

## India

First Committee of the General Assembly (DISEC)

Infiltration of ISIS in Refugee Programs

Henry M. Gunn High School

Less than a century ago, India wasn't even an independent state; merely a dominion of the vast British Empire, and a speck in the world of international politics. It took a century of hard work for the passionate resistance of the Indians to persevere, and for a new country to be created. Yet, despite all this hardship, remnants of the past were still very much in place in India, such as the Mongol Invasions, which resulted in the formation of Pakistan due to religious differences. Despite this tragic event, India and Pakistan both have gone on and become not small, unimportant squabbling states in South Asia, but major pieces in the great chessboard of international politics. Despite this, it is plainly obvious that India is on a trend upwards towards becoming an international power, one that can compete with other major countries. However, despite being such a powerful country, India has faced numerous problems in its tumultuous past and can relate to many other countries facing similar issues. India has faced refugee crises since its founding in 1947, from the division with Pakistan to the constant tide of Tibetan refugees seeking safety and protection in India. Although India has no obligations other than moral decency to take in these refugees, it still does all it can for them, including providing education, carving out settlements where they can stay, providing travel permits and providing scholarships for exemplary students.

Currently, the safety of the Syrian Refugee camps is threatened because of its location. The camps have to be in close proximity to Syria to be able to allow the refugees to get there easily without having to travel long distances with the little resources they have. However, the problem is that since the camps are so close to the conflict areas they are very susceptible to

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attacks from outside, making them extremely vulnerable to airstrikes and attacks from terrorist groups such as and especially ISIL (The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant). Moreover, due to the attacks on these camps, many nations that border Syria such as Jordan have said that they will cease to open their borders due to casualties sustained by their military forces. Millions of refugees are trapped in border countries like Jordan or Turkey, and the fact that they cannot completely ensure full safety to these camps is also due to the lack of sufficient funding from other nations and the UN.

The original plan for Syrian refugee camps were for them to be temporary stations for those fleeing the civil war to stay in. The camps were to be a temporary station of refuge for the refugees fleeing Syria on their way to Europe. However, due to the large number of refugees fleeing Syria, the camps soon became unable to fully process all of the people who wanted to go to Europe, creating massive waiting lines in the camps. Moreover, in recent months, a small number of Syrian "refugees" fleeing Syria have been linked to ISIS and many of the bombings and attacks that have occurred on European soil in the past year. This has caused the camps to tighten the processing procedures in an attempt to stop ISIS sympathetics from causing more harm on European soil. Yet, with this increased processing comes more fleeing refugees into these camps, and it would be humanitarian to close the doors of these camps.

Many countries have built safer refugee camps deeper within their countries that offer better conditions and more safety. However, due to the increased need for safety, these camps are

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barely 20% filled and it is looking like even they need to be upgraded. With the lack of openness coming from western countries regarding their acceptance of Syrian refugees, it looks like they may have to stay in countries like Jordan or Turkey permanently, or for at least a long time. This creates many economic problems for middle eastern countries who aren't prepared to handle the permanent staying of many refugees. Furthermore, western countries have cut back on funding for these Middle Eastern countries, making it extremely difficult for these Syrian refugees to live in more humanitarian conditions. As such, many countries have found it easier to tighten their borders in an attempt to put a leash on the wave of refugees seeking protection and a home.

Since most of the borders are heavily secured, the refugee camps along the border are heavily populated but are barely protected by the already overtaxed forces of the military of the countries around Syria. Terrorist groups take advantage of this, and launch attacks against soldiers and refugee camps. Doing this causes fear among refugees fleeing Syria and among the governments hosting these refugees, making those governments more likely to strengthen security procedures. Moreover, it is already becoming a major problem to flee Syria due to the amount of land terrorist groups control and the punishments they inflict on refugees. This creates a major problem; either flee Syria, and risk your life doing so, or stay in Syria, and also risk your life doing so.

India has consistently opened its doors to refugees from its neighbor countries like Tibet for over half a century now. Given the assortment of refugee problems it has faced over the past

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years, it has gained valuable experience on how to deal with refugees. Since the Tibetan refugees who come into India is not a problem, it has found no reason to sign the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol. India has found it's own way to take care of the refugee problem and believes that the steps it are taking as of right now are the ones that are most beneficial for itself. However, the delegate of India believes that there are many solutions that can help solve or improve the current situation of the safety of Syrian Refugee Camps.

The first solution that the delegate of India proposes is for the neighbor countries of Syria: Turkey, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon and Jordan who have not signed the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol to sign it. As of April 2015, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon have not signed it, and the delegate of India would highly encourage them to sign it in order to raise the standards of their refugee camps to a higher level if they have not already done so. This will ensure that the safety standards of these camps are up to an international standard and is the first step towards increasing the safety of these refugee camps in order to protect the lives of these people in need. As an international community, we have moral obligations towards helping out these people in need and making their living conditions as safe as possible.

Moreover, the delegate of India also recommends foreign countries who can take in refugees make a balance between funding the nation's taking care of these refugees and taking in

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these refugees. Recently, funding from foreign countries has dried up, and so has the number of refugees being taken in by other countries. The delegate believes that countries have a moral obligation to help out these people in need, and balancing between the two options listed above would be the correct thing to do. In addition, this funding would help these governments hire more refugee processing officials to process them with greater efficiency.

The final solution the delegate proposes is to have countries build safer and more secure refugee camps within their countries that offer more permanent residential options for the refugees. Using the funds given to these countries as mentioned in the previous solution, countries can construct camps that have a more long-term vision in mind and are also more secure from attacks. Since these housing areas will be deeper inside the country, it will take more time to plan attacks on these camps, and there will also be a greater risk of failing due to the number of military forces located around or near the border of countries. Furthermore, attacks on camps deeper within the country are less likely to occur as the main strategy of terrorist organizations is to do "hit and run" style attacks. It would be more difficult to drive a suicide bomber truck 25 miles into the country without being caught due to the distance these camps have from conflict zones.

The delegate of India hopes that the three solutions provided can help provide a basic framework for the ideas that will flow during the conference and hopes that a solution that benefits all can be found. As members of the UN, we all share a common goal: to make our

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world a better place. Everyone can move one step further in that by finding ways to increase the safety of Syrian Refugee Camps.

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