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# SYM-MUN 2012

# Close Call

*Day I | Issue I*



# PRESS RESTRICTED

### Opening Ceremony

## “I hereby declare the SYM-MUN open!”

*Pallav kumar Singh reports from a well organized and impeccable opening ceremony of SYM-MUN, 2012.*

“A journey, no matter how big or small always starts with a simple step.”

They say that the beginning is the most important aspect of the journey and it was perfectly displayed at the opening ceremony of Symbiosis Law School Model United Nations Conference (SYM-MUN). Akshita Sachdeva, the anchor of the ceremony, introduced the chief guests amidst sustained applause,

Dr. C.J.Rawandale, Director Symbiosis Law school, who started the presidential address stressed upon the importance of student based discussions of global relevance. He further highlighted the need to address these issues, and

the responsibility the youth has.

His Excellency Dr. Ruben, Hon’ble Ambassador for El Salvador, and a global figure who has been adorned with innumerable accolades for his pivotal and reputable global role, followed and highlighted the details and qualities that the current generation should possess to contribute to change. Quoting examples from his immense real life experiences, he kept the students amazed and enthralled with his knowledge of international relevance.

His Excellency Dr. Deepak Vohra, who is a well known name as a very distinguished Foreign Services Officer and TV personality whose respectable bilingual inter-

action with the student gathering comprised of interesting anecdotes and facts that showcased India’s emergence as economic super power and an era of inner awakening gave a strong hope that all is not lost and faith lingers on. He emphasized upon the challenges that the youth faces and the dreams of a better tomorrow.

The ceremony then introduced the Reputed Executive Board and then the stage was open for the hard working Secretary General, Purvasha Mansharamani to declare the MUN open.

With this kind of an opening ceremony, we do expect an engaging conference.





## Human Rights Council

Shagun Gupta



## “Point of Order, Madam Chairperson!”



The first session of the Human Rights Council was, to the dismay of the Press, extremely predictable. And while one can still give brownie points to the good looking executive board for being as patient as ever, the delegates made some grossly controversial, even ridiculous statements while caucusing on the contentious issue of whether the Syrian President, Mr. Assad should be tried in front of the ICC or not. Now let's look at this way – the Syrian president is, according to the government of Syria, a legitimate leader. However, Syria's absolute refusal to accept the role of the government in the human rights violations is startling. The Syrian delegate, for

the record, is full of energy and believes that the council in fact has two representatives of the United States, in view of Amnesty International's rare support to the US Government on the question of Syria. Keeping aside the frequency of foreign policy errors being committed in this session of the HRC, we wonder if the Syrian people have any hope for peace, given the attitude of major players in the agenda. Moreover, one cannot help but notice the Iranian delegate's hand gestures, especially in her responses to the United States. Her muted histrionics are only rivaled by the representative of ICRC, who chose to speak with her back to the executive board

for a full two minutes, and quite early in debate tried to justify her statements based on “reports” conducted by the ICRC, which makes one wonder which comes first – the conduction of investigation or the consequent report? On a more serious note, the United 'Nations' of America come across as a rather confused delegation. Yes, you read it right. On an international forum such as the UN, Iran, perhaps in a slip of tongue summed up its views on the United States and the manner in which it has time and again tried to influence the UN. But even if it was on purpose, we aren't complaining.

Human Rights Council

## Escalating Corruption in Syria

Parthavee Singh



### *Human rights and failure over unity in Syria.*

The magnitude of human rights violations have been dramatically increasing in Syria. It has been quite messed up since a pretty long time. The Syrian government is neither interested in settling issues to improve the overall scenario of the country nor is it open to receiving help from other countries who are willing to help. As said by the delegate of Burkina Faso and the delegate of Maldives, millions of people had been dragged out of their houses and killed, and as a matter of fact just a year back i.e. in April 2011 the Syrian government deployed

the Syrian army to quell the uprising and ordered the soldiers to fire on the civilians. The delegate of Syria was however completely against the motion saying that there is no such evidence or particular figure mentioned as to whether the civilians were shot or killed while being dragged out of their houses.

It is said that there is no exit visa facility provided to the Syrian citizens by the government. However, 10,000 refugees have already managed to claim citizenship in the Turkish asylum. The delegate of U.S.A. was ac-

cused by the delegate of Russian federation of providing financial aid to the rebel group i.e. the Syrian army. This accusation was on the basis of diplomacy shown by U.S.A. which even after accusing Syria of being a violent and corrupt state still provides financial aid to its army. This is because U.S.A. being diplomatic in a very clean way plays it completely safe as it fully intends to keep Syria in its favor referring to this bribe in a more polite and decent way as financial aid.

## Joint Crisis Committee



Pallav Kumar Singh



## The US NSC recognizes Russian Federation as a threat to Afghan citizens

*The United States National Security council deliberates on the crisis in Afghanistan. Do we have a solution in sight?*

The Director of Homeland Security established Russian Federation as a threat to the sovereignty of the Nation of Afghanistan in a statement which was made in a crisis convene of the US National Security Council.

The Attorney General supported the Director of Homeland Security and further stressed upon the need for immediate action in Afghanistan calling for unanimous ideological action for the complete eradication of Talibani Fractions still present in Afghanistan. It was also advised that the entire protocol should encompass certain guidelines which would succeed in establishment of a political autonomy and strengthens

Afghanistan's vision of democracy.

Peter Vrooman, First Secretary, U.S. Embassy-Kabul has stated in a report C50/MEAF/1810 that the Russian Federation is directly involved with Taliban in inducing a civil strife in Sangin. This clearly held the Federation responsible through financial and ammunitions aid to the rebel fractions and causing mutiny. They were also accused of encouraging anti-American statements among radical factions and religious extremists. The entire report focused on suspected on mobilization of forces currently being contemplated by officiating personnel. The report threw light upon the

arms and ammunition supply and highlighted AK-105, Dragunav SVU, AGS-30s and PP-19-01-Vityazs being supplied to Talibani fractions and attempts of Modern Warfare.

The ambassador of the UN present in the council stated quick relief measures and emphasized on vehement collaborative initiatives for concurring political stability.

A unilateral sanction in Taliban and Russia's support to Taliban fractions is needed to initiate a further discussion for solving this crisis. The fate of the nation depends upon these select individuals. The nations awaits help, awaits support, awaits hope.



# SYM-MUN 2012 Close Call



## Joint Crisis Committee

Kunal Mishra



## Fraying tempers, heated debate, and restricted International Press



The United Nations Strategic Operations Command (USSOCOM) was convened in the midst of a tense political situation in the Afghanistan region. A clear agenda of the Council was not revealed. The council was convened under emergency circumstances as a crisis situation developed in the region. Details regarding the very same have been kept strictly classified. The international press was allowed a very marginal presence in the council, as reporting on substantive matters was ruled out. The President of the ad-hoc committee, Mr. Nirjhar Bhattacharya, although repeatedly approached, was not available for comment. However, sources have reported that considering the matter is of extremely high importance, further details regarding the intricate points of the crisis will be

declassified later.

In the midst of such a tense political scenario, Lieutenant General Votel – the Director for the Black Operations – wanted to rehabilitate people who have been affected by the crisis. It is rather interesting that such a benevolent remark came from the Lieutenant.

“They are being made to believe things that are not right”, he later clarified, his comments being with regards to the hate propaganda being spread in the country.

The committee however, seemed rather confused regarding the mandates of their respective offices. This confusion was prevalent in the delegates, and finally the President had to stop committee and explain the mandate and the roles of the offices himself. The

President’s opinion on Navy Seals was rather interesting; he feels that they are a lot of ‘ships’.

Lieutenant Votel, however had different opinions on the crisis. He said that the policy of the States should be centered towards battling the hate propaganda in the Af-Pak region. The Chief of Air Staff, however took offence to that remark, feeling that their presence in the council was not necessary considering that psychological warfare was the need of the hour.

“We cannot kill 27000 people with the Black Operations”, he later stated. However the director of the Black Operations felt, that the Chief of the Air Staff had “his ears coated with wax”, as he was not open to a lot of options.

# SYM-MUN 2012 Close Call



## General Assembly

Anuja Malhotra



## GAlore of world-weariness

one point of time, he reached that saturation point where he could not take more allegations. Lack of participation was observed in the committee, as only a few delegates were active. There were lots of efforts put in by the executive board to inculcate more participation, but the lousy delegates failed them all. Meanwhile, the sounds of speeches from other committees prevailed throughout, and we had a hard time distinguishing whether it was our committee's delegates speaking or some other.

Overall, we could have had a more rewarding session, considering the importance and significance of the agenda in the world community at this point of time. But, as they say, it is never too late. We still have more sessions! Good luck for tomorrow, delegates!

Equipped with their kits and hopefully comprehensive knowledge, the delegates from various countries opened debate in the General Assembly 6, on an impassioned note. Enthusiasm prevailed in the committee only for a few delegates; the rest were bound in the web of silence.

The committee could hear voices of delegates from other committees often, which brought a riot of laughter in itself (obviously, delegates who are not even sure what goes about drone attacks would definitely fall into hysterics on hearing the situation of Afghanistan!). The ghostly voices even confused us all about who was actually speaking, and then the already tardy commit-

tee was delayed some more to fix the technical issue. Further, Iran talking about peace and transparency gave us all a hearty laugh (the Vice Chair even confessed having laughed in his heart). The excessively aggressive delegate of the Russian Federation put forth a point, which went something like, "ambiguous nature of the definition of the right to self defence gives USA the audacity... (Paused for a minute)... misinterpretation of international law." Yes, definitely delegate, we understand your hatred towards USA, but whatever happened to diplomacy? The delegate of Pakistan seemed very confused about whether or not they give their consent for drone attacks, and at

## General Assembly

## Legality of Drones

Utkarsh Srivastava



*The world community can use drones provided that it's not breaching sovereignty and favours world peace at large.*

Although the silent voices were rising in the past on the drones, the full fledged War by the US on Pakistan gives the fire to the legality of drones. According to the Washington Post, Pakistan and US made a deal to use the drones in favour of world peace yet Pakistan is not accepting this fact in public and refuses to comment on this. It's specifically mentioned in Wiki-leaks that the CIA are allowed to use the drones till 2011. Pakistan began the speech full of enthusiasm, but the point raised by Sweden showed dissatisfaction against the fact that drones strikes are harming people all over the world and Pakistan is

also majorly responsible for these attacks.

Drone attacks have been taking place in Pakistan since 2001 yet no formal complaint has been made by the Pakistan to the UN or Geneva. This shows the dual character of Pakistan showing both favour and resistance regarding legality of drones.

The US defends these attacks as Right to Self Defence mentioned in Article 71 of US constitution which contradicts the Article 51 of Armed Act US which states that prior consent is required for self defence against the Armed Forces.

The motion of breach of sov-

eignty and integrity of drones and the self defence against the attack were raised in the second session. Iran continued by stating that the UN principles and the Geneva principles are being followed by them. The target killing by one state in another state doesn't breach the sovereignty but the US delegate "fillip" quoted that Pakistan failed to address the issue of Osama.

If the host state is unwilling to take any action, then the world community can use drones provided that it's not breaching sovereignty and favours world peace at large.



# SYM-MUN 2012 Close Call



## Futuristic Security Council

### Lots of smoke and no sense

Jai Singh Khurana



#### *US deliberated on blocking out whole continents*

Talking about the current situation, the hunger for oil and the dispute due to such issues within the powerful nations might be the reason for an impending war. Keeping the same in mind, a good question was raised by Saudi Arabia that how oil supply and international security is interrelated. Saudi Arabia bluntly advocated oil as a major commodity and the hunger of the same as being the reason for war. Iran went ahead and stated that there must be no link between military policy and energy policy. And the money which is being spent by US for

wars should be used for looking over alternative energy resources. Cuba being rational very clearly highlighted upon situation of Syria due to military bases. Overlooking the nuclear armaments program that Iran was investing heavily in, the country showed it casual approach towards the issue.

During the unmediated caucus the countries sought the problems and came to a consensus; countries like Iran whose economy depends on oil export were ready to invest in renewable sources of energy. Iraq and Iran

had a heated discussion on the internal affairs and strict laws in Iran. The chair, happy with the level of debate in the lunch session decided for the un-moderated caucus to be held. The issue of Strait of Hormuz was nearly resolved as countries came out with a common solution that it should be blocked out in order to let safety prevail within the Middle East. US deliberated on blocking out whole continents if there was a possibility of any form of warfare that is to prevail within the world.

## Futuristic Security Council



Twesh Mishra



## Drilling for the future, blood and oil

Seasoned future dwellers were deliberating 'change' in a world tormented by the thirst for oil and powerful nations ravaging the natural beauty of mother earth for an ounce of 'energy'. Quick to gain momentum, a paranoid Saudi Arabia was insisting on annihilating the rise of Iran or for that matter any alternative to the OPEC nations. Such was the excitement of Saudi Arabia that their address took form of a rap song and delegates were struggling to decipher the lyrics until India raised a personal privilege to 'slow down' the opening address.

Predominantly revolving about the military ties of Iran and China, the two countries brushed aside any polemic and insisted that such diplomatic alliances are

not subject to any intervention within the world. The abstinence of United States of America from this council was attributed to the sudden anti-globalisation policy and resulted in sustained criticism from allies and adversaries alike. China went ahead and pointed that US had naval bases in various parts of the world so they too have the liberty to establish a base in any part of the world.

Germany, Russia, Iran and Iraq took advantage of the absenteeism of their former prime adversary and ensured that no stone be left unturned to direct the committee into exploiting the Arctic oil resources. Irony seems to have been personified with the musing of Iran that the amount of money spent by US for wars should be

used for looking at alternative sources of generating energy. Blatantly overlooking the nuclear armaments program that Iran was investing heavily in, the country brazenly advocated their 'calling the kettle black' approach.

Worst repercussions of the anti-interventionist policy of the United States of America prevailed with NATO forces led by Germany deploying their fleets towards the state of Oman. India suggested that the Strait of Hormuz be blocked out in order to let safety prevail within the Middle East. The absurdity of such a suggestion can be paralleled to blocking out whole continents if there was a possibility of any form of warfare that is to prevail within the world.



**DISEC**

Amlan J. Das



## Allegations rather than Solutions



*The first session of the DISEC saw all the countries alleging each other rather than finding a potential solution.*

The Peoples Republic of China landed themselves into trouble right in the first motion, which was on the proliferation of biological and chemical weapons in Syria, raised by the Republic of Korea, when the delegate commented that, "China believes in the formation of International committees for the avocation and regulation of Bio-Chemical related issues." The Canadian delegate was the first to respond, alleging China of laundering chemical support to Iran. After this, multiple chits questioning China's current stand on the issue were passed on to the delegate leaving her helpless.

However, countries like Rwanda and Israel focused more on genuine international partnership and infrastructure development as possible solutions to the problem

of Biological and Chemical warfare. Delegate of United Kingdom questioned the Pakistani authority about the safety of its Biological and Chemical resources, particularly from the Al Qaida and Taliban. The Pakistani delegate assured the world about the safety of its resources but refused to unearth its security details.

The Syrian issue further heated up when the delegate of the Republic of Korea mentioned reports claiming the presence of a large stock of mustard gas in Damascus, which could be a potential threat to the world's security. United Kingdom was quick to support this as he questioned Russia's stand on the issue, and flooded news reports substantiating Russian help to the Syrian Government regarding chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, the Chinese delegate remained frustrated by the delegated of Korea. The key element missing at this point of time was the Delegate of United States, who was absent.

On the other hand, international bodies like Amnesty International and Arms Control Association focused more on international co-operation and research on new weapon storage.

Till the end of the first session, the discussion revolved all around Syria, the terrorist groups and the possible outcome of these weapons of mass destruction falling into the hands of unwanted organizations. But no such significant solutions were adhered to, as most of the countries stuck to allegations rather than solutions.



**DISEC**

## Fun DISEC-ted

Ridhi Singh



The first session of DISEC began with the hues of optimism. Delegate of Rwanda began the session by elaborating on the coordination and trust that it shares in line with the BCW of 1972 and the CWC of 1993. Delegate of Germany carried the discussion forward by enlightening the fellow delegates about the threats posed by the biological weapons. The 10 minutes that followed gave reason to the International Press to take a siesta. The enthusiasm was fading. People's Republic of China adhered to the falling zest

with its dull and disappointing statements. But maybe this was just the lull before the storm.

As soon as the Executive Board approved of chit passing, delegates were bombarded with bizarre questions. Frustration and anger were reflected on many faces while others chose to yawn or sleep. Our very own Pakistani Delegate frowned on the mention of Al Qaeda in protest to the allegations put forth. Though the motion was to revolve around the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons in Syria, it

seemed as if some chemical had been infused in the committee leading to such monotonous and dreary debate.

Delegate of Syria took the allegations way too seriously and revolted in protest. Having written so far, I have almost forgotten that my article was meant to be scornful. But like a needle in a haystack, Delegate of Korea did entertain us all with his high-pitched modulated voice and way too courteous manners.

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