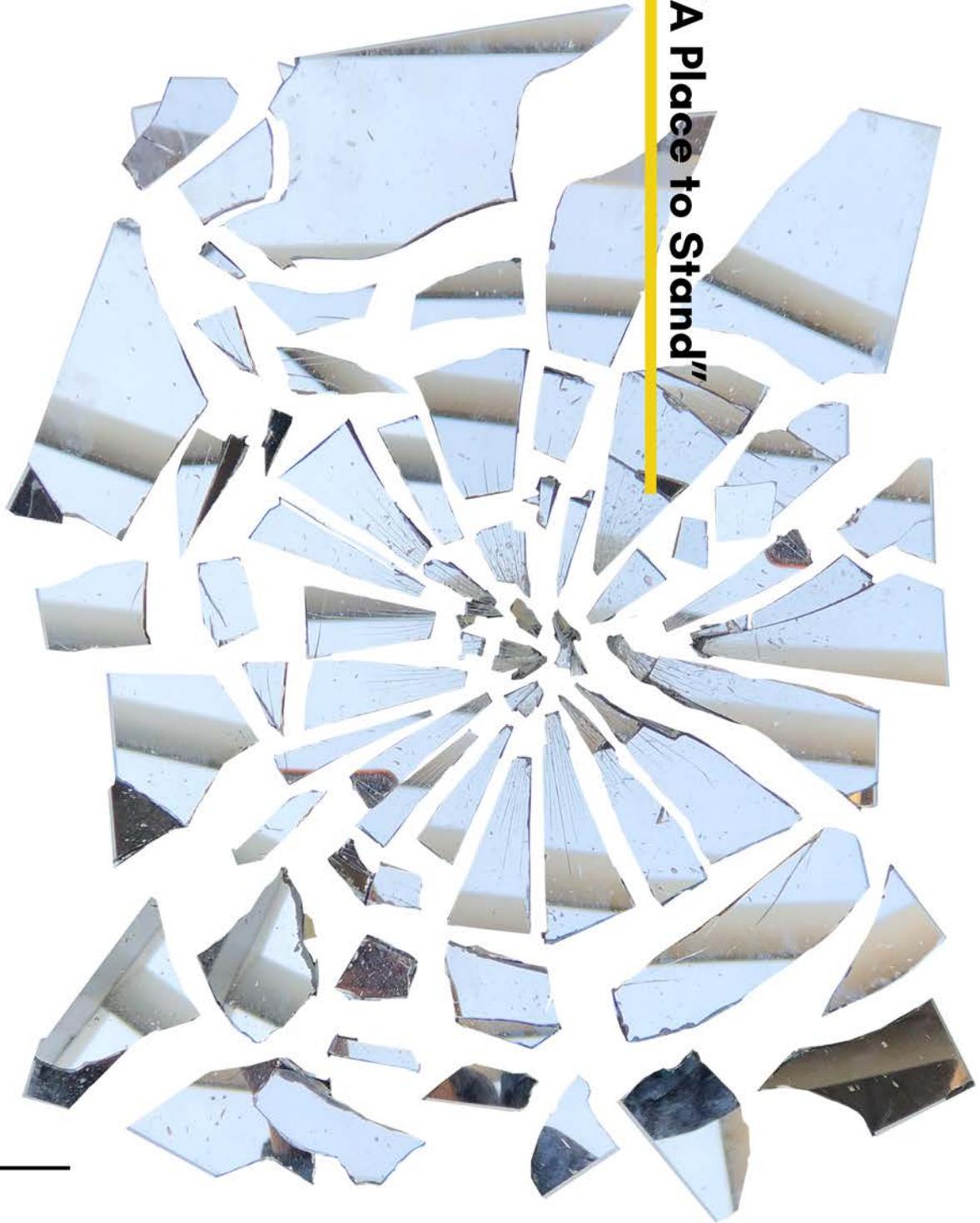


# the **Vigil.**

**"A Place to Stand"**



**Issue**

**02**

2018 - CISSMUN  
GINAsia

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Schedule:  
Saturday

7:15  
Bus Pickup  
Dorsett Hotel Shanghai

8:30 - 8:45  
GINAsia 2018 Opening  
Ceremony  
H216

8:45 - 9:45  
Keynote #1: Melati and  
Isabel Wijsen  
Phoenix Center Gym

9:45 - 10:15  
Morning Break  
Phoenix Center  
Commons / Cafe

10:15 - 12:00  
Formal Debate  
All Committees in  
Session

12:15 - 1:30  
Lunch Available  
PC Gym

12:00 - 3:00  
Formal Debate  
All Committees in  
Session

3:45 - 5:00  
Entertainment and  
Keynote #2: Kim Phuc  
All Committees in  
Session

5:15  
Bus Departure

# what is GINMUN?



Welcome to the next two days of your life. You are trapped in a cage with 1,300 other inhabitants. There is a limited (albeit sufficient) supply of food, drink, and space. In the 1960 and 70s, the National Institute of Mental Health did tests on rats to examine how structured societies function with limited spaces but a sufficient supply of essential nutrients. What they found disturbed them. Over time, the rats began to kill and devour each other.

Some rats became outcasts, unwilling to eat what little food there was. What began as a rat utopia quickly turned into a nightmare, full of slums and starvation. Here is how you can avoid a similar fate.

This conference is the first of its kind. A Frankenstein's monster style amalgamation of the MUN and GIN conferences, GINMUN seeks to address the issues of our world on both a governmental and local level. This conference is the largest conference of its ilk in Asia. More rats, more food. Luckily, our size gives us the ability to analyze global issues on a deeper level than we could normally achieve. Humans, unlike rats, can seek complex communication, and push the boundaries of what it means to be a society. We can change the nature of our interactions to better our society if something goes wrong. While you may be trapped in a conference of 1,300 now, in the big picture, you are in a world of seven billion. Like rats, we have established regions with rampant crime and poverty. We have devised systems with strict hierarchies designed to impede the advancement of the impoverished. We have even managed to poison our environment with pollutants and waste on a global scale. Regardless of whether you are in CISSMUN or GIN, you can find solutions. If a resolution needs amending, that is one step in the right direction. Similarly, you can bring about real change by sharing locally achievable solutions through the GIN side of this conference. What is more important is that you are a global citizen in the sense that you can see the big picture. Look at our societies and find solutions.

GINMUN, at its heart, is an opportunity for people to come together and address the fact that our society really does have problems that needs solving. We can and will come together under the shared dream that we can be better than rats. Moving forward, keep this dream in mind, and our GINMUN conference may allow us to see a few solutions to a some of the many problems that plague our rat utopia.



## An Insider's Perspective

Harmehar Wadalia

### Unwanted by neighbors, virtually stateless, and rejected by the country—

these are the realities of a Muslim ethnic minority from Myanmar's Rakhine state, formally known as the Rohingya.

Being robbed of their own identity cards, Rohingyas have been forced to experience what it feels like to have their own home country turning against them, their neighbors locking their gates, and their closest friends feeling threatened by them. All of this, in a country they have inhabited for centuries.

Being given the foreign identity cards that limited their jobs and educational opportunities, Rohingyas were not recognised as one of the country's 135 ethnic groups. As part of this country, I believe this situation has fairly been classified by the UN as a **genocide** and it would be a right decision for Myanmar to take their nationals back.

People in Myanmar have the kindness and love in their hearts to stop these cruel acts.

However, they need the assurance that worldwide support can bring so that they feel safe enough to voice their true opinions. According to me, Bangladesh, India or Malaysia won't be able to offer the refugees shelter and aid for too long since they are not considered to be part of their country nor is it their responsibility. Myanmar should be urged to end its discrimination against the Rohingyas in Rakhine state and should seek a full accounting for the events that have transpired. Since 1915, our modern world has been deeply affected by genocides. Myanmar should review and learn about the solutions that other torn nations have developed.

I believe our home country is a place where we should feel most comfortable no matter how much our traditions and beliefs may differ from our fellow citizens.



# The Rohingya Crisis

## An Outsider's Perspective

Angela Qian

**INTERNATIONALLY LABELED BY SOME AS "THE MOST PERSECUTED MINORITY"**, 1.1 million Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine, Myanmar are experiencing ethnic violence that has brought immediate international attention. While those within the ethnic group who painfully recall systematic discrimination since the 1970s, the newest wave of violence began last year on 25 August, 2017 when the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army coordinated an attack on the national army. In response, security forces supported by the Buddhist militia carried out a "clearance operation" that resulted in the deaths of at least 1,000 people. Allegations of systematic rape and forced displacement of 300,000 followed. Myanmar's government, led by de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi, has faced severe international condemnation for neglecting what the UN calls genocide.

**Addressing this conflict is of global importance** for two main reasons. First, the number of stateless refugees could lead to regional destabilization. There are 120,000 Rohingya displaced within Myanmar and one million more who have already fled the country since the 1970s, putting a tremendous burden on neighboring countries such as Bangladesh and Malaysia. Moreover, the level of international indifference they have experienced can lead to the possible rise of Islamic radicalization by ISIS or other actors, which will weaken the cohesion of local communities and possibly destabilize the wider region. If not appropriately addressed, increased violence in the Rakhine state and potential spillover will be a security crisis that poses a threat to the international community.

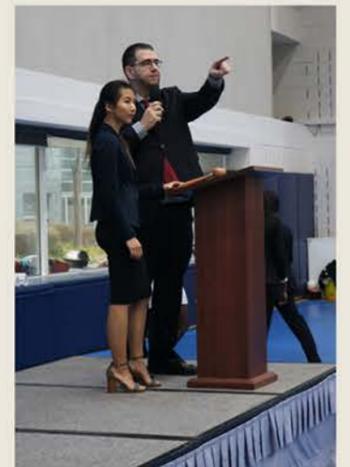
Secondly, the ethnic violence directed at Rohingya Muslims is a **blatant violation of humanitarian norms**. Over the last half-century, states have agreed on numerous conventions and resolutions on how the global community should respond to the most severe crimes against humanity: to not stand idle when genocide occurs and to guarantee basic human rights for stateless people. Both promises are currently unfulfilled in Myanmar. Making matters even worse, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said the current situation in Rakhine state was "predicted and preventable." The international community has a moral obligation to fully engage.

**Myanmar's government must recognize its wrongdoings**, cease public hatred against minorities, scrap discriminatory laws, and punish those who systematically commit crimes against Rohingya. Most importantly, the Myanmar government must revoke its 1982 Citizenship Law that rendered the Rohingya stateless, and view them as equal and welcomed citizens. The government should implement former UN secretary-general Kofi Annan's recommendations that include "political, developmental, security, and human rights" responses.

The international community should prompt these changes through coordinated and concerted international and regional pressure. Sanctions should be imposed on military-owned companies, and they must be universal so the failure of pre-2011 western sanctions will not be repeated. Instead of red carpet welcomes, countries should impose visa bans on the head of Myanmar's military, Min Aung Hlaing, and other government officials who actively support attacks on Rohingya. In essence, all states must both condemn these inhumane actions and enact proactive mechanisms in order force the Myanmar government to adopt the reforms outlined above.

Since WWII, we have made tremendous progress in recognizing the immorality of genocide and the promise to bring peace and cooperation through intergovernmental organizations such as the UN, but we cannot become complacent with previous efforts. We need to continue our leadership and act in accordance to our words. I view the Rohingya crisis as an inflection point of international cooperation. If a constructive solution is not found, it will be **one of the worst failures of global leadership in modern history**, a serious step back in our collective goal to strive for peace and pluralism.





# Daily Report

## General Assembly 1st Committee

General Assembly 1 delegates were open minded and passionate about several topics: Nuclear Weapons, Extrajudicial Killings in the Philippines, Use of motor vehicles and Sunni Shia-Tension. Everyone in the chamber knew that they needed to collaborate in order to solve the solutions at hand. The delegate of South Korea passionately addressed the topic of “forestalling the acquisition of nuclear weapons by rogue states and sub-national groups,” and hoped that other delegates are willing to find a solution. Meanwhile, the delegate of DPRK asserted that “the Supreme leader Kim Jong Un was born in immaculate conception in the heavenly mountain of Baekdu and does not excrete any bodily fluids.” All in all, delegates promised to be open to any opinions presented by other nations as they are valuable resources that contribute to the development of applicable solutions.

- Colin McErlean

## General Assembly 3rd Committee

The 3rd committee of the General Assembly convened today to discuss several prominent issues, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Sex Tourism, Honor Killings, and Immigrant Rights. The majority of delegates chose to focus on the issue of sexual assaults and sex tourism, with a deeper focus on sexual assault of underage individuals. Each delegate gave a brief opening speech, presenting their concerns and ideas for a resolution. Fortunately, the sex tourism issue has caught the world’s attention. One delegate declared, “women hold half the sky,” thereby demonstrating the importance of gender equality.

- Ava Zarenejad

## The Disarmament Commission

Upon entering the peaceful atmosphere of the Disarmament Committee (DC), delegates addressed four significant issues: Regulation of Non-Lethal Weapons, Stopping Piracy, Avoiding Civil Conflicts, and Threat of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism. The delegate of the United States decided to focus on the escalating question of cyber-warfare and terrorism, hoping to ensure that the internet is put to good use. The delegate of Zimbabwe pointed out the political clashes occurring within their own country after gaining independence, hoping to work with other member states in Southern Africa to bring peace to the region. The day ended, overall, with a lot of promise for collaboration and compromise with delegates.

- Selina Wu

## General Assembly 4th Committee

The delegates of the General Assembly 4th Committee were focusing on the colonization of Mars, advocating for credible elections, and urging all countries to support democracy in Asia and the Middle East. The overall atmosphere in the room was extremely intense as countries elaborate on the methods of contributing to settling on a new planet. There were some disputes that arose among the developing countries with the rich, as they discussed whether colonising Mars is an appropriate goal for countries that are suffering from other major issues. The delegate of Turkey was very memorable, expressing her belief that “education must become a priority”, along with her strong position that education is key in supporting any country as a whole.

- Sheena Troemer

## The Special Conference on Human Migration

The Special Conference on the Issue of Human Migration convened in H404 to discuss critical issues including: diseases in refugee camps, trends in domestic immigration in states, and impacts of rising sea levels on the flow of refugees in particular regions of the globe. The Right Honourable President of the Special Conference noted that immigration is a very personal issue, as his homeland countries of Germany and Italy are both facing a large influx in the number of immigrants arriving at their borders, provoking complex arguments regarding ethics and morality. He also recalled the representative of Ireland delivering an electric opening speech outlining their approach to the issues of the conference. Ireland itself was a source of many immigrants to the United States, Canada, and Australia during the traumatic 19th century events such as the Potato Famine in which hundreds of thousands were forced to embark on ships traveling to the New World and an ambiguous future. In the United States, Irish immigrants were initially received with suspicion, doubt, and discrimination. It is with this in mind that the Irish representative outlined their strong conviction in protecting the rights and dignity of immigrants worldwide.

- Charlie Kong

## International Court of Justice

Today, while the advocates prepared for their case, the judges debated an advisory opinion regarding the legality of alleged Russian interference in the 2016 United States presidential election. The first advisory opinion was submitted by a group of judges who argued that the alleged Russian interference was illegal. Judge Ahmed presented a solid case for their advisory opinion, but Judge Wroth articulately questioned whether ICJ had jurisdiction over this case. Following her case, the opposing group, although smaller in number, made strong refutations. The impassioned debate continued, and although it was an informal debate, it was indeed compelling and “proper,” as the ICJ president has requested.

- Jarita Chen

## Advisory Panel

In the Advisory Panel, stemming the Flow of Foreign Jihadis into Syria and Iraq appeared to be the topic that generated the most discourse despite the fact that, as the President noted, due to the similarities between the comments, each topic is relevant. The question of Kurdish independence was also commonly addressed. The chairs agreed that, although it was hard to pick a side, they believed that the Kurds are ethically justified in wanting self-determination, but tense politics make it a difficult matter to grant them independence. While Iraq is a major player in this issue, other countries such as Turkey, Syria, and Iran could also be deeply impacted by any policy changes, as even local decisions in Iraq could lead to spillover into other nations. The President and Deputy Presidents stated their excitement to hear how delegates would handle these pressing issues during debate, and also added how impressed they were with the level of professionalism, punctuality, and preparedness exhibited by all delegates.

- Catherine Wang

## UN Convention on the Status of Women

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women revolves around the prominent but often neglected issue of women’s rights. Rights of women are sometimes compromised by religious, cultural, or traditional values, therefore arriving at a solution that satisfies all nations is definitely a challenge. However, the delegates are all hopeful for increased recognition of women’s rights, and more specifically, protection against domestic violence, sexual assaults and the quality of education facilities. The most important concepts that delegates touch upon are the collaboration of nations and the openness to women of all backgrounds. One delegate stated, “By being open and collaborating together, they can find a universal solution that applies to women all around the world, regardless of race.”

- Hyun Jung

N



**AUSTIN TURNER**  
ASD Dubai

**BLESSY PAK**  
Concordia Shanghai



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**CISSMUN VOGUE**

**BEST DRESSED**



**SIHOO LEE**  
Tianjin International School



**IMELDA MORRIS**  
GWA Dubai

H



**SHEENA TROEMER**  
BISS



81-61-1

The Republic of Singapore deems it necessary that every Singaporean son be enlisted for a National Service (NS) term of two years, where he will be called on to serve in the civil defence force, the police force or, most commonly, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF). As a Singaporean, I am required to play my part in defending my country, which has consequently been the greatest fear of my childhood. Though I was born in Singapore, I lived in Shanghai for my whole life, and only returned to Singapore for a few Chinese New Year holidays under the demands of my father. I did not believe I should return to Singapore to serve a country I never understood, never identified with, and never called home. When the time finally came to enlist, I felt I was being imprisoned. As I was sweating from punishment push-ups, my classmates were enjoying themselves in college. I interpreted my NS journey as a waste of two years that I will never get back, and I hated my country for it. In November 2017, I finished my two-year obligation and was released from the military. Despite all my negativity towards my country and my service, I was surprised to have found meaning in my experience, and I have chosen to share it here as an account of the unwilling citizen soldier. This is the story of the Singaporean son whose heart never belonged to his country, yet found meaning in his foreign homeland.

My experience was by no means positive every step of the way. Rather, the beginning was filled with hardship. I was expected to acclimate to a military environment as well as a new country at the same time. My parents had remained in Shanghai, so I felt alone in the army base as well as at home. During my basic military training, I was made fun of for my accent. A fellow soldier said to my face that he could not stand my American accent. There were many soldiers who were more accepting and welcoming, but it was difficult to ignore the ever-present antagonism. During basic military training, I soon discovered the effects of conscription on military culture, which is prevalent in every conscript military in the world, not just in Singapore. Enthusiasm, in my opinion, can be scarcer in a conscript military than in a professional army, and not everyone in a conscript military may want to serve their country. While there will always be a considerable number of men willing to put effort into their new military lives, there exists, at the opposite end of the spectrum, a considerable number of men who frown upon proactiveness, initiative, and volunteering. While enthusiasm will be met with praise by some, it can also be met with discouragement and disapproval by others. Even though I was unhappy to serve, I did want to put in effort and gain something meaningful out of the two years. Unfortunately, my attitude of devoting effort was met with criticism not only in basic training, but also at my active unit.

After basic training, I refused the opportunity of command school out of spite, and was posted to 48th Battalion, Singapore Armoured Regiment, an active tank battalion that operates a fleet of modified German Leopard 2 Main Battle Tanks. I received Armoured Infantry Training when I first posted to the battalion, and the cumulative toll from my stressful circumstances and environment had finally begun to overcome me. My sense of imprisonment within Singapore, the mockery of my values and my background and the pressures of training had overwhelmed me, and I fell into a state of depression. Having lost contact with most of my friends and having no close family in Singapore, I closed myself off from fellow soldiers and welcomed the thoughts of violence and suicide that had begun in basic training. I felt alien in my own homeland and I wanted to end it all by taking my life in a spirit of defiance towards my country. I am only alive today because my company sergeant major sought me out during my depressive state and my medical officer took great care of my well-being. I was given counselling, referred to psychologists who helped me understand my condition, and my commanders routinely expressed interest in my well-being. This marked the beginning of the turning point in my NS experience. My recovery made me value myself and strengthened my resolve to gain something meaningful from my two years in Singapore.

I was posted to Headquarters Company within the battalion, where I was given a unique position based on my abilities and skill set. During my time in this position, I understood and quickly grasped the basics of Singaporean armoured warfare doctrine and the organization of the battalion. As a result, I used my knowledge to help spot any mistakes that a mission force committed during its training and helped prepare briefs on lessons learned after major training exercises. The battalion realized I could do more, and I was given the opportunity to work on items that went beyond my original scope of responsibility. At this point, I decided to ignore the universal conscript attitude of "serve and [Foxtrot] off", and decided to embrace the values of initiative, proactiveness and focused effort that I once believed in. I began to find meaning in my work, which gave me more self-value and helped with my recovery from depression and suicidal ideation. Most of what I did for the rest of my NS must stay classified for security purposes, but I learned lessons applicable in life that I could share with everyone. Writing security and observation reports taught me to craft my sentences. Preparing briefing slides for operations and exercises developed my ability to create a plan and articulate a goal. Helping amend my battalion's standard operating procedure improved my understanding of the dynamics of a large organization. Evaluating mission forces in field training has helped me learn the value of organization, preparation, and improvisation. A disorganized military force will suffer from miscommunication, leading to mission failure. Careful preparation and strong communication allows a quick reaction force to deploy at a moment's notice. The ability of a commander to improvise tactics can turn a disaster into mission success. I have experienced leadership under good commanders and bad commanders. NS has taught me how to work under good superiors, deal with bad superiors, work with peers and lead subordinates. My work helped me overcome my suicidal ideations by devoting myself to something I already had a passion for: leadership and military science. My ability to contribute to a greater goal and learn lessons that my classmates could not experience in college allowed me to value myself more and find utility in NS that I never expected to discover. Through my own effort, I managed to take away important lessons from my NS experience and make my two years in the army a meaningful journey of self-development.

Despite the negative experiences I had in the military, the positive experiences and lessons learned have made me altogether appreciative of national service. My suicidal phase has allowed me to understand and help people suffering the same issues. The time I spent observing forces in the field and quick reaction force deployment has allowed me to understand the value of preparation, organization, communication and improvisation. The conscription policy in the Singaporean military has allowed me to meet people from all sorts of different backgrounds and taught me how to work with them or deal with them. My military experience has grown a discipline and strong resolve within me that I could apply in real life. I also enjoyed my own share of good stories and fun experiences in the military. None of my school friends have had the pleasure of being a room's distance from a Leopard 2 Main Battle Tank firing an armour piercing sabot from its 120mm smoothbore gun. The roar of the L2SG MBT demands respect in the form of clenched hands, closed jaws and a set of very good earplugs. In the end, despite the hardships and the negativity in my heart, I left the military with a positive mindset, a better version of myself and a meaningful story to tell.

I close this story with a message to everyone who will enlist under conscription policies. Times will get tough, and hardships will come your way. Survive the difficulty by devoting yourself to something you cherish, value or have passion for. My national service journey was not a waste of time because I devoted myself to finding meaning and applying the lessons I learned to my own life. The value of your experience as a conscript is defined by the value you put into it. Making your experience meaningful by applying the lessons you will learn ensures that it will not be a waste of time. Embrace the difficulties as an opportunity to show yourself that you are tougher than you realize. After all, no easy journey is ever worth the adventure.

# Story of the unwilling conscript

BY ANDY TANN



In Shanghai, China, we don't have snow days; we have pollution days.

In 2012 and 2013, air pollution in northern China reached a record high. I remember arriving at school one smoggy day 4 years ago, only to hear that school had been canceled because of the pollution that was, quite literally, off the charts. The highest that day reached over 700 on the Air Quality Index (AQI)—a scale of which the top end is supposed to be 500.

China's air pollution has become so prominent in recent years that citizens have become almost desensitized. International media constantly expresses shock and dismay over the state of air pollution in China: almost apocalypse-esque images of men and women in pollution masks roaming a dreary, grey Beijing were plastered all over news websites in late 2013. Yet to residents, the issue is almost comical; this, like internet censorship or overpriced imported goods, is just one more thing they'll have live with.

In September of 2013, the Chinese State Council issued the Action Plan on Prevention and Control of Air Pollution, which aimed to reduce the atmospheric density of PM 2.5, atmospheric particulate matter with a diameter of less than 2.5 micrometers, easily small enough to pass from human lungs to other organs, by over 10% by 2017. With the goal of bringing blue skies and white clouds back to Chinese cities in a few short years, the plan was based in reducing emissions by closing factories and mills, and long-term investment in more eco-friendly energy options.

Yet, despite the government's grand plans, residents of Chinese cities are not hopeful for change. According to state media, the average density of PM2.5, decreased 6.2% from 2014 to 2015, and 9.9% from 2015 to 2016. But to most residents in China's most industrialized cities, the skies remain as smoggy and gray as ever. The government claims that real change is happening. Numbers are going down. But it is not enough to win over the public, who continue to be unimpressed by the government's eco-friendly efforts. Walking down the streets of any major city, it doesn't look or smell like the government is winning its

'War on Pollution,' and with the recent rebound in heavy industry leading to more smoggy days in 2017, it looks like the air pollution crisis could worsen even more from here.

The Chinese government's main focus for its 'War on Pollution' is on their biggest cities, like Beijing and Shanghai. As a result, rural areas, which often times get the worst of the air pollution problem, are completely overlooked. Rural air pollution is often as bad as, if not worse than, its equivalent in cities full of traffic-jammed highways and smoke-belching factories. Indoor air pollution is the biggest offender: used by the majority of households in rural areas, the burning of solid fuels like coal, wood, or agricultural waste for heating and cooking is arguably the most threatening type of air pollution that plagues rural China. According to the Environmental Health Sciences Division of the Berkeley School of Public Health, the smog caused from burning solid fuels is a direct cause for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults and pneumonia in children, as well as lung and other cancers and tuberculosis. In some 200 rural villages, pollution is considered the major cause of death.

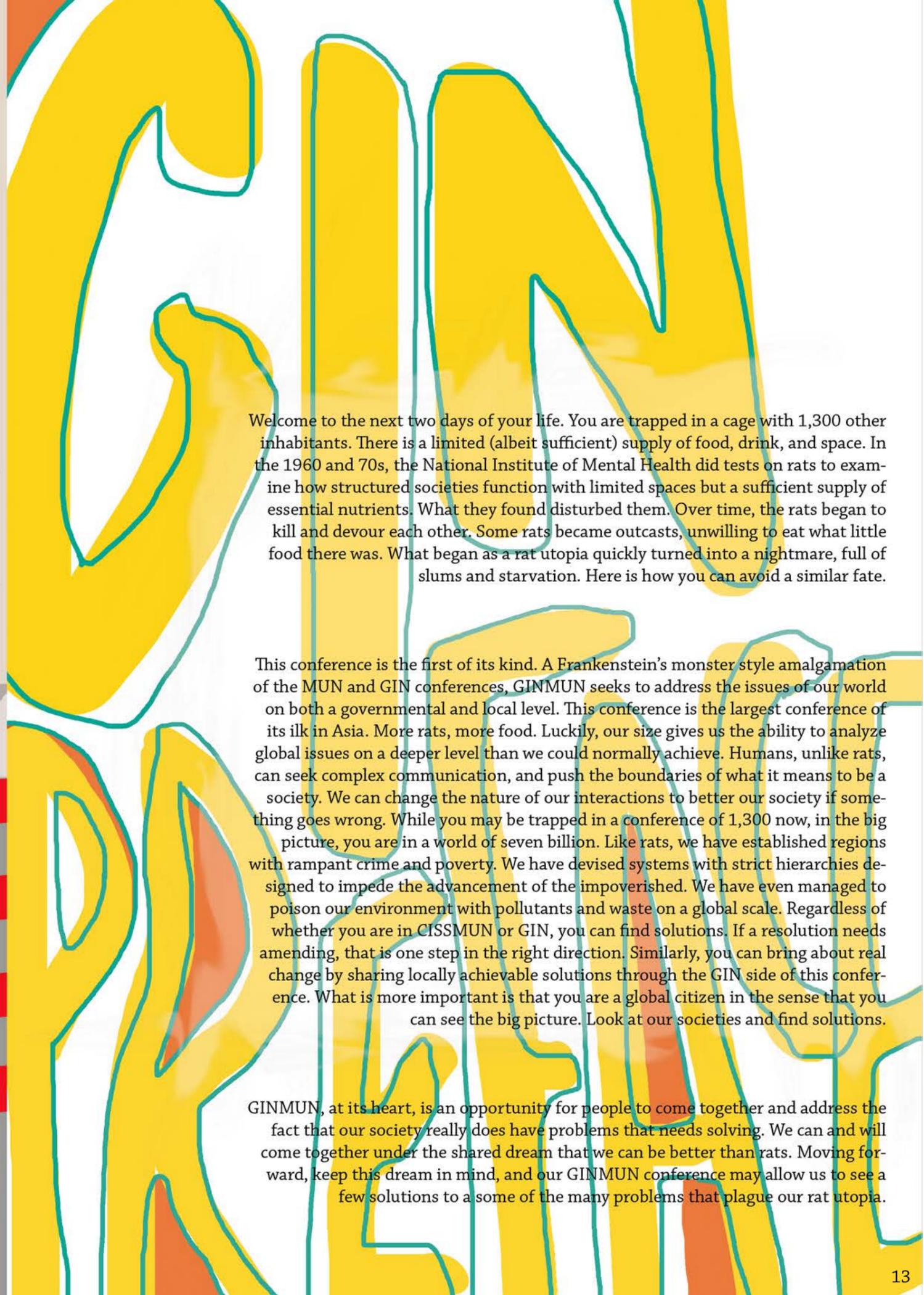
If anything, while the government is attempting to curb pollution in industrialized cities, these efforts only worsen the air quality in its villages. Municipal governments have been moving factories from urban to rural areas, or more specifically, closing down industrial plants in cities, earning media applause, only to rebuild them in less-developed towns. Rural towns are now choked by both local and nearby urban sources, with no government plans for solvency in sight.

I could complain that what's considered hazardous on the AQI scale in the United States is a normal day in Shanghai, but I know we haven't got the worst of it. And at least officials have been waging war on air pollution in my city, even if it doesn't look like they're winning it. But with the recent resurgence in heavy industrial output, citizen apathy towards effective policy, and growing concerns about rural regions, the government will have to soon find a new tactic to tackle this ever-present problem.

Welcome to the next two days of your life. You are trapped in a cage with 1,300 other inhabitants. There is a limited (albeit sufficient) supply of food, drink, and space. In the 1960 and 70s, the National Institute of Mental Health did tests on rats to examine how structured societies function with limited spaces but a sufficient supply of essential nutrients. What they found disturbed them. Over time, the rats began to kill and devour each other. Some rats became outcasts, unwilling to eat what little food there was. What began as a rat utopia quickly turned into a nightmare, full of slums and starvation. Here is how you can avoid a similar fate.

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Dis

*noun* | dih-skuhsh-uh n

1. the action or process of talking about something in order to reach a decision or to exchange idea

2. a freeing or a being freed from illusion or conviction.

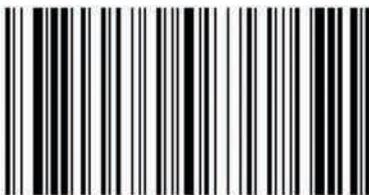
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