



Topic Synopsis

6th Legal: Laws of the Sea/Piracy

I. Background of Topic

Piracy can date back all the way to the 13th Century B. C. with pirates threatening people in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. Piracy is a series of war-like and criminal acts involving people at sea. These acts include robbery and violence such as murders and keeping people hostage. Pirates at sea nowadays are attacking transport vessels, especially around the Red Sea and Indian Ocean near the coast of Somalia. Pirates generally attack small boats and ships shipping goods through small areas of water such as the Strait of Malacca. A recent up roaring involving piracy is when the pirates attacked on the coast of Somalia, which is a popular place for piracy to occur. The treaty on international shipping here has inspired various organizations. Today, piracy is a problem because it is affecting the shipping of goods and the lives of many.

II. U.N. Involvement

The U.N.'s main goal for the laws of the sea and piracy is to ensure that travel at sea is safe and peaceful. An international agreement was issued in 1982 called the Laws of the Sea Convention. This defined what rules, rights, and responsibilities of nation's uses of the oceans. Earlier this year, a plan by the United Nations had been issued to combat the problem of piracy on the Somali Coast. This plan includes ideas on how to



prosecute pirates, especially on the Somali coast. The U.N. encourages nations to cooperate and address piracy and robbery at sea.

III. Possible Solutions

There are various solutions to combat piracy at sea. The first would be to train and equip the police and officials in the areas of high piracy such as Somalia. Gaining strength and stability in the forces on land would decrease the number of pirates going at sea.

IV. Guiding Questions

1. What solutions has your country done/are planning on doing to combat the issue of piracy at sea?
2. What are some of the risks and costs to this solution?
3. Does your country follow and agree with international sea laws?