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Malaysia, Factor: Human rights

Malaysia has always faced terrible human rights

Malaysia is a Southeast Asian country occupying parts of the Malay Peninsula and the island of Borneo. Malaysia has a mix of significant Malay, Chinese, Indian, and European cultural influences. According to britannica.com, the Malaysian flag's origin is "The current version has 14 stripes and a 14-pointed star. Yellow is a royal color in Malaysia, and red, white, and blue indicate the country's close association with the Commonwealth. The flag of the United States also influenced the flag design. The crescent and star symbolize the nation's majority Muslim population". Malaysia doesn't have the best human rights. Some human rights problems in Malaysia include freedom of expression, criminal justice, freedom of speech, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Each of these human rights has a significant effect on Malaysia; one of the primary human rights is freedom of religion. Malaysia has been trying to shift the whole country to one religion, Islamic. There have been many cases of people getting targeted because of the religion that they practice. In 2017 there was an abduction case of a Christian pastor Raymond Koh; 15 men in black masks abducted him. After he was kidnapped, there were three other unexplainable cases of abduction. The Malaysian government speculated that these abductions were all connected. The Malaysian government has taken down statues of winged women in local parks. They have taken these statues down because it was "offensive" to Muslims. In September of 2017, a Turkish author Mustafa Akyol was detained by the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Department. The Federal Territories Islamic Religious Department, also known as MAIWP, was formed on February 1, 1974. According to devex.com, the MAIWP department was made "to safeguard Islamic affairs in the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, which was previously placed under the Selangor state government." They detained him for "giving a talk on Islam without official credentials from religious authorities.". The minister banned Akyol's book and scholarly articles by the G25 organization calling for a more moderate Islam approach.

Sexual orientation and gender identity are very controversial topics in more religious places like Malaysia. Most religions think being a part of LGBTQIA+ is a bad thing and a sin. In Malaysia, sexual orientation can and probably will get someone hurt or even killed. Discrimination against LGBTQ people is very pervasive in Malaysia. Gender identity is also very pervasive in religious countries like Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, etc. Violence against LGBTQ people has become very serious, and one main reason is because of a transgender woman Sameera Krishnan who was murdered because of her gender identity. According to hrw.org, "Numerous laws and regulations attributed to Sharia prohibiting a "man posing as a woman," sexual relations between women, and sexual relations between men effectively criminalize LGBT people." An 18-year old young man T. Nhaveen was raped and murdered because of his physical appearance. They call it "effeminate," which means "having feminine qualities untypical of a man: not manly in appearance or manner." The people that raped and murdered him called him anti-LGBT slurs. After being hit in the head, Naveen was declared brain dead upon arrival at the hospital and remained comatose for six days before passing away on June 15. According to hrw.org, The Health Ministry had heard the protestor's words and "reframed the terms of a youth video competition, removing language and criteria that stigmatized LGBT identities in favor of language that appears to affirm them.". In 2020 the Malaysian government continued to prosecute LGBT+ people. In July 2020, Zulkifli Mohamad, the Minister for Islamic Affairs, published a statement online that gave "full license. This statement made it so the religious authorities can

arrest LGBTQIA+ people. In 2021 these LGBT+ people are still being discriminated against, and no new laws are being pushed.

Freedom of expression has always been a big talk in Malaysia. Prime Minister Najib said at a speech in April 2017 that freedom of expression/speech was "thriving". The Communication and Multimedia Act has been used on multiple occasions to arrest those who talked about the Malaysian government online/ social media. The CMA can put someone in jail for up to a year if they criticize the Malaysian government in any way possible. There have been times when the CMA has tracked down people who have criticized the Malaysian government. One of the times includes when a blogger posted an image showing Najib Razak behind bars. On another occasion, he includes multiple individuals who criticized the former Chief Minister Adenan Satem after his death. In April of 2017, the government "threatened to withdraw the publishing license of Chinese language newspaper Nanyang because it published a satirical cartoon about the debate in parliament on Sharia or Islamic law. The threat was removed after the newspaper withdrew the cartoon and apologized for what they did.

Malaysia's criminal justice system isn't one of the best. Just like the U.S., Malaysia continues to detain people without trial under restrictive laws. The Malaysian jail system is very standard, but according to hrw.org, there are things that people don't know about, like at least one prison inmate died from blunt force injuries likely related to police abuse." According to hrw.org, it stated, "Malaysia retains the death penalty for various crimes, and makes the sentence mandatory for 12 offenses, including drug trafficking". The biggest problem with the Malaysian criminal system is that there are nearly 1,000 people estimated to be on death row, and that was in 2017. The Malaysian government is not transparent about when and how decisions are made to carry out executions. In 2017, at least one prison inmate passed away from blunt force injuries; these injuries were not from other injuries but police abuse. In August of 2020, the federal court declared the mandatory death penalty to be constitutional. Since a global pandemic happened in 2020, people had to follow the new laws so that the virus would not spread. Malaysia was placed under MCO (Movement Control Order) to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, according to amnesty.org, "Prison populations were not significantly reduced despite an outbreak of over 5,000 infections."

Attacks on Human Rights defenders occur very often. These human rights defenders continue to face legal attacks and arbitrary restrictions on their rights. Most of these human rights defenders are LGBT+, and most do not know their laws to protect themselves. In Malaysia, there have been multiple occasions in which people attacked human rights activists. According to hrw.org, it states, "In June, lawyer and human rights defender Siti Kasim was charged with "obstructing a public servant" for challenging officials as they raided a private fundraiser held in April 2016 by members of the transgender community". The government in Malaysia regularly takes various actions to block foreign human rights activists from attending Malaysian events. According to hrw.org, "In June, immigration authorities detained Singaporean activist Han Hui Hui when she attempted to enter the country to attend a human rights event and sent her back to Singapore.". There has also been another report of human rights defenders getting assaulted, including "In July, government officials detained Adilur Rahman Khan, head of the prominent Bangladesh human rights non-governmental organization (NGO) Odhikar." On one occurrence, a defender Siti Kasim who is a known worker for LGBT+ rights and the indigenous population was threatened online with rape, beheading, and many other cruel threats. The Malaysian government did nothing about these malicious threats. Threats like this against human rights defenders usually go unnoticed; it's never brought to public attention.

In 2019 Malaysian food security was ranked #28 out of 113 countries by the Global Security Index. All of the primary foods are available in Malaysia. But one of the main issues connected to food security in Malaysia is that the food is overpriced. Since these food items are overpriced, the supply of food products

in the market has been reduced by a significant amount. The Malaysian population in 2020 was 32.7 million people; the increasing population of humans would increase the demand for food. Since they will need more food, that means more livestock and farming, but the land usually used for agriculture and livestock is diminishing quickly. Over the past couple of years, extreme climate change has made it harder for farmers to produce food. Floods are widespread in Malaysia. At least one flood happens every year during monsoon season—the surge in 2015 valued at around USD 560 million. The flood was such a disaster that it caused food production to drop by 40%. These food security issues are happening because of the growing population and the demand for food. Malaysia cannot afford to produce its food supply due to the floods that occur every year, and they have to rebuild its infrastructure.

A typical urban Malaysian family consists of a married couple with two or three children. The problems that these families face include domestic violence and substance abuse. Domestic violence is prevalent in Malaysian households. In 2000 there were 2,462 reported domestic violence cases; 98% of the cases were women. Another problem that Malay households go through is debt; the ratio significantly rose to 93.3% in December 2020. The previous ratio was in June of 2020 and was 87.5%.

The Malaysian government hasn't done much for the residents of Malaysia. The monarch of Malaysia is Yang di-Pertuan Agong; people refer to him as the "Supreme King of Malaysia." The last prime minister was Najib Razek, the first prime minister to be convicted of corruption, sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, and was fined 21 million Malaysian Ringgit. Razek put Malaysian human rights in such a wrong place the residents were protesting about everything, including LGBTQ+ rights, criminal justice, and immigration laws that Razek had placed. Since Malaysia was bad from 2009-2018, it will take a lot of support and time to make Malaysia a better country for everyone, not just the residents. Hopefully, the newest prime minister of Malaysia, Muhyiddin Yassin, will make Malaysia a better place for people with different beliefs.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is an agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Their goal is to "achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives." They have over 194 member states, and the FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide. The Human Rights Watch's mission is to defend the rights of people worldwide. The HRW investigates abuses, exposes the facts widely, and pressures those with power to respect rights and secure justice. The Human Rights Watch is an "independent and international organization that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all."

These problems usually are always unnoticed or swept under the rug. Since the prime minister of Malaysia has strict laws against what people say about him, it's hard for the natives in Malaysia to speak up and tell the world what is currently happening. As people worldwide, we can learn many ways to support Malaysia and open the world's eyes to the terrible acts and laws of the Malaysian natives. We can quickly spread important information since we have many resource outlets today, including the internet and newspapers. Disseminating information about the significant human rights problems will open the world's eyes to the issues that are never showcased and are constantly swept under the rug.

If the Malaysian government does nothing about their countries' human rights, Malaysia will not be an ideal place to visit and live. These human rights problems need to be brought to the media to get full attention, and the Malaysian government needs to put in new laws that protect the people of Malaysia. From 2017 to 2020, these human rights have been discussed and brought to the media, which has helped a small amount. In 2021 these LGBTQ+ people are still being discriminated against, and no new laws are being pushed to protect them. Malaysia doesn't have the best human rights. The things happening in Malaysia are always swept under the carpet because the prime minister does not like it when someone is not obeying them. We as people need to speak up and learn to use our voices to help these people in Malaysia who have been suffering. Some human rights problems in Malaysia include freedom of expression, criminal justice,

freedom of speech, religion, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Food security has always been a problem in Malaysia since the population is constantly growing, and the demand for food is increasing by a significant amount. The organizations that can help Malaysia and their human rights and food security problems include the Food and Agriculture Organization also known as the FAO. Another organization that can help is Human Rights Watch they are worldwide and help numerous countries with their human rights problems

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