

## HSMUN 2009: LET THE SCHEMING BEGIN!



Stiffen the sinews and summon up the blood, delegate-- HSMUN 2009 is upon us! All our staff are ready to let slip their talent and skill for the greater glory of the Conference.

Here at the UNN, we look to provide you with quality journalism for the next few days. Turn to these pages for thoughtful articles on major International Events. More than just that, though, our intrepid team of journalists will also tell you what is going on in all the other committees with exciting and amusing articles.

You, delegate, will be the subject of this paper, and your deeds and misdeeds will be recorded here for posterity. This editor will stop at nothing to promote the power of the press, and will ensure that your scheming successes are placed within these pages. But be warned-- should you venture

off your foreign policy and do things your country would never do, then, delegate, you shall be dragged through the words of this paper and pummeled and stoned with the sharp rhetoric of the Fourth-Estate.

For now, delegate, read this edition with care. You shall find that it deals with the complexities of self-determination, reminds you of the significant role multilateral organisations can play in the world, and urges the five permanent members of the Security Council to take up their burden of action. In the "National Interests" section, delegates who will be in DISEC can learn a bit more about the highly controversial topic of Private Military Contractors and get an idea about where their debates should go. You can even deduce what spots in the world might see a looming international

crisis. As the sessions begin, you can take a look at your staff's biographies to see where our varied people come from. So as you go into sessions, remember: the eyes of media are upon your country.

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*Friends, Delegates, Citizens: Lend me your ears!*

# SECURITY COUNCIL PREPARES TO FOCUS ON SELF-DETERMINATION

SARAH FLOWERS, COLUMNIST

The current debate in the Security Council—which will be in session starting February 19—revolves around the rights of a nation to self-determination. Regions that will most likely find themselves in the spotlight include India, for refusing to view the region of Kashmir as an independent country, and Israel, for failing to view Palestine as a separate entity. Delegates will most likely be focusing on the issue of peace preservation while attempting to advance talks to bring about sovereignty to these areas.

For Kashmir, sovereignty appears to be a long way off. Divided by the internationally recognized “Line of Control” (as named in 1972), the region is split between the nations of Pakistan and India. However, both sides refuse to acknowledge the boundaries sanctioned by the United Nations and have continually battled over the territory in attempts to gain complete control. Currently, a ceasefire, initially implemented in 2003, is in effect but that has not stopped both sides from committing various insurgencies and injustices. In July 2008, Pakistan was accused of breaching the cease-fire, bringing about setbacks to the unstable peace of the Indian-controlled region. Despite order being somewhat restored in the region, delegations will still have to work in order to implement the cease-fire and stop the militant groups from violating the agreement between the two nuclear nations.

An issue of utmost importance for the Security Council will be the sovereignty of Palestine. Despite being recognized as an independent state, Palestine still faces many setbacks due to the refusal by Israel to recognize the nation and withdraw from Palestinian territory. Israel further increased tensions by implementing measures such



ABC.NET

*Self-Determination realized: Kosovars celebrate their nation's declaration of independence in February 2008, to the support of NATO and the West but the chagrin of Russia*

as the construction of a massive wall that annexed large areas of Palestine and building settlements for Israelis in Palestinian territory. Shared sovereignty of Jerusalem and the displacement of 3.7 million Palestinians have also sidelined peaceful resolution. The conflict between the two nations has yet to be resolved by any governing body including the United Nations due to influence from the United States,

who often uses its veto on the Security Council to aid Israel.

During the United Nations conference, delegates will be attempting to bring about lasting agreements resolving the issues of sovereignty and self-determination. Key nations such as Kashmir and Palestine will be in focus and it is hoped that some form of autonomy will be achieved by the time the conference closes.

## COUNTERPOINT: AUDACITY OF NATIONS

SIR JOHN AUBREY, COLUMNIST

The author of the above article on self-determination is clearly engaged in some unfortunate self-deception. With hand over eyes, she equates self-determination with nationhood, ignoring the intricacies of the concept, and even then addressing only two case studies, in which self-determination is only one of many factors.

From the outset, this self-appointed expert refers to the “rights of a nation to self-determination”. It seems clear, however, that once nationhood is es-

tablished, the issue at hand is no longer self-determination, but rather sovereignty. We can only assume, then, that within the context of self-determination our colleague means to refer to the right of particular and distinct groups to form nations, and to govern them thereafter. For now, let us assent to discussing the matter in this domain (although you may rest assured that we will soon enough challenge its limitations)—but even then, we must

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find fault with the argumentation advanced.

To begin with, our self-applauding correspondent addresses the conflict over Kashmir. She asserts that India is to be condemned for “refusing to view the region of Kashmir as an independent country”, despite the fact that, as perusal of anything less rudimentary than Wikipedia reveals, an independent Kashmir is scarcely an internationally accepted solution. Indeed, the question of Kashmir is much more than an issue of self-determination for those living in the region, crucially involving the national interests of both Pakistan and India—and even if we ignore these factors and consider only the rights of those of the region, their self-determination does not of necessity imply their independence as a state. Although few would accept India’s claims that the people’s participation in elections within India entirely satisfies their right to self-determination, one cannot ignore the possibility of a certain degree of autonomy, whether cultural, political or economic, within either India or Pakistan.

We move on, then, to what we hope will be an enlightening account of Palestine within the framework of self-

determination, but are sadly disappointed. It occurs to us at this point, however, that we shouldn’t be disappointed: the introduction really ought to have tipped us off and lowered our expectations. We are told that Israel will find itself in the spotlight “for failing to recognize Palestine as a separate entity”. Israel may well find itself in the spotlight, it is true, and very likely for reasons involving its interactions with Palestine—but come now, let us be serious: when it comes to Palestine, Israel is doing things of much greater concern than not acknowledging its existence as a state. You can still conduct airstrikes against states, guys. And again, the article self-importantly advances the Israeli recognition of Palestinian rights to self-determination as the solution to the decades-long conflict. What, one is left asking, about the Palestinian recognition of Israeli rights to the same?

What is missing from the above analysis, then? The article takes an overly simplistic view of both the conflicts discussed, and of the issue of self-determination. Yes, the right to self-determination exists; however, acknowledging that a particular group is entitled to this right does not necessitate their being given their

own country. First of all, this “solution” is hugely controversial because it involves taking land, resources, and citizens away from already existing countries. Not only is this *prima facie* an abhorrent idea to many of the countries in question, there will always be quibbles over precise borders and definitions, particularly given that there will almost certainly be minority groups living within the break-away regions. (Note that here “quibbles” is sadly an understatement.) And even if borders can be agreed upon, a new state is still not unquestionably a good thing: not every cultural group is capable of forming a politically and economically viable state.

Thus it must be remembered that the right to self-determination can be actualized in a variety of ways. The region in question can become an independent state or can join another already extant state, but there are ways to ensure self-determination within a larger and ethnically diverse country, including the granting of special status, as has been done for Quebec, Scotland, and Wales. In other cases, even a more active integration of the group into the broader population will help to solve the problem: sometimes the point is just not to oppress them.

The assumption made by our unenlightened reporter, then, is first that the actualization of the right to self-determination requires the creation of new states, and second that the actualization of this right is the simple solution to the conflicts in question. She is wrong on the first count—fortunately, because her methods often create even larger conflicts. And she is unfortunately also wrong on the second issue: the view that conflicts in regions like Kosovo, South Sudan, Georgia, and Somalia could be resolved with such a relatively simple act is simplistic, and simply untrue.



WIKIPEDIA

*Self-Determination’s beastly bit: anti-Kosovar Independence terrorists blow up the vans of ethnic Albanian bankers, February 2008*

## THE ROLE OF PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANIES IN CONFLICT

SAMUEL SHAPIRO, COLUMNIST

National forces as vs. private military armies—the question is one of grave importance when it comes to the issues of security, efficiency and accountability. Private military companies (PMCs henceforth) have played a huge role in conflicts worldwide for many decades, yet their validity is being increasingly questioned. Both pros and cons are covered in the following discussion.

First off, there is the problem with liability issues of private military firms. Since they are not governed by a non-profit, non-privatized system (i.e. the government), 100% safety can never be insured. Therefore, there is often no accountability when things go horribly wrong involving members of the private military force. Even though soldiers are trained extensively, and probably even more so than in national forces, they have little or no control over any other aspects of the company for which they are hired to work (just as an employee cannot merely harass his boss over a printer model or an office cubicle that is not to his or her liking—they are simply booted from the

scene altogether). Depending on the company and mission, their safety can be greatly jeopardized as a result.

The second point is the lack of accountability regarding the actions of private militants. Oftentimes military personnel are able to and do engage in activities which would otherwise be deemed as unacceptable—such as taking advantage of the local populace or its resources and exploiting them. Since records are kept to a minimum, any allegations against mercenaries can be easily denied.

Of course, PMCs can also bring about a lot of good. Exceptional training and convenient availability make private military firms perfect for carrying out specific tasks and missions, not to mention working in combination with national forces to produce effective results. Furthermore, in the event of a weak government or a nation undecided on a certain issue, PMCs can be contracted to go into countries and aid with any humanitarian or other crises without any external pressure. Their presence can therefore be invaluable in many situations.

Hence, the topic of PMCs continues to remain highly controversial. Just one famous example would be Blackwater, a private US military company. While their involvement in Iraq has greatly helped the US National Forces fight off rebels and reconstruct the country, it has also stirred much debate, ranging from disorderly shootings of innocent Iraqi civilians to dealing weapons under the table—weapons which then end up in the hands of insurgents.

Clearly, measures must be taken to make PMCs more accountable for their actions—an action that could be as simple as signing more detailed contracts and holding every member of such firms to a code of conduct. Even though these companies may have good-hearted nationalistic intentions, they are companies nevertheless, and a path striving for profit will always interfere with the quality of the aforementioned intentions. But for now, it is up to the UN delegates to decide exactly what role PMCs should play in global conflicts and similar crises.

## THE PERMANENT FIVE AND THEIR ROLE IN THE WORLD

NATHAN PINKOSKI

In these new-multilaterist days, there is a great deal of criticism directed at the Security Council and its most visible institution: the five permanent members, who sit there year after year after year while other countries rotate in two years terms.

Each of these five powers--Russia, France, the United Kingdom, China and the United States-- are equipped with the singular ability to veto resolutions in this Council--and each of these members have been criticized for it. Many people call for the elimination of the veto. But here, I shall defend it and show what role the Permanent

Five, or P5, are to play in the world, as befits their holding that important mantle of the veto.

Everyone knows of the demise of the League of Nations, and blame it on a variety of things, but the one thing the founders of the the United Nations held the death of the league to was the fact that it failed because of a lack of great power consensus. Great countries that had their will thwarted by the League felt as if they had no reason to work in that forum and turned elsewhere. So the new United Nations was meant to include that which its prede-

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When the P5 speak, all listen: Colin Powell in February 2003

WIKIPEDIA

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cessor lacked: Great Power consensus. The veto was a reflection that the P5 had a special role to play in the world and a position of leadership to fulfill. Countries across the world naturally looked to the P5 for leadership, and indeed still do. The possession of the veto permits the world's strongest and most formidable countries to maintain international stability, which is always contingent upon great power cooperation. This is how the Second World War is not repeated.

It can be frustrating at times, but the reality is that the P5 have the most far-flung national interests, and one wants to prevent these nations from giving up on the U.N. and underwriting and supporting a multilateral order. For how could the U.N. work if America left it? Remember the League.

That is the responsibility of the P5: they exist to preserve and protect the very international system as we know it. When the world failed to act in Rwanda in 1994, the Americans were blamed, and the French and the British-- because they were all great powers, and as such, they were supposed to act as such. Leadership is a challenge in that you are blamed for both your interventions and your non-interventions.

Nevertheless, the delegates of the P5 must remember that they represent the rock that the U.N. is based upon: support of the great powers. They must live up to their mantle and act as leaders, sponsoring and writing resolutions. No great power should ever go through a committee without trying to write a resolution. The world looks to them for leadership, and the P5 must take up the moral authority their position gives them and not be afraid to speak or shout or protest or even, in the SC, veto in the name of the world order. They must strive for their principles, seek consensus, find support and never yield.

## ADOLESCENCE IN THE GLOBAL THEATRE: THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

SAM JEFFERY

The word "union" comes from the Latin *unus*, meaning "one". It shouldn't come as a shock, then, that the EU has been working towards unity since day one. The official standpoint is that the EU exists because all European nations should act and speak as one. This extends to all aspects, the most visible being a single currency - the Euro. But why is it taking so long for the Union, now the pimply age of sixteen, to have a unified foreign policy?

The answer lies in a long complicated debate about national pride, arguing about the pound versus the euro and concluding in a muddled mess of right and wrong being the same shade of grey. However the journey may weave, it nonetheless makes progress. The EU has an agreed policy to use 'soft' power, meaning diplomacy before all else. Trade is by far the most developed of foreign policies, including free trade within the Union: this success has made the EU one of the world's foremost advocates in "trade liberalisation" at a global level.

More recently, the EU has redoubled its efforts to unify its foreign defensive policies following African conflicts and the threat of Middle Eastern terrorism. Currently, the Union represents its member states in such global forums as the WTO and G8 Summits as well as a voice at the UN separate from those of individual countries (the EU presidency, the Council of the European Union, and the European Commission).

Cracks still exist in the Union's foreign policy front, as is evident in responses to the Russia-Georgia conflict. The Union suffered from conflicting interests when attempting to make a response, with some members (Estonia) calling for Georgia and Ukraine

to be offered EU membership. While the EU foreign-policy chief called for discussion, the NATO secretary-general claimed that such diplomacy remains impossible so long as Russia forges ahead with new military bases in the breakaway Georgian regions. The Union remains deeply divided on the issue.

Though the EU has managed to coordinate multi-nation peacekeeping missions, the current policy is that actual defence is the sole domain of individual states. One must ask if this can ever hold true when the Union consists of such a tightly woven web of economies. A rapid deployment group, the European Union Battlegroups, exists to assist with what operations the EU deems fit, from peacekeeping to crisis management. At only 1500 large, however, it is hardly an army to defend a continent. Considering that the EU was partially the result of the ill-fated "European Defence Community", which intended to form a "pan-European defence force", it's not surprising that some see this miniature army as little more than a shuffle in the right direction.

The coming days will surely test the Union's strength. Will the free trade policies continue through the world economic crisis, or will nationalism win over countries one by one? Will the EU's foreign policy solidify into a strong unified voice, or splinter into differing opinions? At this point, perhaps an old cliché is best: only time will tell.

EU Delegates: Be sure to find out your fellow EU members and ensure that you all act together in drafting resolutions.

## PROSPECTS FOR THE ARAB LEAGUE: AN ORGANISATION OF UNITY

SARAH FLOWERS

The League of Arab States was inaugurated in 1945, following the end of the Second World War. Brought about as an idea of the British in order to win the support of Arab states against Germany, the League initially consisted of seven nations. Now, twenty-two countries belong to the Arab League, with Egypt and Saudi Arabia considered the most influential nations. Headed by Secretary-General Amr Moussa, the former Foreign Minister of Egypt who was appointed in 2001, the League tries to promote peace between its members and work towards solutions to various problems within the league's borders.

Current issues being handled include the war in Iraq and the Gaza crisis, which is unfortunately bringing the League's plans for peace to a grinding halt. Member nations are conflicted in their support for either Palestine (which is recognized by the Arab League as being an independent state) or Israel, whose closest ally is the United States. At a conference held at the end of January, Arab League members met in Kuwait City to discuss the ways to improve the lives of citizens. However, many of the nations spent their time bickering over the current situation in Gaza, much to the dismay of other members. At a meeting prior to the beginning of the conference, Lebanese Prime Minister Fouad Siniora said, "We have to be aware as Arabs that the absence of an Arab solution to the Palestinian issue also means the absence of continuous progress, major development, sustainable growth and agreement within our Arab world" (Slackman, 'Gaza Crisis sows discord at Arab conference', International Herald Tribune).

The tensions between Palestine and Israel have long been the focus of the Arab League, which is determined

to bring about a peaceful solution to the ongoing conflict. Currently, the favored resolution is the "Two State" Solution. An idea developed by the Americans, it would give the West Bank—a largely fractured area—to Palestine to create a separate nation from that of Israel. However, this proposal has been difficult to implement due to the population of the West Bank: approximately 280,000 Jewish settlers currently reside in the region. Palestinians also call the West Bank home, but they are viewed as 'second class' citizens, despite their population of over two and a half million people.

Despite the vast setbacks caused by the conflict between Palestine and Israel, the formation of the Arab League has been considered a success. The League is thought to be a great asset in brokering various peace talks—such as Egypt arranging negotiations between Israel and Palestine—as well as in attempting to generally promote peace in the Arab states. It will be interesting to see if the League is able to step up and further promote a peaceful solution between Israel and Palestine, a move that would end nearly fifteen years of Arab League negotiations.

## COUNTERPOINT: THE LEAGUE OF FAILURE

SALLY LOUISE HEATH, COLUMNIST

The Arab League, a success? One really must wonder where Ms. Flowers gets her information. The league continues to be plagued by failure as stability in the region becomes a pipe dream.

The Arab League has proven largely ineffective in addressing any of the multitudes of problems plaguing the region for the greater part of the last half-century. Peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians are essentially non-existent ever since the January bombings. Relations between Syria

and Saudi Arabia have turned sour and genocide continues to occur in Darfur. The body count in the region continues to mount and the Arab League has been incapable of offering any solutions.

Inaction and peace talks don't work in an area where one part of the region will only rest once the state of Israel is pushed into the sea. The Arab League must begin to involve itself directly in this conflict if it ever wants to see a resolution. However, the League will never be able to reach a plan of action when its members can't reach a decision on which side to support.

Some left-wing Americans suggested a "Two-State" solution. Obviously Ms. Flowers and the Americans who suggested the solution have a lot to learn. The proposal isn't difficult to implement, it's an insult to Jewish settlers who live in the West Bank.

In the end, the Arab League's only contribution to the International Community has been hypocrisy: condemning Israel for military attacks while supporting Palestinian terrorism.



# COPING WITH CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTING OUR JOBS

ERIN REDDEKOPP, COLUMNIST



*The other side of Prosperity: Carbon Dioxide from our factories rises into the air, warming the Earth's atmosphere and contributing to an environmental crisis*

DIMER.TAMU.EDU

Whether or not we accept our role in climate change, we must accept that global warming is happening. We can no longer sit and relax with the idea that someone else will fix it. The United Nations scientific panel studying climate change has declared that evidence of a warming trend is “unequivocal”, and that human activity has “very likely” been the driving force in that change over the last 50 years, whereas the previous report by the group, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in 2001, had found that humanity had “likely” played a role.

The addition of that single word “very” does more than reflect mounting scientific evidence that the release of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases from smokestacks, tailpipes and burning forests has played a central role in raising the average surface temperature of the earth by more than three degrees Celsius since 1900. It has also added new momentum to a debate that now seems centered less over whether humans are warming the planet, but instead over what to do about it.

In recent months, business groups have banded together to make unprecedented calls for federal regulation of greenhouse gases. The subject had a red-carpet moment when former Vice President Al Gore’s documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, was awarded an Oscar; and the Supreme Court made its first global warming-related decision, ruling five to four that the Environmental Protection Agency had not justified its position that it was not authorized to regulate carbon dioxide.

The greenhouse effect has been part of the earth’s workings since its earliest days. Gases like carbon dioxide and methane allow sunlight to reach the earth, but prevent some of the resulting heat from radiating back out into space. Without the greenhouse effect, the planet would never have warmed enough to allow life to form. But as ever larger amounts of carbon dioxide have been released along with the development of industrial economies, the atmosphere has grown warmer at an accelerating rate: since 1970, temperatures have gone up at nearly three times the average for the 20th century.

So how do we combat climate change? How do we arm ourselves to fight one of our most deadly and invisible enemies? Environmental activist will tell us that we must slow down our emitters, that we must restrict the growth and development of industry until we can properly handle emissions. That we must put a penalty on their emissions right now.

That idea is ludicrous. In order for our industries to develop better and more environmentally friendly ways of handling pollution and global warming, they must have the expendable financial capital to put into innovative research and the creation of new technology.

Placing restrictions on industry before giving them any time does not make sense. There is a need to implement emission reductions; however, proper planning and the idea of correct timing must come into play. Industry must be given the chance to adapt and to invest, otherwise we will see dire economic consequences in addition to our already fragile environmental future.



[HTTP://THESITUATIONIST.FILES.WORDPRESS.COM](http://thesituationist.files.wordpress.com)  
Yes, Mr Gore, it's a problem- but tell us how we can balance economy with environment?

# DEMOCRACY IN DANGER: CHAVEZ ABOLISHES TERM LIMITS

ERIN REDDEKOPP

The constitution was the primary obstacle in Hugo Chavez's path to indefinite re-election. After Sunday's clear referendum victory, that obstacle has been eliminated. Chavez, Venezuela's president since 1999, welcomed the cheers of his supporters announcing his intention to run again for the presidency in the 2013 election.

Results of the referendum show 54.4% of votes were cast in favour of removing term limits for all popularly elected officials, with 45.4% against changing the constitution. The opposition faced a devastating blow after defeating the re-election initiative in a December 2007 referendum. After the 2007 defeat Chavez repackaged the proposal and placed all kinds of government support behind changing the constitution, basically forcing it through.

Opposition members harshly criticize Chavez for exploiting public resources in the promotion of his referendum campaign. All across Venezuela Chavez supporters plastered public buildings and vehicles with pro-Chavez propaganda. State media spent entire budgets on promoting the



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*Chavez is jubilant with his victory, despite its legitimacy, and the Socialist Revolution can proudly and inexorably go forward...*

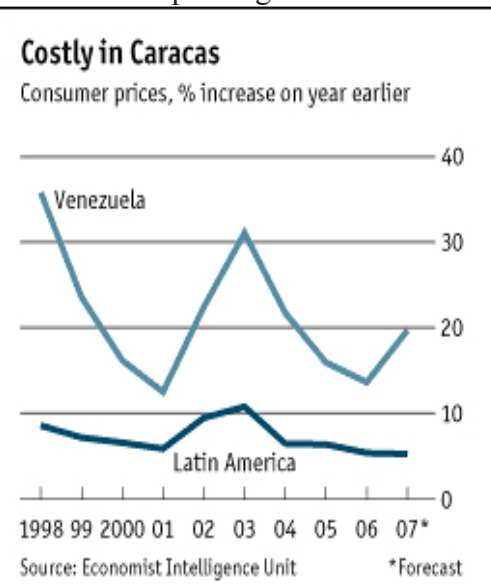
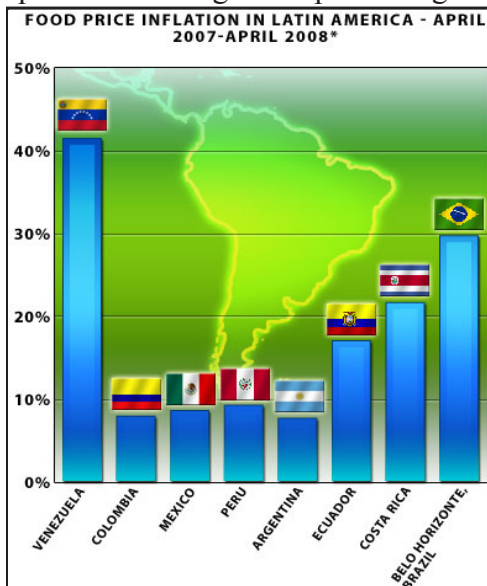
campaign and passengers on the Caracas metro enjoyed campaign jingles on a daily basis.

Chavez's harshest critic, the student movement, was silenced by the president. In the 2007 campaign, the students were the largest voice opposing the removal of term limits. The success of student protesters left opposition parties feeling hopeful and Chavez feeling threatened. Rather than risk another outpouring of anti-Chavez

sentiments, the president ordered rallies and marches to be broken up "with a good dose of gas." During the final days of the campaign the movement was even denied permission to march in Caracas.

Questions will likely be raised over the legitimacy of the referendum. In addition to the publicly funded propaganda the Venezuela Parliament, had been instructed to propose the constitutional amendment. It framed a tortuous, 75-word question avoiding all mention of the issue of indefinite re-election. Rather, it asked voters, in barely intelligible terms, if they wanted to "expand the rights of the people", by reforming five articles of the constitution. Not surprisingly the results were an overwhelming majority.

Chavez's fluffy victory speech was carried on all radio and television channels and expressed little of what this meant for the Venezuelan people. Chavez spent much of his speech patting himself on the back and thanking voters for reinforcing his "political destiny, the destiny of his life".



ECONOMIST

...But with rising unemployment and inflation, at what cost?



# HSMUN BIOGRAPHIES

AN OBSERVER OF THE CONFERENCE

Lavanya Bathini General Aide	Former Secret Service, Lavanya was suspended for undisclosed reasons after a shoe incident in Baghdad and has offered to assist the UN instead.
Zoya Zaeem General Aide	After a prosperous career in Mossad, Zoya now works for the UN, although those who irritate her have the nasty tendency of never waking up again.
Vicky Wang General Aide	Vicky is a Chavez loyalist and is suspected by some Staff of being a Venezuelan spy. Beware.
Nichole Wiedman Delegate Resource Room Supervisor	Nichole has run guns up and down the Congo River, until, on that river, she had a religious experience one evening while reading Joseph Conrad. Now she is a supporter of human security and the dignity of the human person, even in the heart of an immense darkness...
Ashton Frayn Chair, SC	Ashton was a Marine sniper in Vietnam. He was dishonourably discharged after shooting Nixon's dog from 926 metres away.
Nolan Sawatzky Director, SC	In his noble campaign to rid the world of landmines, Nolan took a sledgehammer to the DMZ—and nearly lost both legs and an arm. Subsequently disillusioned, he now uses his current position to sell automatic weapons to impoverished countries.
Haitham Kharrat Chair, DISEC	Haitham has devoted his entire life to the cause of the United Nations. He has overseen 14 UN Missions, 346 UN flag-raising ceremonies, and 42 UN flag-collecting-from-the-ruins-of-local-conflict-ceremonies. He hopes for a peaceful conference.
Steven Graham Director, DISEC	Hardline commander of Executive Outcomes, Steven would like to sell you an Mi-24, assuring its usefulness in jungle combat.
Brandon Ash Chair, WHO	A fierce Iranian militant and enemy of all Iraqis, Dave left the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution when peace was made with Iraq to carry on his war. This led him to joining the Americans in 1991, advocating the abandoned Oil-for-Death program of the 1990s and to go with the Americans again in 2003. He has since joined the U.N. in a not-uncommon volte-face.
Britt Burton Director, WHO	Britt is Michael Moore's greatest fan. She was even prepared to gorge in order to weigh as much as him, but her doctors persuaded her otherwise.
Saurash Reddy Chair, SPECPOL	An expert in International Law, Saurash is a vigilante enforcer of all the UN Conventions. He was arrested two months ago for trying to write in the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the US Constitution, but has since been released and has returned to his UN work.
Rita Chen Director, SPECPOL	Rita has fought in 5 different wars on 10 different sides, and is an expert in Conflict Studies and on firing RPGs from moving vehicles. Her experience caught the eyes of the Palestinian Mission to the UN, and she rose from there to her current position.
Siahra Skelton Chair, UNEP	Siahra is on loan from the French Foreign Legion in a special deployment operation in UN headquarters.
Tania Skelton Director, UNEP	Tania is a Kuwaiti archivist recording UN activities in order to see whether that organisation would defend them in the event of an invasion.
Robert Lees-Miller Chair, ILO	Robert is wanted by the ICC for war crimes and attempted coups. He has a few good Hutu friends, though, and is deeply impressed by their ability to carve a turkey, among other things.
Meagan Thiessen Director, ILO	Meagan is prepared to denounce Robert, but not to the ICC-- instead, to the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie. There have promised a reward, you see.
Sara Yazdani Chair, SOCHUM	Sara is Empress of the Comoros. We are honoured to have her in our unworthy presence.
Jessica Liu Director, SOCHUM	As a renegade general, Jessica is known as the terror of the Gold Coast and has a massive diamond trafficking operation stretching across Western Africa.

Sean Lee Intervention , SC	Sean Lee will only answer to Colonel, the title he earned from a deft invasion of Georgia last summer. He supports Putin, obviously.
Ahmed Elmallah Intervention , SC	Ahmed is a Somali pirate. He is currently accepting ransoms for an Oil Tanker.
Peter Sceluck Intervention, DISEC	Don Sceluck used to lead a powerful crime family out of Tarento. But in the wake of the Oil-for-Food scandal, he came to the lucid understanding that humanitarian intervention is far more lucrative than illegal businesses, and so signed up for the UN. Alas, he got stuck in the Press, and has only been able to cover up stories about Mafiosi.
Michael Thorpe Intervention, WHO	Mr Thorpe is a wanted terrorist. No one is sure for whom he works, but everyone knows he is fond of blowing things up. It is suspected he is using the WHO for research in biological weapons. Don't open any letters from him.
Ashvin Singh Intervention, SPECPOL	A Pirate who feasted on the lucrative Madeira trade of... Madeira, Ashvin was finally caught when he accidentally crashed into Gibraltar. He was able to escape a severe sentence by bribing the judge with his Vintage stock, and was merely deported to The Hague for further questioning.
Jina Shin Intervention, UNEP	Jina is adamantly opposed to banning Nuclear testing, as she derives a certain aesthetic high from seeing the pretty cloud of triumph over the sky. Alas, the UN hiring screening-process missed that little bit, just as it is missing 1 ICBM...
Sandy Brophy Intervention, ILO	Sandy's journeys across the world in the name of human rights have brought him world renown, especially last month when he accidentally knocked over the barricade between Gaza and Egypt. He has since apologized, and promised to make it up to Egypt in this session.
Elina Dunn Intervention, ILO	Elina is an expert in International Law; or, more specifically given her former career in the Congo, an expert at breaking it.
Aggar Luna Intervention, SOCHUM	Aggar once tried to assassinate Fidel Castro. When that failed, she tried assaulting him directly in order to pull out his beard, the source of all his power. Castro was impressed by her zeal and made her a warlord in Angola, until she gave that up to work for the U.N.
Leaticia Kaggwa Intervention, Crisis	Leaticia is a renegade Cypriot who is determined to unify her island at any cost. To such an end, she has been actively undermining the UNFICYP in Cyprus for many years. Having now reduced them to 918 personnel, she readies her nationalists to strike as the Conference prepares itself.
Rowan El-Bialy Intervention, Crisis	Rowan spent three years in the IRA before, between John Major's "Back to Basics" program and a UN-Clemency Campaign, he found himself wearing a blue helmet in East Timor. From this, it was a short step to a cushy job in New York.
Kirsten Snell Intervention, Crisis	A fanatical Chechnyan nationalist, the only thing Kirsten hates more than Russian Imperialists is Russian Imperialists at the UN. Last time she met some Russians, it was in a theatre in Moscow, with a few dozen of her Chechnyan friends.
Denise Whitford Intervention, Crisis	Denise Whitford is a navy SEAL who has deployed in some of the toughest areas in the world. Utterly ruthless, she is currently attempting to subvert Russian will in Kazakhstan with an M-16 and a combat knife. We are not exactly sure why she is here, except a Department of Defence report said something about Russian infiltration at HSMUN. If you see any Russians and do not have time to build an effective missile shield, let Denise "Knife-Beater" Whitford know, and they won't bother you again.
Antony Ta Intervention, Film	The love child of Edmund Hillary and a porter's wife, Antony was meant to become a Tibetan monk when he very nearly became the Dalai Lama. Instead, though, the New Zealand government declared him a state-secret, kidnapped and raised him in isolation in Polynesia, until it was decided that a career in multilateralism would suit.
Jaskaran Singh Intervention, Film	Jaskaran was a gold-pro prospector in the Transvaal until Mandela decided South Africa needed an ambassador to the UN. So Jaskaran, having had very little to do with the previous regime, eagerly took up the post (after buying a few more shares in De Beers).

Emily Cliff News Editor	Emily is boring, and has no exciting biography.
Erin Reddekopp News , Columnist	Erin Reddekopp is an expert in Genocide Studies and Eugenics, particularly in the normative branch of that field, which has yet to be really explored in the 21st century. Her grandfather advised both Hess and Speer, but did not know anything about that thing.
Sarah Flowers News, Columnist	Sarah Flowers is a lifetime member of the NRA and owns three assault rifles. But since she is open-minded, she decided to take a job at the UN to see what all those liberals are about.
Samuel Shapiro News, Columnist	As a fighter pilot, Samuel was a darling of the Air Force, until he accidentally dropped a bomb on some Canadians.
Sam Jeffery News, Columnist	A War-Correspondent in Iraq, Sam was ready to put her head on the line to get the perfect story—until one evening in a dank Baghdad cellar, she actually had to. Fortunately, her time in the SAS taught her a thing or two about self-defence, and she left the building a smouldering ruin. But she had lost her Press-Pass, and so decided to go to the empty UN building in Baghdad and pretend to work until promotion came.
Sam Brooks News, Managing Editor & Photographer	Sam is a deft organiser, having orchestrated Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although he was Rumsfeld's obvious successor, he was rudely passed over, and so committed himself to multilateral planning instead.
Lukas Kawalilak News, Photographer	Lukas made a killing off the Ivory trade in the Kalahari with a jeep and a rifle, until a UN factfinding mission on Elephant Hunting chanced upon him while he was bathing in the Cuando. He cut them a deal, where he took their job and they took up his.
Sahil Gupta News, Photo Editor	As a National Geographic Photographer, Sahil amassed a fortune by figuring out what the goats crossing into Liberia were really carrying. Since then, Sahil has retired to a cushy UN job, where he can photograph on those occasions when he is not appearing at TRCs.
Natasha Tames News, Photo Editor	Natasha shot someone while on a trip to the Louvre, and is hiding from French Police.
Marc Charbonneau News, Film	Marc was one of the Moscow guards of the smallpox cylinder, before he decided it ought to be at The Hague, like all things else good. Unfortunately, while travelling through Chad (a strange flight) he dropped it in the Chari River. He hopes it never opened, and has been secretly diverting WHO funds for the last year in an effort to recover it.
James Ternovoy News, Film	James Ternovoy does not exist. If you think he does, it is because a secret government program has been leaked. If James thinks he exists, it means the secret government program still needs to perfect its amnesiac. In the meantime, however, he will be running amok across Europe trying to find clues about his past, and probably breaking a lot of things in the process as he applies skills he somehow did not forget, unlike his name. Odd thing, that.
Sir John Aubrey News, Columnist	Aubrey's family came down out of Wales in the time of Henry V, and traces a proud lineage of staunch Toryism. Sir John spent his youth in the Army, campaigning to restore National Service, march the British back into Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Kenya, and suggested that the natural arbiters of the Middle East garrison Israel-Palestine to develop a British State-Solution. Knighted for his pro-monarchical campaigns, Sir John was passed over for the Tory Leadership, but hopes to be considered if "Mr Cameron can't put a Scot in his place on the backbench." He reads from the Western Canon and writes in his leisure hours.
Sally Louise Heath News, Columnist	Sally Heath is a staunch Republican loyalist and forms part of the party faithful. While an admirer of Reagan, she thought McCain to be a bit soft on the culture wars and hoped the vice-President might take up the fight. She proposes judicial activism as a Conservative solution, believing the bench should be the fighting ground of the Culture Wars.

Amy Sanderson Secretary-General	Amy believes that Barack Obama's Presidency threatens the future of the world. Already she has used her UN position to find old friends in Congress, silently preparing the impeachment process in the name of fighting vile Socialism. She has her favourite Republican, to be sure, but backs a Mr Bartlett for a Democratic coup in 2012.
Avnish Nanda Director-General	After spending his childhood in the RUF outside Freetown, Avi awoke one morning to find the friends that had raised him to have disappeared. Somewhat dazed, he wandered to a camp full of nice people, who said that there was more to existence than clutching metallic Russian memorabilia. Pleased, Avi devoted himself to the happy blue, and rapidly rose in their ranks.
Maggie Danko Under Secretary-General Logistics	Maggie fancies herself as a woman of the people and a friend of the crowds. So she has been to many crowds in many places, and seen many things with the crowds—Rangers' uniforms in Mogadishu, Tanks in Tiananmen, and so forth. But she wanted above all else to see a crowd in New York, and that is what brought her to the UN.
Sarah Hamill Under Secretary-General Registration	Sarah is one of the lesser-known daughters of al-Gaddafi. After her father would not let her borrow one of his dozen Rolls-Royces, she disowned him and joined the Americans in condemning him. Distressed over the loss of his daughter, Gaddafi has since worked to reconcile with the West.
Brooke Miller Under Secretary-General Dais	Brooke stole a Soviet submarine and raced it across the Atlantic until it broke down. Fortunately, it was just outside of New York, and with a hop, skip and a swim, she was in the UN Building talking I.R. with the best of them.
Nathan Pinkoski Under Secretary-General News	Nathan is Caesar's heir.
Aaron Rankin Under Secretary-General Intervention	Aaron Rankin is a world-class mercenary, who has seen action in 15 sub-Saharan African nations and has arrest warrants issued by 5 of them—and medals from the other 10. Despite a shady human rights record, he has since retired and hopes to continue a respectable career in the United Nations, as long as the truth about him and Sbrénica never comes out...

## UNITED NATIONS NEWS

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