

United Nation

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United Nations' 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human rights

In 1985, my grandfather was forcibly taken from his home by Ethiopian soldiers, leaving behind my two-year-old mother and the rest of his family. They were left without a male provider or protector, as women had little power at that time. My grandfather was sent to a United Nations refugee camp in Somalia, far from home, where the UN provided him with refuge. This genocide and cleansing disrupted our entire country, resulting in the destruction of many homes.

A few years later, my mother managed to escape to Kenya in search of protection in a life-or-death situation. Meanwhile, my grandfather was sent to the United States under the protection of the United Nations, which granted him numerous opportunities.

I was born in Nairobi, Kenya, a country marked by poverty and limited opportunities but a place where safety meant seeing another day. I vividly remember seeing men with rifles, whom I was told were either gangsters or human traffickers, ready to kidnap young girls like myself at any chance. My mother taught me not to trust anyone except for the men with the blue UN insignias on their shoulders. At the tender age of six, I learned the profound significance of the United Nations and the UN symbol, which symbolized peace for me. I often saw men with the blue UN symbols walking me and my fellow classmates to school; we felt protected, and this protection allowed us to access greater opportunities.

Many years later, my grandfather was able to secure visas for my mother and me to come to America in pursuit of better opportunities. I'm forever grateful to the United Nations because without this remarkable organization, I wouldn't have the life I enjoy today. I wouldn't have the education or the ability to write this essay as a junior at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, studying business administration with a GPA of 3.9. Without the United Nations, I might have been buried six feet underground. I can testify that the United Nations saved my life, as it has for many others who've undertaken similar journeys.

The United Nations was founded with the noble mission of promoting global equality, freedom, and justice for all. This year, we celebrate the organization's 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a monumental document preserving the principles of equality, freedom, and justice for all. However, it is crucial to critically examine whether the United Nations has genuinely promoted these ideals and propose ways to better implement them by addressing policies that support and reinforce the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While I've had positive experiences with the United Nations, I cannot ignore the ongoing oppression in Palestine. The UN's World Health Organization has been involved in delivering medical supplies to the besieged Gaza Strip through the Rafah border. However, experts suggest that the aid entering Gaza is insufficient for its residents. As we are all aware, Israel controls the border, and according to Al Jazeera, strict military controls delay aid for the Palestinians in desperate need.

"Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person" (Article 3, Universal Declaration of Human Rights). So, why are the people in Palestine denied the right to life?

The United Nations must reinforce the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as these rights are nonexistent in the conflict between Israel and Palestine. While Israel has the right to eliminate the terrorist group Hamas, it should do so without risking the lives of innocent civilians.

The United Nations has the capability to mediate between both countries and to inform Israel that its current actions do not align with the human rights principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A more ethical solution would be to neutralize the terrorist group, similar to the way the United States did with the Al Qaeda. Taking the lives of civilians is not ethical.

"Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association" (Article 20).

I express my gratitude to the United Nations for saving my life and providing me with opportunities that were once unimaginable. I pray that they can also save the lives of the Palestinians and provide them with even greater opportunities than mine.

The United Nations continues to champion the cause of equality, freedom, and justice for all. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, let us not forget the innocent lives at stake in Palestine.