

JUSTICE AROUND THE WORLD: HUMAN RIGHTS & HUMAN WRONGS



GUINEA: CONAKRY MASSACRE



In the Friday, Oct. 2, 2009 file photo, a Guinean policeman stands guard beside the bodies of people killed during an opposition rally in Conakry, Guinea on Monday, Sept. 28, 2009. A U.S.-based human rights group says the Sept. 28 massacre by Guinean troops of at least 150 people and the rapes of dozens of women in a pro-democracy rally in Guinea were premeditated, and that rapes of kidnapped women continued for days. (AP Photo/Schalk van Zuydam)

On September 28, 2009, several hundred members of Guinea's security forces burst into a stadium in Guinea's capital, Conakry, and opened fire on tens of thousands of opposition supporters peacefully gathered there. By late afternoon, at least 150 Guineans lay dead or dying, and dozens of women had suffered brutal sexual violence, including individual and gang rape.

In February 2010, a domestic panel of judges was appointed to investigate the September 28, 2009 crimes. The panel has made a number of important strides, including interviewing more than 300 victims, Human Rights Watch said. Four years after the crimes, the investigation has yet to be concluded, and lack of political and financial support is a major challenge.

(Human Rights Watch)

HUMAN RIGHTS

The freedoms, immunities, and benefits that, according to modern values... all human beings should be able to claim as a matter of right in the society in which they live.

Black's Law Dictionary (Bryan A. Garner, editor in chief, 9th ed., West/Thomson Reuters, 2009)

COLUMBIA: VICTIMS LAW

Since 1985, abuses and violence associated with Colombia's internal armed conflict have driven more than 4.8 million Colombians from their homes, generating the world's largest population of internally displaced people.

Abuses targeting displaced families for trying to return home almost always go unpunished, as do the original crimes of forcing them off their land and stealing it.

Human Rights Watch documented multiple cases of killings of displaced land claimants and leaders, threats against them, as well as cases of new displacement in which restitution claimants fled their homes yet again because of abuses related to their efforts to reclaim land, or similar activities.

(Human Rights Watch)



In this photo taken June 22, 2011, Julia Torres sits out a ransom in a neighbor's home at La Alameda, Colombia. Torres' husband was killed while trying to reclaim La Alameda, of which 52 families were dispossessed a decade ago when a far-right warlord made it his headquarters. La Alameda is in foreclosure and activists consider the case emblematic of the challenges of carrying out a new law that aims to redress some 4 million victims of Colombia's internal conflict. President Juan Manuel Santos has made the local Victims Law the centerpiece of his administration but activists are worried about his government's ability to protect them... (AP Photo/Frank Bajak)

RUSSIA: PUSSY RIOT TRIAL

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 23, is one of the three members of the feminist punk group Pussy Riot convicted for "hate-motivated hooliganism" for a political stunt performed on February 21, 2012, in Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral. In August 2012, following a clearly politically motivated trial, a Moscow court sentenced Tolokonnikova to a two-year prison term.

On September 23, 2013 Tolokonnikova started a hunger strike to protest appalling living conditions at the penal colony where she is serving her sentence.

(Human Rights Watch)

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) is a document that sets out basic rights and freedoms that every person should have. It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

Principles:

- All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.
- They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Articles:

1. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.
2. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
3. No one shall be held in slavery or servitude.
4. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.
5. No one shall be subjected to retrospective punishment.
6. Everyone has the right to recognition as a person before the law.
7. All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.
8. Everyone has the right to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal in the case of any dispute against him.
9. No one shall be deprived of his property arbitrarily.
10. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal.
11. 1. No one shall be held guilty of any crime until he has been proved guilty according to law.
12. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation.
13. 1. Everyone has the right to free movement and residence within the borders of each state.
14. 1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
15. 1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
16. 1. Everyone has the right to marry and to found a family.
17. 1. Everyone has the right to own property.
18. 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.
19. 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression.
20. 1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country.
21. 1. Everyone has the right to equal participation in the administration of the country.
22. 1. Everyone has the right to rest and leisure.
23. 1. Everyone has the right to work.
24. 1. Everyone has the right to just and favourable conditions of work.
25. 1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family.
26. 1. Everyone has the right to education.
27. 1. Everyone has the right to take part in the cultural life of the community.
28. 1. Everyone has the right to a social order which is essential for his personality.
29. 1. Everyone has duties to the community.
30. 1. Nothing shall be done to limit the rights and freedoms set out in this Declaration.

To learn more about your rights please visit www.knowyourrights2008.org

www.ohchr.org

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Dignity and justice for all of us

The principles that form the notion of human rights date back to Greek philosophy and various world religions. Nevertheless, human rights did not explicitly enter into international law until the end of World War II. With the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on December 10, 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly, a new and significant body of law developed at the international and regional levels. Treaties relating to topics such as genocide, racial and gender discrimination, refugees, rights of children, civil and political rights, and economic, social, and cultural rights have been promulgated over the past 60 years, and attention to human rights continues to be a major agenda item before the international community.

THE URBAN MORGAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

In 1979, the University of Cincinnati College of Law established the first endowed institute at an American law school devoted to the study of international human rights law. The Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights was made possible by a generous grant from William J. Butler, Trustee of the Urban Morgan Educational Fund.

For three decades, the Urban Morgan Institute has been a leader in the education and training of human rights lawyers and is recognized throughout the world for the many and varied contributions that the Institute makes to the human rights field.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUARTERLY

The Urban Morgan Institute edits the *Human Rights Quarterly* published by The Johns Hopkins University Press, the oldest university press in the country. The *Quarterly* is multidisciplinary and covers the range of human rights matters encompassed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In its more than thirty years and nearly a thousand articles and book reviews, the *Quarterly* is recognized as the leading academic journal in the human rights field. Both its audience and its authors are represented on every part of the globe.

PENNSYLVANIA STUDIES IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Pennsylvania Studies in Human Rights, which currently has 98 volumes written by prestigious academics and activists, is the premier series of books in its field. It is edited by Bert Lockwood, Director of the College of Law's Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights and editor of the *Human Rights Quarterly*. Professor Lockwood is one of the most highly respected names in human rights in the world. Some works include: *Genocide: Conceptual and Historical Dimensions*, *From Human Trafficking to Human Rights: Reframing Contemporary Slavery*, *Behind the Disappearances: Argentina's Dirty War Against Human Rights and the United Nations*.

SYRIA: WAR IN ALEPPO

Syria's uprising turned increasingly bloody in 2012 as the government's crackdown on anti-government protests developed into an entrenched armed conflict.

Security forces conducted several large-scale military operations in restive towns and cities across the country, resulting in mass killings. The government has been extensively using air power, often firing indiscriminately at heavily populated areas.

(Human Rights Watch)



In this photo released by the Syrian official news agency SANA, covered dead bodies are seen in front of a Syrian military intelligence building at a security compound which was attacked by an explosion, in the northern city of Aleppo, Syria, on Friday Feb. 10, 2012. Two explosions targeted security compounds, causing an unspecified number of casualties in a nearby city seen as key to President Bashar Assad's grip on power. (AP Photo/SANA)

AFGHANISTAN: PRISON TORTURE



In the Monday, April 25, 2011 file photo, a prisoner looks out of his cell window at the main prison in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The United Nations said that Afghan authorities were still torturing prisoners, such as beating them by their wrists and beating them with cables. Particularly in the southern provinces of Kandahar, the U.N. received reports that authorities were using unofficial sites to torture detainees before transporting them to the regular prison. (AP Photo/Abulhasin Khan)

A United Nations report released in January 2013 found that more than half of 635 pretrial detainees and prisoners convicted on national security grounds had been tortured or ill-treated in Afghan government custody. Detainees told the U.N. investigators that torture was typically used to try to elicit confessions. Fourteen forms of torture were reported.

(Human Rights Watch)