

Colegio Americano de Torreón Model United Nations (CATMUN)

General Assembly

Director: Mariana Obeso Martínez

Moderator: Bárbara Chaúl Monroy

Committee Background:

The General Assembly (GA) is one of the six main bodies of the United Nations and this committee is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. The General Assembly makes important decisions about security and peace and the admission of new members and budgetary matters. This topics require a two-thirds majority. The decisions taken on the General Assembly on other topics are taken by simple majority. Each country has one vote. The General Assembly is divided into six main committees. First Committee (Disarmament & International Security), Second Committee (Economic & Financial), Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural), Fourth Committee (Special Political & Decolonization), Fifth Committee (Administrative & Budgetary), and Sixth Committee (Legal). The General Assembly also has the power to make recommendations to states that have international issues with its competence. This Assembly has also started political, economic, humanitarian, social and legal actions that have benefited millions of people around the world. The main goals of The General Assembly are to reach specific goals to attain peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication; to safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law; to protect our common environment; to meet the special needs of Africa; and to strengthen the United Nations.

A. Current humanitarian crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo

History

The government of the Democratic Republic of Congo has put their own interests for the short run over the health and well-being of Congo's people. It has refused to attend the international conference of the United Nations in Geneva that has for a main purpose to raise \$1.7 billion for emergency assistance to over 13 million people in Congo affected by the recent violence, and even more, it is encouraging people not to attend. According to Human Rights Watch (2018),

“Congoese security forces and armed groups have killed thousands of civilians in the past two years, adding to at least six million Congoese who have died from conflict-related causes over the past two decades – making the conflict in Congo the world's deadliest since World War II. Today, some 4.5 million Congoese are displaced from their homes – more than in any other country in Africa. Tens of thousands have fled into Uganda, Angola, Tanzania, and Zambia in recent months – raising the specter of increased regional instability.”

Congo is Africa's biggest copper producer and the world's largest source of cobalt. This could help address the crisis and cover other basic needs, but hundreds of millions of dollars have gone missing as President Kabila and his family and close associates have amassed fortunes. Any new income from any investment is most likely to end up in this family.

Most of the violence now is linked to the political crisis of the country. President Kabila has delayed elections and used corruption, violence and repression to maintain his power the most he can.

Current Situation

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has one of the world's biggest, complex and long standing humanitarian crises and centers in the east of the country. More than 2.1 million people (50 families per hour every day) were forced to flee their homes in 2017. Government has been weak these two past decades along with having conflict and lack of infrastructure. This led to being one of the most ignored and forgotten crises in the world.

There are currently more than 100 different armed groups fighting for territory and control in eastern DRC. This conflict is causing massive displacement and urgent humanitarian needs as families flee their homes for safety.

The armed conflict and insecurity has displaced 4.5 million people within the country. 13.1 million people need humanitarian assistance — 5.6 million more than in 2017. Over the last year with intensified fighting, the humanitarian situation has dramatically worsened. The rise of Ebola has made the situation even more dire. Kabila has presided over a system of entrenched impunity in which those most responsible for abuses are routinely rewarded with

positions, wealth, and power. Congolese security forces have carried out or orchestrated much of the violence, in some cases by creating or backing local armed groups. Well-placed security and intelligence sources have told us that efforts to sow violence and instability are an apparently deliberate “strategy of chaos” to justify further election delays.

Conclusion

This committee must find a way to make the government conscient and stop the way the president is treating its people and suppress immediately the violence between the government and the citizens. They have to find a way to not postpone elections any longer. Citizens have to speak up in a way both citizens and government, can deal and help each other out.

Works Cited

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml>

<https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/dr-congo/quick-facts-humanitarian-crisis-drc>

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/maincommittees/>

<https://www.hrw.org/blog-feed/democratic-republic-congo-crisis>

B. Libyan conflict and the infringement of human rights

History

On the night of April 16, as the citizens of Tripoli's Abu Salim district slept in their beds, rockets were launched into the Hay al-Intissar neighborhood, killing four women, one man and critically injuring a little girl. Though the Hay al-Intissar area is controlled by GNA-affiliated militants, there was no military presence on April 16 and the area is inhabited almost entirely by civilians "Hay al-Intissar is a strictly residential area. There were families and children minding their own business," said one witness, speaking to Amnesty International. Two more attacks on civilian targets were conducted within the Hay-Intissar area the same week, with significant damage to residential buildings and other civilian infrastructure, including a mosque, a school, and several ambulances. On January 23, unidentified armed groups detonated two car bombs in front of Baya'at al-Radwan mosque in Benghazi, killing at least 34 people and wounding over 90. Video recordings appeared to show LNA commander Mahmoud al-Werfalli, wanted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court (ICC) since August 2017, allegedly executing 10 individuals on January 24 in front of the same mosque. Between February and June, clashes in the southern town of Sebha between armed groups loyal to the Awlad Suleiman and Tebu groups killed at least 16 civilians. On May 2, ISIS claimed responsibility for an armed attack on the HNEC in Tripoli that, according to news reports, resulted in the killing of 14, most of them staff members, and the wounding of at least 19 others.

In May, after a nearly 20-month-long siege of Derna, the LNA started a land and air operation to wrest control of the eastern city from the Derna Mujahideen Shura Council (DMSC), an armed group that includes Islamists that opposes the LNA. As of September, resistance was reduced to one neighborhood, where some families remained trapped by the fighting. According to GNA-linked local council officials and members of the Derna Committee for Displaced, at least 1,000 families had been displaced by the fighting to other towns. Local officials also alleged cases of extrajudicial executions, appropriation of private property, looting, and arbitrary detention by the LNA as it overran the city.

Current Situation

Libya has Africa's largest proven oil reserves and is also a player in the natural gas market. That alone would be enough to make people pay more attention to the country's political situation. But Libya's story is much more complicated—and instructive—than its impact on energy markets. It's been nearly a decade since Colonel Muammar Gaddafi was deposed, and after an initial burst of optimism from both Libyans and the international community—not to mention legislative elections held in the wake of Gaddafi's ouster—the political situation in Libya has gone from bad to worse. Libya was in no shape to transition to a functioning democracy so abruptly, and the last decade or so has made that all too clear.

Making matters worse, the country's descent into chaos and lack of governance also made it the de facto "gateway" into Europe during the continent's migration crisis a few years back. Currently, the western half of the country is being "led" by a UN-backed government based out of Tripoli, but it has struggled to assert control over the city as it's been carved up by warring militias. This stands in stark contrast to the eastern half of the country, which is ruled by Haftar, who strategically sidelined and co-opted various local militias to his own cause. Haftar used to be a close ally of Gaddafi before the two had a falling out in the 1980s; Haftar fled the country, and lived in Virginia for nearly 20 years (spending some of that time employed by the CIA) before returning to Libya to help in Gaddafi's overthrow. From the remnants of Libya's army, he cobbled together a fighting force now known as the Libyan National Army, strategically adding personnel and equipment (some of which came from foreign powers looking to curry favor) as the force grew—no one knows the exact number of people or weapons in his command at present.

Conclusion

"Although none of the foreign sponsors behind Haftar is likely pleased with the dramatic deterioration, they have no option but to continue backing him. They have been concentrating most of their bets on one key figure for almost half a decade. This cannot be walked back overnight." –Jalel Harchaoui, Clingendael Institute research fellow. This committee must find a way to make the human rights come back again in the country Libya since many people are suffering and it is your job. They have to find a way to help the citizens who are being mistreated.

Work Cited

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/libya>
<https://time.com/5569624/whats-happening-in-libya/>