



Historical International Court of Justice

Discussing Accountability for Human Experimentation during

World War II

Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

It is with utmost pleasure and excitement that I welcome each one of you to the first ever International Court of Justice at BDMUN! I am Veda Shah, a student at B.D. Somani International School studying in the eleventh grade.

The agenda for this committee, discussing accountability for human experimentation during World War 2 entails the systematic experimentation carried out during this period and the enduring questions it raises about justice, accountability, and humanity's ethical obligations. In this committee, you will explore the legal and moral responsibility of individuals and nations, the frameworks that address war crimes and crimes against humanity, and the lasting impact of these actions on international law. This topic requires you not only to analyse historical precedent but also to approach each case with integrity, upholding the principles of international justice and human rights so the committee can successfully pass a verdict.

Shifting to a more personal note, I am one to immerse myself in the fictional world of books, one of my favourites being Six of Crows. I also enjoy playing sports like football and tennis, and frequently participate in treks.

I would stress the importance of thorough preparation. Familiarise yourself with the various cases of human experimentation pertaining to both, your country and others' and be prepared to prove your

country's innocence through the various speeches you will give. You must achieve a balance between creativity and practicality in crises, paperwork and lobbying. Remember, that it is only through open and civil discourse that we can achieve a fair and just verdict.

Throughout the conference, I am here to support you, answer your queries and ensure that committee sessions run smoothly. Do not hesitate to reach out if you require assistance or guidance. I hope to make some amazing memories with all of you!

Best of luck,

Veda Shah (email: veda.1112026@bdsint-students.org)

Director of the International Court of Justice

BDMUN 2024

Letter from the Assistant Director

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the International Court of Justice at this year's MUN conference. I'm thrilled to serve as your Assistant Director as we delve into a critical, complex agenda: human experimentation during World War II. Our committee's historical focus is crucial, as the ethical, legal, and humanitarian questions it raises still resonate today, reminding us of the vital role international law plays in safeguarding human rights. Although we're examining events from the past, the discussions you engage in will be highly relevant, challenging us to reflect on modern standards of justice and accountability.

As your Assistant Director, I'm here to support you with research, facilitate meaningful debate, and help you understand the complexities of our agenda. Outside of MUN, I'm passionate about history, politics, football, and tennis, so feel free to chat with me about any of these interests! Together, I'm confident we'll bring depth and insight to this committee. I look forward to seeing the powerful discussions you lead.

Warm regards,

Ishaan Shah (ishaan.1112024@bdsint-students.org)

Assistant Director, International Court of Justice

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Mandate - International Court of Justice (ICJ)

Following the end of World War 2 (WW2), the knowledge of various instances of human experimentation, administered by the governments of countries like; Germany, USA, UK, USSR and Japan came to light. This resulted in the discussion of the ethics, principles and morals surrounding these actions and whether certain countries should be condemned for committing them. The

International Court of Justice is a judicial organ, instrumental to the UN. In the case of BDMUN, it is a historic body convening in November of 1945 to deliberate over the crimes of human experimentation committed by various countries during WW2.

The primary focus of this committee is to establish legal responsibility - determine the accountability of countries involved in human experimentation during World War II. Delegates are expected to interpret historical cases through a historic lens, however, they may use information. This committee would also focus on defining these crimes against humanity - classify the experiments as crimes against humanity, genocide, or war crimes as appropriate, and consider how these classifications affect the responsibilities of those involved.

The goal of the committee would be to create a resolution detailing the mechanisms of accountability - proposing mechanisms for accountability, justice and potential reparations as consequences of these actions. The resolution would ultimately work toward preventing future atrocities (post 1945 as this committee is historic) by discussing frameworks and recommendations to prevent similar ethical violations in future conflicts or scientific research.

****The freeze date for this committee is November, 1945.****

For those of you who don't know, a freeze date is a point in time after which any historical event is not taken into consideration.

Introduction to the Agenda

In the aftermath of World War II in November 1945, revelations of wartime atrocities shocked the world, particularly the extensive human experimentation carried out by various governments. These experiments, often performed without consent and under cruel conditions, inflicted severe physical and psychological suffering on countless individuals, including prisoners of war, civilians, and marginalised groups. As the international community attempts to establish accountability and a framework for justice, it faces the challenge of addressing these atrocities comprehensively. The need to condemn these abuses, ensure reparations for survivors, and implement measures to prevent such violations is paramount. While Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan are often highlighted as primary perpetrators, other Allied and Axis powers also engaged in unethical experimentation on vulnerable populations. France, Italy, the United States, and the United Kingdom, also carried out harmful experiments on various populations, often in the context of military research or colonial oversight.

This committee's primary focus is to develop a resolution that addresses accountability for human experimentation during World War II, ensuring justice for victims and establishing safeguards against future violations. The agenda includes determining appropriate methods of punishment and exploring avenues for reparations or compensation for survivors. Additionally, the resolution should propose preventive measures, such as setting international standards and monitoring mechanisms, to protect human rights and prevent such unethical practices.

Historical Context

1. Human Experimentation Defined

Human experimentation refers to scientific, medical, or psychological research conducted on human beings. In the context of World War II, this term is often associated with unethical and inhumane experiments conducted without the consent of the subjects, often resulting in severe pain, trauma, or death. Such experiments were primarily intended to study the limits of human endurance, test medical treatments or weapons, or pursue ideological goals based on racist pseudoscience.

2. Overview of the Time Period

World War II (1939-1945) saw widespread human rights violations, particularly in occupied territories. Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and other Axis powers committed systematic atrocities in the name of “science” or “racial purity.”

The International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg (initiated in November 1945) marked the first time major war criminals were prosecuted for such crimes, including inhumane medical experimentation.

By the freeze date of November 1945, the world had just begun to understand the full scope of atrocities committed by the Axis powers, although extensive documentation and survivor testimonies were still emerging.

3. Notable Cases of Human Experimentation

Several infamous individuals and programs during WWII are remembered for their involvement in human experimentation:

Josef Mengele (“Angel of Death”)

- Mengele conducted experiments on prisoners in Auschwitz, especially targeting twins, children, and people with genetic anomalies. His research often involved intentionally inflicting suffering to observe “scientific” outcomes.
- Experiments included injecting chemicals into eyes to change their colour, studying the effects of hypothermia, and performing forced sterilisations.

Unit 731 (Imperial Japan)

- This covert unit, under the command of Shiro Ishii, operated in occupied Manchuria, conducting deadly biological and chemical warfare experiments on civilians and prisoners of war (POWs).
- Experiments included exposing subjects to plague, cholera, and other pathogens, performing vivisections, and testing weapons like flamethrowers on live subjects.

Nazi Medical Experiments in Concentration Camps

- Various Nazi doctors, aside from Mengele, conducted brutal experiments in camps such as Dachau, Ravensbrück, and Buchenwald. These included studies on the effects of poison, infectious diseases, seawater ingestion, and methods of sterilisation.
- These experiments were often tied to military goals or Nazi ideology, as researchers sought to understand the human body’s limitations under extreme conditions or test supposed racial differences.

4. Involvement of Different Countries

While Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan were primary perpetrators, multiple Allied and Axis countries played varying roles during and after the war:

Germany

- The Nazi regime promoted human experimentation as part of its racial ideology and war strategy. The experiments were overseen by SS officers and involved concentration camp prisoners, POWs, and civilians from occupied territories.
- Post-war, Germany faced scrutiny for these atrocities, leading to the prosecution of prominent Nazi leaders and medical professionals in the Nuremberg Trials.

Japan

- Japan's Unit 731 is one of the most notorious cases. Unlike Germany, however, Japan did not face the same level of post-war prosecution for its human experimentation due to geopolitical interests, as American forces reportedly agreed to grant immunity to many Japanese scientists in exchange for their research data.

United States and Soviet Union

- The U.S. and Soviet Union obtained information from Nazi and Japanese scientists after the war. This was part of an effort to prevent Axis research from benefiting future enemies, contributing to controversial programs like Operation Paperclip.
- In the case of Japan, the U.S. is reported to have shielded certain Unit 731 members to gain insights into biological warfare, sparking ethical debates post-war.

Other Countries

- Countries under Axis occupation, like Poland, the Netherlands, and parts of Eastern Europe, suffered greatly from Nazi experiments, with local populations often targeted for testing based on perceived racial or ideological traits.
- Allies such as the UK and Canada were mostly observers but later became involved in documenting and prosecuting Axis war crimes at the Nuremberg Trials.

Key Considerations for the ICJ Committee

1. **Legal Framework:** In 1945, international laws were nascent in terms of human rights protections, making the prosecution of these crimes a novel challenge. The Nuremberg Trials led to the Nuremberg Code, a foundational document for modern bioethics, but at the time, there were no clear precedents.
2. **Moral and Ethical Implications:** Given the lack of consent, extreme cruelty, and lethal nature of the experiments, committee members might need to discuss the intent and severity of these acts and whether they constitute crimes against humanity.
3. **Reparations and Justice:** As the ICJ, the committee would address how to deliver justice for the victims, determine appropriate reparations, and assess the culpability of those involved, especially considering post-war interests that influenced certain outcomes.

This background sets the stage for critical discussions on international law, ethics, and accountability in the aftermath of World War II atrocities.

Questions a Committee Must Answer

1. What specific mechanisms should be established to hold accountable those responsible for human experimentation during WWII?
 2. How can the international community ensure that nations adhere to ethical standards in medical research to prevent future violations?
 3. What forms of reparations are appropriate for victims of human experimentation, and how can these be implemented effectively?
 4. What policies or international agreements should be developed to safeguard against unethical human experimentation in the future?
 5. How can international cooperation be strengthened to monitor and enforce compliance with ethical research standards globally?
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Ideas to consider discussing

1. Discuss the ethicality of human experimentation
 - a. Discuss the ethical implications of wartime medical research and its long-term effects on victims and communities.
2. What purpose did it serve to countries who did it
3. Which countries should be condemned for their actions

4. Explore potential frameworks for reparations for victims and affected communities, including financial compensation, public acknowledgment, and memorialization.
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Research Guidance

Below are a few cases in regards to human experimentation that you can research on. A few links related to each case have been provided in the recommended reading section. Some of the main case studies are:

1. The Angel of Death - Josef Mengels
 2. Dachau Hypothermia Experiments
 3. Unit 731
 4. Stalin's Gulags
 5. Tuskegee Syphilis Testing
 6. Mustard Gas Experiments
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Recommended Reading

Below are a few websites that you can read to gain a better understanding of the historical context of cases of human experimentation during the second world war. However, please keep the freeze date

November 1945 in mind. For those of you who don't know, a freeze date is a point in time after which any historical event is not taken into consideration.

[Doctors from hell: The horrific account of Nazi experiments on humans - PMC](#)

<https://www.pacificatrocities.org/human-experimentation.html>

[Military Medical Ethics, Volume 2, Chapter 16, Japanese Biomedical Experimentation During the World-War-II Era](#)

[Russian medicine and the Nuremberg trials | European Journal of Public Health | Oxford Academic](#)

[Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics](#)

[Nazi Science — The Dachau Hypothermia Experiments | New England Journal of Medicine](#)

[Secret World War II Chemical Experiments Tested Troops By Race : NPR](#)

[Complaints Concerning Chemical Agent Testing During World War II—Report - Canada.ca](#)

[Oct. 3, 1935: Ethiopia Invaded by Italy - Zinn Education Project.](#)

Country Matrix

German Reich	Commonwealth of Australia
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	Dominion of Canada
United States of America	British India
British Empire	Imperial Japan

French Republic	Swiss Confederation
Kingdom of Italy	Algeria
Republic of Poland	Republic of Austria
Republic of China	British Kenya

1. Germany: Under Nazi policies, doctors and scientists conducted experiments on prisoners in concentration camps. These included exposure to extreme temperatures, infection with diseases such as malaria and typhus, forced sterilisations, and experiments to test chemical agents.

2. Japan: The infamous Unit 731, operating in Japanese-occupied China, conducted biological and chemical warfare experiments. Prisoners of war and Chinese civilians were intentionally infected with pathogens, leading to immense suffering and countless deaths.

3. France: French military and scientific personnel conducted tests on colonial populations in French-occupied North and West Africa. These tests included chemical exposure and forced vaccinations, often targeting individuals with little or no understanding or consent.

4. Italy: During its occupation of Ethiopia, Italy conducted brutal experiments on Ethiopian prisoners and civilians. These included exposure to chemical agents like mustard gas along with other toxic gases, as well as experiments aimed at understanding the effects of chemical warfare on the human body.

5. China: Japanese occupation forces subjected Chinese prisoners and civilians to horrific medical experiments. Chinese scientists, often under coercion or in collaboration with Japanese research teams, were involved in limited studies on prisoners.

6. United States: The United States conducted various human experiments on vulnerable groups, including African American and marginalised communities, as part of wartime research. This included radiation exposure studies and the “Mustard Gas Experiments”, where soldiers were exposed to mustard gas without protective gear to study its effects.

7. British Empire: The British Empire conducted chemical warfare tests, often on Indian soldiers and civilians, as part of research efforts during the war. Indian soldiers were exposed to mustard gas without adequate protective measures, leading to lasting health consequences for many of the participants.

8. Poland: Occupied by Nazi forces, Poland saw thousands of its citizens subjected to experiments by German doctors in concentration camps like Auschwitz. These experiments included sterilisation procedures, disease exposure, and extreme endurance tests.

9. Canada: Canadian researchers conducted nutritional experiments on Indigenous populations. Children were given inadequate diets to study the effects of malnutrition and then administered experimental supplements, leaving long-lasting health impacts.

10. Australian Aboriginal Populations: Australian authorities conducted experiments on Aboriginal populations, involving forced vaccinations and exposure to infectious diseases like Malaria. These experiments were carried out without informed consent and often led to severe health issues within Australians and Aboriginal communities.

11. India: Indian soldiers under British command were used in various experiments involving chemical exposure. These experiments, conducted under British oversight, often involved testing the effects of mustard gas and other chemical agents, leading to health consequences among participants.

12. Kenya: During British colonial rule, prisoners in Kenyan detention camps were subjected to medical experiments, including exposure to tropical diseases like malaria and yellow fever, as part of colonial research aimed at understanding local diseases.

14. Algeria: French colonial authorities in Algeria conducted forced vaccinations and chemical exposure tests under the pretext of public health research. Algerian soldiers were subject to disease like tuberculosis and malaria as a means of further understanding the disease.

15. Austria: After the 1938 annexation by Nazi Germany, Austrian medical facilities became sites for Nazi-led experiments, particularly on disabled and mentally ill patients.

Position Papers

Delegates are required to submit their position papers by latest, 13th November 2024 at 11:59 PM.

Please keep in mind that if you do not submit your position papers by the deadline, you will not be eligible for any award.

Your position papers should:

- Put forward your delegation's stance on the situation: **The below ideas should be used as a guiding tool, your entire position paper should consist of more information and potential ideas to debate on.**
 - Does your delegation believe human experimentation was ethical or unethical
 - Which countries should be held responsible for these crimes against humanity
 - In what ways should the countries held responsible be penalised as compensation for their actions (keep in mind that the end goal of committee would be reaching a verdict detailing the repercussions towards countries who committed these crimes)
- You have to provide viable and sensible ideas which your delegation is capable of executing
- **Do not forget the freeze date**, it is important to your country's stance and abilities in global politics

Helpful Links

The links below are tips on how to write your position paper, resolution and go about your first MUN.

[MUN Made Easy: How to Get Started with Model United Nations - 5 Simple Steps from the Best](#)

[Delegate MUN Experts](#)

[How to Write a Winning Position Paper - Best Delegate Model United Nations](#)

[How to Write a MUN Position Paper](#)

[Model UN Made Easy: Top 20 Important Terms to Know in Committee - Best Delegate Model](#)

[United Nations](#)

[Model UN Made Easy: How to Write a Resolution - Best Delegate Model United Nations](#)

[MUN 101: The Rules of Procedure - TEIMUN](#)

Disclaimer

For the purpose of cohesion in this committee, please ignore the dates in which the following countries: Kenya, Algeria, Japan, Switzerland, Italy, Germany and Austria had joined the UN. The sole purpose of this committee is to deliberate over the specific mechanisms that should be established to hold those countries who participated in human experimentation accountable, and if the countries above are excluded from the discussions, a fair and just verdict would not be reached.

MUN Terms

- **General Speakers List - Compulsory**

A General Speaker's List or The Opening Statement is like your first impression on your fellow delegates and chairs. Every country present in committee will have to deliver based on their country's policy and stance on the topic. It will be a brief 1-2 minute speech. Common phrases used in opening statements include 'Honourable Chair', 'Esteemed Delegates', 'Distinguished Guests', and 'My delegation believes'.

- **Closing Statements**

The closing statement is the final speech given by a delegate in a committee session. It summarises the delegate's position on the issue and highlights the achievements of the committee. Common phrases used in closing statements include 'In conclusion', 'We have achieved', 'My delegation would like to thank', and 'I look forward to continuing this discussion in the future'.

- **Special Speakers List**

A list of delegates who have requested to speak on a specific topic during a committee session.

- **Moderated Caucus**

A structured debate format where delegates take turns speaking on a specific topic for a set amount of time decided by the delegate which is usually moderated by the committee chair.

- **Unmoderated Caucus**

A less formal debate format where delegates can move freely around to lobby and form blocs.

- **Directive**

A formal instruction or guidance given by a delegate or a group of delegates outlining specific actions that must be taken to address a particular issue or problem. They are usually written after a crisis.

- **Communique**

Communiqués can be categorised as a formal message a delegate sends to the EB which can be addressed to other delegates with or without them knowing. Communiqués work in helping the committee move forward with crises, however, as this is a historical committee, acceptance of communiqués will be limited. We cannot allow the committee to stray too far away from the main history which did take place and the reality of it. For example, a communique cannot be sent by the USA and Nazi Germany that they are partners against the USSR. It is not an event which would have happened at the time of the freeze date.

- **Blocs**

A group of countries or delegates who share common interests or positions and work together in a coordinated manner to achieve their goals.

- **Draft Resolution**

A proposed resolution that is still subject to debate and amendment before it can be adopted as an official resolution.

- **Resolution**

A formal document that outlines proposed solutions or actions to address a specific issue or problem, and is voted on by the committee.

- **Amendments:**

An amendment is a proposal to change a draft resolution. Delegates can propose amendments to improve the resolution or to make it more acceptable to other delegations. Common phrases used for amendments include 'Motion to Amend', 'Strike the Clause', 'Add the Word', and 'Change the Paragraph'.

- **Voting Procedure:**

At the end of the debate, delegates vote on the draft resolution. There are several voting procedures that can be used, depending on the rules of the conference and the type of resolution being voted on.

Common phrases used during the voting procedure include 'Motion to Divide the Question', 'Motion to Table the Resolution', 'Motion to Reconsider', and 'Point of Order'.

- **Point of personal privilege:**

A request for personal needs or comfort during a meeting or conference.

- **Point of information:**

A request for information or clarification on a motion or topic being discussed.

- **Point of order**

A statement or request that calls attention to a violation of parliamentary procedure or the rules of the organisation

- **Dilatory:**

Meaning invalid. Usually used when addressing a motion. (Example: This motion is ruled dilatory by the discretion of the chair)

- **Yield**

When a speaker decides to give up the remaining time in their speech to the chair, another

delegate, or for questions or comments.

How to address your Directors:

- Director
- Assistant Director (AD)
- Executive Board (EB)