

Human Rights Council

Introduction

The Human Rights Council (HRC) formally met in two sessions through the latter half of 2013 and the beginning of 2014. The 24th formal session was held from 9 – 27 September 2013, and the 25th Formal Session was from 3 – 28 January 2014.¹ In addition, the HRC held an emergency special session, on the topic of the Human Rights Situation in the Central African Republic on 20 January 2014.² Throughout this four-month period, the Council also attended to communications from Member States' governments on topics from the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the shifting condition of conflict in Syria.³ Finally, on 12 November 2013, fourteen states were elected to serve as members of the Human Rights Council.⁴ This update will review those most recent changes within the HRC, in order to examine the most current key examples of the HRC mandate being put into praxis, and to clarify which key issues were most prevalent in regard to the implementation of human rights policies.

Recent Activities

The outcomes from the 24th formal session of the HRC were numerous and divided into four major sections within the agenda, focusing primarily on the death penalty, the right to development, safety of journalists, and administrative issues.⁵ On the topic of the death penalty, the Council considered the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on the yearly supplement of the *Question of the Death Penalty*; with specifically looked at implementation of "fair trial guarantees" by Member States, as well as improvements in sentencing processes on those applicable for the death penalty.⁶ On the "right to development," which is particularly important in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, discussion focused on the reports of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' on development projects.⁷ Overall, 40 texts were adopted from this session, with a particular focus on Syrian human rights abuses, and a strong consideration to the human rights of the elderly and children as being cross-sectional in all future policy creation.⁸ The next session of the Council, which will be the 25th formal session, is scheduled for 4 March 2014.⁹

There have been further important developments on topics under the purview of the Council resulting in press releases and activity within the Council outside of its formal meetings. On the 17 October 2013, the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was asked to hold public hearings in the United Kingdom and the United States by the end of October, in order to assess possible violations of human rights within their national borders, especially in the cases of labor camps.¹⁰ It was generally concluded through these hearings, by the presiding judges, that the presence of gross violations of human rights violations in the DPRK will require a rallying of the international community to prevent further violations and that a focus on supplying food to a "stunted" and "chronically malnourished" population.¹¹ On 19 December 2013, the HRC concluded that human disappearances in Syria were notably widespread, and therefore determined that these disappearances were being used as a tactic of war.¹² Furthermore, on the 20 January 2014, a special emergency session on the human rights

¹ UN Human Rights Council, *United Nations Human Rights Council Sessions*, 2013.

² OHCHR, *Human Rights Council to hold Special Session of the human rights situation in the Central African Republic*, 2014.

³ OHCHR, *UN panel concludes that enforced disappearances in Syria widespread and being used as tactic of war*, 2013; OHCHR, *Human Rights Council urges Syria to grant immediate access to the Commission of Inquiry*, 2013; OHCHR, *Human Rights Council appoints Experts for Central African Republic extends mandates for Sudan, Cambodia and Somalia*, 2013.

⁴ OHCHR, *Human Rights Council elects new bureau for 2014; States express need for Special Session on Central African Republic in January 2014*, 2013.

⁵ OHCHR, *Human Rights Council concludes twenty-fourth regular after adopting 40 texts*, 2013.

⁶ OHCHR, *The safety of journalists*, 2013.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ OHCHR, *Human Rights Council concludes twenty-fourth regular after adopting 40 texts*, 2013.

⁹ OHCHR, *25th Session of the Human Rights Council: Reports*, 2014.

¹⁰ OHCHR, *UN Commission on Democratic People's Republic of Korea to hold public hearings in UK and US*, 2013.

¹¹ OHCHR, *Statement by Mr. Michael Kirby: Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on the Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea*, 2013.

¹² OHCHR, *UN panel concludes that enforced disappearances in Syria widespread and being used as tactic of war*, 2013.

situation in the Central African Republic was scheduled in order to address the increasingly volatile sectarian violence in the area.¹³

Outside of formal sessions, the HRC was also called to the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (GA) to present a special event on the human rights aspects within the 2015 Millennium Development Goals framework.¹⁴ The HRC participated in interactive roundtable discussions to reaffirm the importance of human rights accountability throughout the construction of a Post-2015 agenda.¹⁵ The HRC also contributed in other complementary events in this time period, focusing on making human rights recommendations for the new post-2015 agenda, and concentrating strongly on ensuring that the representation of marginalized populations were at the forefront of discussion.¹⁶ On the administrative side of the HRC, on 12 November 2013, 14 new Member States were elected via secret ballot to hold the next three-year term on the Council.¹⁷

Recent Policy Outcomes

Recent outcomes from the HRC are indicative of their key focuses for action during the coming term. Although not present in every document, some of the key requests consistently reiterated through formal session include an increased need to focus on the Rights of the Child and the Rights of Older Persons; the promotion of democracy and a democratic approach to equitable international order as being key to the promotion of human rights; a focus on the administration aspects of upholding justice as being correlated to the social culture of Member States, and that, within this, there exists a cross-cutting need to uphold human rights in the face of the death penalty, and a call for increased transparency and accountability in Member States that have had recent Special Rapporteur inquiries, especially concerning ensuring an increased amount accurate data for HRC formalized reports.¹⁸ Additional requests were focused on marginalized populations, in particular Indigenous Groups, persons with disabilities, persons with Albinism, and Displaced persons.¹⁹ Finally, organizations such as the Universal Periodic Review; the UN Economic and Social Council, and their subsidiary, the Commission on the Status of Women; the World Programme for Human Rights Education; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and all observer NGOs, were all emphasized as important organizations to include in future discussion.²⁰

Policy Implementation

The HRC, originally created by the GA in 2006, continues to submit a report every five years.²¹ In between these reports, the HRC works through an “institution-building package” policy.²² This is formed by three key components: the Universal Periodic Review as a means to assess the global human rights situations; the Advisory Committee, which acts as a forum for discussion of thematic human rights issues; and the Complaint Procedure, which acts as a reporting body to receive complaints of human rights abuses.²³ The majority of actual policy implementation is done through the UN Special Procedures, which operates using special rapporteurs, independent experts, and working groups that actively advise on policy and communicate with the public as to the Council’s current policy initiatives.²⁴

¹³ OHCHR *Human Rights Council elects new bureau for 2014; States express need for Special Session on Central African Republic in January 2014*, 2013.

¹⁴ OHCHR, *Human Rights and the Post-2015 Agenda*, 2014.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ OHCHR, *Outcome Document of the Special Event*, 2014.

¹⁷ OHCHR, *In Single Secret Ballot, General Assembly Elects 14 Member States to Three-Year Terms on Human Rights Council*, 2013.

¹⁸ UN General Assembly, *Annotations to the agenda for the twenty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council (Twenty-fourth session: Agenda item 1)*, 2013; UN Human Rights, *25th Session of the Human Rights Council: Reports*, 2014.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ OHCHR, *Background information on the Human Rights Council*, 2014.

²² Ibid; UN Human Rights Council, *Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council (5/1)*, 2006.

²³ OHCHR, *Background information on the Human Rights Council*, [Website], 2014; UN Human Rights, *Universal Periodic Review*, 2014; OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights, Advisory Committee*, 2014; OHCHR, *Human Rights Council Complaint Procedure*, 2013.

²⁴ OHCHR, *Background information on the Human Rights Council*, 2014.

Once the HRC adopts a resolution identifying key issues and encouraging action on addressing human rights violations, implementation on the ground is the responsibility of Member States. This implementation is aided by OHCHR. Broadly, OHCHR, provides “a forum for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to today's human rights challenges, and [acts] as the principal focal point of human rights research, education, public information, and advocacy activities in the United Nations system.”²⁵ In order to support Member States concretely, OHCHR “provides assistance to Governments, such as expertise and technical trainings in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, and electoral process, to help implement international human rights standards on the ground.”²⁶ OHCHR also assists “other entities with responsibility to protect human rights to fulfil their obligations and individuals to realize their rights.”²⁷ OHCHR is in essence, the implementing body for the Human Rights Council.

Conclusion

The HRC remains the only internationally ratified body to focus specifically on global human rights issues and serves as the key forum for advancing policy on improved quality of life for persons globally.²⁸ The HRC continues to lead the discussion surrounding the human rights goals of the post-2015 framework, as well as consistently providing leadership in policy pertaining to the right to adequate housing, and the right to life in the face of extrajudicial executions.²⁹ Throughout the coming term, aided by the 14 new Member States on the Council, the HRC will continue to ensure that human rights abuses decrease, and that the pursuit of justice will continue to be a key component of the United Nations.³⁰

The Human Rights Council at NMUN•NY 2014

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is charged with promoting the full implementation of human rights obligations, responding to human rights emergencies, undertaking a universal periodic review, and making recommendations to Member States and the General Assembly.³¹

Format: The Human Rights Council is a resolution writing committee.

Voting: Each Member State present may vote once on procedural and substantive matters. Matters are decided by a majority vote.

Membership: The Human Rights Council consists of representatives from 47 Member States drawn from five regional groups: 13 from African States; 13 from Asian States; 8 from Latin America and Caribbean States; 7 from Eastern European States; and 6 from Western European and other States.

Angola	Argentina	Austria	Benin
Botswana	Brazil	Burkina Faso	Chile
Congo	Costa Rica	Côte d'Ivoire	Czech Republic
Ecuador	Estonia	Ethiopia	Gabon
Germany	Guatemala	India	Indonesia
Ireland	Italy	Japan	Kazakhstan
Kenya	Kuwait	Libya	Malaysia
Maldives	Mauritania	Moldova	Montenegro
Pakistan	Peru	Philippines	Poland
Qatar	Republic of Korea	Romania	Sierra Leone
Spain	Switzerland	Thailand	Uganda
United Arab Emirates	United States of America	Venezuela	

²⁵ OHCHR, *What we do* [Website].

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ OHCHR, *Background information on the Human Rights Council*, 2014.

²⁹ UN Human Rights, *25th Session of the Human Rights Council: Reports*, 2014.

³⁰ OHCHR, *In Single Secret Ballot, General Assembly Elects 14 Member States to Three-Year Terms on Human Rights Council*, 2013.

³¹ UN General Assembly, *Human Rights Council (A/RES/60/251)*, 2006.

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<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session24/Pages/24RegularSession.aspx>

This is the key paper to understanding the results of the twenty-fourth formal session of the Human Rights Council. The basis of this paper is formed by the agenda of the twenty-fourth session, but annotations of key points discussion in-session, general conclusions, references to previous relevant resolutions, and the countries involved in pushing certain topics forward, are also included. As well, key partnerships between the HRC and relevant NGOs and subsidiary bodies, are included within certain topics, in order to enhance further research of the partnerships that implement these policies.

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2014). *United Nations Human Rights Council Sessions* [Website]. Retrieved 12 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Sessions.aspx>

This is the main database to understanding the formal work done in-session by the Human Rights Council. Reports are organized by date, and can be accessed by name (ex. "23rd Session"), and included within each of these report files are voting records, agendas, amendments, speeches, conclusions, and all relevant official documents. These same documents can also be accessed through this database concerning the HRC's Special Session, as well.

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2014). *25th Session of the Human Rights Council: Reports* [Website]. Retrieved 12 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/RegularSessions/Session25/Pages/ListReports.aspx>

This database of official documents from the 25th session will be consistently updated through the course of the session and will contain all policy results of the session by the end of January. At that point, the reports of the HRC, reports of Working Groups, Annual Reports, Conclusions and Recommendations, Addendums, the reports of relevant Offices and Funds, and coverage of Communications and Voting Rights will be included. Throughout these documents, collaborating bodies and relevant former resolutions and reports will be consistently referenced.

United Nations Human Rights Council. (2013). *Human Rights Council concludes twenty-fourth regular after adopting 40 texts* [Website]. Retrieved 12 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13797&LangID=E>

This article is the most important press release to understanding the new administrative makeup of the HRC, as of 1 January 2014. Included within this document are lists of the Member States whose term will end as of January 1, the Member States who will be replacing them, and the Member States who remain consistent. Discussion of the repercussions of a first-time representation on the council for specific Members States is also touched upon, as well as how this dynamic will affect the HRC's future approach to policy.

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United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2014). *In Single Secret Ballot, General Assembly Elects 14 Member States to Three-Year Terms on Human Rights Council* [Website]. Retrieved 12 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13981&LangID=E>

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I. Human Rights in the Post-2015 Development Framework

Introduction

As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draw closer to their deadline, the United Nations (UN) is preparing a new development framework called the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The Post-2015 Development Agenda will consider some of the key issues addressed by the MDGs, but also create goals that address cross-cutting issues and focus on human rights.³² The MDGs lacked the full inclusion of human rights into their framework, which left groups addressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration unmonitored and unreported.³³ Constructing development goals based on human rights will allow "an effective, accountable, and inclusive framework."³⁴ Making the Post-2015 Development Agenda goals reflect this idea is what the Open Working Group (OWG) is striving to accomplish.³⁵

The OWG was formed after the adoption of United Nations General Assembly (GA) resolution A/67/L.48/Rev.1 on January 15, 2013.³⁶ The OWG was created, under the United Nations Development Policy and Analysis Division, in order to work with the various UN agencies in forming the direction and purpose of each goal, the monitoring mechanisms, and financing.³⁷ The OWG conducts stocktaking sessions, informal facilitative consultations, and formal decision-making sessions.³⁸ Only the formal decision making sessions is reported on to the GA.³⁹ The most recent report adopted by the GA, A/67/941, highlights discussions on poverty eradication; food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought; water and sanitation; employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture; and health, population dynamics.⁴⁰ The next formal decision-making meetings are scheduled to start in March 2014 and last until July; by which point the OWG will be making its the final steps towards launching the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In addition to the OWG, the UN Secretary-General launched two groups to work in tandem with the OWG: the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.⁴¹ The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was formed prior to the OWG in order to establish recommendations from representatives within "civil society, the private sector, academia, and local and national governments."⁴² The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), functions to provide "analytical thinking and substantial inputs" for the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The information developed and data gathered is shared with the OWG through an inter-agency technical support team that is co-chaired by the United Nations Development Policy and Analysis Division and the UNDP.⁴³

Part of the functions of the UN Systems Task Team is to work with the UN agencies to develop global partnerships which include financing for development and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.⁴⁴ In its March 2013 report, the UN Systems Task Team addressed renewing the international community's commitment to meet official development assistance (ODA) target.⁴⁵ All Member States pledged to set aside a percentage of their Gross

³² OHCHR, *Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

³³ OHCHR, *Statement 17 Special Procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council on the Post-2015 development agenda*, 2013.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013.

³⁶ UN General Assembly, *Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013.

³⁷ UN Development Policy and Analysis Division, *Process overview*, 2013; UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013.

³⁸ UN NGLS, *OWG on SDGs announces dates for five formal decision-making sessions in 2014*, 2014.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ UN General Assembly, *Progress report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals*, 2013.

⁴¹ UN Development Policy and Analysis Division, *Process overview*, 2013.

⁴² Ibid; UN High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, *About*, 2013.

⁴³ UN Development Policy and Analysis Division, *Process overview*, 2013.

⁴⁴ UN Economic and Social Council, *Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

⁴⁵ UNTT on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *A renewed global partnership for development*, 2013, p. 10.

Domestic Product (GDP) to be set aside for the economic development.⁴⁶ After the *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1), the agreed targets would be ".07% of GNP for ODA to developing countries by 2015 and 0.15 to 0.20% of GNP for ODA to least developed countries."⁴⁷ The most recent report states that "ODA stands at only 0.31% for developing countries, and currently only five donor countries have reached or exceeded the 0.7 target."⁴⁸ In by renewing the pledge to meet or exceed the ODA target 0.7 with a clear timetable, then financial to meet the Post-2015 Development Agenda might be possible.⁴⁹ Additionally, the UN Systems Task Team suggest supplementing the ODA in the meantime - as donor countries act towards the target - with assistance from the private sector.⁵⁰ This approach has been recently discussed and supported by John Ashe, President of the General Assembly and Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, during the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, in order "to raise \$400 billion annually for development needs."⁵¹

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been actively working with the UN System Task Team helping to shape human rights as a core component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.⁵² Additionally, the OHCHR and UNDP are instrumental in shaping the measurable goals for the Post-2015 goal of Governance.⁵³ The two make up the Global Consultation on Governance, which has hosted meetings that have included governments, youth groups, civil societies, academics, policy makers, activists, and the media.⁵⁴ These events include: "the African Regional Dialogue at the Pan-African Parliament in Johannesburg, the two Sub-regional Parliamentarian Forums on the MDGs and Post 2015 Development Agenda in Manila and Dhaka, the Regional Governance Week: Social Accountability in a Changing Region - Actors and Mechanisms, Democratic governance and human rights: Criteria and measurement proposals for the post-2015 development agenda, and the final Global Consultation on Governance and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, which was held February 28 - March 1, 2012."⁵⁵

Recent Developments

Integrating Human Rights and Development

One of outcomes of MDGs is promotion and elevation of human rights in every Member State.⁵⁶ However, since human rights is lacking in the framework of the MDGs, so far the desired outcomes of addressing human rights has not been achieved and is unlikely to do so by the 2015 deadline.⁵⁷ In her address to the Round Table 3: Special Event Towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay, addressed the failure of the MDGs "to fulfill the promise of the Millennium Declaration," which was "based on the vision of the Universal Declaration of human rights."⁵⁸ Therefore, in order to protect and promote human rights, including the promotion of the right to development, approaches must have a foundation in human rights.⁵⁹

The Post-2015 Development Agenda will make human rights the base and source for development goals, not an outcome.⁶⁰ In by using human rights for the "concrete guidance for action," prioritizing the demands of the international community and developing the goals to fit those demands becomes clearer.⁶¹ Human rights themselves

⁴⁶ UN Economic and Social Council, *Financing for Development*, 2013.

⁴⁷ UN General Assembly, *Doha Declaration on Financing for Development*, 2008, p. 13

⁴⁸ UN Economic and Social Council, *Financing for Development*, 2013.

⁴⁹ UNTT on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, *A renewed global partnership for development*, 2013, p. 10.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ UN News Centre, *At high-level event on development, UN officials urge greater private financing*, 2013.

⁵² OHCHR, *Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, 2013.

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⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

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⁵⁹ OHCHR, *Embracing a new paradigm*, 2013.

⁶⁰ Center for Economic and Social Rights, *Rights and Development*, 2013.

⁶¹ OHCHR, *Speech by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay at the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 6th Session Interactive exchange on "Human Rights, the right to development, global governance" in New York, NY*, 2013.

will not become its own, separate goal, but an underlining goal driving each of the targets within the Post-2015 Development Agenda.⁶² In by utilizing human rights for the framework of development, this new approach addresses and unites several, separate issues such as education, gender equality, and poverty, under one common purpose.⁶³ Since several of these separate issues are already being monitored by human rights groups and the HRC, then same measuring mechanisms should be applied to the Post-2015 Development Agenda targets in order to ensure accuracy and accountability.⁶⁴ Overall, by basing development around human rights, the development system and human rights system become an integrated focus, which can ensure acceleration for each endeavor.⁶⁵

However, the shifting approach to development, and to some extent human rights, comes with some complications.⁶⁶ Under the MDGs, the measuring mechanism for development was economics, which was inadequate at charting progress of basic human rights.⁶⁷ As a result, the beginning stages of the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be integrating the progress already met under the MDGs with the monitored data from the HRC and the human rights community at large, which has not been done before.⁶⁸ Additionally, the details of the targets that are being formulated must incorporate "universally-applicable human rights standards" that can be measured, monitored and enforced, which could prove to be challenging.⁶⁹

Conclusion

This topic shapes the future outlook toward approaches to development, and what development means. Basing approaches to development in economics does not address crossing-cutting issues that undermine goals.⁷⁰ Human rights will be the central theme and guiding principle for the formation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.⁷¹ Through the efforts of the OWG, the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN System Task Team, the Post 2015 Development Agenda has already integrated human rights and development into clear, achievable goals.⁷² However, with the deadline approaching for the rollout of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, there is still a need for the establishing monitoring mechanisms.⁷³ Additionally, there are the complications of transitioning from the economic based MDGs into the human rights based Post 2015 Development Agenda within the international community.⁷⁴ What actions can the HRC recommend to the OWG to address these complications? What can the HRC do to monitor the progress of human rights under the Post-2015 Development Agenda? How can the HRC ensure that the Post-2015 Development Agenda stays human rights oriented?

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⁶³ OHCHR, *Embracing a new paradigm*, 2013.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

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⁶⁸ Center for Economic and Social Rights, *Rights and Development*, 2013.

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⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² UN Development Policy and Analysis Division, *Process overview*, 2013.

⁷³ OHCHR, *Speech by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay at the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 6th Session Interactive exchange on "Human Rights, the right to development, global governance" in New York, NY, 2013.*

⁷⁴ Center for Economic and Social Rights, *Rights and Development*, 2013.

This site illustrates the necessity for basing development goals on human rights. Highlighted within this site are both the failings of former development approaches as well as the slowed progress of enforcing human rights. The site also illustrates how Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) shifting their perspective towards human rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Delegates will find this helpful in their research on this topic, and the links provided on this site will be beneficial toward research on position papers.

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. (2013). Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda - News and Events [Website]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/News.aspx>

This site lists the most recent involvements of the HRC in the formation process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Also, illustrated on this site are the various UN agencies and NGOs the HRC cooperates with in order to organize or support events. The various links found on this site will aid delegates in their research on this topic.

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. (2013, May 21). *Statement 17 Special Procedures mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council on the Post-2015 development agenda* [Website]. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13341&LangID=E>

This site provides a list of recommendations for construction of the Post-2015 Development Agenda framework. This list is from independent experts appointed by the HRC. Included in the list are methods for implementing monitoring mechanisms from the HRC. This is a good resource for delegates because it gives a clear understanding of the direction the HRC wishes to pursue the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its targets.

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013, December 13). *Speech by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay at the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, 6th Session Interactive exchange on "Human Rights, the right to development, global governance" in New York, NY*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4974Speech%20ASG%20for%20HC.pdf>

This is the most recent statement given by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Navi Pillay regarding the integration of human rights and development. This statement highlights the historical connections and causes for this shift in the approach to development. Ms. Navi Pillay also demonstrates how human rights can be used to define targets for development. This statement is beneficial for delegates going forward in addressing this topic.

United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. (March 2013). *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development*. Retrieved 10 January 2014 from:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf_glob_dev_rep_2013.pdf

The most important part of this report for delegates is the section on financing of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This report gives recommendations and suggestions for funding founded by the UN System Task Team. The further details of utilizing the ODA will help delegates further their research for their position papers. Additionally, the recommended approaches of funding from the private sector will prompt more research on this topic.

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II. Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions

Introduction

Although the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) and other United Nations (UN) documents guarantee the inherent right to life, liberty and security of all persons, there are still thousands of extrajudicial executions every year, and almost a third of the UN Member States still impose capital punishment on the national level.⁷⁵ An important development to address this challenge was the appointment of an independent expert to serve as the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to the Commission on Human Rights, the predecessor of the Human Rights Council (HRC).⁷⁶

The Special Rapporteur submits a yearly report to the Council and the General Assembly on the occurrence of extrajudicial executions.⁷⁷ The most recent report was presented in May 2013, and it detailed the Rapporteur's communications to 54 Member States concerning different issues such as the death penalty, death threats, or death in custody and the report summarizes the communications and responses by the different Member States.⁷⁸

Considerations on the topic of extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions have also been taken within the General Assembly. On 25 October 2013 the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings Christof Heyns, presented a report (A/68/382), in which he addressed the use of lethal force unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), also referred to as "drones" colloquially.⁷⁹ Furthermore, the General Assembly Third Committee adopted resolution 68/163 on 18 December 2013, upon the recommendation of the Third Committee, which was focused on the safety of journalists, explicitly condemning extrajudicial killings of journalists.⁸⁰

The key documents that still form the foundation for dealing with extrajudicial, summary, and arbitrary executions include the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), where the right to life and security of the person is strengthened; UN General Assembly resolution 35/172 on "Arbitrary or Summary Executions" from 1980, which condemns arbitrary executions and urges Member States to guarantee a minimum of judicial safeguards for executions; and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution 1982/35, which established the Special Rapporteur on the topic.⁸¹

At the annual United Nations Treaty Event, which gives Member States the opportunity to sign or ratify treaties on any critical issues, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1989), aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, was signed by Angola and ratified by Guinea-Bissau.⁸²

Recent developments

The United Nations placed emphasis on the World Day Against the Death Penalty, which is recognized annually on 10 October. In a statement released by Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Member States were urged to intensify their efforts to abolish the death penalty.⁸³ Although more than two thirds of the UN Member States have already abolished capital punishment or maintain a moratorium on its use, there still remains a number of States in which people continue to be executed against the standards that are imposed by international law.⁸⁴ Furthermore, there is an alarming trend of recent resurrections of executions in several Member States after long periods of observance of moratoriums.⁸⁵ The 2013 World Day Against the Death Penalty was dedicated to the

⁷⁵ OHCHR, *Fact Sheet No.11, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution*, 2013.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ UN HRC, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/HRC/23/47)*, 2013.

⁷⁹ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/68/382)*, 2013.

⁸⁰ UN General Assembly, *Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (A/RES/68/163)* [Resolution], 2013.

⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948; UN General Assembly, *Arbitrary or Summary Executions (A/RES/35/172)* [Website], 1980; UN ECOSOC, *Resolution 1982/35. Summary or arbitrary executions (E/RES/1982/35)*, 1982.

⁸² United Nations, *2013 Treaty Event: Towards Universal Participation and Implementation. Final Report*, 2013.

⁸³ FIDH, *11th World Day against the Death Penalty: Stop Crime, Not Lives*, 2013.

⁸⁴ OHCHR, *Death Penalty: UN experts call for continued efforts to move away from capital punishment for good*, 2013.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

Greater Caribbean where comparatively few executions take place, but where a core of countries remains strongly opposed to the abolition of the death penalty.⁸⁶

The issue of abolishing the death penalty was further discussed at the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 14 January 2014 after Mexico called for the abolition of the death penalty throughout the western hemisphere.⁸⁷ Mexico, supported by other Latin American countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil argued that 25 of the 34 countries from the Western Hemisphere have either abolished or have placed a moratorium on the death penalty and that the OAS Member States should follow and support this development⁸⁸ and that it is such an important human rights issue that it should be a priority on the organization's agenda.⁸⁹ The United States, on the other hand, supported by Jamaica and other states, pointed out that capital punishment does not contravene international law and that this issue should be settled individually on the domestic level.⁹⁰

Journalists

The recently adopted resolution on the safety of journalists urges Member States to take all necessary measures to prevent violence against journalists and support effective investigations in all cases of violence.⁹¹ Furthermore, Member States should promote a safe environment for journalists in order to enable them to work independently.⁹² This can be achieved by legislative measures, awareness-raising, monitoring of events that include violence against journalists and condemning those, as well as providing all relevant resources for investigations of attacks.⁹³

However, recent media reports show that the risk of journalists to face executions remains extremely high in almost every region of the world, ranging from North Africa to Southeast Asia. In northern Mali, two French journalists were kidnapped by militia in broad daylight, and executed, after interviewing a local Tuareg political leader in November 2013.⁹⁴ The Human Rights Watch World Report 2014 declares the Philippines to be one of the most dangerous places for journalists with seven journalists killed in 2013.⁹⁵

Targeted Killings

In his latest report, the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial killings, Christof Heyns, focuses on the legality of unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs), stating that they are not illegal weapons; however, they make it easier for States to deploy deadly force on the territory of other States and thereby undermine the protection of life in both the immediate and longer term.⁹⁶ Since the right to life is regarded as the 'supreme right', it is, therefore, of utmost importance that the limitations posed by international law on the use of lethal force are not weakened by the rather broad justification of drone strikes.⁹⁷ The Special Rapporteur examined the ways in which the regimes of international law (including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and the law on the interstate use of force) can regulate the use of armed drones and cautioned against broad and permissive interpretations of their rules and standards.⁹⁸

The issue of extrajudicial killings was also a great concern of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), which in December 2013 reported gross human rights abuses in the country, including the extrajudicial executions of civilians and captured soldiers.⁹⁹ UNMISS has been collecting evidence and eyewitness testimonies concerning this issue and called upon all parties to act in accordance with human rights and

⁸⁶ World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, *11th World Day Against the Death Penalty: Greater Caribbean*, 2013.

⁸⁷ Brown, *Death Penalty Debated at OAS*, 2014.

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ Ramos, *Abolition of Death Penalty debated by OAS Permanent Council*, 2014.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ UN General Assembly, *Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (A/C.3/68/L.40/Rev. 1)* [Resolution], 2013, para. 2.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Samuels, *France condemns 'cold-blooded execution' of journalists in Mali*, 2013.

⁹⁵ Human Rights Watch, *World Report 2014. Events of 2013*, 2013, p. 378.

⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/68/382)*, 2013.

⁹⁷ OHCHR, *Drone attacks: UN rights experts express concern about the potential illegal use of armed drones*, 2013.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ UN DPI, *South Sudan: Evidence Mounts of Extra-Judicial Killings, Rights Abuses in South Sudan*, UN Reports, 2013.

humanitarian law.¹⁰⁰ The Special Representative and head of UNMISS, Ms. Hilde Johnson, further welcomed the announcement of the African Union's Peace and Security Council on 30 December 2013 to establish a Commission to investigate the allegations of extrajudicial executions and other human rights abuses and to recommend ways to ensure accountability and reconciliation among the communities.¹⁰¹

Conclusion

The issue of extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions cuts across different issues and goes beyond the classic definition of the killing of a person without any judicial proceeding or legal process. As one can see it also plays a role in the debate on the death penalty or the legal and moral status or targeted killings by drones. While there is an international framework to address the issue or extrajudicial executions, there needs to be further process among the Member States concerning accountability and legislation.

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The annual treaty event of the United Nations provides an opportunity for all Member States to sign on to and to ratify any of the more than 550 UN treaties. In the final report, one can check which countries have become members of specific treaties which will be helpful in order to get to know the positions of certain countries on this issue.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (A/68/382)*. Retrieved 30 January 2014 from: <http://undocs.org/A/68/382>

The current Special Rapporteur's report on extrajudicial executions contains his observations and on the issue. It presents the communication between the Special Rapporteur and 54 Member States which will be helpful for delegates to gain insight on the position of individual countries. The report summarizes the correspondence regarding each communication and further presents some recommendations.

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). Fact Sheet No.11, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution. Retrieved 30 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet11rev.1en.pdf>

This factsheet will provide delegates with a very good overview of the topic of extrajudicial executions. It explains the role and mandate of the Special Rapporteur, the legal situation and also explains how to bring information or appeals to the attention of the Special Rapporteur. This document will be helpful in order to get an overview on the decision-making process and legal documents concerning this issue.

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). *Drone attacks: UN rights experts express concern about the potential illegal use of armed drones*. Retrieved 29 January 2014 from:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13905&LangID=E>

This article summarizes the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions concerning the targeted killings by drones. It explains very well the obligations and flaws in international law concerning this topic and how it is connected to the issue of extrajudicial executions. Since this is a very current topic, this article will be helpful to better understand the challenges drones pose and how one might address them.

World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. (2013). *11th World Day Against the Death Penalty: Greater Caribbean*. Retrieved 29 January 2014 from: <http://www.worldcoalition.org/worldday.html>

This website provides both general information on the issue of capital punishment as well as individual country information. It has an excellent resource center where one can refine one's

¹⁰⁰ UN DPI, *South Sudan: Evidence Mounts of Extra-Judicial Killings, Rights Abuses in South Sudan, UN Reports*, 2013.

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*

search on regions, countries or certain groups (women, minorities, children etc.). It furthermore contains all important legal documents on this issue.

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United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013). *Fact Sheet No.11, Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Execution*. Retrieved 30 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet11rev.1en.pdf>

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III. The Right to Adequate Housing and Forced Evictions

Introduction

Article 25 (I) of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (1948) determines that “everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family.”¹⁰² This right, though broadly defined, has led to the development of the right to adequate housing, currently with special attention on secure tenure, women and housing, forced evictions, and housing financing for the poor.¹⁰³ The advance of policies in these areas tapered in the second half of 2013, but there have been developments in the housing and eviction crises specifically in Palestine and Haiti.

Human Rights Council resolution 15/8 adopted 6 October 2010, renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as an affirmation that adequate housing remains a necessary component of the right to an adequate standard of living.¹⁰⁴ The annual report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly in August 2013 provided recommendations for the alternative policies of collective and rental housing, and a shift from “the financialization of housing to a rights-based approach” through the promotion of public and private low-cost renting, and collective tenure.¹⁰⁵ In her 11 September 2013 press statement, the United Nations Special Rapporteur commended the progressive provisions in place for affordable housing and secure tenure of the United Kingdom such as the construction and further regeneration of a large social housing stock as well as the inclusion of a housing component in the welfare system’s social safety net.¹⁰⁶ However, she also called attention to certain discriminatory obstacles, namely the regressive tax known as the “bedroom tax” which reduces the amount of benefits paid to claimants if the property rented from the social housing sector is considered under occupied and she also addressed opportunities for improving the current standard of living for increased public housing financing for the poor through the renewal of the Government’s commitment to public need.¹⁰⁷

Two months later, on 11 December 2013, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) emphasized the importance of “addressing durable solutions for all internally displaced persons and those who have returned to their areas of origin on a comprehensive basis.”¹⁰⁸ In the context of the Sri Lankan post conflict situation, in particular, the Special Rapporteur called for the government to actively pursue a resolution to the issue of IDPs, and to account for the conditions required to maintain solutions and livelihoods of “development plans, rule of law, human rights, and good governance programs.”¹⁰⁹

Regional initiatives from non-governmental organizations were recognized by the World Habitat Awards for 2013, which were announced on 7 October 2013.¹¹⁰ The first project acknowledged was the Hebron Old City Rehabilitation Programme in Palestine, which focuses on preserving and restoring the cultural integrity of the region while regenerating urban infrastructure and supporting local economic development to reverse depopulation.¹¹¹ The other recipient of the grant award was the 100,000 Homes Campaign, which provides housing for thousands of vulnerable and chronically homeless people in the United States.¹¹²

¹⁰² UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 10 December 1948.

¹⁰³ OHCHR, *Housing* [Website], 2013.

¹⁰⁴ UN HRC, *Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (A/HRC/RES/15/8)*, 2010.

¹⁰⁵ UN General Assembly, *Human Rights Council (A/68/289)*, 2013.

¹⁰⁶ OHCHR, *Press Statement by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing: End mission to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 29 August to 11 September 2013*, 2013

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ OHCHR, *Constructing a development based strategy for durable solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Sri Lanka in the aftermath of conflict is now essential*, “UN rights expert says”, 2013.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁰ UN-HABITAT, *World Habitat Awards 2013 winners announced* [Website], 2013.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹¹² *Ibid.*

Recent Developments

Palestine and Secure Tenure

On 24 April 2013, the European Union reiterated, that “Israeli settlement activities, which are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and undermine the viability of the two-state solution.”¹¹³ Despite the renewal of settlement negotiations in August 2013, Israeli policy on settlements in the West Bank intensified with the announcement of 2,000 new demolition orders and the approval of 1,500 Israeli housing units in the East Jerusalem settlement of Ramat Shlomo (29 October), and 4329 more in the West Bank on 29 October and 25 November.¹¹⁴ In total, in 2013, Israeli authorities forcibly displaced more than 1,100 Palestinians from the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, by demolishing their homes, as a consequence to building without a permit.¹¹⁵ But in Area C of the Occupied Palestine Territory which comprises more than 60% of the West Bank, the Israeli military allows construction in only 1% of the land, and only 176 construction permits have been approved since 2000 in this region.¹¹⁶

Palestinians evicted from their homes often encounter the demolition of non-residential structures, which can cause detrimental impacts on livelihoods, as well.¹¹⁷ In the case of the 2013 Christmas Eve evictions of 68 people, including 32 children, livestock shelters were destroyed, leaving 750 head of sheep and goats without animal pens, structures crucial during the lambing season.¹¹⁸ This setback has caused this historically self-sustainable group to become reliant upon international aid.¹¹⁹

Eviction of the Roma People in Romania and Throughout Europe

In January 2014, Romania’s Cluj-Napoca County Court ruled that the December 2010 eviction of 300 Roma people from the city to a site adjacent to a waste dump was illegal, and required the city to pay damages to approximately 200 applicants, and to further provide them with housing meeting at least the minimum standards set out in local law.¹²⁰ This lawsuit, however, was a rare victory in the worsening situation of Roma people throughout Europe. In Romania, as recently as September 2013, 101 people, including 55 children, were made homeless in severe weather conditions after their houses were demolished presumably due to lack of building permits.¹²¹ In France, 19,380 Roma migrants were evicted, and over 13,000 deported in 2013.¹²² These number reveals a “startling increase” from the 9,404 Roma evicted in 2012 and the 8,455 evicted in 2011.¹²³ On 4 November 2013 in neighboring Belgium, an estimated 200 squatters, including 38 children, permitted to live in a deconsecrated church and monastery by the property owner were evicted by 200 officers in riot gear.¹²⁴ Emir Kir, the mayor of the St. Josse borough of Brussels defended his decision to evict the squatters by asserting that the building had become a den of “criminality related to drugs and prostitution.”¹²⁵ Race-based discrimination is especially prevalent in the Roma’s home countries, stemming from attitudes like those of the Romanian Foreign Minister who suggested in 2010 that Roma are genetically disposed to illegal behavior and in consequence of these views.¹²⁶

Location-Based Evictions in Brazil

Beginning in 2012 the upcoming 2014 World Cup and 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics spurred new urban planning projects that led to the forced eviction of families and communities throughout Brazil.¹²⁷ The appropriation of

¹¹³ EU, *EU Statement - United Nations Security Council: Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question*, 2013.

¹¹⁴ ICAHD, *Recent Demolitions and the Announcement of More Israeli Settlement Units in the Occupied West Bank* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Israel: Stop Threatened Eviction of Palestinians* [Website], 2014.

¹¹⁶ *Ibid*; B’Tselem *Planning & building in Area C* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁷ UNRWA, *UNRWA Condemns Christmas Eve Demolitions in the West Bank and Calls on Israel to Respect International Law* [Website], 2013.

¹¹⁸ *Ibid*.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid*.

¹²⁰ Amnesty International, *Romanian court victory: Forced eviction of Roma in Cluj-Napoca illegal* [Website], 2014.

¹²¹ Aljazeera America, *France departs record number of Roma* [Website], 2014.

¹²² *Ibid*.

¹²³ *Ibid*.

¹²⁴ Aljazeera America, *For many Roma in Western Europe, no option to ‘go home’* [Website], 2014.

¹²⁵ *Ibid*.

¹²⁶ European Roma Rights Centre, *Factsheet: Roma Rights in Jeopardy* [Website], 2012.

¹²⁷ Amnesty International, *Annual Report: Brazil 2013* [Website], 2013.

private property was carried out without negotiation with residents; inadequate notice was given for the seizure of land and properties were undervalued and compensation promised but scarcely delivered.¹²⁸ Violence has also been an issue: In January 2012, over 6,000 long-term residents were forcibly removed from a site in São José dos Campos, São Paulo.¹²⁹ During the eviction, police used dogs, tear gas and rubber bullets, and the residents were not notified in advance, nor given sufficient time to remove their belongings from homes.¹³⁰ The authorities did not offer adequate alternative housing to the residents, nor have they received any compensation since the incident.¹³¹ In the city of Camaragibe, 79 families were displaced without compensation in late 2013. In this case, however, protests gaining international recognition worked to better the situation. Some households have reported that compensation has begun to materialize and that the rates have even increased to a more reasonable amount.

Eviction from Displacement Camps in Haiti

Elections in Haiti delayed since 2012 have still not been held to replace a wide range of elected positions, including one third of all congressional seats.¹³² This setback continues to stall the development of housing solutions for the 11% of citizens still living in displacement camps, and 172,000 others still living in tents after the 2010 earthquake.¹³³ The lack of adequate housing and infrastructure has worsened the impact of the cholera outbreak that has killed 7,440 citizens, infected 600,000, and still threatens an anticipated 45,000 in 2014.¹³⁴

113,595 internally displaced households have been resettled in transitional shelters, and 54,758 households have been relocated through rental subsidy programs, but more than 65,000 people have been evicted from informal displacement camps since July 2010.¹³⁵ In May 2013 The Haitian Government gave a public address that distanced itself from eviction practices and promised investigations into alleged evictions, but no one has been charged; no victim has been compensated, and “there is no evidence that such investigations are being carried out.”¹³⁶ Since those statements were made, more evictions have occurred, and of the estimated 170,000 individuals still in camps, approximately 78,000 are still under threat of eviction.¹³⁷

Conclusion

As further work is done in pursuit of ensuring the right to adequate housing and eliminating the inhumane practice of forced evictions, there must be advancements in the solidification of the definition of secure tenure, and renewed efforts to mitigate the contributing factor of poverty to the issue.¹³⁸

Annotated Bibliography

Aljazeera America. (2014, January 14). *France deports record number of Roma*. Retrieved 26 January 2014 from: <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/1/14/france-deports-recordnumberofroma.html>

This article provides a brief but comprehensive background to the various problems within the complex issue of discrimination the Roma people face in their home countries and throughout Europe. While discussing issues the Roma face specifically about housing and deportation throughout Europe, it focuses on actions taken by French authorities in the last year, compared to previous years to illustrate the growth of the problem away from a viable solution.

Amnesty International. (2013, May 23). *Annual Report: Brazil 2013*. Retrieved 24 January 2014 from: <http://www.amnestyusa.org/research/reports/annual-report-brazil-2013?page=show>

¹²⁸ Amnesty International, *Annual Report: Brazil 2013* [Website], 2013.

¹²⁹ Aljazeera America, *World Cup preparation means eviction for several Brazilian residents* [Website], 2014.

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Human Rights Watch, *Haiti* [Website], 2013.

¹³³ Ibid; Oxfam America, *Owning the future: Haitians taking the lead in reconstruction* [Website], 2014.

¹³⁴ Human Rights Watch, *Haiti* [Website], 2013; Oxfam America, *Owning the future: Haitians taking the lead in reconstruction* [Website], 2014.

¹³⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Haiti* [Website], 2013; Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *E-Shelter and CCCM* [Website], 2013.

¹³⁶ Amnesty International, *Haiti: Failure to deal with the consequences of the 2010 devastating earthquake* [Website], 2013.

¹³⁷ UNOCHA, *Haiti Humanitarian Action Plan*, 2014.

¹³⁸ UN Human Rights Council, *Statement by Raquel Rolnik Special Rapporteur on adequate housing at the 22nd Session of the Human Rights Council*, 2013.

This report on the human rights situation in Brazil in general provides a comprehensive context for the recent issue of forced evictions in the country for the upcoming World Cup and Olympic Games. Specific instances of evictions are illustrated, illuminating the source of various grievances. It discusses judicial involvement and various human rights that were violated in the process of denying the right to adequate housing.

Human Rights Watch. (2014, January 3). *Israel: Stop Threatened Eviction of Palestinians*. Retrieved 9 January 2014 from: <http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/01/02/israel-stop-threatened-eviction-palestinians>

This article discusses key international treaties, meetings, and actions taken that have been violated or have begun in response to violations. It considers specific examples of evictions and suggests methods for improving the housing conditions of Palestinians. While the article provides an overview of the issue in Palestine, particularly Area C, it provides examples of where a mismatch of objectives might be compromised for progress towards improving conditions.

United Nations, Human Rights Council, Fifteenth Session. (2010, October 6). *Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living (A/HRC/RES/15/8)*. Retrieved 30 January 2014 from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/HRC/RES/15/8

This important resolution focuses attention on collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing in order to best promote the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. It also calls for the greatest coordination of stakeholders and for the greatest attention to be paid to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized.

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2013, September 11). *Press Statement by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on adequate housing: End mission to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 29 August to 11 September 2013*. Retrieved 2 January 2014 from: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=13706&LangID=E>

The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing reports on the completion of her mission in the United Kingdom, revealing a perspective on a region not discussed in-depth elsewhere. She commends the progressive provisions in place for affordable housing and secure tenure of the United Kingdom, but she also calls attention to certain discriminatory obstacles, specifically regressive taxes, as well as opportunities for improving the current standard of living for increased public housing financing for the poor.

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