

2022
in

REVIEW

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REVIEW

As the year comes to an end, the world faces a multitude of challenges: rising inflation, political and economic instability, human rights violations, escalating tension between nations, privacy infringements, discrimination, restrictions on religious freedom, increasing prices of food and energy, and the possibility of an upcoming recession.

2022 in Review provides a selection of relevant UN reports, news headlines, and trends concerning human rights and religious freedom in 2022. The United Nations Human Rights Council serves as the primary inter-governmental platform to address situations of violations of human rights around the world. Each year, the Human Rights Council holds three regular sessions in Geneva in March, June, and September. The resolutions adopted by the council are not legally binding, however, they do contain significant political commitments.

In 2022, the UN Human Rights Council held debates and passed resolutions on a wide range of human rights issues, including freedom of religion and belief, freedom of expression and hate speech, contemporary forms of slavery, human rights and neurotechnology, climate change, conscientious objection to military service, privacy in a digital age, human rights in law enforcement, migration, internal displacement, and refugees. Additionally, there have been other issues discussed that impact some countries, such as justice, arbitrary detention, the rights of indigenous peoples and people of African descent, older persons, hazardous substances and waste, enforced or involuntary disappearances, and the negative consequences of colonialism on human rights. Religious freedom is declining in most countries, and the number of restrictions and hostilities has increased, both in conflict zones and in some countries that claim to guarantee religious freedom. This has occurred despite considerable efforts to develop and implement numerous programs advocating for religious liberty.

The UN statistics for 2022 indicate several concerning global trends: people suffering from acute hunger, an increase in forced displacement, restriction of freedom, increased authoritarianism, conflict, and violence. By the end of 2022, the World Bank estimates that 8.5% of the total world population (685 million) will be extremely poor. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 1 in every 78 people on earth has been forced to flee violence or persecution. Across the globe, more than 100 million people are displaced for the first time in history, including millions who fled Ukraine. During this difficult year, many people have experienced uncertainty, stress, fear, grief, and freedom restrictions. The UNDP 2022 Special Report on Human Security found that an estimated number of six out of seven people worldwide reported feeling insecure about many aspects of their lives, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. While uncertainty dominates our lives today, we shouldn't lose hope. "The world is not without a ruler. The program of coming events is in the hands of the Lord. The Majesty of heaven has the destiny of nations as well as the concerns of His church in His own charge" (EGW, 5T, 753). We must never forget that God is in control of history, and we should never lose sight of the wonderful promises He has made for our future.

Pastor Nelu Burcea, PhD, GC PARL Associate Director
Seventh-day Adventist Church's Liaison to the United Nations

UNITED
NATIONS
Reports & Resolutions
2022

HUMAN
Rights

REPORTS

Human Rights Council

THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO RELIGIOUS OR BELIEF MINORITIES IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

Report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

3 June 2022 | A/HRC/49/44

In recent years, conflicts have become more common, and insecurity has grown, impacting people enjoyment to freedom of religion or belief. According to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Dr. Ahmed Shaheed, around the world, conflicts were lasting longer than ever before, severely compromising religious minorities' rights, in particular their freedom of religion. Both state and non-state actors frequently target religious or belief minorities during conflict or insecurity. Hatred towards faith minorities is reflected in some school curriculums, creating a favorable environment for future generations to develop discriminatory attitudes.

In many countries, labeling religious or belief communities as "foreigners" or belonging to foreign groups creates hostility. Religious or belief minorities are more likely to feel threatened and vulnerable to violence as a result of discrimination, suspicion, and fear. It also has been reported that forced conversions have taken place in several countries as a means of forcing assimilation and the abandonment of faith identities. In order to make faith minorities' situation more precarious during crises, authorities have imposed restrictions on their practice of religion, including restricting their access to places of worship.

In the 49th Human Rights Council, the Special Rapporteur addressed the specific needs and vulnerabilities faced by minorities and discussed the reasons and mechanisms behind these vulnerabilities in the context of conflict. Religion or belief can also be used as an indicator of identity, often intersecting with other elements such as ethnicity, gender, race, and political affiliation, in order to target minority communities during crises with hostility, discrimination, and violence, forcing them to leave. The report proposed measures to protect and promote the rights of religious minorities during crises and to establish the foundations for a more inclusive peacebuilding process. Read more on the rights of persons belonging to religious or belief minorities in situations of conflict and insecurity report: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/49/44>.

REPORTS

Human Rights Council

COMBATING INTOLERANCE, NEGATIVE STEREOTYPING AND STIGMATIZATION OF, AND DISCRIMINATION, INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST, PERSONS BASED ON RELIGION OR BELIEF

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

6 January 2022 | A/HRC/49/86

The report focuses on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, and incitement to violence against persons based on religion or belief. The Human Rights Council called on states to implement an action plan to combat intolerance, stereotypes, and stigmatization of people based on their religion or beliefs, as well as discrimination, incitement to violence, and violence against them. Members of minority communities have been particularly targeted by stigmatization and discrimination online and offline, and states must act urgently to address the use of the COVID-19 pandemic by state and non-state actors in some locations in order to harass, intimidate, and suppress members of specific communities, including religious or belief minorities.

In preventing and countering intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, human rights education represents the most effective strategy, empowering people with the knowledge and skills to address discriminatory behaviors. Policies and human rights education projects should be developed to address hate speech's root causes instead of prohibiting speech that does not meet the standard test of the Rabat Plan of Action on incitement to hatred and violence. Read more on religious intolerance report: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/49/86>

Human Rights Council

CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AFFECTING PERSONS BELONGING TO ETHNIC, RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES

Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery

19 July 2022 | A/HRC/51/26

During the year 2022, the *Declaration on the Rights of National, Ethnic, Religious, and Linguistic Minorities* marked its thirty-fifth anniversary. As a commemorative report, the Special Rapporteur focuses on minorities' vulnerabilities and lived realities with regard to contemporary forms of slavery. In addition to national minorities, the report covers non-citizens, such as migrant workers, many of whom are minorities in their destination countries. The report identifies the main causes of contemporary forms of slavery affecting these groups and the main manifestations, such as chattel slavery; forced and bonded labor; domestic servitude; sexual slavery; child and forced marriage; and child labor. As a result of systematic discrimination, affected individuals and communities are unable to live a life in dignity and enjoy their human rights equally with others. As a consequence, negative stereotypes in the media, textbooks, and on the Internet contribute to the stigmatization of some communities. There is no respect for human dignity and equality when they are subjected to dehumanizing discourses that refer to "pollution" or "untouchability." These people are often subjected to debt bondage without adequate access to justice and have limited freedom to renounce inherited occupations or hazardous or degrading employment. Read more on the on contemporary forms of slavery report: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/51/26>.

CONFLICT PREVENTION THROUGH THE PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

Report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues

15 March 2022 | A/HRC/49/46

Hate speech and discrimination are becoming increasingly prevalent in certain political agendas and discourses, which can lead to a climate of fear among individuals and communities. Although online platforms provide minority groups and individuals with expanded opportunities for creating, structuring, and exchanging information, the same platforms also allow online 'hate speech', including hatred, intolerance or violence against those perceived as "different". Across the world, discriminatory practices and hateful messages are used to stigmatize ethnic and religious minorities.

During the 49th Human Rights Council, Fernand de Varennes, the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, highlighted the widespread use of hate speech on social media to target minorities. In addition, he describes state authorities' widespread failure to recognize or protect minorities from hate speech that is prohibited by law. He concludes by emphasizing the responsibility of States, civil society, and social media platforms to acknowledge that hate speech is mainly a minority issue and that, urgently, further steps need to be taken in order to fully and effectively implement human rights obligations. Read more on the on conflict prevention report: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/49/46>.

REPORTS

Human Rights Council

THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN THE DIGITAL AGE

August 2022 | A/HRC/51/17

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

New information and communication technologies are allowing individuals worldwide to improve the quality of their lives, providing easy access to information and communication, and encouraging innovation across many fields. There is no doubt that technology has a profound effect on modern life. In spite of this, technological advancements have become more controversial in recent years. This is because it has increased the ability of governments, companies, and individuals to carry out surveillance, interceptions, and data collection, which can violate or abuse rights, particularly privacy.

In accordance with the UN's understanding of human rights to privacy, no one is allowed to unlawfully interfere with a person's private life, family, home, or correspondence. The right to privacy also means the right to be protected by law against such interference. It recognizes that the exercise of the right to private life is essential to the realization of the right to freedom of expression, including the right to hold opinions without interference, including religious opinions, and the right to peaceful assembly and association. The latest report on privacy in the digital age, presented at the 51st UN Human Rights Council, focuses on the abuse of intrusive hacking tools ("spyware") by State authorities, the importance of robust encryption methods in ensuring human rights protection online, and the impacts of widespread digital monitoring of public spaces, both offline and online. Read more on the right to privacy report: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/>.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF

Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

10 October 2022 | A/77/514

The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Ahmed Shaheed, initiates a critical dialogue within and beyond the UN system about obstacles and opportunities facing indigenous people's freedom of religion or belief. He asserts that indigenous religions and beliefs cannot be understood without acknowledging the historical and ongoing experiences of discrimination, violence, and hostility that threaten their spiritual, cultural, and physical survival.

There are 476 million indigenous people living in 90 countries, speaking more than 4,000 languages, and owning, occupying, or managing over one-quarter of the world's land.

The report highlights the impediments indigenous people face, such as access to justice, civic and political exclusion, socioeconomic challenges, a lack of equality, restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, and restrictions on indigenous spiritual manifestations. In addition, the Special Rapporteur acknowledged the historical exclusion of many indigenous peoples from the development of international law instruments related to their rights to freedom, religion, and belief. Read more on the on indigenous peoples' freedom of religion or belief: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/thematic-reports/a77514>.

RESOLUTIONS

Human Rights Council

FREEDOM OF RELIGION AND BELIEF

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 31 March 2022 | A/HRC/RES/49/5

Religious minorities are marginalized by hatred, discrimination, intolerance, and violence manifested in derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling, and stigmatization. The purpose of this resolution is to express concern over the continued acts of intolerance and violence against people from religious communities and minorities around the world and emphasize that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent and interconnected, highlighting how these rights can be used in the fight against intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief. The primary responsibility of states is to promote and protect human rights, including the rights of people belonging to religious minorities, including their right to freely practice their religion or belief. Education plays an important role in promoting tolerance, which involves the acceptance and respect of diversity by the public, including with regard to religious expression, and the resolution emphasizes that education, particularly at school, should contribute meaningfully to the promotion of tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief. Read more on freedom of religion and belief resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/49/5>.

THE RIGHTS TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY AND OF ASSOCIATION

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 8 July 2022 | A/HRC/RES/50/17

The resolution reaffirms the importance of freedom of peaceful assembly and association in the exercise of civil rights, religious and political rights, economic rights, and social rights. In order to build a truly inclusive society and strengthen freedom, the right to peaceful assembly is fundamental. Individuals have the right to peaceful assembly and association, which provides them with the opportunity to express political, religious, and other views, as well as to engage in social and educational activities. In this resolution, states are encouraged to support diverse civil society participation, including women, children, youth, human rights defenders, the elderly, people with disabilities, people from ethnic, religious, and national backgrounds, linguistic and racial minorities, migrants, refugees, and indigenous groups. Read more on freedom of peaceful assembly and association resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/hrc/res/50/17>.

FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 8 July 2022 | A/HRC/RES/50/15

Freedom of opinion, expression, and the right to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas, regardless of borders, is affirmed in this resolution as a human right that is guaranteed to all, whether it is spoken, written, in print, or in art or any other medium. The freedom of expression is considered critical to combating corruption and disinformation, strengthening public awareness, the rule of law, and effective governance. Freedom of opinion and expression is one of the most important indicators of the protection of other human rights and freedoms, and it is important to keep in mind that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, both online and offline. Read more on freedom of opinion and expression resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/hrc/res/50/15>.

NEUROTECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

13 October 2022 | A/HRC/RES/51/3

Resolution A/HRC/51/L.3 on neurotechnology and human rights

In recent years, a new generation of neurotechnology has emerged and is being promoted as a necessary development. A business based on such emerging technologies could be extremely profitable and could increase power imbalances. A large amount of funding is allocated to “brain” initiatives in order to propel advances in research. In response to these massive investments worldwide, member states at the United Nations are establishing their positions in relation to these technologies in a new technological race.

In a United Nations resolution, “Assessing the Impact of Neurotechnology on Human Rights,” it is stated that neurotechnology will help to improve cognitive capacities by connecting the brain directly to digital networks in the coming years. As neurotechnology develops and becomes more available, it is increasingly likely that this technology will impact and undermine human rights. There are risks associated with neurotechnology, including aspects that are fundamental to being humans, such as dignity, autonomy, the right to privacy, and the right to freedom of thought. Ahmed Shaheed, the Special Rapporteur (SR) on Freedom of Religion or Belief (2016-2022), provided his interim report on freedom of thought, highlighting that “neurotechnology can already modify or manipulate thoughts inside the brain.” Many experts already agree that current and existing legal frameworks are unprepared for this new technology. On this matter, the United Nations adopted three resolutions in 2022 on neurotechnology and its impact on human rights. Read more on neurotechnology and human rights resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/51/3>.

COUNTERING CYBERBULLYING

11 October 2022 | A/HRC/RES/51/10

Resolution A/HRC/RES/51/10 on countering cyberbullying

In order to prevent cyberbullying, this Resolution emphasizes the importance of ensuring children's "effective and meaningful participation", including their contributions, views, and recommendations. Furthermore, the Resolution recognizes that “relevant regulatory frameworks and legislation, and safeguards on the conception, design, use, development, further deployment and impact assessments of new and emerging digital technologies” should provide “appropriate safeguards and human oversight” while also providing “meaningful participation of all stakeholders”, including the general public, and putting children’s interests first.

The right to privacy are important for the prevention of violence, including any form of abuse and sexual harassment, in particular against women, children and persons with disabilities, as well as any form of discrimination, including cyberbullying and cyberstalking, that may take place online.

In addition to disrupting children’s development, cyberbullying can cause profound harm, as victims often experience anxiety, panic, distress, confusion, anger, insecurity, lowered self-esteem, a strong sense of shame, and even suicidal thoughts. Read more on Countering Cyberbullying Resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/51/10>.

RESOLUTIONS

Human Rights Council

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION TO MILITARY SERVICE

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

11 May 2022 | A/HRC/50/43

According to the Human Rights Council, every person affected by military service must be informed about the right to conscientious objection to military service and the means of acquiring conscientious objector status. As outlined in the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights, the right to freedom of thought and conscience precedes all other freedoms, since they are intrinsically linked to human life, to individual choice, and to religious freedom. In accordance with the 18 commitments and toolkit for #Faith4Rights, article 18 of the Covenant does not permit any limitations of thought and conscience, which are protected under international human rights law.

This report analyzes developments concerning conscientious objection to military service since 2017, promising practices, and continuing challenges. Some states have adopted laws and regulations introducing viable alternative service of a civilian nature and decriminalizing conscientious objection, resulting in the release of imprisoned objectors. Despite this, many people who wish to exercise their right to conscientious objection to military service continue to be violated by some States and de facto authorities because those rights are either not recognized or are not fully implemented. Read more on Conscientious Objection to Military Service Report: <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/50/43>.

TERRORISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 7 October 2022

7 October 2022 | A/HRC/RES/51/24

A key point of the resolution is that terrorism and violent extremism restrict the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights. International peace and security are weakened by terrorism, which threatens the territorial integrity and security of states, the stability of governments, and the rule of law and democracy.

In the context of this resolution, it is stated that violence, extremism, and terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnicity. In order to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism, the resolution emphasizes the importance of tolerance, pluralism, inclusion, and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations, as well as the development of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among people, including at the national, regional, and global levels. Read more on Terrorism and Human Rights Resolution: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/51/24>.


UNITED
NATIONS
News 2022

Rights

HUMAN

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- 4 January 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- World Braille Day: Pandemic shows importance of information access for all
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109092>
The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how critical it is to ensure essential information is accessible to everyone, including people living with disabilities. On World Braille Day, observed on 4 January, UN agencies have been highlighting how they are promoting a disability-inclusive response to the crisis.
- 15 January 2022
PEACE & SECURITY
- Horrors of Hiroshima, a reminder nuclear weapons remain global threat
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/01/1109602>
Despite the annihilation of two major Japanese cities in 1945, atomic bombs have not been relegated to the pages of history books, but continue to be developed today – with increasingly more power to destroy than they had when unleashed on Hiroshima and Nagasaki back in 1945.
- 8 February 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- UN rights office warns of risk of further attacks on displaced camps in DR Congo: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1111522>
Authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) must ensure civilian protection in the wake of recent deadly raids on camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said on Tuesday.
- 28 February 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Human rights ‘inescapable and powerful’: Guterres
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1112962>
The answers to some of the world’s most pressing problems are rooted in human rights, UN Secretary-General António Guterres affirmed on Monday.
- 3 March 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Canada urged to amend transgenerational discriminatory Indian Act
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113262>
The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) called on Thursday, for Canada to fully address long-standing gender-based discrimination in its Indian Act, which continues to affect tens of thousands of descendants of indigenous women today.
- 4 March 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Human Rights Council to establish Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113292>
In a resolution adopted on Friday, the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva agreed to establish a commission to investigate violations committed during Russia’s military attack on Ukraine.
- 10 March 2022
CULTURE
- Social media poses ‘existential threat’ to traditional, trustworthy news
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113702>
The business model of the news media is ‘broken’ and with it, our fundamental right to information is at risk, a new UNESCO report examining global trends in freedom of expression warns.
- 14 March 2022
PEACE & SECURITY
- UN rights chief decries mass execution of 81 people in Saudi Arabia
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1113922>
The UN human rights chief has condemned the beheading of 81 people by Saudi Arabia during the course of a single day, charged with terrorism-related offences.
- 21 March 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Human rights in Myanmar face ‘profound crisis’ – Bachelet
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/03/1114382>
The UN’s top rights official said on Monday that amidst a “profound crisis” facing access to basic human rights in Myanmar following the coup in February last year, hundreds of localized armed resistance groups have now formed across the country, triggering “widespread violence in areas that were previously stable”.

- 4 April 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Bucha killings raise 'serious' questions about possible war crimes: Bachelet
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115482>
Senior UN officials have echoed the Secretary-General's call for an independent investigation into the killing of scores of civilians in the Ukrainian town of Bucha, following the emergence this past weekend of graphic images from the suburb of the capital, Kyiv.
- 7 April 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Roma rights advocates warn of rising hate speech
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1115752>
International Roma Day on 8 April is a key date to mark Romani culture, made more significant in Romania since the passing of last year's landmark legislation there, to combat hate-speech against the Roma – the first law of its kind in Europe.
- 27 April 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Human rights: Belarus journalists win World Press Freedom Prize
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1117102>
The Belarusian Association of Journalists (BAJ) was named on Tuesday as the winner of this year's UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize, following the international jury's recommendation.
- 28 April 2022
CRIME PREVENTION
- Justice must prevail over alleged Libya war crimes, ICC Prosecutor tells Security Council: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1117222>
Outlining a new four-pronged investigation strategy to the Security Council on Thursday, the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) pledged his commitment to delivering justice against crimes committed in Libya.
- 5 May 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- 7.7 million people displaced inside Ukraine, warns UN relief chief
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1117632>
Humanitarian needs continue to rise in war-torn Ukraine where an estimated 7.7 million people are now internally displaced, UN emergency relief chief Martin Griffiths said on Thursday.
- 5 May 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- New study outlines importance of gender for children caught up in conflict
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1117602>
The UN's leading expert on issues facing children caught up in war, released a new analysis on the importance of considering how gender differences impact young people during armed conflicts.
- 26 May 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Afghan authorities urged to address serious human rights challenges
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1119102>
Afghanistan is at a crossroads and the de facto authorities, the Taliban, must pursue a path towards stability and freedom for all citizens, especially women, the UN independent expert on human rights there said in the capital, Kabul, on Thursday.
- 27 May 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Rights office welcomes Zambia's pledge to abolish the death penalty
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1119282>
Zambia's plan to abolish the death penalty adds to the growing global chorus against the practice, the UN Human Rights Office, OHCHR, said on Friday in welcoming the decision.
- 14 June 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Myanmar: Cycle of 'human rights violations and abuses' continues
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120362>
Still suffering from the devastating consequences of the February 2021 military coup, the UN rights chief said on Tuesday that the people of Myanmar remain "trapped in a cycle of poverty and displacement, human rights violations and abuses".

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- 17 June 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Hate speech ‘dehumanizes individuals and communities’: Guterres
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1120742>
Hate speech incites violence, undermines diversity and social cohesion and “threatens the common values and principles that bind us together,” the UN chief said in his message for the first-ever International Day for Countering Hate Speech.
- 22 June 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Violence against indigenous women, ‘legacy of colonialism’ rooted in racism
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121082>
Indigenous women and girls face grave, systematic, and continuous acts of violence that permeate every aspect of their lives, a UN-appointed independent rights expert said on Wednesday in a hard hitting report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- 24 June 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Internet shutdowns impact human rights, economy, and day to day life
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121242>
The dramatic real-life effects of shutdowns of the internet on people’s lives and human rights are vastly underestimated, the UN human rights office warns in a report released on Thursday.
- 30 June 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Ethiopia still in grip of spreading violence, hate speech and aid crisis
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121772>
UN Human Rights Council-appointed rights investigators announced on Thursday that they’ve launched a probe into an alleged massacre of at least 200 people in Ethiopia’s Oromia region.
- 11 July 2022**
PEACE & SECURITY
- Thousands of children endure ‘horrific conditions’ in conflict zones: UN report
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/07/1122262>
The annual UN report on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), released on Monday, details the devastating impact that various forms of conflict had on children around the world in 2021.
- 3 August 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Human rights experts call for international investigation into 2020 Beirut explosion: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1123922>
A cohort of independent UN experts has called on the Human Rights Council to launch an international investigation into the massive explosion in Beirut two year ago, with a view to securing justice for those who died and were injured.
- 9 August 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Myanmar: Crimes against humanity committed systematically, says UN report
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1124302>
Crimes against humanity continue to be systematically committed in Myanmar, with ongoing conflicts severely impacting women and children, according to a UN report released on Tuesday.
- 22 August 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Stand in ‘firm solidarity’ with victims of violence based on religion or belief, urges UN chief: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125152>
On the International Day for victims of acts of violence based on religion or belief, commemorated on Monday, the UN chief reiterated his staunch support for those who have suffered.
- 22 August 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Rights experts urge Iran to end ‘systematic persecution’ of religious minorities
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125162>
Authorities in Iran must stop the persecution and harassment of religious minorities, a group of independent UN human rights experts said in a statement issued on Monday expressing alarm over the escalation in incidents there.

- 31 August 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- UN human rights report on China
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/08/1125932>
A long-awaited report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) into what China refers to as the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) has concluded that “serious human rights violations” against the Uyghur and “other predominantly Muslim communities” have been committed.
- 8 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Volker Türk appointed new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126291>
Secretary-General António Guterres on Thursday appointed Volker Türk of Austria as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, following approval by the General Assembly.
- 12 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- 50 million people in modern slavery: No justification for ‘fundamental’ human rights abuse: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126421>
Forced labour and marriage have increased significantly over the last five years, according to a new UN report released on Monday.
- 21 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Ethiopia still in grip of spreading violence, hate speech and aid crisis
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/06/1121772>
UN Human Rights Council-appointed rights investigators announced on Thursday that they’ve launched a probe into an alleged massacre of at least 200 people in Ethiopia’s Oromia region.
- 21 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- World falling ‘far short’ of pledge to protect minority rights: Guterres
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127311>
The world is falling “far short” of commitments made three decades ago to protect minority communities, UN Secretary-General António Guterres said on Wednesday, appealing for concrete action to counter this neglect.
- 21 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Myanmar spiralling ‘from bad to worse, to horrific’, Human Rights Council hears: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127361>
Since the Myanmar military launched its “disastrous” coup last year, UN-appointed independent human rights expert Tom Andrews said on Wednesday that conditions have worsened, “by any measure”.
- 22 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- UN experts strongly condemn death of Mahsa Amini, ‘victim of Iran’s sustained repression’: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127471>
UN independent human rights experts on Thursday strongly condemned the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, who died in police custody following her arrest for allegedly failing to comply with Iran’s strict rules on women’s dress, by wearing what authorities said was “an improper hijab”.
- 22 September 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Ethiopia: Civilians again mired in intractable and deadly war, Human Rights Council hears: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127481>
Ethiopia’s people are once again “mired...in the intractable and deadly consequences” of conflict between Government troops and forces loyal to Tigrayan separatist fighters, who are all likely responsible for war crimes, top rights investigators said on Thursday.
- 5 October 2022
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Torture is ‘widespread’ and likely underestimated in DR Congo: UN report
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129252>
Torture is “widespread” and underestimated in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and the abuse involves armed groups and State forces, UN investigators said on Wednesday.

- 11 October 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- UN rights report details ‘unconscionable’ violations of migrants returning from Libya: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129417>
Migrants in Libya who are compelled to accept so-called ‘assisted returns’ to their countries of origin often find themselves as victims of widespread and systematic human rights violations and abuses in conditions below those of international human rights laws and standards, according to a UN human rights report released on Tuesday.
- 14 October 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Türkiye: Concern mounts over human rights implications of ‘disinformation bill’: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129567>
The UN human rights office expressed growing concern over the adoption by Türkiye’s Parliament of a package of amendments to various laws “that risk curtailing freedom of expression” in the country.
- 20 October 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory illegal: UN rights commission
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/10/1129722>
Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory is unlawful under international law due to its permanence and the Israeli government’s de facto annexation policies, a UN-appointed Commission of Inquiry said in its first report, published on Thursday.
- 16 November 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Sudan: Human rights must ‘be at the core’ of democratic transition
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130717>
The new UN human rights chief ended his first country visit on Wednesday explaining that he had chosen Sudan to “bring a strong message” that human rights must “be at the core” of its transition away from military rule to democracy.
- 18 November 2022**
PEACE & SECURITY
- Middle East: Terrifying surge in violence affecting children ‘must stop’ – UNICEF: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130797>
Children across the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) are again confronting a surge in violence, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday, describing the “unacceptable reality” that on average, over 10 children have been killed every week since the beginning of the year.
- 18 November 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Rights experts call for greater global action to end child sexual exploitation and abuse: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130817>
Countries must step up efforts to combat the global emergency of child exploitation and abuse, six UN-appointed human rights experts said on Friday.
- 22 November 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Iran: 40 people killed in protests over past week – OHCHR
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130927>
More than 40 people have been killed in Iran during the past week, including two teenagers, the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said on Tuesday.
- 1 December 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Legacy of slavery still scars society, blocks progress says UN chief
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/12/1131272>
The legacy of the transatlantic slave trade “reverberates to this day”, just as modern-day enslavement is growing, UN Secretary-General António Guterres has said.
- 9 December 2022**
HUMAN RIGHTS
- Put human rights at the heart of efforts to reverse today’s damaging trends
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/12/1131597>
Today’s “trying times” highlight the need for a recommitment to human rights, which are central to solving global problems, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his message for Human Rights Day.

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