

**Committee Name:** Legal Committee

**Topic/Agenda:** The question of legal framework for the Prisoners of War (POW) and its safe conduct regarding their protection during war times

**Country:** Portugal

**Delegate's Name:** Tuğçe Okcu



Portugal is an economically and educationally developed country on the west coast of Europe, bordering the Atlantic Ocean and neighboring Spain. We have some information about how Portugal treated prisoners of war as a country. During the Second World War, Portugal stayed out of the war as a neutral country. However, it treated prisoners of war in accordance with international law. As a party to the Geneva Convention, Portugal signed a contract to treat prisoners of war in accordance with human dignity. Accordingly, Portugal's treatment of prisoners of war generally complies with international standards banning inhuman treatment.

The 1951 Geneva Convention limits the right of States to deport refugees, including to countries where there is no possibility of persecution. The safe protection of victims of war ensures that when they are released or sent back to their country of origin, they are guaranteed safe passage to return to their home country or friendly lands. This includes providing safe routes for their travel and ensuring that they are not harmed or harassed during their journey. The basic foodstuffs provided to POWs must be adequate and nutritious. Basic clothing and footwear should be provided by the Detaining Power. Failure to do so by the detaining country creates many problems. We can see that Portugal generally follows international law and international agreements such as the Geneva Convention. These documents require the treatment of prisoners of war in accordance with human dignity and prohibit inhuman treatment. Portugal is known to follow these principles and to treat prisoners of war fairly. Portugal developed policies towards prisoners of war during the period of the Brazilian colony. In the early 19th century, during the Napoleonic Wars, Portugal was occupied by France. During this period, the situation of prisoners of war and struggle against the occupation affected Portugal's relationship with prisoners of war. Portugal remained a neutral country during World War II. However, the situation and treatment of POWs was also important during this period. Portugal's neutrality may have played a role in the transportation and, in some cases, the protection of POWs. Internationally, Portugal was a member of several international agreements on the protection of the rights and humane treatment of prisoners of war. These treaties have contributed to the protection of POWs and the defense of their human rights.

Portugal could seek to have the international community set common standards for the protection and safe passage of prisoners of war. This could foster international cooperation and protect the rights of POWs. Portugal could organize training and awareness-raising programs on the rights of prisoners of war and international humanitarian law. Such programs could raise awareness among military personnel, diplomats and other relevant persons and encourage the appropriate treatment of POWs. Portugal could take steps to establish and foster an appropriate legal framework for POWs at the national level. This could provide an effective legal basis for the protection and humane treatment of prisoners of war. Portugal could take an active role in various international arenas to encourage the effective implementation of international law. This could create a global effort for the protection of POWs and the defense of their human rights. Portugal could support humanitarian assistance and support activities for POWs. This can help to ensure that POWs' basic needs are met and that they are treated humanely.

*Sincerely, Delegation of Portugal*