SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL
THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT – THE SITUATION IN SYRIA
Model UN Conference in cooperation with Freie Universität Berlin
Istanbul, 11-13 November 2014

The situation in Libya stirred up the ongoing debate on the so called concept of Responsibility to Protect. The concept was introduced in 2001 by the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty and since then has found its way into major documents like the Report by former Secretary-General Kofi Annan "In Larger Freedom" and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document. According to the latter, each State has the "responsibility to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity". Where States are unable or unwilling to assume this responsibility, it shifts to the international community to take collective actions through the UN Security Council to ensure the protection of the population. In the case of Libya, on 17 March 2011 the Security Council established a no-fly zone with Resolution 1973. Five Security Council Members abstained, among them China, the Russian Federation and Germany.

The recent debate over the situation in Syria shows that the concept of the Responsibility to Protect raises many questions: In which cases does it apply? Which are the appropriate measures to be taken? Under which circumstances is a military intervention authorized by the Security Council legitimate?

We like to invite you to a Special Session of the Security Council within the context of 4. International Crime and Punishment Film Festival (www.icapff.com) to discuss these and other issues involving the Responsibility to Protect and the main organ responsible for international peace and security according to the Charter of the United Nations: the Security Council.

You will be asked to represent one of the members of the Security Council or an invited state in a Delegation of 2-3 persons and take an active part in the deliberations and negotiations. Please note that the conference language will be English. With the simulation we hope to deepen your knowledge about the functioning of an international body, various aspects of international diplomacy, negotiation techniques, and also hopefully the roots and causes of the diverging opinions on the subject among UN-Member States.

For your information you will receive a Background Guide in our First Preparatory Meeting on 15 September. It includes an introduction to the United Nations and the Security Council as well as detailed information on the concept of Responsibility to Protect. Since the working of international bodies is tied to certain Rules of Procedure, you will as well find the respective Rules of Procedure of the Security Council. There will be a Rules Training Session on 11 November. All Delegations will be asked to submit a one-page Position Paper on their country's position by 28 October 2014. The Position Papers will be circulated among the Delegations. Information on how to write a Position Paper will also be included in the Background Guide.

Members of the Security Council 2014: Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom, United States.

Invited States: Iraq, Syria, Turkey

Conference Fee: € 35 (for conference material as well as catering during the conference)
Social Programme (Provided by Istanbul University, Faculty of Law Free of Charge):
Bosphorus Boat Tour, Festival Film Tickets

Applications are to be sent via email until 2 September 2014 to Büşra Demiral, Tuba Kelep, Fatma Betül Özdemir via email: iulaw.mun@gmail.com

Your application should include:
- Personal Details (Name, Address, Phone, Email)
- Short CV, including field of studies and number of semesters
- 3 country preferences
- Short letter of motivation

For any question feel free to contact us! Please also consult our website at http://hukuk.istanbul.edu.tr (FU Berlin: www.fu-berlin.de/mun)