



United Nations Special Procedures

FACTS AND FIGURES

2008

*Communications · Country visits · Reports · Press releases ·
Coordination and joint activities · Thematic events and expertise*





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The *Special Procedures Facts and Figures* provides a general overview of the main activities of the Special Procedures mandates in 2008. This tool is produced by the Information, Coordination and Management Unit of the Special Procedures Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. For more information about the Special Procedures, please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm>

INTRODUCTION

Special procedures of the Human Rights Council (Council) monitor, examine, advise and publicly report on a thematic issue (thematic mandates) or on a human rights situation in a specific country or (country mandates). Special procedures' mandate territory holders are independent; selected among prominent experts from different backgrounds and appointed to serve in their personal capacity for a maximum of 6 years. They are unpaid and not staff members of the United Nations and are supported by OHCHR in their activities.

Mandates of special procedures mechanisms may vary. The work of the mandate holders is usually organized around the following activities: sending **communications** on alleged violations of human rights (urgent appeals and letters of allegation) to the Governments concerned; submitting thematic **reports** to the Human Rights Council (some special procedures also submit reports to the General Assembly); undertaking **country visits** on which reports are submitted to the Human Rights Council as addenda to the thematic reports; and issuing **press releases** on specific matters of concern.

In 2008, special procedures continued to enhance the **coordination** of the system and to undertake **joint activities**. They also contributed to progress in human rights through the provision of **thematic expertise**. Some **human rights stories** in this publication show that the constructive dialogue by special procedures with Governments and other relevant stakeholders can have a positive impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

The review, rationalization and improvement of mandates carried out by the Human Rights Council in 2007 and 2008 has resulted in the renewal of all thematic mandates and the creation of two new ones:

the mandate on contemporary forms of slavery (resolution 6/14 of 28 September 2007) and the mandate on access to safe drinking water and sanitation (resolution 7/22 of 28 March 2008). The review has also increased the number of activities of the Working Group on Mercenaries (resolution 7/21 of 28 March 2008). The Council also created the Forum on Minority Issues, which replaces the former Working Group on Minorities of the Commission on Human Rights. It met under the guidance of the Independent Expert on minority issues for the first time in December 2008.

In 2008, there were 30 thematic mandates, dealing with civil, political, economic and social rights in addition to some specific groups. There are now 8 country mandates as the Council decided in 2008 to discontinue the mandates related to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to Liberia.

In 2008 the Council appointed 27 new mandate holders.

Special procedures & Universal Periodic Review

A notable development in 2008 was the emergence of new synergies between the Special procedures and the new Universal Periodic Review (UPR). States under review have now invited special procedures mandate holders to visit their countries; three States under review issued standing invitations, bringing to 63 the total number of standing invitations. Increasingly, States under review are addressing issues of concern to special procedures in the interactive dialogue that forms part of the review process, and these issues also typically feature in the recommendations of the UPR Working Group.

LIST OF MANDATE-HOLDERS

Mandate	Established in	Mandate-holder
Country mandates		
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	2004	Mr. Akich Okola (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia	1993	Mr. Yash Ghai (<i>Kenya</i>)
Independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo , discontinued in March 2008	2004	Mr. Titinga Frédéric Pacéré (<i>Burkina Faso</i>) until March 2008
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (<i>Thailand</i>)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Michel Forst (<i>France</i>) since August 2008; Mr. Louis Joinet (<i>France</i>) until July 2008
Independent expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia , discontinued in September 2008	2003	Ms. Charlotte Abaka (<i>Ghana</i>) until September 2008
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana (<i>Argentina</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Paulo Sergio Pinheiro (<i>Brazil</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. Richard Falk (<i>United States of America</i>) since May 2008; Mr. John Dugard (<i>South Africa</i>) until April 2008
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Shamsul Bari (<i>Bangladesh</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Ghanim Alnajjar (<i>Kuwait</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the situation on human rights in the Sudan	2005	Ms. Sima Samar (<i>Afghanistan</i>)
Thematic mandates		
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	2000	Ms. Raquel Rolnik (<i>Brazil</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Miloon Kothari (<i>India</i>) until April 2008
Working Group on people of African descent	2002	Mr. Joe Frans (<i>Sweden</i>), Ms. Maya Sahli (<i>Algeria</i>) since August 2008; Mr. Peter L. Kasanda (<i>Zambia</i>) until July 2008, Mr. Ralston Milton Nettleford (<i>Jamaica</i>) since May 2008, Ms. Monorama Biswas (<i>Bangladesh</i>) since November 2008; Mr. George N. Jabbour (<i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>) until October 2008, Ms. Mirjana Najcevska (<i>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>) since November 2008; Ms. Irina Zlatescu (<i>Romania</i>) until October 2008
Working Group on arbitrary detention	1991	Ms. Manuela Carmena Castrillo (<i>Spain</i>) : Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali (<i>Pakistan</i>) since August 2008; Mr. Seyyed Mohammad Hashemi (<i>Islamic Republic of Iran</i>) until July 2008, Mr. Malick El Hadji Sow (<i>Senegal</i>) since May 2008; Ms. Leïla Zerrougui (<i>Algeria</i>) until April 2008, Mr. Aslan Abashidze (<i>Russian Federation</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Tamás Bán (<i>Hungary</i>) until April 2008, Mr. Roberto Garreton (<i>Chile</i>) since May 2008; Ms. Soledad Villagra de Biedermann (<i>Paraguay</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Ms. Najat M'jid Maala (<i>Morocco</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Juan Miguel Petit (<i>Uruguay</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Vernor Munoz Villalobos (<i>Costa Rica</i>)
Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	1980	Mr. Santiago Corcuera (<i>Mexico</i>) : Chairperson-Rapporteur, Mr. Darko Götlicher (<i>Croatia</i>), Mr. Saied Rajaie Khorasani (<i>Islamic Republic of Iran</i>), Mr. Jeremy Sarkin (<i>South Africa</i>) since May 2008; Mr. J 'Bayo Adekanye (<i>Nigeria</i>) until April 2008, Mr. Olivier de Frouville (<i>France</i>) since November 2008; Mr. Stephen J. Toope (<i>Canada</i>) until October 2008

Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Mr. Philip Alston (<i>Australia</i>)
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 (<i>until April 2008: Independent Expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights</i>)	2000	Mr. Cephas Lumina (<i>Zambia</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho (<i>Kenya</i>) until April 2008
Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	1998	Ms. María Magdalena Sepúlveda (<i>Chile</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Arjun Sengupta (<i>India</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Olivier De Schutter (<i>Belgium</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Jean Ziegler (<i>Switzerland</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. Frank William La Rue Lewy (<i>Guatemala</i>) since August 2008; Mr. Ambeyi Ligabo (<i>Kenya</i>) until July 2008
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Ms. Asma Jahangir (<i>Pakistan</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Anand Grover (<i>India</i>) since August 2008; Mr. Paul Hunt (<i>New Zealand</i>) until July 2008
Special Rapporteur (<i>until March 2008: Representative of the Secretary-General</i>) on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Margaret Sekaggya (<i>Uganda</i>) since May 2008; Ms. Hina Jilani (<i>Pakistan</i>) until April 2008
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Mr. Leandro Despouy (<i>Argentina</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people	2001	Mr. James Anaya (<i>United States of America</i>) since May 2008; Mr. Rodolfo Stavenhagen (<i>Mexico</i>) until 30 April 2008
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Mr. Walter Kälin (<i>Switzerland</i>)
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki (<i>Indonesia</i>)
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Mr. Alexander Nikitin (<i>Russian Federation</i>) : Chairperson-Rapporteur, Mr. José Luis Gomez del Prado (<i>Spain</i>), Ms. Najat Al-Hajjaji (<i>Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</i>), Ms. Amada Benavides de Perez (<i>Colombia</i>), Ms. Shaista Shameem (<i>Fiji</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Jorge A. Bustamante (<i>Mexico</i>)
Independent Expert on minority issues	2005	Ms. Gay J. McDougall (<i>United States of America</i>)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Githu Muigai (<i>Kenya</i>) since August 2008; Mr. Doudou Diène (<i>Senegal</i>) until July 2008
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences	2007	Ms. Gulnara Shahnian (<i>Armenia</i>) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Martin Scheinin (<i>Finland</i>)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Manfred Nowak (<i>Austria</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	1995	Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu (<i>Nigeria</i>)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially in women and children	2004	Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (<i>Nigeria</i>) since August 2008; Ms. Sigma Huda (<i>Bangladesh</i>) until July 2008
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2005	Mr. John Ruggie (<i>United States of America</i>)
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation	2008	Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (<i>Portugal</i>) since November 2008
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Yakin Ertürk (<i>Turkey</i>)

COORDINATION AND JOINT ACTIVITIES

The Coordination Committee of special procedures followed up on the implementation of the Code of Conduct adopted by the Human Rights Council in 2007, including by bringing the Manual of United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures in consonance with this Code. The revised Manual was adopted by mandate holders during their 15th Annual Meeting in June 2008, and an Internal Advisory Procedure on practices and working methods was also adopted.

The Coordination Committee of special procedures conducted two orientation sessions for new mandate holders in June and October 2008. These activities, together with information sessions and other inductions organized by the OHCHR for the 27 new special procedures mandate holders appointed in 2008, supported their integration into the system of special procedures.



Mrs. Margaret Sekaggya, Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, and Mrs. Reine Alapini-Gansou meeting human rights defenders in Togo

Several joint missions were conducted in 2008. In July, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Rapporteur on torture conducted a joint country visit to Moldova. In August, a joint mission to Togo was carried out by the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the African Union Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. In October, the Special Rapporteur on violence against

women and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people participated in two consultations on violence against women with organizations from the Asia-Pacific region and India, respectively. The event in New Delhi examined violence against indigenous women. In October, a joint follow up visit to Turkey was conducted by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the European Parliament's Rapporteur on Women's Rights to assess in particular the provision of shelters for victims of violence, including trafficking.

In September 2008, three Special Rapporteurs, namely the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people, and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, took part in a panel discussion held by the Human Rights Council at its ninth session, on the extent to which gender perspectives were being integrated into its work.

In October 2008, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and the Special Rapporteur on migrants participated in a joint regional consultation on migrant domestic workers, organized by the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD), the Coordination of Action Research on AIDS and Mobility (CARAM Asia) and the Global Alliance Against Traffic In Women (GAATW) in Manila, the Philippines. The Special Rapporteurs engaged in an interactive dialogue with participants to discuss strategies in how best to promote and protect the rights of migrant domestic workers.

Cooperation between special procedures and regional organizations continued in 2008. This included i.a. cooperation between several mandate holders with Council of Europe and European Union bodies, cooperation between the Representative of the Secretary General on the human rights of internally displaced persons with the African Union to develop a legally binding instrument on the protection of internally displaced persons; and collaboration of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders with African, European and Latin American counterparts to ensure effective implementation of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

THEMATIC EVENTS and EXPERTISE

In 2008, the Special Procedures continued to work towards the promotion of women's rights and gender equality. Indicators and recommendations developed by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women were welcomed by the General Assembly at its 63rd session and considered as a crucial tool to provide guidance on policies and programmes for States. The General Assembly also mandated the UN Statistical Commission to develop international indicators on violence against women building on the Special Rapporteur's proposals. Several other mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, also applied a gender

perspective to their work. In November 2008, she attended the 4th World Urban Forum in Nanjing, China, and, inter alia, addressed "the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Plan of Action".

The Special Rapporteur on the right to food has established regular partnerships to examine to what extent the responses to the global food crisis adopted at the international and national level integrate the right to food. He encouraged Member States to call for a Human Rights Council special session on the food crisis which was convened on 7 May 2008. The Special Rapporteur

conducted a mission to the World Trade Organisation Secretariat in June to evaluate the impact of trade negotiations at WTO on the right to food. In December 2008, the Special Rapporteur convened, with the support of the Ministry of Development Cooperation of Luxembourg, a multi-stakeholder consultation including experts, policy-makers, and representatives from civil society organizations to discuss how the initiatives taken to support the agricultural sector in Africa could create an enabling environment for the right to food.

In March 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers attended the XIV Ibero-American Judicial Summit where he discussed regulations on access to justice for individuals of vulnerable groups. In September 2008, the Special Rapporteur initiated cooperation with the Association for the judicial power in Colombia, through a Seminar on "Justice as a basis for Democracy". He also continued to cooperate with the organization European Association of Magistrates for democracy and fundamental rights (*Magistrats européens pour la démocratie et la loi*, MEDEL) through meetings and regular exchange of information on the situation of the judiciary in European countries.

The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief was involved in efforts by the Advisory Council of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to develop the Toledo Guiding Principles on Teaching about Religions and Beliefs in Public Schools. This document is designed to offer practical guidance for preparing curricula for teaching about religions and beliefs, preferred procedures for assuring fairness in the development of curricula and standards for their implementation.

In June 2008, the Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, chaired a meeting on "International Aviation Law: Promoting Legal Safeguards and Protecting Human Rights in the Counter-Terrorism context" jointly sponsored by REDRESS. The experts who attended included the Special Rapporteur on torture, legal representatives from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Council of Europe, and a number of NGOs and academics. Issues discussed included clarification required in aviation law regarding the definitions of civil and state aircraft, detection, prevention and investigation of rendition; and accountability and reparations.

Pursuing her work in the area of poverty alleviation and realization of the Millennium Development Goals for minorities, the independent expert on minority issues continued her close collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) towards a UNDP Guidance/Policy note on minority issues. A UNDP Resource Guide on Minorities in Development was developed in cooperation with OHCHR and following consultations with UNDP country offices and staff during 2008. A Validation Consultation was

subsequently held in December 2008 in New York to critically review the draft Guide and share experiences of challenges and good practices in addressing minority issues and to further enhance the inclusion of minority issue in UNDP programming

Newly mandated activities

A **regional consultation** of the Working Group on mercenaries for the Eastern European Group and Central Asia region was held in Moscow, Russian Federation, from 17 to 18 October, on "The effects of private military and security companies: regulation and oversight".

The regional meeting brought together over 50 participants, including government representatives from the region, resource persons with particular expertise in the subject of private military and security companies, civil society, academics, the ICRC, representatives of inter-governmental organizations, and a representative from a private military and security company. Following the regional consultations, the Working Group recommended the elaboration and adoption of a new international convention on the regulation of private military and security companies, including an accompanying model law to assist governments in the adoption of appropriate national legislation.

The inaugural **Forum on Minority Issues** was held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December on the thematic issue of "Minorities and the Right to Education". The Forum attracted over 370 individuals including delegates from over 40 Member States and approximately 90 non-governmental organizations. The Independent Expert on minority issues guided the work of the Forum which concluded with a series of thematic recommendations.

CC

COMMUNICATIONS

2008 BASIC FIGURES

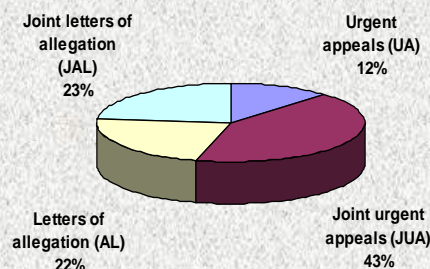
911 Total number of communications sent
66% Joint communications sent by two or more mandates
2206 Individuals covered (women 20%)
118 Countries received communications

Some special procedures mechanisms intervene directly with Governments on specific allegations of human rights violations that fall within their mandates. The intervention can relate to a human rights violation that has already occurred, is ongoing, or which has a high risk of occurring. The process generally involves sending a letter to the concerned Government requesting information and comments on the allegation and calling for preventive or investigative action. Special procedures mandate-holders submit to the Human Rights Council a report on their communications with Governments.

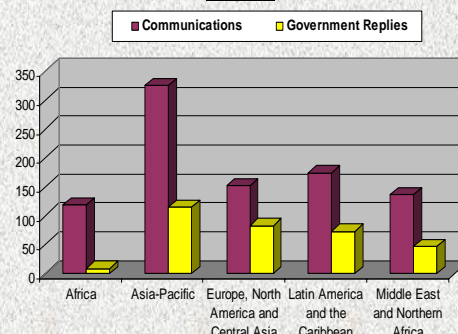
The decision to intervene is at the discretion of the special procedure mandate holder and depends on criteria established by him or her, as well as the criteria laid out in the Code of Conduct adopted by the Human Rights Council (Resolution 5/2 of 18 June 2007). Criteria generally relate to the reliability of the source and the credibility of information; the details provided; and the scope of the mandate itself. Further information is frequently requested from sources. Communications should not be politically motivated, abusive or based solely on media reports. Mandate holders may send joint communications when the case falls within the scope of more than one mandate. The OHCHR's Special Procedures Division Quick Response Desk coordinates communications and keeps relevant databases updated.

Communications will usually take the form of either urgent appeals (UA) or letters of allegation (AL). Experts may send joint communications when cases fall under the scope of more than one mandate. **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 that require urgent intervention to cease the violation. 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 said to have already occurred and whose impact on the alleged victim can no longer be changed. This kind of letter is used, for example, in cases where information reaches the mandate holder after the human rights abuse has already been committed. Communications are a means of requesting clarification on alleged violations with a view to trying to ensure, along with the Government concerned, the protection of human rights.

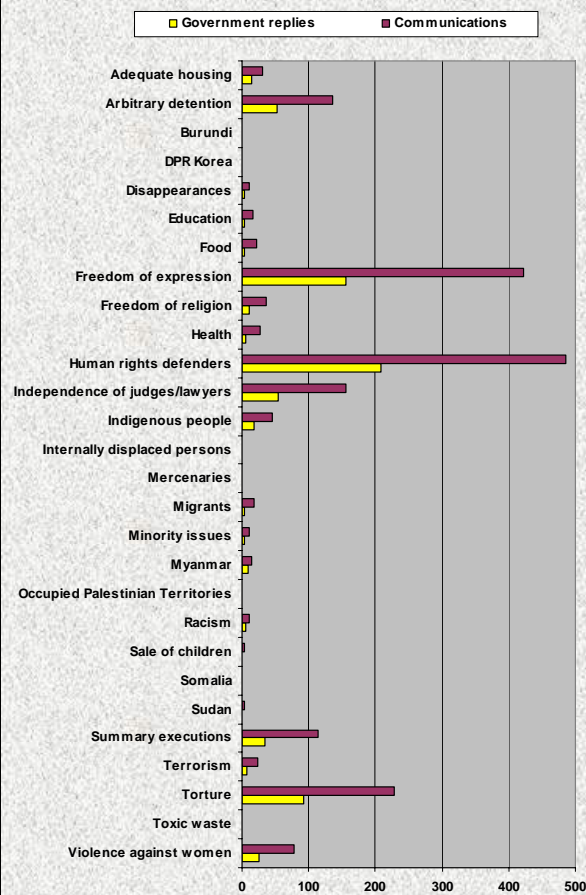
By type of communications



By region



By mandates



Human Rights stories (communications)

BRAZIL

On 10 December 2008, the Brazil Supreme Court ruled to uphold indigenous land rights in the indigenous territory Raposa-Serra do Sol in the Amazon state of Roraima. A group of farmers had petitioned the Supreme Court to overturn the Brazilian Government's legal recognition of the territory. The **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous people** had sent a letter of allegation in relation to this case on 8 June 2007.

CHINA

On 26 August 2008, the Chinese authorities released a long-term political prisoner whose detention had been determined as arbitrary by the **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention** in November 2005.

MONTENEGRO

On 25 December 2008, the Government of Montenegro officially recognized State responsibility for the enforced disappearance of 83 Bosnian Muslim refugees which occurred in 1992. The Government agreed to compensate 193 persons, of whom 8 are survivors. Reparations amount to more than 4 million Euro. The **Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances** had issued a General Allegation on this issue in 2007 and has followed the matter closely with the Montenegrin authorities since then.

SYRIA

An agronomist and human rights defender arrested on 29 July 2008 by the Syrian Military Intelligence was released on 13 August 2008. The **Working Group on Arbitrary Detention** had sent an urgent appeal on 4 August 2008 in relation to his case.

TURKEY

On 8 October 2008, the Austrian, German and Swiss Governments announced that they would withdraw from a project to build the Ilisu Dam and Hydro-Electric Power Plant Project on the River Tigris if the Turkish authorities did not solve within 60 days the social and environmental problems that such a dam would entail. All Governments concerned had received a communication from the **Special Rapporteur on the right to food** in October 2006 which warned that the building of the Ilisu Dam in Turkey would displace and impoverish more than 50,000 Kurdish people and inundate the 10,000-year-old town of Hasankeyf.

UGANDA

On 15 August 2008, three members of a local organization advocating on behalf of Uganda's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people who had been charged for trespassing, were released from prison by the Ugandan authorities. The **Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judiciary, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment** had sent a joint allegation letter on 12 August 2008 asking for their release.

COUNTRY VISITS

Mandate holders carry out country visits to investigate the situation of human rights at the national level. Mandate holders typically send a letter to the Government requesting to visit the country, and, if the Government agrees, an invitation to visit is extended. A number of countries have issued "standing invitations", which means that they are, in principle, prepared to receive a visit from any special procedures mandate holder.



Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Muñoz Villaobos, visiting a rural school in Guatemala

During such missions, the experts assess the general human rights situation in a given country, as well as the specific institutional, legal, judicial, administrative and *de facto* situation under their respective mandates. During the country visit the experts will meet with national and local authorities, including members of the judiciary and parliamentarians; members of the national human rights institution, if applicable; non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations

and victims of human rights violations; the UN and other inter-governmental agencies; and the press when giving a press-conference at the end of the mission. After their visits, special procedures' mandate-holders issue a mission report to the Human Rights Council including their findings and recommendations.

In 2008, with OHCHR's support, special procedures mandate-holders conducted 53 fact-finding missions to 48 countries. These included a visit to Moldova of the Special Rapporteurs on violence against women and torture, a joint country mission to Togo by the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders and the African Union Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, and a joint mission to Turkey by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women with a delegation of the European Parliament and European Union. One country visit had to be aborted.



Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Ms. Yakin Ertürk, with rural women in Tajikistan

standing invitations

As of 31 December 2008, 63 countries have issued standing invitations to Special Procedures.

ARGENTINA	FINLAND	LUXEMBOURG	REP. OF KOREA
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	MACEDONIA	ROMANIA
AUSTRIA	GERMANY	MALDIVES	SAN MARINO
ARMENIA	GREECE	MALTA	SERBIA
BELGIUM	GHANA	MEXICO	SIERRA LEONE
BRAZIL	GUATEMALA	MONACO	SLOVAKIA
BULGARIA	HUNGARY	MONGOLIA	SLOVENIA
CANADA	ICELAND	MONTENEGRO	SOUTH AFRICA
COLOMBIA	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS	SPAIN
COSTA RICA	ISLAMIC REP. OF IRAN	NEW ZEALAND	SWEDEN
CROATIA	ITALY	NICARAGUA	SWITZERLAND
CYPRUS	LATVIA	NORWAY	TURKEY
CZECH REPUBLIC	JORDAN	PARAGUAY	UKRAINE
DENMARK	LIECHTENSTEIN	PERU	UNITED KINGDOM
ECUADOR	LITHUANIA	POLAND	URUGUAY
ESTONIA		PORTUGAL	ZAMBIA

Country	Mandate	Date of visit
Afghanistan	SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	5-15 May 2008
Argentina	WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances	20-24 July 2008
Bosnia and Herzegovina	RSG on internally displaced persons	13-20 June 2008
Brazil	SR on indigenous people	14-25 August 2008
Central African Republic	SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	31 January - 7 February 2008
Colombia	WG on arbitrary detention	1-10 October 2008
	RSG on internally displaced persons	3-14 November 2008
Cote d'Ivoire	SR on toxic wastes	3-8 August 2008
Djibouti, Kenya and Yemen	IE on the situation of human rights in Somalia	22 November-2 December 2008
Democratic Republic of the Congo	RSG on internally displaced persons	21 January - 3 February 2008
Denmark	SR on torture	2-10 May 2008
Ecuador	IE on human rights and extreme poverty	10-14 November 2008
Equatorial Guinea	SR on torture	9-18 November 2008
Estonia	SR on the sale of children	20-24 October 2008
Georgia	RSG on internally displaced persons	1-4 October 2008
Greece	IE on minority issues	8-16 September 2008
Guatemala	SR on human rights defenders	18-19 February 2008 (Follow-up visit to 2002 visit)
	SR on migrants	24-28 March 2008
	SR on education	21-28 July 2008
Guyana	IE on minority issues	28 July-2 August 2008
Haiti	IE on the situation of human rights in Haiti	17-28 November 2008
India	SR on freedom of religion or belief	3-20 March 2008
Israel and Palestine/OPT	SR on freedom of religion or belief	20-27 January 2008
Italy	WG on arbitrary detention	3-14 November 2008
Japan	SR on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	15-19 January 2008
Kenya	RSG on internally displaced persons	19-23 March 2008
Latvia	SR on the sale of children	25-30 October 2008
Liberia	IE on human rights in Liberia	6-20 July 2008
Mauritania	SR on Racism	20-24 January 2008
	WG on arbitrary detention	19 February - 3 March 2008
Mexico	SR on Migrants	9-18 March 2008
Moldova	SR on torture and SR violence against women	4-11 July 2008
Myanmar	SR on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar	3-7 August 2008
Nepal	SR on indigenous people	24 November-2 December 2008
Netherlands	SR on toxic wastes	26-28 November 2008
Republic of Korea	SR on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	19-24 January 2008
	SR on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	27-31 October 2008
Russian Federation	SR on independence of judges and lawyers	19-29 May 2008
Saudi Arabia	SR on violence against women	4-13 February 2008
Spain	SR on human rights while countering terrorism	7-14 May 2008
Sudan	SR on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	27 February-10 March 2008
	SR on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	29 June-13 July 2008
Tajikistan	SR on violence against women	15 - 23 May 2008
Tanzania	SR on toxic wastes	21-30 March 2008
Thailand	SR on the Situation of human rights in Myanmar	6-13 August 2008
Timor Leste	RSG on internally displaced persons	7-12 December 2008
Togo	SR on human rights defenders	28 July-3 August 2008
Turkey	SR on violence against women	31 October-1 November 2008
Turkmenistan	SR on freedom of religion or belief	4-10 September 2008
Ukraine	WG on arbitrary detention	22 October-5 November 2008
United Kingdom	WG on the use of mercenaries	26-30 May 2008
United States	SR on racism	19 May- 6 June 2008
	SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	16-30 June 2008

Human Rights stories (country visits)

CANADA

On 8 July 2008, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, an independent agency that reports to the provincial legislature, released a report entitled "Right at Home" that incorporates, inter alia, a notable number of the recommendations formulated by the former **Special Rapporteur on adequate housing**. The report, qualified as "historic and ground-breaking" by some observers, draws links between international housing rights and Ontario's crisis of housing, insecurity and homelessness. It sets out a framework of action starting with a call for a national housing strategy.

ECUADOR

Following the initiative of the President of the Constitutional Assembly of Ecuador and of various indigenous organizations, and as part of the programme of technical assistance by UNDP, the **Special Rapporteur on indigenous people** visited the country in May 2008, with a view to contributing to the ongoing debate regarding constitutional review. The Special Rapporteur's observations to the Government following his visit were taken into account by the Constitutional Assembly and are currently informing the policy debate, as they are addressing demands for inclusion in the Constitution of recognition of the "plurinational" character of the country, collective rights, rights over lands and territories, and the principle of free, prior and informed consent.

TOGO

In December 2008, the **Special Rapporteur on torture** welcomed the decision by the Government of the Republic of Togo to abolish the death penalty - a step that he had recommended following his visit to the country in 2007

UNITED KINGDOM

In the report on her country visit to the United Kingdom, the **Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief** expressed concerns at the continued existence of the common law offence of blasphemy. She recommended that the Government decriminalize blasphemy as an insult to a religion and fully implement protections for individuals against incitement to racial or religious hatred. Subsequent debates in the Houses of Parliament and a report of the Joint Committee on Human Rights explicitly referred to her recommendations. In July 2008 new laws came into force abolishing the offences of blasphemy and blasphemous libel.



Special Rapporteur on torture discussing with police officers during his visit in Equatorial Guinea



Special Rapporteur on toxic wastes, Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu, visiting dumping site near Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

REPORTS

The Special Procedures' mandate-holders report on their activities on a regular basis to the relevant United Nations bodies, and particularly the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Recommendations contained in their reports may serve to bring to the attention of the Council any suggestions of the mandate holder which will enhance his or her capacity to fulfill the mandate.

In 2008, the Special Procedures' mandate-holders submitted 135 reports to the Human Rights Council (120 by thematic mandate holders), including 79 annual reports and 56 country visits reports, and 19 reports to the General Assembly.



Independent Expert on human rights and extreme poverty, Ms. Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda, during her interactive dialogue at eighth session of the Human Rights Council

REPORTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Title of document	Symbol number
Report of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	A/HRC/7/2
Corrigendum	A/HRC/7/2/Corr.1
Corrigendum	A/HRC/7/2/Corr.2
Mission to Honduras	A/HRC/7/2/Add.1
Mission to El Salvador	A/HRC/7/2/Add.2
Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Manfred Nowak)	A/HRC/7/3
Summary of cases transmitted to Governments and replies received	A/HRC/7/3/Add.1
Follow up to country recommendations	A/HRC/7/3/Add.2
Mission to Paraguay	A/HRC/7/3/Add.3
Mission to Nigeria	A/HRC/7/3/Add.4
Mission to Togo	A/HRC/7/3/Add.5
Mission to Sri Lanka	A/HRC/7/3/Add.6
Mission to Indonesia	A/HRC/7/3/Add.7
Report of the Working Group on arbitrary detention	A/HRC/7/4
Opinions adopted by the Working Group	A/HRC/7/4/Add.1
Mission to Norway	A/HRC/7/4/Add.2
Mission to Equatorial Guinea	A/HRC/7/4/Add.3
Mission to Angola	A/HRC/7/4/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food (Jean Ziegler)	A/HRC/7/5
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/5/Add.1
Mission to Bolivia	A/HRC/7/5/Add.2
Mission to Cuba	A/HRC/7/5/Add.3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (Yakin Ertürk)	A/HRC/7/6
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/6/Add.1
Mission to Algeria	A/HRC/7/6/Add.2
Mission to Ghana	A/HRC/7/6/Add.3
Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo	A/HRC/7/6/Add.4
The next step: Developing Transnational Indicators on Violence Against Women	A/HRC/7/6/Add.5

Report of the Working Group on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	A/HRC/7/7
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/7/Add.1
Mission to Peru	A/HRC/7/7/Add.2
Mission to Fiji	A/HRC/7/7/Add.3
Mission to Chile	A/HRC/7/7/Add.4
Consulta Regional para América Latina y el Caribe sobre los efectos de las actividades de las empresas militares y de seguridad privada en el disfrute de los derechos humanos: regulación y supervisión	A/HRC/7/7/Add.5
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Juan Miguel Petit)	A/HRC/7/8
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/8/Add.1
Mission to Mexico	A/HRC/7/8/Add.2
Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights (Bernards Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho)	A/HRC/7/9
Mission to Burkina Faso	A/HRC/7/9/Add.1
Note by the secretariat on the report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (Asma Jahangir)	A/HRC/7/10
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/10/Add.1
Mission to Tajikistan	A/HRC/7/10/Add.2
Mission to the United Kingdom	A/HRC/7/10/Add.3
Mission to Angola	A/HRC/7/10/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (Paul Hunt)	A/HRC/7/11
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/11/Add.1
Missions to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and to Uganda	A/HRC/7/11/Add.2
Preliminary note on the mission to Ecuador and to Colombia	A/HRC/7/11/Add.3
Preliminary note on the mission to India	A/HRC/7/11/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur of human rights of migrants (A Bustamante)	A/HRC/7/12
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/12/Add.1
Mission to the United States of America	A/HRC/7/12/Add.2
Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children (Sigma Huda)	A/HRC/7/13
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression (Ambeyi Ligabo)	A/HRC/7/14
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/14/Add.1
Mission to Ukraine	A/HRC/7/14/Add.2
Mission to Azerbaijan	A/HRC/7/14/Add.3
Report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty (Arjun Sengupta)	A/HRC/7/15
Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (Miloon Kothari)	A/HRC/7/16
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/16/Add.1
Mission to Spain	A/HRC/7/16/Add.2
Mission to South Africa	A/HRC/7/16/Add.3
Mission to Canada	A/HRC/7/16/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 (John Dugard)	A/HRC/7/17
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar (Paulo Sergio Pinheiro)	A/HRC/7/18
Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (Doudou Diène)	A/HRC/7/19

Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/19/Add.1
Mission to Estonia	A/HRC/7/19/Add.2
Mission to Latvia	A/HRC/7/19/Add.3
Mission to Lithuania	A/HRC/7/19/Add.4
Mission to the Dominican Republic (joint report with Independent Expert on minority issues)	A/HRC/7/19/Add.5
Preliminary note on the mission to Mauritania	A/HRC/7/19/Add.6
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Vítit Muntarbhorn)	A/HRC/7/20
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, (Okechukwu Ibeanu)	A/HRC/7/21
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/21/Add.1
Mission to Ukraine	A/HRC/7/21/Add.2
Preliminary note on the mission to Tanzania	A/HRC/7/21/Add.3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (Sima Samar)	A/HRC/7/22
Report of the Independent Expert on minorities issues (Gay MacDougall)	A/HRC/7/23
Communication to and from governments	A/HRC/7/23/Add.1
Mission to France	A/HRC/7/23/Add.2
Mission to the Dominican Republic (Joint report with the Special Rapporteur on racism)	A/HRC/7/23/Add.3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar submitted in accordance with HRC res. 6/33	A/HRC/7/24
Report of the Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia (Ghanim Alnajjar)	A/HRC/7/26
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders (Hina Jilani)	A/HRC/7/28
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/7/28/Add.1
Mission to Indonesia	A/HRC/7/28/Add.2
Mission to Serbia, including Kosovo	A/HRC/7/28/Add.3
Mission to The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	A/HRC/7/28/Add.4
Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent on its seventh session	A/HRC/7/36
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Cambodia (Yash Ghai)	A/HRC/7/42
Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia	A/HRC/7/67
Report of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Louis Joinet	A/HRC/8/2
Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial summary or arbitrary executions, Philip Alston	A/HRC/8/3
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/8/3/Add.1
Mission to Philippines	A/HRC/8/3/Add.2
Follow-up country recommendations	A/HRC/8/3/Add.3
Preliminary note on mission to Brazil	A/HRC/8/3/Add.4
Preliminary note on mission to Central African Republic	A/HRC/8/3/Add.5
Preliminary note on mission to Afghanistan	A/HRC/8/3/Add.6
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Leandro Despouy	A/HRC/8/4
Communications to and from Governments	A/HRC/8/4/Add.1
Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo	A/HRC/8/4/Add.2

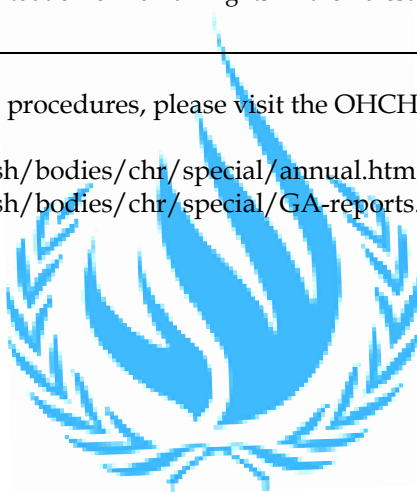
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, John Ruggie	A/HRC/8/5
Summary of four dialogues with stakeholders	A/HRC/8/5/Add.1
Patterns of the impact of corporations on human rights	A/HRC/8/5/Add.2
Annual report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights on internally displaced persons, Walter Kälin	A/HRC/8/6
Mission to Central African Republic	A/HRC/8/6/Add.1
Mission to Azerbaijan	A/HRC/8/6/Add.2
Mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo	A/HRC/8/6/Add.3
Mission to Sri Lanka	A/HRC/8/6/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Vernor Muñoz	A/HRC/8/10
Communications to and from Governments	A/HRC/8/10/Add.1
Mission to Morocco	A/HRC/8/10/Add.2
Mission to Malaysia	A/HRC/8/10/Add.3
Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina	A/HRC/8/10/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar on the implementation of Council resolutions S-5/1 and 6/33	A/HRC/8/12
Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	A/HRC/8/13
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (John Ruggie) - Implications of "complicity" and "sphere of influence"	A/HRC/8/16
Report of the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	A/HRC/7/15*
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	A/HRC/7/17
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people (Mr. James Anaya)	A/HRC/9/9
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/9/9/Add.1
Report of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity (Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki)	A/HRC/9/10
Report of the Special Rapporteur, on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, on combating defamation of religions (Mr. Doudou Diène)	A/HRC/9/12
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (Ms. Sima Samar)	A/HRC/9/13
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, on the status of implementation of recommendations compiled by the Group of experts on Darfur (Ms. Sima Samar)	A/HRC/9/13/Add.1
Report of the independent expert on the situations of human rights in Burundi (Mr. Akich Okola)	A/HRC/9/14
Report of the Independent expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia (Ms. Charlotte Abaka)	A/HRC/9/15
Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (Ms. Gulnara Shahinian)	A/HRC/9/20
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Ms. Najat M'jid Maala)	A/HRC/9/21
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights (Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu)	A/HRC/9/22
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/9/22/Add.1

Mission to Tanzania	A/HRC/9/22/Add.2
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food submitted in accordance with resolution S-7/1 of the Human Rights Council (Mr. Olivier de Schutter)	A/HRC/9/23
REPORTS TO THE 63rd SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY	
REPORT TITLE	SYMBOL NUMBER
Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	A/63/339
Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries	A/63/325
Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	A/63/175
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	A/63/263
Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons	A/63/286
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food	A/63/278
Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions	A/63/313
Report of the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty	A/63/274
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion or belief	A/63/161
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	A/63/223
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	A/63/270
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	A/63/271
Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing	A/63/275
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms)	A/63/288
Progress report of 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	A/63/289
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education	A/63/292
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	A/63/322
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	A/63/341
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	A/63/326

To find previous reports of the Special procedures, please visit the OHCHR website,

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/annual.htm>

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/GA-reports.htm>



PRESS RELEASES/ PUBLIC STATEMENTS



Members of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Mr. Roberto Garreton and Mr. Aslan Abashidze giving a press conference in Rome, Italy

In appropriate situations, including those of grave concern or in which a Government has repeatedly failed to provide a substantive response to communications, a Special Procedure mandate-holder may issue a press statement, other public statement or hold a press conference, either individually or jointly with other mandate-holders.

In 2008, Special Procedures mandate holders issued 177 press releases and public statements, of which almost 20% were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/press2008.htm>

STATEMENT BY PROF. RICHARD FALK, UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, 27 December 2008

UN EXPERT CALLS ON PARTIES TO THE SRI LANKAN CONFLICT TO BETTER PROTECT THE DISPLACED, 23 December 2008

UN EXPERTS WELCOME THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA TO CLOSE THE GUANTANAMO BAY DETENTION FACILITY, 22 December 2008

ZIMBABWE GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MUST DO MORE, 22 December 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES WELCOMES REPORT ON DISAPPEARANCES IN NEPAL, 19 December 2008
UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS DRAW ATTENTION TO SITUATION OF CHILDREN AFFECTED BY MIGRATION ON OCCASION OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY 2008, 18 December 2008

UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS DEEPLY REGRET OBSTRUCTION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL OF A PLANNED MISSION, 17 December 2008

UN EXPERT ON RIGHT TO FOOD PRESENTS CONCLUSIONS OF REPORT ON THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, 17 December 2008

UN EXPERT PRAISES NICARAGUA FOR FORMALLY CONFIRMING LAND OWNERSHIP FOR INDIGENOUS GROUP, 17 December 2008

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS ON HIS WORKING VISIT TO TIMOR LESTE, 12 December 2008

WORKING GROUP ON USE OF MERCENARIES TO HOLD FIFTH SESSION IN GENEVA FROM 15 TO 19 DECEMBER, 12 December 2008

"THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL STATES", 11 December 2008

"ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS: LEGAL ENTITLEMENTS RATHER THAN CHARITY" SAY UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS, 10 December 2008

EXPERTS ON FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION ADOPT JOINT DECLARATION ON DEFAMATION OF RELIGIONS, ANTI-TERRORISM AND ANTI-EXTREMISM LEGISLATION, 10 December 2008

"IT IS MY RIGHT", THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – SIXTY YEARS OF INSPIRATION AND EMPOWERMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, 9 December 2008

CORRUPTION AFFECTS DISPROPORTIONATELY PERSONS LIVING IN POVERTY, ESPECIALLY WOMEN", SAYS UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT, 9 December 2008

"TEN YEARS ON, HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS CONTINUE TO PAY A HIGH PRICE", 9 December 2008

GAZA: SILENCE IS NOT AN OPTION, 8 December 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARANCES CONCLUDED ITS 86TH SESSION AND ADOPTED ANNUAL REPORT, 5 December 2008

MISSED OPPORTUNITIES IN DOHA, 4 December 2008

SOMALIA: UN EXPERT COMPLETES HIS SECOND FIELD VISIT, 3 December 2008

UN EXPERT URGES ACTION ON NEPAL'S COMMITMENT TO INDIGENOUS RIGHTS, 2 December 2008

UN EXPERT ON TOXIC WASTE CONCLUDES FACT-FINDING MISSION TO THE NETHERLANDS, 1 December 2008

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND ASSOCIATION UNDER THREAT IN BURUNDI, WARNS UN EXPERT, 1 December 2008

UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS CONCERNED ABOUT SERIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, 28 November 2008

"SLAVERY IS NOT HISTORY", WARNS UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR, 27 November 2008

UN EXPERTS WARN ON THE ONGOING CRACKDOWN OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN, 27 November 2008

UN EXPERT BACKS POWER SHARING AGREEMENT IN SOMALIA, 27 November 2008

UN EXPERTS PANEL TO STUDY OVER 500 CASES OF DISAPPEARANCES, 26 November 2008

"VIOLENCE AGAINST IRAQI WOMEN CONTINUES UNABATED", SAYS UN EXPERT, 25 November 2008

UN EXPERT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO VISIT NEPAL, 24 November 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS: UN EXPERT ON TOXIC WASTE TO VISIT THE NETHERLANDS, 24 November 2008

UN EXPERTS CALL FOR EUROPEAN ACTION TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST ROMA, 20 November 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON TORTURE CONCLUDES MISSION TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 19 November 2008

UN EXPERTS STRONGLY CONDEMN THE SEVERE CONVICTIONS AND UNFAIR TRIALS IN MYANMAR, 18 November 2008

INVESTING IN SANITATION IS INVESTING IN HUMAN DIGNITY, SAYS UN EXPERT, 18 November 2008

EXPERTA INDEPENDIENTE DE NACIONES UNIDAS SOBRE LA CUESTIÓN DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS Y LA EXTREMA POBREZA CULMINA SU VISITA AL ECUADOR, 14 November 2008

UN EXPERTS CALL ON ITALY TO UPHOLD HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS RESPONSE TO IMMIGRATION AND IN FIGHTING MAFIA CRIMES AND TERRORISM, 14 November 2008

REPRESENTATIVE OF UN SECRETARY-GENERAL CONCERNED ABOUT ONGOING FORCED DISPLACEMENT CRISIS IN COLOMBIA, 14 November 2008

DOHA: "NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY", WARNS UN EXPERT, 11 November 2008

EXPERTA INDEPENDIENTE DE LA ONU SOBRE DERECHOS HUMANOS Y EXTREMA POBREZA VISITARÁ ECUADOR DEL 10 AL 14 DE NOVIEMBRE 2008, 7 November 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION CONCLUDES VISIT TO UKRAINE, 5 November 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION TO VISIT ITALY, 3 November 2008

UN EXPERT APPLAUDS THE DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN THE MALDIVES, 3 November 2008

UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND EU PARLIAMENT RAPPOREUR TO VISIT TURKEY, 30 October 2008

SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON THE RIGHT TO FOOD PRESENTS HIS FIRST REPORT TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 27 October 2008

TORTURE IS STILL A FREQUENT OR EVEN STANDARD PRACTICE IN MANY COUNTRIES, WARNS UN EXPERT, 24 October 2008

MARKETS ALONE CANNOT ENSURE HOUSING FOR ALL, UN EXPERT SAYS, 23 October 2008

UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT CONDEMNS THE KILLING OF UN STAFF IN SOMALIA, 22 October 2008

SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON TORTURE TO VISIT EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 21 October 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON SALE OF CHILDREN, CHILD PROSTITUTION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY TO VISIT ESTONIA AND LATVIA, 17 October 2008

UN EXPERTS ON THE USE OF MERCENARIES TO STUDY SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA, 16 October 2008

FINANCIAL CRISIS MUST NOT LESSEN OBLIGATION TO FIGHT POVERTY WARNS UN EXPERT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND EXTREME POVERTY, 16 October 2008

WORLD FOOD DAY, 15 October 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION CONCLUDES VISIT TO COLOMBIA, 10 October 2008

GEORGIA: UN EXPERT ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS SAYS SECURITY IS KEY TO RETURN, 4 October 2008

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS VISITS GEORGIA, 30 September 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION TO VISIT COLOMBIA IN OCTOBER, 26 September 2008

UN EXPERT WELCOMES RELEASE OF SEVEN PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF MYANMAR, 23 September 2008

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP GROUP TO ADVISE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS, 22 September 2008

NEW SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION MAKES FIRST ADDRESS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 19 September 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR DENOUNCES ANTI-INDIGENOUS ACTIONS IN BOLIVIA, 18 September 2008

SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SUDAN PRESENTS REPORT TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 16 September 2008

UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON MINORITY ISSUES CONCLUDES HER OFFICIAL VISIT TO GREECE, 16 September 2008

POLICE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY OF BRAZIL'S HOMICIDES, SAYS UN EXPERT, 15 September 2008

UN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES EXPERT COMMEMORATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF ADOPTION OF UN DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, 12 September 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF CONCLUDES VISIT TO TURKMENISTAN, 10 September 2008

UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON MINORITY ISSUES COMMENCES VISIT TO GREECE, 8 September 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF TO VISIT TURKMENISTAN, 2 September 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE
CONCLUDES VISIT TO BRAZIL, 26 August 2008

UN RIGHTS EXPERT WELCOMES LANDING OF RELIEF
VESSELS IN GAZA, 25 August 2008

RELATOR ESPECIAL DA ONU PARA OS POVOS INDÍGENAS
TERMINA VISITA OFICIAL AO BRASIL, 25 August 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT WELCOMES SOMALI AGREEMENT,
CALLS FOR RESPECT OF LAW, 20 August 2008

UN EXPERT CALLS FOR FURTHER INTERVENTION ON THE
2ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE ABIDJAN DUMPING, 19 August
2008

UN EXPERT CALLS FOR END TO IMPUNITY FOR ATTACKS
ON EDUCATORS, 15 August 2008

UN EXPERT ON INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS
CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN GEORGIA, 14
August 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE TO VISIT
BRAZIL, 13 August 2008

UN EXPERT WELCOMES RATIFICATION OF NEW
CONSTITUTION IN THE MALDIVES, 12 August 2008

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
DENOUNCES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED
AGAINST THE CHARCO LA PAVA COMMUNITY IN
PANAMA, 8 August 2008

AUSTRALIA ISSUES STANDING INVITATION TO SPECIAL
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ANAYA, THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION
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THE UNITED NATIONS AND AFRICAN UNION SPECIAL
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UN EXPERTS EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT PROPOSED EU
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UN EXPERTS ON TORTURE AND VIOLENCE AGAINST
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UN EXPERT ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
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UNITED NATIONS EXPERT GROUP DEPLORES RECENT
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UN EXPERT CONCERNED OVER UK COUNTER-TERRORISM
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UN EXPERT TELLS HEADS OF STATE THEY MUST RESPECT
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UK PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES
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RELATOR ESPECIAL DE NACIONES UNIDAS DEPLORA RECIENTES INCIDENTES DE VIOLENCIA EN BOLIVIA, 4 June 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RACISM DISMAYED AT XENOPHOBIC VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA, 30 May 2008

UNITED NATIONS EXPERT CALLS FOR RENEWED EFFORTS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE JUDICIAL REFORM IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 29 May 2008

UN EXPERT CALLS FOR RENEWED EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND ASSIST KENYA'S INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AS ESSENTIAL TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACEBUILDING, 27 May 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON THE USE OF MERCENARIES TO VISIT THE UNITED KINGDOM, 26 May 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CONCLUDES VISIT TO TAJIKISTAN, 23 May 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 16 May 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CALLS ON THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO MAKE RENEWED EFFORTS TO PREVENT UNLAWFUL KILLINGS, 15 May 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND COUNTER-TERRORISM CONCLUDES VISIT TO SPAIN, 14 May 2008

UNITED NATIONS RAPPORTEUR ON THE INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS TO VISIT THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 14 May 2008

UN EXPERTS EMPHASIZE THE OBLIGATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ASSIST THE VICTIMS OF THE CYCLONE IN MYANMAR, 13 May 2008

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ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY, UN INDEPENDENT EXPERT CALLS FOR END TO CENSORSHIP, 5 May 2008

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SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS TO VISIT THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN, 2 May 2008

NEW MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES, 30 April 2008

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UN EXPERTS CONCERNED ABOUT DETERIORATING HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE, 29 April 2008

INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOMALIA DENOUNCES THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS, APPEALS FOR CALM AND IMMEDIATE CEASE FIRE, 23 April 2008

UN EXPERTS WELCOME CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS ENDORSEMENT OF THE DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, 18 April 2008

PRESS STATEMENT BY THE UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES OCCUPIED SINCE 1967, 17 April 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE TO VISIT DENMARK, 16 April 2008

UN WORKING GROUP CONCLUDES THIRD SESSION, ADDRESSES NEW TYPES OF MERCENARY ACTIVITY, 14 April 2008

UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS CALL FOR RESTRAINT AND TRANSPARENCY AS MASS ARRESTS ARE REPORTED IN THE TIBET AUTONOMOUS REGION AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN CHINA, 10 April 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERTS CONDEMN DISTORTED VISION OF MUSLIMS IN THE FILM "FITNA" AND CALL FOR DIALOGUE AND VIGILANCE, 28 March 2008

RELATOR ESPECIAL SOBRE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS DE LOS MIGRANTES CONCLUYE SU VISITA OFICIAL A GUATEMALA, 28 March 2008

UN EXPERT ON EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS WARNS AGAINST REINSTATEMENT OF DEATH PENALTY BY STEALTH, 25 March 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF CONCLUDES VISIT TO INDIA, 20 March 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS TO VISIT GUATEMALA, 20 March 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS CONCLUDES VISIT TO MEXICO, 15 March 2008

UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP TO DISCUSS HUNDREDS OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCES, 10 March 2008

UNREGULATED ACTIVITIES BY PRIVATE MILITARY SECURITY COMPANIES MAJOR CAUSE OF CONCERN, SAYS UN WORKING GROUP, 10 March 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANTS TO VISIT MEXICO, 8 March 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS CALL ON STATES TO INVEST IN WOMEN AND GIRLS TO ENSURE GENDER EQUALITY AND PREVENT VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 8 March 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF WATER SUPPLY DESTROYED BY BOMB IN IRAQ, 6 March 2008

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UNITED NATIONS EXPERT SUPPORTS CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT JUDICIARY IN THE MALDIVES, 2 March 2008

LE GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LA DÉTENTION ARBITRAIRE CONCLUT SA MISSION EN MAURITANIE, 1 mars 2008

UN EXPERTS CALL ON U.S. GOVERNMENT TO HALT ONGOING EVICTIONS AND TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA AND THE DEMOLITION OF PUBLIC HOUSING IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, 28 February 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF TO VISIT INDIA, 27 February 2008

LE REPRÉSENTANT DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL POUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME DES PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES CONCLUT SA VISITE EN RÉPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, 22 February 2008

THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS CONCLUDES HER MISSION TO GUATEMALA, 20 February 2008

UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS WELCOME AUSTRALIA'S APOLOGY TO INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, 18 February 2008

UN WORKING GROUP ON ARBITRARY DETENTION TO VISIT MAURITANIA, 18 February 2008

REPRESENTANTE ESPECIAL DEL SECRETARIO GENERAL SOBRE LA SITUACIÓN DE LOS DEFENSORES DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS VISITARÁ GUATEMALA, 15 February 2008

UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN CONCLUDES VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, 13 February 2008

LE REPRÉSENTANT DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DES NATIONS UNIES SUR LES DROITS DE L'HOMME DES PERSONNES DÉPLACÉES À L'INTÉRIEUR DE LEUR PROPRE PAYS SE REND EN REPUBLIQUE DEMOCRATIQUE DU CONGO, 8 février 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL, SUMMARY OR ARBITRARY EXECUTIONS CONCLUDES VISIT TO CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, 7 February 2008

THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR EXPRESSES DISMAY OVER THE CONTINUED ARRESTS, DETENTIONS AND CHARGES AGAINST POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, 5 February 2008

HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT CONDEMNS KILLINGS OF AID WORKERS IN SOMALIA, 30 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 30 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TOXIC WASTE CONCLUDES MISSION TO TANZANIA, 30 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS TO VISIT THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, 30 January 2008

UN HUMAN RIGHTS EXPERT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TO VISIT SAUDI ARABIA, 28 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF CONCLUDES VISIT TO ISRAEL AND THE OPT, 28 January 2008

UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) CONCLUDES VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 25 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF THE ILLICIT MOVEMENT AND DUMPING OF TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS AND WASTES ON THE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS TO VISIT THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, 22 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND RELATED INTOLERANCE TO VISIT MAURITANIA, 20 January 2008

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VISIT OF THE UNITED NATIONS (UN) SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA (DPRK) TO JAPAN, 18 January 2008

UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF TO VISIT ISRAEL AND THE OPT, 17 January 2008

SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TORTURE TO VISIT EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 15 January 2008

SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE HOLDERS DEEPLY CONCERNED BY SITUATION IN KENYA, 4 January 2008

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

Special Procedures Division
c/o OHCHR-UNOG
8-14 Avenue de la Paix 1211
Geneva 10
Switzerland
Fax: +4122 917 90 06

E-mail: urgent-action@ohchr.org

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

For further information, or to submit information (other than specific information on alleged human rights violations), please contact: spinfo@ohchr.org