



RIGHT NOW

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Interview with Nassima Dzair

An international SCORPion from Norway

*Don't stand by,
stand up Right
Now!*

Human rights are something we all share. They are about recognizing the value and dignity of all people. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, agreed to by the nations of the world on 10 December 1948, sets out the basic rights and freedoms of all men, women and children.

Most people don't realize which of our human rights are protected and which ones are not. PAX 48 is a group consisting of medical students that highlights the daily violation of human rights. With this newsletter we want to reach medical students from all around the world.

Text: Illaa Smesseim



*Human rights article 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
"How secure does a person feel when the verbal way of communicating with a doctor is taken away?"*

Where do you come from?
Norway, Oslo. My parents are originally from Algeria.

...tions are increasing, and even getting worse.

Would you grade your country from 1 to 10 regarding its status of implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights?

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You are originally Algerian. Could you tell us something about the current situation in Algeria regarding human rights?

I think the overall situation of the country is getting better. As you may know, Algeria just got out of a violent conflict situation where terrorism rained and a lot of innocent people lost their lives. Now things are improving and a semblance of peace and order is being well established. Still, you can feel the consequences of this in people's lives. Nonetheless, the freedom of expression is still not at its best. There is a lot of corruption and the power is not in the hands of the people. Due to this negative eventualities, the same wind that is whispering in the Arab world, is also whispering in Algeria.

Have you seen changes in the climate of Human Rights?

I think that if we broadly look to the world, we do see changes. We have been experiencing revolutions (the Arab spring, the movement of Los Indignados etc.), but at the same time wherever such movements and changes occur, human rights viola-

...the situation in Algeria?
In general the media in the Western world does not have a representative view of Algeria, Africa or the Middle-East. It is often twisted to the Western agenda, and unfortunately it is not representing the best interests of the people living in these areas of the world.
If you could give all world leaders a wake-up call, what would you say?
We live in a critical time where our actions are defining a reality, in particular the reality of the next generation. Right now we are living in a self-destructive manner, and if we continue like this without making a profound change, a destructive situation to humanity shall reign. This is a time for wake up. Tomorrow's consequences might be irreversible. We will destroy ourselves if we don't wake up NOW.
Text: Putri Hintaran



IFMSA-NL

Hypocrisy in the Netherlands?

Column: “Free Yaman Al Qadri!”

If you were probably living under a rock for the past 8 months in fear of the tyranny, then you might have missed the fact that more than 4000 peaceful protesters, men women and children have been murdered in Syria. There have been thousands of registered human rights violations and reports of widespread arrest, torturing and murder. Many students are suffering from the irresponsible barbarous acts of the government agents. A shocking example to such inhumane acts is the disastrous measure taken by the government forces against the 19-year girl, a medical student, named Yaman Al Qadri. She was beaten and arrested, and eventually was reported missed for a month now. She is one of the thousand cases of vanished people, and arrested for protesting. The government is trying to do everything to stop the news from coming out. Foreign journalists have been banned from the country, and on Syrian state TV the protestors are being called terrorists. The government promises to stop the daily violation of human rights and murdering of its people but has yet to comply with its own declared promises.

It's understandable but still very sad to see that it has taken so long to hear a statement from the Netherlands/EU on the matter but that no real measures have so far been taken. You may ask why we say “understandable”? Because Syria's biggest export product is natural gas and its biggest buyer is the EU. Also it is understandable because the Netherlands, almost always, only acts upon a principle of the so called “national interest”. At the moment the advantages the Netherlands would get from the wait-and-see-approach are greater than the disadvantages. As long as that is the case, human rights will remain a secondary priority, as will be the people of Syria.

Text: Iktib



Human rights article 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law. *“So there is no such thing as illegal persons! I like to refer to them as ‘people without the right documents’.”*

When we think about human rights violations, we tend to look outside of our own country. But even though we are considered a civilized western country, regrettably human rights violations are happening on daily basis. An exceptional case that has happened during these last couple of months is the case related to Mauro Manuel that has gotten a nationwide attention. Mauro Manuel is an 18-year old teenager, an unaccompanied asylum seeker.

He came to the Netherlands when he was 9 years old and he has been living with his foster parents in Limburg since then. Now he will be deported because he is an adult. How is it that the Dutch government will not have mercy on this teenager and has to follow the rules? And why is it that, when it comes to a new football player for the Dutch team, the amount of years spent in The Netherlands is not important anymore? Even more important, why won't the Dutch

government listen to the United Nations declaration for children's rights? According to this declaration, the needs of a child should always come first. And research shows us that a child living longer than 5 years in a different country will experience a lot of damage from being deported. The Dutch government acknowledges this, but Mauro still has to go. *Do you think this is hypocritical? You can be the judge.* Text: Esra Dede

No fees for interpretation and translation services

Last summer the Dutch government decided to cut out fees for medical interpreters. Starting from January 1st 2012, patients have to pay for an interpreter when they need one in a medical setting. A reason given by the Dutch government for its cutting of a budget for expenses of medical interpretation services is part of the big government budget cuts related to the provision of medical care to the public at large. In this regard, Minister Schippers recently said that it should be the pa-

tient's own responsibility to learn the Dutch language before going to a medical specialist.

Of course, this will have major consequences for a certain group of people in the Netherlands. Communication is often essential to deliver good and adequate health care. Foreigners, especially asylum seekers or others who just arrived in the Netherlands, do not always know how to apply for a service to be provided by an interpreter or can not afford to pay for one.

Several authorities (KNMG, NHG) have signed a petition against the decision enacted by the Ministry spearheaded by Minister Schippers. Text: Putri Hintaran



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