**Research report**

**General Assembly 1**

***The question of ensuring safety of aid organisations in crisis areas***

*Student Officers:*

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**Introduction**

All over the world heavy crises are rising and the help of humanitarian workers in that aspect is needed urgently. Their protection is incredibly important, as without them many people do not receive the resources needed to survive. Aid organisations provide all that is needed to assist those in war zones who do not have access to healthcare or food because of the crisis that is blooming in the areas.

In 2023, the amount of humanitarian workers who were killed due to various different reasons, increased by almost double the amount than in 2022. Despite the clear international humanitarian law obligations to protect humanitarian workers and to prosecute war crimes, dangers and attacks persist. Workers were kidnapped, wounded heavily, and killed. Research done states that the overwhelming majority of humanitarian workers who were attacked, are in fact national workers. This is because the national aid is the one that provides care the fastest, thus the first, with often less measures taken to ensure their safety. Threats increase every single day, making the measures the organisations have to make to ensure safety are more difficult to implement in the areas where aid is most urgently needed. Because of this, many humanitarian organisations lack the requisite knowledge, experience, or capacity to effectively manage the security of their staff members.

Access to justice for aid workers plays an essential role in combating impunity for unlawful attacks against civilians, thus contributing to enhancing the protection of civilians more generally. But various barriers prevent aid workers from accessing justice, impacting staff members differently depending on their country of origin. As with all IHL and human rights violations and abuses, the limited number of legal proceedings aiming at holding the perpetrators accountable for serious violations can lead to more attacks on humanitarian aid workers as well as the civilian communities they work in.

**The Committee**

General Assembly 1 is a fairly ordinary committee, meaning there are no special Rules of Procedure specific to this committee. In MUNA, General Assembly 1 deals with Disarmament and International security, which include matters such as gun safety and threats to peace that have consequences for the international community. In this assembly, the members come together to seek out solutions for issues having to do with such matters. When debating an issue in MUNA, it is important for one to understand that money is never an issue, meaning delegates can and may not speak against resolutions because of any reasons having to do with finance.

**Keywords**

Humanitarian: concerned with or seeking to promote human welfare.

Impunity: exemption from punishment or freedom from the [injurious](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=02c44965d6d4b280&sca_upv=1&sxsrf=ADLYWIKLfUK3pPdNIXXI9nAKDmxDO550VA:1727256591892&q=injurious&si=ACC90nytWkp8tIhRuqKAL6XWXX-NDkyQAd3llM5_w04GVJ47cnJVfLcK34KSUWPHnnsyMwG33_1OmZRVDTKQ_GMHBqZwZ65BDP3E-0Otus2s4rLBSBy2-WI%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi2wOGc5N2IAxXEg_0HHZB9PBgQyecJegQIXBAO) consequences of an action.

Humanitarian organisations: Aid organisations; organisations that aid people who are suffering, particularly victims of armed conflict, famines, and natural disasters.

War crime: an act carried out during the conduct of a war that [violates](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=02c44965d6d4b280&sca_upv=1&sxsrf=ADLYWIJBRAd3K4Yr0vk8xaRpz6d7ZKi2vw:1727256804101&q=violates&si=ACC90nwZKElgOcNXBU934ENhMNgqQjxUBrtQs25gylnO06cxe-q1Ep-3B0qhnwpD5xoSvcrjPWGnOnCzQjRTC4cWO_wh2io6XLjCzssOQWOZ1r7uH4e8gfI%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjh3PmB5d2IAxVlg_0HHe6yMDcQyecJegQIKBAO) accepted international rules of war.

Law obligation: a person's legal duty to do something.

Crisis: a time of intense difficulty or danger.

Perpetrator: a person who carries out a harmful, illegal, or [immoral](https://www.google.com/search?sca_esv=02c44965d6d4b280&sca_upv=1&sxsrf=ADLYWIJLohVY-PLPwgV3bPRJiMx9ei3jWQ:1727257842339&q=immoral&si=ACC90nypsxZVz3WGK63NbnSPlfCBlAgZUefAaxx_mT7jJsXu_gEDW2KuguJPGRkyE1OAa_0taHNRdSFx6yOXh3BNdHkXt_LQmA%3D%3D&expnd=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjR1ILx6N2IAxXhhf0HHfTFPOoQyecJegQIXBAO) act.

IHL: International Humanitarian law; a set of rules that seek to limit the effects of armed conflict.

**Overview**

Although the laws surrounding protection of humanitarian workers, many workers are still not protected enough to fully ensure their safety.

The many precautions and measures that organisations need to take to ensure safety are becoming harder to imply because of all the new threats blooming every day. This causes the organisations to lack the certain skills (knowledge, experience, ETC.) needed to effectively manage the safety of the workers.

The national humanitarian organisations and their workers are in danger the most since they act the fastest and first in their country which leads to less measures taken to protect them.

Sometimes the amount of legal proceedings to the perpetrators can have serious consequences as it may cause more attacks on aid workers and also the civilian communities they work in.

**Arguments**

Strengthening Legal and Security Frameworks is Essential to Protect Aid Organizations

Aid organizations operate in some of the most dangerous and lawless regions, where conflicts, political instability, and weak governance prevail. Without robust legal protections and security measures, humanitarian workers are vulnerable to violence, kidnapping, and exploitation. While deploying security forces may risk perceptions of impartiality, clear communication of humanitarian neutrality and collaboration with local communities can alleviate such concerns.

Local Engagement and Community Support are Key to Ensuring Aid Worker Safety

Establishing trust and collaboration with local communities and stakeholders is one of the most effective ways to protect aid workers in crisis areas. When communities see aid organizations as allies rather than foreign entities, they are more likely to ensure their safety. While this approach may not deter all actors, particularly extremist groups, it significantly reduces risks by creating allies within the population and fostering long-term stability.

*Please note that these points are intended as a general framework to guide your preparation for the debate. Delegates are encouraged to tailor their arguments to align with their assigned country’s policies and unique context. Replicating these points directly is discouraged to ensure a constructive and engaging discussion*.

**Timeline of Events**

April 16, 1856: Declaration Respecting Maritime Law, Paris.

**Resolution**

A delegate should carefully consider their country's perspective and opinion on the matter when writing a resolution. This research report is a good starting point for your investigation. Consider ways to debate on the independence of the non-self-governing territories that benefit the most countries involved. Remember to pay attention not only to the less-developed countries involved in the issue, but also to the developed countries. Goals should be realistic and attainable. Furthermore, keep in mind that different countries have different policies, as well as global differences. These differences may be economic, but they are also primarily cultural. Make sure to thoroughly research your country and remember that you are speaking as if you are representing that country. Therefore, before attending the conference, do some research on your country's policies.

For more information on resolution writing, please refer to the MUNA booklet on our MUNA site: <https://munalfrink.nl/>.

**Links and Sources**

<https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/side-event-protection-civilians-week-advancing-protection-aid-workers-20-may-2024>

<https://www.government.nl/latest/weblogs/the-work-of-the-ministry-of-foreign-affairs/2024/emergency-aid-in-crisis-and-conflict-situations-how-do-we-protect-aid-workers>

<https://www.protecthumanitarianspace.com/topics/protection-humanitarian-and-health-workers>

<https://humanitarianoutcomes.org/AWSR_2024>