set the foundation for the treatment of Prisoners of War.

1929 Geneva Convention (Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War)

Even though the appropriate behavior towards Prisoners of War is a topic that is included in the Hague Regulations, after being put in action and after the First World War (WWI) they proved to have inefficiencies and have a generalized nature. Therefore, the International Red Cross Conference, which was held in Geneva in 1921, made the decision to adopt a convention that is solely focused on the treatment of Prisoners of War. As a result, in 1929, the Convention was formed and adopted. It is important to mention that the Convention does not replace but, on the contrary, completes the provisions of the Hague Regulations. Some innovative ideas that form this Convention are forbiddance of retaliation, as well as the conduction of collective penalties, the arrangement of the prisoners' duties, the ability of prisoners to designate

¹¹ "Convention (II) with Respect to the Laws and Customs of War on Land and Its Annex: Regulations Concerning the Laws and Customs of War on Land. The Hague, 29 July 1899." *Treaties, States Parties, and Commentaries - Hague Convention (II) on the Laws and Customs of War on Land, 1899*, International Committee on the Red Cross, <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/ihl/INTRO/150>.



representatives and, finally, the control exercised by security forces. The Convention, which consisted of 97 articles, mentioned how prisoners must be faced with sympathy and must live in appropriate and humane standards. Lastly, it set the International Red Cross as the main organization in charge of collecting sharing data referring to the prisoners who were wounded or killed.

1949 Geneva Conventions (Geneva Convention III and IV)

The Third Geneva Convention replaced the 1929 Convention, on the August 12, 1949. This means that the 1929 Geneva Convention is no longer enforced, due to the international acceptance and adoption of the 1949 Conventions. Taking into consideration the fact that the 1929 Convention has 97 Articles, whereas the Geneva Convention III has 143, it is evident that articles and definitions were made more precise; the groups of people who are now considered Prisoners of War are diversified, the conditions and captivity areas that prisoners are confined are specifically defined, as well as the relief they are entitled to and the institution of judicial proceedings that are made against them. Another key topic covered in the Third Geneva Convention is their immediate repatriation, after the hostilities and attacks are finished.

As far as the Fourth Geneva Convention is concerned, the atrocities that took place in the Second World War (WWII), such as the mass killings in military prison camps, as well as concentration camps, led to the inclusion of non-combatants, meaning civilians, in the definition of Prisoners of War. The Convention, which consists of 159 Articles, focuses on the protection of civilians in times of armed conflict. The renewed Article provided protection to medical personnel, along with facilities and equipment, civilians who faced trauma and sickness in their efforts to accompany military forces and civilians who took it on their own hands to combat invading forces. This includes the prohibition of use of wounded civilians in experiments, expose to murder or any other kind of torture. In conclusion, there are many protections provided to forces and civilians who fall prisoners during warfare.



Additional Protocol I and II (1977)

Additional Protocols were added to the 1949 Geneva Conventions. Additional Protocol I refers to the extension of the rules of law for armed conflicts on an international level, with the provision of 47 Articles, of which 28 were only adopted.

Additional Protocol II tackles the matter of non-international conflict, as a supplement to the First Protocol, which focused upon international hostilities.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

The First Paragraph of the Tenth Article 10 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights specifically states that “All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person”¹². Therefore, the paragraph states that, all people are not free, which means that Prisoners of War are included, should be seen and treated respectfully, properly and always humanely. This means that apart from the treatment they receive, the conditions that they live under should be, at least, decent and humane; examples of this are access to clean water, food, sanitary conditions and lack of violence.

Possible solutions

Stress the Application of the 1949 Geneva Conventions

It is crucial that the Geneva Conventions are applied, regarding the issue of Prisoners of War in modern warfare. They provide feasible and crucial measures that do not only ensure a secure and appropriate living environment for combatants who have fell into the hands of the enemy, but also to the general population of civilians that are in danger. Moreover, it ensures the safe return of all prisoners to their country of

¹² “Un Enable - Article 10 | References - International Human Rights Conventions and Other Legal Instruments.” *United Nations, United Nations, United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/enable/rights/ahcstata14refinthr.htm>.



residence, a factor that is of great importance, as well. Therefore, since such elaborative and precise in definition Conventions are ratified, it is absolutely necessary to apply them in situations, such as the ones of armed conflict that take place in our world at the moment. Aside from the legal aspect, in which member nations are legally-bound by the Conventions, the he application can be ensured by the enforcement of reporting mechanisms, which could be termed similar to monitoring mechanisms; the United Nations could send personnel to conflict areas, who are in charge of reviewing and creating assessments and reports of the conditions that both confined combatants and civilians live in, according to the set standards that are mentioned in the Geneva Conventions.

Establish Monitoring Mechanisms in Order to Ensure the Application of the Geneva Conventions

Organizations, such as the Red Cross, which is main organization in charge of collecting and sharing data referring to the prisoners who were wounded or killed, should, at the same time, monitor the situation and make sure that no violation of the aforementioned Conventions, and report any information or violation they detect back to the United Nations (UN). Since the Red Cross is a non-profit organization, there will be no economic barriers for Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs). The Red Cross will be in charge of all aspects regarding the establishment of monitoring mechanisms within nations, meaning that the trained personnel and necessary equipment is provided by the organization.

Legal Sanctions for Violating the Principles of the Geneva Conventions

Even though there are no formal legal sanctions for nations that violate the Geneva Conventions, it is important that a punishment is established, since not only the moral outrage that this event may cause highlights the immorality of mistreating and taking away people's liberty is, but also it violates one of the most, if not the most, important historic documents, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, or the basic human rights of people, to put it in simpler terms. Those sanctions would refer and apply to all



camps where Prisoners of War were mistreated or even executed and lived in extremely unsanitary and inhumane conditions; they could span from heavy fines and the permanent closure of such camps, in order to ensure that such atrocities never take place in places like those again.

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