Another issue of our monthly Judicial Review and we have decided to tweak in a few changes. Whilst the campus gossip and happenings will feature as always we felt it was pivotal to add a few articles of current socio-political and legal significance, not only to increase our own awareness of such issues but also to open perhaps a dialogue for healthy debate.

The editorial team would like to clarify that the articles included, express the views of the contributors alone and SIL does not necessarily agree or disagree with any. Here’s to a healthy, open forum for dialogue!

LUMUN IX 2012
(The Committee Sessions, Carnival, Bollywood Dinner, Lahore, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera!)

“Many a trip continues long after movement in time and space have ceased” – John Steinbeck

DAY – 1 (From SIL to LUMS)

We reached Lahore at around 12:30 pm and went straight to LUMS to register our team. After the registration we headed to the sports complex for the opening ceremony where, the Former President of Supreme Court Bar Association of Pakistan, Asma Jahangir was the Speaker. I cannot recollect what her speech was about (also the sound system was really messed up) but as most of the people were clapping from time to time, it must have been good.

There was supposed to be a cultural night, a social event but was canceled not cause of the fog in Lahore but because of the India vs Pakistan cricket match which also has a cultural significance to it. Thus, we were free for the rest of the evening so it was decided through consensus that we should go out and have some coffee/snacks (don’t exactly remember the name of the café but it was something like hot fusion).

After chilling out for awhile, it was time to get back to work hence we headed back to LUMS campus in order to complete our country’s position papers. Once we were done with our research it was around 12:00 am, so everyone retired to their respective dorms and was looking forward to our first day of the LUMUN IX.
DAY – 2

On the first day, before the first committee session, we were to submit the printed copies of our position papers or at least that is what they had planned until a crisis situation popped up (after all we were there for a model UN). Anyway, the crisis was that their printers and printing machines very conveniently decided to go missing, there were many delegates in my committee (but I was certainly not one of them) who were praising the LUMS printing department in the same manner as our general public praises our politicians, Therefore the deadline was extended.

The committee sessions were good; the quality of debates and debaters was impressive to say the least. Some of them were really into their roles as diplomats, like this Delegate of Afghanistan (I seriously thought I was watching a younger version of “Karzai” and he was certainly behaving in the same manner as him). Why I say this is because out of the blue he decided to side with Russia and ditched USA, and history repeats itself in weird ways.

After the last committee session we got to know that the carnival is not that good and its quite boring, and so we decided it was time to go and chill out a bit. Therefore, we went and had sheesha in Lahore (yeah that’s right in Lahore) I would take this opportunity and thank the people who made this sheesha scene possible (names classified due to security issues):

Orochimaru (who was the owner of the sheesha and was kind enough to agree to the sheesha scene), Naruto (who came up with this brilliant idea) and Sarutobi Sensei (for making the smoothest of the sheesha flavor combination).

DAY – 3

This was probably least fun day of LUMUN. We had only two committee sessions, so chilling scene was on for the rest of the day, so our team decided to go and watch Dabang-2.

Later that night….at around 1:30 am we the boyzezz that is to say me, Umer, Raheel, Killer Bee (name classified due to security reasons) and Hamza Bhai decided to go out and have some local lahori food what did we know that we would end up with a local lahori version of sandwich it was surprisingly good. One thing is for sure lahori’s know how to enjoy life and food, I guess for them it is one and the same thing.

DAY – 4

The committee sessions were like really tiring, exhaustive, and troublesome as full time “siyasat” was in the air thanks to the block forming culture of the committee. Anyway the highlight of the was the much anticipated bollywood dinner, which was very nicely described by the honorable delegate of UAE (Specpol) like a “mehndi ka function”.

Anyway the day and the evening passed without any event...Untill...sometime after 12:00am....the Boyzezz brought down the house (metaphorically that is), to say that this night was something special would be an understatement. Briefly summarizing the night...Well we (boyzezz) were all dead tired and were calling it a night when load shedding struck, and Sarutobi Sensei came up with a brilliant idea of having special tea and sheesha. With ghazals in the background now no one wanted to sleep and were enjoying the tea, sheesha and ghazals till late. At around 3:00am our host decided to go to bed, the boyzezz came up with another brilliant idea “hey! Its foggy outside so let’s walk it to liberty market and have tea” it was around 4am in the morning anyway when we came back “ PS3 par gamming scene on the”.

DAY - 5

The last day of LUMUN IX, by now everyone was really tired, we had made 24 working papers (my committee), which was a very troublesome task to begin with but like they say work is work. Anyway as it was the last day so everyone was busy making the final draft resolution, the committee sessions ended and we were asked to proceed to the sports complex for the closing ceremony of LUMUN IX.

Closing statement, I am out of ideas right now)
On a slightly more serious note, Team SIL (for LUMUN IX) was brilliant although we didn’t win the best diplomacy award but I know this for a fact that everyone who represented SIL there made a sincere effort and I guess that’s all there is to it. You see, something’s are worth more than any trophy like the experience, like we started with a bunch of individuals and by helping each other and working together we became a team, A team working their hearts out to win (not for themselves but for their college) and at the end of the day that’s all that matters.

Samee uddin Khan Qureshi

SHAME MARCH.

Dr Qadri who left Lahore with an aim to bring about a revolution in Pakistan failed miserably for a number of reasons. Ignoring Dr Qadri’s suspicious background, this article will only focus on the events that took place during the Long March. The primary reason for it being a SHAME march was the fact that Dr Qadri did not have a solid Charter of Demands, secondly even though Dr. Qadri was basing his agenda upon the Constitution of Pakistan, his own demands were deemed unconstitutional by the senior lawyers of the country. Hence the March from its onset was motiveless.

Last week we saw a group of angry, frustrated Pakistani men, women and children; assemble for 4 days on the D square in Islamabad in hope for a change. In these four days however the poor masses that came from all over the country in this chilly weather gained nothing but a horrifying experience to sleep underneath the bare sky. As a result, the majority of the people present in the March to support Dr. Qadri had to get flu shots. Whereas Dr Qadri who was responsible for assembling this group together was comfortably sitting and addressing the people from his warm and secure bulletproof container. The flu had probably affected the brains of the people present at the March since they seemed happy and delighted once Dr Qadri reached a consensus with the same Government Officials who he referred to as “Yazzed” in his speeches.

According to Dr.Qadri, in order to rule in Pakistan one must only possess the 3Ms, namely “money, might and manipulation” and he exclaimed all the politicians present in the Parliament have these characteristics and this is the only reason why they are ruling. However Dr Qadri seemed to have forgotten that he himself possessed all these yet he failed as a politician and so did his political party Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT). It is also necessary to mention here that apart from the 3Ms, Dr Qadri also possessed an extra special ingredient which is of religion. After talking to the people present in the March I concluded that it was more of a religiously motivated crowd rather than a political one. Dr.Qadri being one of the most renowned and respected personal of his Sunni sect (Deobandis) had managed to attract a decent crowd because of his religious affiliations and not really because of his political motives. A clear proof of my above mentioned assumption is the fact that most of his points in his six-point agenda were already covered in the Constitution of Pakistan and in the rules and regulations of the Election Commission of the country but none of his supporter seem to have knowledge of that. The crowd also agreed with Dr.Qadri when he announced Islamabad Declaration to be their success without realizing that they have gained nothing but suffering in this extreme cold.

Dr.Qadri also stated that policemen had shot his vehicle and entered into his container and they were trying to drive it away. Dr Qadri even showed the bullets that were shot at his container to the cameras. What seemed odd though, when I visited the area near his container I noticed at least 5 cameras of different news channels hovering over it and not even one of them was able to capture this scene? Not even one of them could see any disturbance? If the police officers were caught and brought under control by the Dr.Qadri’s security why were they allowed to run away? What seemed even odder was that despite this attack Dr Qadri agreed for a dialogue with the Government who allegedly planned an attack on him? This to me seems just another story by Dr .Qadri to attract more crowds to the March which was not even close to a million, the figure he alleged it to be comprised of.

In all the speeches Dr .Qadri made, he mentioned again and again how he feels sad for the people of Pakistan, how he feels their sufferings and how his Charter of Demands is the answer to all their problems. With all due respect to the
gentleman all he needs to be told is that if he feels so bad and if he is so sure that he has the solution to all the problems that Pakistani's face all he needs to do is give up his Canadian Nationality and become eligible to contest the elections. I am sure an entire election campaign won't cost him as much as this long march did. Even though it seems money is not a big problem for him but still he could use all this money to help the poor in Pakistan instead of organizing such motive-less marches.

Dr.Qadri even before his long march started, praised the Judiciary of Pakistan and also in his charter of demands added that all Supreme Court judgments should be implemented. And when the SC ordered the arrest of PM Raja Pervez Ashraf he seemed ecstatic and embraced the decision and congratulated the SC. However he completely ignored the SC decision on the same day, which stated that the same Election Commission will conduct the elections. This attitude of Dr.Qadri suggests that maybe if the SC held that this March was unconstitutional and Dr.Qadri must be arrested for jeopardizing the lives of thousands of innocent women and children he would start blaming the SC for everything that has been going wrong in Pakistan.

Even more surprisingly, even though Dr. Qadri did mention that he has no political ambitions many people failed to realize that the second point in the Declaration does give him and his party PAT political recognition. The second point states The treasury benches in complete consensus with Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT) will propose names of two honest and impartial persons for appointment as Caretaker Prime Minister; this clearly gives Dr.Qadri pivotal role in the politics of Pakistan since he gets to nominate the next care taker PM of Pakistan. One must however ask the question that at what point of time did the people of Pakistan choose Dr.Qadri or his party to act on their behalf?

Another very astonishing thing that I noticed in the speeches of Dr Qadri was that how he felt bad for the situation of law and order in Karachi but he never criticized or even mention the political party of Altaf Hussain MQM. This is astonishing because MQM is the party that governs Karachi however Dr Qadri did not feel the need to mention its name whereas he was otherwise not scared to name other parties name and how they have failed in the last 5 years. Was this because of the fear of Altaf Hussain? Was it because he simply forgot to mention MQM? Or was it because he really feels that MQM is doing a good job in Karachi?

Dr.Qadri has proven that using the name of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Pakistan, anyone can attract a group of people to support him and use the sacrifice of those innocent people that include women and children for their own personal benefits. As clearly from the Declaration if anyone has benefitted it's surely Dr.Qadri and its political party. The position of the common man has not been changed and this is why I would like to refer to it as a SHAME MARCH, since this March has exposed the reality of the biggest political parties of Pakistan and the real face of one the biggest religious scholars. And how such political parties and religious leaders fool the people over and over again is just shameful.

Concluding this I would like to congratulate the people who were a part of this SHAME MARCH as their patience and discipline has been witnessed and appreciated throughout the world. I would also like to congratulate the PPP for reaching a consensus with Dr Qadri and staying calm throughout the March and keeping democracy alive in this country for their own benefit. At the end though I would like to warn the people that Islamabad Declaration is not a victory, it is not a revolution, it is merely an example of the fact that how credible the people governing us are. The officials of the present Government did everything they could to defame Dr.Qadri and Dr.Qadri in response did everything he could to insult the officials of the present government. However yet these two were able to shake hands and reach a consensus in the name of democracy and now after one and half month both of them will chose our care taker PM. So be CAREFUL and don't be FOOLED next time!

Nauman Masood  (The views expressed by the author are his alone and do not necessarily represent the views of the Editorial Team)
THE THEATRE WORKSHOP

A theatre workshop was conducted by Fizza Hassan. It was a highly interactive session and the aim of it to give us a new experience by teaching us the importance of dramatics and its benefits thorough experiencing it in a very basic way. She works with a group known as “Theatre walay” that does Art theatre (which isn’t mainstream) and directs, acts and produces herself also. She began with asking us why dramatics was important in general for people and how it could be important for us as training lawyers. Then she followed with a series of exercises which required everyone to participate. These exercises were similar to those which actual theatre groups does as a part of their initial training. All of them were based on primary training of the body, the face and the voice. Three of them dealt with observing and repeating and sometimes even modifying body movements and facial expressions. The group found it a very unusual at first and in the beginning there were a lot of confused and bored faces and most seemed to find it a little too out of their comfort zone. But with time, the silliness of it all loosened people up.

We were then asked to form a human orchestra, in which random people around the room would be picked to make continuous sounds of their choice in harmony with others and with the result of a rhythm echoing around the room, and was, at the least, amusing, with people contributing their own hilarious sounds to it. The series of exercises advanced in detail and requirement as we moved along.

We were then divided into groups of six and were given situations which we had to play out and convey to an audience who had to guess with closed eyes, all through our vocal ability. It was thrilling experience not only because we got something new to try but also because it was amazing to see the ways people choose to portray a situation and how masterfully some situations were done. And the surprised look of pleasant achievement was evident in most faces.

The most insightful exercise for me was when we were asked to pick points in the room and were to walk straight towards it all at once without bumping into each other, while walking in different styles as characters would. The styles ranged from walking with your head leading to walking in mud.
It were probably the closest exercise to characterization we did. It was insightful in the sense that we learnt to appreciate how people of different personalities tend to adopt different walking styles. The improvisations and the laughter it generated was a sight to behold. Our packed common room was overflowing with energy.

We also ended up playing a game which was rather unusual, in which standing in a large circular group we had to look towards the ground and determine one person to look at. We were to then look up when told and if the same person was found looking back at you, both of those players would be eliminated and it would keep on going till the last pair of people were left. The point of it was a little baffling but it was fun nevertheless.

In the end, she shared some of her experiences as an actor and how engrossing an experience it can be to the point of addiction. There was talk of how much effort acting requires and the work that goes into it and of the different methods of character building employed by actors and the steps involved. We are to have a follow up session hopefully with more exercises and feedback.

Overall, it was a good workout and a challenge in itself hence plain old good fun, something we students love to indulge in here at SIL whenever possible.

Roqaiya Sana Abid

The Moot Competition Islamabad at USEFP

Call me a nerd, or a freak, but grabbing the opportunity in seeing my friends is something that I will always do. Proof of this is that I voluntarily enrolled my name as an observer and the official photographer from SIL (yes, I shall brag about it and make my boss proud =p) for the moot competition at United States Education Foundation Pakistan (USEFP), that too during our winter-Break. SIL was represented by Anum Qureshi, Bisma Khan, Osama Chaudhry, Suleiman A. Zeb and Nauman Masood. Things became much more enjoyable when we were joined by ma’am Rabia Pasha, who was the best moral support for the team and with her added cheerfulness we got to spend two most memorable days at the USEFP. SIL’s topic for the moot was of International Dispute and we were to argue as the Defence. The Moot Competition involved participants representing their colleges from all over Pakistan including renowned names such as TILS, UCI, ISL, Roots, Westminster and City. Yeah, it may seem kinda like an intimidating factor and continuing with my “how awesome we are at SIL” I shall refrain myself from the temptation of doing so!

Day 1, Round 1, we were up against the City School team. And one thing I must add here, as an observer, is that they were pretty good and had some points which were quite interesting considering that they were only O/A’ Levels students. The highlight of Round 1 was when the teams got to the rebuttals! It was like both going at it hammer and tongs! That was quite entertaining. The judges did not seem to be much intimidating, unlike our very own *hint*Suleiman*hint* =p but they did end up being biased towards us when they did not allow our last rebuttal probably because the City School team were such younglings. We had our share of fun when we were given a break before the results were to be announced and the team decided to walk to Kausar Market and grab a bite. It was chilly but after the heated rebuttals, I think the weather did not have its effect on us. From the most random-east to the typical how-did-we-perform conversations, we discussed it all! Anyhoo, we landed ourselves in Round 2 with a tie. Yes, you heard me right. But considering the “choti choti khushiyan” of the other team, it was all taken in with good intentions. After the announcement, the teams were then swapped from the positions of previously being defendants to now becoming the petitioners. The teams were also asked to exchange their memorials and prepare their respective cases accordingly. And then we called it a day.
On Day 2, Round 2, and it was very much expected by the awesome me of course, the City School team proved to be younglings by mostly arguing around the same lines as we had done so previously being the Defence team. After presenting our case, and having moments where things would get a little tricky, the team did a superb job by backing each other up in such a time and maybe that’s one of the reason why we made it to the finals. Continuing, we were given a break before the announcement of the Round 2 results, we all decided to go to the supermarket and fill our stomachs since the USEFP...oh well, let’s not go there and make this article controversial since it’s me who will be grabbed by the throat and not you, the readers out there! =p Well, this time the judges were given a good reason to allow us to make it to Round 3 by the team SIL performing magnificently with their arguments and as a team. That being said, yes, we made it to the finals. Round 3 basically was about the teams suggesting reforms and this time they were to present the reforms in front of five judges. Saying that they bombarded us with questions would not be an understatement. We ended up taking nearly 3x the amount of time allowed per team to present the reforms. But seemed as if they had a question for each and every point of reform we had. The topic of our reforms was on Ahmed’s but no matter how controversial this topic may be, there was no limit to the questions thrown at us by the judges. But if they had questions for us, well the team SIL had their answers ready and waiting. There was not one question that the team did not have an answer to even if the judge would try to crack a funny-joke-sorta-question. And to add up, and making a point of SIL team doing brilliantly, the answers that the team SIL gave left the judges with no option than to let the team continue with their suggestions for reforms, which was a good thing and finally ended up in our favor.
Thus we come to the most interesting part of the two days the team spent at USEFP, that’s right, the Award Ceremony. We joined the other teams in the tent a little late, because I did not want to go inside and a few other reasons which shall remain between those who were present there at the moment, sorry! =p Anyhow the team SIL got the table at the far end of the tent but we did not lose on the positive attitude for one second. I do not know what was going around in my team’s head, but I kept the happy thought of “getting the table in the back means that we shall take the award for the best team, for sure!!”. Yes that was my motivating factor. The teams that participated in the event were given their participation certificates while the most prominent of the awards were the Honorary Mentions, Best Speaker, Best Memorial and the much awaited = Best Team. Well we bagged the award for the Best Team and it was one proud moment for all of us!! It was all worth it. The most unforgettable moment for me and I am sure you all would agree, provided that you have seen the ceremony’s pictures, was when the team SIL along with ma’am Rabia, went to the podium to receive the award and the smiles on their faces said it all!!!!

In the ending note, I’d like to thank you all for bearing with me, and no I cannot be held responsible for any statement which might not please you, since I have every right to my opinion even though practically that might not be the case, but for the time being, I shall continue being the awesome me =p. Ta Da!

Mariyum Samar Qureshi

Sectarian Violence

With the amount of importance the people of our country give to religion, we seem to concentrate more on our differences rather than our similarities. This has resulted in widespread and systematic attacks on minorities since the time of the British Raj. The most recent attack to get media coverage has been on the Hazara Shias in Quetta.

On the 10th of January, the Hazara community in Quetta, which is the third largest settlement of the Hazara people outside of Afghanistan, was attacked by Sunnis who detonated a Bomb killing 86 people. Although this is regarded as one of the largest attacks on the group, one must keep in mind that this is not the first time the Hazara community has been attacked.

“Our graveyards have no space left as they have been filled up so very frequently by these terrorist attacks that target our community.”

This genocide has been continuing ever since the Hazara people first settled in the area. With the government and politicians practically ignoring the cries of the people, the families of the deceased protested against the lack of action from the authorities and left the corpses of their loved ones out on the streets refusing to bury them until the government, which has proven to be insensitive to their needs, would allow the army to intervene.

With the government negotiating over what to do (because the decision was clearly a difficult one). Shias and Sunnis from all major cities of the country decided to remember that despite being from different religious sects, they all have one thing in common, and that is that they are Pakistanis. Sit-ins were organized nationwide. Nobody moved from their spot until the government did something about the killing of the minority group.

Apart from just Pakistanis, sit-ins around the world took place in order for justice to finally be served. Reports of sit-ins in Washington DC, Stockholm and even Melbourne were coming in, and eventually the government took action.

The Pakistani government dismissed the provincial government, and the governor of Balochistan is to run the province for two months, along with that the Frontier Corps will take over all areas of law enforcement.
The Hazara living in Quetta have been living under siege for years, and many have had to shut down their businesses in areas considered non-Hazara. Balochistan University’s Quetta campus has seen a drop of Hazara students by 96 percent, and private colleges have seen a drop of 86 percent.

A year ago, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (an armed Sunni group) issued a threat to the Hazara Shias who reside in Quetta stating, “It is our religious duty to kill all Shias, and to cleanse Pakistan of this impure nation... It is our mission in Pakistani that every city, village and other place, every corner be cleansed of the Shia and the Shia Hazara.... And as before in all of Pakistan, especially Quetta, we will continue our successful jihad against the Shia Hazara and Pakistan will become a graveyard for them”.

However it must be kept in mind, that although the most recent attack to gain coverage has been on the Hazara Shias, the other minority groups of this country have also suffered great losses. Ahmedis are forced to hide their religious preferences, the Christian community is regularly ridiculed, and the Hindu community still only has a proposed marriage bill.

Until and unless we are able to look at our similarities and recognize each and everyone in this country as a citizen of Pakistan, and not as a “lesser human being” due to religious differences, such attacks are not going to stop soon.

However, the fact that there were sit-ins all around the nation has been able to bring back some faith in the people of this country. We can see that we all really are equal, and that we all are answerable for our actions. The sit-ins prove that we are on the right track towards a change, albeit a slow and steady one.

Suleman A Zeb