



O U T R E A C H S E R V I C E
DEMOCRACY & Human Rights
A M E R I C A N E M B A S S Y R E S O U R C E C E N T E R

June 2006

IN DEPTH...

Views expressed in the **reports** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government

THIRD REPORT OF THE PROSECUTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT TO THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL PURSUANT TO UNSCR 1593 (2005) [DARFUR]

International Criminal Court (ICC), Office of the Prosecutor

June 14, 2006 – 11 pages

The investigation team in the Office of the Prosecutor (the Office) of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has collated information relating to alleged crimes in Darfur, Sudan into a Darfur Crime Database. The analysis of the data, relating to the period October 2002 - May 2006, shows significant variations in the crime patterns reflective of the different phases of the conflict, with violence escalating between October 2002 - April 2003 and peaking during the period April 2003 - April 2005.

The Office has so far documented (from public and non-public sources) thousands of alleged direct killings of civilians by parties to the conflict. The available information indicates that these killings include a significant number of large scale massacres, with hundreds of victims in each incident. The Office has selected several of these incidents for further investigation and analysis.

In addition to direct killings, there is a significant amount of information indicating that thousands of civilians have died since 2003 as a consequence of the conditions of life resulting from the conflict and the ensuing displacement. These include a lack of shelter and basic necessities for survival as a result of the destruction of homes, food stocks, and the looting of property and livestock, as well as obstacles to the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance. This type of 'slow death' has particularly affected the most vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly and the sick.

The Office has also registered hundreds of alleged cases of rape. This is likely to be indicative of a practice that was endemic among some groups involved in the conflict and in relation to which there are indications of significant under-reporting. The Office has interviewed a number of victims of alleged rapes and has commissioned further expert studies in this area.

2005 GLOBAL REFUGEE TRENDS: STATISTICAL OVERVIEW OF POPULATIONS OF REFUGEES, ASYLUM-SEEKERS, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, STATELESS PERSONS, AND OTHER PERSONS OF CONCERN TO UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

June 9, 2006 – 105 pages

In this annual report, UNHCR places the total of global refugees at a 26-year low, while the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) increased. The report states that although the number of trans-border refugees dropped from 9.5 million in 2004 to 8.4 million last year, the overall number of concern to UNHCR increased by 1.3 million - from 19.5 million to 20.8 million. Much of the increase is due to a rise in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs), people living in refugee-like situations within their

own countries. UNHCR now counts 6.6 million conflict-generated internally displaced people in 16 countries as being "of concern," compared to 5.4 million in 13 countries at the end of 2004.

The vast majority of the world's uprooted people remain in developing nations. The 2005 statistics show five nationalities accounting for nearly half of the total population of concern to UNHCR: Afghans (2.9 million); Colombians (2.5 million); Iraqis (1.8 million); Sudanese (1.6 million); and Somalis (839,000).

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS [TIP] REPORT: 2006

United States Department of State, Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons

June 2006 – 295 pages

This is the Department of State's sixth annual report on the modern-day slave trade, a murky business that ensnares 800,000 people. The report arranges countries into three tiers depending on their degree of complicity in trafficking. Country reports describe what efforts have been made by each country to prosecute traffickers, protect victims, and prevent further occurrences. Assessing each government's anti-trafficking efforts involves a two-step process:

* Step One: Determining whether or not there is a significant number of victims. The Department determines whether a country is "a country of origin, transit, or destination for a significant number of victims of severe forms of trafficking," generally on the order of 100 or more victims -- the same threshold applied in previous reports. Some countries, for which such information was not available, are not given tier ratings, but are included in the Special Case section, since they did exhibit indications of trafficking.

* Step Two: Tier placement. The Department places each country included in the 2006 TIP Report into one of the four lists, described here as tiers, mandated by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA). This placement is based more on the extent of government action to combat trafficking, rather than the size of the problem, important though that is. The Department first evaluates whether the government fully complies with the TVPA's minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking [detailed on p. 288]. Governments that do so are placed in Tier 1. For other governments, the Department considers whether they made significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. Governments that are making significant efforts to meet the minimum standards are placed in Tier 2. Governments that do not fully comply with the minimum standards, and are not making significant efforts to do so, are placed in Tier 3. Finally, the Special Watch List criteria are considered and, if applicable, Tier 2 countries are placed on the Tier 2 Watch List.

THE END OF CHILD LABOUR: WITHIN REACH

International Labour Organization (ILO)

May 4, 2006 – 100 pages

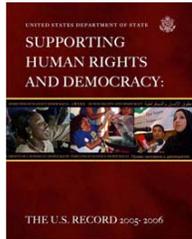
Child labor, especially in its worst forms, is in decline for the first time across the globe, according to this cautiously optimistic report from the International Labour Organization (ILO). The new report says the actual number of child laborers worldwide fell by 11 per cent between 2000 and 2004, from 246 million to 218 million. Furthermore, the number of children and youth aged 5-17 trapped in hazardous work decreased by 26 per cent, from 171 million in the 2000 estimate to approximately 126 million in 2004. Among younger child laborers aged 5-14, this drop was even more pronounced at 33 per cent, says the report.

The ILO report attributes the reduction in child labor to increased political will and awareness and concrete action, particularly in the field of poverty reduction and mass education, a combination that has led to a worldwide movement against child labor.

Despite considerable progress in the fight against child labor, the report notes ongoing challenges, particularly in agriculture, where seven out of ten child laborers work. Other challenges include addressing the impact of HIV/AIDS on child labor, and building stronger links between child labor and concerns regarding youth unemployment. The authors call for greater national efforts, involving organizations representing employers and workers, as well as governments. They add that meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 would further help to eradicate child labor.

The U.S. Record 2005-2006

Released April 5, 2006



The "Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2005 - 2006" report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the FY 03 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This fourth annual submission complements the longstanding Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005, and takes the next step, moving from highlighting abuses to publicizing the actions and programs the United States has employed to end those abuses.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: GLOBAL PATTERNS

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

April 2006 – 128 pages

In summary fashion, this report reviews basic trends in the worldwide trafficking of persons. Even though all human trafficking cases have their individual characteristics, most follow the same pattern: people are abducted or recruited in the country of origin, transferred through transit regions and then exploited in the destination country. If, at some stage, the exploitation of the victim is interrupted or ended, they can be rescued as victims of trafficking in persons, and it is possible they might receive support in the country of destination. Either immediately or at some later point, victims might be repatriated to their origin country; in some cases, relocated in a third country; or, as unfortunately too often still happens, are deported from destination or transit countries as illegal migrants.

The report identifies 127 countries of origin, 98 transit countries and 137 destination countries. It shows that global efforts to combat trafficking are being hampered by a lack of accurate data, reflecting the unwillingness of some countries to acknowledge that the problem affects them.

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IN DEPTH...

THE COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES FOR 2005

U.S. Department of State
March 8, 2006

The 2005 Human Rights Report provides a comprehensive overview of the status of individual rights and freedoms in 196 reports from around the world. A key underpinning of the report is that the promotion of democracy is essential to providing an environment in which human rights can flourish.

LIBERIA'S POST-WAR RECOVERY: KEY ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Nicolas Cook
Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service
December 13, 2005

This report describes recent developments in Liberia, which is undergoing a post-conflict transition and peace-building process after its second civil war in a decade. Liberia held post-war elections in October 2005, with a presidential run-off vote in November. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, an economist with Liberian government and multinational organization experience, won with 59.4%. She is the first female president of an African country.

The election fulfilled a key goal of the August 2003 peace accord, leading to an on-going, U.S.-aided post-war transition process. That process is bolstered by the multi-faceted U.N. Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which carries out diverse peacekeeping, civilian policing, and socio-economic assistance functions. UNMIL was preceded by the U.S.-assisted deployment in August 2003 of an Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) military intervention force. The United States is providing extensive post-war reconstruction aid and support for security sector restructuring, which will include the training of a newly recruited and vetted 2,000-person military.

The author notes that in addition to providing substantial support for Liberia's rebuilding and peace-building processes, Congress has shown considerable interest in the status of former president Charles Taylor. The author lists various Liberia-related legislation Congress has passed or introduced. This report will be updated as events warrant.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2006: EXCLUDED AND INVISIBLE

United Nations Children's Fund
December 2005

In her foreword, UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman writes that in the past, this annual report on the world's children has focused on specific issues such as HIV/AIDS, girls' education, nutrition, child labor, and early childhood development. The 2006 report "highlights the millions of children who have not been the beneficiaries of past gains, the ones who are excluded or 'invisible'."

The report assesses global efforts to realize the Millennium Development Goals, and demonstrates the marked impact that their achievement would have on children's lives and future generations. It also

explains that given the MDGs' emphasis on national averages, children in marginalized communities risk missing out on essential services such as health care, education and protection. It argues that children denied their right to a formal identity, suffering child protection abuses, or facing early marriage, armed combat, and hazardous labor, are among those most at risk of exclusion from the Millennium agenda. The report recommends ways to include these children in this agenda.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

PROTECTING TWO MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED: THE SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS OF THE AFRICAN UNION IN DARFUR

William G. O'Neill and Violette Cassis
The Brookings Institution
November 2005

This report, produced for The Brookings Institution-University of Bern Project on Internal Displacement, assesses the successes and shortcomings of the African Union's (AU's) intervention in Darfur. For the AU, Darfur has become a test case for African peacekeeping. This is the first time the AU has deployed forces to protect internally displaced persons (IDPs) in camps, facilitate their return, and safeguard humanitarian corridors and aid convoys.

Based on their interviews with AU troops, IDPs, and human rights and humanitarian personnel over a 7-month period, the authors identify best practices, as well as the limitations of the AU performance.

The report concludes by analyzing the security situation in Darfur in late 2005 and the increasing violence that endangers IDPs, civilians in general, humanitarian and human rights officers, and the AU soldiers and police. It addresses the need to enhance the size, capacity and mandate of the peacekeeping operation in Darfur, and considers whether the AU can protect civilians under such circumstances, or whether the UN, NATO or the European Union (EU) will need to take a more active peacekeeping role in Darfur.

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ACCIDENTAL PRESIDENTS: DEATH, ASSASSINATION, RESIGNATION, AND DEMOCRATIC SUCCESSION

Philip Abbott

Presidential Studies Quarterly, December 2005, Vol.35, Iss. 4; p. 627, 19 p

One of the commonly stated virtues of modern constitutional democracies is their capacity to ensure reliable and accepted methods of political succession through election. This essay focuses on one particular, though not uncommon, complication in the democratic mode of political succession: American vice presidents who assume office as a result of the death, assassination, or resignation of a president. Three basic strategies by "accidental presidents" to establish and enhance their legitimacy are identified. The efforts of accidental presidents provide a framework to assess a democratic theory of succession, for a certain resiliency is necessary to respond to irregular modes of succession yet excessive plasticity might threaten election as the privileged method of succession.

CONSTRAINT RESPECTERS, CONSTRAINT CHALLENGERS, AND CRISIS DECISION MAKING IN DEMOCRACIES: A CASE STUDY ANALYSIS OF KENNEDY VERSUS REAGAN

Keller, Jonathan W

Political Psychology, December 2005, Vol. 26 Issue 6, p835-867, 33p

Models linking domestic political constraints (audience costs, pressures for the diversionary use of force, democratic norms and institutions) to foreign policy behavior generally assume that leaders simply recognize and submit to constraints in their domestic environments—a strong structural argument. In contrast, research on political leadership and decision making suggests that leaders vary systematically in their orientations toward constraints: "constraint respecters" tend to internalize potential constraints, while "constraint challengers" are more likely to view them as obstacles to be overcome. This article develops an integrative theoretical framework that explicitly incorporates these insights and applies them to the domain of crisis decision making. After identifying leaders' expected orientations toward constraints via at-a-distance methods, the plausibility of hypotheses derived from this framework is examined through case studies that explore the decision-making processes employed by President Kennedy (a "constraint respecter") and President Reagan (a "constraint challenger") during international crises. The results suggest that there is important variation in how leaders perceive and respond to domestic constraints, and that leadership style is one—though not the only—important source of this variation.

FOREIGN POLICY IN TRANSITION? HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY, AND U.S. ARMS EXPORTS

Blanton, Shannon Lindsey

International Studies Quarterly, December 2005, Vol. 49 Issue 4, p647-668, 22p

During the Cold War, U.S. foreign policy was dominated by the strategic goal to contain Communism. *Human rights* and *democracy* were of secondary importance. In the post-Cold War period, the promotion of *human rights* and *democracy* as foreign policy concerns rose in prominence. In the spirit of Andrew Pierre, who once characterized arms transfers as "foreign policy writ large," this study questions whether the transfer of U.S. arms mirrors America's foreign policy goals. To what extent do U.S. arms transfers reflect a concern for *human rights* and *democracy*? As a foreign policy instrument, do U.S. arms transfer patterns mark a transition between Cold War and post-Cold War worlds? To address these questions, I

examine the empirical linkage between U.S. foreign policy goals and arms export agreements with developing countries for the years 1981–2002. I use a two-stage model to evaluate the decision-making process. The first-stage addresses whether a country is eligible to receive U.S. arms. If a country successfully passes through the selection stage, it progresses to the second stage where a decision is made about the amount of arms transferred. I use a Heckman model to estimate empirically the determinants of arms at both the initial selection stage and the subsequent amount stage. The findings indicate that during the Cold War years, *human rights* were not a significant determinant of arms transfers—although *democracy* was positively linked to U.S. arms in the selection stage. In the post-Cold War period, both *human rights* and *democracy* had a meaningful impact in determining the eligibility of a country to receive arms.

RIGHTS: SPORTS INCREASINGLY MIRROR A RACIST WORLD - U.N. REPORT

Thalif Deen

Global Information Network, November 16, 2005, p. 1

"The increase in violence and openly racist incidents is illustrated not only by the actions of some supporters, but also by the comments and behavior of coaches of famous teams who trivialize or legitimize racist or xenophobic incidents," says Doudou Diene, a special rapporteur of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights.

A draft resolution before the current session of the General Assembly calls on FIFA, which is overseeing the 2006 World Cup in Germany, to promote "a world of sport free from racism and racial discrimination and to consider introducing a visible theme on non- racism in football."

The World Summit in September, the largest-ever gathering of political leaders, cited the crucial role of sport in the outcome document, when it stated, in paragraph 145: "We underline that sport can foster peace and development and can contribute to an atmosphere of tolerance and understanding and we encourage discussions in the General Assembly for proposals leading to a Sport and Development Plan of Action."

ORPHANS OF CONFLICT: CARING FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

Donald Steinberg

United States Institute of Peace

October 2005 – 20 pages

The crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs) -- those who are driven from their homes by conflict, human rights abuses, natural disasters, and other causes, and who do not cross international borders -- affects some 25 million people in 50 countries. IDPs suffer severe humanitarian hardships, lack basic human rights, and are subject to abuse. The chaos and instability that accompanies internal displacement is an invitation to international crime, pandemic diseases, and trafficking in persons, drugs, and weapons.

Host governments that are ultimately responsible for assisting, protecting, and returning IDPs to their homes are often unable or unwilling to do so.

This report proposes five steps to improve the global response to internal displacement. If taken, these steps would build ownership of IDPs by host governments and foreign donors, implement rules and standards governing the response, reform the response of the United Nations and the United States, and create a permanent advocacy constituency for IDPs. The five steps are:

- * National governments, foreign donors, and NGOs should apply the concept of sovereignty as the "responsibility to protect" to cases of large-scale internal displacement.
- * Governments, international organizations, and NGOs should do more to implement the "Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement," a nonbinding but comprehensive statement of the rights of IDPs and domestic and international responsibilities.
- * The UN should designate the UN High Commissioner for Refugees as the lead UN agency for IDPs, or the secretary-general should assign a specific UN agency the lead for each new crisis of internal displacement.
- * The U.S. government should strengthen the U.S. Agency for International Development's leadership on IDP assistance issues by earmarking resources for IDPs and providing a legislative mandate for this responsibility.
- * The American public should create a new mechanism -- a "USA for IDPs" -- to highlight IDP crises, build a constituency for action, and provide a means for private Americans to respond financially.

STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY IN IRAQ

Eric Davis

United States Institute of Peace

October 2005 - 20 pages

The Education Program at the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) is helping to rehabilitate the Iraqi higher education system by introducing courses in conflict resolution and peace education into university curricula throughout the country. This report suggests ways to involve the Iraqi higher education system in building and promoting democratic governance in Iraq.

The report's main points include the following:

- * Social justice and economic development are essential for democracy in Iraq to succeed.
- * Iraq has a tradition and history of democracy that can help promote the successful establishment of a democratic form of government in post-Saddam Hussein Iraq.
- * Sixty percent of the Iraqi population is younger than 25. They have only known authoritarian rule and need to learn about democracy. The older generation of former democratic activists can pass on to younger Iraqis their memories and experiences of pre-1963 Iraqi society.
- * The establishment of an institution devoted to democracy could spread the concept of democratic government through workshops, contests, and grants to civil society organizations.
- * Citizenship and service learning programs in Iraqi universities could promote democratic principles among older students. A national reading project and essay contest could introduce younger students to democracy and strengthen the literary skills necessary for an informed citizenry.
- * The government should use the Internet's power to involve citizens in the democratic process and improve education. Television and radio programs, coffeehouse events, national "town hall" meetings, summer camps for youth, and emphasis on common folklore could help overcome ethnic differences and promote tolerance and unity among Iraq's diverse ethnic cultures.

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September 2005

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APPLYING ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: NIGERIA, IRAN, AND INDONESIA

David Smock
United States Institute of Peace
SPECIAL REPORT 150
September 2005

- Modern Muslim societies face the challenge of reapplying shari'ah (Islamic jurisprudence) and other traditional concepts in contexts that have changed markedly from those that existed during its original implementation.
- The relationship between shari'ah, justice, and sustainable plural democracy must be examined objectively.
- Instead of voicing alarmist condemnations of shari'ah, Westerners should pay close attention to the lively debate taking place within Muslim societies on law and morality.
- In northern Nigeria, shari'ah needs to be both modernized and made compatible with universal human rights, pluralism, and democracy while remaining genuinely Islamic.
- In Iran, a conference on Islam and democracy revealed agreement that unchecked state-controlled religiosity could lead to a dangerous and tyrannical system of governance. Participants took the compatibility of religion and democracy as a given, along with the recognition that religion in a Muslim country such as Iran cannot be eliminated from the public square.
- In Aceh, Indonesia, which has been plagued by prolonged violence and abuse of human rights, ulama (Islamic scholars) feel an urgent need to respond to the challenges of the global information age while also upholding the Prophet Mohammed's legacy. They have embraced a new peace education program for religious schools because they view peace as central to Islam.



Iraqi Shiite men hold a banner that reads: "Islam is the religion of peace" as they march to the al-Rohman mosque for prayers in Baghdad, Iraq on May 2, 2003. (Courtesy AP/Wide World)

IN SUPPORT OF ARAB DEMOCRACY: WHY AND HOW

Madeleine K. Albright and Vin Weber
Council on Foreign Relations
July 2005, 88 pages

Chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and former Representative Vin Weber, this independent task force considered whether promoting democracy in the Middle East is in the best interests of the United States and, if so, how Washington should implement such a policy.

The Task Force concluded that notwithstanding short-term risks, democracy in the Middle East is a desirable goal. The report asserts that over the long run, the development of democratic institutions in Arab countries "will diminish the appeal of extremism and terrorism, the risks of revolutionary upheaval, and the emergence of regimes openly hostile to the United States."

Among the actions the report recommends the U.S. Government take to support Middle East Democracy are:

--Change US public diplomacy strategy by restoring funding for the Voice of America's Arabic service; and incorporate C-SPAN-style formats into some of the programming broadcast by the U.S. government-operated Arabic satellite channel, al-Hurra

--Promote the expansion of the region's private media market

--Seek the partnership of Arab, American, European, and Asian educational institutions, foundations, the private sector, and multilateral organizations to develop teacher-training programs, provide technical assistance to decentralize Arab educational systems, expand English language instruction, and establish lifelong learning through adult education

--Improve procedures for allowing students from the Arab world to enter the United States, and promote partnerships between U.S. business and engineering schools and Arab educational institutions

--Emphasize such basic principles as human rights, political representation, constitutional checks and balances, tolerance, rule of law, women's rights, and transparency of decision-making

--Encourage Arab leaders to develop public, detailed "pathways to reform" that respond to the specific demands for change made by citizens within their countries

--Provide assistance to improve regulatory environments, reform tax codes, and, remove barriers to intraregional trade in an effort to promote regional economic integration, along with negotiating trade and investment agreements.

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TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT [2005]

United States Department of State, Under Secretary for Global Affairs
June 3, 2005

The Department of State is required by law to submit a report each year to the U.S. Congress on foreign governments' efforts to eliminate severe forms of trafficking in persons. This Report is the fifth annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report. This report is intended to raise global awareness and spur foreign governments to take effective actions to counter all forms of trafficking in persons -- a form of modern day slavery. According to the rating system of the report, a country that fails to take significant actions to bring itself into compliance with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking in persons receives a negative "Tier 3" assessment. Such a rating could trigger the withholding of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance from the United States to that country. In the 2005 TIP report, the following are listed as "Tier 3" countries: Bolivia, Burma, Cambodia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Kuwait, North Korea, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Togo, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

In assessing foreign governments' efforts, the TIP Report highlights the "three P's" -- prosecution, protection, and prevention. The report prefers to reference a victim-centered approach to trafficking, which requires examination and implementation of the "three R's" -- rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. The law that guides these efforts, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA), makes clear that the purpose of combating human trafficking is to ensure just and effective punishment of traffickers, to protect their victims, and to prevent trafficking.

THE STRATEGIC IMPLICATIONS OF THE RISE OF POPULISM IN EUROPE AND SOUTH AMERICA

Steve C. Ropp
United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI)
June 2005

According to the author of this report, the very success of the progress of democratization in recent decades has created the preconditions for future bursts of populist turbulence in two democratic regions of the world where the United States has vital security interests -- Europe and South America. Ropp argues that "populist" politicians have already changed the security environment in both regions and may alter it more dramatically in the future. He warns that bursts of populist turbulence in either or both regions on a large scale would have "the potential to undermine the democratic core upon which most of contemporary U.S. security policy is based. And in some regions, such as the Andes, where democratic institutions are particularly fragile, populist turbulence could even lead to state failure." Ropp advises U.S. leaders to be wary of populist movements and leaders in these regions, and to avoid the formation of "alliances of convenience" with populists.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: CITIZENSHIP AND JUSTICE

Freedom House
May 20, 2005

This report asserts that there is substantial deficit in women's rights in the 16 countries and one territory reviewed. Women are at a profound disadvantage in practically every institution of society: the criminal justice system, the economy, education, health care, and the media.

Using a methodology derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the study rates countries on a numerical scale. The survey core is comprised of in-depth narrative reports describing the challenges and progress on women's rights in: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, Yemen, and Palestine (Palestinian Authority and Israeli-Occupied Territories). The study covers developments

through the end of 2003. Only three countries -- Tunisia, Morocco, and Algeria -- scored above average in some areas of women's rights. Saudi Arabia earned the lowest scores. According to the study, women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) face a systematic gender gap, aided in large measure by discriminatory laws and by the routine lack of enforcement of existing laws guaranteeing equality and fair treatment. While women in the region have made substantial gains in education, none of the countries evaluated meets internationally recognized standards for women's rights protections.

PROMOTING MIDDLE EAST DEMOCRACY II: ARAB INITIATIVES [USIP Special Report No. 136]

Mona Yacoubian

United States Institute of Peace (USIP)

May 2005

The Arab League, individual governments, and nongovernmental organizations in the Arab world have all issued statements or declarations on the need for governance reform, especially in the area of increased democracy. The author believes that while some of these initiatives seem more cosmetic than genuine, the net effect has been to open an unprecedented dialogue on reform. This report reviews and analyzes the components of reform as proposed by those in the region. It ends with some overarching conclusions on Arab reform efforts as well as recommendations for U.S. policymakers. With regard to the latter, she offers the following thoughts:

* "U.S. engagement on reform promotion should be quiet yet consistent. However, given flagging U.S. credibility in the region, any public endorsement of specific initiatives could doom them to failure. Indeed, restoring and strengthening U.S. credibility in the region should be the primary objective for U.S. policymakers."

* "For now, the United States should seek to buffer its direct engagement on reform promotion by working in closer cooperation with European allies and through the establishment of a quasi-public Middle East foundation. As well, U.S. officials should employ quiet yet forceful diplomacy to pressure governments to roll back repressive measures such as arresting reformers, banning opposition parties, and censoring the media.

TRAFFICKING IN HUMAN BEINGS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE – 2004: FOCUS ON PREVENTION

Barbara Limanowska

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

March 31, 2005

This report examines the efforts of governments, international and local NGOs in South Eastern Europe to prevent human trafficking, raise awareness and assist victims. It looks at the situation in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Romania and Serbia and Montenegro (including the UN administered province of Kosovo). The authors find that anti-trafficking measures are still dominated by repressive measures to prevent migration, prostitution and organized crime. Their research leads them to conclude that the root causes of human trafficking are not being adequately addressed in the region.

The report examines two seemingly contradictory scenarios. In the first, trafficking in the region is decreasing, as there has been a significant reduction in the number of victims assisted. In the other, trafficking is not declining at all, but has simply become less visible, with victims unwilling to seek assistance for fear of repatriation, deportation and stigmatization. The report notes programs that are already in place to prevent trafficking and to assist victims, and outlines the future steps that need to be taken to minimize this problem.

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SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY: THE U.S. RECORD 2004 - 2005

United States Department of State

Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

March 28, 2005

This report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the Fiscal Year 2003 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which was signed into law on September 30, 2002. It requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This report complements the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices. However, unlike the 196 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2004-2005 highlights U.S. efforts to promote human rights and democracy in only 98 countries and entities—those with the most human rights abuses. References to Hong Kong, Macau and Tibet have been incorporated into the China report, and Western

Sahara is mentioned in the Morocco report. To make this report consistent with the criteria in the legislation, this report also includes a number of additions: Bahrain, the Maldives, and Serbia—as well as a number of deletions: Belize, Comoros, Djibouti, Fiji, Lesotho, and Niger.

The bulk of the report comprises country reports within the geographic divisions of Africa, East Asia and Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, and Western Hemisphere.

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DEMOCRACY & Human Rights
A M E R I C A N E M B A S S Y R E S O U R C E C E N T E R

March 2005

IN DEPTH...

Views expressed in the reports are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government

IRAQ: WITHOUT CONSENSUS, DEMOCRACY IS NOT THE ANSWER

Carnegie Policy Brief No. 36

Marina Ottaway

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

March 2005

The Iraqi elections were a success, says the author of this report, but they do not ensure that Iraqis can now agree on a constitutional formula that accommodates the demands of all groups and keeps the country together. Democracy as separation of powers, checks and balances, and protection of individual rights has not proven enough to avoid conflict in other deeply divided societies. Ottaway stresses that Iraqis will have to confront their differences and negotiate solution for democracy to thrive. If they fail, she claims, the United States will be faced with a choice of whether to keep the country together by force or get out—and it is better to find out sooner rather than later.

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[HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH] WORLD REPORT 2005

Human Rights Watch (HRW)

January 13, 2005

The Human Rights Watch World Report 2005 contains survey information on human rights developments in more than 60 countries in 2004. HRW notes that the inclusion of only 60 countries does not mean that these are the only countries with human rights issues; rather it reflects staffing limitations that prevent the organization from addressing every human rights problem in the world. Each country entry identifies significant human rights issues, examines the freedom of local human rights defenders to conduct their work, and surveys the response of key international actors, such as the United Nations, European Union, Japan, the United States, and various regional and international organizations and institutions.

The report begins with four essays. The first is an essay on Darfur and Abu Ghraib, which argues that the large-scale ethnic cleansing in Darfur in western Sudan and the detainee abuse at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq both require firm responses. The second essay, a companion piece to the first, details what has taken place in Darfur and the continuing reluctance of the U.N. Security Council and other powerful international actors to mount a decisive response.

The third and fourth essays address two of the most controversial issues of the year: evidence of growing conflicts between religious communities and the human rights movement, and the global backlash against movements for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. While the essays call for stringent protection of religious freedom, both argue that rights groups should oppose efforts in the name of religion, tradition, or morals to censor expression or limit the behavior of others when the only "offense" is in the mind of the person seeking to impose their views.

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2005 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM

Marc A. Miles, Edwin Feulner and Mary Anastasia O'Grady, editors
Heritage Foundation
Wall Street Journal
January 2005

This 11th edition of the Index documents the correlation between freedom and prosperity. Countries that improve their scores in the 10 categories measured—trade policy, fiscal burden of government, government intervention in the economy, monetary policy, capital flows and foreign investment, banking and finance, wages and prices, property rights, regulation and informal (or black) market activity—tend to see their standards of living and per capita incomes rise. Data gathered for the 2005 Index show a net increase in global economic freedom. Of the 155 countries analyzed, 86 scored better this year than last year and 12 had unchanged scores. The scores of 57 countries were worse than last year. Overall, 17 countries are classified as having “free” economies, 56 as “mostly free,” 70 as “mostly unfree” and 12 as “repressed.”

Countries ranked as “the most free” are: Hong Kong (1st); Singapore (2nd); Luxembourg (3rd); Estonia (4th); Ireland (5th); New Zealand (5th); United Kingdom (7th); Denmark (8th); Iceland (8th); Australia (10th). Those countries that ranked as “the least free” are: Venezuela (146th); Uzbekistan (147th); Iran (148th); Cuba (149th); Laos (150th); Turkmenistan (151st); Zimbabwe (151st); Libya (153rd); Burma (154th); North Korea (155th).

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FREEDOM IN THE WORLD 2005: CIVIC POWER AND ELECTORAL POLITICS

Freedom House
December 20, 2004

According to this new survey, 89 countries of the world are rated “Free”, meaning that their combined 2.8 billion inhabitants (44 percent of the world's population) enjoy a broad range of rights. Fifty-four countries representing 1.2 billion people (19 percent) are considered “Partly Free”. Political rights and civil liberties are more limited in these countries, in which corruption, dominant ruling parties, or, in some cases, ethnic or religious strife are often the norm. The survey finds that 49 countries are “Not Free”. The 2.4 billion inhabitants (37 percent) of these countries, nearly three-fifths of whom live in China, are denied most basic political rights and civil liberties. According to the survey, the following countries have the lowest rating: Burma, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria and Turkmenistan.

Russia's status fell from “Partly Free” to “Not Free” because of the flawed nature of the country's parliamentary elections in December 2003 and presidential elections in 2004, the further consolidation of state control of the media, and the imposition of official curbs on opposition political parties and groups. Russia's retreat from freedom marks a low point not registered since 1989, when the country was part of the Soviet Union.

According to Freedom House, other former Soviet countries registered setbacks in 2004. In Belarus, which already ranked as the least free country in Europe, harassment of opposition political forces ensured the victory of President Aleksander Lukashenka in an election in which he ran virtually unopposed. In Armenia, the government's violent suppression of peaceful civic protestors underscored its increasingly unresponsive and undemocratic rule.

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