



Disappearances Prisoners of Conscience Torture

Global Studies

Unit 2, Lesson 6

Dr. Chenicek

Your Objectives

Global Studies

Briefing

Disappearances, Prisoners of Conscience, and Torture



Your goals are to learn how to complete these objectives:

- Explain the term "disappearance" and understand why it occurs
- Define "prisoner of conscience"
- Understand the use of torture and how it is defined and prohibited by international law

Having a conscience is a good thing, right? This assignment will reveal ways in which speaking one's mind can lead to terrible human rights violations. Be sure to investigate thoroughly so that you can learn ways to help promote and secure human rights wherever they are violated.

Your Work File

Review your Work File and the links for this lesson

Global Studies

Assignment

Disappearances, Prisoners of Conscience, and Torture

Imagine that one day your mom or dad steps out to the store to pick up a gallon of milk, but never returns. You go out to look for your parent, but there is no sign of him or her. He or she has "disappeared." Think about the loss you would feel and the stress that would accompany never knowing what happened.



You will cover some very difficult topics on this assignment. It is hard to believe people can be so cruel. However, it is important to know about the types of human rights violations that are occurring in the world so that we can act to prevent them.

Use the work file provided to help you organize what you learn as you uncover the necessary information for this assignment. [View work file without downloading file.](#)

- [What is the significance of "night and fog?"](#)
- [What is the psychological impact of disappearances?](#)
- [What is a prisoner of conscience?](#)

“Night and Fog”

Reviewing the lesson

Global Studies

What is the significance of "night and fog?"



Nazi Germany provides an historical example of an official policy for making people "disappear." In December of 1941, in an effort to curb sabotage by the French resistance, Hitler ordered that anyone arrested on suspicion of "endangering German security" was to be transferred to Germany under "cover of night." The order was known as the "Nacht and Nebel" or Night and Fog decree. It was thought to be a great deterrent because the prisoners vanished without a trace and no information was provided about their whereabouts or fate.

Years after WWII, the concept of "night and fog" was implemented on a massive scale in Latin America. Thousands of disappearances occurred there in the 1960s and 1970s, and the victims became known in Spanish as "los desaparecidos," or the "disappeared."

In a typical case, the victim is seized, often at home, by armed men and is transported to an unknown destination. Government authorities deny there has been an arrest, even though the abduction may have been carried out by uniformed police or military personnel in the presence of eyewitnesses. This way, the government does not have to provide a reason for the arrest, charge the victim, or provide an attorney or trial. They simply deny any knowledge of the person's whereabouts or they will claim that they are investigating the issue, when in fact, they do nothing. In some instances, "disappeared" people may be found later in prison, as victims of torture, or are found to have been killed. In many other cases, families are left to wonder what has happened to their loved one and whether they are dead or alive.

Disappearances

Reviewing the lesson

Global Studies

What is the psychological impact of disappearances?



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Research has been done on the psychological impact of "disappearances" on family members. Several stages of response have been identified among family members who experience a relative's "disappearance." First, they go through a stage of tremendous disbelief and inaction, accompanied by fear and guilt that they themselves have somehow been responsible for the "disappearance" or that any attempt to find their loved one may actually endanger that person's life.

The second stage involves family members urgently searching for their loved one, visiting government offices and prisons searching for their family member. In this stage, the family experiences tremendous anxiety about the fate of the "disappeared" one, often resulting in the complete disruption of family life.

Finally, as family members begin to realize that their individual efforts are insufficient, they seek out collective action with others who have experienced "disappearances." In many countries families have formed associations that work to document cases, successfully putting pressure on authorities to release information. They have been able to arouse national and international public opinion about the existence of "disappearance" as a tool of political repression.

Prisoners of Conscience

The Amnesty International link will provide more details about these types of prisoners.

The screenshot shows the Amnesty International website homepage. At the top left is the Amnesty International logo, which includes the text "AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL" and a stylized candle with barbed wire around it. To the right of the logo is a search bar with the text "In your country:" followed by a dropdown menu labeled "Select country", a "GO" button, and a search input field. Further right are links for "FOR MEDIA", "LIBRARY", and "CAMPAIGNS", and language options for "اللغة العربية", "Français", and "Español". Below the search bar are links for "Register" and "Login". A navigation menu below the search bar includes "HOME", "WHO WE ARE", "HOW YOU CAN HELP", "LEARN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS", "NEWS", and "STAY INFORMED". The main content area features a large image of a crowd of people at a protest, with a sign that says "GAME OVER" and a Tunisian flag. Below the image is a yellow banner with the text "RESEARCH" and "TUNISIA IN REVOLT" followed by "Unlawful killings by security forces during anti-government protests" and a right-pointing arrow. To the right of the main content area is a sidebar with the heading "HOW YOU CAN HELP" and three buttons: "Donate", "Join", and "Take Action", each with a right-pointing arrow. Below this is the heading "HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION" and two dropdown menus: "By country" and "By topic", each with a "GO" button.

Remember to check your Rubric

Here is your Rubric

Lesson 6: Disappearances, Prisoners of Conscience, & Torture
Global Studies B Unit 2: Human Rights


Global Studies

Report

Disappearances, Prisoners of Conscience, and Torture

Complete Your Work

- When you are sure you have met the learning goals and each grading requirement of this lesson, complete the **Disappearances, Prisoners of Conscience, and Torture** assessment on the following page.

 [How will you be graded on this assessment?](#)

Are all necessary pages printed and placed in your notebook? Is all work saved on a floppy, zip disk, or CD?

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It's a Quiz!

20 Question Quiz:
Multiple Choice and
True/False
TAKE YOUR TIME



Multiple Choice

1. Amnesty International, a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights, has been criticized for its use of the term "disappearance" because of the following: (5 points)
 - It is an undefined term.
 - It is associated with too much fear.
 - Someone can't actually disappear.
 - It's too painful to not put in quotes.
2. Amnesty International reports the use of torture in how many countries? (5 points)
 - 25
 - 125
 - 150
 - 225
3. A prisoner of conscience is someone who: (5 points)
 - has committed violent acts against his/her government.
 - feels guilty about something he/she has done.
 - has been imprisoned for committing a misdemeanor.
 - has been imprisoned for their thoughts/beliefs.
4. Disappearances occur because of this: (5 points)
 - Poor governments don't have the ability to prevent them.
 - Governments need a way of protecting their countries from the influences of multinational corporations.
 - Governments need ways of silencing opposition groups.
 - Governments take action against serial killers.

Contact Information

- Dr. Chenicek
- Global Studies Instructor
- Florida Virtual School

■ 407-563-1422 office

■ Appointments:

<http://www.flashappointments.com/client/launch.cfm?busId=3322>