

Speeches

Migration and Human Rights: Deep Globalization and its Consequences

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Thank you very much for nice, kind introduction. I am very honored and pleased to be able to speak in front of you on this important subject. This migration and its possible and real consequences immediately affect our life as well as migrants and then those countries they are from, so I address this issue in my own experiences at United Nations as well as an academic where this migration crisis has started, at least over the last 10 years and then try to locate how we might tackle this issue, especially I might add the migration is a global issue, but it's more focusing on regional issue, focusing on Northeast Asia.

If you recall the turn of the century, 2000-2001, that time was Zenith of Globalization trends in the whole world, and then its symbol was one unified currency in the European Union. They went ahead with United – Unified Currency. This is not the first time for Europe to venture with this scheme. When the Holy Roman Empire tried to use one unified currency about 1000 years ago, it was short lived. Charlemagne, its first inventor tried successfully. But the next generation sons competed with different unified currencies in

terms of content of gold and then so it was very short lived. On the 21st century unified currency experience may not be long, probably in 50 years' time it might degenerate to a certain extent, difficult to keep only the monetary currency integration without backing up by fiscal policy, taxation, and then political sovereignty kind of issues. In 2000-2001 it was a zenith. Amazing people in Europe talked about this Maastricht Treaty as if it had achieved their goal and then it will last many-many years, but in 10 years' time, it's just going down very slowly. This is background. Of course, in the United States – the policy based on the blind belief that America can do anything and can do everything was adopted. It was executed somehow and great amount of money was expended somehow in the 2000. And then somehow a big recession took place in 2008. and that's the whole background of the migration crisis we now confront ourselves today.

And then somehow many civil wars, i.e., domestic conflicts of many kinds have taken place. Its in many places and so massive number of migrants have come out. Some

statistics say 63 million people. Other statistics say 10 million refugees whether this includes internal migrants or not makes difference. The figure expands hugely or can be slimmed to a certain extent, but the number of migrants is amazingly big, amazingly big, and not just war triggered migrants and refugees. Economically induced migrants and potential migrants are huge, so this poses enormous problems for the entire world, and then somehow on the receiving side, along with long-term recessions, demographic decline has been taking shape in many countries, not just OECD countries but also newly emerging countries and many developing countries as well have started to exhibit and manifest demographic decline, year by year going down and many OECD countries plus in China demographic decline has manifested in a very negative way in terms of proper functioning of society. So, it has worked. Demographic decline has worked as an alluring factor for migrants, migrations, and in millions and millions.

Internal migration in China, not just millions but tens of millions, 100 million have been migrating internally in China and then of course regional migrants are also of amazing size. Thailand has been receiving huge migrants from Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, etcetera, and then Malaysia has been accommodating huge migrants from Indonesia and some other countries. Population of Malaysia registers 30 million but its 20% or so are migrants, speaking a similar language, Bahasa Indonesia. In the whole they

accommodate. So amazing migrants. India also-accommodates.

These are amazing things, and then if you look at Africa, how many Chinese reside in African continent, 1 million. What is the number of Japanese residents in Africa? How many? Six thousand. One million only for the last 15 years or 20 years, Chinese have moved into Africa. Amazing. And what about Indian migrants? It has a long history, so 20 million Indians reside in Africa. Thus, Indians call East and Southern Africa near abroad. Amazing number. This is a global phenomenon, but this poses an enormously difficult issue as Professor David Phillips has enabled us to take a glance at some of the problems more deeply.

The issue is simple. Migrants move into a society where they are not so accustomed to and then their aim is quite simple, survival. The affluence, economic survival and then social ascendance somehow, but the thing is that it's difficult. Those accommodating societies tend to reject migrants. President-elect Trump is a best example. They have very difficult voice raised by president-elect from at least migrant's point of view, difficult, but of course, many East Asians hold a very difficult policy.

Japanese government has a policy of accommodating migrants and refugees that you can count with 10 fingers, kind of history. When I was working for the United Nations University, the United Nations High Commissioner's Office for Refugees in Tokyo announced a big news. That was 1995. The

director said Japan has doubled the number of accommodating refugees, but secretly, it was jumped from one to two! Amazing history. It has been improved slowly but steadily. Chinese government is not thinking about accommodating such migrants at all, and South Koreans are not particularly positive about accommodating North Korean refugees. Somehow nationally and internationally we would like to see this issue to be led by the United Nations, UNDP or UNHCR, whatever. Interoperability is absolutely difficult always in the United Nations, but somehow, what I propose is to set up a list of fairly agreed criteria of screening and accommodating so you have to combine generosity and capability of the accommodating societies to accommodate some of the migrants or refugees. Surely enormously generous countries do exist like Jordan, but Japan is not particularly generous, although capability is also again a question mark. So you have to start discussing this issue in terms of accommodating migrants.

Huge, huge increase is just intolerable. What happens is to keep them in limbo at some places, in say Turkey, Greece, or Jordan endlessly or even inside Europe, Germany. In small places as Hungary or Slovakia, this place is no, no, no. For instance, North Korean emergency might as well take place in next 5 or 20 years' time and then Chinese government has already taken caution about this and has started to prepare something around it. That means that Chinese armed forces basically guard the border, along Amnokkan (Yalu) and Tumangan (Tumen) rivers and huge forces now

guard the borders in case to repel illegal migrants, illegal refugees.

Illegal refugees are difficult. But somehow, they still keep coming, and also they have to accommodate. If already two million or more migrants or refugees reside in Chinese lands adjacent to North Korea, so you have to have screening and accommodating center along the border, but that's not easy because criteria are quite not particularly generous or accurate or whatever and then capacities are miserably poor, so you have to set standard or criteria agreed multilaterally somehow. Minimum agreement has to be set up, and then this is not easy, but you have to go in that direction. Chinese government's goal is to set up accommodation housing where up to three million or something like that are to be accommodate. South Korea may have more, but we don't know, and then Japanese government, no particularly concrete plan or preparations for that. Probably they can come with moonlight shinning or no moonlight on the See of Japan or Eastern Sea.

You can come with a very miserably poor primitive boat, so probably one million could come to Japan as migrants probably and to prepare the Japanese people, for that emergency, no concrete plan, no budgetary backup, etcetera, so this is really serious for Japan's survival because illegal migrants have been accumulating very steadily. Japanese migration law is not particularly good at this time of incredibly fast increasing migration, not just Europe but also not just America but even here. Many illegal migrants have been

accumulating and then accommodation is insufficient, therefore, it is accused as injustice. Those migrants also feel this is unjust. And that makes society more difficult for them to live with, the residents, and then residents feel, "Oh, migrants are ill behaving, etcetera, etcetera." So, all these things – I would like to propose basically we have to have a minimum level of multilaterally agreed criteria. Those Trump criteria are not workable, difficult but somehow minimum, to a certain extent justified. Justice must be realized to a certain extent because each national government have very different sense of justice and generosity and then capability.

So, I'm just trying to say that somehow a very practical kind of approach is necessary. Recently, earlier this week, Chicago Council on Global Affairs has published five policy

recommendations relating to migration into 12 states in the Midwest United States, Midwest. The need for migrant labor should focus on healthcare and agriculture, CCGA advices.

This region has affected the outcome of the presidential election extremely seriously and then they proposed certain screening criteria should be defined practically but principled way and then discussion seems to have started on this and then also the capability of the local economy, Midwest economy, should be planned by economists and others, etcetera. So, I just wanted to say migration is too serious a business for anybody, for politicians, bureaucrats, or academics or journalists to handle alone. We have to start discussing internationally, regionally, nationally, and locally. Thank you very much.