



Press Corps/Times of India

Press Corps

Reporter: Rohan Joshi

Topic: UNSC / The Situation in Libya

The civil unrest in Libya, which has been going on for years—as we all know—still continues today. Delegates on the MMUN Security Council debated the best ways to solve and bring peace to the Libyan region. The North African nation has been in turmoil since the death of dictator Muammar Gaddafi during the first Libyan civil war. The nation itself has been through many different hands. Originally part of the Umayyad Caliphate, later falling into possession of the Ottoman Empire, becoming independent then back under Ottoman rule. Then, in 1912, it was invaded by Italy, called “Italian North Africa.” Libya was under Italian rule until 1943, when Britain and France took over during WWII. The UN, in its early days, decided Libya should be independent. Later, in 1951 Libya gained independence. It fell under the rule of a king until 1969 when fighting broke out and Muammar Gaddafi took control.

Though not all delegations were present, there were many ideas, such as the delegation from Belgium's idea of setting up a so called "safe space," a large area within the Libyan region, where, as the name states, would be a safe area for civilians fleeing the ongoing fighting between the multiple armed factions fighting for control of Libya. This idea, however, was shot down by the delegation from the Dominican Republic, who said "this is about a whole country, this isn't a small area." But it is necessary to note many important seats on the council were missing, such as delegations from The United States of America, the Republic of South Africa, and the Republic of Tunisia. One of which possesses veto power, and the two others are both located in the African Region. While interviewing the delegates, I was not able to question the Chinese delegation, and question them on whether the COVID-19 epidemic, better known as the novel Coronavirus, would affect their spending on humanitarian aid, but one can assume so.

One thing the countries all seem to agree upon is that, to stop illicit oil sales, the UN, or most likely countries affiliated with the UN on the organization's behalf for it has no army of its own, should seize all oil fields and turn them over to the UN established government of Libya. Their long term goal is to lead Libya to free and democratic elections, but monitor them to ensure free elections. The delegation from the Dominican Republic believes Libya should move toward a government based around capitalism to further expand its economy. The Dominican delegation also believes foreign troops should be brought into the country, but solely to train GNA troops. The long term goal, stated by the Dominican delegation, is to have all UN peacekeepers leave the country, and as stated earlier, bring the country to free and fair elections. The United Kingdom however, seemed to share similar thoughts, but was against the idea of

Montessori Model United Nations

NYC, March 2020

capitalism in Libya. However, it seems that the Dominican Republic's idea of capitalism resonated with the other delegations as well, as delegations from Germany, Saint Vincent and The Grenadines, and Vietnam all agreed.

The delegates settled on draft resolution I.I, voted on with consensus, which kept in mind the needs of the Libyan people and surrounding states. The delegations also considered shutting down Libyan airspace to prevent air strikes and civilian casualties, but didn't move forward with this idea for it would prevent incoming appropriated aid from being brought in via air-travel, and would mean further complications and affect the well being of the Libyan people.