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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 rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. As of 1 October 2013, there are 51 Special Procedures (37 thematic mandates and 14 mandates relating to countries or territories) with currently 72 mandate-holders.

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