

## Why Some Countries Are Letting Their Prisoners Run Free

This morning, the United Nations Human Rights Council Discussed the issue of justice within the prison system. The Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Argentina and Brazil all agreed on funding for education and rehabilitation as well as a focus on citizens rights in jail facilities. With that being said, they still need foreign aid from more developed countries.

France, the UK, the United States of America and Germany all promote human rights in other countries, and replied that they would like to provide funds, as well as proof they are used in the right ways. It was also stated that Iran, Iraq, India, and Egypt have high rates of incarceration. A main reason behind this is the lack of economic development, due to colonialism, which has been put in place by economically stable countries. They understand that these developed countries have apologized, but they asked that the delegations would step forwards for funding, as an act of diligence to improve the developing countries prison systems.

Australia agreed, and stated that “there needs to be more transparency to be able to form a plan towards our final resolution, which is to improve human rights”. On the topic of health and safety in prisons, Australia stated that most countries have limited space, therefore are unable to keep prisoners within social distancing procedures. To solve this problem, they thought that an increase in medical supplies to make prisons a safer place, and to stay away from outbreaks of COVID-19, was a great step forward.

Prisons in Egypt, El Salvador, Bangladesh and India have very low standards, along with inadequate healthcare to prevent disease and more crucially, the spread of covid-19. Prisoners in Egypt must take shifts facing the walls of their jail cells in order to conserve space. Bangladesh and India even began releasing low-risk prisoners in hopes of coping with overcrowded prisons. Unfortunately, these countries do not have the ability to support large problems such as this. With that being said, India asked that developed countries step forward to help funding for the improvement of prison systems .

As a final note, the Dominican Republic developed ideas on how the UNHRC could help the less developed countries in the fight for improved human rights in their jail systems. Due to many countries' struggles with poor sanitation during this pandemic, prisoners have become unhappy with conditions and have started rioting for their rights. The Dominican Republic recommended focusing on improved training for officers that work in prisons, as well as expanding the prison system as a long term solution.

All in all, the discussions from this morning's meetings brought many different perspectives in hopes of improving the lives of prisoners, with undeveloped countries asking for help in this important task. We'll see in the next few committee sessions whether some more developed countries will be able to do their job of helping and overall, improve human rights across all countries.