United Nations Special Procedures

FACTS AND FIGURES
2011

Communications · Country visits · Coordination and joint activities
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INTRODUCTION

The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all sets of rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. Their independence, impartiality and flexibility enable the Special Procedures to play a critical role in promoting and protecting human rights. The experts deal with situations wherever they may occur in the world, including in the context of crises and emergencies. As the most directly accessible mechanism of the international human rights machinery, they interact regularly with human rights defenders and actual and potential victims of human rights violations.

With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Special Procedures undertake country visits; act on individual cases and concerns of a broader, structural nature by sending communications to States in which they bring alleged violations to their attention; conduct thematic studies and convene expert consultations; develop international human rights standards; engage in advocacy; raise public awareness; and provide advice and support for technical cooperation.

Special Procedures report annually to the Human Rights Council; the majority of the mandates also report to the General Assembly.

Effective follow-up to Special Procedures’ recommendations is linked to cooperation and support by States. To enhance protection and promotion, and encourage cooperation and follow-up, Special Procedures engage with a wide variety of interlocutors: Governments, other international and regional human rights bodies, United Nations entities, national human rights institutions, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.

At the end of 2011, there were 45 Special Procedures (35 thematic mandates and 10 mandates relating to countries or territories) with 66 mandate-holders. Three country mandates and three thematic mandates were established in 2011: Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d’Ivoire, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence, and Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

The Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups serve in their personal capacities and undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith. They are not United Nations staff members and do not receive financial remuneration.

The OHCHR supports all mandates of the system of Special Procedures and its Coordination Committee. The Office provides thematic, fact-finding, policy, legal and methodological expertise, research and analysis, documentation, and assists with logistical and administrative matters.
# LIST OF MANDATES AND MANDATE-HOLDERS

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<td><strong>Country mandates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi (Nepal) since May 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d’Ivoire</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Mr. Doudou Diene (Senegal) since November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Mr. Marzuki Darusman (Indonesia) since August 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Mr. Michel Forst (France) since June 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Mr. Ahmed Shaheed (Maldives) since August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar</td>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana (Argentina) since May 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Mr. Richard Falk (United States of America) since May 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia</td>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Mr. Shamsul Bari (Bangladesh) since May 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan</td>
<td>2005 (SR) 2009 (IE)</td>
<td>Mr. Mohamed Chande Othman (Tanzania) since October 2009 (resigned in 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>To be appointed at the end of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thematic mandates</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Ms. Raquel Rolnik (Brazil) since May 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group of experts on people of African descent</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Ms. Mirjana Najcevska (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), since November 2008</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ms. Monorama Biswas (Bangladesh), since November 2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Mireille Fanon- Mendes-France (France) since May 2011</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Maya Sahli (Algeria) since August 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Verene Shepherd (Jamaica) since April 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working Group on arbitrary detention</td>
<td>1991</td>
<td>Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow (Senegal), Chair-Rapporteur, since May 2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali (Pakistan), Vice-Chair, since August 2008</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine) since May 2010</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Mads Andenas (Norway) since August 2009</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Roberto Garreton (Chile) since May 2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Ms. Najat Maalla M’jid (Morocco) since May 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Ms. Farida Shaheed (Pakistan) since November 2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Appointed by the 19th HRC session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the right to education</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Mr. Kishore Singh (India) since August 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Years</td>
<td>Name and Location</td>
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| Working Group on **enforced or involuntary disappearances**                                                                                                                                         | 1980                | Mr. Jeremy Sarkin (South Africa), Chair-Rapporteur, since May 2008  
Mr. Ariel Dulitzy (Argentina/USA) since August 2010  
Mr. Olivier de Frouville (France) since November 2008  
Ms. Jasmina Dzumhur (Bosnia and Herzegovina) since May 2010  
Mr. Osman El-Hajje (Lebanon) since August 2009 |
| Special Rapporteur on **extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions**                                                                                                                           | 1982                | Mr. Christof Heyns (South Africa) since August 2010 |
| Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty                                                                                                                             | 1998                | Ms. Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona (Chile) since May 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur on the right to food                                                                                                                                                    | 2000                | Mr. Olivier De Schutter (Belgium) since May 2008 |
| Independent Expert on foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights | 2000                | Mr. Cephas Lumina (Zambia) since May 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association                                                                                                           | 2010                | Mr. Maina Kiai (Kenya) since May 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression                                                                                           | 1993                | Mr. Frank William La Rue Lewy (Guatemala) since August 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief                                                                                                                                                | 1986                | Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt (Germany) since August 2010 |
| Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health                                                                     | 2002                | Mr. Anand Grover (India) since August 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders                                                                                                                                     | 2000                | Ms. Margaret Sekaggya (Uganda) since May 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers                                                                                                                                      | 1994                | Ms. Gabriela Knaul (Brazil) since June 2009 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples                                                                                               | 2001                | Mr. James Anaya (United States of America) since May 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur / Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons                                                                               | 2004                | Mr. Chaloka Beyani (Zambia) since November 2010 |
| Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity                                                                                                                                    | 2005                | Ms. Virginia Dandan (Philippines) since August 2011 |
| Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination                                                 | 2005                | Ms. Faiza Patel (Pakistan), Chair-Rapporteur, since August 2010  
Ms. Patricia Arias (Chile), since August 2011  
Ms. Elzbieta Karska (Poland) since August 2011  
Mr. Anton Katz (South Africa) since August 2011  
Mr. Gabor Rona (USA/Hungary) since August 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants                                                                                                                                                | 1999                | Mr. François Crépeau (Canada) since August 2011 |
| Independent Expert on minority issues                                                                                                                                                              | 2005                | Ms. Rita Izsak (Hungary) since August 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence                                                                                                  | 2011                | Appointed at the 19th HRC session |
| Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance                                                                                   | 1993                | Mr. Mutuma Ruteere (Kenya) since November 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences                                                                                                         | 2007                | Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia) since May 2008 |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism                                                                             | 2005                | Mr. Ben Emmerson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) since August 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment                                                                                                        | 1985                | Mr. Juan Ernesto Méndez (Argentina) since November 2010 |
| Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and waste | 1995 | Mr. Calin Georgescu (Romania) since August 2010 |
| Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children | 2004 | Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (Nigeria) since August 2008 |
| Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises | 2005 (discontinued in 2011) | Mr. John Ruggie from July 2005 to June 2011 |
| Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises | 2011 | Mr. Michael K. Addo (Ghana) since November 2011, Mr. Puvan Selvanathan (Malaysia) since November 2011, Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Federation) since November 2011, Ms. Alexandra Guaqueta (Colombia/USA) since November 2011, Ms. Margaret Jungk (USA) since November 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences | 1994 | Ms. Rashida Manjoo (South Africa) since August 2009 |
| Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation | 2008 | Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (Portugal) since November 2009 |
| Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice | 2010 | Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana (Indonesia), Chair-Rapporteur, since May 2011, Ms. Emna Aouij (Tunisia) since May 2011, Ms. Mercedes Barquet (Mexico) since May 2011, Ms. Frances Raday (Israel/United Kingdom) since May 2011, Ms. Eleonora Zielinska (Poland), since May 2011 |

For the current list of, and contact information for, Special Procedures mandates, please visit:

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/themes.htm
DEVELOPMENTS IN 2011

New mandates

In March 2011, the Human Rights Council established one new country mandate: Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Special Rapporteur was appointed at the 17th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2011.

In September 2011, the Human Rights Council established two thematic mandates: Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence and Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order. The Special Rapporteur and the Independent Expert will be appointed at the 19th session of the Human Rights Council in March 2012.

The Special Rapporteur is mandated to, inter alia, gather relevant information on national situations; to identify, exchange and promote good practices and lessons learned; to make recommendations concerning, inter alia, judicial and non-judicial measures when designing and implementing strategies, policies and measures for addressing gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law; to conduct country visits; to participate in and contribute to relevant international conferences and events with the aim of promoting a systematic and coherent approach on issues pertaining to the mandate; and to raise awareness concerning the value of a systematic and coherent approach when dealing with gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, and to make recommendations in this regard (see HRC resolution 18/7 for full details).

The Independent Expert is mandated to, inter alia, identify possible obstacles to the promotion and protection of a democratic and equitable international order; to identify best practices in the promotion and protection of a democratic and equitable international order at the local, national, regional and international levels; to raise awareness concerning the importance of promoting and protecting of a democratic and equitable international order; to work in cooperation with States in order to foster the adoption of measures at the local, national, regional and international levels aimed at the promotion and protection of a democratic and equitable international order; and to support the strengthening and promoting of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world (see HRC resolution 18/6 for full details).

At its 18th special session in December 2011, the Human Rights Council decided to establish the mandate of Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic once the mandate of the commission of inquiry ends. The Special Rapporteur will be mandated to monitor the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic as well as the implementation of the recommendations made by the commission of inquiry addressed to the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic and of the resolutions of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (see HRC resolution S-18/1 for full details).

Country Visits and Standing Invitations

In 2011, Special Procedures conducted 82 country visits to 60 States. India, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar,
Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Thailand and Tunisia extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures, bringing the total of such invitations to 90 by the end of December 2011. More details in a separate section below.

Communications report

The first communications report of Special Procedures was presented to the 18th session of the Human Rights Council, containing all communications, including urgent appeals and allegation letters to States from 1 December 2010 to 31 May 2011, and the full responses of States received between 1 February and 31 July 2011. Given the significant percentage of joint communications (75%), the decision to issue this communications report was taken to avoid duplication of communications being published in individual mandate-holders’ reports. The report reduced considerably the number of individual reports presented to the Council and reduced related printing costs, as well as document processing costs by about 75%.

Standard-setting

Special Procedures continued to contribute to the development of international human rights law. For example, the members of the Working Group on the use of Mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination participated as resource persons in the open-ended intergovernmental working group (IGWG) held from 23 to 27 May 2011 to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework, including, inter alia, the option of elaborating a legally binding instrument on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies (PMSCs), including their accountability, taking into consideration the principles, main elements and draft text as proposed by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries. The Working Group has proposed a list of elements that could be included in a convention on PMSCs and has developed a draft text for such a convention. The first session of the IGWG was attended by representatives of 70 member States, as well as the African Union and the European Union and various non-governmental organizations. A majority of the relevant stakeholders agreed on the need for regulation of PMSCs. Discussions will continue at the second session of the IGWG in 2012.

In 2011, OHCHR organized a series of expert workshops on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred. The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression, and the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance participated in these expert workshops and presented four joint submissions. The purpose of these series of expert workshops was to analyse the legislative patterns, judicial practices and national policies on incitement to hatred in Europe, Africa, Asia-Pacific and the Americas. In the course of the four expert workshops, participants studied various ways in which the international prohibition of incitement to hatred has been implemented at the national and regional levels and how this accords with international human rights law.

The 2011 report to the General Assembly on solitary confinement of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment contributes to the development of international standards regarding the practice of solitary confinement. In his report, the Special Rapporteur addresses the definition of solitary confinement and more importantly, the definition of prolonged solitary confinement and defines prolonged solitary confinement as any period of solitary confinement in excess of 15 days. He concludes that depending on the specific reason for its application, conditions, length, effects and other circumstances, solitary confinement can amount to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The report of the Special Rapporteur also highlights a number of general principles as well as internal and external safeguards to help to guide States to re-evaluate and minimize the use of solitary confinement and, in certain cases, abolish the use of solitary confinement.

The Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights has redrafted his Guidelines on Foreign Debt and Human Rights to be presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2012, following a process of consultation involving four regional consultations in 2010 and 2011, and an expert meeting in Geneva. The Guidelines are mainly directed to States, but also aim at influencing the way international financial institutions, development agencies and private corporations do business.

The Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food finalized, after an extensive consultation process with multiple stakeholders (including other HR mechanisms) his Guiding Principles on Human Rights Impact Assessments of Trade and Investment Agreements, which were submitted to the Human Rights Council in a report to be discussed in March 2012. During 2011, the Special Rapporteur on Right to Food participated actively in the preparation, by the FAO Committee on World Food Security of Voluntary Guidelines for the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land which - after a lengthy multi-stakeholder consultation and intergovernmental negotiation process - may be adopted in March 2012. The Special Rapporteur built on the report he presented to the General Assembly in October 2010, on access to land and the right to food, and at the 37th meeting of CFS, in October 2010, made a presentation on “Achieving the Right to Food: from Global Governance to National Implementation”.

Thematic Reports and Studies

In 2011, Special Procedures submitted 136 reports to the Human Rights Council, including 62 country visit reports, and 26 reports to the General Assembly. Some
reports and thematic studies received considerable attention from States, civil society and the media.

As an example, the 2011 report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food on Agro-ecology and the Right to Food (A/HRC/16/49) attracted substantial interest from Member States, the UN system, NGOs, academia and the media, particularly in light of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Durban, South Africa in November and the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012.

The 2011 report of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living on Post-conflict and Post-disaster Reconstruction and the Right to Adequate Housing (A/HRC/16/42) was well received by relevant actors in the humanitarian sector, as this marked the first time that post-disaster and post-conflict housing reconstruction was addressed substantively from a human rights perspective. In this connection, the Special Rapporteur undertook a working visit to Haiti, which provided an illustrative case on the importance of utilizing a human rights-based approach to housing reconstruction in post-disaster and post-conflict settings. The Haiti visit consolidated the Special Rapporteur’s work in this area and triggered considerable support from international and local actors, particularly in the humanitarian sector, as well as the UN system.

A listing of all reports and studies submitted by Special Procedures to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly is included below.

Special procedures & Universal Periodic Review

The universal periodic review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council continued to give visibility to the Special Procedures. In 2011, seven States extended standing invitations as a direct result of their review during the first cycle of the UPR (Algeria, India, Japan, Madagascar, Panama, Thailand and Rwanda). Five official country visits by the Special Procedures’ thematic mandate holders in 2011 took place in connection with the UPR. Such visits have contributed to a more effective follow-up to the recommendations of Special Procedures and the UPR and have also led to thematic reports that will be relevant to the UPR second cycle.

Eighteenth Annual Meeting of Special Procedures mandate-holders

The eighteenth annual meeting of special procedures was held from 27 June to 1 July 2011. Mandate holders held exchanges with States, the President of the HRC and the Facilitator of the Council review segment on special procedures, and the High Commissioner. Discussions were also held with participants in the twelfth Inter-Committee Meeting of treaty bodies, and representatives of United Nations entities, OHCHR field presences, representatives of NGOs and national human rights institutions.

Discussion focused on the independence of the special procedures, harmonization of working methods, the outcome of the HRC review and measures to enhance special procedures’ engagement with various stakeholders in order to strengthen their effectiveness. The meeting stressed the importance of increasing regular and extra-budgetary resources for special procedures. They noted the appointment of sixteen new mandate holders during the fifteenth, sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the HRC, welcomed new mandate holders participating in the annual meeting for the first time, and paid tribute to outgoing mandate holders.

Participants elected Ms. Farida Shaheed as Chair of the eighteenth annual meeting and of the Coordination Committee. Mr. Michel Forst was elected Rapporteur of the meeting and a member of the Coordination Committee. Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana, Mr. Juan Mendez and Mr. Jeremy Sarkin were also endorsed as members of the Committee. Ms. Najat Maalla M’jid, as former Chair remained an ex officio member during the year.

The report of the eighteenth Annual Meeting was submitted to the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council of September 2011 (A/HRC/18/41).

For further information on the annual meeting of Special Procedures:
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/meeting.htm

Coordination Committee

The Coordination Committee of Special Procedures continued its work to harmonize Special Procedures working methods. It continued to make itself available, through its internal advisory procedure on practices and working methods, as well as informally, to all those who might wish to bring issues to its attention in relation to working methods and the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The Coordination Committee participated during the special sessions of the Human Rights Council and video messages on behalf of the mandate holders were delivered highlighting collective concern over the events in Libya and Syria. The Coordination Committee and the OHCHR also provided induction sessions to new mandate holders in 2011.

For further information on the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures:
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/ccspecialprocedures.htm

Minority Forum

The Fourth Forum on Minority Issues took place in Geneva from 29 to 30 November 2011. The Forum was organized under the guidance of the Independent Expert on minority issues, Ms. Rita Izsák. The topic of the
Forum was "Guaranteeing the rights of minority women". The Independent Expert on minority issues delivered an opening statement through a video message. Around 400 participants attended the Forum, with some 60 Member States represented. The Forum is widely considered to be a model for achieving significant participation of individuals and concerned communities in the work of the Human Rights Council. The Forum made thematic recommendations to national, regional and local governments, national human rights institutions, civil society, the United Nations system and human rights mechanisms, and the media, aimed at increasing the role of minority women within the State while enabling them to maintain their own identity and characteristics, thus promoting the good governance and integrity of the State. The report of the Forum containing the recommendations was submitted to the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2012 (A/HRC/19/71).

International Year for People of African Descent

In the context of the commemoration of the International Year for People of African Descent in 2011, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance contributed to promoting a greater knowledge of the diverse heritage and culture of people of African descent, and to raise international awareness of the challenges they continue to face in relation to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The Special Rapporteur participated in a number of activities including the thematic discussions on people of African descent held by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, and was a key panellist of the High level thematic debate held in New York on 6 December 2011 to close the International Year for People of African descent.

Database of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

During its 20th Anniversary Commemorative Event in Paris on 14 November 2011, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention launched a database aiming at eradicating practices of arbitrary deprivation of liberty. The database is available for free in English, French and Spanish at www.unwgadatabase.com. It contains over 600 Opinions adopted since the establishment of the Working Group in 1991. The database allows users to search the Working Group’s materials by thematic issues, legal provisions, States, date of adoption, etc. The database provides a practical tool for victims, lawyers and academics in preparing and submitting cases of alleged arbitrary deprivation of liberty to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

Digest on Freedom of Religion or Belief

On the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, a key reference e-book was launched in Geneva with observations and recommendations by the four mandate holders who have served since 1986. By making the analytical information publicly available, the Digest is designed for various stakeholders, including academics, civil society organizations and religious communities, as a tool for advocacy, education and research.

High-level panel on reprisals

On 21 October 2011, the Special Procedures Branch organized a high-level panel discussion on "Stopping reprisals for cooperating with the UN in the field of human rights – a priority for all" on the margins of the General Assembly in New York. Among the participants were the United Nations Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, the Chair of the Board of the International Service for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and the former Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions.
Most Special Procedures intervene directly with Governments through communications on specific allegations of human rights violations that fall within their mandates. These communications can relate to a human rights violation that has already occurred, is ongoing, or which has a high risk of taking place. Communications may be sent in relation to individuals or groups of individuals, or focus on domestic legislation, policies, programmes or other measures affecting individuals or groups in a particular country or territory. In general, a letter is sent to the concerned State, or in some cases to third parties, such as international organizations or multinational corporations, requesting information on the allegation and calling for preventive or investigative action.

The decision to intervene is at the discretion of the special procedure mandate-holder and depends on criteria established by the mandate, as well as criteria laid out in the Code of Conduct adopted by the Human Rights Council (Resolution 5/2). These criteria include the reliability of the source and the credibility of information; the details provided; and the scope of the mandate. Communications must not be politically motivated, abusive or based solely on media reports. Further information is frequently requested from sources, i.e. individuals, groups or organizations that submit information to the Special Procedures. Mandates may send joint communications when the case falls within the scope of more than one mandate.

Communications will usually take the form of either urgent appeals (UA) or letters of allegation (AL). Urgent appeals are used to communicate information about time-sensitive violations that involve loss of life, life-threatening situations or imminent or on-going damage of a grave nature. The intention is to ensure that the appropriate State authorities are informed as quickly as possible of the circumstances so that they can intervene to end or prevent an alleged human rights violation. Letters of allegation are used to communicate information about violations that are alleged to have occurred or are not urgent, and whose impact on the alleged victim(s) can no longer be changed through immediate intervention. Other letters usually contain requests for information, without any allegation of violations.

In the past, Special Procedures mandates submitted to the Human Rights Council, on an annual basis, individual reports on their communications with States. As of September 2011, joint communications reports are submitted by all concerned mandates to the Council at each of its sessions.

In 2011, 605 Communications were sent to 124 States. 74.9% of all communications were sent jointly by more than one mandate. Communications covered at least 1298 individuals, 15.6% of whom were women. Governments replied to 44.9% of communications sent between 1 January and 31 December 2011, and 18.8% of communications were followed-up by mandate-holders. The OHCHR’s Special Procedures Branch Quick Response Desk coordinates communications and keeps relevant databases updated.

For more info:
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/docs/communicationsbrochure_en.pdf

Communications by type 2011

Communications by sex 2011
Communications and follow-up by type of communications 2011

Communications and follow-up by region 2011
Communications and Government replies received in 2011
(States to which more than six communications were sent)

- Australia
- Bahrain
- Bangladesh
- Belarus
- Brazil
- Cambodia
- China (People's Republic of)
- Colombia
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- India
- Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Iraq
- Israel
- Libya
- Malawi
- Malaysia
- Morocco
- Mexico
- Pakistan
- Russian Federation
- Saudi Arabia
- Sri Lanka
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Uganda
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America
- Zimbabwe

Government replies received in 2011
Communications sent in 2011
COUNTRY VISITS

Mandate-holders carry out country visits to investigate the situation of human rights on the ground. Visit requests are communicated to Governments and, if the Government agrees, an invitation is extended and dates are agreed. Standing invitations facilitate country visits.

The number of country visits has increased significantly over the last years, from 48 visits to 38 States and territories in 2006, to 82 visits to 60 States and territories in 2011. 61 percent of all visits in 2011 were undertaken to States that had not issued standing invitations, and 39 percent of all visits were to States that had issued standing invitations.

During missions, the experts assess, from the point of view of their mandates, the general human rights situation in the country, as well as the specific institutional, legal, judicial, policy and administrative framework and de facto conditions. They meet with national and local authorities, including members of the judiciary and parliamentarians; members of national human rights institutions, if applicable; non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and victims of human rights violations; the United Nations and other inter-governmental agencies; and the media when giving a press conference at the end of the mission. After their visits, mandate-holders submit a report to the Human Rights Council containing their findings and recommendations.

Ms. Gulnara Shahinian, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, at a follow-up workshop in Ecuador

The visit of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of indigenous peoples provides an example of the impact Special Procedures visits can have on improving the protection of human rights in a country. On 30 December 2010, the National Assembly of the Republic of Congo passed a law on indigenous peoples, following approval by the Senate. This took place after a visit to the country by the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in November 2010, during which he stressed the importance of the adoption of the law. In a public statement following the passage of the law, the Special Rapporteur noted that it marks a significant step in recognizing and protecting the rights of marginalized indigenous peoples of the country, including groups such as the Baaka, Mbendjele, Mikaya, Luma, Gyeli, Twa and Babongo, which collectively have been known as Pygmies. This law is the first of its kind on the African Continent, providing an important example of a good practice for the recognition and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. The Special Rapporteur dedicated a significant part of his report (released in 2011) to providing an overview of the measures needed to implement the law on indigenous peoples.

Alphabetical tables of country visits by Special Procedures mandate-holders since 1998 and a list of all countries having extended standing invitations to all thematic procedures are available at the following link: http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countryvisitsa-e.htm

Mr. James Anaya, Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, during a visit to Argentina
### Standing Invitations

The following 90 countries had extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures as of 31 December 2011. Countries that extended standing invitations during 2011 are marked with an asterisk (*).

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### Follow-up to Special Procedures recommendations

- **Follow-up visits to countries:** In May 2011, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance conducted a follow-up visit to Hungary, and the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism conducted a follow-up visit to Tunisia to assess inter alia progress made in the implementation of recommendations issued during earlier country visits.

- **Follow-up reports:** The Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions submitted follow-up reports to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of recommendations made by the previous mandate holder following his visits to the Afghanistan, Kenya and the United States of America, and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances submitted a follow-up report on the implementation of recommendations following their visits to Guatemala and Honduras.

- **The Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment held his first regional consultation in Chile in June 2011 for countries in the Americas and the Caribbean to follow-up on the implementation of recommendations from country visits previously undertaken in the region.

- **OHCHR field presences and United Nations country teams have worked in collaboration with States and mandate holders to support the activities of Special Procedures and the implementation of their recommendations. For example, UN human rights staff working in the field have started making use of the Guiding Principles on Human Rights Impact Assessments of Trade and Investment Agreements, developed by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, in their own work to advise governments engaging in the negotiation of bilateral trade agreements, and the revised Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters developed by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons have been used by relevant stakeholders for operational guidance in the field, and as a key reference and training tool for situations relating to natural disasters.

- **Following a recommendation by the Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, the Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP), co-chaired by UNICEF and WHO and which includes the key UN agencies involved in the monitoring of the MDGs related to water and sanitation, has committed to incorporating human rights standards into the indicators developed for the post-2015 MDG framework. In this context, the JMP has established various working groups, and the Special Rapporteur is the chair of the working group on equality and non-discrimination.**
POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

Afghanistan: In a joint urgent appeal sent to the Government of Afghanistan on 14 January 2011, the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions, the Independent Expert on Minority Issues, the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Special Rapporteur on Torture expressed concern about the detention of two Christian converts. In the first case, it was feared that the suspected person would face a death penalty on charges of apostasy. In the second, the case was dismissed, but the person remained in detention. The communication remained without an official response, but information received indicated that the two individuals were released.

Australia: Following the recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons especially women and children, at the end of her December 2011 visit to Australia, the Australian Labour Party announced in their 2011 ALP National Conference, that they would support the appointment of an Ambassador for Human Trafficking.

Bolivia: On 27 September 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples issued an urgent warning about the situation of growing social tensions in Bolivia generated by the march of about 1,500 indigenous people against the construction of a highway through the indigenous territory and national park Isiboro Secure (TIPNIS). The Special Rapporteur called for the initiation, as soon as possible, of a process of good faith consultation with the indigenous peoples affected, in order to find a peaceful solution to this situation and address the underlying problems related to the construction of the road through the TIPNIS reserve. Subsequently, and following dialogues with indigenous representatives, the Government of Bolivia announced its plan to revise project plans so that the highway would not pass through the TIPNIS reserve.

Finland: In an urgent appeal of 28 September 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples expressed concern about the alleged imminent slaughter of reindeer in the Nellim Area, Finland. Land for grazing in Finland is limited and the State regulates the number of reindeer that can graze in a certain area. The Ivalo cooperative in Nellim district, made up of both Sami and non-Sami reindeer herders, planned to force four Sami herders to conduct a slaughter of their reindeer in late-September 2011. Sami herders were targeted because they have, over the years, slaughtered fewer reindeer than other herders. However, the decision of the Ivalo cooperative did not take into account the fact that Sami must maintain larger herds because of their traditional nomadic herding practices, which are different from the practices of non-Sami reindeer herders, who keep their animals fenced in. The UN Human Rights Committee also contacted the Government of Finland and requested that no slaughter of reindeer be conducted while the case is being considered by Committee. Subsequently, Finland announced that it had agreed to this interim measure.

Islamic Republic of Iran: In an urgent appeal sent to the Islamic Republic of Iran on 25 November 2010, the Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions expressed concern about the imminent execution of a woman sentenced to death on the charge of “enmity against God” and called on the Government to take all necessary measures to prevent her execution. While no official response had been received, it was reported that her death sentence was commuted.

Mauritius: During the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and further to the Special Rapporteur’s encouragement in this regard, Mauritius decided on 6 May 2011 to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The ratification was deposited to the UN Office of Legal Affairs on 14 June 2011.

Panama: On 15 February 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples issued an urgent appeal and a press release expressing concern about the growing tensions during protests by indigenous peoples in Panama. The protests related to discussions surrounding and approval by the Panamanian National Assembly of Bill N. 277 to amend the Law on Mineral Resources. These demonstrations had resulted in clashes with security forces in which several people were injured and arrested. In light of this situation, the Special Rapporteur stressed the importance of initiating, without delay, a good faith dialogue with indigenous peoples, in order to find a peaceful solution to this tense situation and address the underlying problems related to the
proposed amendments to the Law on Mineral Resources. Subsequently the Government of Panama decided to not move forward with the proposed amendments to the Law on Mineral Resources, in light of the concerns expressed by indigenous peoples.

**Slovenia:** In September 2011, the Government of the Republic of Slovenia agreed to establish a new water connection to Dobruška vas (Škocjan municipality) allowing a number of Roma families to gain direct access to safe drinking water. The Special Rapporteur on the Human Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation had made specific recommendations to this effect at the conclusion of her visit to Slovenia in May 2010.

**Timor Leste:** In the context of the proposed 2012 State budget, the national parliament of Timor-Leste debated the preliminary recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights at the conclusion of her visit in November, calling for increased public expenditure on social services given the steady decrease in the percentage of public expenditures in this area, as well as in agriculture. At the time of the visit, the projected 2012 budget of $1.8 billion had allocated 6.3 per cent to education, less than 3 per cent to health and about 1 per cent to agriculture (compared to nearly 50 per cent to infrastructure). The final 2012 budget, as adopted by the parliament, allocated a nearly 47 per cent increase to health, 35 per cent increase to education and approximately 21 per cent increase to agriculture and fisheries.

**Tunisia:** In order to abolish the practice of secret detention and strengthen independent domestic and international monitoring mechanisms over domestic detention facilities in Tunisia, one of the recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism during his follow up visit to Tunisia in May 2011 was the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. On 29 June 2011, one month after the follow-up visit, Tunisia acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. In the same month, Tunisia also acceded to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

**United Arab Emirates:** On 26 April 2011, five men were detained in the United Arab Emirates for insulting senior officials on an online political forum which campaigned for democratic reforms. Allegedly, they were facing ill-treatment and violations of the right to a fair trial. The Special Procedures mandate holders on the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, Freedom of Opinion and Expression, Arbitrary Detention, Human Rights Defenders and Torture sent a joint urgent appeal on 27 September 2011 referring to the obligations to respect freedom of expression and due process. On 25 November 2011, prior to the final hearing of 27 November, Special Procedures mandate-holders sent a follow-up communication in the light of updated information highlighting further concerns vis-a-vis the respect of fair trial guarantees. On 27 November 2011, a state security court sentenced the five activists to prison terms up to three years. However, on that same day, a presidential pardon was issued and the men were released at the occasion of the UAE national day (2 December). The communication of the Special Procedures in relation to the detained may have constituted a timely reminder of the responsibility of the State to respect international human rights standards.

**United States of America:** On 10 May 2011, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples together with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief and the Independent Expert in the Field of Cultural Rights sent an urgent appeal to the Government of the United States of America regarding the alleged imminent destruction of an indigenous ceremonial and burial site Sogorea Te, located in Glen Cove, in the City of Vallejo, California. Following the urgent appeal sent, the Yocha Dehe and Cortina tribes negotiated a cultural easement and settlement agreement with the City of Vallejo and the Greater Vallejo Recreation District. The cultural easement guarantees that the Yocha Dehe and Cortina tribes will have legal oversight in all activities taking place on the sacred burial grounds of Sogorea Te/Glen Cove.
Special Procedures report on their activities to United Nations bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Some reports were presented to other bodies, e.g. the Special Rapporteur on violence against women reports orally to the Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2011, Special Procedures mandates submitted 136 reports to the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council and 26 reports to the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly. The reports included 62 reports on country visits.

Annual reports provide an overview of the work of the mandate as a whole and focus attention on particular human rights issues or conceptual or legal developments that mandate-holders wish to highlight.

Recommendations may include the mandate-holder’s suggestions on ways to enhance his or her capacity to fulfill the mandate.

To find reports of the Special Procedures to the Human Rights Council please visit:
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/AnnualreportsHRC.aspx

Reports to the General Assembly are accessible at:
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/GAReports.aspx

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Left: The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Margaret Sekagya, at a press conference at the end of her visit to Honduras

Right: 20th Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Commemorative Event in Paris (14 November 2011)
PUBLIC STATEMENTS / NEWS RELEASES

In appropriate situations, including those of grave concern or in which a Government has repeatedly failed to provide a substantive response to communications, Special Procedures issue public statements or hold a press conference, either individually or jointly with other mandates.

In 2011, Special Procedures issued 270 news releases and public statements, including 30 statements issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

News releases listed below can be accessed in full by following the respective hyperlink.

**List of news releases and public statements issued in 2011**

- **UN EXPERTS ALARMED AT CONTINUED DETENTION OF VENEZUELAN JUDGE AFIFUNI**
  27 December 2011
  [English - Spanish]

- **CHINA: UN EXPERTS DENOUNCE SECRET DETENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER GAO ZHISHENG**
  23 December 2011
  [English - Chinese]

- **CANADA / ATTAWAPISKAT FIRST NATION: STATEMENT BY THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**
  20 December 2011

- **2011: TESTING TO THE LIMIT THE CAPACITY FOR INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY**
  19 December 2011

- **ISRAEL/OPT: UN EXPERT CALLS FOR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION FOR MINORITY VIEWS AND DISSENTING OPINIONS**
  19 December 2011

- **PARAGUAY: EXPERTA DE LA ONU PIDE UNA SOCIEDAD MAS EQUITATIVA Y SOLIDARIA PARA ENFRENTAR LA EXTREMA POBREZA**
  19 December 2011

- **FOR INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY, SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2011 DIGNITY HAS NO NATIONALITY (JOINT STATEMENT BY UN EXPERTS* TO MARK INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY)**
  16 December 2011

- **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: UN EXPERT CONCLUDES VISIT TO SOMALIA**
  16 December 2011

- **WTO DEFENDING AN OUTDATED VISION OF FOOD SECURITY - UN FOOD EXPERT, OLIVIER DE SCHUTTER**
  16 December 2011

- **SOMALIA: UN EXPERT URGES INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**
  16 December 2011

- **UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE PRESENTS PRELIMINARY FINDINGS ON HIS COUNTRY VISIT TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**
  14 December 2011
  [English - Russian]

- **KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE CALLS FOR AN END TO IMPUNITY**
  14 December 2011

- **UN EXPERT URGES JERSEY TO CURB ‘VULTURE FUNDS’ ABILITY TO SUE HEAVILY INDEBTED POOR COUNTRIES IN ITS COURTS**
  13 December 2011

- **ALBANIA: UN EXPERT URGES FURTHER PROTECTION FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALBANIAN AND FOREIGN MIGRANTS**
  13 December 2011

- **ELECTORAL CAPACITY GAPS STILL REMAIN IN CAMBODIA, WARNS UNITED NATIONS EXPERT**
  9 December 2011

- **ARGENTINA: EXPERTO DE LA ONU URGE A MEJORAR LA SITUACIÓN DE LOS PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS**
  8 December 2011

- **CLIMATE FINANCE SHOULD NOT ADD TO DEBT BURDENS OF POOR COUNTRIES, SAYS UNITED NATIONS EXPERT IN DURBAN**
  8 December 2011

- **PRIMERA MISIÓN A PARAGUAY DE EXPERTA DE LA ONU EN POBREZA EXTREMA**
  8 December 2011

- **MALAYSIA: NEW BILL THREATENS RIGHT TO PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY WITH ARBITRARY AND DISPROPORTIONAL RESTRICTIONS**
  7 December 2011

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CATARINA DE ALBUQUERQUE, UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON THE RIGHT TO WATER AND SANITATION: STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY, 2011
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UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON HAITI: “IMPUNITY MUST END”
25 February 2011

MYANMAR’S HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS ARE AFFECTING OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, WARNS UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR
24 February 2011

“CRITICISM IS NOT A CRIME,” SAYS UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CAMBODIA
24 February 2011

UN RIGHTS EXPERT URGES SOLOMON ISLANDS TO BREAK DEPENDENCY ON FOREIGN AID
22 February 2011

UN EXPERTS TO LIBYA: “STOP THE MASSACRE”
22 February 2011

UN EXPERT TO STUDY UNITED STATES’ ROLE AS LEADER IN FOREIGN AID TO WATER AND SANITATION PROJECTS
21 February 2011

BAHRAIN/LIBYA: UN EXPERTS URGE AUTHORITIES TO GUARANTEE RIGHT TO PROTEST WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING INJURED OR KILLED
18 February 2011

HAITI/HUMAN RIGHTS: FOLLOW-UP MISSION BY UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT MICHEL FORST
17 February 2011

[French version]
EGYPT: “TRANSITION PROCESS SHOULD NOT OVERSHADOW ACCOUNTABILITY”– UN EXPERTS
17 February 2011

UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES CONCLUDES VISIT TO TIMOR-LESTE
14 February 2011

PANAMA: EXPERTO DE LA ONU LLAMA AL DIALOGO ANTE PROTESTAS INDÍGENAS CONTRA LA REFORMA DE LA Ley MINERA
13 de febrero de 2011

A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH NEEDED FOR AUSTRALIA’S DEVELOPMENT AID PROGRAMMES - UN EXPERT
11 February 2011

UN EXPERT TO EXPLORE FOREIGN DEBT-HUMAN RIGHTS LINK IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
10 February 2011

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR RETURNS TO CAMBODIA
9 February 2011

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: UN EXPERT ON FOREIGN DEBT AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO VISIT AUSTRALIA
4 February 2011

PREMIERE MISSION EN NOUVELLE CALEDONIE DU RAPPORTEUR SPÉCIAL SUR LES DROITS DES PEUPLES AUTOCHTONES
4 February 2011

SOUTH AFRICA: UN EXPERT CALLS FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS
3 February 2011

GOVERNMENTS MUST PAY MORE ATTENTION TO PEOPLE’S VOICES - UN EXPERTS
3 February 2011

UN WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES IN FIRST MISSION TO TIMOR-LESTE
2 February 2011

BURUNDI: UN EXPERT URGES GOVERNMENT TO PRESS AHEAD WITH THE NEW INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2 February 2011

[French version]
END OF MISSION STATEMENT - 1 FEBRUARY 2011, UN MIGRANTS RIGHTS EXPERT PRAISES SOUTH AFRICA AS A MODEL FOR THE CONTINENT AND ALSO STRESSES THE NEED TO INCREASE PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS
2 February 2011

UN EXPERTS CALL FOR A MORATORIUM ON DEATH PENALTY IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
2 February 2011

UN EXPERT ON DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA HIGHLIGHTS PLIGHT OF ABDUCTEES
28 January 2011

FIRST VISIT TO RWANDA BY A UN EXPERT ON MINORITY EXPERTS
28 January 2011

IRELAND/CRISIS: ‘PUT PEOPLE AT THE CENTRE OF POLICY MEASURES,’ SAYS UN EXPERT ON EXTREME POVERTY
21 January 2011

FIRST MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA BY A UN EXPERT ON MIGRANTS
21 January 2011

INDIA: “SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IS BEING CONTRACTED,” WARNS UN EXPERT ON HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS
21 January 2011

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: UN EXPERT LAUNCHES FACT-FINDING VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES
21 January 2011

UN EXPERT ON DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA LAUNCHES MISSION TO JAPAN
20 January 2011

HAITI / JEAN-CLAUDE DUVALIER: “JUSTICE MUST TAKE ITS COURSE”, SAYS UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT
19 January 2011

[French version]
SENÉGAL AND EDUCATION: UN EXPERT SAYS, “QUALITY MUST BE ENSURED AS CHILDREN ARRIVE TO SCHOOL.”
14 January 2011

[French version]
ILLEGAL ACTS BY ISRAELI AUTHORITIES ON THE RISE IN THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK SAYS UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT
14 January 2011

LE RAPPORTEUR SPÉCIAL SUR LE DROIT À L’ÉDUCATION EFFECTUE UNE MISSION AU SÉNÉGAL
10 janvier 2011

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: UN EXPERT LAUNCHES FACT-FINDING MISSION TO INDIA
10 January 2011

IRELAND/POVERTY: FIRST MISSION BY A UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT IN OVER A DECADE
6 January 2011
In 2011, with OHCHR’s support, Special Procedures:

- carried out 82 country visits to 60 countries.
- sent 605 communications to 124 States – 74.9 percent as joint communications by two or more mandates. Communications covered at least 1298 individuals and numerous groups of individuals. 109 communications concerned women. As of 31 December, States had responded to 44.9 percent of communications sent between 1 January 2011 and 31 December 2011. Mandates followed up on 18.8 % of their communications.

(The present statistics do not include data from the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances due to the use of different statistics. For further information about WGEID activities, please see the WGEID webpage: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disappearances/Pages/DisappearancesIndex.aspx)

- submitted 136 reports to the Human Rights Council, including 62 country visit reports, and 26 reports to the General Assembly.
- issued 270 public statements; including 30 statements jointly by two or more mandates.
- integrated, with the support of the OHCHR and their Coordination Committee, 23 new Special Procedures mandate-holders into the system.
- 90 States had extended a standing invitation to Special Procedures as of 31 December 2011. During 2011 India, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Thailand and Tunisia joined the growing number of States that have issued a standing invitation to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council.
- The Coordination Committee provided advice on working methods.

For further information, please visit the OHCHR website:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm

For specific queries relating to individual mandates, please send messages to the generic e-mail addresses listed at:

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Countries.aspx

To stay informed about the work of special procedures and other United Nations human rights mechanisms you can subscribe to weekly e-mail news bulletins at:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/form.htm

How to send information on alleged human rights violations to Special Procedures:

Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR
c/o OHCHR-UNOG
8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 917 90 06
E-mail: urgent-action@ohchr.org

Note: The above-mentioned e-mail address should be used only to communicate information on alleged violations. Due to the large amount of information received by special procedures and related capacity constraints, receipt of information will be acknowledged only if such information is taken up by the special procedures in the context of communications and if further information is required from the source to ensure follow-up.

Further instructions for submitting information related to alleged human rights violations are available at:

http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Communications.aspx