Examination paper for GEOG3516 - Humanitarianism: Theory and Practice

Academic contact during examination: Cathrine Brun
Phone / mail: 99690588 / Cathrine.brun@svt.ntnu.no

Examination period: Spring 2015, from 4th May (09:00) to 11th May (Before 12:00 (noon))

Credits: 7.5
Grades to be announced on: 1st June 2015

Other information: Please read the instructions on page 2.

Language: English
Number of pages: 3
Number of pages enclosed: 2
Home exam GEOG 3516 Humanitarianism: theory and practice spring 2015

The exam question will be sent to you at 09.00 (am) on the 4th May.

The exam should be submitted before 12.00 (noon) on the 11th May.

When submitting the document, please do the following:

To maintain anonymity of each candidate, please send an email with your exam paper attached as a pdf-file to geoeksamen@svt.ntnu.no at the Department of Geography.

- On the first page of the document: Write your candidate number and the number of words (and please remember to insert page numbers in the document)
- When saving the document, give it the following name: “GEOG3516 Home exam, [your candidate number]"
- When sending the document write the following in the subject line: “GEOG3516 Home exam, [your candidate number]"

The administration staff will save the document and delete your email so that no-one can trace your name attached to the document. They will also send you a confirmation mail.

It will not be acceptable to submit the exam paper too late. If you should have any problems in meeting the deadline, you must get in touch with the department, but generally late submissions will not be accepted.

The exam paper should be between 3500 words and 4500 words, references, figures and tables come in addition. Remember to refer to sources and literature used according to academically accepted standards. You can, for example, follow the guidelines distributed on the It’s learning pages for this course

During the exam, you cannot receive any supervision from staff in the department, but if you have questions regarding the question of the exam and formalities, please contact Cathrine Brun. She may not be available on email in the last hours before the submission deadline so any questions should come before this last day. If there are any last minute issues regarding the submission, please contact Per Ivar Chutko (phone 47645086).

Good luck with your writing!
Humanitarianism is a field abundant with dilemmas between theory and practice. The current crisis in Yemen is a telling example as the attached news item suggests. In the paper, please define the nature of humanitarianism and discuss the relevance of the principles of humanitarianism in contemporary conflicts. What are the main pitfalls for humanitarian actors engaging in a conflict-setting and how should humanitarian actors deal with dilemmas to minimize the risk of doing harm?

Attachment:
NGOs Decry Dire Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen | Al Jazeera America

world /topics/topic/international-location /middle-east/yemen.html) entered its seventh day on Wednesday, international organizations and relief agencies expressed alarm (http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/31/un-expresses-alarm-over-civilian-casualties-in-yemen.html) at the rising number of civilian deaths, many of them children, and the increasingly dire humanitarian crisis unfolding.

“The attacks on hospitals and medical facilities by warring factions as well as the deliberate targeting and destruction of private homes, education facilities and basic infrastructure cannot be tolerated," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and EU humanitarian aid commissioner Christos Stylianides said in a joint statement.

The ICRC said on Tuesday that the Saudi-led coalition had prevented it from delivering much-needed medical supplies to affected civilian areas.

Underscoring the dangers Yemeni civilians face, an explosion at a dairy facility near the city of Hodeidah on Wednesday killed at least 25 people, according to medical sources who spoke to Reuters. Conflicting reports have pinned the blame on both coalition airstrikes and Houthi rebels.

Since the airstrikes began last Thursday, more than 100 civilians, including at least 62 children, have been killed, medical officials said.

“Children are in desperate need of protection, and all parties to the conflict should do all in their power to keep children safe,” said Juliane Henns, a Yemen representative for UNICEF.

Leila Zerrougui, the special representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, said on Tuesday: “I am alarmed by the rising number of child casualties in Yemen ... We cannot tolerate seeing them victims of this conflict.”

Humanitarian groups say that Yemen is at least partially under a blockade at the moment due to the fighting and that desperately needed supplies are not reaching their destination.

“MSF [Doctors Without Borders] is currently unable to deploy additional emergency medical staff to Yemen, where they are badly needed,” said Dr. Greg Elder, director of operations for the organization. “We urgently need to find ways to get humanitarian relief and personnel inside the country.”
NGOs Decry Dire Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

by Aden residents officials say.html

The conflict is also taking its toll on access to food. Yemen is one of the most food insecure countries in the world, with over 40 percent of its inhabitants dependent on food aid, and more than 90 percent of its total food coming from imports.

Now, many food relief organizations and workers are reporting that the fighting is threatening those supplies. The U.N.’s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) told Reuters on Wednesday that existing stocks are at risk of not being replenished.

“Although government sources reported sufficient stocks to last the country about six months, the conflict will likely negatively impact distribution, market availability and prices of foodstuffs sooner than earlier expected,” Salah ElHajj Hassan, FAO’s representative in Yemen, told Reuters on Wednesday.

Though political in nature, the fighting between Houthis and Hadi loyalists and allies seemed to be taking on an increasingly sectarian element as a result of the foreign intervention (http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/3/30/saudi-led-yemen-intervention-threatens-protracted-sectarian-war.html).

The Houthis, who adhere to the Zaydi branch of Shia Islam, are viewed by Saudi Arabia and other Sunni Arab countries as an extension of Shia Iranian influence in the region, but the extent of Iranian support is disputed.

Iran has denied providing weapons and training to Houthis, but confirmed on Tuesday that it sent shipments of food, medicine and other aid to rebel-controlled areas.

The Saudi-led coalition has pledged to press on with its military campaign until its goals are met, but it was unclear whether airstrikes alone would suffice. Despite the bombings, Houthi fighters pressed ahead on Wednesday into Aden.

According to Agence-France Presse, Riyadh Yassin, the foreign minister for Yemen’s internationally recognized government, said on Wednesday that “at some stage airstrikes will be ine
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