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## University of Toronto Model United Nations (UTMUN) 2013 Social, Humanitarian, Cultural (SOCHUM)

**Honorable delegates,**

First and foremost, welcome to the Social, Humanitarian, Cultural (SOCHUM) general assembly session at UTMUN2012! It is a pleasure to see more young minds interested in these globally important and diplomatic issues. I wholeheartedly look forward to seeing you in February.

Let me introduce myself. My name is Jihae Jang, a double major student in International Relations and Criminology at the University of Toronto. I will be the director of your committee, and am glad to be writing this background paper.

This year in SOCHUM we have three interesting topics. The first topic concerns the rising marginalization of third world countries. Rising global inequality, deteriorating poverty and crumbling humanitarian conditions in economically underdeveloped countries forces us to rethink of the pros and cons of globalization. While the United Nations planned out millennium goals to end poverty and improve human conditions, they are far from effective and are in serious need of reconsideration.

Secondly, there is a topic on aboriginal subsistence whaling that begs for our attention. Thousands of whales have been killed even after the moratorium in 1986. With the Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling abused by some political and commercial parties, it is critical to go back to fundamental objective of the aboriginal subsistence whaling. Should culture precede over international law? On balance, should we prioritize conservation of rare species over preserving a culture with anthropological value?

Thirdly, there is a topic on the freedom to riot and rebel. While people care about the freedom to express, to information and to assembly, the side issues of maintaining civil order and public safety in the midst of the fervent demonstration has been often neglected. Should any limitations protesting be regarded as a violation of the law, or should it be respected as essential to civil law?

I dearly hope all of you to have fun in researching and discussing about these topics, and aside from the committee affairs, enjoy the conference and socials as well. This year's UTMUN executives have done a brilliant work, and I am sure young, bright mind as yourself will have pleasant time during the conference. If you have any further questions regarding the background paper or the topics, please feel free to contact me.

With best regards,

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## **First topic: Rising Marginalization in Third-World Countries**

### Summary

While Globalization is theoretically known to reduce a country's poverty gap, we are seeing a major rise in marginalization in third world countries. For instance, the gap between the richest and poorest nations was only 3:1 in 1820, which rose to 11:1 in 1913 and 35:1 in 1950 and further by 44:1 in 1973. This number is now stunning 72:1, which makes the issue important and urgent to be discussed.<sup>1</sup> This paper sets the terminology to be used in the committee, and also provides historical and significant background information. In conclusion, social inequality and systemic disadvantage to the third world by the rising marginalization in third world countries makes this issue fit to the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee.

### Introduction to terminology

In order to maintain neutrality and academic integrity, this paper finds the need to set some terminologies. First, marginalization will be defined in the sense of being relegated to edges as in social standing, largely from the process of globalization. The paper will follow the carefully articulated definition of globalization from the Geneva Center for Security Policy, which reads as the following: "Globalization is a process that encompasses the causes, course, and consequences of transnational and trans-cultural integration of human and non-human activities."<sup>2</sup> Rising globalization led to development of the Global North and Global South, which refers to the wealthy, developed countries and poor, developing or least developed countries. In this paper, the global north and global south will be defined as countries that are above the GDP per capita and below it, respectfully. With these terminologies set, this paper will now move on to brief history of marginalization of the Global South.

### Background to the marginalization of the global south

The colonization in the 9<sup>th</sup> century was significant in setting the tone for the marginalization of global south. For example, colonized countries were coerced into primary goods production, which was sensitive to famines and draughts. In comparison, developed nations monopolized

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<sup>1</sup> Globalization, marginalization and development edited by S. MANSOOB MURSHED. (London: Routledge, Studies in Development Economics, 2002, pp. 256) Mold, Andrew JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, V. 15 (5), 07/2003, p. 671-673 <<http://www.ciaonet.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/wps/mus01/mus01.pdf>>, pg7

<sup>2</sup> Nayef R.F. , Al-Rodhan. Definitions of Globalization: A Comprehensive Overview and a Proposed Definition. Geneva: Geneva Centre for Security Policy, 2006. Web. <<http://www.sustainablehistory.com/articles/definitions-of-globalization.pdf>>.

manufactured goods production<sup>3</sup>. As well, colonized countries were often taxed heavier than the colonial power, and suffered more debt<sup>4</sup>. Consequently, they were inadequately invested for infrastructure and human development<sup>5</sup>, preventing the longterm development of the global south.

The protectionist attitude of the global north also adds more gravity to the poor economic performance of the south. As Western countries try to protect laborers in their country especially in unskilled production sector such as agriculture and textiles, the global south countries suffer more. The global north also protects their hegemony by putting restrictions to transfer of information and technology by intellectual property rights<sup>6</sup>. These lead to the unfavorable consequences especially to the global south.

#### The indications of the marginalization of the global south

What makes the rising marginalization of the Global South a critical issue is that even with globalization, the income and living standard of the global south did not improve as much as the western, developing north.<sup>7</sup> The World Bank has announced that the number of impoverished populations has fallen in this era of globalization. However, some criticize that it is more likely that the poverty population stayed the same, not decreased.<sup>8</sup> Despite the rapid development of India and China, global inequality is rapidly increasing. This leads to changes in the global political climate – that is, more influence by the rich countries and less by the poor countries, with an emphasis towards giving more power to the global north and taking more power away from the global south.

For example, international organization's rule setting and negotiation process is advantageous to the creditor nations, who get more prestige in decision making and to the access to information<sup>9</sup>. Technology transfer is also marginalized in the global south. For example, the pharmaceutical firms are still restraining from making generic drug for AIDS. It is also notable that the benefit

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<sup>3</sup> Murshed, S.Mansoob. "MARGINALIZATION IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION." Institute of Social studies (ISS). (2003): 26. Web.<<http://www.rockarch.org/publications/conferences/murshed.pdf>>.

<sup>4</sup> see Naoroji, Dadabhai (1901) Poverty and Un-British Rule in India, London: Swan Sonnenschein.

<sup>5</sup> Murshed, S.Mansoob. "MARGINALIZATION IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION." Institute of Social studies (ISS). (2003): 26. Web.<<http://www.rockarch.org/publications/conferences/murshed.pdf>>.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p.10

<sup>7</sup> Nayer, D. (1997). Globalization: the game, the players and the rules in S.D.Gupta (ed), the political economy of globalization, London:Kluwer Academic Publishers

<sup>8</sup> Is Globalization Reducing Poverty and Inequality? World Development (April 2004), 32 (4), pg. 567-589

<sup>9</sup> Nayyar, Deepak (ed) *Governing Globalization: Issues and Institutions*, Oxford: University Press for UNU/WIDER. 2002

of multilateral trade is also marginalized for the global south. Despite globalization, the trade in global south is becoming more limited. For example, while in 1968 south-south trade were about 27 percent of total trades of the global south, it increased to 40 percent in 1992.<sup>10</sup> Inequality is not exempt within the global south. The benefit of the globalization is polarized even within the global south, and in 1997, 11 developing countries accounted for 66percent of the total exports of developing countries.<sup>11</sup> Especially in Africa, not only their income and development were deteriorated, but also their well-being indexes such as tuberculosis, the AIDS pandemic, maternal mortality and literacy rates have significantly worsened.<sup>12</sup> While the absolute poverty population have decreased in East Asia and the pacific, in the sub-Saharan Africa it has increased by hundred million during 1987 to 1998.<sup>13</sup> These indicate the benefit of globalization is marginalized to the global south countries.

It is also critical that the marginalization of the third world also led to development of nationalism and rebellion.<sup>14</sup> Some scholars argue that inter-group conflicts such as the Syrian Civil War, the instability in Egypt, and the recent rise in transnational terrorism are rooted in the “collective sense of humiliation and impoverishment in an age of globalization.”<sup>15</sup> Urban refugees are rampant in marginalized urban spaces of the global south, which is often overlooked by the United Nations<sup>16</sup>.

### Endnote questions

In summary, the impact of the marginalization of the third world is immense; from global inequality to terrorism in the globe. As such, it is important to discuss the topic at hand and devise a plan to halt such marginalization of the global south. Here are some more critical questions on marginalization of the third world:

- What kind of measures the Global North countries take in order to protect them and hurt the global south?

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<sup>10</sup> Yarborough, B.V. and R.M. Yarborough (1997). The ‘globalization of trade: what’s changed and why”, in S.D.Gupta (ed.), the political economy of globalization London:Kluwer Academic Publishers.

<sup>11</sup> Globalization, marginalization and development edited by S. MANSOOB MURSHED. (London: Routledge, Studies in Development Economics, 2002, pp. 256)Mold, AndrewJOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, V. 15 (5), 07/2003, p. 671-673 <<http://www.ciaonet.org.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/wps/mus01/mus01.pdf>>, pg.2

<sup>12</sup> Murshed, S.Mansoob. "MARGINALIZATION IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION." Institute of Social studies (ISS). (2003): 26. Web.<<http://www.rockarch.org/publications/conferences/murshed.pdf>>. p.6

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p.8

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, p.1

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, p.17

<sup>16</sup> Marginalization in Urban Spaces of the Global South: Urban Refugees in Cairo, Journal of Refugee Studies (September 2006), 19 (3), pg. 287-307



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- Are India and China still global south? Or do you think their status is somewhat different from other global south nations such as Africa?
  - What actions could be suggested to ameliorate the marginalization of the global south?

Further Reading:

- <http://www.rockarch.org/publications/conferences/murshed.pdf>
- <http://www.multinationalmonitor.org/hyper/issues/1990/11/interview-khor.html>

## **Second topic: Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling**

### Summary

In 1986, the international whaling commission (IWC) banned commercial whaling in order to save over-hunted whale species. However, villages in Scandinavia, Russia, Alaska, etc. are exempt from the IWC because whaling is part of their cultural heritage. This is called Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling, which had been agreed by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW) in 1946. However, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Greenpeace criticize aboriginal subsistence whaling, and questions the rights of the tribes to hunt whales. How far can one be exempt from the law because the law differs from one's beliefs and traditions? Should traditions supersede the law and allow for these sorts of exceptions? These are the sorts of cultural, legal, and ethical questions being raised in this topic.

### Aboriginal subsistence whaling

The IWC of 1946 recognized the native aborigine's cultural and nutritional need to whale, which led to Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling. Whale has been a significant source of nutrition for some natives.<sup>17</sup> While many aborigine tribes are recently leaning towards non-traditional sources of food<sup>18</sup>, some aborigines prefer to keep their tradition. Not only it provides food and nutrition, whaling activity and hunting practice have been significant to their culture for hundreds of years. For example, in order to satisfy their cultural and nutritional needs, Eskimo consume 19-33 whales annually, and are permitted to do so by the IWC.<sup>19</sup>

Admittedly, there are limitations on aboriginal subsistence whaling. For example, whaling must be consumed by local aborigine community, and the whaling activity has to be done by the indigenous people that have traditional dependence on whale for continuing their culture<sup>20</sup>. The

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<sup>17</sup> GERACI', JOSEPH R. and THOMAS G. SMITH. "Vitamin C in the Diet of Inuit Hunters From Holman, Northwest Territories." *Arctic*. 32.2 (1979): p.135-139. Web.<<http://pubs.aina.ucalgary.ca/arctic/Arctic32-2-135.pdf>>.

<sup>18</sup> Gambell, Ray. "International Management of Whales and Whaling: An Historical Review of the Regulation of Commercial and Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling." *Arctic* 46.2 (1993): 97-107. *CBCA Complete; CBCA Reference & Current Events*. Web. 6 Dec. 2012.

<sup>19</sup> Gambell, Ray. "International Management of Whales and Whaling: An Historical Review of the Regulation of Commercial and Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling." *Arctic* 46.2 (1993): 97-107. *CBCA Complete; CBCA Reference & Current Events*. Web. 6 Dec. 2012.

<sup>20</sup> Hodges, Brian Trevor. "The Cracking Facade of the International Whaling Commission as an Institution of International Law: Norwegian Small-Type Whaling and the Aboriginal Subsistence Exemption." *Journal of Environmental Law and Litigation*. 15.(2000): 295.

Web.<<http://www.animallaw.info/articles/arus15jenvtllandlitig295.htm>>.



IWC also limits the number of whales that can be killed each year. Whaling activity has to be carried out in traditional way, with canoe or native craft. Fire arm is prohibited, unless it is for animal welfare-that is, easing the whales' pain<sup>21</sup>-and whaling cannot be requested to the aborigines by third party.<sup>22</sup>

### Criticism

Aboriginal subsistence whaling has been criticized by many enviro-activist groups. For example, there is species preservation issue. Although IWC aims to minimize the risk of extinction by whaling<sup>23</sup>, sometimes there is unavoidable conflict between aboriginal whaling and species conservation. In the 1997, the Sea Shepard Society criticized the aboriginal subsistence whaling practice, when Makah tribe in America made request to be eligible to harpoon five grey whales when grey whales are just saved from being almost extinct only three years ago. The Makah tribe has history of whaling, and the hunted whales were to be used for their food and ceremonial purposes.<sup>24</sup>

It is also criticized for vague definition on critical terms such as 'aboriginal', 'local use' or 'subsistence'<sup>2526</sup>. According to an article;

'In the absence of any formal definition of "aboriginal", governments simply nominate those peoples whom they consider applicable and there is no requirement that they meet any definition of indigenous people agreed in international law based on cultural or anthropological parameters.'<sup>27</sup>

This led to some political or commercial parties to exploit the rule, and to hunt whales improperly and countlessly and to sell their surplus. Some does not even follow the quota

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<sup>21</sup> "Welfare Issues." International Whaling Commission. Web. 3 Dec 2012. <<http://iwcoffice.org/welfare>>.

<sup>22</sup> Gambell, Ray. "International Management of Whales and Whaling: An Historical Review of the Regulation of Commercial and Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling." *Arctic* 46.2 (1993): 97-107. *CBCA Complete; CBCA Reference & Current Events*. Web. 6 Dec. 2012.

<sup>23</sup> "Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling." International Whaling Commission. Web. 3 Dec 2012. <<http://iwcoffice.org/aboriginal>>.

<sup>24</sup> Lavoie, Judy. "Activists Denounce Aboriginal Whaling -." *Times - Colonist*: 1. Sep 04 1997. *Canadian Newsstand Major Dailies*. Web. 6 Dec. 2012 .

<sup>25</sup> Butler-Stroud, Chris . "Abduction of aboriginal whaling rights." BBC News 2 Jun. 2010BBC News Web. <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8545073.stm>>.

<sup>26</sup> "Aboriginal Subsistence Whaling ." Whale and Dolphin Conservation. 25 Apr 2009. Web. 3 Dec 2012. <[http://www.wdcs.org/submissions\\_bin/Aboriginal\\_Subsistence\\_Whaling](http://www.wdcs.org/submissions_bin/Aboriginal_Subsistence_Whaling)>.

<sup>27</sup> Butler-Stroud, Chris . "Abduction of aboriginal whaling rights." BBC News 2 Jun. 2010BBC News Web. <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8545073.stm>>.

and hunts endangered species. This has become a grave concern to some countries such as European Union. Although the IWC moratorium went to review in an international conference, the tie between pro-whaling countries and anti-whaling countries led to deadlock.<sup>28</sup> In the meanwhile, the number of whales killed is increasing annually-Since 1986, as much as 30,000 whales were hunted, of which 23,000 were done by Japan, Norway and Iceland.<sup>29</sup>

### Conclusion

In summary, the Aboriginal subsistence Whaling poses two themes of discussion. First, How far should a culture respected to supersede a law? Should we prioritize endangered species over a culture with a deep anthropological value, vice versa? Second, if we are to conserve the aboriginal subsistence whaling rule, how should be better word the limitations so that commercial or political parties cannot misuse the exemption? How should we make the rule more specific and respective of the native aborigines with relative culture only? This topic represents two of burdens of humankind-conservation of species and protecting minority culture-, and makes us to contemplate on the critical issue of wording international moratorium.

### Further reading

- <http://www.iwcoffice.org/aboriginal>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/8545073.stm>
- <http://www.ceoe.udel.edu/cms/jfirestone/MakahWhalingJIWLP2005.pdf>
- <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3905487.stm>
- [http://www.iwcoffice.org/table\\_aboriginal](http://www.iwcoffice.org/table_aboriginal)
- [http://www.hsi.org/issues/whaling/facts/iwc\\_moratorium.html](http://www.hsi.org/issues/whaling/facts/iwc_moratorium.html)

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<sup>28</sup> Hirsch, Tim . "Whaling moratorium under review." BBC News 19 Jul. 2004BBC News Web. <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/3905487.stm>>.

<sup>29</sup> "The IWC Whaling Moratorium." Humane Society International. 31 Dec 2009. Web. 3 Dec 2012. <[http://www.hsi.org/issues/whaling/facts/iwc\\_moratorium.html](http://www.hsi.org/issues/whaling/facts/iwc_moratorium.html)>.



### **Third topic: Freedom to Riot and Rebel**

#### Summary

The recent series of riots and rebels worldwide, such as the Wall Street movement, Quebec student protests as well as series of civil insurgencies in Syria and Egypt urges us to redefine what democratic assembly is and what falls less. While some assemblies were criticized for its manner, lawlessness and violation of public and private property, some rebels suffer severe censorship and violent struck down. While the United Nations Declaration of Human rights advocates the freedom of expression and freedom to assembly (article 19 and 20a) <sup>30</sup>, the recent uprisings question how much should be protected and how much should be limited. The fundamental humanitarian aspect of this question makes this issue a compelling topic that has to be discussed in the Social, Humanitarian and cultural committee.

#### Case studies: recent rebellions and protests

This part illustrates recent rebels and protests. Note that this paper does not intend to justify or downplay any idea or cause of the protestors. Rather, this paper will focus on the side issue of civilian demonstration that is often neglected.

#### The Wall Street movement (2011)

The Wall Street movement began as a movement against undue corporate influence and disproportionate wealth distribution<sup>31</sup>. It started in Zuccotti Park, New York, soon to be spread out to cities in more than 80 countries.<sup>32</sup> While their causes are generally understood as a rightful

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<sup>30</sup> "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights." *Welcome to the United Nations: It's Your World*. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>>. (article 19a dn 20)

<sup>31</sup> "OCCUPY WALL STREET." *Pakistan & Gulf Economist* 30 Oct. 2011. General OneFile. Web. 2 Dec. 2012. <[http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA270737819&v=2.1&u=utoronto\\_main&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w](http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA270737819&v=2.1&u=utoronto_main&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w)>

<sup>32</sup> "Occupy Wall Street" Protests Spread to Cities Worldwide." *Xinhua News Agency - CEIS The Advocate* (Stamford); *Baltimore Sun*; *Greenwich Time*; *Hartford Courant*; *Los Angeles Times*; *Morning Call*; *Newsday*; *Orlando Sentinel*; *ProQuest Newsstand*; *Sun Sentinel*. Oct 15 2011. Web. 2 Dec. 2012

protest asking for a fairer economic system, it was also criticized for the lawlessness.<sup>33</sup> According to the New American<sup>34</sup>,

For more than two months, the privately owned Zuccotti Park had been jam-packed with thousands of protesters, tourists, journalists, and media camera crews. Local residents and business owners have complained that the OWS invasion has caused the 33,000-square-foot "pocket park" to become a magnet for crime and disruptive, unruly, and unsanitary behavior, including public urination and defecation, public lewdness, vandalism, assaults, theft, and illegal drug use.

Legislations such as curfew and restrictions on place and time were subsequently passed, only to make more controversy for violating the freedom to express and assemble<sup>35</sup>. Even after the police tried to maintain order, the protesters attempted to disrupt business and government services, block traffic, or involve in vandalism.<sup>36</sup> Such results question what is legitimate rebel and how far is covered by the right to assemble.

### Quebec Student Protests (2012)

The Quebec student protests began as a reaction to the planned tuition hike by the provincial governments. Over 175,000 students went on strike<sup>37</sup>, with general sympathy on such anger to

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<sup>33</sup> "OCCUPY WALL STREET." Pakistan & Gulf Economist 30 Oct. 2011. General OneFile. Web. 2 Dec. 2012. <[http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA270737819&v=2.1&u=utoronto\\_ma in&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w](http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA270737819&v=2.1&u=utoronto_ma in&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w)>

<sup>34</sup> Jasper, William F. "Occupy Wall Street: lawlessness and communist revolution masquerading as idealism." The New American 19 Dec. 2011: 17+. General OneFile. Web. 2 Dec. 2012. <[http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA275979906&v=2.1&u=utoronto\\_ma in&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w](http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA275979906&v=2.1&u=utoronto_ma in&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w)>

<sup>35</sup> Gee, Brandon and Chas Sisk. "Occupy Nashville arrests end ACLU files lawsuit over First Amendment rights; federal judge says new plaza policy wasn't legal." The Tennessean. 1 Nov 2011. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <[http://www.tennessean.com/article/20111101/NEWS03/310310047/Occupy-Nashville-arrests-end?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&nclink\\_check=1](http://www.tennessean.com/article/20111101/NEWS03/310310047/Occupy-Nashville-arrests-end?odyssey=tab%7Ctopnews%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE&nclink_check=1)>.

<sup>36</sup> Jasper, William F. "Occupy wall street: lawlessness and communist revolution masquerading as idealism." The New American 19 Dec. 2011: 17+. General OneFile. Web. 2 Dec. 2012. <[http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA275979906&v=2.1&u=utoronto\\_ma in&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w](http://go.galegroup.com.myaccess.library.utoronto.ca/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA275979906&v=2.1&u=utoronto_ma in&it=r&p=ITOF&sw=w)>

<sup>37</sup> SÉGUIN, RHÉAL. "Student strike drags on as longest in Quebec history." The Globe and Mail. 08 Apr 2012. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/story/2012/02/20/student-strike-grows.html>>

the remarkable tuition increase<sup>38</sup>. However, as the protests dragged on, some marches and protests began to be lawless. Their protest resulted in traffic disturbance shared by dozens of commuters in Montreal, and some marches with thousands of demonstrators ended as late as 2a.m., to the disturbance to the local police and people.<sup>39</sup> They have also vandalized private property by smashing store windows and setting cars on fire, disrupted traffic and subway system,<sup>40</sup> and even went as far as using smoke bombs and barricades outside the Quebec Legislature building.<sup>42</sup>

In response to these riots, Quebec legislation passed bill 78. This bill essentially urges protestors to go back to school and obligates protestor group of more than 50 to submit plan ahead of the demonstration. The bill rules that any 'illegal' protests can be punished by penalty and force.<sup>43</sup> Bill 78 was criticized immediately for violating fundamental human right to speech and assemblies<sup>44</sup> However, justifying the new rule and arguing that other countries also have similar laws, Robert Dutil, Quebec's minister of public security, stated "Other societies with rights and freedoms to protect have found it reasonable to impose certain constraints – first of all to protect protesters, and also to protect the public."<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Lagace, Patrick and Gary Mason. "Quebec students: Legitimate strikers or self-absorbed brats?." The Globe and Mail. 18 Jun 2012. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/quebec-students-legitimate-strikers-or-self-absorbed-brats/article4104939/?service=mobile>>.

<sup>39</sup> "Casserole protests ring out across Quebec." CTV news Montreal. 25 May 2012. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://montreal.ctvnews.ca/casserole-protests-ring-out-across-quebec-1.831119>>.

<sup>40</sup> Lagace, Patrick and Gary Mason. "Quebec students: Legitimate strikers or self-absorbed brats?." The Globe and Mail. 18 Jun 2012. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://m.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/quebec-students-legitimate-strikers-or-self-absorbed-brats/article4104939/?service=mobile>>.

<sup>41</sup> Seidman, Karen and Phil Authier. "Quebec student group rejects Liberal proposal to end strike." The National Post 29 Apr. 2012 Web. <<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/04/29/quebec-student-group-rejects-liberal-proposal-to-end-strike/>>.

<sup>42</sup> "Students Hold Noisy Protest Outside the Quebec Legislature." Canadian Press NewsWire: O. CBCA Complete; CBCA Reference & Current Events. Feb 17 2004. Web. 2 Dec. 2012 .

<sup>43</sup> Lukacs , Martin . " Quebec's 'truncheon law' rebounds as student strike spreads." The Guardian UK edition. Guardian.co.uk, 24 May 2012. Web. 2 Nov 2012. <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2012/may/24/quebec-truncheon-law-rebounds-student-strike?newsfeed=true>>.

<sup>44</sup> Seidman , Karen and Phil Authier. "Quebec student group rejects Liberal proposal to end strike." The National Post. 29 Apr 2012. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://news.nationalpost.com/2012/04/29/quebec-student-group-rejects-liberal-proposal-to-end-strike/>>.

<sup>45</sup> Seguin, Perreux and Rheal Seguin. "Quebec's emergency law blasted by critics ." The Globe and Mail. 18 May 2012. Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/quebecs-emergency-law-blasted-by-critics/article2437890/>>.

<sup>46</sup> Lukacs , Martin . " Quebec's 'truncheon law' rebounds as student strike spreads." The Guardian UK edition. Guardian.co.uk, 24 May 2012. Web. 2 Nov 2012.

### Syrian Civil War (2011-)

The Syrian Civil war differs in character with the above cases, in the organization of the protest and the gravity of issue. The opposition party rose against the government and the president, Bashar Al-Assad, who tried to violently suppress the protestors and opposition party<sup>47</sup>. While Syria does guarantee the right to express and assemble, they rarely enforced the rights and even neglected them by threatening human rights activists and even violently repressing the civil society activists<sup>48</sup>. The Syrian government arrested, expelled and detained number of activists, journalists and bloggers involved in the protest, while severely monitoring and censoring the internet, social network, broadcasting and journals.

Especially when it comes to the freedom of assembly, Syrian human right rags behind. According to the United Kingdom's embassy in Syria,

“Those wishing to hold a meeting or demonstration in Syria were required to submit a written request to the authorities outlining the objectives of the gathering and the names of those in charge. Numerous well-documented incidents of civilians being threatened arbitrarily arrested, detained, tortured and killed in connection with organising meetings and peaceful demonstrations were reported.[...] Independent groups reported that government workers were threatened with dismissal if they failed to attend pro-government rallies.”<sup>49</sup>

Such violation of human rights was greatly criticized by the international society, such as the European Union, United Nations and Arab League, to name a few. However, the Syrian government remains silent to their appeals.

### Conclusion

Looking at those incidents around the world, it is urgent to set the tolerable degree of right to rebel and freedom. In some cases we see lawlessness and civil disturbance; in some cases we see

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<<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/cifamerica/2012/may/24/quebec-truncheon-law-rebounds-student-strike?newsfeed=true>>.

<sup>47</sup> Patterson, Margot. "Syria in Crisis." America Sep 19 2011: 12-6. ProQuest Religion; ProQuest Research Library. Web. 2 Dec. 2012 .

<sup>48</sup> "Syria." Human Rights Watch World Report. New York: Human Rights Watch, 2010. 555-561. Web. <<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wr2010.pdf>>.

<sup>49</sup> "Syria | Human Rights and Democracy ." Human Rights and Democracy | The 2011 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Report . Web. 2 Dec 2012. <<http://fcohrdreport.readandcomment.com/human-rights-in-countries-of-concern/syria/>>.

too much censorship and limitations. It is also interesting that the emergency legislations in response to the Quebec Student Protests and Wall Street movements were quite similar to the Syrian law to the 'legal' protestation-i.e. curfew, and submission of paperwork prior to the demonstration. In the upcoming committee, the delegates will question whether these emergency legislations were righteous and just. It will be also required to think what would be the borderline of protecting fundamental human right and of protecting general civilians and properties.

#### Further readings

##### On Wall Street

- <http://harvardcrcl.org/2011/11/05/what-does-freedom-of-assembly-mean-for-occupy-wall-street/>
- <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2011/11/15/occupy-wall-street-movement-has-no-right-to-sleep-in-parks.html>

##### On Quebec

- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/quebecs-emergency-law-blasted-by-critics/article2437890/>
- <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/anti-protest-legislation-passes-in-quebec/article2436933/>

##### On Syria

- <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/07/14/uk-syria-crisis-icrc-idUKBRE86D09B20120714>
- <http://edition.cnn.com/2012/07/29/world/meast/syria-watson-aleppo/>