

GALMUN 2017



HUMAN RIGHTS

Research Report

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Background:

Violence rooted in discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities is spreading across the world. Ethnic and religious violence takes place for reasons rooted in each country's past, its religious identity, and the evolution of its political structures. The rise of the right and right wing ideology in Europe and the United States has led to increased cases of violence in the West. For example, the British Independent Newspaper reported on October 13, 2016, an increase of 40% in hate crimes after Britain voted to leave the European Union (Brexit). Similarly, CNN reported an increase in hate crimes against minorities in the United States upon the election of Donald Trump as President. Other evidence of hate crimes is seen in the recent attack on a mosque in the province of Québec in Canada.

In areas of conflict, militant groups have expanded their targets for religiously-motivated and ethnically-motivated violence in recent years. State sponsored violence against minorities is also common and should be considered. State-sponsored violence is employed by governments against their own minorities or other countries' minorities, especially in a time of conflict.

One of the best techniques to deal with ethnic and religious violence is preventing violence from occurring by studying the experiences of other countries that have won the battle against these outrageous acts. Studying these successful actions can help deal with violence against minorities in vulnerable regions.

Another important issue to consider is that violence against ethnic groups is caused by instability in the communities where multiple groups are living. To deal with such violence, we must bring these communities to harmony through positive co-operation and exposure, thus leading to a better understanding and quality of life.

Violence against minorities is prevalent all around the world. Below are two important examples:

The situation in Myanmar:

The situation in Myanmar is one example of militant and state-sponsored attacks against minorities. An estimated 65,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled the country of Myanmar since last October because of the violence and discrimination committed against them by the Burmese State and other groups. The Burmese

Government has repeatedly denied allegations of persecution against the Rohingya minority and has rejected all claims that the government is responsible for any anti-Rohingya-Muslim propaganda.

This is an example of major religious and ethnic violence against a minority that has left countless people dead or persecuted and made many refugees in the surrounding countries like Bangladesh.

The situation in Syria:

Although the Syrian conflict is more complex and devastating, it can be divided to 3 major parts regarding the issue of violence against minorities;

1) The Islamic State:

The Islamic State has persecuted Syrian minorities like Christians, Kurds, Alawites and other minorities.

2) The Bashar Al Assad regime:

The ruling regime in Syria is that of the Alawites minority which has targeted many other groups including the Kurd minority.

3)The Syrian rebels (anti-regime forces):

The rebels have persecuted many minority groups (ethnic and religious) such as Christians, Kurds and Syriacs.

Useful links:

[IHRR - Violence & Discrimination against minorities in the Islamic Republic constitution](#)

[OHCHR - Minorities Contribution 7th session](#)

[IPS News - Ethnic Cleansing of Muslim Minority in Myanmar](#)

[Fidh - Faith-based discrimination and violence in Pakistan](#)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Minorities/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

http://www.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/MinorityIssues/Session7/IPMS_Forum_Dialogue.doc&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session28/Documents/A_HRC_28_77_ENG.doc&action=default&DefaultItemOpen=1

<http://unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation>

Questions to consider:

- Are there any minorities in your country?
- What is your country doing to prevent violence against these minorities?
- What is the motive for violence against minorities?
- How can we eliminate violence against minorities?
- How can your country help victims of violence against minorities and aid them?
- Find examples of minorities that are being persecuted around the globe.
- How can we prevent the spread of right-wing ideology which is responsible for attacks on minorities in the west?