

**Country: The Kingdom of Morocco**

**Issue: The Global Prison Crisis**

**Committee: The United Nations Human Rights Committee**

**ISSUE AND POSITION:** As of December 2021, the global prison population is over 10.7 million, including both those in pre-trial detention and those who are already convicted. These prisoners make up overcrowded correctional facilities, particularly in lesser developed countries. This phenomenon leads to poor quality living conditions within these prisons, such as unsanitary environments, undernourishment, and discrimination against women and minorities. Although previous international and domestic actions and policies have been put in place to stem the global prison crisis, the Kingdom of Morocco is a firm supporter of amending these policies and creating more humane conditions for prisoners, as well as relieving prisons of overcrowding.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** Trends in longer periods of imprisonment for more serious crimes have caused more overcrowding in prisons worldwide. The United Nations put forward a plan for prison reform back in 2015 known as the Mandela Rules. These guidelines are meant to help prisons get all the basic necessities of survival for inmates, including a health system, rehabilitation programs, and equal treatment. In addition, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime outlined a strategy that same year to implement these plans in prisons, and help those countries that may be lacking necessary resources. Morocco has been focused on prisoners' rehabilitation and eventual reintegration into society by turning prisons into places of education. Despite international aid taking place to help with easing stress on overcrowded prisons, the ever increasing statistics on incarceration rates and poor conditions suggest that not enough is being done to preserve the human rights of prisoners. Countries have been focused on decreasing sentences in hopes that it will decrease the prison population, but Morocco would rather focus on improving conditions for prisoners instead and preventing people from being incarcerated in the first place.

**PROPOSED ACTION ON THE ISSUE:** To fill in some of the gaps in past solutions, Morocco proposes the PEER plan. The acronym stands for Prevention, Employment, Education, and Reintegration. Prevention of people from committing crimes and being put into prison in the first place can be done by better educating the public on rules and regulations put into place by governments. Children with rough upbringings can become criminals, so more community resources, especially at schools, would be useful for youth who suffer through physical or mental abuse. Encouraging more employment opportunities in prisons could not only improve conditions for prisoners, but for the employees as well. Educating prisoners about not only the law but also about current events, professional fields of study, and even subjects in the arts and humanities will better prepare them to face the outside world once they are released. Finally, reintegration back into society will be hard for ex-convicts, but with the help of international organizations such as the UNHRC, NGOs such as Hope for Prisoners, and local governments and community centers in the area, prisoners can be helped with things such as preparing for professional job positions, training, writing resumes and submitting applications, and mainly just being welcomed back into the workforce so that they can support themselves and become independent. It should be noted that these are very loose guidelines, and it is important that when writing a resolution, guidelines should be kept flexible enough to accommodate every type of country and prison system that attempts to implement them. When working with other countries during committee, a well-rounded solution with all of the components mentioned above can be created to improve the human rights crisis within prison systems in hopes for a better society in the future as well as the maintenance of law and order in member states.

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