The United States to End Palestinian Aid

Jackson Lied
Staff Writer
The United States, in accordance with its current administration’s policies, has begun the process to ensure Palestine stops receiving U.S. aid. Palestinians had previously been allotted approximately 200 million dollars of aid with the goal to foster cooperative programs between Palestinians and Israelis. Now, the Trump administration wishes to see all U.S. financial support to Palestine cease.

This shift in policy came about two weeks ago, and it was reported by The New York Times on Tuesday, September 14 that the U.S. Agency for International Development would not fund stopping programs going towards Palestinian and Israeli ci-villian cooperation. This includes all programs that involve Palestinian citizens except the programs which are on multi-year grants. However, even those programs will not likely see a renewal in the grants once they have expired.

The push to end U.S. aid to Palestine is coming from Jared Kushner, White House advisor and son-in-law of President Trump, and not from the individual organizations providing aid such as USAID. In fact, USAID, though it can no longer fund Palestinian civilians, is still offering aid to the programs that encourage dialogue and cooperation between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs. According to The New York Times, Tim Rieser, foreign policy aid to Senator Patrick Leahy said that, “essentially, USAID was faced with the choice of shutting down the program and losing the funds, or keeping something going.”

Looking forward, this shift in aid will have personal and political effects for the Palestinian people. Many Palestinians who worked for U.S.-funded aid programs are losing their source of income. Regarding this issue, Al Jazeera told the story of Nermín Saydam who had recently acquired housing and now may be jobless and thousands of dollars in debt.

In addition to having personal finance effects, the cessation of aid will take a toll on hospitals serving Palestinian patients. The Times of Israel cites Bassem Abu Liboh as saying that the U.S. provided the funds to cover 40 percent of costs for six hospitals in East Jerusalem. These hospitals served many Palestinian in fields ranging from general healthcare to cancer treatment.

The more political aftermath will be the continuing retreat of hospital aid between Palestine and the U.S. The necessity for further discussion and diplomacy to continue is already being hindered by the United States’ decision to continue on page 5.

Super Typhoon Mangkhut Spotlights Climate Change

Judy Koren
Staff Writer
On Saturday, September 15, Super Typhoon Mangkhut, also called Ompong, slammed into the northeastern tip of the Philippines, specifically along the island of Luzon.

According to Al Jazeera, the super typhoon, a tropical storm with winds sustaining at least 115 miles per hour, is equivalent to the displacement of an average of 20 typhoons annually. The effects of Mangkhut are expected to face the residents of the northeastern tip of Luzon, stretching 168 miles; this is equivalent to the distance from Paris, France to Brussels, Germany. At least 30 million people were expected to face tropical-force winds.

CBS News reports that the Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries. The Southeast Asian country faces up to an average of 20 typhoons annually. Mangkhut is number 15 this year. Storms like typhoons and hurricanes strengthen from warm ocean water – a trend linked to climate change. South China Morning Post states scientists have once again reiterated that rising temperatures mean mega-storms will become the new norm.

Xie Shang-Ping, an environmental scientist at the University of California – San Diego emphasized that “warm sea surface temperatures help intensify tropical cyclones.” Shang-Ping continued by saying “this summer, sea surface temperatures have been abnormally warm in many parts of the world, as part of the general global warming trend.”

Warming ocean temperatures also increase the severity of storms developing over the sea. South China Morning Post added that four cyclones – which are less devastating in comparison to typhoons – intensified so drastically that they eventually developed into a super typhoon; Mangkhut happened to be one of them.

Choy Chun-Wing, a
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Temperature Rises in Idlib Crisis

Mia Diapola
Staff Writer
Over the past few weeks, Syrian and Russian airstrikes have fallen throughout Idlib province. As residents scramble for cover while being caught from the sky, Turkey has begun to reinforce several of its military outposts along the provincial Idlib border. Several of these outposts are located along the M4 and M5 highways running from Latakia and Aleppo to the capital, Damascus. In response to this reinforcement, Syria and its ally Russia have expressed dismay, BBC reports. Two Turkish outposts, thought to be the first to come under attack, are the only outposts that have not been reinforced.

Russian and Syrian airstrikes, amidst fear of a rebel ground offensive, have displaced an estimated 38,500 residents, according to the United Nations. In Idlib, Turkey has striven to find a diplomatic solution to this quandary, separating internationally recognized terrorists from moderate rebels. The terrorists, known as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), are known extremists.

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Diplomatic Envoy

Britain Increasingly Split Over Brexit

Gabrielle Goldworm
Staff Writer
Scotland Yard has identified two suspects involved in the poisoning of former Russian double agent Sergei Skripal, and his daughter, Yulia, in Salisbury on March 4, The Times of India reports.

Skripal and his daughter were found unconscious on a bench close to a Salisbury shopping center and spent weeks in a nearby hospital in critical condition before being released in May and April, respectively. According to the Chicago Tribune, a second poisoning incident that took place near Amesbury in July is believed to be linked to the attack, and in both cases the victims were poisoned by the nerve agent Novichok.

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Ethiopia and Eritrea Make Peace After 20 Years of Conflict

Abiy Ahmed, elected as the Prime Minister of Ethiopia in April 2018, has made huge strides in improving ties between his country and Eritrea since assuming office. Ahmed’s government conceded the contested town of Badme as well as other disputed areas and called for Etreans to consider bilateral peace talks. On July 9, Ahmed took a trip to the Eritrean capital of Asmara and worked with President Afwerki to hammer out a five-point agreement that officially ended the 20-year war, reports Reuters. In the accord, and respective embassies between Ethiopia and Eritrea have been reopened, diplomatic telephone lines have been reconnected, and flights resumed, according to Al Jazeera. Eritrea has also allowed Ethiopia to use its ports, a key factor for economic interests. In fact, 95 percent of Ethiopian trade flows with Djibouti, according to Foreign Affairs. In September, an Ethiopian ship docked in an Eritrean port for the first time in 20 years, Reuters reports. Previously existing trade routes have been reestablished, further increasing the prospects for greater economic integration.

According to Africanews, the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia has inspired Etreans to consider bilateral peace talks. It fought briefly in 2008 over border disagreements. A peaceful Ethiopian-Eritrean relationship could also stabilize Somalia. In a 2007 analysis of the theme “ASEAN 4.0: the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” reported the Nations, the result of an agreement between ASEAN, which has made significant progress in recent years, is that the region as a whole.

On September 11, 2018, the World Economic Forum opened its doors to join the forum. As such, ASEAN members are not alone; their counterparts from China, Japan, and South Korea also recognize the opportunity to enhance their host nation, Vietnam, still has stigmas with human rights issues. As such, ASEAN could also stabilize Southeast Asia. In a 2007 analysis of the theme “ASEAN 4.0: the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” reported the Nations, the result of an agreement between ASEAN, which has made significant progress in recent years, is that the region as a whole.

On September 11, 2018, the World Economic Forum kicked off in Hanoi, Vietnam with the theme “ASEAN 4.0: Entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” reported the Nations, the result of an agreement between ASEAN, which has made significant progress in recent years, is that the region as a whole.

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International Court of Justice Receives Chagos Islands Case

Harshana Ghoorhoo
Staff Writer

A case was presented to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) at The Hague on Thursday, August 16, 2018. The United Nations (UN) recognized the Chagos Islands as an independent state in the Indian Ocean, as it is in dispute with Britain over the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago, which is also commonly referred to as the Chagos Islands.

Mauritius approached the United Nations with a request that it grant it a legal opinion from the International Court of Justice on their sovereignty claim. A majority of countries voting against it included Britain and a few other EU countries, such as Brexit, since it was unable to gather enough support from the General Assembly to prevent the adoption of Mauritius’ resolution.

It was during the four-day hearing last week, 22 countries and the African Union made statements, of which 17 countries backed Mauritius, including China, India, and the African Union. The United States on the other hand, stood firmly by Britain and its allies in the region. The majority of the ICJ said that no form of negotiation would be carried out with Mauritius.

According to the Mauritius Government, the Chagos Islands is still considered as an integral part of Mauritius’ territory. However, Britain claimed that the Chagos Islands were a part of the British territory, as they were handed to Mauritius in 1965, the New York Times highlighted. During the ongoing assembly, the British ambassador to the United Nations emphasized how Mauritius was told that it would be handed the Chagos Islands once they were no longer required for military purposes. However, for 30 years, the United States administration remained stagnant over the matter. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Mauritius’ president, had mentioned during a General Assembly that handing over the Archipelago would not indicate a halt to its military operations; Mr. Jugnauth showed his support for the Chagos Islands, which were no longer required for military purposes.

The Guardian noted that while no U.S. and Britain could retain their military bases as long as sovereignty was returned to Mauritius. An important claim made by Mr. Jugnauth was how important it is for the Chagos Islands as well as Mauritian people to claim back the totality of their territories and be at last freed from colonization.

The Guardian noted that both men claimed to not understand the matter. Mr. Jugnauth mentioned that the ICJ at The Hague on Thursday, August 16, 2018, would hopefully be able to provide a plausible claim for Mauritius.

The Chagos Islands are at stake.

Contact Harshana at harshana.ghoorhoo@students.shu.edu

Temperature Rises in Idlib Crisis

Continued from page 1.

HTS, formerly known as the al-Nusra Front, were part of an al-Qaeda led alliance, the group numbering between 10 and 15 thousand fighters who are almost entirely located in Idlib, according to the Wall Street Journal. In growing tension with Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, there are tens of thousands of Turkish-backed moderate rebels that actively seek the removal of HTS fighters. This move is virulently opposed by HTS fighters. This move is actively seeking to negotiate removal have been framed as a ‘witch hunt,’ and without some level of compromise, the investigation is likely to remain in limbo.

Interview with two men who had with Russia Today aired, with mixed reactions to the event.

Two Arrested For Poisoning of Former Russian Double Agent

Continued from page 1.

A statement by UK Prime Minister Theresa May noted that the two suspects were reported to have entered the country using Russian passports, according to the BBC. They traveled under the assumed aliases Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, claiming to be tourists visiting Salisbury’s “famous cathedral.” This move was later repeated by the suspects in a September 12 interview with the Kremlin backed Russian news network, Russia Today, according to the Washington Post. Although both men claim to work in sports nutrition, the police suspects the members of Russia’s military intelligence service, known commonly as GRU, according to the BBC. In the interview, both claimed to not know Skripal, where he lived, or anything else about him. The Telegraph reports that when questioned about the interview the two men had with Russia Today aired, mixed reactions to the event.

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North Korea Strengthens Denuclearization Stance

Saveria Antonacci  
Staff Writer

The prospect of de-nuclearization in North Korea may soon be more than just a figment of one’s imagination. According to ABC News, President Moon Jae-in of South Korea met with North Korean Leader Kim Jong-un of North Korea met for their third set of peace talks this year, spanning from Tuesday through Thursday.

On Thursday, Mr. Moon announced that much diplomatic progress had been made. CNN reports that Mr. Kim “discussed specific steps in order to begin destroying the North Korean Nuclear Warheads. These discussions would indicate engaging in dialogue with countries such as France, for assistance in constructively high-speed railway connecting North Korea with the rest of the peninsula and Asia beyond. Naturally, this economic growth would depend on North Korean leaders continuing peaceful and productive talks with both neighboring and rival states. Attempts to quell tensions have occurred in places other than summits. As per USA Today, President Trump and Kim Jong-un opened this month. It is a seeming step forward for peaceful relations between two countries, considering this is the first official post for face-to-face dialogue.

In addition to South Korea, the United States will also have an important role in the progression of these peace talks. According to BBC News, President Trump previously met with Kim Jong-un in June of this year. It was confirmed with a signed document that a new relationship amongst the U.S. and North Korea must emerge. Amongst these talks there were no clear-cut timelines or details given pertaining to denuclearization. It was taken towards improved communication between the two countries. On top of this, North Korea approved of external inspectors entering the country to confirm that missile testing sites would be demolished, according to The Washington Post.

One issue that threatens the prospect of de-nuclearization is the presence of U.S. soldiers in South Korea. Prior to the most recent summit with North and South Korea, Mr. Kim expressed his desire for further talks being stationed just beyond his country’s border. Simon Denyer of the Washington Post also noted that “Mementos of Trump’s administration are concerned that such a declaration could be used to undermine the justicia of relations amongst these countries. Each leader must consider the motivations for every political decision. Similarly, the U.S. must soon decide if President Trump will continue his further talks with Kim or refuse altogether to maintain a strong presence in Eastern Asia.

Contact Saveria at saveria.antonacci@student.shu.edu

Britain Increasingly Split Over Brexit

Continued from page 1.

has become one of the most outspoken critics of Mrs. May’s proposed deal. If Mrs. May were to be ousted from Downing Street, Mr. Johnson would like to be the one to throw his name into the ring for PM, The New York Times reports.

Further adding to the already heated debate are calls for a second Brexit referendum. The Sun has reported that at the September 20 EU leaders’ meeting held in Salzburg, Mrs. May was encouraged by Maltese and Czech leaders to hold a second Brexit referendum. This news comes in the same week that Reuters reported that London mayor, Sadiq Khan, is calling for a second referendum. Mr. Khan, a member of the Labour Party, has joined other members of his party in making such a demand.

While it is not an official stance of the Labour Party platform, most of the support for another referendum, if Mrs. May’s negotiations with the EU fall through, comes from Jeremy Corbyn’s party. However, Mr. Corbyn currently is not in favor of a second referendum himself. With the Labour party’s annual conference, there will be renewed pressure on Mr. Corbyn. However, the source of this pressing issue may not be opposition to Chequers in the UK. Before Parliament can vote on the Brexit plan, it must first be approved by the European Union. However, according to Business Insider, the EU has told Mrs. May her Brexit plan “will not work.”

At the September 20 meeting held to discuss the progress of Brexit negotiations, it was unanimously announced that allowing the UK to stay in a single market for goods would be unacceptable. Checkers likely will not even make it back to the UK for a vote. The Economist reports that Brussels believes Brexit agreements will not be finished by December. With the UK set to leave the EU on March 29, 2019, with or without a deal, there is a little time for disagreements.

Contact Max at max.dispela@student.shu.edu

Violent Clashes Erupt in Ethiopian Capital

Josh Newman  
Staff Writer

On September 13, violent clashes broke out between mostly youth supporters of the Oromo Liberation Front and a group of Oromo protesters. This indicates Oromia’s capital of Addis Ababa. According to Africa News, the clashes continued into the next day with businesses in the city slowing down considerably due to the violence, threatening a thriving and fast growing economy.

The clashes in the wake of the sweeping reforms put into place by the new Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Abiy Ahmed, who called for peace after the country seems to be seeing. In the meantime, problems of internal displacement statistics. Importantly, the largest amount of refugees coming into Ethiopia are from the Somali region of Jigjiga. In addition, conflicts between the Guji tribe, located in the Oromia region, with the Gedeo tribe, located in the Southern region, were another major contributor. These “inter-ethnic conflicts” as News Business Ethiopia names them, resulted in one million internally displaced people.

The new administration in Ethiopia appears hopeful for a bright future for Africa’s most populous country, and many see the reforms as a step in the right direction. However, problems of the past will plague this country for many years to come. These clashes are a sign of future conflict or simply the growing pains of an improving country yet to be seen. In the meantime, the fate of millions hangs in the balance.

Contact Josh at josh.nwan@student.shu.edu
Maduro Scrambles to Solve Venezuela Crisis

Axel Songerath
Staff Writer

"I already told my four employees to go find other jobs," said the owner of a restaurant in Caracas, age 55, "I’ve decided to close. There’s no need for me to keep losing money for a third year in a row. The economy in Venezuela has burdened it’s people, and the government’s inability to provide basic necessities has forced him to shut down his family business.

Venezuelans have been forced to go hungry and women and children have had no choice but to rely on the help of the government’s social welfare programs. The crisis has forced the Venezuelan President, Nicolás Maduro, to make concessions and try to stabilize the country.
Egypt

Samuel Planck Staff Writer

In early 2011, hundreds of thousands of Egyptian protesters took to the streets to demand the resignation of Presi- dent Hosni Mubarak after 30 years of an authoritarian regime. Most famously, thou- sands gathered outside the Tahrir Square on January 25 in a demonstration of social media mobilization the likes of which had never been seen before. The West was cau- tiously optimistic about Egypt’s future. Even President Obama issued a statement after Mubarak’s resignation, saying, “For Egyptians have made it clear that nothing less than genuine democracy will carry the day.” But while it is clear that social media use was prevalent in mobilizing the Arab Spring (the Project on Information Technology and Political Islam measured an increase of two orders of magnitude in tweets from Egypt per day in the week before Mubarak resigned), whether it was about the Tahrir Square or the Al-Aqsa Mosque protests, the space remains up for debate. Some claim that the greatest power of social media during the Rev- olution was its ability to spread awareness to the outside world. As Foreign Policy report- ed in December 2011, “This year, according to Twitter, the top hashtag on the microblogging site was...#egypt, which users used to categorize tweets related to Egypt’s revolution.” Opponents argue that the power to docu- ment the violence used by authoritarian regimes had never been seen be- fore. Citizens in Egypt’s #tahrir square were able to document the whole as a whole and allowing the military to enforce its power over the country.

As Wael Ghonim, one of the online figures of the 2011 Revolution said during a TED talk, “the same tool that united us to topple dictators eventually tore us apart.” Anti-revolutionary groups began to use so- cial media for their own purposes as well. Five years after the first Tahrir Square protests, as the provisional government cracked down on physical protests, many people took to Twitter with the hashtag #1participated_in_Janyuary_Revolution.

Speculation and a wide variety of interpretations of the leaked emails evolved throughout online chat rooms such as 4Chan. This led some people to the conclusion that the pizzeria was ac- tually a headquarters for a child human trafficking ring led by Clinton and Podesta. Alt-right groups used this misinformation as propaganda through- out social media prior to the election. While this conspiracy theory had not evolved much since the 2016 election, the online space is being used to spread false stories, while Twitter recently sus- pended several accounts belonging to members of “alt-right” groups, saying the network’s rules “prohibit targeted abuse and harassment.”

Taking on the fake news phenomenon has now proved to be a concerning factor in the upcoming evolution of technological advances as it relates to our political system and the safety of the American public.

“My name has been torn to shreds,” Comet Ping Pong owner said to Reveal News. “And then... there are abso- lutely no repercussions for these people, and I wonder when they will be held accountable.”

Contact Kaitlin at kaitlin.principato@student.shu.edu

Kaitlin Principato Staff Writer

On December 4, 2016, 28-year-old Edgar Welch used his AR-15 to open fire at Comer Ping Pong pizzeria in Washing- ton D.C. Despite firing several rounds, no one was injured and Welch eventually surrendered to authorities. The online conspiracy theory known as “Pizzagate” inspired this violent and potential- ly lethal sentiment. What led this North Carolina man to such extreme behavior? Welch wanted to investigate the so-called sex-slave ring underneath Comer Ping Pong pizzeria. A sex-slav- ery ring that did not exist. According to Esquire, the “Pizzagate scandal” all began in November 2016 when Hilary Clinton’s campaign manager, John Podesta, had his email hacked and leaked onto Wikileaks. One of the emails, according to The New York Times, was between Podesta and James Alefantis, the owner of D.C.’s Comet Ping Pong. The message discussed the possibility of a sex tapes host of a fundraiser for Clinton at his establishment. Speculation and a wide variety of interpretations of the leaked emails evolved throughout online chat rooms such as 4Chan. This led some people to the conclusion that the pizzeria was ac- tually a headquarters for a child human trafficking ring led by Clinton and Podesta. Alt-right groups used this misinformation as propaganda through- out social media prior to the election. While this conspiracy theory had not evolved much since the 2016 election, the online space is being used to spread false stories, while Twitter recently sus- pended several accounts belonging to members of “alt-right” groups, saying the network’s rules “prohibit targeted abuse and harassment.”

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Contact Kaitlin at kaitlin.principato@student.shu.edu

Stephanie Miller Staff Writer

As rival factions con- tinue to decimate Libya’s capital and combatants take up assault rifles and grenade launchers, a new kind of street fighter emerges – the keyboard warrior. Having previously played an integral role in rallying protests against the regime of former dictator Muammar Gaddafi during the 2011 Arab Spring, Facebook continues to serve as the primary social media plat- form of choice in Libya. These days, however, it serves not as an instru- ment of change, but a weapon capable of mass destruction. Armled with a function- ing laptop and a Wi- Fi signal, both militants and civilians take to social media to either dispel or perpetuate intelligence and propaganda – which- ever suits their alternate truth agenda. According to a report published by Amnesty International, armed militias utilize Facebook to track and dispatch of those who speak up against violent atrocities, including women’s activ- ities and journalists. In Benghazi, former CIA asset and current warlord Khalid Hafer orders an elite cyber-unit affiliated within his Libyan National Army to scout the site look- ing for the identities of dissenters and suspected Islamists. They also use it to mount disposition campaigns against one another and recruit new soldiers. The Rada Special Deterrence Force, a government-aligned militia group, specifically utilizes Facebook to publi- cize current events. On September 10, RADA published photograph- ic evidence on their Facebook site of the recent suicide bombing of Libya’s National Oil Corporation. Al Jazeera would later report that the attack left at least 10 injured, several dead, and indicated that the suicide bombers’ had connec- tions to ISIL, which is a regional hotbed of terrorism in eastern Libya. Corruption also plays a role in the crisis. Due to militia commanders abusing their access to Libya’s financial system, buying U.S. dollars at official rates as opposed to the higher street prices, civilrs often talk to Facebook and begin to circulate fake documents in attempts to undermine the value of the institution. The New York Times reported that users also post fake news or battle guidance. In one partic- ular discussion group, a user going by the handle “Narjis Ly” posted maps and coordinates to a rival group’s airspace, writing “From the traffic light at Wadi al Rabt, it is exactly 18 kilometers to the run- way, which means it can be targeted by a 130 mm artillery.” After years of nothing but propaganda and a constant state of repression under Gaddafi, it comes as no surprise that the public has turned to social media as a means of keeping up to date on the latest news. Because of Li- bya’s complete lack of a functioning central government, almost all of its active newspapers and television stations are connected to various mil- itants groups – the radio stations Voice of Free Libya historically aligned itself with anti-Gaddafi forces, and now publicly supports several vast groups around the cities of Bayda, Benghazi, and Misrata. The media outlets are not tied to political factions are most likely run by foreign powers: the radio station Libya FM is based in Cairo, Egypt, and Libya TV is owned and operated out of Doha, Qatar. As outlined in their Content Standard, Facebook does not allow organizations or individ- uals involved in violent or organized criminal activity to maintain active accounts. The company insists that it polices its Middle East and North African platforms with “teams of Arabic-speak- ing content reviewers” who develop an artificial intelligence to pre-emptively remove prohibited content,” states the New York Times. However, Face- book is still under intense scrutiny for its role in the promotion of illegal arms dealing. In an official state- ment, former Libyan information minister Mahmoud Shammam ad- dressed the country’s con- tinuing Facebook Wars, calling for an end to deliberate disinformation and the promotion of violence. Shammam dis- tributed his impassioned speech to the online public.

“...to Reveal News. "And then... there are abso- lutely no repercussions for these people, and I wonder when they will be held accountable.”

Contact Kaitlin at kaitlin.principato@student.shu.edu

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United States

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Social Media Mobilization

Myanmar

Alyssa Tolentino Staff Writer

Once one of the least connected countries in the world, Myanmar was eager to catch up to the ever-connected, globalized world when it emerged from decades of military rule in 2011. This eagerness, coupled with the ethnic tensions between the Buddhist Rakhine and the dominantly Muslim Rohingya, resulted in the mobilization of social media on a grand scale to spread hate speech and propagate a genocide that has taken over the narrative of Myanmar’s transition to democracy. Before 2011, the junta of Myanmar kept its citizens as isolated from the rest of the world as possible, says the Council on Foreign Relations. According to the International Telecommunication Union, a UN agency, few people had telephones and only 1.1 percent of the population used the internet in 2012.

Everything changed in 2013 when a quasi-civilian government oversaw the deregulation of telecommunications, says Reuters. All of a sudden, the state-owned phone company faced competition from two foreign mobile-phone entrants from Norway and Qatar. Many saw Facebook as the complete package; one can access news, videos, other entertainment, and even message others all in one place. Being on Facebook became a status symbol. Even the government itself uses it to make major announcements.

With its increasing ubiquity, however, hatemongers have taken advantage of the social network to spread anti-Muslim sentiments. Human rights activists from inside the country tell CNN that posts range from recirculated news articles from pro-government outlets to misrepresentated or faked photos and anti-Rohingya cartoons.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar government and military have been using the platform to present their own narrative of the Rohingya crisis. According to the Commander-in-Chief, there were living in a constant state of fear. “For a long time, people were living in a constant state of terror, too scared to even leave their house in case of an air strike. Obviously it can’t totally remove that fear, but it can make life that bit more bearable.”

Sentry also gives people the ability to certify their own narrative of the Ro- hingya crisis. According to the Commander-in-Chief, there were living in a constant state of fear. “For a long time, people were living in a constant state of terror, too scared to even leave their house in case of an air strike. Obviously it can’t totally remove that fear, but it can make life that bit more bearable.”

In Syria, a few minutes warning can be the difference between life and death. Hala Systems, the creators of Sentry, have given Syrians the gift of time.

Sentry is a system that alerts users when an airstrike is about to occur via numerous messaging services, reports The Washington Post. These alerts have saved many lives. Users who receive the advanced warning they need to seek shelter when it spots a plane heading their way.

According to the Washington Post, Sentry has a network of plane spotters located in crucial areas nearby, such as airstrips or opposition-held territory, who can report what they are seeing in real time. Many of the veteran spotters are able to give information on whether the planes are Russian or Syrian, and the possibility that they are carrying chemical weapons.

Acoustic sensors that can collect data on the speed an aircraft is traveling supplement the information provided by the human spotters. These are crucial in determining how much time civilians have to take cover and where volunteers or first responders can position themselves to help as many people as possible.

During World War II, farmers in rural areas created an ad-hoc system of plane spotting. When they saw German Luftwaffe planes, they called ahead to London and gave advanced warning that allowed civilians to seek shelter ahead of a bombing raid. Now, as the war in Syria draws closer to its eighth year, Hala Systems is taking the old concept of spotting planes and adding analytical precision to save as many lives as they can through social media.

Hala Systems’ three founders come from vastly different backgrounds, but share their desire to curb the senseless violence of the Syrian civil war. Senty was initially a child of John Jaeger, described by Wired as a “Hacker turned govern- ment technologist.”

Jaeger felt disillusioned with his work in the State Department and his own perceived inability to make any difference in the devolving situation in Syria. Jaeger teamed up with Dave Levin, an entrepreneur and former employ- ee of the United Nations Global Compact to bring his idea to life. The third member of their team, who goes only by Murad, is as a crime. “Violent or dehumanizing speech, statements of inferiority, or calls for genocide are a crime. There have even been cases of musicians being prose- cuted in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, like the case of Simon Bikindi, says the New York Times.

In March, the United Nations accused Face- book of “substantively contributing” to the “level of atrocity” among Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, citing the “inadequate response of the Facebook team” to escalating rhetoric on the platform in Myanmar, CNN reports.

In May 2015, David Madden, founder of the tech firm Phandeeyar based in Yangon, warned Facebook executives that the company risked being a platform used to foster widespread violence, akin to the way radio broadcasts incited killings during the Rwandan genocide.

Under international law, incitement to geno- cide is a crime. There have even been cases of musicians being prose- cuted in the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, like the case of Simon Bikindi, says the New York Times.

In March, the United Nations accused Face- book of “substantively contributing” to the “lev- el of atrocity” among Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. In its latest testimony, Zuckerberg claimed that the social media site was hiring dozens more Burmese speakers to review hate speech posted in Myan- mar.

Four months after Zuckerberg’s pledge to act, Reuters uncovered hundreds of posts that call the Rohingya or other Muslims dogs, mag- gots, and rapists, suggesting they be led to pigs or simply exterminated. One of these showed a new article from an army-con- trolled publication about attacks on police stations by Rohingya militants.

“Those non-human kalar dogs, the Bengalis, are killing and destroying our land, our water, and our ethnic people. We need to destroy their race.”

Contact Alyssa at alyssa.tolentino@student.nhn.edu
EU’s New Copyright Directive Threatens Freedom of Speech

Isha Ayehsa
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, the European Parliament approved a new directive on digital copyright, according to EUR Lex. The legislation essentially tries to initiate copyright laws that will force social media and news platforms to take drastic measures while sharing others’ content. The European Union (EU) believes that the Directive will hence protect the rights and interests of content creators.

While some agree with the EU on this stance and campaign for the smaller journalists who should receive better pay, critics call the policy a disastrous process that may reduce, if not end, usage of sharing platforms. They especially target Article 11 of the Directive, claiming it is undemocratic.

Article 11 aims to implement “Link Taxes” in which social media networks that search engines, blogs, and websites, which would mean that these sites must compensate for the use of their content. If enforced, “Link Taxes” can offer these new publishers to charge websites like Facebook, Google, or Twitter to link their materials.

However, this Article fails to clarify the degree of copyright that these sites are supposed to obtain. The vagueness of the definition of a “link” leaves much up for interpretation. The peculiar nature of a decent explanation are hence left upon the EU.

Additionally, when Facebook or Google offers hyperlinks to any news website or blog, they are getting free advertisement and promotion. If Article 11 passes, Facebook and Google could be less inclined to link the publications.

This will mean that publications who can afford to offer to their readership these bigger platforms can perform well, but smaller publications who cannot do the same will be the only ones to suffer.

On a similar note, as Furrisian, writes, “the EU justifies these changes by claiming it wants to protect content creators in Europe from being taken advantage of by large corporations, such as Google, Facebook, and Twitter.”

However, according to a letter penned by World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee and Wikipedia co-founder Jimmy Wales, far from only affecting large American internet platforms, the burden of Article 11 will fall mostly on their competitors, including European startups and SMEs.

“This Article does not actually protect the rights of the original content creators, the journalists. Julia Reda, an German member of the European Parliament, justifies that content creators are not being protected when she notes that, “copyright protects creativity. This law does not establish a new copyright in that sense (belonging to an author), but a ‘neighbouring right’ (belonging to the publisher).”

On the other hand, Article 13 will try to bring in Censorship Machines, which will filter all content on sites like Facebook and YouTube to stop copyright infringing materials from being uploaded. If websites fail to comply, they subject themselves to the legal complications that come with hosting copyright infringing content on their sites.

This means that if uploaded content were not verified for copyrighting by the site, it would probably be taken down. However, complications are not being proposed when she noted that, “copyright protects creativity. This law does not establish a new copyright in that sense (belonging to an author), but a ‘neighbouring right’ (belonging to the publisher).”

The directive expects all platforms to obtain licenses for any copyrighted works in the entire world; however, even a mammoth like YouTube is not able to follow through with these standards due to the large volume of content. These websites would need to comb through any and all uploaded content, which is expensive and counts as an invasion of privacy. Just imagine wait- ing 33 hours for Instagram to check for copyright infringement when trying to upload a picture. Yes, it would be that bad.

In conclusion, EU’s Copyright Directive Policy is not only infringing freedom of speech, it is also redundant and ineffective. All that can be hoped for now is that the final vote in January 2019 is not in its favor or the Internet could become a lot more complicated than it already is.

Contact Isha at isha.ayehsa@student.shu.edu
The Unraveling of the European Union

Nathaniel Purcell
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, September 5, lawmakers from across the European Union (EU) voted to invoke Article 7 of the 1992 Maastricht Treaty against the government of Hungary, reports DW News. This, according to the US Consulate in Stuttgart, follows for the potential suspension of voting rights based on a violation of fundamental values.

The EU invoked the so-called “article 7” procedure against Hungary for the first time in its history following Britain’s vote to leave the Union in the referendum of June 2016. The EU’s decision was based on allegations of government interference in the judiciary system, as well as the government’s stance on migration and the treatment of refugees.

In response, the Hungarian government has said it would appeal the decision, which would allow it to appeal to the European Court of Justice (ECJ). The government has also said it would consider taking legal action against the EU.

The move is a significant blow to the EU’s ability to act as a united front on issues such as migration and security. The EU has been under increasing pressure to take action on the issue of migration, following a surge in the number of refugees entering the bloc from the Middle East and North Africa.

However, the move is also seen as a sign of growing tension within the EU, with some member states expressing concern about the effectiveness of the Union’s decision-making process.

The EU has been under increasing pressure to take action on the issue of migration, following a surge in the number of refugees entering the bloc from the Middle East and North Africa. The EU has been under increasing pressure to take action on the issue of migration, following a surge in the number of refugees entering the bloc from the Middle East and North Africa.
A Day in the Life of Dean Andrea Bartoli

Axel Sontgerath
Staff Writer

When you walk in the white and green corridors of McQuaid Hall, the home of Seton Hall University’s School of Diplomacy and International Relations, you can’t help but feel right at home. You find yourself in a friendly atmosphere with welcoming faces everywhere you turn. And at the helm of this school is Dean Andrea Bartoli.

Dean Bartoli has been part of the School of Diplomacy and International Relations for five years, and graciously agreed to sit down and run through his typical day as well as his backstory before making it to Seton Hall University.

Back in 1992, Dean Bartoli came to the United States as an Italian immigrant. “I didn’t speak English then,” he states, “I learned English at Queen’s Public Library.” He went on to work at Columbia University as an administrative aide in the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies. He began teaching there and found the Center for International Conflict Resolution.

From Columbia University he moved on to George Mason University’s School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, where he became Dean. “I was already a dean when I came here, but I was actually certified before coming to the United States.” He was 35 at the time and the President of an Italian health care district, taking care of the health services for around 147,000 people. So, I was used to large organizations, and the manner in which you run them.”

Dean Bartoli was extremely experienced when he came here to the US, but the language barrier was a difficult task to overcome: “when I came here I had to start all over.”

When asked about the transition into American culture, he responded, “the transition for me was brutal because it wasn’t only a transition in language, it was a transition in culture and customs.”

In his opinion, this “American” way of teaching is “superior” because it “allows for both the teacher and the student to learn from each other.”

This is a common theme in Dean Bartoli’s approach with his role in the School of Diplomacy. We then went on to discuss what he wanted to help the Diplo school do “I definitely want to help the Diplo School lead.”

Dean Bartoli has always stood by a strong theme of leadership for his endeavors at the School of Diplomacy and plans on continuing to do so. “Leadership has to do with understanding yourself and understanding the environment around you. True leadership is understanding how you work and your environment can move forward together for the good of all.”

Dean Bartoli stressed the importance of engaging with each other and that leadership is not just “ordering people around.”

“I want to offer myself as well as a sound board, as a supporter, as a cheerleader even,” he stated. “I tell students that if they are ever here to make sure to stop by and chat with me about how they are doing.”

This friendly and energetic atmosphere is what Dean Bartoli and the faculty seem to thrive on, as he wants the school to feel “at ease” with one other.

“Take yourself seriously. Take your language seriously. Especially take the time to meet real people and engage yourself.” These are the words Dean Bartoli had for incoming students as well as new students to the School.

“It is very difficult to take yourself seriously if you are not in a challenging environment, if you do not do things you have never done before.” He stressed the importance of challenging oneself to move further and further forward on path one’s to success.

“To be clear, I don’t mean taking yourself seriously with an air of pomposity, I mean to really have clear idea of what you want to accomplish and always pushing yourself to see what more you can do.”

“I wake up at 6:30am every day, make a simple breakfast, read my newspaper (very important) and do my prayers. Then I go and start my day at Seton Hall.”

Dean Bartoli has a simple and efficient routine that allows him a fresh start to every day. “I have a lot of meetings as a Dean. Because of this, I like to keep them fresh, different, and challenging in a good way. Myself and the faculty always gather around the idea of what the School of Diplomacy could be and should be. You don’t have a good School of Diplomacy if you don’t put your heart and soul in it day in and day out.”

This is the common theme within his daily routine. He lives and breathes the School of Diplomacy, making sure to consecrate his day to pushing it in the right direction.

Contact Axel at axel.sontgerath@shu.edu

CONTRIBUTORS

Adam Varoqua
Alyssa Tolentino
Ariana Keshishian
Axel Sontgerath
Catherine Doolan
Gabrielle Goldworm
Harshana Ghoooroo
Ian Murphy
Isha Ayesha
Jackson Lied
Jacob Abel
Jarrett Dang
Joshua Newman
Judy Koren
Kaitlin Principato
Lizi Kimeridze
Luisa Chainferber
Mark Gorman
Mark Wood
Mia Diapola
Natalie Sherman
Nathaniel Purtell
Samuel Adams
Samuel Planck
Saveria Antonacci
Stephanie Miller
Tien Phan

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For more information on sources, go to TheDiplomaticEnvoy.com.
A Letter from the Diplomacy Senator

Senator Jacob Abel wish the best for all of SHU's diplomacy students.                        Courtesy of Jacob Abel.

We take our positions
your concerns, wheth
Diplomacy in the student
I represent the School of
in the Student Govern
Jacob Abel and I serve
duce myself. My name is
take a moment to intro
its community has tried
so many firsts. It can be
Seton Hall presents a unique opportunity to all its Diplomacy students to explore a new career and interests.                            Courtesy of SHU.

Seton Hall consists of
Ariana Keshishian

To my fellow Diplos,

Staff Writer

I got involved in SGA because my passion is to
represent the interests of people around me. Being able to represent so many talented and
tested people has been a great experience and has helped me grow tremendously. We will be in touch
troughout the year to inform you of events and initia
SGA will be holding and working on.

Sincerely Yours,
Jacob Abel
Class of 2020
Lizi Kimeridze
Staff Writer

Getting an internship is one of the most important starting points a student can take towards developing skills for a future job. It is important to apply for internships that target the area that you are most interested in, as it will help you to decide whether the direction you are planning to go is the right fit for you.

Before applying for internships in the U.S., I chose to intern in the country of Georgia, where I live. I decided to try my luck and I applied for an internship at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. The process of applying proceeded without any complications, and fortunately I did not have to wait for long as I got contacted after a week for an interview.

A few days after my interview, I received an acceptance letter, which to my utmost pleasure informed me that I had been placed in the U.S. department. Unlike other interns who got placed in many different departments, I have lived in the U.S. and had better experience and knowledge with the culture, political events, and governmental system of the country.

One of the most important things I learned over the summer was to understand the value of good and important information. I learned how to filter out this information from long articles and journals. Almost every single day I had to search for important and recent news in the political world.

I was asked to write an abstract for the head of our press department, which he could have as much information as possible before going to meetings, summits, and conferences. I had never thought about how important it is to find trustworthy and reliable sources for news nowadays until that. After my supervisors were convinced that I was quite good at collecting and distinguishing useful information, they assigned me to prepare presentations about Georgian goods and research the resources of the country that could be interesting for foreign investors.

In the beginning, all the interns would be assigned to a specific topic; at the end of the week, we all had to present it to our supervisors and the head of our department. They would ask us questions and test our knowledge and skills of how well we would be able to convince them to invest. After some other intern and I were trained and prepared, a few of us were chosen to go to one of the conferences. We were allowed to present for investors from neighboring countries, like Turkey, Armenia, and Azerbaijan.

It was very stressful and one of the most tasking responsibilities I have been assigned to handle. Whatever the outcome, it would affect my reputation and capacity in my internship, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could lose potential investors.

This opportunity helped me to develop the skills to present to big audiences, learn how to notice small details, and be more perceptive of people’s wants and needs. This in turn made it easier to understand how to be more assertive and confident in everything I do.

The last few days of my internship were the best of the whole summer because I was chosen to assist the Deputy Minister. I observed how he prepared speeches for upcoming meetings and the NATO summit that took place in Brussels, Belgium.

The experience of working with Deputy Minister introduced me to the hardships and the amount of responsibility people with higher power have. I learned how complicated their work is because I got the privilege to attend meetings with foreign ambassadors and the permanent representatives of NATO to Georgia, which allowed me to learn about different work ethics and cultures.

Working for the government is not easy as it seems on paper. Although that paper states the start and the end of working hours, you will most likely never be able to leave work on time. I had to stay three or four hours late daily, and I never noticed or complained, because time went by so fast in the chaotic but systematic work.

This internship has introduced me to, as one could say, “what goes on behind closed doors.” Of course I did not have access to confidential documents or meetings, but now I have a clear image of what it is like to work in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and to meet some of the most influential people in political world.

This internship has made me appreciate the value of hard work, especially when it concerns my passions.

Contact Lizi at lizi.kimeridze@student.shu.edu

Students networked behind the scenes. Photography courtesy of Eva Rian.

Ivanika Trump, Robert Lighthizer, President Ivan Marquez of Colombia, Dr. Ian Bremmer, and Jennifer Lawrence attracted interns from many different careers. This opportunity provided stimulating conversations for students to learn about the workings of the world from professionals themselves, and receive advice on how to pursue an intended (or newly discovered) career path. The only limit is how many business cards you can carry.

Contact Ian at ian.murphy@shu.edu

Ian Murphy
Staff Writer

Concordia is an annual summit based on the convergence and sharing of ideas between the public and private sector. Started in 2011 as a non-profit and strictly nonpartisan organization, Concordia has hosted professionals, professors, business leaders, and even heads of state from around the world. This eclectic and inclusive approach to global issues directly emanates from Concordia’s co-founders, Matthew Swift (Chairman, CEO) and Nicholas M. Logothetis (Co-founder, Chairman of the Board).

According to their website, they share a vast array of interests ranging from international affairs and journalism to entrepreneurship, advocacy, and collaboration. The same energy and curiosity that fuel the annual summit creates an atmosphere where Seton Hall students can thrive.

The setup of the conference is simple and fast paced. Guest speakers either present or hold consecutive moderated sessions while refreshments await the attendees just outside. A common area for all fosters networking and discussions stemming from the sessions.

While Concordia may seem off the beaten path for the typical undergraduate, the summit takes advantage of its proximity to the United Nations building – convening at the Grand Hyatt – as well as the timing of the UN General Assembly. Thus Concordia has been able to attract more heads of state, policy advisors, and advocates to its stage than it likely otherwise would have. Big names such as the international community is working together to solve them.”

Themes at the conference closely echo those found within the UN community and the Sustainable Development Goals. Various speakers discussed how the public sector, private sector, and even private citizens can tip the scale in favor of a more sustainable future, where we pursue income and gender equality as well as fight against corruption.

Professionals attending the conference and even some speakers were open to network with students. This opportunity provided stimulating conversations for students to learn about the workings of the world from professionals themselves, and receive advice on how to pursue an intended (or newly discovered) career path. The only limit is how many business cards you can carry.

Contact Ian at ian.murphy@shu.edu

Ivanika Trump, Robert Lighthizer, President Ivan Marquez of Colombia, Dr. Ian Bremmer, and Jennifer Lawrence attracted several students from the School of Diplomacy to this year’s event. Diplomacy major Dan Vitolo (class of 2021) expressed his feelings after the two-day summit, “From Concordia I gained a new understanding of the current state of the world as well as a deeper appreciation for international relations. I learned about the great struggles taking place and the way...