The former Bosnian Croat soldier Drazen Erdemovic was convicted for 9 years in prison for the executions of 70 Muslims at a farm near Pilica during the Bosnian Serb invasion 1995 in Srebrenica. Prosecution pleaded guilty in sense of crime against humanity and war crime. Yesterday, the Model International Criminal Court adjudicated upon the case. The especialness of the crime made it hard to find an adequate verdict for the judges, since Erdemovic acted both as accused and witness in his own case, which besides offered a lot of mitigating circumstances in favor to the accused. “The accused wanted to protect his pregnant wife and child.” Furthermore, the accused found himself under extremely threatening circumstances, hence it follows, that Defence saw the crime the former soldier committed as an action under duress. The Prosecution, however, supported the fact that Erdemovic could have refused the order, since there were no life-threatening circumstances which allayed the guilt. “Responsibility is not only with the commander, it is with every single soldier”. It was the controversial feeling between accusation and commiseration which created a nervous and excited atmosphere in the court room. Even the Prosecutors could not stay untouched by this conflicting situation. “It is very hard to judge as a Prosecutor, because when we talked about the case, I could really feel with him. Besides, the Defence has strong arguments”, said Simon Block before trial.

The strength of these arguments and the testimony of the witness did not convince the judges of an innocent accused acting under duress, but they did consider mitigating circumstances which finally leded to an imprisonment of 9 years. An adequate judgement?

“I am very satisfied with our decision. I really feel comfortable with what we have done. Our decisions were very similar, there were just tiny differences. But we came to a good decision.” said Fenja Fiegenbaum, member of the judge-team.

But above all alleviation about the verdict even from Defendant’s side, the participants had a very special and difficult case to deal with, which proved that there cannot be made any judgements without using rational facts and intuition with the same importance. “Tragical situations like the situation of Erdemovic always have an effect in our life. It really influenced my thinking about Muslims”, stated Dominika Zaremba, member of the Prosecution.

reforming the police, cases of inhuman and degrading treatment continue to be reported. The Government promised important modifications to the Criminal Code, but no such changes were made.

This is not to say that there have been no improvements in the observance of human rights since their emergence, but rather than the rational for doing so has been inconsistent and unimpressive.
From 11th to 16th of December more than 60 Students from Israel, Palestine, Poland and Germany are in Kreisau to recreate and simulate the trials of international criminal courts. This project takes place in Kreisau. Kreisau is a small village where more than 200 People live. The Students are also in Kreisau to learn about international law, human rights and intercultural exchange. The whole meeting is called MICC, which stands for Model International Criminal Court. Prosecutors, lawyers, judges and the press team are the roles of the students. The assignment of the prosecution is to prove the guilty of the accused and the assignment of the defence is to create doubt about this. The judges has to decide if the accused is guilty or not and they have to decide what the punishment is. The press team is reporting on the entire project.

MICC was initiated by Hans Fleisch in year 2005, since then MICC always meet 2 times a year for 6 days, this is the 8th meeting of MICC. Most participants were asked by their teachers or have participated in a competition to have the chance of joining the MICC. For examples Juliana Sarras, Jana Staudt and Anna Wasicka were invited by their teacher. Different students have different motivations to attend MICC. When asked what they can gain from MICC, the participants most often mention that they are interested in learning about the international criminal law and human rights, meeting new people and establishing friendships, discovering other cultures and enjoying time together, improving their English skills. Some participants mentioned that they feared that MICC would not be very interesting, others thought it would be less work than it was. More than sure, all the students expect to spend nice time and get a certificate!

Welcome to MICC! Welcome To Kreisau!

The MICC team patiently waiting to take a group picture.

A Closer Look at ICC: Challenges, Events, Success and Failures

Sharon Chen

ICC, the International Criminal Court was founded with the aim of protecting human rights, providing not only include prosecution, but also punishment against the most violent and serious crimes.

“The point of the ICC is that it will step in the principle of complementarity only if the state itself is not able or willing to prosecute and therefore that is the whole reason why we have ICC at the first place.” stated Amy Rodgers, defence trainer. As the only court for genocide, war crime and crime against humanity, the International Criminal Court faces many challenges. According to Amy, the ICC flacks the support of the world’s super powers like USA, China, Russia and India, who have neither signed nor ratified the Rome Statute. Another significant challenge is that ICC does not have its own police force and a big working force so they have to rely heavily on the nation states to arrest, accuse and needs the cooperation of all world powers. Aside from the European Unions, most countries that have signed the treaty are comparatively less authoritative. “It’s good to have these countries to comply with the statute because that way we could introduce the situation that have resulted the affair.” said Amy laughingly. 17th July 1998 saw a conference in Rome and the formation of Rome Statute. And on 11th April 2002 the Rome Statute became the legal basis of the ICC when the countries that ratify the Statute reached 60. Amazingly, by 2009, the number the states who have signed the Statute reached 140 and 110 of them have ratified it. “Yes, the defect that so many countries have signed on this Statute is a remarkable success of the ICC, the face that it came into existence as well” says Birte von Hoersten, one of the MICC participants.

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The state of Israel, since it has been recognized in 1948, was forced to engage in multiple wars and has gained many friends. Mainly, one would argue, because of the complex and sensitive grounds on which it was built and nursed. Israel has always had to prove itself to the world in relation to Arab antagonism. However, in recent years, genocide, persecution and other aggravating circumstances elsewhere have led Israel to be an ideal destination for refugees and asylum seekers whose government they can no longer trust. Israel must now master a different problem. Somewhere around the turn of the millennia the issue of non-Jewish refugees has started to trickle into the consciousness of Israeli society. The parks of Tel Aviv have been one of the primary residences for these people who suffered so many hardships. Visible progress has been made due to many people and a great investment of resources. It becomes necessary to ask how significant was the role of the Israeli government in providing refugees with their basic rights. Upon returning to their recovering homelands, who would they be thanking, government officials or the common population who has offered them relative comfort?

Article 1 in the 1951 Refugee Convention defines ‘refugee’ as follows: “[A person that] owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it...”

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Refugees - The Main Challenge to Human Rights Protection in Israel

How being in two places at the same time can lessen your punishment

On the first of April 1992 the biggest European war since WWII started in Yugoslavia. It lasted 3 years and thousands of people died. However, not only due to military actions but also because of so called ethnical cleansing in the ethnic mixed territories. The end of the war was also the end of the Yugoslavian state. Before the war started Slovenia and Croatia declared independence and as a reaction Bosnia and Herzegovina wanted to become independent, as well. The territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina was the homeland of Serbs, Croats and Bosnians, so this fact led that a lot of war crimes were committed in this territory. One Person who also was invented in this crimes is Vinko Martinovic, who was the commander in the Croatian Defense Forces. As a commander he took part in military operations against muslim Bosnians in the city of Mostar under the nickname Stela. This operations were part of a campaign of the Croatian Defense Forces against the muslim Bosnians. Between April 1993 and January 1994, Mr. Martinovic tortured Bosnian Muslims and gave the command to use these people as human shields at the frontline, to save his soldiers and to get to know from where the fire comes. During the trial, prosecution and defense both tried to convince the court of their opinion, according to the question if Mr Martinovic can be seen as guilty or not. Prosecution stated, that they want Mr. Martinovic to go to prison for 25 years, because of the fact, that he always took part in the crimes and was absolutely aware about what happened to the defenseless Muslims, who were treated like objects. In the opinion of the prosecution, Mr. Martinovic is a cruel person and guilty in all counts. In opposite to that, the defense stated, that Mr. Martovic cannot be found guilty for many people committed crimes under the name Stela. They gave evidence to this with the testimony, which says that he was in a cafe while some crimes had been committed by someone called Stela, so there must be another person who acted in a criminal way with wearing this nickname. The witness also explained, that Martinovic always was a graceful person and always wanted to help people to get out of prison. Both sides argued in a very convincing and selfconfident way.

After long discussions the court decided to punish Mr. Martinovic with 15 years of going to prison because of the fact that he was fully aware of what he was doing and in which great danger the unarmed Muslims had been. In the opinion of the court Mr. Martinovic treated some prisoners well, so they spented attention to the mitigating circumstances, as well.

Judges reading the verdict in the Martinovic case. Photo by: Federico Kersting

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ONE DAY OF MY LIFE IN MY COUNTRY

Germany: Between Exams and Beer

Arna Wömmel

Being a German girl at the age of 17 I am standing at a point where innumerable options are lying ahead. The world is waiting to be discovered. The range of options is endless, the time runs out. However, my current life in a tiny village in Germany is still limited by school and parents. I love the routine since everything is familiar and secure, I hate it because of the monotony.

My daily routine is mainly determined by school as I am in my second last year. Weekdays are filled until afternoon, sitting bored in school, staring at the teacher and preparing for exams that are coming up. Though life consists of more than this. Sharing all this with friends makes everything bubbling, both during weekdays and weekends.

“Weekends are the time when you actually live your life”, my friend Lena Gravemeier mentioned recently as she missed Germany’s parties. The prejudices are true indeed. Germany is the country of beer. This is what I notice every weekend. Normally the weekend starts by pursuing the love to sport. Most of us participate in tournaments. Football for the boys, the girls vary a bit more. However, the main aspect of the weekends, for us teenagers, is clearly in partying. Certainly this is one of the main issues in Germany concerning my generation. Young people rarely have a perspective for the future since the competition for jobs is tough and for some hopeless, giving incentives for spending their time with alcohol and parties. Needless to say, all of us want to have fun, but in Germany it gets out of control slowly, but surely. Every weekend tremendous amounts of alcohol is consumed. But is it really possible that life is only about parties and school? I refuse to accept this way of spending my time as many others do. Daily life is monotonous indeed. But of course there are opportunities to ‘escape’. Alternations such as school exchanges or projects such as MICC show one more options and broaden ones horizon. Getting to know more people, cultures and debates as we do here are an inspiration in every way and encourages me to go on pursuing my goal: to discover the world.

Palestinian Territories: “Normal Life”

Saliba Bannoura

About my life in general: I as a Palestinian can not live my life as “normal” as any other kid in Europe because, as many know, the Palestinian territories are under occupation. So the “normal life” that you might know is very different from mine in so many ways.

At school we have a weak education system, it doesn’t matter if you were good or bad in school because in the 10th grade the class will be separated into two groups. The first one is the scientific section, requiring high grades in the scientific classes like math, the second section is the human sciences, mainly focusing on history.

If you want to go from one place to another, it will not be very easy because of the countless checkpoints of the Israeli police that are all over the road; the poor conditions of the roads and the traffic jams; last, but not least, the limited range of places to go to because of the separating wall.

About my trip to MICC

school: The Israeli group which lives in the same country with us took a direct flight from Tel Aviv airport to Wroclaw (70 km from Krzyzowa). That was not the case for my group (the Palestinians). Firstly, we took a 3 hour bus trip from Palestine to Jordan. As we reached the Aman airport (Jordan), we took the flight to Istanbul (Turkey) with Turkish airlines at 5 am, which was not cheap at all. After 2 hours of waiting in Istanbul’s Atatürk airport, we continued our air journey to Prague (Czech Republic), which was delayed 1 hour. Following an interrogation by the Czech boarder and customs services, we left Prague by bus. In 5 hours we reached Kreisau. Overall, our journey to MICC lasted 24 hours

About me: As I have mentioned before, my life, compared to the life of other youngsters, is kind of bad one.

I start my day by going to school at 7 o’clock and have classes till the afternoon, studying various subjects, including Maths and English. After school I go home, have lunch and, for sure, a nap till 4 o’clock. As I wake up, before proceeding with my homework, I am watching my favorite series (the Simpsons). After my student duties are fulfilled, I contact my friends and maybe go out with them, otherwise, I go to a soccer training. In the evening, mostly I don’t do anything else because I am tired.

Maybe I watch TV until 9 o’clock I and then go to sleep…As you can see I have a boring life but what can I do???
What do you know about Poland? Probably you heard about Pope John Paul II or Lech Walesa. But I am sure that you haven’t got the faintest idea how daily routine of typical Pole looks.

Friday 13th. In Poland is considered to be a bad luck day. However this is the old superstition. Why? Because today Polish people have Friday, 13th every single day of their life, me too.

In many countries people have the energy for life after waking up, whereas in Poland you tell yourself ‘Oh my God, another hard day has started’. When I am going to the bathroom in order to have a wash I turn on the tap with warm water and I always feel cold water for a very, very long time. It’s so irritating. Then I have to run for my bus to school. Why? Because I prefer sleeping longer and act faster in the morning. There’s one curiosity concerning Polish buses. If you stand at a bus stop earlier than the departure is supposed to take place, you’ll be waiting overtime even 10 minutes, but if you’re there one minute too late, the bus will have gone away.

On the bus one can meet a filthy homeless person and pensioners who will make you flee from your seat. In school everyone you meet will judge you by the way you look. Furthermore, most of the teachers have big egos so it is extremely difficult to cooperate with them. On your way back from school you may be sure to bump into a beggar who will ask you to give him some change for food, but surely he will spend it on alcohol. Back at home I’m eating potatoes for dinner. Yesterday I ate potatoes and tomorrow I will also have potatoes. We don’t care about it. I’m so tired that I don’t even think about my homework.

Lying in my bed trying to take a nap I always hear drills and hammers because of thin walls in the flats and annoying neighbours. In the evening I go out with my friends and peeling sunflower seeds we do nothing. When I get home I have to watch our favourite family TV show because our lives are empty and we have no ambition. I’m eating sandwiches with pate for supper. Yesterday I ate sandwiches with pate and tomorrow I’ll have sandwiches with pate. Next, I’m taking a shower in rusty water and after that I go to my cranking bed. Now I can dream of a better future which will never happen.

If you want to know some more about the complex Polish nature, I can recommend to you the movie ‘Freak’s Day’ by Marek Koterski.

Israel: Split Perspective, Mutual Experiences

Waking up in the morning; brushing your teeth; walking to school. Simple words and simple descriptions universally familiar don’t really manage to describe the specific reality in Israel. Learning about anything requires the specific reality in Israel. Tabeetha School, among other pools of diversity and coexistence, enables us to lift all blame and preconceptions and slowly make them fade. Between the weekly Christian prayers held at assembly, the delicious cookies served at Eid El Fitr and the one day of atonement in the Jewish tradition, one gradually disregards the otherwise noticeable differences and integrates them to create a whole. For students who regard this reality as the only one, stepping out of the ‘bubble’ and committing to the society’s duties such as military service seems unbearable. I believe that every society, the macro level, can gain from understanding the ease at which people can overcome the differences on the micro level and acknowledge the importance of the example they are setting. Regardless of the past and present occurrences one can always thrive to increase tolerance in him and in others.

When I go to sleep I dream in three languages. The following day I greet my friends in the same three tongues. The State of Israel, since its creation, was a large melting pot for the new coming and existing Jews. But not only. The oppressed Arab community also turned out to constitute a part of the large complex net. It seems that Israel’s unorganized and hasty start due to grave aggressions in europe, is partially the reason for the state of affairs today. Hurred actions many times leads to a great deal of disbalance, and not only between the Jewish and Arab community. Tensions, relatively smaller, persistently exist between Jews of different backgrounds since Israel’s very beginning. Many other true and valid bits of knowledge could be considered as to the cause of Israel’s current situation, but, and I quote, ‘blame won’t lead you to a happy ending’.
Maya Nenadovic: “I believe that there is always place for improvement. While in the Balkans they did play a role in stopping the war, at the same time the UN has become a very political institution. I think the UN would be more efficient if it had a better infrastructure in term of its own setup.”

MT: Do you believe in a positive form of politics through which the people’s benefit is not at risk?

MN: “I do believe in a kind of politics that puts the community’s or the society’s interests before individuals interest. I personally believe that politics should be about service, not about how much money you get to do it, and not about how much money big companies pay for your campaigns.”

MT: Given the way you have described politics and politicians, if you had the opportunity to be one, would you?

MN: “I don’t think I have what it takes, because in the current system there is a difference between being a politician in the Netherlands or Germany is different than being one in the Balkans. I believe that in where I come from you have to be dirty and play dirty and I think you have to compromise your principles; you have to compromise your integrity. So in that sense I wouldn’t want to be a politician if that was the price I would have to pay in order to be one.”

MT: If you were a prominent politician, who’s able to make great changes, what would you alter?

MN: “It’s a two element answer: remove from power all of the people that had anything to do with the war or that are saying bad things in terms of rhetoric against members of different groups and I would create single version of history so I would have children learning from one textbook across all the countries in the region.”

MT: What point of view would you emphasize?

MN: “It would I believe have to emphasize that bad things happen in our recent past. We are all to blame because we all played a role in that. It would emphasize the losses but not the blame, because the problem with blame is that even if you assign the blame, you still didn’t solve the problem. Blaming is not the kind of method that is going to get you a happy result. We should learn about the bad side that came out of nationalism and of hatred of each other and basically try to learn from history and past mistakes. I think that’s the only way to use history as a positive thing.”

MT: And what would you change internationally?

MN: “I am not a teacher but I personally believe that the profession of teachers should be the highest regarded profession in the world, highest paid as well. Many people choose to go to teacher training after they didn’t manage to get into law school or economics, so there is a kind of disregard of teachers. Since I see schools as first lines of defense if something goes wrong in the family I regard them as the one way that you can help children to become better human beings. If you would get the best of the best of people being teachers I believe that then you would have a chance for having a bit more peaceful world. I think we can talk about something that is slowly coming to surface which is how capitalism has turned us all into first and foremost consumers, and then everything else. I believe that with that you really reduce the value of human beings.”

MT: Do you believe that the capitalism had reduced the value of human being and human rights?

MN: “The way I see it in the Balkans for example, after the war when the free market economy was introduced then the privatization was in such a way that people basically stole formerly state owned assets. What I felt was that with the arrival of the big shopping centers and international brands the only human right that the people there received was the right to consume, which is not a right at all. I find that to be a bit of a perversion of the concept of freedom and liberty that are supposed to come with liberal democracy and capitalism that have been introduced to a society.”

MT: In your opinion, what is it that distracts politicians from doing the best for the society’s benefit?

MN: “From what I have witnessed I believe that it is a certain type of person that goes into politics. An alternative title for my research was going to be ‘meetings with people that do...’ To be continued on page 12"
Taiwan has already witnessed two decades of successful progress in the implementation of human rights in most areas. However not everything is as bright as it could be...

Taiwan, the Republic of China, with a population of 23 million, is governed by a president and its parliament is chosen in democratic multi-party elections. The authorities are under the effective control of the civilians in Taiwan, as they are chosen by free and fair elections. Taiwanese authorities have great respect for the issue of human rights for all its citizens. According to the 2004 Freedom House, Taiwan is the freest nation among all Asian countries. The “Human Rights Award” bestowed by the International League for Human Rights in November 2003 to Taiwan’s former president, Chen Shui-bian, reflects the success of the human rights movement in Taiwan.

Civil liberties include freedom of speech and press, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of religion, freedom of movement, internally displaced persons, protection of refugees and stateless persons, and much more. Furthermore, the country has enforced the protection of the disabled, Indigenous minorities, foreign laborers and elders. For instance, disabled and indigenous people receive welfare and higher compulsory employment rates and subsidies, and foreign laborers also have “worker rights”, etc. These protections have effectively made human rights in Taiwan real, creating a free, democratic country on the island.

On the other hand, the 2008 Human Rights Report of Taiwan stated “Taiwan generally respects the human rights of its citizens; however, the following problems continue to be reported: corruption by officials, violence and discrimination against women, trafficking in persons, and abuses of foreign workers.”

Many citizens of Taiwan would not agree that “corruption by officials” is a serious problem compared to other human rights. The government respects human rights and has implemented many policies and established many laws to protect and promote human rights. In reality, corruption definitely exists in the Taiwan Administration system, even after the exposure and punishment of Chen Shui-bian, the former president of Taiwan, who was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined about 15.5 million dollars.

Violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, remains a serious human rights problem as unequal treatment of women exists in ALL Asian countries, including Taiwan. Laws have been established with the aim of preventing domestic and sexual violence and the punishment for rape is from five to ten years’ imprisonment.

Human trafficking is a human rights problem in Taiwan as there is no comprehensive trafficking law in Taiwan and the country is a primary destination for Southeast Asians who are smuggled into Taiwan and become part of the illegal labor force, as do others who cross the borders illegally or engage in fraudulent marriages. Fortunately, this problem is being addressed by the government’s three-year anti-trafficking action plan which deals with victim protection, and trafficking prevention measures, such as a new public awareness campaign and others measures taken in 2007.

Another problem for human rights in Taiwan is abuse of foreigners. The Human Rights Report of Taiwan reported that the abuse of foreign workers still occurs to some degree, even though there are laws set to prevent this. One significant case refers to the abuse of foreign workers that was reported by the Taiwan Central News Agency on March 10th 2009 in a famous local buffet in Hsinchu, Taiwan. The buffet was accused of illegally hiring four Indonesian employees under the label of nursery maids; however they were found working as waitresses. After working in the buffet for half a year, they finally reported their situation to the local police. The monitor in the buffet proved that their employer treated them inhumanly, hit them, often forced them to work 17 hours a day, gave them a low salary and made them sleep on paperboards at night. The employer was tried in court and found guilty of abusive foreign workers.

With the support of TARH, the Taiwan Association for Human Rights, and new president Ma Ying-jeou, human rights are becoming more and more familiar issues to the civilians of Taiwan. Under Ma Ying-jeou’s influence the death penalty in Taiwan has been abolished and Taiwan is looking for more ways to make the country an even freer and more democratic state. Taiwan has undergone a great improvement in human rights since 1981 when the Taiwanese government announced the cessation of curfews. On the basis of gender discrimination and democratic values, we will improve all aspects of the protection of human rights” says a member of the Taiwan embassy. We hope that the Human Rights movement in Taiwan will succeed, making Taiwan an internationally recognized free and democratic state.
Behind MICC Curtain

Lisa Korte

Finally Christian found a minute for press

Long time ago some people had a vision: They wanted young people from all over the world to get in touch with each other and to get in touch with international law. Now we are in 2009 and the vision became reality: More than 60 teenagers from Poland, Germany, Israel and Palestine meet for five days to realize MICC school. It all started in the year 2005. Hans Fleisch had the idea for MICC school and Andrea Pawell made the structure of the cases. Why do the cases need structure? Because a complete case from the International Criminal Court can have about 10,000 pages.

That is a bit too much to read for the participants and therefore the real cases were shortened and simplified. But that is not the only thing to organize before MICC school.

Nina Lüders and Agnieszka Janik are the main organizers. One year before MICC school they already started to plan everything. “How many hours we prepared it? I cannot count them!” Nina tells. But she can explain all the tasks in the background of MICC: Searching schools to participate, looking for trainers, reserving the rooms, writing the texts for the handbook and all the material, booking flights, making telephone calls, answering questions, calculating the costs and preparing lists about who eats vegetarian and who does not.

Christian Geissler (33) is one of the trainers – already since the first MICC school in 2005. The curlyhead with the nose piercing is always in a hurry, because he has so many different tasks to do: the ice breaking activities, the human rights training, a history workshop, the teachers training and the intercultural evening. “Just give me five minutes”, he says while preparing a discussion and speaking to the teachers. If you meet him, he is always doing several things at the same time and it was really difficult to make an interview with him. This year he works at MICC school for the 9th time. But what is so fascinating about MICC for him? “I like the idea of simulation, because it’s a good way of learning”, Christian explains. In daily life he works as a teacher for pupils with special needs in Berlin and cares about the association called “Learning from history” in Berlin.

He is very interested in human rights and sees them as a base of value. His vision of future: “It’s a cheap saying but I think that everybody can make a difference.” Let us hope that it becomes reality.

Human Rights Wish List “If I Had The Power…”

The MICC Times asked a few people about their human rights wishes for the world if they had the power of changing those really difficult issues.

Christian Geissler from Germany would enforce that the Federal Government of Germany keeps the international treaties and does not deport foreign children in the age of 16 or 17. Moreover, he is for the equal opportunities for homosexual peoples – the right to marry, the right of inheritance and taxes and the right for an adoption – is very important for him too. Christian also wants that the Germans keep up the protection of human rights in foreign countries.

Johara Hinnawi from Israel would enforce the right for Arabs to visit all the Arab countries, like Sudan, Lebanon or Iraq. Now it is difficult, because in the current situation, Israel and these countries are hostile towards each other. What is more, she would undertake active steps for the promotion of peace in Israel.

Spela Kranjc from Slovenia would enforce the right of homosexual people to marry. In addition to that, she would do active steps to enforce different conventions, like the Child’s Convention. The legal protection for the victims of the climate change is also very important for her. Just as well as the freedom of speech, for example in China.

Muriel Hanafi from Germany cares of conventions in Germany, like the Child’s Convention. The Federal Government is considered by many people to be only talking a lot institution, but they do not do anything for this convention. Rights of the Child are very important, and not only in Germany. So this would be the first thing for Muriel to enforce.

Anna Wasicka from Poland would do active steps for the facility of African countries. The Africans should get help, because many of them don’t have clean water to drink or a bed to sleep. In addition to that, she wants to help the children in Poland. Some children are hit by their parents, they are drunk. So she would open facilities for children to come there and to have fun, so they are not afraid anymore.

The German teacher Agnes Adamietz is very interested in the life of children. She would like to give them the possibility of growing up in peace and that they are able to learn and to be free. Moreover she would enforce freedom, peace and security for the people all over the world. In addition to this she claims, that everyone can move and decide freely, as well as voice man own opinion.

Juliana Sarras and Amanda Mamasra from Palestine would enforce the right to have a country with legal borders and with freedom. “The world doesn’t see us as a country. We want to belong to somewhere.” The Palestinians, who took refuge in other countries can’t come back to their homes anymore, because they aren’t allowed to. They are not in possession of a passport and are stuck between two nationalities.

Amy Rodgers from the Netherlands would pursue a special protection of women and children, because every day thousands of women and children are abused by men. The situation in different groups (e.g. religion groups) is also very important for Amy, because by that, things like violence or discrimination happen.
To this day, many people have this image of prisons that there is a small cell in a prison ward with a bed and a toilet. Such cells still exist for example in the U.S.A. But in Germany prison life often looks completely different.

In today’s world, it is possible in German prisons to live a normal life without giving up comfort. The prison has the goal that a prisoner can not leave the building for a certain time and not to expose him to inhuman conditions. For this reason, the forced labor was abolished. Even today, prisoners have to work during their imprisonment but this is not serious physical work and takes place in the prison building. Furthermore, every prisoner receives an appropriate reward for his work. One half of it is handed to the prisoners itself and the other half is paid after the end of the sentence. The goal is to allow the prisoners a financial basis after the end of their stay in prison.

Also the life within the building has changed. The prisoners are given the opportunity during their free time to do sports activities. This is why many prisons have special fitness centers for the prisoners. TVs in the cells are also standard in many institutions today. Prisons often also have a library in which the prisoners can educate themselves, and it is even possible make a better high school graduation, or even to study.

For many prisoners the most heaviest on the deprivation of liberty is the loss of marriage and family. But in some prisons there are special rooms in which the prisoner can be intimate with a partner and there are sometimes issued even condoms.

In this day and age even criminals have a decent life in prisons and are not treated like animals, as it often was the case in the past.
Nearly 15 years ago, the people of Rwanda have experienced one of the most terrible tragedies in the modern history - a genocide. The artificially constructed division and hatred between the two “Tutsi” and “Hutu” has taken away the lives of nearly 1 million of people. There was no distinction between the two groups until the Belgian rulers decided to separate the population into the two ethnic groups by introducing identity cards and made the belonging to the groups dependent of the number of cows each family owned. The Tutsi had the tradition of a monarch and, unlike Hutu, obtained more support from Belgium. This preferential treatment has served as a ground for instigating hatred between the two groups, the radio was the tool to promote this hatred in each house and family. What makes the case of Rwanda so special is that it proves how powerful and harmful can be mass media if it is used with malicious intentions.

George Henry Yvon Joseph Ruggiu, a Belgian based in Kigali (capital of Rwanda) for many years, worked as a producer and journalist for the national radio station - the channel with widest national coverage and the main means of the anti Hutu propaganda. As testified by witnesses, Ruggiu used coded messages (phrases as “the graves want to be filled” and calling the Tutsi “cockroaches”) to incited the people living in Rwanda to kill Tutsi, foreigners and moderate Hutu.

But why the genocide and the brutal murdering of the Tutsi majority? “Hate and the idea of exterminating the opposing ethnic group instead of dealing with the differences by discussing and dialogue” says Lieneh Modalal, member of the prosecution team. The prosecution will try to establish the full guilt of Ruggiu and convince the judges that he has to be punished for his misdeeds, namely incitement to genocide.

Though the defenders agree that murdering is an unacceptable and awful crime, they still have to give him the best as possible defense. The court will have to decide weather Ruggiu had known what consequences his words would have on the hate-charged population, or if he was unaware and ignorant. Lieneh Modalal expects from the defenders to weaken the arguments against Ruggiu by saying that he did not participate and that they will emphasize on Ruggiu expressing his freedom of speech by radio. The defence claims that Ruggiu was not well informed and thought that Tutsi where only rebels, and not an ethnic group, affirms Hannah Dawson, one of the defenders.

On the contrary, Ms. Modalal argues that Ruggiu was not brainwashed and knew the political situation in Rwanda and that he planed before he went to support the genocide before moving to Rwanda. The prosecutors and the defence will have to prove this controversial arguments in order to convince the judges. And the judges will have to balance the arguments and find an appropriate and fair verdict.

‘The loudness of silence’

Aleksandra Wieczorek

On sunday evening all participants had a chance to watch the movie called ‘Shake Hands with the Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire’, directed by Peter Raymont. Quite serious problem, but some of the people had troubles with watching the movie to the end. Why?

‘Shake Hands with the Devil’ is a documentary film published in 2005 and based in part on the autobiographical book. The movie tells the story about Canadian General Romeo Dallaire. He was the head of peace mission for the United Nations during genocide in Rwanda. In 1994, the Hutu majority in Rwanda organized and implemented the mass slaughter of the Tutsi minority. In just 100 days, 800,000 Tutsi were slaughtered. He was one of the few who cared about this case. He is considered to be a witness of the evil and he felt responsibility for describing to all the world the truth of Rwanda. On the document he’s showing us all important places and reminiscing his experiences. After this event he blamed himself and couldn’t live with a pain.

He tried to commit suicide. Film presents all reasons, cause and effects of the genocide.

The lost important aims of the movie are to arouse the emotions of viewers and make them to think about the case. It presents a lot of horrible scenes which show appropriate point of the problem. Some of people who had started to watch ‘Shake Hands with the Devil’ didn’t hold out till the end. The reasons of that were different. Anna Wasiacka said: ‘Some parts of the movie were too brutal for me and I couldn’t stand it so I had to leave.’ Whereas another viewer told that the movie bored him. His expectations were to watch not documentary one but feature movie with expanded plot. Marta Żygot, one of the judges of Rwanda case said ‘I have found this film really useful. I’m interested in this case and I think that the director ideally presented the problem of genocide in Rwanda. Hard as the topic of the film is, it would be worth seeing.

In my opinion the problem included in the film is interesting but due to the form of the film I found it quite boring. The topic of the movie is really thoughtful but the form isn’t appropriate for teenagers. I think that it also should be shorter so that there would be only relevant informations.
Refugees - The Main Challenge to Human Rights Protection in Israel

Israel has willingly signed the above convention which it was obligated to enforce in its legal system. It has never come to that. Israel does not have a refugee law, despite being a signatory to the 1951 refugee Convention.

Not passing the regulations dictated by the convention thus ‘allows’ Israel to refuse any responsibility. This error eventually leads to numerous NGO’s getting hold of the disregarde duty.

Nic Schlagman who works for the ARDC (African Refugees Development Center) kindly shared with me some of his comments and thoughts about the current situation. “At the beginning the initial wave of refugees was largely occupying the Tel Aviv region, given it is Israel’s busiest and most populated city. Their shelters were actually none the only compromise was whatever the streets of Tel Aviv offered. As awareness of the situation grew larger so did the initiative and great attempts have been made to provide the sudden newcomers with a place to sleep at night. The first locations were the shelters around the Central Bus Station, which turned out to be very crowded and uncomfortable for the over 400 shelter seekers. Time passed and as our organization efficiency combined with the efforts of the TA municipality increased, our solutions become better: We are now offering ‘hostels’, organized, cleaner and better equipped centers that now house less than 60 people”.

Israel wasn’t well prepared for the unexpected arrivals. Its ‘open’ borders enabled asylum seekers to enter. So far there are allowed to stay. These passive measures are probably to be noted, for they salvaged many from grave violations of human rights in many African countries. However, once they are in the country, they face tough conditions and find themselves deprived of an easy and controlled route to achieve a refugee status through the RSD (Refugee Status Determination) process.

Until 2002, UNHCR representatives in Israel took over the process of RSD. In 2002, Israel took a first step towards enforcing the convention and operated an experimental procedure called “Regulations Regarding the Treatment of Asylum Seekers in Israel” (or “The Directive”) which continued to rely on the assistance of the UNHCR. Due to inconsistencies and great delays, unnecessary difficulties rose in regulating the status of asylum seekers and of refugees – so far only 170 out thousands have been granted refugee status. While awaiting the decision refugees and asylum seekers are not permitted to work and they do not receive any social benefits, including medical care. Poverty is rapidly the result. Why is it that this legal procedure is so undeveloped in Israel compared to countries such as Germany and England?

“The country’s hesitant nature coupled with security reasons are in direct conflict with the humanitarian guidelines that must be observed”, says Schlagman.

The Zionist ideology was the reason for an everlasting clash between Israel and its Semitic neighbours. Now, it also hinders the acceptance of the exiles. The retardation and malfunctioning of the RSD process probably derives from the following: fear of a threat on homeland security and the need to maintain a concentrated Jewish population.

“It is easier to serve people who suit your agenda than going out of your way for a minority that doesn’t serve your benefit”.

Andy Ball, an active member of the Bible Society who just as actively searches for social and medical solutions for the refugees, agrees with Nic Schlagman regarding Israel’s indifference. Adding to that, he claims that “the government’s impression that refugees are a useless burden is false and absurd. For years Israel has been accepting foreign workers to do the low paid jobs, after which they are deported. As long as the refugees are in need of protection they constitute an excellent workforce from which both sides can benefit”. Workplaces would prevent many families and individuals from sinking into poverty, depression and violence and thus from destabilizing the social net.

Ball has a vision. “When we visit families to pray, talk and support them, the low lifestyle to which they are subject is overwhelming”. These sights and experiences are quite inspiring. The suggestion of elevating the refugee’s education is a winning idea, he states. “Initiatives such as libraries in prisons and educational/vocational programs are examples of what Israel should thrive to achieve”. Taking such actions wouldn’t only generate gratitude towards Israel but gives the refugees a ground upon which they could develop and enhance their countries.

The state of Israel has done very little over the years to protect people being persecuted as a result of religious, racial and national discrimination. In recent years considerable progress has been achieved helping to preserve the refugee’s human dignity, mostly because of the dedicated work of Israeli NGO’s.

It seems that while Israel struggles to implement the 1951 Refugee Convention, citizens that have labored in the past few years to improve the refugee life standards have already readily acknowledged the commandments of fundamental human rights referred to and reserved to everyone in the above document.
Germany praised by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations

Federico Kersting

You could think that in countries like Germany, where democracy and human rights are now well fixed in society, there are no significant violations as for example death penalty. In fact, in Germany it is not as worse as in other parts of the world, but it is still an issue that is controversy discussed.

In all countries of the world the human rights situation is being observed by the Human Rights Council of the United Nations, which consists of several representatives of the international community. The German government has been criticized by the Council because of numerous violations of human rights.

During the hearing in Geneva (Monday, November 30, 2009) the German representatives had to hear numerous accusations such as: defects in integration of foreigners, inequalities between men and women, racism and discrimination against immigrants. Furthermore, the number of Neo-Nazi attacks increased dramatically in the last years. Police and other law enforcement agencies are reproached with excess of violence and even brutality against immigrants. The envoy of Russia criticizes the discrimination and disadvantage of citizens belonging to the States of the Ex-USSR.

Organizations such as Amnesty International claim that Germany has difficulties in the human rights situation. The current plan of the German government is to deport approximately 10000 Roma and Ashkali (Albanian-speaking Roma) to Kosovo within the next months. At the moment about 60 000 refugees from Kosovo are living in Germany. Most of them are Roma or Ashkali, which escaped from Yugoslavia during the war. The government refuses to permit them the right of residence in Germany and therefore plans a long-dated return of the 60 000 refugees to Kosovo, Serbia and Albania.

Amnesty international urges the interior ministers of the 16 German federal states to reconsider these plans. “They are closing the eyes in front of the danger in that minorities are being exposed in Kosovo,” says Imke Dierßen, the Europe-expert of Amnesty International in Germany, “The discrimination and violence against Roma in Kosovo and in the other States of ex-Yugoslavia is still a danger for these People and they are dependent from international protection.”

Roma live in Kosovo isolated and in extreme poverty. They are persecuted and do not take part in the labour-market. One third of the Roma population in Kosovo has no identity papers and is factually stateless. This means that they have not access to social benefits, such as education or health-care.

“Germany is indebted to care for people that suffer Human rights violations in their home countries” urges Amnesty International.

“Compromising Principles”

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MT: Specifically in the Balkans, what are your expectations for the future generations to achieve and change; in what way?

MN: “I believe that with ICC and the different kind of tribunals there is a certain kind of norm or standard that they are trying to create in which certain things are unacceptable, in this case crimes against humanity and genocide. I think it’s good to set standards like this but the problem is that it is still politics that defines those standards. The USA, China and Russia haven’t signed. The bottom line is that certain countries are still, due to the way they view themselves, above law. That is the problem with international law, as long as it doesn’t bind everybody it is always going to be weak. Another thing with international law is that there is no enforcement mechanism. If you have a war criminal who runs away and nobody wants to extradite him, he essentially is a free man.”
Building International Friendships

Many people, many nationalities, many cultures and everyone wants to get to know each other. That is the reason why 63 students, their teachers and trainers from MICC gathered in multifunctional room in Stodola on Saturday evening. Formally everything started at 8 p.m. by Christian’s speech, but before that we were enjoying how Polish people were singing and playing guitar. All of us were asked to stand up and the first activity began. We formed two circles, one inside the other, in this way that all people were paired with somebody from other country. It was a possibility to talk with person who we hadn’t known then.

Our task was to answer questions about countries that we come from and our behavior in special situations.

“It was really icebraking, I like it very much” - said girl from Walbrzych.

“It was very funny and it gave possibility for shy people to speak with others” - added student from Germany.

After icebreaking activities we had opportunity to learn very interesting things about our friends’ culture and specific of their cities. The show started with the presentation by one of German groups who had prepared short movie and some traditional dishes. It was really funny to look at peoples’ faces when they were tasting cheese which smell was controversial. Next was cheerful group from Palestine who presented us traditional songs and dance. More over they taught us how to move our bodies in the rhythm of Palestinian music. The biggest impression did one girl who was looking unusual.

“It isn’t my daily dress, it is traditional Palestine one.” - she explained.

Then the group from Wrocław gave us short presentation about Polish so called ‘successes and failures’. They also sang “Hej bystra woda” and “Malinowa mamba”, everybody enjoyed it very much. After that several people from Israel presented their national language, to be honest – two languages. We were trying to repeat them, but we weren’t good students.

“In Israel most of people speak English, Ababic and Hebrew, so we decided to present all of them to you’” - ascertained Israel representative.

The group from Bon brought us HARIBO gummy bears, it was the biggest pleasure that they could give us. Next there was photo presentation of Wałbrzych. They prepared traditional Polish cakes, but many of us weren’t able to eat anything more after Bon’s presentation.

Last but not least was Tecklenburg’s presentation that made all people in room laugh and dance to the traditional techno music from “Tchnoburg”.

“My love for you is even bigger than that for new collection of Madonna’s shoes” that was the most important sentence during all intercultural evening. It’s because it was translated to all mother tongues in the room. Some of us had a possibility to speak language with we hadn’t had contact before.

“It was really, really funny. I find Mandarin language the most difficult” - said one girl from Israel.

Last part of our meeting was the most surprising because of opening mysterious postbox of MICC group which contained few letters. Some of us had written questions about what they wanted to know but had never opportunity to ask. The most interesting one was “Why are Polish boys so sexy?”

All of us, just like Polish teacher, would be searching the answer for the rest of life.

The arguments and find an appropriate and fair verdict.
Some useless information about the MICC which you might never forget:

- 62% of all participants including teachers, train-ers etc. are female
- The average annual temperature in Poland is 8.3° C (measured in Wroclaw), in Germany the average annual temperature is 10° C (measured in Frankfurt), in Jerusalem it is 16.5 °C. The temperature felt in Krzyzowa was -20° C.
- If every participant had printed out the handbook, Rome Statute, Geneva Conventions and the material for the four cases, which is available in the internet, the amount of sheets would be 19,780.
- According to Wikipedia 220 inhabitants live in Krzyzowa.
- Krzyzowa is located 50°48’ North and 16° 32’ East.
- Among the participants the most popular email account is Hotmail. 22% of the members use it, followed by Gmail (18%), Web.de (14%), Yahoo (8%) and gmx (7%).
- In the house there are many different w-lan connections. The most popular is Palac_3p. Others are: Era, Palac, Palac_208, biblioteka, or IBS Grodziszcze tel.603.
- Sometimes they even work.
- The title “MICC Times” was chosen by a narrow majority: 7 members of the press team voted finally for “The MICCa-zine”, 8 for “MICC Times”. The titles MICCrophone, NO (IN)TENTION, MIC-Croscope and MICC MACC were dropped in the preliminary round.
- Distances to Krzyzowa:
  - Beit Sahour (Jerusa-lem):about 2600 km
  - Bonn: 695 km
  - Tel Aviv: 2566 km
  - Wroclaw: 60 km
- The average age of all participants (except of the teachers) is 18.35 years. If you count the ages of all participants (except for teachers) together we are all 1312 years old.
- 17 participants are 17 years old.
- In the picture showing the Prussian conquest of France nobody has got fingers.
- 14% of the students, 40% of the experts and trainers wear glasses.
- 32% of the participants speak German as native language, followed by Polish (27%) and Arabic (23%). Other languages are: Russian, Dutch, French, Romanian, Hebrew, Slovenian, English, Spanish, Armenian, Mandarin and Tigrigna.
- 45% of the participants travelled here at night.
- 77% of the participants eat every kind of meat, 12% of the participants eat no pork and 11% are vegetarians.
- 73% of the participants are high school students, 6% of the participants study at university, 13% are teachers.
- 4.76% of all students are at MICC because they have won a competition.

For MICC, with love, Press Team