

# **ELEANOR'S DREAM**

*1948 to 2008: The State of Human Rights at the United Nations*

Scorecard and Report on the  
UN Human Rights Council



Presented at the United Nations  
December 10, 2008

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## ELEANOR'S DREAM

### Executive Summary

Six decades ago, on December 10, 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the *magna carta* for mankind. The historic proclamation was created by a drafting committee that included Eleanor Roosevelt, founding chair of the UN Human Rights Commission, Rene Cassin of France, Charles Malik of Lebanon, P.C. Chang of China, and John Humphrey of Canada, and enshrined core principles common to all humanity. The 60th anniversary of the Declaration is a time to celebrate and reaffirm these universal principles.

For proponents of human rights worldwide, however, the celebration of this historic text is marred by the state of crisis that plagues the current UN Human Rights Council (HRC).

Created in 2006 to replace the Commission, which became discredited for being politicized and acting arbitrarily, the HRC was supposed to mark a new beginning. Regrettably, with few exceptions, the opposite has happened. The council is dominated today by an alliance of repressive regimes, including China, Cuba, and Saudi Arabia, that has acted systematically to undermine and erode core principles and effective mechanisms created by the generation of Eleanor Roosevelt and those that followed.

For example, the Council this year overturned protection of freedom of expression by a revised mandate, sponsored by Islamic states with Cuban support, that now polices “the abuse” of this freedom. The Council eliminated human rights monitors in Belarus, Cuba, Liberia, Congo (DRC), and Darfur. The expert on Sudan was renewed only for six months, an anomalous term at the Council, and is slated for possible elimination at the March 2009 session. The Council appointed one expert who is the co-founder of the “Moammar Qaddafi Human Rights Prize” (Jean Ziegler), and another who believes that the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, were an inside job (Richard Falk). Although a new mechanism to review all states (Universal Periodic Review, or UPR) has potential, thus far it has been largely a toothless exercise.

Sixty years after the founding vision of Eleanor Roosevelt and Rene Cassin, the United Nations human rights system as a whole find itself in a state of crisis.

This UN Watch report includes the following key findings:

- **Only 13 of 47 HRC Members Voted Positively:** Out of 47 HRC member states, only a minority of 13 had positive voting records in our study of actions taken on 32 key resolutions. In order of highest ranking, these were **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Bosnia, Ukraine, Japan**, and the **Republic of Korea**. *See scorecard and full table of resolutions.*

- **Majority 34 of 47 HRC Members Voted Negatively:** A majority of 34 out of the 47 HRC member states had negative voting records—casting ballots against independent human rights mechanisms or basic principles such as free speech—or supported counter-productive resolutions sponsored by repressive regimes. From bad to worse, these were: **Guatemala, Uruguay, Mexico, Peru, Brazil, Bolivia, Gabon, Cameroon, Ghana, India, Madagascar, Philippines, Angola, Jordan, Mauritius, Zambia, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Djibouti, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, South Africa, Cuba, Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Russia, Sri Lanka and China.** *See scorecard and full table of resolutions.*
- **HRC Ignored Worst Abusers:** In 2007-2008, the council failed to address the world's worst human rights violations. Of the 20 worst violators on Freedom House's annual survey, the council censured only **Myanmar and North Korea.** While it did adopt resolutions on **Sudan**, these were non-condemnatory, weak, and ineffective, some even praising Sudan for its "cooperation." **Somalia's** violations were addressed as a matter of mere "technical consideration." Even worse, the council failed to adopt any resolution, special session or investigative mandate for: **Belarus, China, Cuba, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Laos, Libya, Morocco, North Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe.** *See table, "How HRC Addressed Worst Abusers."*
- **The Spoilers Have It:** While almost half of the Council's 47 members are free democracies (49%), only a minority of these countries—about a dozen—have consistently voted in defense of the values and principles that the Council is supposed to promote. Instead, the body has been dominated by an increasingly brazen alliance of repressive regimes seeking not only to spoil needed reforms but to undermine the few meaningful mechanisms of UN human rights protection that already exist. Their goal is impunity for systematic abuses. Unfortunately, as this report shows, too many democracies have been going along with the spoilers, out of loyalty to regional groups and other political alliances.

- **Total HRC Condemnations to Date:** From its inception in June 2006 to the present, the HRC has condemned **North Korea** in 1 resolution, **Myanmar** in 4, and **Israel** in 20 resolutions. While the council did address Sudan several times, these were not condemnations but weak and ineffective resolutions, some of which actually praised Sudan for its “cooperation.” Despite the pleas of former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as well as current UN chief Ban Ki-moon, the HRC’s focus has actually become even more narrow than was the case under the former Commission on Human Rights.
  
- **Current Composition of the 2008-2009 Council:**
  - 24 out of 47 current UNHRC members (51%) fall short of basic democracy standards, with ratings of either Partly Free or Not Free.
  - 32 out of 47 UNHRC (68%) members have a negative voting record on UN resolutions that promote human rights.
  - 35 out of the current 47 UNHRC members (74%) have voted to restrict the independence of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. *See table analyzing current HRC members.*



### 2007-2008 Scorecard of UNHRC Members on Key Actions

Looking at 32 key UNHRC actions, we scored each Council member's position as positive (1), negative (-1) or neutral (0). The highest possible score is 32 and the lowest is -32.

Country	Score
Canada	19
France	11
Germany	11
Italy	11
Netherlands	11
Romania	11
Slovenia	11
United Kingdom	11
Switzerland	9
Bosnia Herzegovina	8
Ukraine	8
Japan	5
Republic of Korea	5
Guatemala	-5
Uruguay	-8
Mexico	-9
Peru	-10
Brazil	-11
Bolivia	-12
Gabon	-12
Cameroon	-13
Ghana	-13
India	-13
Madagascar	-13

Country	Score
Philippines	-13
Angola	-15
Jordan	-15
Mauritius	-15
Zambia	-15
Saudi Arabia	-16
Azerbaijan	-17
Bangladesh	-17
Djibouti	-17
Mali	-17
Nigeria	-17
Pakistan	-17
Qatar	-17
Senegal	-17
South Africa	-17
Cuba	-18
Egypt	-18
Indonesia	-18
Malaysia	-18
Nicaragua	-18
Russian Federation	-18
Sri Lanka	-18
China	-19

## Current HRC Membership

- 35 out of 47 UNHRC members (74%) have voted to restrict the independence of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- 24 out of 47 UNHRC members (51%) fall short of basic democracy standards, with ratings of either Partly Free or Not Free.
- 32 out of 47 UNHRC (68%) members have a negative voting record on UN resolutions that promote human rights.

Country	Freedom Rating	Human Rights Voting Record	Supported High Commissioner (HRC 7/2, GA 61/159)	Affiliations	Regional Group
Angola	Not Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa
Argentina	Free	Positive	X	None	GRULAC
Azerbaijan	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM (observer)	EE
Bahrain	Partly Free	Negative	X	OIC, Arab, NAM	Asia
Bangladesh	Partly Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Asia
Bolivia	Partly Free	Negative	X	NAM	GRULAC
Bosnia	Partly Free	Positive	✓	OIC (observer)	EE
Brazil	Free	Negative	X	NAM (observer)	GRULAC
Burkina Faso	Partly Free	Mixed*	X	NAM	Africa
Cameroon	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Africa
Canada	Free	Positive	✓	JUSCANZ	WEOG
Chile	Free	Positive*	X	NAM	GRULAC
China	Not Free	Negative	X	NAM (observer)	Asia
Cuba	Not Free	Negative	X	NAM	GRULAC
Djibouti	Partly Free	Negative	X	OIC, Arab, NAM	Africa
Egypt	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC, Arab, NAM	Africa
France	Free	Positive	✓	EU	WEOG
Gabon	Partly Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Africa
Germany	Free	Positive	✓	EU	WEOG
Ghana	Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa
India	Free	Negative	X	NAM, Arab (observer)	Asia
Indonesia	Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Asia
Italy	Free	Positive	✓	EU	WEOG
Japan	Free	Positive	✓	JUSCANZ	Asia
Jordan	Partly Free	Negative	X	OIC, Arab, NAM	Asia
Madagascar	Partly Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa
Malaysia	Partly Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Asia
Mauritius	Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa
Mexico	Free	Negative	X	NAM (observer)	GRULAC
Netherlands	Free	Positive	✓	EU	WEOG
Nicaragua	Partly Free	Negative	X	NAM	GRULAC
Nigeria	Partly Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa

## Current HRC Membership

Country	Freedom Rating	Human Rights Voting Record	Supported High Commissioner (HRC 7/2, GA 61/159)	Affiliations	Regional Group
Pakistan	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Asia
Philippines	Partly Free	Negative	X	NAM	Asia
Qatar	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC, Arab, NAM	Asia
Rep. of Korea	Free	Positive	Abstain	None	Asia
Russia	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC (observer)	EE
Saudi Arabia	Not Free	Negative	X	OIC, Arab, NAM	Asia
Senegal	Free	Negative	X	OIC, NAM	Africa
Slovakia	Free	Positive*	Abstain	EU	EE
Slovenia	Free	Positive	✓	EU	EE
South Africa	Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa
Switzerland	Free	Positive	Abstain	JUSCANZ	WEOG
Ukraine	Free	Positive	✓	NAM (observer)	EE
United Kingdom	Free	Positive	✓	EU	WEOG
Uruguay	Free	Negative	X	NAM (observer)	GRULAC
Zambia	Partly Free	Negative	X	NAM	Africa

### Methodology

\* **An asterisk** indicates new Human Rights Council members, whose voting records were determined based on their 2006 and 2007 votes on human rights resolutions at the UN General Assembly, as measured by the Democracy Coalition Project.

**Freedom rating** taken from 2008 Freedom in the World Survey by Freedom House.

**Voting records** taken from data from the latest UN Watch and Freedom House evaluations:  
<http://www.unwatch.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=bdKKISNqEmG&b=1330819&ct=5360729>

**Support and opposition to the independence of the High Commissioner** was measured by examining country votes on two key resolutions:

- UN Human Rights Council Resolution 7/2 of 27 March 2008, “Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.” Sponsored by the Cuban government. Adopted by a vote of 34 in favor, 10 opposed, and 3 abstentions.
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/159 of 19 December 2006, “Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.” Sponsored by the Cuban government. Adopted by a vote of 118 in favor, 7 opposed, and 55 abstentions.

Both resolutions limit the independence of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, one of many regular acts of intimidation by regimes interested in hiding their abuses. The way in which countries voted demonstrates their commitment to supporting the institution of the High Commissioner and to protecting the UN’s non-political human rights mechanisms. A green check mark indicates that the country opposed at least one of the resolutions; a red X indicates that the country supported both, or supported one while abstaining or not voting for the other.



## **Methodology: Key UN Human Rights Council Actions in 2007-2008**

To assess the Council's performance, we focused on its most meaningful human rights actions. By meaningful, we mean resolutions and motions that were widely considered among HRC stakeholders to be important and were treated as such by members through their statements and actions. Resolutions on technical issues and those that passed by consensus and without significant debate were not considered meaningful for the purposes of our evaluation.

The most important class of resolutions for diplomats and human rights activists has always been the "name and shame" votes where a specific country is censured. Out of more than 190 UN member states, the Council's predecessor body each year typically censured only five or six. The power of such denunciations in the world of human rights and the arena of international relations cannot, therefore, be underestimated. Large and small states alike exert considerable diplomatic efforts to avoid censure.

Even if they are major violators of human rights, powerful states, such as China or Russia, have routinely been shielded from condemnation. The same has held true for those that belong to large and powerful alliances—e.g., Zimbabwe, which belongs to the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a political bloc of developing countries; or Saudi Arabia, a member of NAM, the Arab League, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), an alliance of 57 Muslim nations.

In 2007-2008, the vast majority of states escaped censure by the Council, including serial violators such as Iran, China and Sri Lanka. There were only 18 country-specific resolutions, dealing only with a handful of countries: nine censures of Israel, four censures of Burma, one censure of North Korea, three non-condemnatory resolutions on Sudan, and one resolution that eliminated the Council's mandate to investigate abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Other meaningful votes included:

- An EU-sponsored resolution extending the Council's mandate to protect freedom of religion.
- An amendment by the Islamic and African blocs that redefines the mandate of the expert on freedom of expression, now requiring him to police individuals who "abuse" their free speech. This was a dramatic reversal in the history of the UN.
- An Islamic-group text on "defamation of religion," seeking to suppress perceived offenses against Islam, and to reinforce and justify domestic blasphemy laws, in contravention of the fundamental principle that international human rights law protects individuals, not religions.
- A resolution by Cuba limiting the independence of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, one of many regular acts of intimidation by regimes interested in hiding their abuses. The way in which countries voted demonstrates their commitment to protecting the UN's non-political human rights mechanisms.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

2nd Cycle, 2007-2008

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>Belarus</b>	<p>Repression of political dissent; media censorship; severe restrictions on freedom of association; systematic use of torture.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In March 2008, the Belarusian government cracked down on independent media, with security agents detaining thirty journalists in twelve cities on suspicion of insulting the country's president, Alexander Lukashenko. Libeling the president in Belarus is punishable by up to four years in jail.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None. Was eliminated in June 2007 reform package.
<b>Burma (Myanmar)</b>	<p>Persecution of political activists, ethnic and religious minorities; media censorship; severe restrictions on freedom of association.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In September 2007, the Burmese security forces fired "shoot-to-kill" on unarmed demonstrators. Scores were arrested arbitrarily. The regime raided Buddhist monasteries to prevent nuns and monks from joining the protests. To hide the regime's crimes from the world, foreign journalists were barred entry into the country.</p>	4 resolutions introduced.	4 resolutions adopted. <i>See details in Scorecard.</i>	None.	Expert on Myanmar.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

2nd Cycle, 2007-2008

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>China</b>	<p>Media censorship; repression of political dissent; ongoing human rights violations in occupied Tibet; severe restrictions on the freedoms of association, religion and expression.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> April 2008 saw protests and riots in Tibet, with Chinese police firing on hundreds of Buddhist monks and other protesters. Tibetans say the ensuing crackdown left more than 140 dead and as many as 1,000 ethnic Tibetans jailed.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Cuba</b>	<p>Media censorship; imprisonment of journalists and pro-democracy advocates; government economic control</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In September 2007, 30 activists were arrested and held for 24 hours, reportedly enduring beatings, strip searches, and threats of arrest.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None. Was eliminated in June 2007 reform package.
<b>Chad</b>	<p><i>Example:</i> In February 2008, Lol Mahmat Choua, Ngarlegy Yorongar and Ibno Mahamat Saleh disappeared during a Chadian government crackdown on political opponents, including members of opposition parties and journalists. The crackdown contributed to a wave of refugees and internally displaced persons.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

*2nd Cycle, 2007-2008*

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	<p>Media censorship; restrictions on freedom of association; abuse of ethnic minorities by vigilante groups with impunity; widespread violence against women.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In March 2008, police detained and tortured Saturnino Ncogo Mobomio, a member of the banned opposition Progress Party. He died in police custody, and no impartial investigation into his death was carried out. His arrest was followed by at least seven more arrests of suspected Progress Party members.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Eritrea</b>	<p>Media censorship; persecution of political activists and religious minorities; widespread use of torture, arbitrary detention, and political arrests.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In February 2007, Moges Solomon died in an Eritrean army camp after being detained in 2003 for being a member of a banned evangelical church. He was just one of over 2,000 Eritreans imprisoned for participating in evangelical and other minority churches.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Laos</b>	<p>Severe media censorship; oppression of religious minorities; corrupt judiciary.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In September 2008, Mr. Phoun and schoolteacher Mr. Khambane were detained and placed in deplorable prison conditions for converting to Christianity. Laos severely restricts freedom of religious beliefs.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

*2nd Cycle, 2007-2008*

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>Libya</b>	<p>Suppression of political activity; highly politicized judicial proceedings; media censorship.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Libya fully backed Hannibal Qaddafi when the dictator's son was arrested for beating his maid and servant, who said they were treated like slaves. In September 2008, Libya was accused by a Palestinian doctor of gruesome torture practices while he and five Bulgarian nurses were imprisoned as scapegoats for the deaths of HIV-infected children.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Morocco (Western Sahara)</b>	<p>Media censorship; political repression.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In October 2007, the Coalition of Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders was compelled to cancel its constitutive assembly when authorities refused to authorize their public meeting. Collective member Elwali Almidane had previously been sentenced to five years in prison for participating in demonstrations against Moroccan rule. The Moroccan government continues to repress calls for independence in the Western Sahara region.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

2nd Cycle, 2007-2008

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
North Korea	<p>Severe political repression; horrific prison conditions; systematic use of torture; severe media censorship; forced labor; forced prostitution.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In 2007, the government increased border patrols and warned of harsher punishments for those who leave the country without state permission—virtually impossible to obtain. The food crisis has intensified in North Korea as elites are given preferential access to the limited food supply, effectively starving the larger population.</p>	1 resolution introduced.	1 resolution adopted. <i>See details in Scorecard.</i>	None.	Expert on North Korea.
Russia (Chechnya)	<p>Widespread war crimes against civilians; political repression.</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> Russia invaded Georgia and committed massive violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. In August 2008, Mokhmdsalak Masaev disappeared after he made public his detention and torture by Chechen security agents the previous year. The local police station refused to file a report of his abduction. He is just one of the more than 5,000 people who have “disappeared” in a similar manner—most certainly at the hands of Chechen and Russian authorities.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

2nd Cycle, 2007-2008

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	<p>Systematic repression of women and non-Muslims; regular use of severe corporal punishment; use of torture and prison abuse</p> <p><i>Examples:</i> Woman of Qatif sentenced to 200 lashes for daring to protest her gang rape. In May 2008, Saudi secret police arrested human rights activist Dr. Matrook al-Faleh days after he publicly criticized the prison conditions where two other human rights activists are serving terms.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Somalia</b>	<p>Severe political corruption; media censorship and restrictions; continued use of extrajudicial killing, torture, and arbitrary detention.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In November 2007, fighting intensified amongst the Transitional Federal Government (TFG), Ethiopian forces, and insurgent groups in the capital, Mogadishu, with all warring parties carrying out violence against civilians. The TFG carried out a campaign of killing, looting, and collective punishment. More than half of the city's population fled while another portion remained trapped inside without access to adequate medical care and other services.</p>	1 resolution introduced.	1 resolution adopted, as a matter of "technical cooperation." The text was non-condemnatory and failed to name the perpetrators of violence. <i>See details in Scorecard.</i>	None.	Mandate on Somalia under threat of elimination.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

*2nd Cycle, 2007-2008*

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>Sudan</b>	<p>Sponsoring acts of genocide in the Darfur region; media censorship and restrictions; suppression of political activity.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In May 2008, Sudanese Armed Forces and supported militias killed civilians in Abyei and looted the town, burning down more than half of its homes and internally displacing tens of thousands of civilians.</p>	3 resolutions introduced.	<p>3 resolutions adopted. Regrettably, these were weak or ineffective, with some praising Sudan for its “cooperation.”</p> <p><i>See details in Scorecard.</i></p>	None.	Mandate on Sudan under threat of elimination.
<b>Syria</b>	<p>Use of assassinations as a political tool; media censorship and restrictions; suppression of political activity; severe restrictions on freedom of association.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In May 2008, Syrian security forces arrested political analyst Habib Saleh and placed him in incommunicado detention. He had written articles critical of the Syrian regime. That same month, state courts charged blogger Tarek Biasi to a three-year prison term for insulting the security forces, and began the trial of Mohammad Badi Dek al-Bab, member of the National Organization for Human Rights, on charges of harming national prestige. Syria continuously detains and imprisons its political opponents.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.



## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

*2nd Cycle, 2007-2008*

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	<p>Suppression of political activity; severe restrictions on freedom of association; forced relocation of ethnic minorities; severe restrictions on freedom of movement.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In May 2007, Vyacheslav Kalataevsky was sentenced to three years in a labor camp. Although the charges were for illegal border crossing, his pretrial interrogation focused on his religious activities as a Baptist. Religious freedom is suppressed in the country. The new regime of Berdymukhamedov has not done enough to implement reform and release prisoners, unfairly detained.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	<p>Continued impunity regarding the Andijan massacre; intimidation of and violence against journalists and civil society activists; repression of political activity; severe media censorship.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> In July 2008, police arrested human rights lawyer Akzam Turgunov on charges of extortion under circumstances that appear to be staged to frame him. In police custody, someone poured boiling water down his back, causing severe burns.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None. Scrutiny under confidential complaint procedure discontinued in 2006.

## 2008: HOW THE HRC ADDRESSED THE WORLD'S WORST ABUSERS

2nd Cycle, 2007-2008

Country	Abuses	Resolutions Introduced	Resolutions Adopted	Special Sessions	Investigative Mandates
Zimbabwe	<p>Violence and intimidation of journalists and government opposition; forced relocation of citizens; media censorship.</p> <p><i>Example:</i> Following the March 2008 elections that showed the opposition party ahead in the polls, Zimbabwe's ruling party and supported militias carried out a violent crackdown on opposition supporters, killing a couple hundred and beating and torturing thousands. The government also pressed politically motivated criminal charges against at least 12 opposition members of parliament.</p>	None.	None.	None.	None.

*List of world's worst human rights abusers taken from Freedom House annual survey. For full report and methodology, see [http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/special\\_report/62.pdf](http://www.freedomhouse.org/uploads/special_report/62.pdf).*

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
OM/1/1: Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on follow-up to the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon	Pakistan for the Islamic Group, and Sudan for the Arab League	“Recalling its resolution S-2/1 of 11 August 2006 on ‘The grave situation of human rights in Lebanon caused by Israeli military operations’...”	Recalls resolution that was rejected by democracies as one-sided for investigating and condemning only Israeli conduct in 2006 war with Hezbollah. Encourages Iranian-sponsored extremism in the Middle East, emboldens opponents of peace process.	Adopted without a vote 6/20/07	No
OM/1/2: Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1	Pakistan for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (“the Islamic Group”), and Sudan for the Arab League	“Noting with regret that Israel, the occupying Power, has not to date implemented these two resolutions and hindered the dispatching of the urgent fact-finding missions specified therein...”	Censures Israel for not cooperating with two Islamic-initiated missions of inquiry from previous year concerning Gaza. Both inquiries sought to exclude firing of Palestinian Qassam rockets from examination and to look only at Israel’s responses, and were rejected as one-sided by democracies at the HRC. Resolution OM/1/2 adopted contrary to plea by UN expert on Palestine John Dugard, who said his regular reports already covered the events, the issue was moot, and resolution was unhelpful. Council’s initial 2006 attempt to dispatch Dugard in S-1/1 also adopted contrary to his requests.  Resolution claimed concern for S-3/1 (Beit Hanoun, Nov. 2006) but disregarded contemporaneous Hamas-Fatah killings in Beit Hanoun.	Adopted without a vote 6/20/07	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
Vote on HRC President's ruling that the Institution-Building Package (HRC 5/1) was adopted by consensus the night before	Incoming HRC President Costea, for package sponsored by outgoing HRC President Luis Alfonso de Alba	<i>HRC President Costea:</i> "There is a challenge to a ruling that I have just said. . . that this organizational meeting need[s] to proceed with the necessary follow-up concerning the agreement on the package. . . I would call for a vote on this situation. . . whether the ruling that I have just offered is correct or not. Let me repeat what your opinion is asked about: We need to proceed with the necessary follow-up concerning the agreement on the package." (See <a href="#">UN webcast video</a> , June 19, 2007.)	Council members vote 46 to 1 in support of the president's interpretation, thereby deciding retroactively that the post-midnight announcement of President De Alba constituted actual adoption of the text—and that, notwithstanding Canada's declared opposition, it had been adopted "by consensus."	Adopted 6/19/07  Vote: Yes: 46 No: 1	No
A/HRC/6/7: Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures	Cuba for the Non Aligned Movement	"Condemns the continued unilateral application and enforcement by Certain Powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure against any country, particularly against developing countries, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems..."  "Invites all special rapporteurs. . . to pay due attention. . . Requests the High Commissioner to give urgent consideration to the present resolution..."	Fails to distinguish between unilateral coercive measures such as economic or non-economic sanctions that are acceptable under international law, and extraterritorial measures that are contrary to international law.  Politically-motivated text imposes hierarchy of issues upon Council and independent experts, on basis of political interests of sponsoring states.	Adopted 9/28/07  Vote: Yes: 34 No: 11 Abstain: 2	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

<b>Symbol and Title</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Desired Vote</b>
A/HRC/6/18: Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolutions S-1/1 and S-3/1	Iraq for the Arab Group, and Pakistan for the Islamic Group	“Noting with regret that Israel, the occupying Power, has not implemented to date these two resolutions and hindered the dispatching of the urgent fact-finding missions specified therein...”	<i>Same as OM/1/2; see analysis above.</i>	Adopted without a vote 9/28/07	No
A/HRC/6/19: Religious and cultural rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	Iraq for the Arab Group, Pakistan for the Islamic Group, and Venezuela	<p>“Deeply concerned at the Israeli actions undermining the sanctity and inviolability of religious sites in the Occupied Palestinian Territory including East Jerusalem...”</p> <p>“Deeply concerned also at the Israeli policy of closures and the severe restrictions, including curfews and the permit regime, that continue to be imposed on the movement of Palestinians and their free access to their holy sites, including Al Aqsa Mosque...”</p>	<p>Unbalanced and excessive language hampers effective dialogue aimed at resolving genuine concerns, with negative effect on ongoing UNESCO negotiations. Effectively grants impunity to worst violators of religious freedom in the Middle East.</p> <p>Fails to reflect the human rights provisions that in specific circumstances (threats to public safety, terrorism), allow limitations on religious practices and access to religious sites.</p>	<p>Adopted 9/28/07</p> <p>Vote: 31 Yes 1 No 15 Abstain</p>	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/6/21: Elaboration of international complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	Egypt for the African Group	<p>“Deeply alarmed at the sharp increase in xenophobic tendencies and intolerance towards various racial and religious groups and cultures, where people belonging to minorities, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and illegal migrants are the worst affected victims of such tendencies and acts...”</p> <p>“Recalling [the Council’s] decision...by which...it decided to establish the Ad Hoc Committee of the Human Rights Council on the Elaboration of the Complementary Standards, with the mandate to elaborate, as a matter of priority and necessity, complementary standards...filling the existing gaps in the convention, and also providing new normative standards aimed at combating all forms of contemporary racism, including incitement to racial and religious hatred...”</p>	<p>Prejudges result of discussion in the Ad Hoc Committee on International Complementary Standards by selectively mentioning international instruments dealing with the issue of religion and freedom of expression and arbitrarily outlines the content of these possible future norms.</p> <p>Creates hierarchy between various categories of victims of racism, by arbitrarily stressing that specific groups suffer more than others.</p> <p>Seeks to impose specific norms as complementary standards based on subjective criteria rather than genuine needs in the fight against racism.</p>	<p>Adopted 9/28/07</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 32 No: 10 Abstain: 4</p>	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/6/22: From rhetoric to reality : a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	Egypt for the African Group	<p>“Deploing the surge and sharp increases in xenophobic and racial tendencies in certain regions of the world, particularly towards those categories of victims already identified in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action such as migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, people of African descent, people of Asian descent and national and ethnic descent...”</p> <p>“Absolutely convinced that the lack of political will remain the core factor prompting the failure by States to translate the Durban commitments into concrete action and tangible results, in particular with respect to honouring the memory of the victims of historical injustices and past tragedies caused by slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade, apartheid, colonialism and genocide, and also underlining that Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples were victims of these injustices and tragedies and continue to be victims of their consequences...”</p>	<p>Implies that racism is only present in some parts of the world.</p> <p>Imposes hierarchy between victims of racism.</p> <p>Selectively focuses on only some parts of the DDPA.</p>	<p>Adopted 9/28/07</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 28 No: 13 Abstain: 5</p>	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/6/23: Preparation of the Durban Review Conference	Egypt for the African Group	“Noting with deep regret the non-participation of all relevant non-governmental organizations [to the organizational session of the Preparatory Committee in August 2007], including the victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and also regretting the fact that not all these entities were able to contribute to the Preparatory Committee’s dialogue on the ‘Objectives of the Review Conference’...”	Fails to reflect the reality of the content and outcome of the August 2007 session of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference.	Adopted 9/28/07  Vote: Yes: 33 No: 10 Abstain: 3	No
A/HRC/S-5/1: Situation of human rights in Myanmar  <i>(Adopted in Special Session)</i>	Portugal for the EU	“Deeply concerned at the situation of human rights in Myanmar...”  “Strongly deplores the continued violent repression of peaceful demonstrations in Myanmar...”  “Urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms...”  “Requests the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to assess the current human rights situation...”	Special session deplored Burmese repression. Although the original word “condemns” was excised, this was nevertheless a welcome statement.	Adopted without a vote 10/2/07	Yes



**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

<b>Symbol and Title</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Desired Vote</b>
A/HRC/6/33: Follow-up to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	Portugal for the EU	<p>“Deeply concerned about the situation of human rights in Myanmar...”</p> <p>“Strongly urges the Governments of Myanmar to follow-up and implement the recommendations contained in the report [of the Special Rapporteur]...”</p> <p>“Requests the Special Rapporteur...to monitor the implementation of this resolution and to conduct, in this regard, a follow-up mission to Myanmar...”</p>	Renewed censure of Burmese repression.	Adopted without a vote 12/14/07	Yes
A/HRC/6/34: Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	Egypt for the African Group	<p>“Urges the Government of the Sudan to continue cooperating fully with the Special Rapporteur...”</p> <p>“Requests the Special Rapporteur to assess the needs of the Sudan...and to mobilize the necessary international technical and financial support for the Sudan in the field of human rights...”</p> <p>“Further requests the Special Rapporteur to ensure effective follow-up and foster the implementation of the...recommendations identified in the first report of the Group of Experts...through open and constructive dialogue with the Government of the Sudan...”</p>	<p>Extends for one year the mandate of the rapporteur on Sudan, and urges implementation of her recommendations.</p> <p>Fails to condemn massive violations of human rights perpetrated by Sudan.</p> <p>Emphasizes “the needs of the Sudan.”</p> <p>Seeks to mobilize financial support for Sudan.</p> <p>Falsely implies Sudan is “cooperating fully” with the rapporteur.</p>	Adopted without a vote 12/14/07	Abstain

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

<b>Symbol and Title</b>	<b>Sponsors</b>	<b>Text</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Desired Vote</b>
A/HRC/6/35: Human Rights Council Group of Experts on the situation of human rights in Darfur	Egypt for the African Group, and Portugal for the EU	<p>“Acknowledges the cooperation of the Government of the Sudan...”</p> <p>“Acknowledges the efforts made by the Government of the Sudan to implement the recommendations identified by the Group of Experts, but expresses its concerns that. . . the implementation of many recommendations has not been fully completed so as to lead to the desired level of improvement in the situation of human rights in Darfur...”</p> <p>“Expresses particular concern at the fact that perpetrators of past and ongoing serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Darfur have not yet been held accountable for their crimes and urges the Government in the Sudan to address urgently this question...”</p>	<p>Omits to mention the future work of the group of experts on Darfur, thus quietly abolishing it.</p> <p>Addresses impunity in Darfur, cautiously criticizing the lack of improvement of the situation of human rights.</p> <p>Praises the Government of the Sudan for its “cooperation.”</p> <p>Calls on the UN to continue providing support and technical assistance to Sudanese authorities.</p>	Adopted without a vote 12/14/07	Abstain

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/6/37: Elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief	Portugal for the EU	<p>“Recognizing that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, expression and religion...”</p> <p>“Condemns all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief...”</p> <p>“Recognizes with deep concern the overall rise in instances of intolerance and violence directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia”</p>	<p>Extends the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion.</p> <p>Equally addresses problems in all parts of the world and condemns all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief.</p>	<p>Adopted 12/14/07</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 29 No: 0 Abstain: 18</p>	Yes
A/HRC/S-6/1: Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip  <i>(Adopted in Special Session)</i>	Pakistan for the Islamic Group countries, Syria for the Arab League	<p>“Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. . . constitute grave violations of the human and humanitarian rights of the Palestinian civilians therein, exacerbate the severe humanitarian crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and undermine international efforts. . . aimed at invigorating the peace process”</p> <p>“Expresses grave concern at the repeated Israeli military attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, which have resulted in loss of life and injuries among Palestinian civilians, including women and children. . .”</p>	<p>One-sided text fails to mention 4,000 rockets fired by Palestinians into Israeli towns, loss of life and injuries among Israeli civilians, including women and children.</p> <p>Failed to mention Israel’s full withdrawal from Gaza, nor that this territory used by Hamas for rocket attacks.</p> <p>Accuses Israel of being the only party hampering the peace process without acknowledging Hamas accountability.</p>	<p>Adopted 1/24/08</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 30 No: 1 Abstain: 15</p>	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/1: Human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks and incursions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly the recent ones in the occupied Gaza Strip	Pakistan for the Islamic Group, and Palestine for the League of Arab States	<p>“Recognizing...that the recent Israeli attacks and incursions in the occupied Gaza Strip have led to a considerable loss of life and injuries among Palestinian civilians, including women, children and infants...”</p> <p>“Expresses its shock at the Israeli bombardment of Palestinian homes and the killing of civilians therein and at the Israeli policy of inflicting collective punishment against the civilian population, which is contrary to international law, and calls for bringing the perpetrators to justice...”</p> <p>“Calls for the immediate cessation of all Israeli military attacks throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the firing of crude rockets, which resulted in the loss of two civilian lives and some injuries in southern Israel...”</p>	<p>One-sided text selectively and disproportionately condemns Israel, fails to mention Hamas.</p> <p>In cynical gesture, expressly downplays nature of rocket attacks (“crude”) and suffering (“some”) of Israeli civilians.</p>	<p>Adopted 3/6/08</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 33 No: 1 Abstain: 13</p>	No
A/HRC/7/2: Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Cuba	<p>“Imbalance in the composition of the staff could diminish the effectiveness of the work of the OHCHR if it is perceived to be culturally biased and unrepresentative of the UN as a whole...”</p> <p>“Requests the High Commissioner to submit a comprehensive and updated report to the Council in 2009. . . with a special focus on further measures taken to correct the imbalance in geographical composition of the staff of the Office...”</p>	<p>Limits independence of the High Commissioner by seeking HRC intervention in OHCHR affairs.</p> <p>Focuses on “geographic balance” at the expense of Charter principles of staff efficiency, competence and integrity.</p> <p>Promotes piecemeal approach to human resources management.</p>	<p>Adopted 3/27/08</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 34 No: 10 Abstain: 3</p>	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/4: Mandate 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	Cuba	“Requests the independent expert to explore further, in his/her analytical annual report to the Human Rights Council, the interlinkages with trade and other issues, including HIV/AIDS, when examining 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, and also to contribute, as appropriate, to the process entrusted with the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development...”	Deals with issue beyond competence and expertise of the Council; should be addressed in other international organizations that deal with debt issues, economic reform and millennium development goals.  Emphasizes collective rights over rights of individuals.	Adopted 3/27/08  Vote: Yes : 34 No: 13 Abstain: 0	No
A/HRC/7/5: Mandate of the independent expert on human rights and international solidarity	Cuba	“Reaffirming that the widening gap between economically developed and developing countries is unsustainable and that it impedes the realization of human rights in the international community...”  “Recognizing that the attention paid to the importance of international solidarity as a vital component of the efforts of developing countries towards the realization of the right to development of their peoples and the promotion of the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by everyone has been insufficient...”	Focus on abstract groups and state interests over rights of individuals.  Distracts HRC and international community from violations of basic civil, religious, and political freedoms.	Adopted 3/27/08  Vote: Yes: 34 No: 13 Abstain: 0	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**  
*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/11: The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights	Poland	<p>“Transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government is the foundation on which good governance rests...”</p> <p>“Noting with satisfaction the outcomes of the conferences of the Community of Democracies. . . at which the States committed themselves to build on shared principles and goals to promote democracy in all regions of the world...”</p>	<p>Reference to Community of Democracies opposed by Cuba and Russia.</p> <p>Only resolution addressing the impact of democracy and good governance on human rights. Addresses negative impact of corruption on human rights.</p> <p>References right to development.</p>	<p>Adopted 3/27/07</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 41 No: 0 Abstain: 6</p>	Yes
A/HRC/7/15: Situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea	Japan and Slovenia for the EU	<p>“Deeply concerned at the continuing reports of systematic, widespread and grave violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in the DPRK...”</p> <p>“Deploring the grave human rights situation in the DPRK...”</p> <p>“Deeply regretting the refusal of the Government of the DPRK to recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur or to extend full cooperation with him...”</p> <p>“Alarmed by the precarious humanitarian situation in the country...”</p>	<p>Extends mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in North Korea.</p> <p>Condemns North Korea for grave human rights abuses.</p>	<p>Adopted 3/27/08</p> <p>Vote: Yes: 22 No: 7 Abstain:18</p>	Yes

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*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/16: Situation of human rights in the Sudan	Egypt for the African Group	<p>“Expresses its deep concern at the seriousness of the ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in some parts of Darfur...”</p> <p>“Acknowledges the measures taken by the Government of the Sudan to address the human right situation in the Sudan, but expresses its concern that, for various reasons, their implementation has not yet led to the desired positive impact on the ground...”</p> <p>“Welcomes the collaboration of the Government of the Sudan with the Special Rapporteur...”</p> <p>“Calls on the Government of the Sudan to continue and intensify its efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights...”</p>	<p>Criticizes violations of human rights in Darfur but fails to condemn Sudan’s actions.</p> <p>Fails to reflect gravity of the situation in Sudan and the recent human rights and humanitarian deterioration in Darfur.</p> <p>Praises Sudan for its “collaboration” with the international community, disregarding systematic Sudanese non-cooperation, especially in Darfur.</p> <p>Seeks to provide support and assistance to the Sudanese government.</p>	Adopted without vote 3/27/08	No
A/HRC/7/17: Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination	Pakistan for the Islamic Group, Palestine for the Arab League	<p>“Construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, along with measures previously taken, severely impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination...”</p> <p>“Stresses the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem...”</p>	<p>Prejudges negotiations on core issues of peace process. Redundantly asserts Palestinian claim that Israel already recognized.</p> <p>Fails to mention role of Hamas terrorism and that of other extremist groups in severely impeding right to self-determination of both Palestinians and Israelis.</p> <p>Breaches non-selectivity principle by enacting self-determination resolution concerning claim against only one member state.</p>	Adopted without a vote 3/27/08	No

**UN Watch Scorecard: Key UNHRC Actions in 2007-2008**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/18: Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan	Pakistan for the Islamic Group, Palestine for the Arab League	“Israeli settlements activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory constitute very serious violations of international humanitarian law and the human rights of the Palestinian people therein and undermine international efforts...aimed at invigorating the peace process and establishing a viable, contiguous and independent Palestinian State...”	One-sided text fails to mention or criticize Hamas terrorism, contravenes balanced approach of Road Map peace process.  Redundant to GA resolutions already adopted this year on same issue, e.g., A/RES/62/108.	Adopted 3/27/08  Vote: Yes: 46 No: 1 Abstain: 0	No
A/HRC/7/19: Combating defamation of religion	Pakistan for the Islamic Group	“Condemned the growing trend of Islamophobia and systematic discrimination against the adherents of Islam...”  “Welcoming. . . the report by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Muslims and Arabs in various parts of the world...”  “Invites the Special Rapporteur to continue to report on all manifestations of defamation of religions, and in particular on the serious implications of Islamophobia, on the enjoyment of all rights to the Council at its ninth session...”	Seeks to protect a specific religion rather than individuals.  Focuses specifically on Islam and ignores other religions and beliefs. Makes 17 references to the words “Islam,” “Islamophobia,” “Muslims,” “Islamic Conference,” and “Arab.”  Seeks to limit freedom of expression.	Adopted 3/27/08  Vote: Yes: 21 No: 10 Abstain: 14	No



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Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/20: Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	Egypt for the African Group	<p>“Decisions to create, review or discontinue country mandates should also take into account the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations...”</p> <p>“Invites the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to inform and update the Council, at its future sessions, on the human rights situation on the ground...”</p>	<p>Omits to mention future work of the Special Rapporteur on the DRC, thus quietly abolishing it.</p> <p>Invites the government of the DRC itself to report on its own human rights situation in future sessions.</p> <p>Describes work of OHCHR office in the DRC as sufficient, implicitly justifying elimination of the Special Rapporteur’s mandate.</p>	Adopted without vote 3/27/08	No
A/HRC/7/30: Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan	Palestine for the Arab Group, and Pakistan for the Islamic Group	<p>“Deeply concerned at the suffering of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the systematic and continued violation of their fundamental and human rights by Israel since the Israeli military occupation of 1967...”</p>	<p>Addresses territorial dispute unrelated to individual rights. Redundant to resolutions adopted this year on the same topic by the General Assembly, e.g., A/RES/62/110.</p> <p>Fails to address Syrian support for enemies of the peace process and sponsorship of terrorism. Accuses only Israel of acting against the peace process.</p>	Adopted 3/28/08  Vote: Yes: 32 No: 1 Abstain: 14	No
A/HRC/7/31: Situation of human rights in Myanmar	Slovenia for the EU	<p>“Strongly deplores the ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar...”</p>	<p>Strongly deplores Burmese repression.</p> <p>Urges Myanmar to receive follow-up mission by the Special Rapporteur.</p>	Adopted without vote 3/28/08	Yes
A/HRC/7/32: Mandate of Special Rapporteur on Myanmar	Slovenia for the EU	<p>“Expressing serious concern about ongoing human rights violations... Decides to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur”</p>	<p>Extends mandate of Special Rapporteur on Burma for one more year.</p>	Adopted without vote 3/28/08	Yes

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*(2<sup>nd</sup> Year of UNHRC, from June 2007 to May 2008)*

Symbol and Title	Sponsors	Text	Analysis	Result	Desired Vote
A/HRC/7/L.39: Amendment to draft resolution L.24 on mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Egypt for the African Group, Pakistan for the Islamic Group, and Palestine for the Arab League	“Requests the Special Rapporteur, within the framework of his/her mandate. . . to report on instances in which the abuse of the right of freedom of expression constitutes an act of racial or religious discrimination...”	Unprecedented restriction on freedom of expression.  Redefines mandate of the special rapporteur, requiring him to police individuals who “abuse” the right to freedom of expression.	Adopted 3/28/08  Vote: Yes: 27 No: 17 Abstain: 3	No
Oral amendment to draft resolution L.24 <i>(see above).</i>	Cuba	“Recognizing. . . the importance that all forms of media report and deliver information in a fair and impartial manner...”	Seeks to restrict press freedom.	Adopted 3/28/07  Vote: Yes: 29 No: 15 Abstain: 3	No
A/HRC/7/36 <i>(includes above amendments):</i> Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	Canada was sponsor but withdrew sponsorship after the adoption of OIC amendment.	“Decides to extend for a further three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur...”  “Requests the Special Rapporteur, within the framework of his/her mandate. . . to report on instances in which the abuse of the right of freedom of expression constitutes an act of racial or religious discrimination...”	Extends mandate of special rapporteur, but redefines that mandate in Orwellian terms. <i>(See two amendments above.)</i>	Adopted 3/28/08  Vote: Yes: 32 No: 0 Abstain: 15	Abstain

### UN Human Rights Council 2007-2008 Voting Record

	OM/1/1 Inquiry on Lebanon	OM/1/2 HR in OPT	5/1* Institution- Building Package	6/7 Unilateral Coercive Measures	6/18 HR in OPT	6/19 Religious Rights in OPT	6/21 Comple- mentary Standards	6/22 Racism	6/23 Durban II	S-5/1 HR in Myanmar	6/33 Report on Myanmar	6/34 SR on Sudan	6/35 Removing Experts on Darfur	6/37 Religious Intolerance	S-6/1 Gaza
Angola	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Azerbaijan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Bangladesh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Bolivia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bosnia Herzegovina	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Brazil	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cameroon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
Canada	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
China	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Cuba	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Djibouti	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Egypt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
France	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Gabon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NP	NP	NP	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	NP
Germany	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Ghana	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Guatemala	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
India	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Indonesia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Italy	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Japan	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	A	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Jordan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Madagascar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Malaysia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Mali	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Mauritius	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mexico	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Netherlands	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Nicaragua	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nigeria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Pakistan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Peru	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Philippines	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Qatar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Republic of Korea	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Romania	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Russian Federation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Saudi Arabia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Senegal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Slovenia	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
South Africa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y

	OM/1/1 Inquiry on Lebanon	OM/1/2 HR in OPT	5/1* Institution- Building Package	6/7 Unilateral Coercive Measures	6/18 HR in OPT	6/19 Religious Rights in OPT	6/21 Comple- mentary Standards	6/22 Racism	6/23 Durban II	S-5/1 HR in Myanmar	6/33 Report on Myanmar	6/34 SR on Sudan	6/35 Removing Experts on Darfur	6/37 Religious Intolerance	S-6/1 Gaza
Sri Lanka	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Switzerland	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Ukraine	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	A	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
United Kingdom	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A
Uruguay	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zambia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

\* The June 19, 2007 vote on whether the HRC Institution-Building Package (Res. 5/1) was adopted by consensus the night before.  
Canada's request to vote on the package was defeated 46 to 1.

**UN Human Rights Council 2007-2008 Voting Record (cont.)**

	7/1 HR in Palestine	7/2 Staff of OHCHR	7/4 IE on Foreign Debt	7/5 IE on Int'l Solidarity	7/11 Good Govern- ance	7/15 HR in DPRK	7/16 HR in Sudan	7/17 Palest Self- Determi- nation	7/18 Settle- ments	7/19 Defamation of Religion	7/20 Remo- ving SR on DRC	7/30 Golan	7/31 HR in Myanmar	7/32 SR on Myanmar	7/L.39 OIC Limit on Free Speech	Cuban Limit on Free Speech	7/36 SR on Free Expression
Angola	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	NP	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Azerbaijan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bangladesh	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bolivia	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y
Bosnia Herzegovina	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	NP	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y	A
Brazil	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Cameroon	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Canada	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	A
China	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Cuba	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Djibouti	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Egypt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
France	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Gabon	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Germany	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Ghana	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Guatemala	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	N	A	A
India	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Indonesia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Italy	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Japan	A	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	N	A
Jordan	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Madagascar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Malaysia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mali	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mauritius	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mexico	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Netherlands	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Nicaragua	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nigeria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Pakistan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

	7/1 HR in Palestine	7/2 Staff of OHCHR	7/4 IE on Foreign Debt	7/5 IE on Int'l Solidarity	7/11 Good Governance	7/15 HR in DPRK	7/16 HR in Sudan	7/17 Palest Self- Determination	7/18 Settle- ments	7/19 Defamation of Religion	7/20 Remo- ving SR on DRC	7/30 Golan	7/31 HR in Myanmar	7/32 SR on Myanmar	7/L.39 OIC Limit on Free Speech	Cuban Limit on Free Speech	7/36 SR on Free Expression
Peru	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	A	Y
Philippines	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
Qatar	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Republic of Korea	A	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	Y	Y	A	N	A
Romania	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Russian Federation	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Saudi Arabia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Senegal	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Slovenia	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
South Africa	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sri Lanka	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Switzerland	Y	A	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Ukraine	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
United Kingdom	A	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	A
Uruguay	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Zambia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y