

**Forum:** *General Assembly 1 (GA1)*

**Issue:** *Advancing responsible state behavior regarding support for religious/ethnic minorities in other states, in the context of international security*

**Student Officer:** *Vanessa Lin*

**Position:** *President*

## Introduction

Following the staple of geopolitical events of the 1990s (Balkan wars, the Rwandan genocide, etc.), ethnic cleansing has been a topic of global concern. To address the belated response and attention given to the situation, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) doctrine was issued to ensure that all states are obligated to protect its population from genocide and ethnic cleansing, and must intervene before any killing take place. Despite all nations signing a commitment to the document in the 2005 United Nations (UN) summit, ethnic cleansing are by no means a thing of the past. Most evidently, according to a report on political rights and civil liberties by Freedom in the World, the number of countries earning a score deduction for some form of forced demographic change increased from three in 2005 to 11 in 2018.

Today, Muslims around the globe are still put into concentration camps in China, slaughtered en masse in Myanmar, targeted with systematic pogroms in India, mowed down in Israel on a daily basis, and subjected to ever-increasing persecution in the United States (US) and Europe. Not to mention, the lives of Muslims within their homeland are no better, particularly those in Iran, Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

As a matter of fact, the failure of the world's democratic powers to respond effectively to these abuses has encouraged yet more autocracies to deny their wrongdoings and carry on with their inhumane campaigns. Indeed, one could argue that the atrocities in places like South Sudan and Myanmar are the work of wretched regimes. Then again, the endorsement of forced demographic change by major world powers— notably that of Russia and China— sends an extremely alarming implication that accredits a sinister reversal of democracy. With the world's democracies appearing powerless to prevent cases like those in Myanmar and Syria, the international norm against ethnic cleansing is not only being swept aside, but also at risk of endorsing a new standard that authorizes states to use any means necessary to favor their preferred citizenry.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Ethnic Cleansing

Ethnic cleansing largely refers to the expulsion of an ethnic or religious group of people from an area of land. Nonetheless, due to the lack of a legal definition of the term by the UN, ethnic cleansing is technically not considered a crime under international law. The first time the term was used on the world stage was during the conflict in the former Yugoslavia (now broken up as Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia) in the 1990s, where the United Nations Commission of Experts was tasked with investigating if violations of international humanitarian law was committed in the area. The commission later released its findings and described ethnic cleansing as “*a purposeful policy designed by one ethnic or religious group to remove by violent and terror-inspiring means the civilian population of another ethnic or religious group from certain geographic areas*” in the 24 May 1994 Letter to the Security Council ([S/1994/674](#)).

Following the report's release, media and scholars began using the term for incidents of systematic and violent removal of undesired ethnic or religious group from a given territory. In spite of the commission's description of the term and the public use of the phrase, the United Nations General Assembly never officially defined the term, nor take the effort to make it an international crime. The only explanation the UN has provided for its actions is that ethnic cleansing can often fall within specific warcrimes or genocide, thus re-defining the term is simply an unnecessary action. Then again, though the line between genocide and ethnic cleansing often turn out to be blurred, the two aren't exactly the same thing. On one hand, genocide is recognized as a crime under international law since 1948. The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide classifies genocide as “*certain acts of violence against national, ethnic, racial, or religious groups with the intend to destroy the said group*”. On the other hand, the act of ethnic cleansing is more about geography and the removal of specific groups of people from particular areas of land. Henceforth, genocide could be classified under the term ethnic cleansing, but not ever act of ethnic cleansing could be considered a genocide (the relationship is not reversible).

## Background Information

### Historical Aspect of the Rohingya Persecution (2016-present)

There are thousands of refugees entering Bangladesh every day, in an attempt to cross the border of Myanmar to fled from the violent offensive the state military has launched against the ethnic

minority group– the Rohingya. The UN reported that since August 2017, an estimated 400,000 Rohingya men, women, and children have fled their homes in Myanmar’s Rakhine State. Reports further claimed that the military has been killing and raping the Rohingya population, as well as setting entire villages on fire. In addition, the situation in Myanmar has often been referred to as a “textbook example” of ethnic cleansing. What makes the situation in Myanmar a classical example of ethnic cleansing is how its military has been launching attacks on the Rohingya– a Muslim minority in a majority Buddhist country. An important point to be noted, however, is that the recent wave of violence is just the latest in a pattern of discrimination that started over 50 years ago.

### ***15th Century Burma***

In 1962, Myanmar (then called Burma) was taken over by the military in a coup. The newly formed government then got rid of the country’s constitution and created a military junta. Like the many other dictatorships around the globe back then, they promoted fierce nationalism based on the country’s Buddhist identity. Henceforth, with such an ideology set up in the nation, the Rohingya were singled out as a threat when they needed a common enemy to help unite the population. Tensions between the Burmese Buddhist population and the Rohingya dates back to the Second World War, when each group supported opposing sides. On one spectrum, the Rohingya sided with the British colonialists who ruled the country. On the other spectrum, the Buddhists mostly sided with Japanese invaders, hoping they’d help put an end to the British rule.

### ***“Stateless” Rohingyas***

Though their lineage could be traced back to 15th century Burma, the Rohingya minority continued to be an easy target in Myanmar, with the government continuing its efforts to force the Rohingya population out claiming them illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. This particular excuse Myanmar’s government cites resulted from a massive crackdown in 1978– Operation Dragon King. This event forced about 200,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh (the military reportedly used violence and rape to drive out the population, just like the current tactic implemented), and an estimated hundred and seventy thousand Rohingya reportedly returned to Burma after the incident.

Then after, the Myanmar government passed the Citizenship Act (1982) which recognizes 135 ethnic groups, all except the Rohingya. As such, the millions of Rohingyas who were not listed on the act became “stateless people”.

### ***Continued Efforts to Alienate the Rohingya Population***

Closely following the classification of Rohingyas as “intruders” in Myanmar, the government continued its efforts on alienating the ethnic group with its “Operation Clean and Beautiful Nation” in 1991 (around another 250,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh). Tensions continued to build against the Rohingyas in the 2000s. Violence broke out in 2012 when four Muslim men were accused of raping and killing a Buddhist woman in Rakhine. Buddhist nationalists backed by security forces neighborhoods took all kinds of actions against the Rohingya population for a so-called “revenge” for the victim which eventually displaced yet another tens of thousands of Rohingyas. At this point, the Human Rights Watch deemed the actions committed against the group as a cleansing campaign. The Rohingyas up to this point, were not only persecuted and disenfranchised, but also stateless.

In 2016, Arkan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA)– a Rohingya militant group– emerged and coordinated small-scale attacks on border police stations. An attack on 25 August 2017 left 12 police officers dead and sparked crisis against Rohingya civilians. A brutal retaliation by the state security forces has led to about 400 deaths and the mass exodus of an estimated 400,000 Rohingya to Bangladesh (the numbers are still rising today). The violent campaign has triggered the fastest-growing humanitarian crisis in recent years, but Myanmar’s de facto leader Aung Sun Suu Kyi has barely acknowledged the attacks and further denied the government’s association to these campaigns. This can be seen by how she backs her position by claiming that *“more than 50% of the villages of Muslim are intact and as they were before the attacks took place”*.

Myanmar’s government has systematically driven the Rohingya out of the country. Over the last five decades, it has stripped their citizenship, traumatized the group, destroyed their homes. Now, it wish to keep them from ever returning to the nation by means such as planting landmines along its borders with Bangladesh.

## **Key Issues**

### **Genocidal Campaigns on the minority groups in Syria**

The movement to advance responsible state behaviors for the religious/ ethnic minorities in Syria has been heading in a positive direction ever since the terrorist group ISIS launched genocidal campaigns in an attempt to systematically exterminate a variety of ethnic minority groups, including the Turks. Most notably, the US has been in the forefront to support Syria with its troops both on fighting ISIS and the aggression of neighboring Turkey from invading. Recently, however, a chain of concerning

actions of the US raised the attention of the international community. Heated debate and discussion following the US' decisions lead to discussion on two major topics listed in the sub-sections below, mainly in regards to the threat to international security stemming from the insecurity of Syria's limited power to maintain its support for its ethnic/ religious minority groups.

### ***Greenlight for Turkish Invasions in Syria***

On 6 October 2019, the Trump Administration announced its decision to withdraw troops from northern Syria in spite of recognizing the Turkish plan to invade the Kurdish-controlled Syrian areas. The problem complicates further after noting that those Kurdish-controlled areas are made up of anti-ISIS Kurdish forces, many of them the Syrian Democratic Forces who have been the US' strongest allies in the fight against ISIS. As a result, the US' withdrawal of troops potentially paves the way for ethnic cleansing of the Kurds by the Turks, and additionally create room for ISIS to regain its power.

### ***The Paradoxical Situation for the Collaboration on Combating ISIS***

The announcement, however, is definitely to the surprise of many. This is due to the fact that President Trump has previously warned President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (current Turkish president in power) that if they mess with its Turkish allies, there will be *"hell to pay"* back in January of 2019. Such an action leaves Syrian Kurds vulnerable to Turkey's intention to encroach on sovereign land and conduct unethical campaigns against the population. Not to mention, the Kurds were already under attack from the Assad Syrian government backed by Russia. The sudden change in the US' foreign policies is even more unexpected under the consideration that the Kurds had as previously stated, been the US' strongest allies to help combat ISIS in exchange for protection from the Syrian government and Turkey's ambitions to exterminate the group. According to various reports, the Kurdish militia is said to be holding more than 12,000 suspected ISIS members in seven prisons. In response to the actions the US conducted, however, the Kurdish forces have suspended all operations against the IS for the purpose of strengthening its own defense against the Turkish and Syrian forces.

### ***The Ongoing Situation***

However, the final outcome of the situation is still unclear. Even though the announcement the Trump administration has delivered indicated that there would be a withdrawal of "all" US forces from Syria, yet the New York Times also offered the alternative case as it states that officials indicated that the *"100 to 150 US military personnel deployed to that area would be pulled back in advance of any Turkish operation but that they would not be completely withdrawn"*

from Syria". Nonetheless, the rapid escalation of the situation comes just four days after the US' sudden change in policies, with Turkish forces already launching its ground offensives against the Kurdish militia.



**Caption #1: Putting aside the glorification of the US, notice how Trump does not mention anything about the well-being of the Kurds but only touches base on the aspect of ISIS**

## The Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar

Driven out of their homeland, and wanted by no one. Hundreds and thousands are stuck in the world's largest refugee camp. The Rohingya nightmare is decades old (as can be seen from the background section), yet there are signs UN figures and other international actors have long been reticent to pressure Myanmar on the rights of Rohingya. In some cases, there are even allegations that suggests that the international community have ignored warnings about ethnic cleansing altogether.

### ***Belated Responses from the UN and the International Community***

According to Michael Shaik, a former UN Human Rights officer who documents the persecution, the UN was "*fully aware of the situation*", and there were "*consistent allegations of crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing*". Yet, sources and documents presented how the UN leadership in Myanmar and New York favored a "*softer approach*" on the sensitive issue in dealings with the Myanmar government even after repeated violent episodes that left thousands of Rohingyas sequestered in internal camps and dependent of foreign aid. "*It was active denial.*"

*The leadership needed such a good new story in Myanmar that it prioritized this relationship with the Myanmar government over the people that it was in the business of protecting,”* Shaik added.

The need for a coherent strategy has been raised as a matter of urgency in a report back in the spring of 2017. Analyst Richard Horsey specified in his report that the UN need to “*be frank with the government*”, and there can be “*no silence on human rights*”. Furthermore, he stated that silent diplomacy should be combined with “*clear public messaging*”. Not to mention, Richard also predicted a high likelihood of an Rohingya militant attack along with a heavy-handed and indiscriminate response from the Myanmar military. Indeed, Richard’s warnings proved correct. What’s more to the situation is that it is now a fact that there are massacres taking place in the country, and thousands of people are now being starved and traumatized by the situation and thus takes the initiative of fleeing the country.

The questions over the international community’s tip-toeing in Myanmar date back a few years. According to a 2015 analysis prepared for the UN, the long history of the government’s abuses of power and threat of expulsion left the international community “*excessively apprehensive*”. Thomas Quintana, a special rapporteur for Myanmar for six years, described how it was hard to translate his warnings into concrete international action given that the government was “*smartly reacting and establishing a Rakhine commission*”. As such, the international community was “*relying on such an information despite the situation being clear that the government itself was involved in exacerbating the situation*”. The reticence said that the 2015 document meant the international community was “*sustaining internment camps*” and the “*near imprisonment of the Rohingya population without seeing any positive change*”. It also stated that any conceivable red-line was “*already passed*”.

### ***The Blame on the Inefficiency to Solving the Issue***

On one perspective, some placed the blame on the top UN official in the region, and claimed that the official favored economic development over pressure to advance human rights. Matthew Smith, a human rights advocate with fortified rights, expressed that the leadership wanted to “*stay in the good graces of the authority*”. To achieve this goal, he added, they “*avoided the difficult discussions on widespread and systematic human rights violence against the Rohingya population*”. Likewise, in a widely distributed exit report by a senior departing UN staff member mentioned how the UN “*discarded or simply ignored information... on the seriousness of the issue or that questioned the motives and role of the central and local authorities*”.

At best, another recent report offered the point of view that the UN and Myanmar is “*glaringly dysfunctional*” with “*strong tensions*” between its different arms compounded by the “*lack of accountability at the highest levels of the UN*” on the matter. The author of the text, Charles Patrick, argues that the main problem arises from the fact that the topic UN job in Myanmar isn’t a political post whilst it should be. “*If the person on the ground does not have oversight over all aspects of the UN’s response in the country, the UN is always going to be dysfunctional on the matter,*” Patrick concluded.

Complicating the international response to the issue is the position the current president in power– Aung Sung Suu Kyi– takes on for the issue. The supposed first-degree response to the crisis is certainly the Myanmar military and civilian government. At the same time, however, the international community had a duty to stand up for the rights of the Rohingya people. True, one could argue that the situation in Myanmar is extremely difficult to be dealt with, but the consequences of the complicit attitude the international community currently shows is mass atrocities. There must be more pressure exerted on the Myanmar government to put an end to the baneful situation.

### Uighurs in China’s “Job-Training Camps”

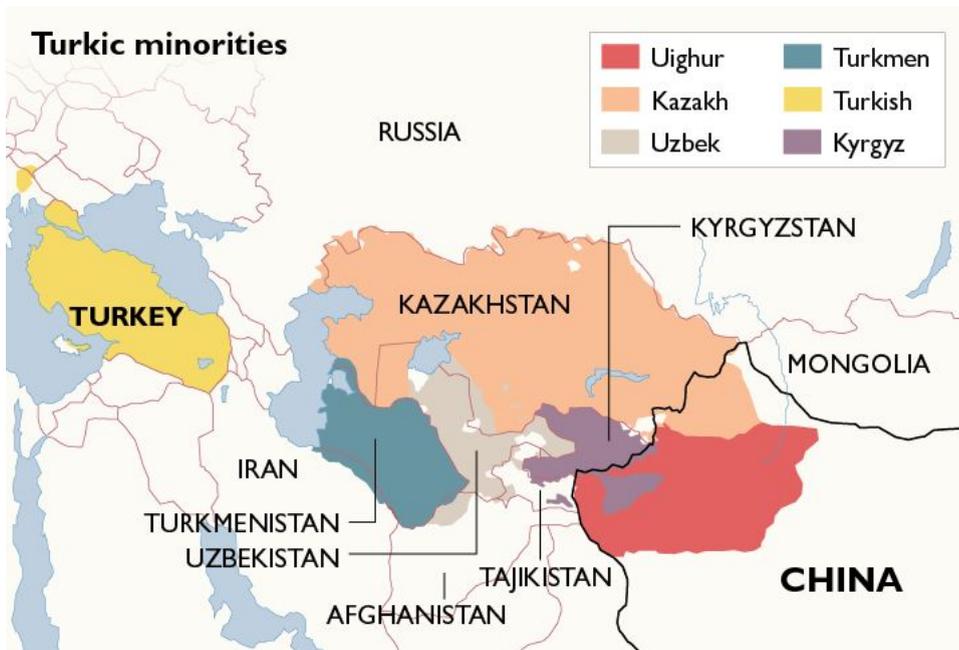
Muslims in the west of China are facing one of the worst examples of oppression and ethnic cleansing in the world today. As classified documents detailing treatment of Muslim minorities– the Uighurs– in the so-called “job-training camps” in Beijing were leaked, attention was brought to the world on how the government used mass surveillance and artificial intelligence (AI) to identify tens of thousands of people for interrogation or detention within a single week for the purpose of changing an entire minority population.

East Turkestan, home of the Muslim minority known as the Uighurs, has seen mass internment of an estimated two million civilians who face physical and mental torture until they renounce their faith. Despite being under Chinese control, Uighurs tend to have a closer ethnic and cultural connection to other Turkic people in Central Asia. In short, this means that apart from religion, the re-education camps are also aimed at wiping out the Uighur language, dress, and cultural practices. The Chinese government easily identified all its victims as it is as the world’s most extensively surveillance state.

The purpose of conducting such a complicated act is not simply to convert the Uighurs to become part of the Chinese majority. The scope of China’s ambitions expands to the point of the fact that the location of East Turkestan stands at the heart of its biggest global project today– the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This multi-billion dollar project creates the possibility for China to become an economic superpower, in competition with the US. Hence, the Chinese government ought to dominate the entire

region, and its urgency to complete the quest could be seen by the rapid actions to gather up the entirety of the population in such a short period of time.

The act of the Chinese government is both a cultural genocide and a coercive social re-engineering. In response to these publications, Beijing dismissed all the reports by calling the documents a “*pure fabrication*” and “*fake news*” (quoted from Liu Xiaoming’s speech in 18 November 2019, the Ambassador of China to the UK).



**Caption #2: Location of the Uighur in East Turkestan of China**



**Caption #3: East Turkestan at the heart of the BRI initiative**

## The Nuers and Other Ethnic Groups in South Sudan

Backed by the US, South Sudan successfully gained independence in 2011 as the world's youngest country. Yet, the country has moved in a direction opposite of advancement and development from 2013 on as it got caught in an endless civil war. As a matter of fact, the UN has previously warned that the ethnic cleansing campaign carried out by the South Sudanese government threatens to empty the country. Additionally, the UN has accused soldiers of the government's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) including mass killings, torturing, and raping of civilians as well as burning entire villages. The ongoing violence in the region has caused one of the greatest refugee crisis in Africa, as more than 1.7 million South Sudanese civilians have already fled to neighboring countries since the eruption of the civil war.

The beginning of the civil war was marked by the rift between South Sudan's president and vice president. An important aspect to note of the two candidates are the differences of their ethnic groups, for that the president Salva Kiir hails from the Dinka people (South Sudan's largest ethnic group) as opposed to Riek Machar who is from the Nuer. With this in mind, after Kiir dismissed Machar, the civil war began as an ethnic cleansing campaign in the capital after Machar declared to challenge Kiir for the presidency in the upcoming elections— elections that were never held. Kiir's troops first went throughout Juba, the capital of South Sudan, slaughtering civilians and soldiers of the Nuer ethnic group. Since then, the civil war has fractured in many ways, where its targets are not just limited to the Nuer but also other small ethnic minority groups in the south of the country— the Acholi people, Madi, Kuku, Kakwa, Azande— all being chased from the country. Apart from the refugee crisis caused by the war, the number of internally displaced persons (around 4 million people have now fled their homes), people suffering from hunger (an estimated 6 million people are currently severely food-insecure), and the ones that are on the brink of famine (roughly 1.7 million people as well) are also strikingly high. Be that as it may, the dire situation is not receiving enough attention from the international community, as the world's superpowers has yet to step up and pressure its government to put an end to the suffering of the South Sudanese citizens.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### The United States of America (USA)

The US, as the world's greatest superpower, has taken a rather bystander position on the topic of advancing responsible state behavior regarding support for ethnic/ religious minorities as a whole. Apart from occasional sanctions (military wise, financial wise, etc.) and publicly speaking to raise awareness on

respective issues, the US has not taken concrete actions to eliminate cases of violation of the rights of these minorities around the world. Yet, the US still strongly believes that the effort they have put into alleviating the situation is all that could have been done. Recently, the extent to which the US shrugs off its responsibility as a leading democratic power has gone further than ever, as can be seen from its decision to retract its protection for Kurds in Syria. According to President Trump, he claims that the US has stopped the Turkish forces from moving into Syria “*virtually the first day*” he was in office. Furthermore, Trump also claims that Turkey had “*committed itself to protect civilians, religious minorities and ensuring no humanitarian crisis takes place*”. More of its decision to draw itself out of the situation shows as Trump has also tweeted back on 13 October 2019 that is was “*very smart not to be involved in the intense fighting along the Turkish Border, for a change*”.

## Myanmar

Myanmar “may have used” disproportionate forces against Rohingya Muslims, but there is “no proof of genocidal intent”. This is the defense claimed by President Aung Sung Suu Kyi of Myanmar, as she addressed the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as her country stands accused of genocide. In addition, she blames the violence that forced hundreds of thousands to flee Rakhine state on an internal armed conflict, but made no reference to graphic accounts heard by the court of mass killings, gang rapes, and the many cases of burnt villages. Suu Kyi explained that the conflict started back in 2016 when Rohingya militants attacked an army post and nine police officers were killed. In essence, the army then responded with “clearance operations” which were legitimate to “clear the area of terrorists or insurgents”. Still and all, the president did concede that mistakes “may have been made”, but she strongly emphasizes her position for that the Rohingya genocide case is “incomplete and incorrect”.

## The People's Republic of China (PRC)

Like Myanmar, China traces its actions against the Uighurs by referring to an incident of a violent attack conducted by the group. Back in the 2014 surge in anti-government protests and ethnic violence by Uighurs, president Xi Jinping reportedly delivered a series of internal speeches following his visit to the area, where he mentioned that Beijing “must be as harsh as them” and “show no mercy”.

In regards to the “vocational training centers” for the Uighurs, the New York Times says that it obtained four hundred pages of such document, where some of it specifically informs officials how to explain the disappearance of parents and family to Uighur college students returning home on school breaks. Beijing did not deny the authenticity of the documents, but described the report as “a clumsy patchwork of selective interpretation”. “*The New York Times used dubious tactics of changing context and taking meaning out of context to publicize so-called internal documents. China would never be soft*”.

*in its fight against violent terrorists and it will spare no effort in protecting the safety of its people's lives,"* said Geng Shuang, a Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman.

## South Sudan

The United Nations Commission for Human Rights has been traveling to South Sudan to assess the situation in the region. Reports on its findings said that it observed a steady process of ethnic cleansing including massacres, forced starvation, gang rape and the destruction of villages. However, President Kiir strongly denies the UN allegations of ethnic cleansing in his country and claims that there is no such as ethnic cleansing in South Sudan".

## Timeline of Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

Date	Description of event
April 24 <sup>th</sup> , 1915- 1917	<p data-bbox="432 958 708 990"><b>Armenian Genocide</b></p> <p data-bbox="432 1021 1437 1104">A systematic mass extermination and expulsion of 1.5 million ethnic Armenians within the Ottoman Empire from its government.</p>
January 1938	<p data-bbox="432 1171 815 1202"><b>Nanking/ Nanjing Massacre</b></p> <p data-bbox="432 1234 1477 1368">Also known as the Rape of Nanking, the event was an episode of mass murder and rape conducted by the Japanese troops against residents of Nanking during the Second Sino-Japanese War.</p>
1941-1945	<p data-bbox="432 1406 635 1438"><b>The Holocaust</b></p> <p data-bbox="432 1469 1474 1603">Also known as the Shoah, the event was the genocide of European Jews during World War II by Germany's Nazis, where around some six million Jews were murdered (around 2/3 of Europe's Jewish population).</p>
6 <sup>th</sup> April, 1992- 14 <sup>th</sup> December, 1995-	<p data-bbox="432 1641 611 1673"><b>Bosnian War</b></p> <p data-bbox="432 1704 1409 1787">An international armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one of the most pronounced wars from the chain of violent incidents in the Yugoslav Wars</p>
16 <sup>th</sup> December, 2005	<p data-bbox="432 1825 999 1856"><b>Global Endorsement of the R2P Doctrine</b></p> <p data-bbox="432 1888 1126 1915">Explained in Introduction and Past Attempts sections.</p>

## Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- Letter Dated 9 February 1993 from the Secretary-General Addressed to the President of the Security Council, 10 February 1993 ([S/25274](#))
- Letter Dated 24 May 1994 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council, 27 May 1994 ([S/1994/674](#))
- Implementing the responsibility to protect, 12 January 2009 ([A/63/677](#))
- Resolution 2117, 26 September 2013 ([S/RES/2117](#))
- Resolution 2150, 16 April 2015 ([S/RES/2150](#))
- Resolution 2170, 15 August 2015 ([S/RES/2170](#))
- Resolution 2171, 21 August 2014 ([S/RES/2171](#))
- Resolution 2254, 18 December 2015 ([S/RES/2254](#))
- Resolution 2290, 31 May 2016 ([S/RES/2290](#))
- Resolution 2232, 21 December 2016 ([S/RES/2332](#))
- Resolution 2387, 15 November 2017 ([S/RES/2387](#))
- Resolution 2399, 30 January 2018 ([S/RES/2399](#))
- Resolution 2419, 6 June 2018 ([S/RES/2419](#))
- Resolution 2428, 13 July 2018 ([S/RES/2428](#))
- Resolution 2457, 27 February 2019 ([S/RES/2457](#))
- Resolution 2459, 15 March 2019 ([S/RES/2459](#))

## Evaluation of Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

### The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) Doctrine

As has been previously brought up in the introduction section, all nations signed onto the R2P Doctrine in a 2005 UN summit, yet so many different nations still continue its unjust actions. The R2P Doctrine stands for the purpose where if a state is unable or unwilling to protect its own population, other states or organizations (or rather, the international community as a whole) have an obligation to do so. It emerged that by the end of the Cold War, the violent end of Yugoslavia shocked the conscience of neighboring states. Henceforth, an eventual intervention was put forth to stop the bloodshed in Bosnia. From that successful precedent came the next precedent, and out of that came a doctrine of humanitarian intervention, which then morphed into the R2P Doctrine. The response could take forms such as that of prevention or mediation. It doesn't have to mean armed intervention with military force, but simply the idea of what goes on in a particular region stays in the area is wrong in the international community. The R2P hopes to tell nations that sovereignty is not something absolute, but must be

returned by upholding its duty to commit oneself to protect its population. If this duty is not fulfilled, the international community will most definitely take over that role of the government to protect. In reality, so many cases including the few in the aforementioned sections are begging for responsibility to protect, yet no one is willing to stand out to show responsibility. Consequently, the doctrine itself does set up the framework to mark the wrongdoings of these nations, but does not attain the goal of drawing the international community in effectively as nations do not feel obligated to complete this task of protecting the minorities.

### **Sanctions by the World's Superpowers**

Occasionally, the approach most commonly taken by different countries is undoubtedly different kinds of sanctions on nations who are infringing the rights of ethnic and religious minorities. However, it is clear that these sanctions are definitely proving ineffective. The most compelling example would be that of the Rohingya crises of Myanmar, with the UN and multiple other nations aiming to end the endless conflict through imposing embargoes or sanctions, yet the conflict still urges on today.

### **Possible Solutions**

As the world continues to see acts of ethnic cleansing over and over again, it is time the international community come together to legally define it and classify it as an international crime. By giving a clear distinction of ethnic cleansing from genocide and classifying it as a crime, countries like Myanmar could no longer defend itself using loopholes of such to claim the rightfulness of its actions.

Additionally, the international community must step up and fulfill the duties as stated in the R2P doctrine, no matter through modifying the doctrine itself or by forming a new platform to achieve the goal. Of course, one could argue that sanctions alone would be enough to pressure nations from refraining its unlawful actions. Still, delegates must keep in mind that it has been clear that the previous attempts for multiple nations to tackle the issue at hand in such a mindset has not received positive results.

Delegates should build their clauses and resolution based on the ideology to strengthen the support and attention the international community oughts to give the ethnic and religious minorities currently suffering from under-representation, and further develop on other solutions according to the respective views of their delegations (the report could not generalize this due to the fact that nations have extremely differing views on the solutions that should be implemented).

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