



Country: Philippines

Committee: LEGAL

Agenda Item: Legal framework concerning the protection of prisoners of war during war times and its safe conduct.

The laws of war, also known as international humanitarian law, are legal rules established to protect civilian populations and the rights of prisoners of war (POWs) during armed conflicts and coups. Prisoners of war must be treated humanely in accordance with the international treaties like Geneva Conventions. Geneva Conventions have been approved by a lot of countries and unions. However there are neglects. However these kinds of conventions guarantee many rights of prisoners of war, such as accommodation, hygiene, justice and healthcare. As the delegation of the Philippines we would like to emphasize the importance of this issue and even took part in the committees which belong to national unions.

The Philippines has been an active participant in various national and international laws governing the conduct of war. As we mentioned above, the Philippines is one of the signatories of the Geneva Conventions and its additional protocols and it's determined to take better measures to prevent inhumane treatment and the legal protection of war crime rights.

However neglect has occurred and continues occurring in some places;

“At the beginning of January 1945, Filipino guerrillas related to General Douglas MacArthur’s Allied headquarters a shocking report about an incident involving American prisoners of war (POW) of the Japanese on Palawan, the westernmost island in the Philippine archipelago. This is the story of the massacre in Palawan. Subsequent parts will cover the story of survivors and the guerrillas who aided them and the legacy of the massacre and the call for action. After the fall of the Philippines in 1942, American POWs initially were kept in filthy, crowded camps near Manila. Over time, the majority of those POWs were transported to other parts of Japan’s wartime empire to serve as slave laborers. In August 1942, the Japanese sent 346 American POWs from the Manila area to a compound known as Camp 10-A on Palawan to build an airfield at Puerto Princesa. The compound consisted of old Philippine constabulary buildings, and conditions there were brutal. Escape attempts brought summary executions. The POWs suffered frequent beatings and mistreatment from their Japanese guards, food was the barest minimum, and disease and injuries went untreated. Although the POWs finally received Red Cross packages in January 1944, the Japanese had removed all the drugs and medical supplies.”

As you understand from the citation above there happened some neglects about the rights of healthcare, accommodation, justice etc.

In the Philippines, the International Committee of the Red Cross is the organization that deals with medicine, food, medical aid and similar aid to prisoners of war. Such organizations may vary in each country. On October 24, 1945, the Philippines became one of the founding members of the UN.

Position and Wishes:

As the delegate of the Philippines we hope that we can show our position for this committee (LEGAL). From our perspective Everybody has rights and no one is able to take them away. Even if somebody is a prisoner. We hope this committee will help us to clarify our ideas together and shed light on the lives of many people around the world who are suffering from this situation.

Thank you for your attention!

Bibliography and References, Format;

Historical information:

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/dispose-them-massacre-american-pows-philippines> (news) note: has been checked for the accuracy

Philippines and Americans:

[https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipin-Amerikan_Sava%C5%9F%C4%B1#:~:text=Filipin%2DAmerikan%20Sava%C5%9F%C4%B1%20\(1899%2D, Temmuz%201902%20tarihinde%20sona%20ermi%C5%9Ftir.](https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipin-Amerikan_Sava%C5%9F%C4%B1#:~:text=Filipin%2DAmerikan%20Sava%C5%9F%C4%B1%20(1899%2D, Temmuz%201902%20tarihinde%20sona%20ermi%C5%9Ftir.) (Historical background)

General Information:

<https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filipinler#:~:text=24%20Ekim%201945'te%2C%20Filipinler,in%20kuru%20cu%20%C3%BCyelerinden%20biri%20olmu%C5%9Ftur.> (Informations and confirmation)

CIA World Factbook:

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/philippines/> (Flag Picture is taken from here)

UNITED NATIONS:

<https://www.un.org/en/> (dates and procedures)

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Vocabulary and Dictionary:

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/tr/>

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