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No Space for Further Burials

In the novel, “No Space For Further Burials” by Feryal Ali Gauhar. Characters throughout the novel are suffering from human rights abuses constantly. The right to life, liberty, and personal security, freedom from torture and degrading treatment, right to adequate living standards, right to equality, and freedom from discrimination are all human rights abuses that affect these characters. Even though they are but through all the harsh conditions, they are still able to live their lives in a positive way.

To begin, in september of 2002, a U.S army technician, that was on a recce mission, was taken by afghan rebels and thrown into asylum with a few others. the U.S army technician and others are affected by the human right, right to life, liberty, personal security, because they are put into an asylum compound and forced to live in that compound together, opposed to living in a regular village with family, friends, there own home and have the security they are entitled to. They are not aloud out of the compound because they are different than society. They each live in their own cell, just like a prison, women and men are in separate separate quarters of the compound, “ He was pulling me toward the cell where the only female inmates of this asylum were housed” (Gauhar 34).

Thirdly, they are abused of the right to adequate living standards. This is because they live in dirty cells, have dirty clothes, dirty blankets and have no showers to clean . They deserve/ have the right to have all these things but instead the aren’t aloud to because the people with holding them in the asylum don’t give them any rights. They have no access to clean supplies to clean their only pair of clothes and they are washed very few times. When they are washed, they don't get any soap to clean any bacteria off them, they only washed with lice-killing solution and have to air out there dirty blankets, “even airing out the dirty blankets and dousing the inmates with lice-killing solution every so often” (Gauhar 20). Also their cells are only cleaned every so often due to there only being a few janitors that tried to clean.“There was a doctor,... and a few janitors who tried to keep the place clean” (Gauhar 19).

The people in the asylum compound are suffering from the right to freedom from torture and degrading treatment. They aren’t necessarily tortured but are forced to dig holes for graves where the taliban buried the dead bodies from the war, “perhaps the graves we have been digging are not deep enough” (Gauhar 28). They are also forced to make bricks to repair the wall after the compound had been attacked, they only have a certain amount of time to do it. They have no freedom to whatever they please or they get killed if they don't do what's asked of them. One day three men were asked for their shoes, scuffed pieces of leather and rubber to be handed over and they refused, so they were killed. “Three men were killed, their bodies dumped in the well. Their crime? They resisted the soldiers who wanted their shoes-broken… and rubber that cost them their lives” (Gauhar 54).

Lastly, all the others in the asylum compound are treated differently than outsiders in other villages. The others in the compound are either forgotten and unwanted refugees and derelicts, disabled and different, so therefore the taliban throw them in these compounds to discriminate them. This abuses the rights, right to equality, they people in the compound should not be treated differently than others just because they are refugees, disabled or different, etc. Also the right, freedom from from discrimination, they are in that asylum compound because they are discriminated, by other people and the taliban for being different than the so called “normal society”, where as they are actually normal just like anyone else.

In Conclusion, all characters are affected by human rights abuses throughout the book and are still able to survive the harsh living conditions they are put through, throughout the whole novel. Even though they many rights are broken. They still live their lives like their one little society.