

INTERNATIONAL PRESS BACKGROUND GUIDE



**JOURNALISM, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND
CARICATURE**

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

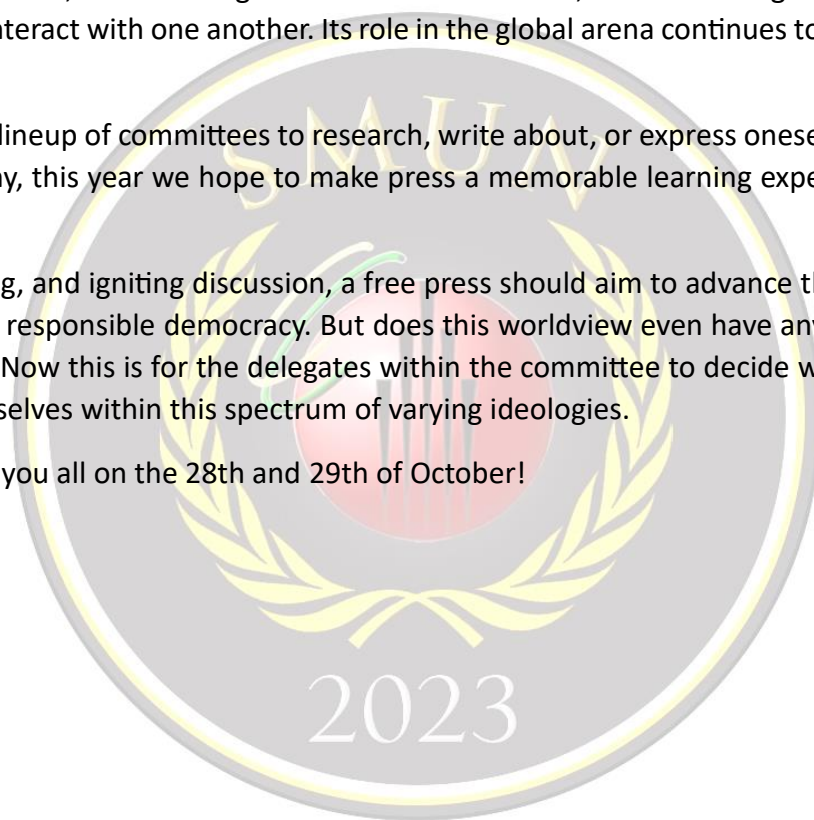
Greetings delegates!

It's our greatest privilege to be able to introduce to you International Press at SMUN 2023. A committee characterized by creativity, inquisitiveness and efficiency is all geared up to welcome all delegates who wish to delve deeper into the world of global politics, diplomacy and international relations. By influencing public opinion, disseminating information, holding leaders responsible, and fostering contact between nations, media has a significant impact on how nations interact with one another. Its role in the global arena continues to be of immense significance.

With a strong lineup of committees to research, write about, or express oneself via caricature or photography, this year we hope to make press a memorable learning experience for each one of you.

By condemning, and igniting discussion, a free press should aim to advance the fundamental principles of a responsible democracy. But does this worldview even have any support in the media today? Now this is for the delegates within the committee to decide where they want to place themselves within this spectrum of varying ideologies.

Hoping to see you all on the 28th and 29th of October!



WORKING OF THE COMMITTEE

1) FORMAL SESSION

I. Roll Call

The committee commences by a formal roll call, which is done once at the start of the first committee session on each day of the conference. In International Press we would be entertaining two types response to the roll call:

- Present
- Absent

(Note: Present and voting is not applicable to International Press considering that it is void of any kind of documentation)

II. GSL (General Speaker's List)

A general speakers list is established post the roll call wherein the delegates would be presenting their opening statements. The opening statement should include a brief insight to their respective news agency's history and beliefs. The statements must be made keeping in mind their political biases. Delegates may also include measure to combat yellow journalism and ensuring safety of press in war stricken areas. **(Time limit- 90 seconds) (A sample GSL has been given in Annexure 1)**

III. Yields

In cases where the delegate does not use the complete 90 seconds given to him/her, the remaining time can be yielded in the following ways:

- 1) Yield to the Chair meaning you give up the rest of your time.
- 2) Yield to another delegate meaning you give up the rest of your time to another delegate.
- 3) Yield to questions from other delegates or Yield to comments to your speech by other delegates

IV. Points

1. **Point of Inquiry:** used when a delegate has a question about something that is not clearly understood in committee. Use this to ask a question if you don't understand a term or get what's going on in committee!
2. **Point of Personal Privilege:** used when a delegate experiences personal discomfort that hinders their ability to participate in committee. Examples: temperature of room, distractions during committee, can't hear another delegate, etc.
3. **Point of Order** (also called **Point of Parliamentary Procedure**): used when a delegate believes that there was a mistake made regarding the rules of procedure

2) INFORMAL/ REPORTING SESSION

For a reporting session, the correspondents decide whether to attend committee proceedings or remain in their respective rooms to complete their tasks. If a delegate chooses to do the former, it must be noted that members of the press are not allowed to interfere with committee procedure. They must simply observe it. However, delegates are permitted and highly encouraged to communicate, question, and clarify issues with delegates using chits. They may approach the Executive Board if very important.

The tasks to be carried out during the reporting sessions would be given during the course of the conference itself.



JOURNALISTS



■ **TYPE OF ARTICLES**

(All samples are given in Annexure 1)

i) Beat

Maximum word count: 350–400

Beat reporting, also known as specialised reporting, is a genre of journalism that demands a writer to devote a significant amount of time to a single issue, subject, or topic. Usually, a reporter's beat is the topic they focus on. A journalist would simply be providing a summary of committee activities through a beat. The beat may centre on a specific subtopic on the committee's agenda, a noteworthy conversation occurring within the committee, or an intriguing situation that emerges within the committee. It is more of an account of what happened from which the writer may infer inferences that support their prejudice.

All assertions, however, have to be supported by data, including research, delegate remarks, committee events, and other sources.

ii) Op-ed

Maximum word count: 500–600

An opinion editorial is an ideal platform for journalists to demonstrate their writing abilities. Members of IP may utilise this platform to present strong arguments that support their viewpoint while exposing the prejudice within their organisation.

In order to convince their readers of their point of view and win them over, delegates are required to voice their opinions and highlight the weaknesses in the opposing viewpoint. This article includes a detailed examination of the committee's agenda. Journalists are required to adhere to a specific format for this piece, which consists of a thesis, a thoroughly researched argument, and workable answers. Generally speaking, op-eds are strongly held essays that focus on pertinent issues and offer convincing answers.

iii) Analytical

Maximum word count: 500–600

An opinion editorial is an ideal platform for journalists to demonstrate their writing abilities. Members of IP may utilise this platform to present strong arguments that support their viewpoint while exposing the prejudice within their organisation.

In order to convince their readers of their point of view and win them over, delegates are required to voice their opinions and highlight the weaknesses in the opposing viewpoint. This article includes a detailed examination of the committee's agenda. Journalists are required to adhere to a specific format for

this piece, which consists of a thesis, a thoroughly researched argument, and workable answers. Generally speaking, op-eds are strongly held essays that focus on pertinent issues and offer convincing answers.

iv) Press-con critique

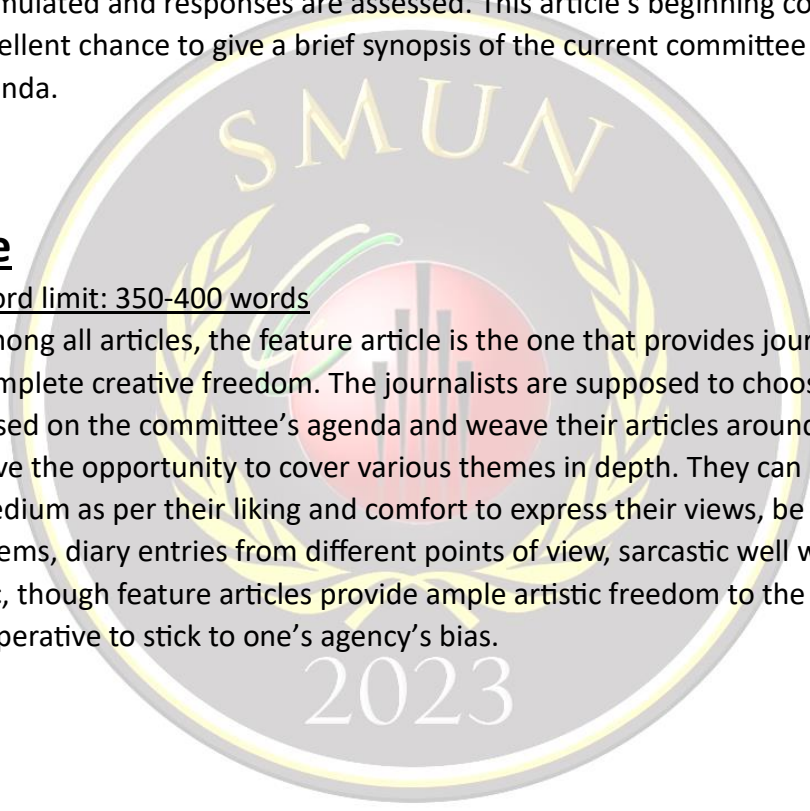
Maximum word count: 350–400

The press conference is followed by a press conference critique, in which each journalist is expected to give a shrewd assessment of the events while taking into account their own agency bias. The journalists in this article need to analyse both the question and the responses given by the people who were questioned. They had to evaluate the answers they got, concentrating on the reasons why they weren't up to par. The agency's prejudice is a major factor in how questions are formulated and responses are assessed. This article's beginning could be an excellent chance to give a brief synopsis of the current committee dynamics and agenda.

v) Feature

Word limit: 350-400 words

Among all articles, the feature article is the one that provides journalists with complete creative freedom. The journalists are supposed to choose a theme based on the committee's agenda and weave their articles around it. Delegates have the opportunity to cover various themes in depth. They can choose any medium as per their liking and comfort to express their views, be it through poems, diary entries from different points of view, sarcastic well written pieces, etc, though feature articles provide ample artistic freedom to the writer, it is imperative to stick to one's agency's bias.



▪ **IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION**

Font- EB Garamond			Colour- Default (Black)	
Text Type	Size	Alignment	Type	Example
Title	16	Centre	Bold	Title
Byline	14	Centre	Italics	<i>Byline</i>
Quotes (at beginning or end)	12	Centre	Italics	<i>“Journalism is the first rough draft of history”</i>
Name of the person quoted	12	Right-Aligned	None	- First name Surname
Main Body	12	Justified	None	This is an example paragraph for the body, displaying size 12 and ‘justified’ alignment.

- Journalists need to be aware that all articles need to be sent in an editable Google Doc format and sent to internationalpress.smun2023@gmail.com
- During debating sessions and in articles, all delegates are required to abstain from using personal pronouns. Only feature stories and other non-essential items are exempt.
- The byline has to contain the journalist's name, the designated news agency, and a succinct explanation of the article's goal.
Example: The Pioneer's XYZ carefully examines the current agenda.
- The Google Document name that has the article in it should be structured as AgencyName_CommitteeName_Article type.

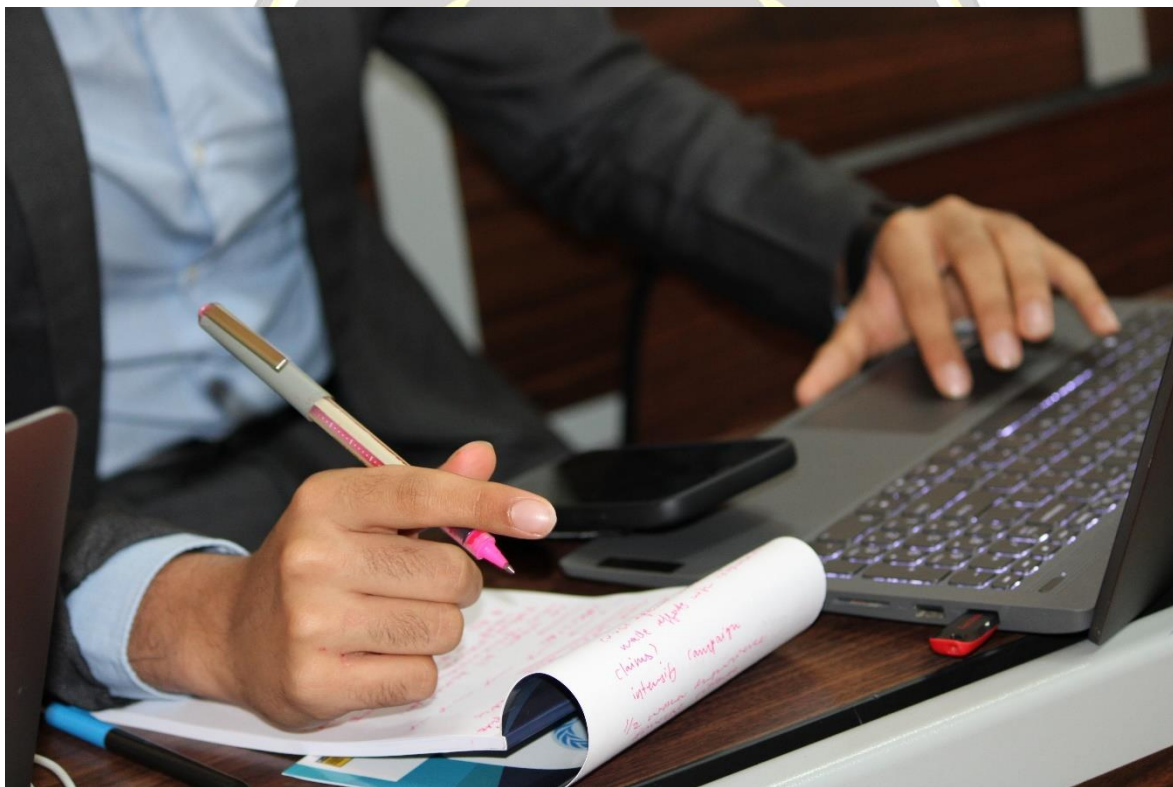


PHOTOGRAPHERS

● INSTRUCTIONS

1. A DSLR is mandatory.
2. Photography from phones/tablets would **not** be permitted.
3. Carry a pen-drive.
4. Photographers must submit, at the end of each session:
 - At least 30 photographs showing all members of a council/committee including the EBs in different perspectives including but not limited to candid.
 - At least 10 of them should be at the time of a moderated caucus or a procedural vote when placards are raised;
5. Special tasks would be given for each committee session as well.

SAMPLE PHOTOGRAPHS





- **Judgement criteria:**

1. Technical excellence (blur, lighting, contrast, angle, colour balance, exposure, sharpness, colour and tonal rendition).
2. Creativity, Style and Photographic vision.
3. Clear and impactful focus on the subject.
4. Composition of the photo, i.e., what is being covered and the colour balance is maintained or manipulated to give a better picture.
5. Visual and aesthetic criteria (framing of the picture, elements and the principle, visual impact and background).
6. Content (emotion, information, ideology, feeling, mood, communication meaning and subject impact).
7. Activity during the conference (how much does the photographer move, does the photographer create any kind of disturbance during the committee sessions, whether every part of the conference is covered or not)





"A picture is worth a thousand words" stands now true more than ever. As a caricaturist, you have the power to create whatever happens in committee and combine that with your artistic freedom to create a visual representation of the debate that takes place. As a caricaturist, one must not always strive to "beautify" their work. Instead, highlight their conduct through wit, humour, and imitation. Important points to keep in mind:

Guidelines:

- Gather knowledge - Research on the issue you have chosen in great depth and give a quick read to the background guides of the committees. Choose your stance- After learning about the committee and its related topics, choose a way about how you would want to go about it, you either go against or for the motion.
- Add dialogues- Caricatures can be made much more effective and understandable through use of speech bubbles and quotes.
- Caricaturist must vary their own stationary and other required supplies.
- NOTE: All cartoons must be submitted to us physically as well as mailed to us in the form of a jpeg. (Those doing digital art would only make the submission by mail)
- The name of the cartoonist, committee assigned and task number must be written in pencil on the back of the page. While submitting us an image the following format is to be followed:
Yourname_ CommitteeAssigned_ Task no._ Day (For example:
Maanya_ WHO_ Task2_ Day2)
- Cartoons must be creative. While we refrain from curbing creative freedom in any way whatsoever, we request that the submissions must not contain borderline obscenity.
- Parameters of judgement
 1. Artistic
 2. dexterity
 3. Expression
 4. Overall meaning it conveys
 5. Satire and humour/Impact

SAMPLE CARICATURES



ANNEXURE 1

1. Sample GSL

“In a time of deceit telling the truth is a revolutionary act.”

Interfax, a Rунet Prize recipient for 'Culture, Media, and Mass Communications,' serves as an objective, dependable, and comprehensive source of information. Interfax has served a dual role for more than 30 years, first as a provider of *high-quality news* and other as a provider of *professional IT solutions*.

Established in 1989, it emerged as the first non-governmental news agency in the USSR. Primarily concerned with the political and economic development of Russia and the former Soviet Union. Interfax expanded its operations by building subsidiary agencies in the 1990s. It also established subsidiaries in post-Soviet states, first in Ukraine (1992), then in Belarus (1993), Kazakhstan (1996), and finally in Azerbaijan (2002).

In honour of the 25th anniversary of the Interfax group, the book *Interfax: Breaking into Global News* by 'Oliver Boyd Barrett' was published highlighting the rise of Interfax in the sphere of media. Interfax values the ethics of reporting news. Propaganda mustn't overshadow truth, especially in times of war and unrest. The sorrows of victims should be presented with compassion and sympathy. Interfax strongly believes that humanitarian crises are meant to be covered without alteration in facts and solutions ought to be formulated after keeping in mind the effect they would have on the victims of the crisis. It has been providing authentic and unbiased news and will continue to do the same during this conference.

2. Sample Beat

Unity in Directives: Still to be Found

Ambreen Gill of Interfax News Agency analysis the working paper proposed by the USA bloc.

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture has moved past deliberation and debate. Delegates have adopted a more solution-oriented approach to move the committee forward. The Executive Board recognised working papers from four of the blocs formed within the committee. The session was characterised by the introduction of the 'Working paper' by the delegates of *United States, Peru, and the French Republic*.

The documentation clearly demonstrates the preventive and precautionary approach of the bloc towards the agenda. The working paper mentioned the need to collaborate with the World Health Organisation in order to keep in check the quality of hygiene in the prisons and the deteriorating health of the prisoners. Another major suggestion provided by the bloc was the Creation of *a code of conduct* for increasing the transparency of transactions that deal with allocation of funds to camps.

The committee proceeded the formal session by a clause-by-clause discussion of the working paper. The delegate of Denmark cited the Clause 2 (a)¹ and questioned that why would a detention camp allow any kind of external intervention for the provision of hygiene. The delegate of the United States provided a clarification by saying that detention facilities could largely be of two kinds, one is intentional and are mostly built in war-stricken countries with the purpose of torturing detainees while the others are unintentional and develop an offensive motive with time. By stating this the delegate of the United States said that *Operative Clauses* in the working paper are strictly restricted to providing solutions to aid the lives of prisoners and escapees of unintentional detention camps, most of whom would be willing to allow intervention.

The working paper raised several doubts and required plenty of clarification, but the broader picture remains uncertain. Three working papers are yet to be introduced and the expectations from those would be to be able to provide rather more practical and radical solutions. The committee seems to be divided in the vision it holds for the agenda at hand. Will the difference of ideas between Cuba and the United States on the Guantanamo Bay remain unresolved? Will nobody address the need to be united?

***1- Clause 2(a)- Collaborating with the 'World Health Organization (WHO), workers of this group can set up visits to check the conditions of hygiene in the prisons*

3. Sample Analytical

Ambreen Gill of Interfax News Agency scrutinizes the agenda of the Subcommittee on prevention of torture.

"The point of modern propaganda isn't only to misinform or push an agenda. It is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth."

-Garry Kasparov

The initial concentration camps were built in Nazi Germany, as a part of Hitler's vision of *extermination of Jews, Poles and physically disabled* from Germany. Only Nordic Aryans were considered fit enough to continue their race. The rest, commonly termed as the '*undesirables*' were brutally tortured and subsequently taken to gas chambers and killed.

The term 'concentration camp' has resurfaced again after the 1940s, the countries accused of being hosts to modern day concentration camps have denied the claims made by the media. They state that the camps certainly exist but not as hubs of rape, harassment, and mass genocide but as 're-education camps' and those made for 'ethnic cleansing'.

Russia for instance has been condemned by leaders and media officials worldwide for the torture camps that they believe are used as detention centres for Ukrainians. Russia has never denied these claims entirely but instead states that these camps are not an offensive measure rather a defensive and precautionary one to protect the sovereignty of the country. There have been various entities who claim to be victims of torture at such camps, but several of them have been proven false and bribed. China is to a great extent a culturally homogenous nation-state but one of the few minorities to exist is that of the Uighur Muslims. They form a large proportion of the population in the western part of China, which is the autonomous territory of *Xinjiang*. In recent years, there have been increasing talks about the forceful detention of Uighur Muslims at Chinese ethnic cleansing camps. Chinese government has accepted the presence of these camps and strongly affirms that their actions in these camps are '*justifiable responses to the threats of extremism and terrorism.*'

The crimes against humanity committed during the reign of Hitler were extreme and were necessary to be condemned but does the world actually believe that the holocaust is being recreated? Is it possible in the twenty first century to carry out such mass scale operations without the national and international bodies, equipped with the best technologies, getting verified and reliable proofs for the same?

Currently, our beliefs are being controlled and altered by those in power. Conscious thinking is being directed by modern propaganda. The western media often tends to exemplify atrocities to mould public opinion their favour.

Torturing innocent people is not justified by any means but so is staying silent and ignoring factors that could pose a national threat. What the global community requires is a version of truth that is complete, unbiased and non-extremist in its view on such humanitarian issues. Only then can the international community derive a common consensus.

4. Sample Press-con critique

Uncertainty Prevails

Ambreen Gill of Interfax News Agency analyses the Press conference conducted during committee proceedings within the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

At exactly 12:46 p.m., the Subcommittee for Prevention of Torture was tasked with the obligation to answer the journalists of the United Nations Correspondents Association. From the answers received, to the questions asked, by Ambreen Gill, it can be perceived that common consensus and solutions favouring humanitarian aid still require tedious and monotonous discussions.

The first question was posed by the journalist to the delegate of South Africa. The question was regarding the statement made by the delegate on the conversation between the Minister of International Relations of South Africa i.e. Naledi Pandor, and the Minister of Health of Uganda, Jane Ruth Aceng. The question enquired about the accuracy of the claims of disassociation made by the delegate of South Africa from any kind of malpractice in the Sanofi Pharmacy. The delegate answered that South Africa only claims to have monetary ties with the Sanofi pharmacy and has no intimation regarding the use of escapees as test subjects and forced labourers.

The answer was not satisfactory as, any monetary transaction cannot be completed without prior knowledge of the cause, for which the funds are required. And even if the pharmacy provided false information, it is the responsibility of the South African government to be completely aware of the transactions they make as they are of global importance.

The journalist formulated made a follow-up question to the answer provided before and further inquired asked that considering the monetary ties between the government and Sanofi pharmacy, did has South Africa make made any substantial efforts to investigate deeper into the methods enforced within the pharmacy. To this, the delegate responded affirmatively and stated that necessary measures were are being adopted. The journalist will keep up with updates on whether or not the necessary action has been taken as stated by the delegate.

The next question was directed asked towards the delegate of Russia. It questioned the legitimacy of Russia's so-called 'Special military operations' in Ukraine and how the detention of new-born children and breastfeeding mothers in such terrible conditions was being justified by the government.

The delegate did not seem comfortable answering the question, while answering he indirectly accepted the extreme conditions to which the detainees are exposed to. This showed the gullibility of Russia in the current scenario and the questionable stance that the country holds.

Overall, the press conference came out to be an apt representation of the committee's progress on the agenda at hand. Negotiations still are to be made, and the stance of some countries remains ever uncertain.

5. Sample Feature

POV: Putin's Hitler Fixation

Ambreen Gill of Interfax News Agency would like to bring into light an underrated relationship between two world leaders

While all delegates were scrutinizing the motive of modern-day concentration camps, the Russian delegate felt slightly left out and during the first committee session of the 'Subcommittee on Prevention of torture' made a profound statement on fundamental rights, respect for national security, and sovereignty of nations.

Russia's war on Ukraine...

Oh, apologies. Russia's ongoing 'Special Military Operation' in Ukraine certainly stands in favour of these claims (high sarcasm intended). Territories acquired in Ukraine are believed to serve as 're-education' camps (definitely not concentration camps).

Every action is being given a pseudonym, a name that tends to overshadow the actual motive of their actions. Such efforts to deflect and mislead the global community take us back to the reign of Hitler, more like the reign of terror. This makes one subconsciously correlate the vision of Putin to that of Adolf Hitler. Putin's admiration for Hitler's work habits is not something hidden from our eyes. In every address, Vladimir Putin refrains from showing the slightest hint of remorse or empathy. The holocaust is a terrible past, and after more than 7 decades, any attempt to again commit those crimes against humanity should be given room for dialogue and discussion and solutions shall be retrieved on immediate basis.

The world must view this humanitarian crisis as a threat to not only Ukraine, but a threat posed to the entire world economy and security. Any attempt to put curtains on facts must be recognised, discouraged, and condemned by all. *(Leaving everything aside I genuinely SHIP Putin and Hitler. Just need to figure out who is the more dominating partner)*

6. Sample Op-ed

Human Rights: A Requirement, Not An Option

Ambreen Gill of the Interfax News Agency elucidates the agenda at hand along with the happenings in the committee.

The world has shifted its attention from what is of utmost importance, which is our very own *humanitarian rights*. Instances of infringement of human rights resurface throughout the course of history. Each time the atrocities and crimes against humanity worsen in their intensity. World leaders tend to side-line basic rights such as the *right to speech, the right to propagate a religion of one's choice, and often even the right to freedom of the press*. In order to cover up their own wrongdoings, censorship, and bribery are adopted in matters associated with the media and press by leaders and authorities present in the higher realms of governance.

The history of concentration camps dates to 1933 in Nazi Germany. This period is highlighted by the establishment of extermination centres for torture and mass-scale killing of the *Jews, the Polish, and the physically disabled*. By 1939, the time when Germans were successful in annexing Poland, Germany had already established 6 concentration camps. The operations within these camps took place in an extremely unmerciful manner.

The Nazi government, under Adolf Hitler, managed to carry out the operations in a secretive fashion. The journalist of Interfax news agency considers the holocaust to be the most terrifying and overwhelming incident in history to date. The pain and suffering of the victims can still be felt if one ever gets to go and pay homage to any of these former camps. The gas chambers used for killing, or what the Nazis would have referred to as *the final solution*, carry with them memories of the most horrific aspects of a Nazi camp.

After the 1940s, there were talks about concentration camps being established with a new agenda and vision. Russia is currently being accused of maintaining Ukrainian detention camps, where they adopt brutal methods of torture without reluctance. Chinese camps which are supposedly 'ethnic cleansing' camps for the Uighur Muslims, are accused of ostracization of the religious minority.

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture delves deep into the rising accusations regarding modern-day concentration camps. In order to derive a consensus, various backroom negotiations between major global leaders are being carried out. The ongoing crisis revolves around the exploitation of the victims that have managed to escape the life of torture at the concentration camps. The representative of Interfax news agency considers this debate as one of the most crucial ones, it would not only lead the committee to practical solutions but also provide safeguards to victims which is crucial in present times.

The Russian stance on the matter remains uncertain, there have been no substantial solutions or negotiations initiated till now, even though that is what would actually make a difference. Covering up crimes by giving them pseudonyms will be of no benefit to humanity. China needs to take relevant steps to ensure the security of religious minorities within their country.

The representative of Interfax is of the opinion that the need of the hour is to eliminate any matter that would diverge the committee from the agenda at hand. Victims of these camps require humanitarian aid on an immediate basis and it is for the international community to collectively decide whether to invest this time in providing relief to those suffering or to beat around the bush and continue indulging in controversies and matters that divert the committee from the agenda.

