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Human Rights Council #3: The question of human rights violations within re-education and internment camps.

According to international law, interment is the "deprivation of liberty initiated or ordered by the executive branch – not the judiciary – without criminal charges being brought against the internee," most commonly during times of conflict ("Internment", ICRC). Re-education camps are detention facilities designed to politically indoctrinate, socially assimilate, or punish ideological dissidents and minority groups. While not strictly against international law, internment camps often facilitate human rights abuses against detainees, and modern examples are often illegal under international statutes against arbitrary detainment ("About Arbitrary Detention"). The term "internment camp" is often used interchangeably with "concentration camp," and there is little academic consensus distinguishing the terms ("Terminology").

Internment camps, although strongly associated with historical conflicts like World War II, continue to be used. Some scholars and human rights activists argue that the United States' immigration detention facilities constitute internment camps, citing a lack of "guarantees of liberty, due process, judicial review, and equal protection under the law" (McDonald). Reports of poor living conditions and abuse point to potential violations of Geneva Convention IV inside of American immigration detention facilities like Fort Bliss (Gassama). Similarly the European Union Agency for Asylum has warned of the poor conditions and potential human rights abuses inside immigration detention facilities in Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, and Poland ("Conditions in detention facilities").

Re-education camps also present threats to human rights in the modern day. Most prominently, many claim that China has been using re-education camps in the northwestern

province of Xinjiang against Muslim ethnic minorities, mostly Uyghurs. According to a 2025 report from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, half a million people are being held in these detention centers, most of which have not been formally charged ("China's Repression of Uyghurs in Xinjiang"). A report conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner found that China had "specifically restrict[ed] and suppress[ed] practices that are part of the identity and cultural life of persons belonging to Uyghur and other predominantly Muslim minorities," including through the use of detention facilities. The report also supported claims of human rights abuses within these facilities, including allegations of torture, sexual abuse, and inhumane treatment ("OHCHR Assessment").

Russia has also been criticized for its alleged use of internment and re-education camps. The Yale School of Public Health's Humanitarian Research Lab concluded in a 2025 report that "Russia is operating a potentially unprecedented system of large-scale re-education, military training, and dormitory facilities capable of holding tens of thousands of children from Ukraine for long periods of time… in efforts to Russify Ukraine's children" ("Ukraine's Stolen Children"). The kidnapping and re-education of Ukrainian children therefore presents a serious threat to human rights.

Human rights law surrounding the conditions of internment and re-education camps is thorough and complex. The Geneva Convention IV provides detailed rules and regulations concerning conditions and rights of internees. These rights include but are not limited to the right to sufficient food rations, adequate and respectful clothing, quality medical care, religious freedom, intellectual and physical exercise, visits and contact with the exterior, and judicial review ("Internment", Medecins Sans Frontieres). Upon meeting all the conditions of the associated international laws, internment camps are a legal security measure. Detainment in re-

education camps, however, is often due to exercising rights or freedoms guaranteed by articles 7, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and so is considered to be arbitrary detention under international law ("About Arbitrary Detention"). Seeing as international law surrounding the conditions in camps is already well-defined, delegates should focus on solutions to ensure these regulations are being followed while ensuring the security and sovereignty of nations in conflict.

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