SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

JUDICIAL REVIEW

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL LAW
The Complete Law School Experience

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The exhilarating football match played between The Institute of Legal Studies (Islamabad) and the School of International Law exhibited many things, including skill, team-work, and stamina. But the one thing that stood out was school spirit.

There they were: both teams, head to head, ready to face off in a match that everyone deemed intense and crucial. Losing was not an option for our side, but victory would not be accepted if it wasn’t going to be a convincing one.

The first half of the match saw our side seal the fate of the game, with a brilliant two goals scored by our fierce attacking tactics, and aided by our midfielders who didn’t allow the TILS attack to so much as even cross the middle of the pitch. In the (very rare) event that the other team managed to cross over to our side, our defense was a force to be reckoned with. SIL scored twice in this half, and silenced the TILS supporters, not only with their captivating display of football, but also with the overwhelming cheers of support for our team.

But of course, as they say, anything can happen in a game of football, and it isn’t truly over until the last whistle blows. TILS came back on the pitch during the second half, aiming to make some semblance of a comeback after having been injured by the two goals that rocked their net just minutes before. They managed to score a goal in this half (though neither was it convincing, nor skillful), but didn’t have much time to rejoice in this fact, as SIL came back with yet another beautiful show of attacking football to score their third goal.

SIL won the game 3-1, and established the fact that our goal keeper was superior, our strikers, a whirlwind of attack, and our mid-field and defense, an unbreakable wall. A Football victory takes not just skill, but strategy and intelligence, and at the end of the day, there was never really any doubt as to which team had more of those.

But for any spectator sport, it is the spectators themselves that can make or break the spirit of the team playing. The SIL supporters were a machine. One which never ceased to produce an immeasurable amount of cheering and added to fun quotient of what it means to be out there and playing. The level of school spirit shown was overwhelming, and definitely had a lot to do with how well the result turned out.

The victory was convincing. It was definitely convincing. So much so, that the other side was left standing there in disbelief, and let their humiliation get the better of them, as was exhibited by a slight confrontation of sorts between the two teams and their supporters. But as the saying goes, once a victorious unit, always a victorious unit. TILS went home that day having lost, both on and off the pitch.

All in all, it was a good day. Much like mostly every other day spent at SIL.
The football match was much awaited this year. After the amazing win against UCI in the cricket match we were quite ready for another victory. This time the match was against TILS. An awesome team was formed and the whole college anticipated a tight match followed by a glorious victory. The team included Mashhood Hasssan, Bilal Yousaf, Omar Rehman, Suleman Zeb, Nauman Masood, Sher Omer, Ehsan Ejaz, Hamid Fayaz, Ahmed Shah Afridi, Haseeb Iftikhar, Ismail Khan, Raheel Ahmed and Sameeuddin Qureshi. The boys from SIL scheduled practice matches before the actual match, improved on their skills and tactics and were prepared face TILS. The girls of SIL were equally thrilled for the match. They made pom-poms and banners and posters to help them cheer on the team. Two of those epic banners said “Why so serious?!” and “We are loud. We are proud. We are SIL” respectively. Despite the fact that after the match they were trampled upon and mishandled and kind of battered, they were still put up in the common room as a reminder of the amazing match that took place.

Sher Omer started the game really well and showed his confidence on the ground. Our first goal was disallowed as our striker pushed a defender from TILS. After 15 minutes we got a corner, Mashhood took the corner and Sher Omar scored the goal; this showed exceptional team effort and coordination. As the game proceeded, Bilal scored the second goal just before the first half ended. When the second half started SIL’s team had possession of the ball most of the time and they were really into the game despite the fact that they were out of breath and hurt but still determined. TILS scored a goal and the score became 2-1. Right after this SIL team attacked and scored the third goal courtesy of Sher Omar. SIL’s goalkeeper, Nauman also played a tremendous role in the team as he stopped almost 20 goals and proved to be a perfect addition to the team. In the last seconds of the game Suleman Zeb hit a scorcher which was disallowed on grounds that it did not cross the line and this angered SIL. It was apparent that TILS was furious as they were losing the match and even if they denied and disallowed the last goal, SIL would still win.

A few hot words were exchanged and the winning team assembled into the ground to pacify the situation. The whole college was excited, the boys were thanked and their efforts were greatly appreciated. As we headed back to the college the victory was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and pizza. SIL had an amazing time with a remarkable win which I’m sure has left other law colleges scared.
The School of International Law Islamabad organized a lecture on a comparative analysis of perspectives on key gender issues in the Quran through a study of translations and interpretations of the Quran including those most widely read in Pakistan. The guest speaker who gave this lecture was Shazreh Hussain who is a Gender and Development specialist. One of her areas of study was Gender and Islam.

The lecture was well attended by the students of the School of International Law which shows how interested the youth of today are in learning about their religion Islam. The speaker delivered a very interesting lecture on several topics relating to the status of women in Islam. The topics that were covered included questions such as (1) are men and women created equal, (2) Are men superior to women, (3) Is a woman only half a witness?

The seminar enlightened the audience by providing them with facts about what Islam says about the equal status of a man and a woman in Islam by being given different verses from the Holy Quran to nullify the negative propaganda about women in Islam being inferior to men. It was shown how this false image of the status of a woman in Islam is based on misquotations of the various sources of law in Islam, especially the Holy Quran.

The session was a very interactive one and the interest of the students of the School of International Law in the topic being discussed was shown by the fact that a large number of students stayed back after the lecture to ask the lecturer questions on the topic as well as inviting her to visit again in the near future to given another talk.
So one day out of the blue I came up with the idea of playing ‘barf pani’ in university! =P I know its crazy! Thus I gathered everyone. Atiqa, Mariyum, Anisaa & Roqaiya were all ready as were playing badminton before. There were a couple of boys chit chatting in the corner, I decided to ask them as well. One person who agreed at once was none other than *mubarkaaan* [he surely will kill me when he reads this]. After gathering everyone together, I realized I was missing someone and those two were the hunks of SIL, Umar & Shayan. There were two teams, in Umar’s team we had Elman, Hamza Bhai, Raheel, Atiqa & myself: you see all the awesome people in one team! In the other team it was Samee, Shayan, Umar, Mariyum and Aiman. Team awesome won of course. Then we decided to play ‘khokho’ with the same teams and that’s when our own Nazuk Haseena aka Mashhood joined us.

Due to the running skills of Mashhood, the other team won this game. After such a hectic routine and consecutive classes, one needs to relax and have fun. Trust me LLB is no fun’so in all ‘modesty’ all thanks to me that I came up with the idea of playing games in university and revived our childhood days. Raheel thought we were displaying new levels of immaturity but hey that’s his opinion.

However the fun wasn’t confined to these games. The laughing fits and hilarious acts of everyone, extended to the new game P.O.L.O polo S.T.O.P stop. Junno (Hirra Junaid) be the awesome one who managed to make almost everyone burst into hysteric within seconds! Atiqa’s idea: implemented by me & Juno of course, of making people laugh by singing songs proved to a success! Singing ‘kalajora’ made Usman Kazmi laugh out who wasn’t out since 4 rounds! Similarly others such as Umar Saeed and Shayan were knocked out by their singing abilities and clapping music. Eiman Hamdi’s ‘dampukhtkabab’ act however made a lot others laugh but not Zoheb unfortunately who refused to crack a smile THROUGHOUT!

These games have become an essential activity for all the students at SIL! For stress relief and relaxation, nothing better could have helped and alongside making the best memories out of this time to cherish forever.

Yes that is Sir Sikander playing as well :p
Whether it be fund raising for charity schools, or Eid gifts for the women in jails; students from SIL have never missed an opportunity of reaching out to lend a helping hand to those in need. This time round they took a step further when they committed themselves to help uplift those who have been affected by the ongoing menace of terrorism.

Mr. Tahir Wadood Malik, President Terrorism Survivor’s Network, visited SIL recently. He took this great initiative, three years ago after having gone through the agony himself and his organization works to support victims/survivors like him. His hour and a half long talk turned out to be a very moving and emotional session as he sketched, in much detail, the plight of those whose loved ones are lost in such acts of violence. A video based on terrorism survivors from all over the world was the highlight of the evening that brought almost everyone in the audience to tears.

Aside from this, however, the talk was also a great inspiration and a motivation as it guided us as to how can the students be of help to the society in this regard. Mr. Malik provided us with a guideline on how to be watchful of any suspicious activities in our surroundings and how to equip ourselves in order to deal with any emergency situation.

A couple of weeks later, Mr. Malik paid a follow up visit. This time round, the discussion was based more on statistics and researches, in addition to the discussion about legal hindrances faced when prosecuting terrorists.

The SIL family also joined hands with the Terrorism Survivors Network and pledges all sort of assistance required. It has also been planned that the students will work on a case involving prosecution of an alleged terrorist.
“So much to do, such little time.” This quote actually holds true to everything that happens at SIL. It all began when one fine Thursday we were all sitting together laughing and talking, when Samee Qureshi, the Master of Moots walks in with lots of sheets in his hand, announcing that today the Moot Competition teams would be announced. Instantly, the laughter died down and everybody was staring at him, knowing nothing what a Moot was.

As the teams were called out, Samee Qureshi, Maam Rabia Pasha and Suleman Zeb, having won 3rd place at the Henry Dunant Moot Competition, started giving us an overview of what this whole competition was and how it worked. Nonetheless, they left the audience of the common room even more confused than they already were. Having handed out the intimidating sheets of paperwork, including the never ending facts, which were based on Star Wars characters, marking sheet and the rules of the competition, the next task was ours. Basically, the idea was to make memorials for both prosecution and defense for the accused, General Vader, who was being charged with crimes against humanity of not providing fair trial, as well as, unlawful deportation. As easy as it may sound, trust me it wasn’t. Having no idea about the Geneva Conventions, their Additional Protocols and the International Humanitarian Law, the teams sat down to work.

With the Welcome Dinner coming up most of the seniors were busy arranging the function, while the others sat down to make sense of the facts of the case and the work they had to do. One such team was mine. Anam Qureshi and I, having no idea about the whole thing spent a whole day just making sense of the facts and getting acquainted with the Geneva Conventions, while our fellow team members, Shayan Abbas Jafri and Umar Saeed, were busy preparing for the Welcome Dinner. They did however, advocate our case. Spending the whole weekend at the college library, with the members of the other team Nauman Masood and Naba Zehra Rizvi, we worked on the memorials, each of us tired and worked up, we may as well have lost our sanity which led to some pretty hilarious, unforgettable moments. On 12th November 2012, the Moot Competition was held. All the teams worked all night and the next morning to prepare their memorials and submitted them to Maam Rabia and Samee Qureshi. The first teams up against each other were
Nauman Masood, Naba Zehra Rizvi and Roqaiya Sana Abid with Osmaan Khan, Zainab Samantash and Fatahana Shah, judged by our very own Maam Nida for the first half, Maam Rabia and our senior SulemanZeb (although Suleman was not a very likeable person for the next couple of days). Up next were Shayan Abbas Jafri, Umar Saeed, Anam Qureshi and me, and let me tell you this was the only complete team with all four members present and active, against Mashood, Raheel Ahmed and Mashaal Shaukat. All the teams were constantly questioned by Maam Rabia as well as, SulemanZeb, who in his defense was acting as an impartial judge, giving all of us a hard time. For the second half the judges’ panel replaced Maam Nida with Samee Qureshi. When the last case ended, everyone breathed a sigh of relief. When we were told that the results would be announced the next day, everyone rushed home, tired as hell. The next day, to my utter amazement we won the best team as well as the best memorial, and the other team was Nauman’s team, with Roqaiya being the best speaker, Zainab holding second place and Nauman stood third place. The judges appreciated everyone’s efforts, especially congratulating the winning teams. But things like these, they just don’t end. Just when we thought that everything was over, the winning teams were brought back to reality. Having been given the third charge of ‘improper use of the distinctive emblems’ on Saturday, 1st December 2012, with the Final Moot Competition on Monday, the two teams were beating their heads on the walls. Like I said, so little time, so much to do, SIL also had a football match with TILS on Sunday (which we won by the way) and we just didn’t know if we would be able to do this one. But we did. Scared upon hearing that we would be judged by members of the US Embassy, both the teams gave a commendable performance on Monday, 3rd December 2012 at the Final Moot Competition held at SIL. After all, we had to uphold our untarnished reputation. The judges, especially Dilawer Khan who is the senior advisor to the Ambassador of the US Embassy and Robert Raines Deputy Cultural Affairs Officer US Embassy, had the teams confused with their questions or rather cross-questions, but the teams handled it very well. Even Maam Rabia wasn’t easy on her students despite our pleadings before the event. After having an amazing Chinese lunch with personalized mooting cupcakes, the teams waited for over an hour to hear their fate. It was then announced that defense, i.e Nauman’s team won, with Roqaiya being declared as the best speaker.

Although the Moot Competition had everyone worked up, it was in all an interesting experience with a little bit of fun and drama. But then, when is any event complete without any drama or fun? ;)


It’s a fact that those people who talk a lot must go for parliamentary style debating. Those who love to blabber get satisfied by such debates. Well that was supposed to be a joke. Parliamentary debates are debates for smart people who create something out of nothing. You also have to show the presence of mind and rebut the point raised by your opponent. It’s the game of those who talk on the spot.

Ever since I joined SIL, I really wanted to participate in a parliamentary style debate. When I came to university I heard that parliamentary style debates had been scheduled for Thursday before I could even check the notice board.

We were assigned our teams and given the topic, and were given 30 minutes to prepare the debate. TikTokTikTok and the time was over. All the teams were now in the common room and the debate just started. And the opposition raised a number of questions. Both the opposition and proposition teams were really pumped. And both the sides tried to rebut the information raised by each other. The audience was excited and they were tapping the tables again and again.

Debaters on both the sides were doing unbelievable jobs, some were just giving it a first try and some debaters seemed to be very professional. It was a place filled with different kinds of debaters. Humble, aggressive, diplomatic and blunt. But both the sides seemed to be organized and professional. Everybody was trying to give them hundred percent, some were relying on authorities, while the others just blabbered but even their blabbering made a lot of sense.

The speakers were being countered by rebuttals of opposition, but at the same time they were cross-countering it too. And the audience was really enjoying the ways the things were going.

The debate ended, but everybody seemed so pumped up that they could go and talk for hours and hours, and everybody waited for the rebuttals, but everybody was in a good mood and all the debaters kept on talking to each other and then the judges stepped in to announce the judgment. The judges being Ma’am Rabia Pasha and the third year student’s, Suleman Zeb and Osman Khan. And team opposition Maryam Rajper, Anum Qureshi, Zainab Samantash and Nauman Masood won.

But it was an amazing session, everybody loved participating. They enjoyed and took it seriously and took as an opportunity to learn.
The 48th session of the 5th parliamentary year of the incumbent National Assembly of Pakistan was summoned by President of Pakistan Mr. Asif Ali Zardari on the 10th of December, 2012 at 5pm in the Parliament House at Islamabad. The President exercised his power conferred by the Clause (1) of Article 54 of the constitution of Pakistan.

I was privileged to attend this session along with the students of School of International Law. As a student of law I was fascinated and excited to observe the proceedings of the Parliament because of the fact that it is the other pillar of the state that govern rule of law. The session of the National Assembly started at 5pm sharp with the recitation of Holy Quran. The session was presided by Deputy Speaker Mr. Faisal Kareem Kundi in the absence of the Speaker of the house. A resolution was passed by a member of parliament Mrs. Robina Saadat of Pakistan People’s Party to declare Malala Yousufzai as a daughter of Pakistan for being a role model for child education across the globe. She also acknowledged the significant sacrifice made by Malala for the sake of education. This resolution was adopted unanimously by the Parliament in order to highlight the efforts made by Malala for the education of the children especially girls. Other important national issues such as dual nationality of the members of the parliament and construction of Kalabagh Dam were also put forward before the house. The Accountability Bill 2012 was also moved by the Government in the session which was opposed by the opposition and was sent to the review committee on accountability and justice. A notion was also moved by a member of parliament to discuss on the delimitation of constituencies in Karachi.

The 48th session of the house will continue till December 20 and will take up legislative business for passage, a debate on prevailing law and order situation in the country especially in Karachi and other matters of public importance would be taken up for discussion. It was a wonderful experience visiting the National Assembly of Pakistan. Being at SIL, it isn’t possible that you don’t get fruitful experiences in terms of academics and co-curricular activities.
Christmas celebrations and movie night followed by a scrumptious BBQ.

Winters have its own joys, when it changes not only our clothing, but attitude too. The dizziness and cold keeps you nearby a heater all day; only then there is room for celebrations such as a movie night with a Barbeque. This time we got lucky, we heard “jingle bells” quite early even before the Christmas Eve arrived.

Before going on a long winter vacation, SIL arranged Christmas celebrations and a movie night. A movie was to be selected after much awaited voting on facebook. Many of the viewers were afraid of watching a scary movie. Who could these people be? Well you guessed it correct, the “girls”. Finally, a day before the event, a comedy movie got selected and was to be played. On the other hand the Christmas tree was to be decorated with all its decorations like bells, globes and lights. One thing I love about SIL is that there are few people working silently on a given project; fulfilling their tasks and ending up with something amazing, no matter an event, party or even surprise birthdays. Yes at SIL we love to celebrate.

So, the night came when we all had to get ready for the occasion, dressed up in Christmas theme be it yellow, green or red, with Christmas hats to have some real fun. The Christmas tree was looking fabulous in the hall with colorful lights and decorations and it wasn’t just the tree but the whole front hall was glowing with colors, joys and laughter. The glittery decorations around the staircase and the candles were beautifully adorned with ribbons and glitter, placed on the stairs going up to the balcony. Every single detail to the Christmas event was explicitly presented; starting from the tree to lustrous lightning, crystal balls hangings to gleaming multi color stars and Santa toy to candy filled stockings. How can one forget about gifts under the tree all wrapped up in luminous red and green wrappings. This all depicted a picture of the Disneyland where every object is full of color and life.

SIL never forgets any event to celebrate; we did also remember in our happiness the founder of our nation, Quaid –e- Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. With Christmas we also wished him his birthday earlier. A photo frame was hung in the hall for every one’s attention with a note written under in bold type “Happy to you and we LURVE you”. This is no doubt our way of wishing our very own hero of the nation on his Birthday.

The movie was played and it was just as fun as one watch in a cinema with friends. The same laughter and comments on the actors’ funny dialogues, enjoyed with popcorn, other snacks and drinks. It is always fun to watch a movie together with fellows. The movie ended and it was then, the time to the much awaited moment, to stand all together in a hall and wait for the true Santa to come and give us the gifts hidden in the glittery wrappers . One by one everyone was called and given the gifts, it was the most memorable moment when gifts were unwrapped and we shared the secret of our gifts with everyone. Calling cards, key chains, diaries, jewelry and an old CD of romantic songs and what not was wrapped in those fascinating wrapping papers. The truth is every one enjoyed what they received and that was the happiest moment when they all were curious to know what others have received.
After so much of the laughter we all started craving for food as it’s always promised “the best” at SIL. The aroma of freshly made “seekh kabab” and the “chicken” was irresistible. The food was upstairs on the terrace in open air where one could feel the bitter cold and enjoy the barbecue, no doubt the true essence of winter’s fun. Chairs were placed near the bonfire and it was the perfect place to sit, talk and enjoy the delicious food with worth mentioning variety of dessert such as red velvet cupcakes, dark chocolate cake and hot chocolate, put an end to the celebrations with so much of sweet and calories.

These all moments were captured; all the smiles, posses and group photos with the faculty members. Every single and minute detail is preserved at SIL to make it more cherishing and memorable for all the years to come.

Celebrations ended and people wished their friends and teachers, a happy winter vacations. The sight of hugs and wishes gave an impression as if we were going to apart from our family for a long time. Two weeks were a long time to be parted from such a family and Family it is, where we share every happiness and sadness with our fellows. Where our teachers are not only our mentors but our guardians too, this is a dream come true to study in such an institution where you are driven crazy to do your assignments and to complete attendance and yet maximum liberty to enjoy every occasion and an event you ever thought of. This reminds me of the game “aanda(egg) fight” which was played in the end by all the guys with the strange set of rules, still unknown but saw few eating hard boiled eggs to their full and competing with the other participant group.

Lastly, the fun we had to celebrate that night was too much to tell. It is beyond all the words to express such a joy celebrating with fellows and all the faculty members. It was the best present that SIL gave before the beginning of the New Year which hopefully would bring more fun and success to the SIL family.

Insha’Allah.
Labour rights is a very broad issue; however, it essentially boils down to the protection and respect of human life in the workplace and the right to work itself. Some components of labour rights are the rights to job safety, collective bargaining, and equal pay for equal work.

Labour rights vary by country; however the International Labour Organization (ILO) provides universal standards and guidelines. The ILO, a part of the UN, aims to provide guidance and standards for labour practices around the world. One labour issue that the ILO is making progress on is child labour. According to UNICEF an estimated 246 million children are working, and nearly three quarters of those children are working in hazardous places like mines, or working with dangerous tools like machinery and pesticides. A large number of child labourers are girls and are susceptible to sexual exploitation. While most everyone agrees that child labour cannot be condoned, the issue is complex. Impoverished families or parents who are unable to work depend on their children’s income source for survival. The cycle of poverty and its gender-ed implications must be adequately addressed so families can find other means to survive.

When it comes to labour rights for the general population, in many places around the world people have to work in sweatshops that have questionable labour policies in order to make a living. Defenders of sweatshops argue that without the factories, the workers wouldn’t have a job. Labour activists note that a major problem of sweatshops is the awful treatment of workers and the lack of opportunity. Workers deserve respect and safety from harm. There are other labour rights issues that need global attention like bonded labour – people forced to work to pay off debts of ancestors. Other issues include, but are not limited to human trafficking, maternity rights, living wages, working time, gender equality, decent work, and of course, unionization.

A very Happy New Year to Everyone =D