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The Opening Ceremony

Melisa Aşçı

Today, on the 17th of March 2023, another annual session of Hisar Junior Model United Nations (JMUN) was declared open. Hosting students from all over the world, the conference is the 17th to be hosted by Hisar Schools. Despite the challenges that the world has faced in the past three years, this year's conference was declared as one of the largest in its recent history, and consists of 20 committees and 500 delegates. "Not through computers but in a room full of young and intellectual minds." says Ayşe Yalçın, the Secretary General.

The theme of the conference and internal debates are: "A World in Harmony: Creating a future of mitigated polarization by addressing ongoing crises." It speaks to the critical needs for concerted action to confront the multitude of challenges facing our world. As President of the General Assembly Can Aymen highlighted in his speech, the theme of the year is connected to the main goal of the conference which is to engage in meaningful discussions, focus on overlooked issues with holistic and collaborative



approach and solutions that aim to resolve issues that have implications for all countries while simultaneously being a part of constructive and robust but respective debates.

The Opening Ceremony started with condolences being wished and a moment of silence for those affected by the recent earthquake in Türkiye. Afterwards, the ceremony continued with a speech from our keynote speaker Dr. Altay Atılı, a distinguished scholar who

has made significant contributions in the field of international relations. He was born in 1974, Stuttgart, (then-West) Germany but has spent most of his life in Istanbul. After graduating from the German High School in Istanbul, he obtained his degree in Economics from Boğaziçi University and, currently is a lecturer at Koç University and a part of the Asian Studies Center Program of Boğaziçi University in Türkiye. Doctor Atlı has also written several articles, including ones about the Turkish region, Regional Security and Global Business. He also worked as a research coordinator at Turkey's Foreign Economic Relations Board and was chosen as a "Global Emerging Voices Fellow" by Torino World Affairs Institute and recognized as a "Young Academics Fellow" by the Global Relations Forum.



Our keynote speaker Mr. Atlı began his speech by emphasizing the importance of youth's voices in policy making, business and such fields while also using it as a tool to kick off the topic of "globalization." He underlined the value of diverse perspectives, interpretations and realities of different countries that have differently centered world maps while also pointing out the dissimilarity of education between each educational institution. To obtain a better understanding and connect the dots within the system, a multi-dimensional approach and understanding of the meaning behind "Globalization" is needed.



Globalization is a complex web of interconnectedness, all events that occur by the decisions that are made in great distances. With globalization, the importance of territorial borders and geographical differences decrease and as a population, we get more connected to each other, especially with the new opportunities that technology provides.

Mr. Atlı continued his speech with "economic interdependence" as a key to understanding international affairs. The difference between leading economies of the world now and the past, he says, is the economic interdependence facilitated by global polarization, technology, goods and services of today's world. The competition between governments is high, he adds, but they are still dependent on each other in ways. For example, if the Chinese government collapses, the United States will go down with it due to interdependencies, specifically with the financial debt support and market trades factors. To conclude, he talked about the concept of Security as a changing force and while in the 18s and 19s it was more about state and military forces, it is currently the subject of global, regional and individual human security with globalization.



It was inspiring to hear our keynote speaker's speech. We thank Mr. Atlı for his speech and the innovative perspective that he has brought to the audience.

The platform that brings young leaders from all around the world: Hisar JMUN 23' begins!

Hisar's First Face-to-Face Conference in 2 Years

Lal Acar

On Hisar School's "Prep Day," March 16, as students sat down together to put up banners and fold dossiers, talking and chatting amongst themselves (of course, there was a substantial amount of running and panicking as well), one could very much feel the spirit of HISMUN return to the classrooms of the school. Seeing as the conference had been held online in 2020 and partially-online last year, "an atmosphere of camaraderie and connectivity was hard to maintain while keeping up engagement," said Kerim Willems, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Organ Committees. "I'm glad we can hold the conference face-to-face this year."

"I never thought I would have the privilege to bring back a tradition, but I am so grateful to be able to do so." - Ayşe Yalçın

For HISMUN 2023, preparations were plenty: classrooms were arranged, teams put together, badges printed, stages set and speeches written. Victoria Sevil, the PR and Content Manager for this year's JMUN, said, "My first time as the PR and Content Manager, and I never want to see another badge again." When asked, Melis Akar, Deputy Secretary General and Chief Operating Officer, told us that the preparation process has been going on since September, when the academic year of 2022-23 first began.



"We're all feeling a little tired right now, but I'm sure the end result will be worth it. Seeing everyone back at school and excited for the conference helps immensely; hopefully it'll be a great year for all of us."

The school's students coming together to "set the stage" for this year's JMUN stirred up plenty of emotions within students. Whereas first-time participants felt excited, those with experience felt nostalgic. Our Secretary General, Ayşe Yalçın, remarked, "I never thought I would have the privilege to bring back a tradition, but I am so grateful to be able to do so." Similarly, the Crisis Manager, Lara Küçükyumuk, contributed with these words: "I'm so excited to finally have a face-to-face conference after 2 years. It's my 8th year doing JMUN, so I'm glad that my last conference is one that's finally face to face."

As students approached the Information Desk one by one, claiming their badges and posts, the entire school could be felt buzzing with excitement. In Melis Akar's words: "Hopefully it'll be a great year for all of us."



Interview with Kerim Willems, Deputy Secretary General and Head of Organ Committees

Melisa Aşci

Melisa Aşci: How long has it been since you became an active member of JMUN? What inspired you to join?

Kerim Willems: Ever since 2015, I have been an active member of the team and this is my 21st conference that I am attending. Ever since I was a child, I've always had an interest in Political Science, International Relations and Social Sciences in general. I saw that JMUN provided an opportunity for me and all applicants to hone their skills in debating, writing and research.

Aşci: How does it feel to be back at face-to-face JMUN after the pandemic?

Willems: Honestly, it is a greatly satisfying feeling, because for years now, we have been confined to screens and although it was still really fun, face-to-face JMUNs are a highlight for me because it is a better experience for all applicants and delegates. To provide that opportunity for attendees as a Deputy Secretary-General is my biggest honor.

“We have been confined to screens, and although it was still really fun, face-to-face JMUNs are a highlight.” - Kerim Willems

Aşci: What was the biggest struggle you and your team had during the preparation process?

Willems: To be honest, there were some circumstances that were in our hands and some that were not. Because the secretary team organized online conferences only and faced challenges that would occur in an online platform, we did face unexpected problems since individuals are hosted in a school at a face-to-face conference.

Most conferences face this issue, so it is a very natural problem. The devastating earthquake that occurred in Türkiye has also taken back some schools from attending but again, that was not in our hands.

I would like to send my condolences to anybody that was affected in the tragic earthquake. I hope that we get to host many more conferences for them, when conditions are better in the future.

Aşci: What is the importance of the theme of this year?: “A World in Harmony: Creating a future of mitigated polarization by addressing ongoing crises.”

Willems: We've left the Covid-19 pandemic behind us now and saw many socio-economic and political struggles unravel. It is evident that the world — nearly every single country — is lacking harmony to rebuild from a crisis such as Covid-19. We believe that we had to centre this conference on a theme that would unite the world and encourage people to find feasible solutions and engage in fruitful debate.

Aşci: From your perspective, what kinds of impact will the JMUN conference make in the long-term?

Willems: I think something that transcends all debate or resolutions is the connections and skills that we hope the delegates will hone because some of the connections may be life changing, similar to what I have experienced, and I want all the delegates to experience this as well.

I was one of the delegates not so long ago and now I am a part of the organizer team, so I want them to have the same opportunities that I had and give back to the community.

The biggest takeaway and impact of the JMUN conference are the connections.

Systematic Discrimination

Against the LGBTQ+

Community

Kemal Dedeman

The fact is, despite the considerable amount of improvement made towards equal rights for LGBTQ+ identities in both social and political aspects of life, there are still countries that ban the free expression of love, going as far as condemning it to death. Examples include Iran, Somalia, and Pakistan.

Millions of individuals around the world are impacted by the major problem of unjustified bias against LGBTQ+ identities. Members of this community still have to encounter prejudice and discrimination in their daily lives despite substantial advancements in recent years, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage in many nations, which first started in the Netherlands in 2001. And although these challenges have taken on covert, subdued forms in more open cultures, they can still impact a person in smaller, quieter ways.



For example, though they often don't make appearances on the news or the front pages of newspapers, hate crimes are an ongoing crisis and scare in the LGBTQ+ community around the world. In fact, the very concept of a "hate crime" is wrongly defined as an act of physical violence based on bias, significantly shrinking its meaning. For instance, while disparaging remarks or slurs, blatant discrimination, and unjust treatment count towards being a hate crime, they are not treated as such. The United States Department of Justice even writes "Hate crimes have a broader effect than most other

kinds of crime. Hate crime victims include not only the crime's immediate target but also others like them. Hate crimes affect families, communities, and at times, the entire nation." As a result, many hate crimes go unnoticed by members of the LGBTQ+ community due to being disregarded as insignificant or unfit to be considered a hate crime.



On the other hand, governments can also indirectly inflict harm on these identities. Despite not being sentenced to life in prison or death for their romantic/sexual orientation and/or gender expression, housing, healthcare, and legal protection from discrimination in settings like employment is often withheld from members of the LGBTQ+ community, and, also because of their identity, they may be refused access to these vital services. This form of discrimination can result in social and financial disadvantages, such as making less money than their peers or having trouble finding work. Due to this lack of protection from governments, many of the aforementioned hate crimes against the LGBTQ+ community that are committed go unreported and the victims untreated.

“Governments can also indirectly inflict harm on these identities.”

The negative effects of discrimination can be severe and pervasive, increasing the incidence of despair, anxiety, and suicide among those who identify as LGBTQ+. For instance, The Trevor Project has found that 45% of LGBTQ youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year. Moreover, they also found that 60% of the

aforementioned demographic was unable to get help with their mental health despite actively looking for it.

As such, through education, awareness campaigns, and legal protections, discrimination against the LGBTQ+ population must be addressed and combated. Everyone should be able to access the same opportunities and privileges regardless of their romantic/sexual orientation and/or gender expression and should be able to live their lives without fear of hate or harassment. We can only make society more equitable and inclusive for all by uniting in the fight against discrimination.

Malfeasance by Law Enforcement

Timur Cihantimur

By law, it is the police's responsibility to protect the safety of citizens. However, in recent years, cases of abuse of power by law enforcement agencies have repeatedly come to light. Consequently, this has raised concerns about police behaviour, as well as the government approach, and increased the need for police reform. Abuse of power by law enforcement refers to the abuse of power and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials in the performance of their duties, with limited explanation and clarification to charged citizens. This takes many forms, including police brutality, racial profiling, and illegal searches and seizures. Such misapplications of power often result in physical and psychological harm to individuals and communities, while also



undermining public confidence in law enforcement and often creating discriminatory spaces.

One of the most common forms of abuse by law enforcement is police brutality. This includes the use of excessive force by police officers during an arrest or arrest of a suspect. Police brutality often results in serious injury and death, especially when victims are people of color or from marginalized communities. Such incidents not only cause physical harm, but also increase fear and mistrust among the public, especially among minority groups. A major public example would be the brutality that George Floyd faced after being accused of making a purchase using a counterfeit \$20 bill, and being brutally beaten by a police officer. This occurrence fired up the "Black Lives Matter" movement that consisted of at least 15 million protestors throughout the United States of America.

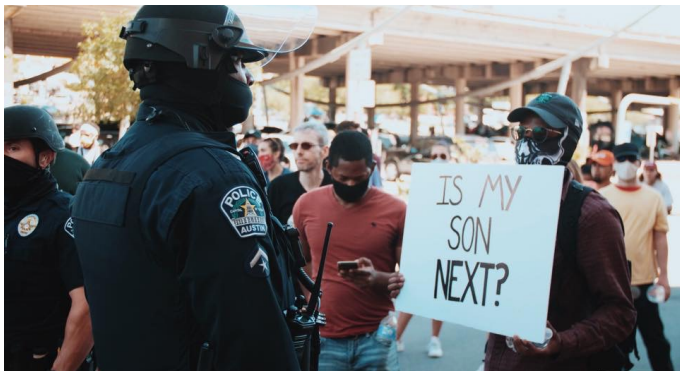


“Such incidents not only cause physical harm, but also increase fear and mistrust among the public, especially among minority groups.”

Another form of law enforcement abuse of power is racial profiling, which was what initially offset the string of brutalities that evolved into the “BLM” movement. This is the practice of using race or ethnicity as a factor in determining whether someone is likely to commit a crime. It often leads to harassment and discrimination based on ethnicity.

Illegal searches and seizures are also common forms of abuse of power by law

enforcement agencies. This includes violating Fourth Amendment rights that protect citizens from unjustified searches and seizures. When law enforcement officers conduct searches without a warrant or presumed cause, they violate an individual's constitutional rights and commit an abuse of power. These not only violate the official law, but also simultaneously leave serious consequences for individuals and communities. Victims of police brutality often suffer physical injury, mental trauma, and lasting psychological effects. Similarly, racial profiling and illegal searches and seizures can foster discrimination, harassment and mistrust in marginalized communities. Implementing police reform that promotes accountability, transparency and community engagement is essential to addressing the abuse of power by law enforcement. This includes recording police interactions using body cameras and dash cams.



Finally, more engagement is needed between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. This can be achieved through community policing programs and outreach initiatives. By building trust and understanding, law enforcement can better serve the needs of the community.

In summary, abuse of power by law enforcement officers is a serious and urgent problem that requires immediate attention. It undermines the legitimacy of the criminal justice system and undermines public trust. By increasing accountability and transparency, providing more inclusive training, and working with communities, we can work towards a more just and equitable society.

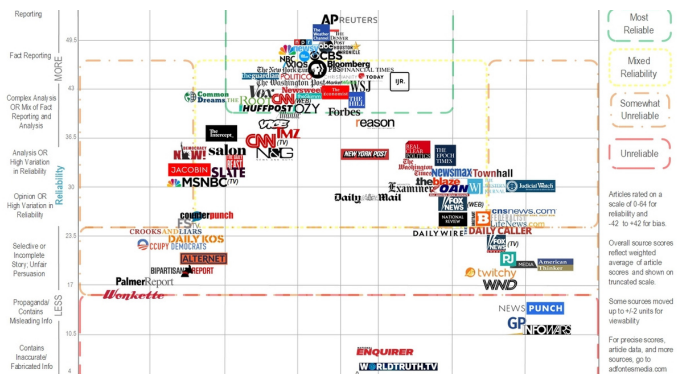
Biased Media in Authoritarian States

Cemal Demirören

Censorship is the suppression of images, videos, words, applications, or ideas that are often seen as “offensive” or “revealing” while censorship by authoritarian states, called “political censorship”, occurs when governments hold back information from their citizens. This often exerts control over the population and prevents the freedom of expression.

By formatting and controlling content shared by the public, an authoritarian regime will dominate and control its population. They will project power, manipulate and maintain influence over their people; furthermore, authoritarian regimes also believe that by controlling the message, they also ensure political legitimacy. Government censorship and strict media regulation in authoritarian regimes lead to slanted news and a lack of access to opposing ideas. Public opinion, democracy, and the quality of journalism may all suffer as a result.

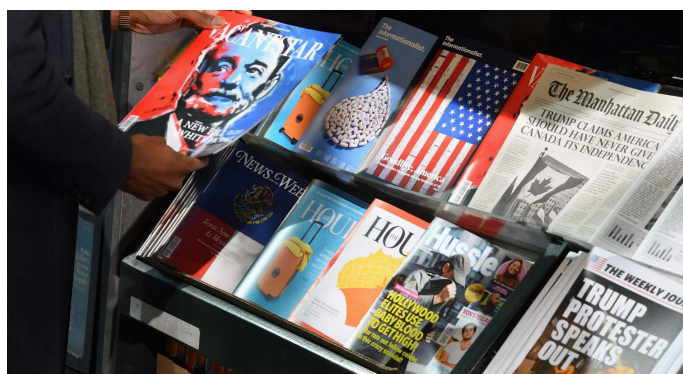
“By formatting and controlling content shared by the public, an authoritarian regime will dominate and control its population.”



For example, a recent research conducted in the United States shows us the effects of media bias on individual and public perception of news events since the media are citizens' primary source of political

information, associated bias may affect the political beliefs of the audience, party preferences and even alter voting behavior. Media bias in the United States occurs when the media in the United States systematically emphasizes one particular point of view in a manner that contravenes the standards of professional journalism. Public television has a far smaller role in the US than in most other countries. However, a number of states, including West Virginia, Maryland, Kentucky, and South Carolina, among others, do have state-owned public broadcasting authorities which operate and fund all public television stations in their respective states.

Governments in authoritarianism have control over media outlets, which limits the range of viewpoints and stifles critical reporting. The purpose of propaganda is frequently to elevate the government's image while demonizing critics or censoring unfavorable news. A lack of faith in the media can further erode democracy by misleading or misinforming the public about important problems. The biased media also has an impact on international relations since it fosters a bad perception of other nations or feeds nationalism, which causes tension between nations. Moreover, exposure to biased information can lead to negative societal outcomes, including group polarization, intolerance of dissent, and political segregation. It can also affect collective decision-making.



Supporting independent journalism and alternative media outlets is one strategy to combat biased media in authoritarian nations. Additionally, international groups like Reporters Without Borders are essential in advancing press freedom and safeguarding journalists. In summary, biased media in

authoritarian nations hinder democracy by stifling the expression of diverse viewpoints, stifling critical reporting, and deceiving the populace. Encouraging alternative media, independent journalism, and press freedom helps advance the open and transparent media environment that is necessary for democracy.

International Court of Justice (ICJ) Committee Report

Melisa Aşçı and Bahar Tatari

At the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the debaters do not specifically represent a single country. In this particular argument, while some individuals defended the position of Germany, others defended the American government in an execution case. During the debate, the people who were evaluating the solution provided by debaters and arguing were mostly the judges. In the proposed case, the debaters were proposing evidence and allegations towards Germany or the United States government about what kinds of support they provided to family members of an executed individual. In the case of the United States of America, the disapproval of the country's government of condemning the right of family members to have the right to have counsel assistance was pointed out. To conclude, the rights of the executed individuals and their families and how each country violated these rights were emphasized towards the end of the debate and arguments were proposed by the judges.



Images from Prep



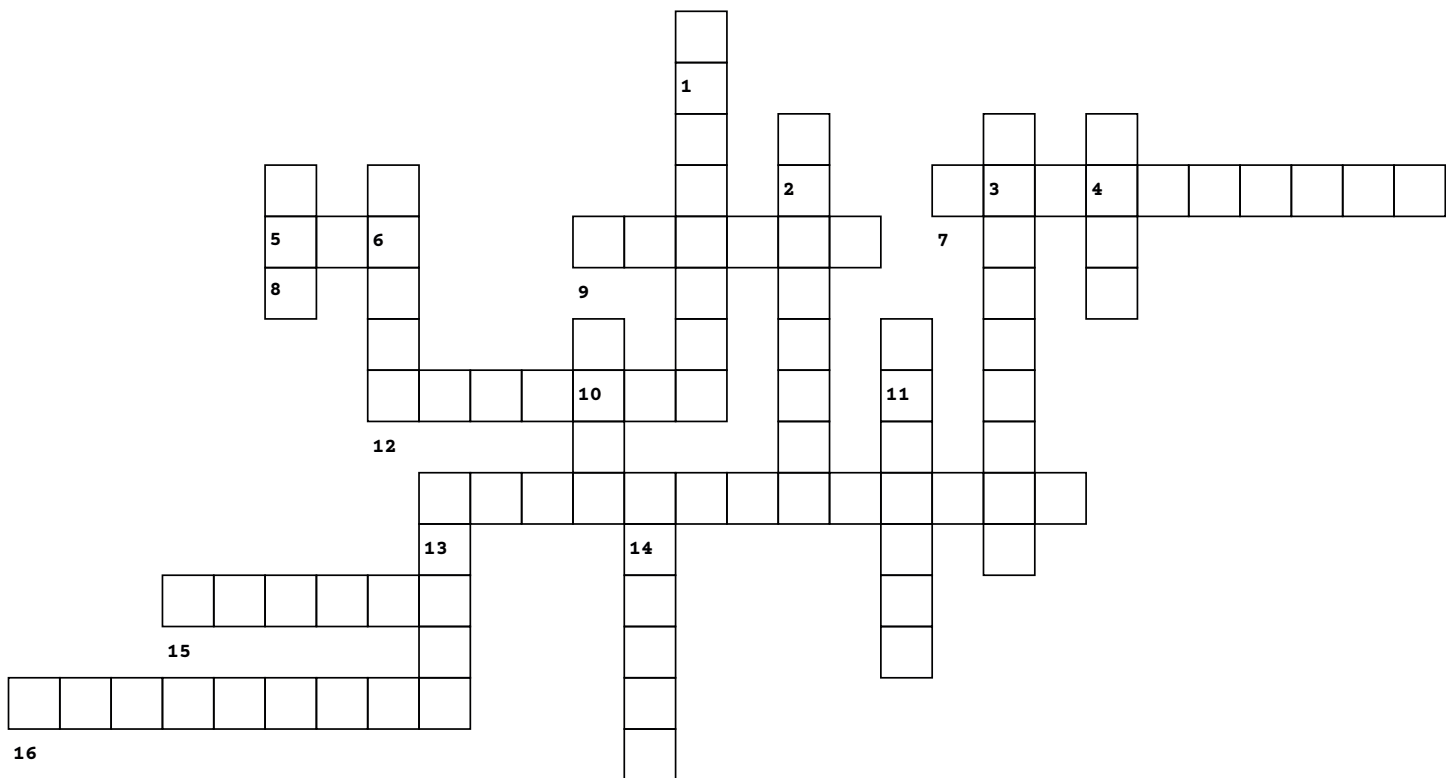
Images from Opening Day



Featured Songs

A Change Is Gonna Come - Sam Cooke
For What It's Worth - Stephen Stills

Give Peace A Chance - John Lennon
The Revolution Will Not Be Televised -
Gill Scott-Heron



Down

1. The fact of being legal
2. A situation in which people, groups or countries disagree strongly or are involved in a serious argument
3. Connected with the state, government or public affairs (adj.)
4. The right to refuse to allow something to be done, especially the right to stop a law from being passed or a decision from being taken
5. A situation in which two or more countries or groups of people fight against each other over a period of time
6. A situation or a period of time in which there is no war or violence in a country or an area
10. A formal choice that you make in an election or at a meeting in order to choose somebody or decide something
11. To stop a meeting or an official process, especially a trial, for a period of time
13. An important topic that people are discussing or arguing about
14. A moral or legal claim to have or get something or to behave in a particular way

Across

7. The group of people who are responsible for controlling a country or a state
8. Yes (in voting)
9. An official decision made by somebody in a position of authority, especially a judge
12. The relationship between production, trade and the supply of money in a particular country or region
13. Connected with or involving two or more countries
15. A time of great danger, difficulty or doubt when problems must be solved or important decisions must be made
16. A group of people who are chosen, usually by a larger group, to make decisions or to deal with a particular subject