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**COUNTRY:** The State of Israel

**COMMITTEE:** LEGAL

**ISSUES:** The question of legal framework for the Prisoners of War (PoW) and its safe conduct regarding their protection during war times

Unfortunately, in the past and in our current era, wars have existed for many years. Wars have occurred in many countries across the globe, and it has affected the wide population of Earth mostly negatively. As a result of wars, prisoners of war (PoW) have been present in many nations. Prisoners of war, are the population who are held captive by the superior power during war times whether the war is international or national. Prisoners of war have existed for a considerable amount of time due to the active wars that have occurred (1). Prisoners of wars have differciating treatment, depending on the war, and the country they had been caught in. Thus, Pow’s have been one of the concerns of many countries, and had attention focused for a long time. This situation has been recognized by many known and international organizations. We, as the delegation of the State of Israel, have been actively seized upon the matter due to the active conflicts we are in. We have handled PoW in our country in past wars, and we are continuing to treat them according to the conditions of our country and our era.

As the crisis of how PoW are treated rose, conventions and meetings have been set up. Conventions which are named “Geneva Conventions” have been set up to solve this issue four times, each convention focusing on different rights and standards of Pow.  Geneva Conventions have resulted in international treaties, focusing on PoW and civilians who are caught in a conflict or a war. The first Geneva Convention which was held in 1949, focused on protecting wounded and sick soldiers during times of war on the battlefield (2). The second Geneva Convention focused its attention mainly on preserving wounded injured and shipwrecked military personnel during sea wars and conflicts. The convention protects ships in war with the purpose of being a hospital (2). The third convention focuses solely on PoW and their treatment standards. The convention established many regulations and rules for the true and right protection of PoW. Thus, the convention with the most attention has been the third Geneva Convention due to its critical topic and the wide variety of topics it has covered (2). Finally, the fourth Geneva Convention which has been greatly recognized by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)  focused on protecting civilians who were caught during a war in any territory. This convention has been crucial for the preservation of regulations and rules(2). 59 nations have recognized and ratified the conventions (3). The United Nations Human Rights (UNHR) has seized upon the matter to keep standards and regulations accordingly (4). To sum up, the Geneva Convention consisting of four different conventions that were held at different times focuses on the standards and the treatments of soldiers, civilians, and PoW’s injured and wounded during war times.

We have recognized the increase in PoW’s in our territory due to the active war that has been affecting the State of Israel and surrounding states. The sudden increase due to terror activity from opposite sides has evoked the sudden rise of increase in the population of PoW on both sides which are actively in the conflict. In the past, the State of Israel has provided the required and approved standards for PoW in the right era and in the right conditions. In the Arab-Israeli war, the required treatment was given to PoW which was made by the Geneva Conventions (5). Additionally, standards were also kept up to the local regulations in the Suez Crises by the Israeli government (6). Thus, we have treated PoW according to their sides and conditions, and we will continue to treat PoW’s according to our own situation and stand in conflict.

The State of Israel has been actively seized upon the matter due to the current era events. As such, The state of Israel has had many experiences with the increasing issue. Thus, we know how to deal with situations as such in our own terms, laws, and ways. We believe, no additional resource shall be given to PoW in dire condition. Resources shall be allowed to be given through the aid NGOs and organizations. In conclusion, depending on the era and its conditions, we are not fully willing to give up our resources and shelter for the usage of PoW. We have had PoW’s in our nation, and we have been dealing with them accordingly.

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