Manlius Pebble Hill Model United Nations

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General Assembly
Chairs:
Andrew Benincasa
Farouq Alsalih

Preface:

Welcome to the General Assembly for MPHMUN 2018! We are your chairs, Andrew Benincasa and Farouq Alsalih, and we are very excited to chair GA this year! This committee will be run Resolution Style, meaning that prior to committee every delegate should prepare a resolution for each topic. To ensure that committee consists of strong debate from every position, it is critical that every delegate researches the topics outside the chair letter. In order to be eligible for an award, each delegate must have both resolutions and position papers for all three topics. If have any issues or questions, please contact us at these emails below. Thank you.

Andrew Benincasa

adbenincasa1454@gmail.com

Farouq Alsalih

farouqalsalih@gmail.com

Introduction to Committee:

General Assembly (GA) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. The committee consists of 193 members, which, unlike any other part of the UN, have equal representation, as one nation equals one vote. The committee, being so large, discusses a wide array of issues, including security, peace, development, international law, environment etc. These issues are discussed annually in September at the General Assembly Hall in New York City. As we are doing Model United Nations, you do not need to worry about the budget of the General Assembly, however, your solutions should be relatively budget conscious.

The Impact of Ocean Pollution on Marine Life

Introduction:

Covering over 72 percent of our planet, oceans are an integral part of our environment. They provide for 97 percent of our earth's water and consist of a vast, diverse ecosystem that provides for 70 percent of the oxygen we breathe. However, each day, this ecosystem is threatened by natural and manmade pollution. Ocean pollution, otherwise known as marine pollution, is the dispersing of harmful and dangerous substances such as plastic, oil, and agricultural and industrial waste. These substances pose a major threat to marine plant and animal life, as they damage and destroy different species and ecosystems. As society continues to develop and grow through increased industrial production and urbanization, we are seeing more and more of the waste from these developments in our oceans. In 2015, it was measured that between 5 to 13 million metric tons of plastic made it to our oceans. Ocean pollution can be classified in two ways: point source pollution, which comes from a single source such as a large oil spill, and nonpoint source pollution, which does not come from a single source such as runoff. As waste is dumped into our oceans, it accumulates and creates garbage patches, which have detrimental effects of the marine life in and surrounding it. This waste affects the health of marine life by not only polluting organisms, but also blocking sunlight and depleting the water of oxygen. Along with the chemical pollution, there is also noise pollution. As we are constantly using the ocean for trading routes, we are generating a lot of noise in the ocean. This noise can disrupt animals' eating and mating and can leave many creatures, such as whales, stranded as they use hearing to find

their way. This damage to marine life effects our lives, as it poisons ocean food supplies, destroys ocean dependent businesses, and depletes our oxygen and water supplies.

History:

The impacts of ocean pollution on marine life is not a new phenomena, as it dates back to the appearance of our earliest ancestors. Oceans have been and currently are being polluted heavily by plastic products. There have been many incidents where ships carrying stocks for trade have sunken down to the sea floor. For example, in 1990, a sunken ship carrying more than 80,000 pairs of Nike sneakers was discovered in the pacific ocean. Those shoes accumulated in the shores of the islands in the pacific ocean. This incident was very dangerous to the aquatic creatures in the pacific because the creatures could easily have suffocated and died if the shoes were mistaken for food (Janice Podsada, 2001).

The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships (APPS) is a United States law that implements the provisions of MARPOL 73/78, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships. The act was developed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 1973, and its protocol was adopted in 1978. This convention is the main international convention for covering the protection of the marine environment from ships that operationally or accidently pollute the ocean. It consists of six annexes that aim to prevent and minimize pollution from ships. Most annexes do so by having strict control on operational discharge from ships (IMO MARPOL, n.d.). The Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships makes it a crime for any person to violate MARPOL, APPS or the regulations enacted under APPS such as the ones of Annex VI (NWC MARPOL, n.d.).

In 1987, the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships was revised by the Marine Plastic Pollution Research and Control Act (MPPRCA) (Laws that Protect Our Oceans, n.d.). The MPPRCA is an act that studies effects of the disposal of plastics on the environment and the various methods that can be used to eliminate or reduce the effects of the plastics. This act requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States Coast Guard (USCG), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to work together and to evaluate the use of volunteer groups in monitoring floatable debris. The MPPRCA requires waste gathering facilities at the US ports and it requires ships to develop a plan for waste management. The act is responsible for identifying the classes and types of plastics that are hazardous to living creatures. The act also restricts ships from dumping plastics and wastes into the water and it also prohibits the sources of plastics which enter the marine environment (Petropedia MPPRCA, n.d.). These acts are important for prohibiting ocean dumping and they also bring environmental groups together to solve waste management, but there have been other significant acts that researches for better methods to clean our oceans.

Some of the other United States acts that protect the oceans are the Shore Protection Act of 1988 (SPA), the Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act of 2006 (MDRPRA), and the Marine Protection Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1988 (MPRSA). The SPA aims to minimize debris from waste carrying vessels with its regulations that are being developed by the Environmental Protection Agency. The MDRPRA established some programs within the NOAA and USCG to “identify, determine sources of, assess, reduce, and

prevent marine debris." The last main act, the MPRSA, also called the Ocean Dumping Act, prohibits the transportation of material from the United States or from anywhere for the purpose of ocean dumping. All of these acts are significant acts that were created with the purpose to protect our oceans and marine life from hazardous waste materials. These acts are all significant US acts that protect our oceans, but the United Nations also implemented laws of the sea.

The acts that were aforementioned are all US acts that are being implemented globally, but the United Nations also has some policies regarding ocean pollution. The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) has constituted programs and laws such as their Regional Seas Programme and The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA). The Regional Seas Programme acts to protect oceans, seas, and it promotes environmentally sound use of marine resources such as a way of sustainable fishery (Oceans and the Law of the Sea, n.d.). The programme is also bringing countries into making comprehensive and specific action towards protecting the marine environment. Today, 143 countries countries have joined 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for the sustainable management and use of marine and coastal environment (UN Environment, n.d.). The GPA aims at preventing degradation of the marine environment from land based activities such as disposing plastics into water systems. The GPA achieves their mission by facilitating countries to preserve and protect the marine environment. This programme is the only global initiative that directly addresses the connectivity between terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems

(UNEP/GPA, n.d.). Although these are very important programs, the United Nations groundbreaking work in adopting the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention (UNCLOS) stands as the "defining moment in the extension of international law to the vast, shared water resources of our planet". This convention established freedom of navigation rights, created the International Seabed Authority, created other conflict-resolution mechanisms, and other important issues related to ocean usage (Oceans and the Law of the Sea, n.d.). The history of this topic is not only limited to the disposal of garbage into the ocean, but it also includes runoff and the disposal of radioactive material into the ocean.

There have been many cases of nuclear waste disposed in our oceans. In 1946, data showed that 13 countries used the ocean as a place to dispose nuclear/radioactive wastes. Countries, including the U.S.A and Japan, continuously dump large amounts of nuclear/ radioactive wastes into the ocean. When dumped into an ocean, radioactive waste can have a significant impact on the ecosystem, and especially on the aquatic creatures. Even though the ratio between the ocean's size and the amount of nuclear contamination is large, it is still damaging to marine life. Radioactive waste usually enters the bodies of marine life through inhalation and absorption through gills. Once it enters the body, the radiation can make its way to the bloodstream, bone structures, and lungs. The radiation can potentially cause cancer, genetic mutation, and damage to the animal, possibly leading to the death of that aquatic creature (Elizabeth Grossman, 2011).

Current Situation:

As of recently, the world has begun to take a greater notice of ocean pollution and its effects. In 2010, many across the

world were shocked by the Gulf Oil Spill. This spill was caused by a leak in an offshore BP oil drilling facility in the Gulf of Mexico. By the time the leak was stopped, an estimated 3.19 million barrels of oil had leaked into the Gulf. The effects of the spill were devastating. Initially after the spill, birds such as pelicans were found stuck in water and on the shore covered in oil. Fish were found belly up, and turtles were washed up on the shores of Louisiana smothered in oil. In 2015, Reuters reported that "from 2002 to 2009, the Gulf averaged 63 dolphin deaths a year. That rose to 125 in the seven months after the spill in 2010 and 335 in all of 2011, averaging more than 200 a year since April 2010." The worst effect was on the deep sea corals near the breakage, as deep sea corals take very long to grow. It was seen that after the spill, the coral experienced tissue loss and its survival rate had decreased. In 2014, the region was almost classified as being devoid of life, as a majority of the marine life had been destroyed. The effects even continue today, as the Gulf of Mexico has not been fully cleaned up due to the difficulty of oil removal. BP, who caused this spill, funded the removal of the oil, investing a total of 61.6 billion dollars. This event has seen extensive media coverage, specifically in the United States. Pictures of birds covered with oil appeared in many places on the news,and even in advertisements for companies such as Dove, which began to expose many of the effects of this pollution on marine life. These same effects to marine life have been seen in numerous other oil spill cases.

The next year the world also saw another large chemical spill in the form of the Fukushima Accident. On March 11th, 2001, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake, called the Great East Japan Earthquake, occurred off the coast of Japan. This earthquake caused

the formation of a 15 meter tall tsunami which headed towards the Japanese coast. Nuclear power plants on the coast shut down their reactors following the quake. All of the reactors which survived the quake, however, soon became vulnerable to the tsunami. Although tsunamis are hard to defend from, more levies could have been placed to protect the reactors. The Fukushima Daiichi plant became immediately flooded following the tsunami hit. As waters receded, large amounts of radiation were carried back to sea. Although there is little research on the effects the radiation has on marine life, it is know that the the radiation is in the food chain, as it has entered through small plankton.

Other areas across the world continue to be damaged by ocean pollution. Most notably the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, which is the largest living body on Earth, is being greatly affected by ocean pollution. Both pollutants from ships and boats, and from agricultural and industrial plants, are destroying large sections of the reef. Much of the land based pollution has caused higher algae growth, which can block sunlight to coral reefs, and smother them. Coral reefs are very important for the ecosystems, as fish and other animals largely depend on them for food and shelter. According to the Queensland Museum, “approximately 65% of fish species preferentially settle in or near live coral, and a huge number of invertebrate species obligatorily depend on the coral for their survival.” Furthermore, other ecosystems in the Pacific Ocean can, and are, being threatened by the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) is the largest of five offshore plastic accumulation zones. It is located roughly halfway between California and Hawaii and covers an estimated surface area of 1.6

million square kilometers, which is about twice the size of Texas. The GPGP poses a great threat to marine life, as many animals can get stuck in fishnets or plastic objects or could be poisoned by the harmful chemicals in the plastic. The Great Barrier Reef and other marine parks are of great importance to countries due to their economic benefit. Currently, the Great Barrier Reef generates over 6 million dollars. This includes tourist attractions and services and local fishing industries. If these marine parks are damaged or destroyed, they can greatly affect the economies depending on it. This threat is very dangerous in developing countries, as any damage could leave many without jobs.

Currently, there are many projects going on to stop ocean pollution and clean the existing pollutants in the water. However, due to the difficulty of cleaning the oceans and the vast amount of pollutants, projects have only been small scale. In many countries, measures are being taken to reduce the chemical runoff with stricter environmental standards. Although these measures are being taken, almost all countries are at risk of pollution from natural disasters.

Questions to Consider:

1. What can the average person do to prevent pollution from entering the oceans?
2. How should countries manage their garbage, toxic waste, radioactive materials, and plastics rather than disposing them in the ocean?
3. How can we protect the marine life from accidental or operational ocean dumping?

Further Reading:

1. List of laws and acts that protect our ocean: https://www.epa.gov/beach-tech/laws-protect-our-oceans
2. Statistics of the types of wastes in the ocean, the impacts of pollution, and what can be done about it:

http://marinebio.org/oceans/ocean-dumping/

3. Information on the recent Fukushima power plant accident and the impacts of radioactive wastes in the ocean: https://www.britannica.com/event/Fukushima-accident

The Rising Production and Distribution of Fentanyl

Introduction:

Many people have become victims of a very deadly drug called Fentanyl, and this drug is continuing to become more accessible in our world. Fentanyl is a powerful synthetic opioid analgesic that is in massive production in China. Two milligrams of this drug is more than enough to kill a human, and there have been many cases of immediate death when the drug is taken in. Some drugs, such as cocaine, heroin, and Xanax are laced with this drug to increase the euphoric effect when they are absorbed. That is because Fentanyl is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, and both drugs are already highly lethal. Fentanyl is being distributed from all over the world, and much of it is ending up in the United States of America. Records show that of the 42,000 fatalities of opioids in the United States of America, about 50 percent of those casualties are linked with Fentanyl overdose. Although Fentanyl's lethality is very dangerous for consumption, it can be used for pharmaceutical purposes and it has proven to be very effective as an anesthetic during surgery.

Fentanyl was introduced more than 50 years ago, and became the world's most often used opioid for intraoperative analgesia, meaning a pain reducer used for surgery. Ever since the early 1990's, Fentanyl has been used to management chronic pain of all forms of cancer and intense pain from diseases. This drug has become so important in the treatment of pain in modern clinical practice because it is available to be used in many ways such as injected into the skin, inhaled, and consumed. However, recently,the rising production and distribution of Fentanyl is

costing more lives than ever, and should be resolved in a way that prohibits the drug from being used, with the exception of pharmaceutical purposes, such as anesthetics.

History:

Like many other opioids and opioid related drugs, fentanyl has a history of being used in our medical systems. In 1959, the company Janssen Pharmaceutica created the drug fentanyl. They tested it on animals, and then on humans, in a number of opioid related tests. The company found that it had use as an anesthetic, despite its potential for cardiovascular depression and stimulation, respiratory depression, muscle rigidity, and, occasionally, incomplete anesthesia. They began selling it and using it as a medical anesthetic and pain reliever. In the 1960s, they started to use the drug as an intravenous, or injected through the veins, anesthetic under the name Sublimaze. Then, in the 1990s, it began to be used for people with chronic pain, such as pain from cancer. At this time the drug was in the form of a patch or a lollipop. However, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) began to discover illicit sales of fentanyl produced domestically. The DEA found a brand of street heroin known as "Tango and Cash," to contain 12 percent fentanyl. They believed that it was responsible for between 126 and 300 overdose deaths. These deaths occurred in many northeastern US cities such as New York, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Baltimore. When they found the bodies, they still had the needle in them. This was largely due to the danger of the drug, as it can kill you even before you inject yourself. Through this case, they found that fentanyl had the ability to be mixed with other drugs to create more profits for the dealers.

Furthermore, the ones mixing the drug did not care that their customers were dying as the lacing of the drug allowed for a potential to sell more due to less of the main drug being used per sale.

Fentanyl saw an increased use following the opioid crisis in the mid 1990s. Prescription of opioids saw a dramatic increase due to policy change and the ideas that opioids would be the primary treatment for all types of pain and that opioids prescribed for pain would not lead to addiction. This was coupled with a release of guidelines in 1996 by the American Pain Society which encouraged providers to "assess pain as 'the 5th vital sign' at each clinical encounter." Furthermore, pharmaceutical companies began an aggressive campaign to promote opioid usage and the idea that they do not pose a significant risk for addiction or misuse. The drug began to be used as a primary treatment for pain across medical facilities in the United States. Following its rise in the United States, other countries began producing and exporting fentanyl. Their main market became the United States. However, before the 2000s, these businesses were small-scale.

Current Situation:

The United States consumes almost 85 percent of all the world's natural and synthetic opiates, and, in 2016, opioids were a factor in 42,249 U.S. deaths. Results showed that among the 42,249 deaths, Fentanyl was involved with 19,413 (45.9 percent) deaths in the United States. This is a significant increase from 2010, when only 3,007 (14.3 percent) opioid-related deaths involved Fentanyl. In 2016, Fentanyl was involved with the deaths of other non-opioid drugs; Fentanyl was involved with 40.3 percent of Cocaine overdose deaths, and

31.0 percent of benzodiazepine overdose deaths and 20.8 percent of antidepressant related deaths (NIDA, 2018). The main reason why the United States consumes much more Opioids than other countries is not because that the population is suffering more pain than other countries, but the US regulates Opioid manufacturers and distributors far less regurissly than other countries (Humphreys, n.d.). Over the years, the mix of cocaine and heroine, also known as ‘speedball’, has become popular to people who use drugs. In the illicit drug market, heroin is increasingly replaced by fentanyl. Nowadays, dealers have been replacing heroin with fentanyl because it is generally cheaper and far more potent. If the dealer replaces heroin with fentanyl, then the dealer can make more money for lower amounts of heroin. Since Fentanyl is an opioid, the buyer would probably not notice that they are purchasing fentanyl rather than

heroin, and the buyer may believe its just a much more potent version of heroin. Cocaine and Heroin are already a deadly mix, if heroin is replaced by fentanyl in the mix, then it can be be much more deadly (German Lopez, 2018). At the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory, it was found that a 30-milligram dose is a guideline for the lethal amount of heroin (Pictured right. Heroin on the left). They also found a 3-milligram dose of fentanyl is more than enough to kill an average-sized adult male. As you can see, 3-milligrams of fentanyl is very small and

almost not noticeable (Pictured above. Fentanyl on the right). Therefore, Fentanyl can go easily unnoticed to the buyers and users of the drug, and they may suffer heavy damage from the drug, or possibly even death (Allison Bond, 2016).

The Production of Fentanyl is at its peak in countries such as China and Mexico. Some sources claim that China produces more than 90 percent of the world's supply of fentanyl. Chinese authorities are pretending not to notice their manufacturers exporting Fentanyl to the U.S. The Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of the United States of America said that " When it comes to our best chance at taking out fentanyl and its deadly path to the United States, it is really now or never,". Schumer claims that U.S. negotiators have an opportunity to pressure the Chinese government to prevent the drug from flowing over the U.S. border. He adds, "this issue must be a major priority because too many lives have been lost and too many others are at stake." (Alison Fox, 2018). In late 2015, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) required China to list 116 synthetic drugs to its list of controlled substance; fentanyl and several of its analogs were on that list. In response, underground Chinese labs began to tweak the the Fentanyl molecule and create new, unregulated variants of Fentanyl. The DEA had pressured China to stem the tide of synthetic opiates. After the extensive negotiations between China and the DEA, China eventually banned methylfentanyl, a group in the Fentanyl molecule, which drove Fentanyl's production down. The production of Fentanyl, however, did not stop.. In 2016, a Canadian man was arrested in Calgary after authorities intercepted a 1-kilogram package of Fentanyl labeled "printer accessories,"

which the man ordered from China (Kathleen Mclaughlin, 2017). Fentanyl is usually mailed from Chinese labs to American ports in disguised packages such as electronics (Opioid Crisis, 2018). The production of Fentanyl is not only limited to China, as many other countries, including Mexico, have taken part in its production.

Fentanyl has been misused by many people in many different countries. It has been used by the United States, but also in the United Kingdom. Some sources claim that the US epidemic of Fentanyl could be replayed in the UK. Over the past eight months, this drug has killed more than 60 people in the UK, including a very popular UK singer called Prince (SkyNews, 2017). As shown, the drug has affected many lives, and action against it must be taken. One possible way we can end the illicit production of Fentanyl in China and Mexico is by providing producers with a different job, or have them produce a legal drug that is less potent and powerful than Fentanyl. However, this solution needs to be complemented with another solution because if production ended, then a new and a more lucrative drug market will emerge elsewhere. Also, Fentanyl has already affected many lives, stopping its production and distribution is one part to solving this global issue. One of the most important steps to solving this issue is increasing access and continuing to developing more accurate, non judgemental educational programs on the drug misuse, and how to prevent and decrease overdose.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can the United States and other countries limit the amount of fentanyl that enters the country?
2. How can we combat the production of fentanyl?

3. What are the best ways for safe disposal of the drug?
4. What services can be created to help opioid addiction and prevent fentanyl overdose?

Further Reading:

1. United States DEA general information on fentanyl https://www.dea.gov/druginfo/fentanyl.shtml
2. Trafficking of fentanyl and heroin into the United States https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dea mexico-increase-heroin-fentanyl-production/
3. Chinese fentanyl production and exportation https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/08/world/asia/china-opioid-trump.html

The Issue of Albinism in Africa

Introduction:

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), albinism is a "rare, non-contagious, genetically inherited condition which occurs worldwide regardless of ethnicity or gender," that "most commonly results in the lack of melanin pigment in the hair, skin and eyes (oculocutaneous albinism), causing vulnerability to sun exposure." The lack of melanin puts people with albinism at a higher risk of skin cancer and severe visual impairment. People with albinism not only suffer from health risks, but also persecution. This persecution of people with albinism largely occurs within the region of Africa. According to the World Health Organization, 1 in 5,000 to 1 in 15,000 people in Sub-Saharan Africa have albinism. In Africa, there is a belief developed from folktale that people with albinism have supernatural powers and can give a family misfortunes. There are also superstitions in which they believe that body parts of a person with albinism bring wealth, power, or sexual conquest. There is also the belief that having sex with a person with albinism cures HIV and AIDS. These superstitions and beliefs have caused the killings of many people with albinism throughout Africa, but especially in east Africa. People with albinism often struggle to get treatment for their disease due to the lack of developed programs. Some have considered the killing of people with albinism as a "tragedy," and have even labeled people with the disease as an "endangered people." Also, due to the accommodations needed for people with albinism, many have difficulty finding jobs. The vision impairments and effects of the skin pigmentation can make it difficult for people with albinism to work many jobs,

especially with the low amount of accommodations available. This makes it even more difficult for them to afford treatment. Despite some recognition, people with albinism are still in danger and lack aid to survive in society.

History:

The word Albino dates back to the 17th century when a man named Balthazar Telez, who was an explorer, saw an african tribe that had people with albinism. Balthazar thought he was seeing two different races of people, and he came up with a name for the people. The name was "Albino" meaning white negro. This was the first discovery of albinism. There are many different types of albinism, and all of these types involve lack of pigmentation. The two main types of albinism are Oculocutaneous and Ocular. Both can be very dangerous. Oculocutaneous albinism is when a person with albinism is lacking melanin for their whole life, and the Ocular form is when a person lacks melanin, but their hair and skin gradually become darker as they grow older. Some symptoms of albinism include eye flickers, sensitivity to bright light, and poor vision. In the early 2000's, a blood test was developed to determine if a child is albinistic and, if so, what kind of albinism the child has (Laura and Maddy, n.d.). Albinism is a genetic disorder, therefore it cannot be cured, but there are treatments for the symptoms such as surgery to enhance vision and preventing skin cancer from developing. The treatments are not affordable to many, because having continuous assessment for skin cancer and doing surgery to enhance eye vision will cost thousands of dollars and poverty in Africa doesn't make it any easier to help cure people of these symptoms (MayoClinic, n.d.). The dangers of albinism aren't all

biological, people with albinism in Africa are often hunted down for ludicrous reasons.

Since 2007, some 53 murders have been reported across Tanzania, with hundreds more being unreported. People with albinism are being hunted down because of Africa's history with witchcraft. Witchcraft is practiced all over the world in many different forms. In Africa, witch doctors are the most respected and feared members of society. Africans murder albinos because of a misunderstanding of their condition. Tanzanian people believe albinism is a curse or punishment from God. It is believed that the child is a product of illicit or unacceptable behaviour by their mother. It is thought that the mother was practicing sorcery, having an affair, or violating dietary laws. People with albinism are also believed to be ghosts, rather than human beings. Witch doctors believe and convince others that killing people with albinism and harvesting their entrails can make a person wealthy and prosperous (The Albino Murders in Tanzania - Get the Facts, n.d.). In a country facing extreme poverty, the albino murders in Tanzania have become a source of income for many people.

Current Situation:

The persecution of people with albinism started to greatly increase in the 2000s. In Tanzania alone, over 75 people with albinism have been killed since 2000. Other countries, such as Malawi, Mozambique, Liberia, and Burundi have experienced similar numbers. 20 Malawians with albinism have been killed since 2014. Overall, there are records of over 522 attacks and killings of people with albinism in 28 African nations. Killings of people with albinism have also increased due to the use of the products by politicians. In the 2015 elections in Tanzania, a majority of the

politicians had obtained parts of people with albinism so they could, supposedly, increase their chances of winning. The Tanzanian federal government, before the elections, issued a warning stating that no parliamentary seat will be won as a result of the harvesting of body parts of people with albinism. A Red Cross representative said, "the closer it gets to an election, the more Tanzanians with albinism are killed. There have been cases where some of the killers and the witch doctors have mentioned politicians who are behind them." Furthermore, with high poverty in Africa, much like with elephants and rhinos, many look to the body parts of a person with albinism to gain profit. The OHCHR reported in 2016 that “albino hunters sell an entire human corpse for up to $75,000, while an arm or a leg could fetch about $2,000.” Systems work as such: witch doctors contract out agents who break into homes of people with albinism and either kill or rape the person. The body is then flayed and the parts for sale are brought to the witch doctor. These parts are not only transferred inside countries, but also across borders. In one case in Tanzania, two men broke into the home of four children with albinism at night, locked the parents in their room, and severed the arm of one child with a machete. Currently, these stigmas have not changed and more and more people are looking to albino killing to gain money.

Another large issue with people with albinism is their access to care for their disease. Across Africa, there is a great lack of care for albinism, which has made it difficult for people with albinism to survive. Due to the hot climate and burning sun in Africa, many with albinism deal with the daily pain of sunburn and other skin related issues. Even with protective clothing, many people with albinism receive sunburn. For

many, it is very expensive to purchase products to protect themselves from the sun. In Tanzania, bottles of sunscreen that last two weeks can cost up to $15. With most living on $1.50 a day, it can be nearly impossible to protect themselves. Due to these factors, medical experts say that up to 90% of albinos die before the age of 40 in Africa.

Not only do people with albinism experience persecution, but also exclusion. Due to the stigmas surrounding albinism, many are ostracized by communities and families, and even denied basic human rights, such as the right to health and education. Children with albinism are often abandoned, and whole families have been excluded due to one of the members having the disease. Additionally, children are a easier target for attackers and more often the victims in attacks. Although there is much persecution and exclusion of people with albinism, there are some programs trying to protect them. The organization Under The Same Sun provides a program in Tanzania in which 300 children with albinism are placed in high-quality secure private schools. This allows for children with albinism to have more opportunities, and to be protected. The UN has also created an international Albinism Awareness Day on June 13th. However, these measures are very small and for significant change there needs to be efforts made by African leaders to promote cultural change.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can stigmas about albinism in Africa be broken?
2. Will the economy of nations that persecutes people with albinism be harmed if it is stopped?

3. Is the persecution of people with albinism something that can be solved alone by a nation?

Further Reading:

1. Actions taken by the United Nations to eliminate attacks against people with albinism: https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/AdvisoryCommittee/Pages/AttacksAgainstPersonsWithAlbinism.aspx
2. History of Albinism: http://www.southern-africas-children.org.uk/albino-murders-in-tanzania.html
3. Statistics of the number of people with albinism being killed and the prices of the body parts of people with albinism in Africa: https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2017-march-2018/ending-albino-persecution-africa