EU-China Summit Generates Mixed Success

Luisa Chainferber
Staff Writer

The European Union (EU) and China convened at the EU-China Summit on April 9 to discuss their relationship and economic agenda, reports the EU Commission. According to the Commission, the EU aims to build a more balanced economic relationship with China and increase the countries’ engagement on global issues such as World Trade Organization (WTO) reform.

Representatives from both countries described the summit as a win-win. It demonstrated that the European Union has more than soft power and that China is open to deal with the EU as a collective. For China, the summit demonstrated that the country can compromise and act reasonably, despite United States President Trump’s attempts to portray the talks due to Chinese intransigence, says Politico.

China guaranteed that it will abide by EU rules and standards, reports South China Morning Post. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang also emphasized the need to increase trade and further integrate their economies. Currently, the EU represents China’s biggest trading partner, with their transactions including more than $1.9 million daily.

According to the Wall Street Journal, the summit was a significant shift from the one that took place two years ago. During the 2019 Summit, the EU was more assertive and pressured China on topics such as technology transfer and subsidies.

In an earlier report from the South China Morning Post, the Chinese Premier Li Keqiang defended the subsidies and claimed that these allowances aim to protect workers rather than support industries. Due to these subsidies, the officials almost did not sign a joint statement at the end of the summit. The Chinese Premier also noted that China follows WTO rules and promised to address the subsidies question.

The Wall Street Journal addressed in a later report why the EU is unwilling to tolerate China’s subsidies and investment restrictions. They explained that these subsidies threaten the WTO system. As it is hard to estimate their extent, in order to have a well-functioning WTO, it is necessary to push China to abide by WTO regulations.

Some believe that the Summit held only good intentions that will not be easily remedied over a single conference. CGTN News, a Chinese state-owned news channel, highlighted how continuous communication between the EU and China is critical to foster their relationship and deal with common challenges such as protectionism, WTO reform, and climate change. Overall, the agreement reached represents an agreement that prevents potential conflicts in the future.

Contact Luisa at luisa.chainferber@student.shu.edu
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Second Civil War Threatens Further Destabilization in Libya

Stephanie Miller
Staff Writer

As renegade general Khalifa Haftar and his Libyan National Army (LNA) continue their military offensive on the capital city of Tripoli, thousands of Libyan civilians continue to flee for their lives. Al Jazeera reports that fighting between eastern-based forces and the country’s internationally recognized government forced thousands of people to flee their homes in and around the city.

Since the violent clashes erupted on April 4, over 4,500 individuals suffer from displacement. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) further reports that even more civilians remain trapped in their homes. As of April 12, it deemed more than 500,000 children to be in an “immediate threat.”

The World Health Organization (WHO) reports that currently has contingency plans in case “thousands if not hundreds of thousands” are displaced. However, it is still preparing for potential outbreaks of tuberculosis, measles, and diarrheal diseases brought on by deteriorating sanitary conditions. All three types of outbreaks have extremely high incidence rates in active conflict zones, but the WHO’s regional supply of medical aid materials will only be able to combat potential outbreaks for the next two weeks. As Tripoli continues to weather Haftar’s artillery barrage, immediate casualties are still being counted and will continue to amount until a ceasefire can be reached. According to the Wall Street Journal, Haftar’s agreement to open negotiations with the UN-backed Libyan government (GNA) is vital to regional security.

Conversely, Vox reports that the GNA unleashed a counteroffensive titled “Volcano of Anger” in response to

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRUNEI ADDS NEW ANTI-GAY LAWS INTO ISLAMIC PENAL CODE

Mark Stachowski  
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei came under fire for enacting a strict Sharia Penal Code, which includes deadly punishments for adultery, theft, and burning the bodies of murderers. According to NPR, the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and other groups have called the punishments in the legislation “cruel” and “barbaric.” NPR states that Brunei’s interpretation of Islamic law allows for death by stoning as the punishment for homosexuality, adultery, and amputation of limbs for theft. Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch said in a statement, “Bru- nei’s new penal code is barbaric to the core, imposing archaic punishments for acts that should not even be crimes.” After facing backlash and criticism, Brunei released a statement of their own defending the decision, claiming that the penal code outlines acts against the teaching of Islam and “aims to educate, respect and protect the legitimate rights of all individu- als, society or nationality of any faiths and race.” The new laws complete the final parts of a penal code implemented by the Sultan in 2013. This decision makes Brunei the first Southeast Asian country to incorporate Sharia law at the nation- al level, NPR reports. As CNN states, the Sultan of Brunei was once the wealthiest man in the world for many years and knew how to spend the mass amounts of money he had as a result of the oil depos- its in his country. Critics called the Sultan out for moving to this harsher interpretation of Islamic law after Sultan Bolkiah publicly spoke about his decision, pushing Bru- nei to become true to Islam and grow stron- ger in the Islamic faith. Still, many critics still see this as a move to cover the Sultan’s past of lavish spending and scan- dalous behavior. They believe the Sultan is pass- ing these laws to leave a religious legacy and force the public to forget about his family’s past. Matthew Woolfe, the founder of human rights group The Brunei Project, highlights the hypocrisy in the laws implemented, saying “his family, in the past, could have been seen as being in violation of these laws with some of their antics.” However, the recent controversial decision is affecting the Sultan and Brunei in unforeseen ways. A United King- dom government agen- cy called the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) called their visit to Bru- nei after they issued the controversial law.

NETANYAHU SECURES FIFTH TERM AS ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER AMIDST CONTROVERSY

Joshua Newman  
Staff Writer

After a contentious election, the party-dubbed “King of Israel” Ben- jamin Netanyahu has managed secure a fifth term as Prime Minister of Israel, reports Haaretz. Netanyahu’s Likud party previously tied with his opponent, Benny Gantz’s Kahol Lavan’s smaller left-wing, in voting booths in local elections, reports Haaretz.

Netanyahu’s Likud party reportedly tied with his opponent, General Benny Gantz in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament. Each initially garnering 35 seats apiece, Likud only managed to edge out Gantz’s Kahol La- van party by one seat by the end of the election.

Likud managed to take 30 seats against Ka- hol Lavan’s smaller left-wing and centrist allies, who garnered nine seats.

A tight race resulting in a clear victory for the Israeli right and an un- certain future for Arabs living in an Israeli and Palesti- nestic election cycle was not without contro- versy. The Jerusalem Post reports that Likud and the right-wing Yis- rael Beytenu party each filed complaints with Is- rael’s Central Election Committee, petitioning over missing voting slips. Likud headquarters previously received re- ports that 26 polling stations in Petah Tik- vah, a city in the Isra- el’s Central District, lost all of the Likud ballots submitted there. Yisrael Beytenu reported a similar problem in voting districts in several parts of the country. These petty crimes dampened spirits for the election and only served to fur- ther polarize the country.

This was not the elec- tion’s only voting scandal. According to both the Jeru- salem Post and Haaretz, Likud activists were work- ing to disrupt the Arab Israeli vote, allegedly wire-tapping phones and installing hidden cameras in the booths in local Arab communities. The Arab Israeli parties re- sponded harshly to the attempted sabotage, with the Hadash-Ta’al Party quickly filing complaint.

“The extreme right understands very well our power to topple the government,” Hadash said in a public statement. “But we also understand our power. We are go- ing to vote today, against their noses and anger.” Despite this show of strength, it appears that such right-wing intimi- dation tactics did have their desired effect. Arab Israeli turnout during the election was the lowest in history, reports Haaretz.

In another blow to the Arab Israeli commun- ity, Prime Minister Net- anyahu also promised his Jewish constituents that he would begin attempt- ing to annex territory in the West Bank, territories is a serious blow to potential Israe- li-Palestinian peace talks.

Perhaps the most fa- mous scandal from this election cycle is Netanya- hu’s corruption charges. Avihai Mandelblit, the Israeli Attorney General, released plans in February to indict the Prime Minis- ter, a first in Israeli politi- cal history, reports NBC News. The two-year long investigation resulted in four charges, three counts of breach of trust and one count of bribery. The situation was exasperated by the fact that the police chief that headed the in- vestigation and the attor- ney general who handed over the indictment were former of- ficers that headed the in- vestigation and the attor- ney general who handed over the indictment were former of- ficers that headed the in- vestigation.

As CNN states, the King of Israel currently has no plan to resign even if indicted.

Contact Joshua at joshua.newman@student.sbu.edu

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The Prime Minister has received lasting criticism from Israeli legislators.

Mark Stachowski  
Staff Writer

During this election cycle, the party-dubbed “King of Israel” Benjamin Netanyahu has managed secure a fifth term as Prime Minister of Israel, reports Haaretz. Netanyahu’s Likud party previously tied with his opponent, Benny Gantz’s Kahol Lavan’s smaller left-wing, in voting booths in local elections, reports Haaretz.

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A tight race resulting in a clear victory for the Israeli right and an uncertain future for Arabs living in an Israeli and Palestinian election cycle was not without controversy. The Jerusalem Post reports that Likud and the right-wing Yisrael Beytenu party each filed complaints with Israel’s Central Election Committee, petitioning over missing voting slips. Likud headquarters previously received reports that 26 polling stations in Petah Tikvah, a city in the Israel’s Central District, lost all of the Likud ballots submitted there. Yisrael Beytenu reported a similar problem in voting districts in several parts of the country. These petty crimes dampened spirits for the election and only served to further polarize the country.

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LNA airstrikes on Tripoli suburbs. Both operations were enacted despite the UN’s plea for a two-hour truce to evacuate civilians and wounded fighters. The international community has met Haftar’s campaign against Tripoli’s government with mixed results. Saudi Arabia offered Haftar tens of millions of dollars to help fund his operations just days before the LNA offensive began, according to the Wall Street Journal. Haftar also received support from Egypt and military vehicles from United Arab Emirates. The three Arab governments regard him as an important ally against Islamist groups allied to regional rivals Qatar and Turkey. Countries within the European Union are also divided over proper backing in the conflict, according to the EU Observer. While France has been supporting Haftar in order to protect its oil interests in the region, Italy is backing the GNA. The division is rooted in concerns that the Russian government in Moscow is backing Haftar’s campaign. Ukrainian intelligence previously tied Russian aircraft flight paths to the presence of Russian mercenary forces in LNA-controlled cities of Benghazi and Tobruk, reports CNN. General Haftar has been a major player in Libya for decades. In the 1980s, he led the failed CIA-backed military coup against the Gaddafi regime, and returned to take command of rebel forces in 2011 following his two decade-long exile in Northern Virginia. After attempting to overthrow Libya’s post-revolutionary government in 2014, he has spent the last few years seizing control of eastern Libya from Islamist insurgents and human traffickers. As controversial as he has been successful, the international community parades Haftar as both a national hero and a war criminal. While he is considered an indispensable actor with the potential to unite a failing, war-torn state, The Independent reports that his military campaign during the Battle of Derna involved instances of torture, corpse mutilation, and the murder of both civilians and captured fighters. Last July, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued a second arrest warrant for General Haftar’s Special Forces commando. Mahnoud al-Werfali after several videos depicting him murdering prisoners of war. The indictment casts an unflattering shadow on Haftar’s past operations, and may affect the willingness of the UN to negotiate with the LNA moving forward. As a whole, the United States officially condemns Haftar’s actions in Tripoli and cautiously waits out a potential ICC indictment. American troops were pulled from the city on April 7, having been previously deployed to assist in diplomatic efforts as well as counterterrorism activities, reports the New York Times.

While the United States stands against the LNA’s Tripoli offensive, a senior White House official disclosed that negotiations with Haftar are not off the table. “Certainly we would see a role for Gen. Haftar in any future of Libya,” the official stated. When asked whether that included ruling the whole country, the official said, “That is up to the people of Libya.”

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ITALIAN DEPUTY PM ATTEMPTS UNIFICATION OF EUROPEAN ALT-RIGHT

Santiago Losada
Staff Writer

Shortly after political leaders in Europe met in Milan to pursuing forming an alliance of alternative right-wing parties, Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini has expressed the hope that the newly united populist movement will become biggest party in the next European Parliament. Called “Towards a Europe with Common Sense,” the alliance will fuse all of the European right-wing parties into one single movement just ahead of European elections in May. Salvini hopes that this alliance can form a majority bloc in the European Parliament, uniting other far-right parties that share the same objectives, ideals, and values. The primary aim of this bloc would be protect borders and national identities. Another goal of the alliance is to receive greater support for Frontex, the European Union’s border protection agency, by adding about 10,000 more people. To the right-wing parties, a stronger Frontex means stronger national security. In the U.S., former Trump administration chief strategist Steve Bannon has been very vocal in his support for Salvini, believing he is the key to solving Europe’s problems. A founding member of The Movement, a far-right organization that supports right-wing nationalist parties across Europe, Bannon’s support has been instrumental in funding Salvini’s party in Italy. While Mr. Salvini has publicly kept his distance from Bannon in the past, he still uses Bannon’s similar “alt-right” rhetoric in many speeches. Additionally, in September Mr. Salvini met Mr. Bannon in Rome, where Bannon declared that Italy was an essential player in the global power struggle. Bloomberg reports that Bannon called Italy the “center of the universe” during a press conference, highlighting Salvini’s status as a global political figure and applauding his efforts to represent his mission for both Europe and his country. According to CNN, Salvini’s stance stems from his hardline approach to recent migration flows from North Africa into Italy. Back in June 2018, he fulfilled his promise of closing Italy’s ports to rescue boats, and fought against German Chancellor Merkel’s policy of redistributing refugees who enter Europe clandestinely. Salvini has recently been promoting the potential right-wing alliance at press conferences across Italy, but with only seven weeks left until the European election, it still remains unclear if any of Europe’s other nativist movements will join him. The Economist argues that other movements may see his “new European Dream” as more of an “Italian dream” than anything concrete. With the European elections quickly approaching, populist parties in Europe are seizing the opportunity to expand their power across Europe. The New York Times reports that if “Towards a Europe with Common Sense” gains seats in the European Parliament, it will form a new group called the “European Alliance of Peoples and Nations.” However, the future of this new alliance is still uncertain, as it is missing the support of several key players on the European political stage. The proposed project would benefit greatly from the support of right-wing Hungarian Prime Minister Victor Orban, who has yet to sign onto the agreement. Likewise, many right-wing parties in Germany and Scandinavia oppose Salvini’s movement because they still lean more towards free-market economies, and right-wing parties in France more protectionist in nature. In additional, parties in Poland does not share the warm relationship that Mr. Salvini and other populist parties have with Russia. Even though these parties do share similarities when it comes to strong borders, anti-migrant policies, and a strong emphasis on traditional national identities, Europe’s populists clearly disagree on many issues. Due to all of the uncertainty that continues to permeate this election cycle, it appears that the fate of Salvini’s proposed movement is not yet set in stone.

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(Continued on page 2)
Demonstrations in Sudan Continue Despite Regime Overhaul

Harshana Ghoorhoo  
Staff Writer

Protesters finally rejoined on Thursday, April 11, after the Sudanese military forced out and arrested President Omar al-Bashir on war crimes charges. The move came after thousands of people gathered outside the military headquarters urgently pressing for a transition of government from the tyrannical regime. The New York Times reports.

While peaceful anti-government demonstrations had been taking place since December 2018, the week of April 7 saw large crowds of angry protesters flocking into the capital Khartoum, each calling for al-Bashir to step down. The military condemned the sit-in, with a spokesperson asserting that the country would be dragged into chaos unless it urgently and nonviolently dealt with the ongoing crisis. Sudanese soldiers later attempted to dissolve the anti-government protests that Tuesday, killing 14 people in the process, according to Washington Post.

The Sudanese military did comply with protest demands by the end of the week and arrested al-Bashir, an authoritarian ruler who had been in power for over three decades. The military has now taken power and announced that it will manage a transitional period for a maximum period of two years, until new elections take place and a new civilian rule is established, BBC News states.

Still, the demonstrators remain in Khartoum, now protesting what they see as a military regime and an extension of al-Bashir’s government, reports BBC News. According to their demands, the transitional government should not have any ties with the tyrannical regime currently in power, and the current head of the new military council, Defense Minister Awad Ibn Auf, needs to hand over control so that a democratic government can be set in place. As the growing number of demonstrators reached into the hundreds of thousands, a representative for the military declared that the army did not intend to seek power and Sudan’s future would be decided alongside the population. He added that the army would still maintain public order and have no tolerance for disturbances or any acts of violence until elections could take place.

Since the protests intensified, the military council has now set up a citywide curfew, closing down all land and maritime borders until the situation shows some amelioration. However, demonstrators have disregarded the curfew and remained outside the military headquarters. While most of the international community supports Sudan’s regime overhaul, it has also requested that the military proceed with caution. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for the situation to be handled with calm restraint, stating that the transition of power should occur as per the people’s wishes.

The UK, the US, and Norway publically denounced the actions of the Sudanese military, each stating that the democratic authorities should adhere to the demands of the protesters and deliver a credible action plan outlining the political transition, the Washington Post reports. Russia also called for a peaceful approach to the situation and affirmed that it is closely monitoring affairs, a controversial stance as the country has already hosted Mr. al-Bashir twice despite his international travel ban.

Concerning civilian casualties, Marine Major General Gregg Olson, the director of regional operations, said his command’s review continues and “should we find additional information, we’ll be transparent about that,” Vox reports.

A young mother talked of losing her husband in a U.S. drone strike to Amnesty International, decribing her life in a tiny settlement between two al-Shabaab strongholds after fleeing clashes in Mogadishu. A well-digger lost his relatives while driving. A three-year-old girl lost her father and now cannot walk without assistance. Amnesty International claims that the actions of the United States have resulted in the deaths of at least 21 innocent people in the past year. In this context, Khare’s visit could not have been at a more despicable hour for Somalia.

In 1991, after the fall of dictator Siad Barre, Somalia’s economy and government collapsed, with rival clans and warlords quickly taking over. As Western media outlets presented photos of starving Somali children, former President George H.W. Bush ordered rations to distribute aid and avert famine. Soon after Black Hawk Down, former President Bill Clinton ordered the troops’ return along with the rest of the UN peacekeeping taskforce, leaving Somalia to defend itself, according to the Washington Examiner. In the absence of a stabilizing force, corruption rooted its way into what little government remained, where it sits to this day.

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**OPINION**

**Threats of Tariffs on EU Goods**

Axel Sontgerath  
*Staff Writer*

The Trump administration is threatening to tax $11.2 billion worth of European Union goods. It is a rash move that marks another attempt by the administration to use tariffs to reshape global trade in its favor, Transport Top-  

ic reports. The import duties will be imposed if the World Trade Organization rules in favor of the United States this summer in a case over the subsidies that Europe gave plane maker Airbus. Last May, the WTO found that Airbus received illegal funding for several of its aircraft models. The United States requested the authority to impose retaliatory tariffs, and the two sides are awaiting a decision on the level of tariffs that the United States will be authorized to levy on the EU, The New York Times reports. What the Trump team really wants is to use the ruling not merely to help Boeing, but to heighten pressure on trading partners such as Germany, with which the U.S. has a trade deficit. This is more of the same twisted mentality that came with the trade war waged against China. In an April 9 tweet, Trump stated, “the EU has taken advantage of the US on trade for many years. It will soon stop” The President is referring to the 14-year-long issue of the EU giving subsidies to Airbus, which by proxy hurts Boeing’s sales. This has been brought up to the WTO several times, but this is the only instance where tensions got this high. There would be about $11 billion in tax revenue, which is the same dollar amount of harm that the United States trade representatives estimate European subsidies cause each year. The European Commission indicated on Tuesday that it considers the $11 billion in retaliatory measures to be overblown and not justified by any findings by the WTO. According to Bloomberg News, The EU is preparing retaliatory tariffs against the U.S. over subsidies to Boeing Co., which would significantly escalate transatlantic tensions only hours after Washington vowed to hit the EU with duties over its support for Airbus SE. In a Bloomberg report, The EU called the sum cited by the USTR “greatly exaggerated” and said preparations were underway to hit back. While the EU has not disclosed the amount of American goods it would target, Airbus said the block would proceed with “far larger countermeasures against the U.S.” The Trump administration’s list of European products to tax includes the types of helicopters and aircraft Airbus makes but also a wide range of European exports. According to Bloomberg, this suggests a breakdown in trade talks between the U.S. and Europe. Trump has made it difficult to negotiate, as all he does in the scope of his “international trade talks” is usually complain about how everything is unfair. He never adopts a constructive approach. For example, by engaging in hard-line negotiations but with a diplomatic subtext. These tariffs would also be detrimental to America, as the tariffs on Airbus would also affect American companies. Airbus purchases many components for its aircraft from the United States. Not only that, but the U.S. is ignoring the fact that it is at fault in this scenario too.

**German ISIS Member Allegedly Allows Yazidi Girl to Die of Thirst**

Mark Wood  
*Staff Writer*

The world knows of the atrocious acts carried out by the self-proclaimed Islamic State. However, a recent trial was held in Germany on April 9, 2019, in which a five-year-old Yazidi girl was chained outside and died of thirst. The girl and her mother, Nora, were bought as slaves. This trial brings about increased condemnation and a stronger will by the international community to bring ISIS members to face the rule of law. The trial in München is the first trial of an ISIS militant against the Yazidi community anywhere in the world. According to CNN, a woman known as “Ms. W.” is potentially responsible for the crime involving Nora’s daughter. Along with being accused of multiple crimes, including murder as a war crime, she did not even react when the judge read out her list of alleged crimes. The National reports that the girl wet her bed, and as punishment was chained outside by Ms. W who allowed her husband, an ISIS fighter, to carry out the punishment. This resulted in the girl dying of thirst in the heat. Ms. W left her home in the North-Western State of Ämterland when the age of 22. CNN reports her aim was to join ISIS and be a part of the morality police. She worked as member of this dissident group and married an ISIS fighter. The couple later bought Nora and her daughter to work for them, like many other Yazidi people who are also forced to give up their religion, face physical and mental abuse, torture, and sexual violence, reports by Foreign Affairs. The Yazidi people are mainly located in parts of Syria and Iraq, but since ISIS’ targeted attacks, they have been seeking refuge in Armenia, Turkey, and Germany. Yazidi are members of an ancient and often persecuted religious minority. Their beliefs include elements of both Christianity and Islam. Last year Ms. W wanted to return to the self-proclaimed Islamic State. The New York Times reports she found a willing driver to take her back to Mosul, North of Baghdad. She was unaware that she was part of a sting operation and the driver was working for the German Secret Service. The driver was recording the whole conversation in which she spoke of joining ISIS and the torture of and death of the young Yazidi girl. Nora and her deceased daughter are being represented by International Human Rights lawyer Amal Clooney, who represented Nobel Laureate and victim of ISIS, Nadia Murad. Murad in a statement quoted by CNN said “every survivor I have met and spoken to is waiting for the same thing – for the perpetrators to be prosecuted for their crimes against Yazidis, including women and children. So this is a very big moment for me, and for the entire Yazidi community.” The actions against the Yazidi people constitute genocidal crimes according to the Human Rights Council. Genocide, as defined by the 1948 convention, is “acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.” ISIS has proclaimed, its intent to destroy the “pagan” Yazidi minority, as reported by Foreign Affairs. The case is not only one which speaks on the legal matters, but on the moral obligation of the International Community. This case is an important step towards justice for the Yazidi people. A verdict is expected in the fall.
A political leader is advocating for raising vaccination rates in the region through education and incentives. The leader argues that vaccinating children is crucial for preventing outbreaks of infectious diseases and protecting public health. They emphasize the importance of vaccination for protecting individuals and communities from the risks of preventable diseases.

Some members of the community, however, express concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy. They argue that vaccines are not necessary and that natural immunity is sufficient. They also cite anecdotal evidence of adverse effects from vaccination.

The leader counters these arguments by highlighting the overwhelming scientific consensus on the safety and effectiveness of vaccines. They point to the reduction in disease outbreaks and the increase in life expectancy as evidence of the benefits of vaccination.

The leader also addresses the issue of vaccine hesitancy, which can undermine the effectiveness of vaccination programs. They call for increased education and engagement with communities to address concerns and build trust in the vaccine program.

Overall, the leader's message is one of strong support for vaccination and a commitment to ensuring that all children in the region have access to quality immunization services. The leader's advocacy is intended to protect the public health and ensure the well-being of the region's population.

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Natalie Sherman Staff Writer

Ukraine is one of the most notable cases in the world wide phenomenon of vaccine hesitancy. Russian Free Europe reports that with more than 53,200 confirmed cases of measles and 15 attributed deaths, Ukraine had the highest number of measles cases in the world in 2018. Since 2017, at least 30 Ukrainians have died from measles. According to The Economist, vaccine rates in some parts of Europe are now lower than some African countries, meaning that disease outbreak could become the new normal.

Measles is a highly contagious disease that can linger in the air for hours after a sick individual coughs or sneezes. It is thought to be more contagious than Ebola, tuberculosis, or influenza. According to the Center for Disease Control, the disease is extremely dangerous for infants who are too young to receive the vaccine and those who are unable to receive the vaccine due to legitimate health concerns, including the elderly.

Once an individual has contracted measles, there is very little that can be done to help treat it. The disease is entirely preventable, as most of those who contracted measles in Ukraine were perfectly capable of receiving the MMR vaccine to prevent the disease. These low vaccination rates, particularly against measles, are a result of the worldwide vaccine hesitancy movement. penalties on anti-vaxxers. According to Public Radio International, a new plan called “No Jab, No Pay” allows the government to refuse welfare benefits to individuals who do not have the proper vaccinations.

Pfizer also found that approximately 40,000 Australian children under the age of seven are not vaccinated due to parental refusal. In the last 10 years, the number of parents refusing to vaccinate their children has nearly doubled. Experts told Pfizer that unvaccinated children present a risk to public health, especially because of their exposure to schools and other highly-populated environments. Unlike the United States, in the Australian state of Queensland, individuals 15 years old and older are allowed to receive medical treatment without parental consent. Accordin...
the virus during the past decade. "We pick and choose which ones we're going to do," Stitt told The Daily Beast. "It has to be up to the parents." In Connecticut, parents are joining in on anti-vaccination rhetoric. Dr. Knute Buehler said that parents should "think twice" before opting out of vaccinations for personal beliefs, for religious beliefs, or even if they believe in alternative medical beliefs.

One of the largest hotspots for the anti-vax movement is in New York City among ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities. Approximately 300,000 Jews live in Brooklyn's Williamsburg and Boro Park neighborhoods, and in Rockland County, which is home to more than 400 cases of measles, according to Dawn. Eighty-seven of these cases occurred in the first week of April. "It's believed that the outbreak began after members of the community travelled to Israel to celebrate Sukkot, a Jewish harvest festival, says The New York Times. "The body is not a machine," said a Hasidic mother from Rockland County. All three of her children are unvaccinated and recently contracted measles. She did not report any of these illnesses to medical experts and Facebook; anti-vax advertisements and also started efforts to involve other UN agencies in the US News reports. However, it remains unclear as to what extent the two efforts will overlap, especially when considering that some anti-vax groups are spearheading their own vaccination campaigns.

Pakistan is one of the only three countries in the world, along with Afghanistan and Nigeria, where polio continues to paralyze children, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). While there is no known cure, the disease is preventable if people receive multiple treatments of the polio vaccine. As long as a single child remains infected however, the virus can easily spread into polio-free countries and unimmunized populations. Recentely, the virus has spread. The number of polio cases until a couple of decades ago were not in the tens of thousands. Relentless efforts to combat the virus in the past decade resulted in bringing the total number of cases in the country down to a total of twenty in 2016 and eight in 2017, Dawn reports. However, last year 200819, Pakistan has faced a surge in domestic anti-vaccination campaigns, reports Dawn. The Office of Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has urged the country's telecoms regulator to act against misinformation spreading on social media that discourages vaccination against polio and other diseases. Many of these anti-vaccination posts are on Facebook; anti-vax adverisements and also started efforts to involve other UN agencies in the US News reports. However, it remains unclear as to what extent the two efforts will overlap, especially when considering that some anti-vax groups are spearheading their own vaccination campaigns.

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THE CONCERN FOR GUN REFORM AMIDST THE CHRISTCHURCH SHOOTING

Tien Phan
Staff Writer

Nearly a month has passed since the tragic event of the Christchurch shooting in New Zealand, which left 50 worshippers either without their lives or with horrific stories engrained in their minds, according to NBC News. The event is unprecedented in its nature as it is currently taking New Zealand in a different trajectory in terms of public security. These measures need to be taken seriously and thoughtfully before anything is implemented for the sake of freedom and privacy of its individuals.

Such tragedy has not been a new phenomenon in recent years, as people see news of mass shootings happening worldwide in the name of religious disputes. However, no one would have thought it could happen in New Zealand, as this country has a relatively positive history. The key to change notes that the changing nature of normal conversation to online threads is a subtly dangerous occurrence in terms of being a potential reason for such atrocious actions. Specifically, when such conversations happen with people who have radical ideologies in their minds toward another ideology. In this case, people with fundamental hatred toward other groups are fueled more by going online and being encouraged by those who hold similar feelings. It is likened to an “adrenaline” rush that allows such people to commit crimes like these.

Another explanation, which may add to the use of online presence, is the social media phenomenon where the perpetrator's existence is seen throughout media outlets reporting the atrocity. CNN reports the Christchurch shooting was live-streamed at the time it occurred. It subsequently became a public stunt for the gunman, which, in a way, elevates his status in the online world. As the Internet grows exponentially each day, the audience also increases, hence the sensationalization of the event.

Measures have been taken to further investigate the nature of what exactly occurred. According to News Now, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced that Supreme Court Justice Sir William Young will have the opportunity to further examine what went wrong by using an order of inquiry to justifiably ensure that similar circumstances will not happen again in New Zealand. Specifically, the commission and Justice Young will be able to touch base with Muslims in New Zealand for further understanding of the community. If the people of New Zealand do not understand the relevancy of the culture itself, it will be hard to reconnect with the community, especially with the recent attack which can be seen as hatred toward foreigners. Other measures range from trying to create stronger regulations for guns, as well as background checks.

As reported by The Washington Post, many are wondering why this happened in New Zealand, as this country owns so much in the name of the economy as a whole. As background checks are being taken seriously, the community to boost tourism, trade, investment, and not come out of nowhere. In 2014, Brunei began implementing Sharia law alongside common law. This first wave, according to BBC, addressed crimes that could be punished by prison sentence or fine, whereas the new phase covers stoning, amputation, and caning. Many are wondering what reason there is to implement these extreme laws in the first place, and secondly, why now? Some, like Matthew Woolfe, founder of The Brunei Project, believe that the Sultan is trying to establish firm control in an economically weakning nation. Woolfe believes that the Sultan is trying to attract support from the local and international Muslim community to boost tourism, trade, investment, and the economy as a whole. As for why the second and third waves have come so late, after the first wave in 2014, many people believe it was so that backlash from the first wave would quickly die down. Either way, human rights violations should not be made in the name of economics and to detract attention from one’s own faults. These motives may have a bright side though. Since these new laws may be coming from a desire for power and not completely from a place of hate, they may not be enforced. An example of this is the mere fact that punishment of sodomy, for example, is still allowed to have arms for self-defense purposes? Will the police have the authority to publicly and legally search someone’s possessions if they are suspected to be carrying a firearm? Those are instances where New Zealand government has to be extremely careful moving forward, if they want to strengthen the unity instead of the divisiveness.

At least, the call for humanity in these circumstances will never be irrelevant. The Spinoff reports on their conversation with Prime Minister Ardern, saying that “I think it’s just the nature of an event like this. There is very little time to sit and think in those terms. You just do what feels right.”

Contact Tien at tien.phan@student.ubc.ca
NETANYAHU IS DANGEROUS FOR AMERICA AND ISRAEL

Mark Gorman  Staff Writer

The results of the April 9 Israeli elections are in and Benjamin Netanyahu is set to get his fifth term as Israel’s Prime Minister. This is good for the PM, as it will help him deal with the corruption charges against him. However, Netanyahu's reelection will be dangerous for both Israel and the United States.

For Israel, his reelection shows a further political shift to the right. Netanyahu and his Likud Party made a deal to get reelected in the form of offering the far-right Jewish Power Party two cabinet positions in exchange for its support. The Guardian notes that the Jewish Power Party supports the forced deportation of all Palestinians and making Israel a theocracy.

Many members are former members of the Meir Kahane, who is the founder and leader of the Jewish Defense League and promoted many of the same views. His movement was banned in Israel for its open racism against Palestinians. Additionally, the Jewish Defense League was labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Prior to this election, no other party wanted to work with the Jewish Power Party due to its close ties to Kahane and his movement, however, Netanyahu has made a great effort to embrace the party and to support it.

A further threat to Israel is the U.S.'s recognition of the annexation of the West Bank at the behest of Netanyahu. As pointed out by The Hill, “while the military situation in the Golan has not changed, Trump’s decision fundamentally alters the political context there.” The first reason for this is that the move will prevent any kind of peace between Syria, who claims ownership of the Golan Heights, and Israel, who militarily occupies it. As the Syrian Civil War goes on and Israel makes bombing incursions into Syrian territory, this will exacerbate an already existing conflict between Israel and Syria. The move not only prevents peace between Syria and Israel, but it also gives Iran and Hezbollah a pretext to remain in Syria and the Golan Heights to defend against the “Israeli threat.” The legitimacy behind such a claim is powerful enough that it could boost recruitment numbers among groups like Hezbollah as they will see Israel as a much greater threat.

The move also undermines the United States in three major ways. First and foremost, it undermines American efforts to combat Hezbollah by giving the group more justification for pushing people to want to fight for them. Secondly, it undermines broader U.S. foreign policy. According to The Hill, the U.S. has vocally opposed the Russian annexation of Crimea by using the argument that Russia is interfering in Ukraine's domestic affairs, but then recognizes Israel for doing the same thing. This move also undermines America's broader efforts to combat China and Russia interfering in domestic politics by doing this during a closed election, which helped swing the outcome.

Lastly, as per Al Jazeera, it helps politicize Israeli-American relations as Trump and Netanyahu both antagonize the left-wing of their nations and forge close ties with each other. This has served to marginalize the left-wing of Israel and could do the same in the U.S. It could also have the opposite effect and drive Americans to stop supporting Israel entirely, due to politics. This second effect could be good for pushing Israel and Palestine to finally come to a conclusive deal on the entire Israeli-Palestinian conflict, or it could just swing the conflict in the favor of Palestine. Neither of these are things Israel wants, given Netanyahu's reelection.

A final threat to Israel, caused by Netanyahu, is his promise to annex the West Bank. The settlements there have long been considered illegal and Netanyahu's annexation of them will just show his blatant disregard for international law.

According to Reuters, 400,000 Israelis live in the West Bank compared to 2.9 million Palestinians. Reuters goes on, stating that Netanyahu has made inflammatory remarks only to backtrack later. If he were to go through with annexing the West Bank, however, it would destroy any chance of a two-state solution. It would also be illegal according to the Geneva Conventions, which ban the settlement of land captured in war.

With Netanyahu's reelection, it might seem like there is nothing left, and that Israel is going to keep marching down a path that is drifting further and farther to the right. However, as Vox points out, Netanyahu is not out of the woods yet. There is still an ongoing corruption case and if he cannot get a law passed that would make him immune to the case, then he could end up impeached, which could be Israel's best option.

Contact Mark at mark.gorman@student.shu.edu

KIM JONG UN SETS A DATE WITH PUTIN

Mariah McClosky  Managing Editor

Despite recently having talks with the United States, North Korea's Leader, Kim Jong Un, will be sitting down to have a conversation with Russian President, Vladimir Putin. Which is exactly the opposite of what the international community wants to see directly after those talks with the U.S. fell through.

These “Cold War Allies” are meeting for the first time in years, and at this nuclear summit no one is sure what will happen.

Time stated that the North Korea Central News Agency only released a brief statement declaring that Kim would “soon pay a visit to the Russian Federation,” and that he and Putin “will have talks.”

The meeting between the two eastern countries comes at a fragile moment in the nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the U.S., which according to CNN, have stalled since the last series of talks in Vietnam fell apart earlier this year. The talks stalled and then abruptly ended after U.S. President, Donald Trump, decided to walk out of talks with Mr. Kim; which last time I checked, is neither diplomatic nor professional. Kim Jong Un is looking for an ally, for someone who will listen. And he is willing, if only a bit, to compromise. America is supposed to be that listening ear, but the Korean Summit proved that we could not handle that responsibility. When our President disrespects the leader of the country we recognize, it goes on and Israel makes moves in response, it makes Israel look even more powerful enough that it could boost recruit-ment numbers among groups like Hezbollah as they will see Israel as a much greater threat.

The move also undermines the United States in three major ways. First and foremost, it undermines American efforts to combat Hezbollah by giving the group more justification for pushing people to want to fight for them. Secondly, it undermines broader U.S. foreign policy. According to The Hill, the U.S. has vocally opposed the Russian annexation of Crimea by using the argument that Russia is interfering in Ukraine’s domestic affairs, but then recognizes Israel for doing the same thing. This move also undermines America’s broader efforts to combat China and Russia interfering in domestic politics by doing this during a closed election, which helped swing the outcome.

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Contact Mark at mark.gorman@student.shu.edu
I took a deep breath, dialed the number, and pressed call...

"Hi Mom, are you sitting down? I think I'm going to Pakistan."

It was an overcast and mild September morning, a normal Northern New Jersey day. I left the dorm early to grab my usual yoghurt and granola breakfast from the cafeteria, but that is when my day began to change. Instead of walking to my usual 11am Spanish literature class, I made a sharp turn and headed to the other side of campus to meet a complete stranger and talk to a complete outsider to change the paradigm to alter the status quo. Sometimes it takes the vision of a complete outsider to change the revolving door debate. And then it is now. After all, Hegel also said, “Nothing great in the world has ever been accomplished without passion.”

This message is exactly why I, a normal twenty-year-old American from Long Island, will join a diverse team and travel to Pakistan to promote the role of religion in building constructive, peaceful relations through face-to-face connections. Indeed, although many see religion as a tool for conflict, UPIC chooses to think otherwise by promoting faith as a mechanism for interpersonal empowerment.

Again you ask, why me specifically? Surely there are other people better suited for the task. Surely there are countless reverends, rabbis, and imams who can work these things out amongst themselves. I acknowledge and answer yes to all such questions. However, that is exactly the reason for my enthusiasm. Sometimes it takes the perspective of someone wholly removed from the paradigm to alter the status quo. Sometimes it takes the vision of a complete outsider to change the revolving-door debate. Of course, I offer a position of unwavering reverence to my personal beliefs and respect to the established dialogue. However, when global political discourse consistently revolves around egoism, exclusion, and outright hate, it becomes necessary to shift the spotlight back to the themes of liberty, empathy, and understanding that constitute all three faith communities represented in UPIC's delegation.

Ultimately, it is the attitude of acknowledging differences through compassion instead of competition that drives me to join the UPIC team. I may not be the ideal fit, and it may not be the perfect environment, but these conditions only strengthen the need for individuals to step out of their comfort zones, break the stereotype, and extend the first hand. The U.S.-Pakistan Interreligious Consortium brings together non-governmental participants in civil society to increase the mutual respect and understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Pakistan through face-to-face interactions. Initially created as a program of Intersections International, a New York City-based NGO, its work is now continuing under the auspices of Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and International Relations. If you are a Seton Hall student and you are interested in being involved, reach out to me.

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SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY HOSTS UN POLITICAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

Luiza Chainferber
Staff Writer

On April 12, the School of Diplomacy hosted Amanda Roberts, a United Nations Political Affairs Officer from the Middle East and the West Asia Division. Dr. Roberts currently sits as the acting head of the Syrian team at the UN. She sat down with students to discuss the current UN mediation process for peace in Syria.

First, Roberts mentioned that “process design” can do a lot if parties are willing to sit and negotiate. She explained that the Syrian government, and its opposition, have not yet sat down together with a UN mediator. The closest either came to a face-to-face meeting were the UN talks where each side was in a different room and mediators could listen to each party’s perspective and then communicate with the other side.

She then commented that the UN Security Council Resolution 2254 is the guiding document regarding the negotiation process. The Security Council adopted this resolution after the first Russian intervention in the Syrian conflict. The resolution proposed high-level negotiations as well as new governance. Dr. Roberts emphasized how there is a sequence of events prescribed to UN: state and understate parties that were supposed to follow: formation of a new governing body, a new constitution, and then elections. She considered the resolution as a response to what happened in Libya.

In addition, Dr. Roberts explained that there are legitimate critiques to the Syrian Constitutional Committee. The issue in Syria is not constitutional per se, given that the current constitutional guarantees equal rights and consolidates presidential power. Accordingly, she mentioned that there are several questions from external actors regarding what a constitutional committee would look like and what constitutional issues the committee would address.

Afterward, Dr. Roberts noted that the mediation process must be justice-centric. If the Constitutional Committee is established, it would be the first time that the government and the opposition would sit together with a third group from civil society and the UN. She expressed that this interaction would be beneficial to address issues of governance and make sure that all rights are preserved.

Dr. Roberts also mentioned the Women’s Advisory Board and the Civil Society Advisory Board in her talk. According to her, these bodies help civil society to place direct input in the UN’s mediation process. While some believe that the auxiliary function does not fix the issue at hand, Dr. Roberts emphasized that the boards assist the UN mediators to see the conflict from multiple perspectives.

Accordingly, Roberts described a few critiques regarding how the boards would communicate with civil society in Syria. She stated that the Envoy Office heard these concerns and that the Office is working on methods to communicate more broadly without breaking the confidentiality of the process. Dr. Roberts believes that this work helps make the UN more accountable, especially given that accountability represents an important issue for social justice.

Dr. Roberts also added that, even with the processes from UN mediation, it is necessary to have parties who are willing to engage. Without meaningful engagement and willingness to make concessions, it is impossible to emerge from the conflict in a sustainable and just way. Dr. Roberts administered that the conflict in Syria reached a point at which any move could cause massive escalation. As such, local negotiations have no security guarantees despite the good work done by local people.

Dr. Andrea Bartoli, Dean of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations and international conflict resolution expert, highlighted how Syria has the most documented human rights tragedy. Dean Bartoli emphasized the need for Diplomacy students to use their knowledge for meaning-ful practice and action.

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SETON HALL CREATING A SAFE HAVEN FOR REFUGEES

Alyssa Futa
Social Media Liaison

The international migration crisis has forced many global aid groups into action, including those within the Seton Hall community. Dr. Roseanne Mirabella, a professor in the Department of Political Science and Executive Director of the Center for Community Research and Engagement, has jumpstarted a project to assist immigrants adjusting to the U.S. After surveying and reaching out to people in her own community, Dr. Mirabella concluded that the main services new immigrants need are legal assistance, immigration services, and education. Her end goal for the project: a center where immigrants can feel safe and have ready access to necessary resources.

In order to achieve this, Dr. Mirabella has reached out to individuals within the Seton Hall community like Tim Hoffman, the Director for the Center for Community Research and Engagement. She has also contacted graduate and undergraduate students, such as Sophie Thon, a Diplomacy student, stating via email, “My role in this project is to analyze data on immigrant and refugee populations in nearby counties in order to identify the scope of the need. In addition, I will be forging relationships with nursing and medical students and faculty in order to staff pop-up health clinics for temporary aid before the community center is complete.”

Dr. Mirabella hopes to draw on Seton Hall University’s status as a Catholic institution to aid the establishment of the center. In 2018, Pope Francis established goals and promoted efforts to make the Catholic Church more welcoming to migrants and refugees. These goals are similar to the UN Global Compacts, which promote a positive view of mass migration and encourage communities to provide support for these groups.

In addition to Dr. Mirabella’s project, Seton Hall has already begun to act on the Church’s goals, with a Dean’s task force on immigration formed in the College of Arts and Sciences. Nonetheless, the work is far from complete. Honors thesis students working on the project have begun writing grants and organizing programs such as clinics and free screenings. Dr. Mirabella says that she hopes to establish this project in a church, stating that refugees and immigrants often feel comfortable in religious settings. In order to provide them with the best service possible as they transition to a new home, safety and comfort are a high priority.

After a year and a half of hard work, the project’s participants have expanded their goals moving forward. Dr. Mirabella hopes to connect with the College of Nursing and the Joseph A. Unanue Latino Institute for help in translating registration forms. She also plans to contact students in the College of Education, the School of Diplomacy, and even Greek Life.

As an institution that promotes immigrant leadership, Seton Hall University stands in an optimal position to support projects like Dr. Mirabella’s within the global refugee and immigrant community.

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Syrian refugees accummulate in a Damascus camp. Courtesy of UNRWA.

Syrian refugees at a Damascus camp. Courtesy of Seton Hall University.

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Seton Hall students are integral to Dr. Mirabella’s project to assist immigrants adjusting to the U.S. In order to achieve this, Dr. Roberts emphasized that the boards assist the UN mediators to see the conflict from multiple perspectives.
On Wednesday April 17, I had the opportunity to sit down with Marcel Yameogo, a graduate student of Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy & International Relations. Mr. Yameogo is not your ordinary graduate student; he is the national General Secretary for the Congress for Democracy and Progress Party (CDP) in his home country of Burkina Faso. In addition, he is a candidate for the 2020 Burkina Faso presidential elections. The meeting was a casual conversation in the Walsh library where Mr. Yameogo met the candidate along with two of his campaign advisors. Mr. Yameogo radiates charisma and holds great confidence regarding the path for change in Burkina Faso. Among his leading remarks, a primary goal in his education and politics career is “to change the social democracy for liberalism,” in Burkina Faso.

Mr. Yameogo spoke passionately about current events in his country, especially concerning terrorism. Its rise, along with increasing bureaucratic incompetency in recent years, have left the citizens with no choice but to join the side where their personal needs can be met. Specifically, in rural areas, poverty levels are on the rise and resource accessibility is faltering. Terrorist groups have begun using these conditions to their advantage by recruiting people into their organizations.

Mr. Yameogo comes from a political background. His grandfather was the first president of Burkina Faso after his country’s independence in 1960. Through this relationship, Mr. Yameogo was exposed to an atmosphere of political dialogue early in life. In high school, he was elected president of the student association in his hometown of Koudougou. There, he began leading a push for developing the local educational system. This was just the start of his political career; one major involvement that shaped Mr. Yameogo’s mindset for years was his experience as the president of the country’s national youth movement. This allowed him to become better acquainted with the stubbornness in Burkina Faso and push the importance of youth’s involvement in politics overall.

By this early exposure to politics, as well as his close-knit relationship with the nation’s youth, his campaign focuses predominantly on the grassroots level, where he and his team hope to reach out to as many voters as possible. The effectiveness of this process relies heavily on Mr. Yameogo’s ability to connect with the people, an area in which he believes he is succeeding.

By using the strategy of grassroots exposure, Mr. Yameogo strongly believes that, with a rising education rate, Burkina Faso will prosper. He hopes that increased education will alter the minds of citizens towards terrorist groups and their malicious recruitment operations. He also understands that reaching out to his citizens is not enough, he must work with other African leaders, as it is crucial for stabilizing the experience of conflict. As Burkina Faso shares a border with six other states, occasional conflict appears inevitable because of competing regional interests.

On this point, Mr. Yameogo emphasized the notion of cooperation to find common interests among the leaders of all states. The domestic interests of individual nations must be met before they all can work together for a common goal. It is a game of give and take while maintaining one’s respective principles.

In terms of Burkina Faso’s financial development, Mr. Yameogo’s vision is based on classical economic liberalism. “I will make sure that we have strong institutions, and this fact will lead me to contact international organizations aligned with Burkina Faso’s law and orders, and I will not violate any laws domestically or internationally.”

Furthermore, he would also like to implement an effective domestic sustainable economic plan involving multinational corporations and NGOs along with strong institutions where corruption would be strongly opposed and eliminated. If the interests of the corporations are not closely aligned to those of Burkina Faso, there will be no business as it is not for the greater good of the country.

In working with corporations and NGOs, Mr. Yameogo hopes to find the “position where and how we all can cooperate.”

On one major involvement, Mr. Yameogo faces election on June 4, 2019. This was just the start of Mr. Yameogo’s political career, one major involvement that shaped Mr. Yameogo’s mindset for years was his experience as the president of the country’s national youth movement. This allowed him to become better acquainted with the stubbornness in Burkina Faso and push the importance of youth’s involvement in politics overall.

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Yameogo will be running in the 2020 elections. Courtesy of Tien Phan.

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**School of Diplomacy Alumnus Enters Race for North Haledon NJ Borough Council**

**Mariah McCloskey Managing Editor**

Many students feel frustrated by the current political climate. On both a national and local level, there are people who are unable to get their point across and connect with their constituents. However, an up and coming politician wants to help impact the next generation of leaders.

If you are in New Jersey this summer and in need of an internship, or you just want to help the local community, Nicholas Zeitlinger a 18 School of Diplomacy and International Relations alumnus is running for Borough Council in North Haledon, NJ. He says that for those students who are inspired by the coming 2020 election, his campaign is “a chance to get in on the ground level in 2019 and elect a young candidate who represents a rising youthful voice in local politics.”

As a former student at Seton Hall, Zeitlinger understands the need for acquiring an internship while still in school. He wants to give students the opportunity to effect grassroots change in a way that most internships do not supply. As a Seton Hall alumnus, he is well aware of the difficulties and challenges facing most students at SHU.

His campaign is attempting to help students gain the experience they need when going out into the job market. This internship is “the perfect opportunity for politically active students to get hands-on, community campaign building experience without being told to fetch coffee or hear their well thought ideas downplayed and dismissed.” Students who want to work on policy research, different forms of design, and who want to better understand the strategizing that goes into a successful election are encouraged to reach out. Zeitlinger believes that, with a rising education rate, our country needs not anyone can gain from working on the grassroots level of a campaign.

Zeitlinger is not only driven to help the community, but also wants to help students gain tangible skills to add to their resume. While a part of his team, students will work closely with the campaign manager on drafting policy briefs and memos, conducting research on previous and current borough issues, campaign tactics, and other policy-related tasks.

If you are not a policy person, there are other aspects of his campaign you can sink your teeth into. There is the opportunity for students to develop digital media initiatives to reach voters through their phones. Interns can even post on blogs, forums, and social networks.

Reaching back out to the community and helping the school that helped him, Zeitlinger works to leave a lasting impact. “I know it’s the experiences I’ve taken from community organizing at Seton Hall that have shaped the way I view my political and social impact,” he said. The importance of having the hard skills is something Zeitlinger deeply understands, and he hopes all students involved in his campaign can walk away with a newly acquired appreciation for them.

Zeitlinger’s primary election will take place on June 4, 2019. Upon securing the democratic ticket, the lifelong North Haledon resident would stand for election in the New Jersey General Election on November 5, 2019.

For more information, please contact Nicho-