

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT 2024

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GRAC: Global Rights Action
Honesty - Humanity – Humility

Analysis of the most significant human rights violations in 158 countries in 2024

Committed to social justice and human rights worldwide

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Who We Are?

We are **GRAC: Global Rights Action**, a foundation dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, social justice, and sustainable development. Our mission is built on three core values: **Honesty, Humanity, and Humility**, which guide all our actions. We focus on identifying and addressing the most pressing human rights violations worldwide, fostering meaningful change through education, advocacy, and collaboration with vulnerable communities. Our vision is to create a more just and compassionate world where every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, can live with dignity and respect.

At **GRAC**, we firmly believe in empathy for others and respect for nature and animals. We strive to integrate these principles into all our projects, promoting a culture of mutual care and environmental stewardship. We maintain political neutrality and work only with democratic governments and international actors who share our values. This neutrality allows us to focus on what truly matters: supporting people and communities facing injustices and challenges, no matter their location or condition.

Furthermore, we are more than an organization; we are a way of life and culture we call **Graccism**, which inspires our team and supporters around the globe. We believe that a world united by the values of honesty, humanity, and humility can overcome the barriers of inequality, oppression, and suffering. We invite everyone who shares this vision to join our cause and become part of the change we seek to create in the world.

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Introduction

The respect for human rights is the foundation of any society striving for justice, equality, and peace. Yet, the global reality demonstrates that these aspirations are continuously threatened by armed conflicts, authoritarian regimes, social inequality, and other dynamics that perpetuate the violation of fundamental rights. In 2024, the world has faced a complex landscape marked by humanitarian crises, political repression, structural violence, and systematic breaches of human rights across various regions.

The **World Human Rights Report 2024** is **GRAC: Global Rights Action's** response to these realities. This document represents a collective effort to document, analyse, and shed light on the most significant violations that have occurred in 158 countries. It offers a comprehensive analysis based on verifiable facts, testimonials, and data collected ethically and rigorously. Our purpose is clear: to educate, mobilize, and inspire individuals, organizations, and governments to take concrete action in defence of human rights.

This report is not merely a collection of statistics and analysis; it is a call to global consciousness. Each country represented in these pages tells a unique story of resilience, suffering, and, in some cases, hope. From political oppression in authoritarian regimes to humanitarian crises caused by armed conflicts or natural disasters, each section seeks to reflect the lived realities of millions and the dynamics that have contributed to these violations.

GRAC bases its work on the values of **honesty, humanity, and humility**, which guide all our actions and publications. With an ethical and transparent approach, we have structured this report into several sections to facilitate understanding and analysis:

- An introductory chapter for each continent, highlighting general patterns and challenges specific to the regions.
- A dedicated section for 158 countries, with each country addressed individually, in alphabetical order, to reflect its unique circumstances.
- A final analysis with conclusions and recommendations designed to promote dialogue and collective action in favour of human rights.

The methodology used in this report has been designed with exceptional rigor, ensuring that every piece of data and citation is verifiable and supported by reliable sources. Additionally, each section concludes with a clear list of

references, formatted according to APA standards, as part of our commitment to transparency and credibility.

This document could not have been realized without the collaboration of key allies in various regions who have contributed information, analysis, and resources to enrich each chapter. To them, we express our deepest gratitude. We also acknowledge the courage of the individuals and communities who, despite adversity, have stood firm in defending their rights.

Ultimately, this report aims not only to document but also to inspire tangible change. Our call is for governments to act responsibly, international organizations to intensify their efforts, and people worldwide to unite in the fight for social justice and human rights.

It is with this spirit that we present the **World Human Rights Report 2024**, a work that reflects our mission to build a fairer and more equitable world for everyone.

With respect and commitment,

Dr. Alfredo José López Severiche
International Executive Director
GRAC: Global Rights Action

Continents

Human rights face unique challenges in each region of the world. In this section, we explore continental dynamics, highlighting common patterns, key issues, and progress observed in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania during 2024. This analysis provides essential context for understanding the violations documented in the 158 countries presented later in the report.

Through this regional approach, we aim to emphasize the distinct characteristics of each continent, while also underlining the shared opportunities and challenges nations face in their efforts to uphold fundamental rights.





Africa

Overview of Human Rights in Africa (2024)

Africa, a vast and diverse continent, continues to face persistent challenges in human rights, exacerbated by armed conflicts, political repression, and humanitarian crises. In 2024, the most severe violations occurred in regions like the Sahel, where violence by armed groups and inadequate military responses displaced millions. Countries like Sudan and Ethiopia faced devastating internal conflicts, marked by attacks on civilians, gender-based violence, and massive displacements.

Freedom of the press remains a critical concern. In Eritrea and Equatorial Guinea, governments continue to suppress journalists and independent media. In contrast, nations like South Africa and Ghana have shown a stronger commitment to democratic values, protecting fundamental freedoms. Additionally, corruption and lack of accountability have undermined human rights in several regions, hampering the implementation of effective public policies.

Progress and Challenges

Despite significant challenges, some countries have made notable progress. Rwanda, for instance, has maintained progressive policies in areas like gender equality and environmental protection. The African Union has attempted to mediate key conflicts, although it faces limitations due to insufficient resources and political tensions among its member states.

However, the growing influence of external factors, such as mercenary groups in Mali and the Central African Republic, has exacerbated human rights violations. The lack of regulation over their presence and activities poses an additional risk to vulnerable communities.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen Judicial Institutions:** Ensuring the independence of the judiciary and fostering accountability for human rights violations is essential.
2. **Promote Freedom of the Press:** Governments should remove restrictions on the media and protect journalists.
3. **Regulate External Actors:** The presence of mercenary groups should be monitored and controlled to prevent abuses against the civilian population.

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Americas

Overview of Human Rights in the Americas (2024)

The Americas, with its rich cultural and political diversity, experienced a year marked by social crises, political repression, and economic inequality. In 2024, human rights violations were concentrated on the repression of protests, violence against Indigenous communities, and restrictions on press freedom. Countries such as Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba stood out for the consolidation of authoritarian regimes that systematically suppress fundamental freedoms, while other nations, like Haiti, saw worsening security conditions severely affecting the basic rights of their populations.

In South America, socio-environmental conflicts, particularly related to natural resource exploitation in Indigenous regions, caused forced displacements and violations of cultural rights. In North America, the migration crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border remained critical, with reports of arbitrary detentions and inhumane conditions in detention centres.

Progress and Challenges

Despite these challenges, some countries have shown significant progress in promoting human rights. In Colombia, the implementation of the Peace Agreement has led to certain advances in protecting communities affected by armed conflict, although threats against social leaders persist. Meanwhile, Canada and Uruguay have maintained progressive policies on issues such as women's rights and gender equality.

However, the region faces major obstacles, including endemic corruption, a lack of judicial independence, and increased violence against journalists, particularly in Mexico and Brazil. These dynamics hinder the consolidation of strong rule-of-law systems and the effective protection of human rights.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen the protection of journalists:** Ensuring the safety of journalists and combating impunity in cases of violence against them is crucial.
2. **Address the migration crisis:** Governments must implement humanitarian policies that respect the rights of migrants and refugees.
3. **Protect Indigenous rights:** Respect for Indigenous territories and their participation in decision-making regarding natural resources are essential.

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Asia

Overview of Human Rights in Asia (2024)

Asia, the world's most populous and diverse continent, faced severe human rights challenges in 2024. From political repression in authoritarian regimes to prolonged armed conflicts and increasing restrictions on freedom of expression, many nations in the region witnessed systematic violations of fundamental rights. Countries such as North Korea and Myanmar continue to stand out for their extreme levels of repression, while in China, policies of mass surveillance and social control have drastically limited individual freedoms.

In South Asia, the situation in Afghanistan has further deteriorated under Taliban rule, with women and girls particularly vulnerable to rights violations. In the Middle East, conflicts such as those in Syria and Yemen have

perpetuated humanitarian crises, massive displacements, and serious breaches of international humanitarian law.

Progress and Challenges

Despite these challenges, some countries have made progress. Japan and South Korea have strengthened legal frameworks to combat gender-based violence, while the Philippines has initiated reforms to improve labour rights. However, the region faces deep structural issues such as corruption, ethnic and religious discrimination, and a lack of accountability for human rights violations.

International responses have been limited in many cases, either due to strategic or economic interests. Sanctions imposed on authoritarian regimes have had mixed effects, with little evidence of significant changes in government behaviour.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen international monitoring mechanisms:** International organizations must expand their presence in the region to monitor and document human rights violations.
2. **Protect vulnerable communities:** Specific policies must be implemented to ensure the safety of women, ethnic and religious minorities, and displaced persons.
3. **Promote regional cooperation:** States must work together to address shared issues such as human trafficking and forced displacements.

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Europe

Overview of Human Rights in Europe (2024)

Europe, often regarded as a bastion of human rights, faces numerous challenges that test its commitment to fundamental values of dignity, freedom, and justice. In 2024, political tensions, the rise of hate speech, and the repression of peaceful protests were prominent across several nations. Additionally, Russia's invasion of Ukraine continued to have severe humanitarian consequences, including mass displacements, attacks on civilians, and violations of international humanitarian law.

In Western Europe, governments faced criticism over restrictions on migrants' rights, particularly at Mediterranean borders. Meanwhile, in Eastern Europe, several countries experienced democratic backsliding, with attacks on judicial independence and press freedom, notably in Hungary and Poland.

Progress and Challenges

Despite these challenges, Europe continues to lead in areas such as gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights protection. Countries like Norway and Sweden

remain models for progressive policies. The European Union has also played a critical role in sanctioning human rights violations in third countries, promoting international law compliance through sanctions and monitoring mechanisms.

However, the rise of populist and nationalist movements remains a threat to social cohesion and minority rights. These movements have fueled an increase in hate speech and policies restricting migrants' and refugees' rights.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthen asylum systems:** European countries must ensure fair and dignified treatment for asylum seekers, respecting international norms.
2. **Promote press freedom:** Protecting journalists and ensuring a landscape of independent media across the region is essential.
3. **Combat hate speech:** Governments should implement educational and legislative policies to address rising intolerance and xenophobia.

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Oceania

Overview of Human Rights in Oceania (2024)

Oceania, a region characterized by its cultural and geographical diversity, faces unique human rights challenges. In 2024, climate change and social tensions related to natural resource exploitation have been the primary factors affecting vulnerable populations, particularly in the small Pacific islands. Food insecurity, rising sea levels, and internal displacements have endangered the fundamental rights of many Indigenous and local communities.

In Australia and New Zealand, although human rights standards are generally high, concerns remain regarding the treatment of Indigenous communities. In Australia, Aboriginal peoples continue to face structural inequalities in access to healthcare, education, and justice. New Zealand has advanced initiatives to recognize Māori rights, but challenges persist in implementing inclusive and effective policies.

Progress and Challenges

Pacific Island nations, such as Fiji and Tuvalu, have intensified their global calls for climate action, highlighting its disproportionate impact on the region. At the same time, regional cooperation on human rights has improved through initiatives led by the Pacific Islands Forum. However, resource limitations and reliance on international aid remain obstacles to addressing structural problems.

Natural resource exploitation remains a source of tension, particularly in Papua New Guinea, where local communities have reported environmental and social impacts from mining activities. Additionally, human trafficking and labour exploitation continue to be issues in several countries in the region, exacerbated by weak justice systems.

Recommendations

1. **Address climate change impacts:** Governments must prioritize adaptation and resilience measures to protect the most affected communities.
2. **Promote Indigenous rights:** Ensuring the active participation of Indigenous communities in political and economic decisions is essential.
3. **Strengthen regional cooperation:** Nations must work together to address shared issues, such as labour exploitation and food security.

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Afghanistan

Introduction

In 2024, Afghanistan faced a critical situation regarding human rights. The complex legacy of armed conflict, the restrictive policies of the Taliban government, and socio-economic adversities consolidated an environment of widespread human rights violations. This report provides a detailed analysis of the main challenges faced by the country, highlighting the impact on women's rights, freedom of expression, humanitarian conditions, and international efforts to mitigate the crisis.

Women's and Girls' Rights

The situation of women and girls in Afghanistan has been among the most deteriorated worldwide. Under the restrictions imposed by the Taliban, women were banned from working in international and national organizations, severely limiting their access to employment and economic opportunities. Additionally, women faced travel bans without a male companion and were excluded from public spaces, including parks and gyms. These measures have been condemned by the international community but remain a daily reality for millions of Afghan women.

The ban on education for girls over the age of 12 has had a devastating impact. Organizations like UNICEF have warned that this policy not only perpetuates gender inequality but also deprives the country of a generation of educated women capable of contributing to national development.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Freedom of expression in Afghanistan continues to be severely restricted. Since 2021, more than half of the media outlets have closed due to financial and political restrictions. Journalists and media workers face intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and, in some cases, forced disappearances. In 2024, at least 15 journalists were arrested for covering protests or reporting on human rights conditions in the country. This has created an atmosphere of self-censorship, limiting access to independent information.

Censorship also extends to the use of the internet and social media. Reports have indicated internet shutdowns in critical regions and state surveillance of citizens' digital activities.

Humanitarian Conditions

The humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan reached alarming levels in 2024. According to UN data, more than 70% of the population lives below the poverty line. Food insecurity affects more than 20 million people, with 6 million facing famine-like conditions. Restrictions imposed on women have also affected the distribution of humanitarian aid, as many women were essential workers in the logistics of international organizations.

Access to healthcare is another critical issue. Medical facilities operate with limited resources, and restrictions on female healthcare workers have reduced the capacity to provide care, especially for women and children. Additionally, natural disasters such as floods and droughts have worsened conditions, displacing thousands of people and destroying vital infrastructure.

International Intervention

Despite the efforts of international organizations to mitigate the crisis, the situation in Afghanistan remains extremely complex. International sanctions imposed on the Taliban regime have restricted access to financial resources, exacerbating the economic crisis. However, these sanctions have also had an indirect impact on the civilian population, worsening poverty and limiting access to essential services.

Organizations such as the World Food Programme and UNHCR have intensified their operations in the country, providing vital assistance to millions of people. However, restrictions imposed by the Taliban on the movement of humanitarian workers have hindered the effective delivery of aid.

Conclusion

The year 2024 witnessed a significant deterioration in human rights in Afghanistan. The restrictive policies of the Taliban government, combined with the economic and humanitarian crisis, have created an environment of extreme vulnerability for the population. Despite international efforts, a more coordinated and sustained approach is needed to address the root causes of the crisis and protect the rights of all Afghans.

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Albania

Introduction

In 2024, Albania experienced significant developments in its human rights landscape. The country continued to balance progress in democratic reforms and gender equality with persistent challenges such as corruption, organized crime, and restrictions on press freedom. This report delves into the socio-political dynamics and the international efforts influencing Albania's human rights situation, drawing on verified sources to provide an in-depth overview.

Political and Civil Rights

Albania's parliamentary elections in 2024 were a focal point for evaluating its democratic processes. Observers from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) reported that the elections were generally peaceful, with a commendable voter turnout. However, concerns over vote-buying and limited campaign finance transparency persisted (OSCE, 2024). The Albanian government acknowledged these issues and pledged to strengthen electoral reforms in alignment with European Union recommendations.

Citizens' rights to peaceful assembly were largely respected, although isolated incidents of police overreach were documented. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need for robust oversight mechanisms to prevent misconduct and ensure accountability in law enforcement. Public demonstrations on issues such as environmental protection and workers' rights reflected a vibrant civil society, but activists reported occasional intimidation.

Gender Equality

Gender equality in Albania saw a mix of advancements and persistent challenges in 2024. The government enforced stricter legal measures to combat domestic violence, leading to an increase in reported cases as more victims sought justice. Support networks for survivors expanded, with new shelters and hotlines established nationwide. Despite these improvements, cultural barriers and limited rural outreach remained significant obstacles (Amnesty International, 2024).

In the political sphere, women's representation in government reached a historic high, with 35% of parliamentary seats held by women. This milestone followed years of advocacy and legislative reforms aimed at promoting gender inclusivity. Nevertheless, wage disparities and limited access to economic opportunities continued to impact women disproportionately, particularly in rural areas.

Freedom of the Press

Press freedom in Albania remained under strain, as journalists investigating sensitive topics such as corruption and organized crime faced intimidation and legal threats. Reporters Without Borders (2024) documented multiple incidents of media harassment, including financial pressures on independent outlets. Despite these challenges, investigative journalism persisted as a critical tool for accountability.

The government announced initiatives to strengthen media protections, including workshops for journalists and proposed legal reforms. However, critics argued that these measures fell short of addressing systemic issues. The

European Union emphasized that safeguarding press freedom was essential for Albania's EU accession progress.

Corruption and Organized Crime

Corruption and organized crime continued to pose significant challenges to Albania's governance. Transparency International's 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index ranked Albania among countries struggling with systemic corruption. High-profile investigations into public officials marked a shift towards greater accountability, but public trust in institutions remained low (Transparency International, 2024).

Organized crime networks persisted in activities such as drug trafficking and money laundering. International partnerships, including those with Europol, facilitated major operations to dismantle criminal groups, signaling progress but underscoring the scale of the problem.

Environmental and Social Issues

Environmental concerns gained prominence in Albania during 2024. Illegal deforestation and unregulated construction projects posed threats to the country's biodiversity. Government initiatives to enforce environmental regulations showed promise but faced criticism for inconsistent implementation.

Social inequalities were particularly pronounced in rural areas, where access to quality education, healthcare, and infrastructure lagged behind urban centres. Programs supported by international organizations aimed to bridge these gaps, focusing on marginalized communities and sustainable development.

International Cooperation

Albania's aspirations for European Union membership drove many of its reforms in 2024. EU-backed initiatives focused on judicial improvements, anti-corruption measures, and capacity building in public administration. Collaborative efforts with the United Nations addressed gender equality and poverty alleviation, emphasizing the role of international support in advancing Albania's human rights agenda.

Conclusion

The human rights situation in Albania during 2024 reflected a landscape of progress and persistent challenges. While democratic reforms and international cooperation provided a foundation for improvement, systemic issues such as corruption, press freedom, and rural inequality required sustained attention. The government's commitment to addressing these challenges, coupled with strong civil society advocacy, will be crucial for Albania's future development.

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Germany

Introduction

In 2024, Germany solidified its position as a global leader in human rights, maintaining high standards across several areas while facing considerable challenges. Immigration, discrimination, and climate change stood out as central issues in the national debate. This report provides an in-depth exploration of Germany's human rights achievements and persistent issues during the year.

Rights of Migrants and Refugees

Germany remained one of the primary destinations for migrants and refugees in Europe, receiving over 200,000 asylum applications, according to official data. Despite a well-developed reception system, the increase in arrivals placed strain on available resources, particularly in major cities. Reception centres became overcrowded, leading to inadequate conditions and delays in application processes.

The German government's integration policies included job training programs and language courses to help migrants integrate into society. However, challenges persisted, particularly regarding access to well-paying jobs and adequate housing. According to UNHCR (2024), many refugee families continued to face discrimination in the housing market.

The government's focus on deportations generated controversy, with human rights organisations criticising the lack of thorough assessments of safety conditions in countries of origin. Despite this, Germany was commended for its

commitment to resettling vulnerable refugees from crisis regions such as Syria and Afghanistan.

Discrimination and Minority Rights

Racial and religious discrimination remained a significant issue. Turkish, Arab, and Muslim communities reported an increase in hate incidents, including physical and verbal attacks. According to the Ministry of the Interior, over 2,000 hate crimes were documented in 2024, a slight rise from the previous year.

The government launched new educational initiatives to promote tolerance and combat antisemitism, including increased funding for school programs and public awareness campaigns. However, groups like Amnesty International pointed out that these measures need to be complemented by more robust legal actions to address structural disparities.

Press Freedom and Privacy

Germany maintained high press freedom standards and continued to serve as a haven for journalists persecuted in other countries. However, some domestic reporters faced intimidation and threats while investigating sensitive topics such as far-right extremism or political corruption. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted several cases of harassment involving public figures and private actors.

In the realm of privacy, the implementation of surveillance technologies, such as facial recognition, sparked heated debate. Digital rights advocates criticised these measures, arguing they could undermine fundamental privacy rights. Meanwhile, authorities defended these initiatives as necessary tools to combat crime and terrorism.

Climate Change and Environmental Rights

Climate change was a prominent focus in Germany's political agenda in 2024. The government enacted new legislation to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, aiming to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040. However, coal mining remained a contentious issue, particularly in regions such as North Rhine-Westphalia.

Climate protests intensified, led mainly by young activists demanding more ambitious measures. German courts also played a key role, mandating the government to adjust its climate plans to meet international commitments.

Women's and LGBTQ+ Rights

In 2024, Germany advanced the promotion of women's and LGBTQ+ rights. Laws were implemented to ensure pay equity and strengthen legal protections against gender-based violence. Additionally, a national program was launched to increase female representation in business and political leadership.

The LGBTQ+ community celebrated the consolidation of marriage equality nationwide and the legal recognition of non-binary identities. However, hate crimes against LGBTQ+ individuals increased by 10% compared to 2023, highlighting the need for further educational and awareness efforts.

Social Inclusion and Economic Justice

Economic and social inequalities continued to challenge Germany in 2024. Rural communities faced difficulties accessing essential services such as quality healthcare and public transportation. Government programs aimed at addressing these gaps achieved mixed results.

Child poverty was another key issue, with over 15% of children living in low-income households. Charities and labour unions pressured the government to raise the minimum wage and enhance social benefits.

Conclusion

Germany in 2024 demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights and sustainable development, though challenges persisted in key areas. Balancing high standards with addressing systemic issues will be crucial for the country's future. Government efforts, combined with civil society advocacy and international cooperation, will be vital to ensuring a more equitable and just society.

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Andorra

Introduction

In 2024, Andorra, one of Europe's smallest nations, demonstrated a commitment to maintaining high standards of human rights while facing unique challenges due to its size and economic reliance on tourism and financial services. This chapter explores the state of human rights in Andorra, highlighting issues related to gender equality, labour rights, environmental protection, and the influence of international standards on the country's policies.

Political and Civil Rights

Andorra's political framework is rooted in a parliamentary co-principality, with two co-princes serving as heads of state: the President of France and the Bishop of Urgell in Spain. This unique system has generally ensured political stability and respect for civil rights. In 2024, citizens enjoyed broad freedoms, including the right to vote, freedom of assembly, and freedom of expression. However, challenges in ensuring full transparency and public participation in policymaking were noted by international observers (Council of Europe, 2024).

Efforts to enhance civic engagement included government initiatives to improve access to public information. The introduction of digital platforms aimed to increase citizen participation in legislative processes, a move welcomed by civil society organizations.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Andorra has made notable progress in promoting gender equality, with women holding prominent positions in government and business. In 2024, women

accounted for 46% of parliamentary seats, reflecting a significant step towards gender parity. However, disparities in wage equality and representation in certain sectors persisted (Amnesty International, 2024).

The government strengthened its legal framework to combat gender-based violence, introducing harsher penalties for offenders and expanding support services for survivors. Public awareness campaigns, often coordinated with local NGOs, were instrumental in fostering cultural shifts toward greater gender equality. Despite these efforts, underreporting of domestic violence cases remained a concern.

Labour Rights and Economic Justice

Andorra's economy is heavily reliant on tourism, which accounts for approximately 80% of its GDP. This dependency creates challenges in ensuring fair labour practices, particularly in seasonal employment. In 2024, reports from trade unions highlighted instances of exploitation in the tourism and hospitality sectors, including unpaid overtime and precarious working conditions (International Labour Organization, 2024).

The government took steps to address these issues by increasing labour inspections and introducing minimum wage adjustments. Efforts to align Andorra's labour policies with international standards, such as those set by the International Labour Organization (ILO), were ongoing but faced resistance from some business sectors concerned about increased operational costs.

Environmental Rights

Environmental conservation emerged as a critical focus for Andorra in 2024. Situated in the Pyrenees, the country's natural beauty is central to its identity

and tourism-driven economy. However, the pressures of urbanization and climate change posed significant threats to its ecosystems.

The government introduced new legislation aimed at reducing carbon emissions and protecting biodiversity. This included incentives for sustainable tourism practices and stricter regulations on construction in ecologically sensitive areas. Environmental activists and organizations such as WWF lauded these initiatives but emphasized the need for more robust enforcement mechanisms (WWF, 2024).

International Cooperation and Human Rights Standards

Andorra's membership in international organizations, including the Council of Europe and the United Nations, plays a significant role in shaping its human rights policies. In 2024, the country underwent a periodic review by the UN Human Rights Council, which highlighted progress in areas such as education and healthcare while recommending improvements in labour rights and anti-discrimination measures (United Nations, 2024).

The government actively engaged with these recommendations, demonstrating a willingness to align national policies with international human rights standards. This commitment is seen as essential for maintaining Andorra's reputation as a progressive and inclusive nation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Andorra reaffirmed its commitment to upholding human rights through proactive policies and international cooperation. While the country made strides in gender equality, environmental protection, and civic engagement, challenges in labour rights and the enforcement of anti-discrimination laws

highlighted areas for improvement. Continued efforts to balance economic growth with social equity and environmental sustainability will be key to Andorra's future development.

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Angola

Introduction

In 2024, Angola faced a combination of progress and challenges in promoting human rights. Despite its wealth in natural resources, the country continued to struggle with structural issues such as poverty, corruption, and social inequalities. This chapter examines in detail the state of human rights in Angola during the year, highlighting key areas such as civil and political rights, gender equality, labour rights, and environmental challenges.

Civil and Political Rights

Angola has seen gradual improvement in the respect for civil and political rights, though significant restrictions remain. The municipal elections planned for 2024 represented a key opportunity to strengthen democracy, but organizations such as Human Rights Watch (2024) criticized the lack of transparency in the electoral process and the use of state resources to favour the ruling party.

Freedom of expression remained limited. Journalists and activists faced intimidation and, in some cases, arbitrary detention. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), the media environment in Angola lacks independence, as most media outlets are controlled by the state or by interests close to the government. Civil society continued to play a crucial role in defending human rights, though it faced legal and operational restrictions.

Gender Equality

In 2024, Angola made progress in promoting gender equality through policies aimed at empowering women in the economy and politics. According to the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), women held 35% of parliamentary seats, reflecting significant progress but still falling short of addressing cultural and structural challenges.

Gender-based violence remained a serious issue. Although the government implemented awareness programs and increased resources for women's shelters, underreporting of cases and lack of access to justice for victims limited the impact of these initiatives. Additionally, harmful traditional practices, such as child marriage, continued to affect girls in rural areas.

Labour Rights and Economic Justice

Despite being one of Africa's largest oil producers, Angola's wealth does not translate into equitable benefits for its population. Unemployment, especially among youth, reached critical levels in 2024, with a rate exceeding 30%, according to World Bank data (2024).

Unions reported precarious working conditions, low wages, and a lack of protection for workers in the informal sector, which represents a significant portion of the economy. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) urged the government to strengthen labour legislation and ensure effective enforcement. In response, the government launched a national plan to create jobs and improve working conditions, though initial results were limited.

Environmental Rights

Angola's natural environment faces significant threats from deforestation, unregulated mining, and oil exploitation. In 2024, the government introduced new policies to address these issues, including measures to protect forest areas

and stricter penalties against illegal mining activities. However, critics argued that these initiatives lacked effective enforcement mechanisms (WWF, 2024).

Climate disasters, such as floods and droughts, also had a devastating impact on rural communities, exacerbating food insecurity and displacing thousands of people. International organizations, such as the World Food Programme, played a critical role in providing assistance but emphasized the need for long-term sustainable solutions.

International Cooperation and Human Rights

Angola maintained an active relationship with international organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union, participating in initiatives to improve governance and human rights. The UN Universal Periodic Review in 2024 highlighted progress in areas such as education and health while underscoring the need to address issues like corruption and gender inequality (United Nations, 2024).

Financial and technical support from international partners helped implement key projects, including education programs for girls and human rights training for public officials. However, internal challenges, such as systemic corruption, continued to limit the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Conclusion

In 2024, Angola showed progress in areas such as gender equality and international cooperation, but structural problems persisted as significant barriers to the development of human rights. A more coordinated and sustained approach, with a strong emphasis on transparency and economic justice, will be crucial to ensuring a more equitable future for Angola's population.

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Saudi Arabia

Introduction

In 2024, Saudi Arabia remained a focal point for discussions on human rights, driven by ongoing reforms and persistent criticisms from international organizations. While the government continued to implement Vision 2030, an ambitious plan aimed at diversifying the economy and modernizing society, significant challenges persisted in areas such as freedom of expression, women's rights, and the rights of migrant workers. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Saudi Arabia during the year, drawing on verified sources to provide a comprehensive overview.

Civil and Political Rights

Saudi Arabia's political system remains an absolute monarchy, with power centralized under King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. In 2024, the country continued to restrict political participation, with no elected parliament or political parties permitted. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported ongoing limitations on freedom of assembly and association, with activists and critics facing arrest and prosecution under broadly defined anti-terrorism laws.

Freedom of expression remained severely restricted. According to Amnesty International (2024), journalists, writers, and social media users faced imprisonment for expressing dissenting views. The government's surveillance capabilities, enhanced through advanced technologies, further curtailed the ability of individuals to speak freely.

Women's Rights

Saudi Arabia made progress in advancing women's rights as part of its Vision 2030 agenda. In 2024, the labour force participation rate for women increased to 37%, compared to 21% in 2017 (World Bank, 2024). Reforms included the removal of guardianship restrictions on women in certain areas, such as employment and travel. However, cultural and institutional barriers continued to limit the full realization of gender equality.

Despite these reforms, cases of gender-based violence and restrictions on women's autonomy persisted. Local NGOs and international observers emphasized the need for stronger enforcement of laws protecting women and greater societal change to address deeply rooted gender biases (Amnesty International, 2024).

Rights of Migrant Workers

Migrant workers make up a significant portion of Saudi Arabia's workforce, particularly in sectors such as construction, domestic work, and retail. In 2024, the government introduced reforms to the kafala (sponsorship) system, aimed at granting migrant workers greater mobility and reducing employer abuses. While these changes were welcomed by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024), implementation challenges remained, with reports of unpaid wages, poor working conditions, and limited access to legal recourse.

Freedom of Religion

Saudi Arabia's interpretation of Islamic law continues to heavily influence its approach to religious freedom. While the country allows worship for non-Muslims in private, public expressions of non-Islamic faiths remain prohibited.

Minority groups, including Shia Muslims, reported systemic discrimination in employment, education, and judicial processes (United Nations, 2024).

Efforts to promote interfaith dialogue through initiatives such as the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID) were seen as positive steps, but their impact on domestic religious policies remained limited.

Environmental and Economic Reforms

As part of Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia expanded its focus on sustainability and renewable energy. The NEOM project, a futuristic smart city, aimed to integrate green technology and reduce the country's dependence on oil. However, environmental activists raised concerns about the ecological impact of large-scale construction projects and the displacement of local communities.

Economically, the government sought to attract foreign investment and diversify revenue sources. While these efforts contributed to economic growth, critics argued that labour and environmental protections were often overlooked in the pursuit of rapid development (World Bank, 2024).

International Criticism and Cooperation

Saudi Arabia continued to face international criticism for its human rights record, particularly regarding the detention of activists, the use of capital punishment, and restrictions on freedom of expression. In 2024, the United Nations Human Rights Council urged the government to address these issues and ensure greater transparency in its judicial processes (United Nations, 2024).

Despite criticisms, Saudi Arabia played an active role in international diplomacy, hosting major summits and engaging in regional peace initiatives. These efforts aimed to bolster its global image and highlight its contributions to economic and political stability in the Middle East.

Conclusion

In 2024, Saudi Arabia demonstrated a complex human rights landscape, characterized by significant reforms alongside persistent restrictions. While Vision 2030 represents an opportunity for societal transformation, addressing systemic issues such as gender inequality, freedom of expression, and migrant worker rights will be essential for sustainable progress. International cooperation and domestic advocacy will play critical roles in shaping the future of human rights in the kingdom.

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Algeria

Introduction

In 2024, Algeria experienced a human rights landscape marked by significant challenges, including restrictions on freedom of expression, social inequalities, and a political system under pressure for reforms. Despite these difficulties, efforts toward improved governance and increased attention to socio-economic rights were observed. This chapter analyses the state of human rights in Algeria during the year, considering political, social, and environmental factors.

Civil and Political Rights

The Algerian political system, dominated by executive power, continued to face demands for greater transparency and citizen participation. Although local elections were held in 2024, observers such as Human Rights Watch (2024) expressed concerns about the lack of independence of electoral bodies and restrictions imposed on opposition parties.

Freedom of expression remained a critical area of concern. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), journalists and activists faced arrests and legal proceedings under laws that penalize criticism of the government. Additionally, online censorship and digital surveillance limited access to independent information.

Gender Equality

Algeria showed moderate progress in promoting gender equality. Women occupied more positions in local government and the public sector, and programs were implemented to reduce the gender gap in education. However,

discriminatory practices, such as domestic violence and limitations on inheritance rights, continued to affect women, especially in rural areas (Amnesty International, 2024).

The government launched public awareness campaigns to combat gender-based violence and improve access to support services for victims. Nevertheless, the lack of strict enforcement of existing laws and social stigmas limited the effectiveness of these initiatives.

Labour Rights and Economic Justice

Algeria faced significant economic challenges in 2024, exacerbated by the country's reliance on oil and gas revenues. According to the World Bank (2024), high unemployment rates, particularly among youth, remained a persistent issue.

Workers in the informal sector, who represent a substantial portion of the labour force, lack adequate labour protections. Unions have reported precarious working conditions and low wages in key industries. In response, the government adopted measures to improve employment regulation and promote investment in non-hydrocarbon sectors, although initial results were limited.

Environmental Rights

The environment in Algeria faces increasing threats due to desertification, overexploitation of natural resources, and climate change. In 2024, the government implemented policies to promote reforestation and sustainable water management, initiatives supported by international organizations such as WWF (2024).

However, industrial pollution and a lack of effective environmental oversight continued to impact public health and local ecosystems. Rural communities, in particular, struggled to access clean drinking water due to contamination of natural sources.

International Cooperation and Human Rights

Algeria actively participated in international forums to address human rights and regional security issues. The United Nations Universal Periodic Review in 2024 highlighted progress in areas such as education and health but also underscored the need to address corruption and improve civil rights protections (United Nations, 2024).

Cooperation with international organizations helped fund projects aimed at improving health and educational infrastructure, though internal challenges such as bureaucracy and lack of transparency limited the effective implementation of these programs.

Conclusion

In 2024, Algeria faced a complex human rights landscape, with progress in some areas and persistent challenges in others. Implementing political reforms, improving labour conditions, and strengthening environmental governance will be essential to addressing structural concerns. Continued commitment to international cooperation and strengthening civil society will be key to ensuring more equitable and sustainable development.

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Argentina

Introduction

In 2024, Argentina faced a dynamic human rights landscape characterized by significant advancements in social justice, gender equality, and indigenous rights, alongside persistent challenges related to economic inequality, freedom of expression, and institutional accountability. This chapter provides a detailed analysis of the state of human rights in Argentina during the year, highlighting political, social, and environmental dimensions.

Civil and Political Rights

Argentina maintained its position as one of South America's most politically active nations, with a vibrant civil society and regular electoral processes. However, concerns over corruption and judicial independence continued to affect public trust in institutions. According to Transparency International (2024), Argentina ranked better in corruption perception compared to other countries in the region, but still faced significant challenges in ensuring full accountability.

Freedom of expression remained robust, with journalists operating in a largely open environment. However, cases of harassment and intimidation of reporters investigating organized crime and corruption persisted. The government pledged to strengthen protections for journalists and ensure the enforcement of laws guaranteeing press freedom (Reporters Without Borders, 2024).

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Argentina continued to lead in advancing women's rights in the region. In 2024, significant progress was made in closing the gender pay gap, with policies mandating equal pay for equal work being implemented across public and private sectors. According to Amnesty International (2024), Argentina also expanded access to reproductive healthcare, consolidating its position as a regional leader in women's rights.

Despite these advancements, challenges remained in combating gender-based violence. Official data revealed an increase in femicides, prompting the government to allocate additional resources to shelters and victim support programs. Public campaigns like *Ni Una Menos* played a critical role in raising awareness and driving legislative change.

Indigenous Rights

Argentina made notable strides in addressing historical injustices faced by indigenous communities. Land restitution efforts accelerated in 2024, with several communities regaining legal rights to ancestral territories. These measures were supported by international organizations such as the United Nations (2024).

However, conflicts over land use persisted, particularly in regions with significant agricultural and mining activities. Indigenous leaders reported cases of displacement and environmental degradation caused by extractive industries. Advocacy groups called for stronger enforcement of laws protecting indigenous rights and greater consultation with communities on development projects.

Labour Rights and Economic Justice

Argentina faced significant economic challenges in 2024, including high levels of inflation and rising poverty rates. According to the World Bank (2024), over 30% of the population lived below the poverty line, with vulnerable groups disproportionately affected.

Labour unions remained a powerful force, advocating for wage increases and better working conditions amid the economic crisis. The government introduced targeted subsidies and job creation programs to mitigate the impact of inflation, though these measures had limited reach. Efforts to formalize informal employment, particularly in rural areas, met with mixed success.

Environmental Rights

Environmental issues gained prominence in Argentina during 2024, with climate change and deforestation being key concerns. The government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement, implementing policies to promote renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. According to WWF (2024), Argentina's renewable energy sector expanded significantly, accounting for 20% of the national energy grid.

Despite these advancements, illegal deforestation and water contamination in agricultural regions remained critical challenges. Activist groups emphasized the need for stricter enforcement of environmental regulations and greater investment in conservation initiatives.

International Cooperation

Argentina strengthened its commitment to international organizations in 2024, actively participating in forums on climate change, human rights, and economic development. The country received technical and financial support from the United Nations and the Inter-American Development Bank for projects aimed at improving healthcare access and education in marginalized communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Argentina demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing human rights, achieving notable progress in gender equality, indigenous rights, and environmental sustainability. However, persistent economic challenges and institutional weaknesses underscored the need for sustained efforts to ensure social and economic justice. International cooperation and active civil society participation will remain critical in addressing the country's ongoing challenges.

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Armenia

Introduction

In 2024, Armenia faced a complex human rights landscape influenced by ongoing regional conflicts, political developments, and efforts to address social inequalities. This chapter provides an in-depth analysis of Armenia's human rights situation during the year, highlighting progress and persistent challenges in civil rights, gender equality, labour rights, and environmental concerns.

Civil and Political Rights

Armenia continued to experience tensions stemming from its regional conflict with Azerbaijan over Nagorno-Karabakh. The fragile ceasefire, brokered in prior years, faced periodic violations, affecting the rights and livelihoods of border communities. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented instances of displacement and restricted access to humanitarian aid in conflict-affected areas.

Domestically, Armenia made strides in strengthening democratic institutions, with reforms aimed at increasing judicial independence and combating corruption. However, opposition groups raised concerns about the concentration of power within the executive branch. Freedom of assembly and expression remained protected, although there were isolated incidents of police using excessive force during protests.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Armenia made notable progress in promoting gender equality in 2024, with increased representation of women in politics and business. Women now hold

29% of parliamentary seats, marking an improvement compared to previous years (UNDP, 2024). The government also launched initiatives to support women entrepreneurs and expand access to childcare services.

Despite these advancements, gender-based violence remained a critical issue. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the underreporting of domestic violence cases and limited resources for survivors. Advocacy groups called for stronger enforcement of protective laws and greater public awareness campaigns to address societal stigmas.

Labour Rights and Economic Challenges

Economic challenges persisted in Armenia, with high unemployment rates, particularly among youth and rural communities. The informal labour sector accounted for a significant portion of the workforce, leaving many workers without access to social protections. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) urged Armenia to enhance labour regulations and expand vocational training programs.

Labour unions reported progress in advocating for fair wages and improved working conditions in key industries such as agriculture and construction. However, systemic issues, including wage disparities and limited job security, continued to hinder economic justice.

Environmental Rights

Armenia's environmental challenges gained increased attention in 2024, particularly regarding mining activities and deforestation. The government faced criticism for inadequate regulation of mining operations, which have

caused environmental degradation and health risks for nearby communities (WWF, 2024).

Efforts to promote renewable energy and sustainable practices showed promise, with the government setting ambitious targets for solar and wind energy development. Environmental activists emphasized the need for stricter enforcement of environmental laws and greater investment in conservation initiatives.

International Cooperation and Human Rights

Armenia maintained active engagement with international organizations, including the United Nations and the Council of Europe, to address human rights issues and strengthen democratic governance. The UN Universal Periodic Review in 2024 recognized Armenia's progress in judicial reforms and anti-corruption measures but highlighted the need to address systemic inequalities and protect minority rights (United Nations, 2024).

Humanitarian aid from international partners played a crucial role in supporting conflict-affected communities and advancing development projects. Continued international support will be essential for Armenia's efforts to achieve long-term stability and human rights improvements.

Conclusion

In 2024, Armenia demonstrated a commitment to advancing human rights amid significant regional and domestic challenges. Progress in gender equality, democratic governance, and environmental sustainability highlighted the country's potential for growth. However, addressing systemic issues such as

economic inequality, labour rights, and conflict-related displacement will require sustained efforts and robust international cooperation.

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Australia

Introduction

In 2024, Australia faced significant human rights challenges, marked by tensions surrounding Indigenous rights, the treatment of asylum seekers, and climate change. Despite its strong commitment to democracy and the rule of law, these areas emerged as priorities for social and political progress. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Australia during the year, focusing on critical issues such as civil, environmental, and social rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Australia maintained a strong democratic tradition in 2024, with transparent elections and a free press contributing to public debate. However, concerns persisted over government surveillance and laws restricting public protests. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of excessive police force during peaceful demonstrations, prompting calls for greater independent oversight.

Freedom of expression remained a cornerstone of Australian society, although journalists reporting on sensitive topics, such as national security, faced legal pressures and threats to source confidentiality. Organizations like Reporters Without Borders emphasized the need to strengthen protections for the media.

Indigenous Rights

In 2024, Indigenous rights took centre stage in national debates, particularly following the referendum to establish an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. While the referendum sought to constitutionally recognize Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples, the results polarized society, exposing deep divisions on addressing historical inequalities.

The government implemented programs to improve Indigenous communities' access to education, healthcare, and housing. However, incarceration rates and poverty among Indigenous Australians remained significantly higher than those of the general population (Amnesty International, 2024). Indigenous leaders and human rights organizations called for more decisive action to close these gaps.

Treatment of Asylum Seekers and Migrants

Australia's treatment of asylum seekers remained a controversial issue in 2024. Offshore detention policies, criticized by international organizations, continued to be enforced, although the government pledged to improve conditions in detention centres. UNHCR (2024) urged Australia to pursue more humane solutions and fully adhere to international human rights obligations.

Despite criticisms, Australia increased its refugee resettlement quota, prioritizing the most vulnerable from crisis regions. This was welcomed as a positive step by the international community, although challenges persisted in ensuring effective integration of new arrivals.

Climate Change and Environmental Rights

Australia, one of the world's highest per capita carbon emitters, faced growing pressure to address climate change. In 2024, the government set new emission reduction targets and increased investments in renewable energy. However, critics argued that the policies remained insufficient to meet Paris Agreement commitments (WWF, 2024).

Wildfires and extreme droughts continued to impact rural communities, exacerbating economic and social inequalities. Environmental organizations urged the government to take more decisive measures to mitigate climate change impacts and protect the rights of affected communities.

International Cooperation

In 2024, Australia strengthened its participation in international forums, including the UN Human Rights Council, where it advocated for human rights protection in the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, the country increased foreign aid to address climate change and promote regional stability.

Efforts to lead climate cooperation initiatives with Pacific Island nations were well-received, highlighting Australia's role as a key partner in the region. However, activists emphasized that these commitments must be accompanied by stronger domestic action to be fully effective.

Conclusion

In 2024, Australia demonstrated a continued commitment to human rights but faced significant challenges in key areas such as Indigenous rights, the treatment of asylum seekers, and climate action. While progress was made, addressing these issues will require a more inclusive and sustainable approach. International cooperation and an active civil society will remain essential to ensuring a fairer and more equitable future for all Australians.

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Austria

Introduction

In 2024, Austria maintained its strong human rights record while facing challenges related to asylum policies, freedom of expression, and social inclusion. As a member of the European Union, Austria continued to align its human rights policies with EU standards, balancing its commitment to democratic values with pressures from domestic and international issues. This chapter examines Austria's human rights situation during the year, focusing on civil rights, social equality, and environmental concerns.

Civil and Political Rights

Austria upheld its democratic principles in 2024, with transparent governance and a strong rule of law. Freedom of expression and assembly remained well-protected. However, there were concerns about increasing online hate speech and the spread of misinformation. The government introduced stricter regulations to counteract digital harassment and misinformation campaigns (European Commission, 2024).

Austria also faced criticism for its surveillance policies. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported concerns about the potential overreach of surveillance programs aimed at combating terrorism. Civil society organizations called for more robust safeguards to protect citizens' privacy while ensuring security.

Asylum and Migration Policies

Austria's approach to asylum and migration continued to draw international attention. In 2024, the number of asylum applications increased significantly,

placing pressure on the country's reception system. The UNHCR (2024) highlighted improvements in housing conditions for asylum seekers but noted ongoing issues with lengthy application processes and limited access to integration programs.

The government implemented reforms to streamline asylum procedures and expand language and job training initiatives for refugees. However, advocacy groups criticized the lack of sufficient resources and support for long-term integration, particularly for unaccompanied minors and vulnerable groups.

Social Inclusion and Equality

Austria made progress in promoting social inclusion and combating discrimination. The government introduced new policies to address racial and ethnic discrimination, including campaigns to foster tolerance and understanding among diverse communities. According to Amnesty International (2024), these measures contributed to reducing hate crimes, though challenges persisted in ensuring equal opportunities for marginalized groups.

The LGBTQ+ community in Austria experienced significant advances in 2024, with increased legal protections against discrimination and greater representation in public life. Despite these gains, conservative social attitudes in some regions highlighted the need for continued public education and advocacy.

Environmental Rights and Climate Action

Austria remained a leader in environmental sustainability, with ambitious targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to renewable energy. In 2024, renewable energy accounted for 78% of Austria's electricity

production, reflecting the government's commitment to combating climate change (WWF, 2024).

However, Austria faced criticism for delays in implementing stricter regulations on industrial pollution and addressing urban air quality issues. Environmental activists called for greater transparency in policymaking and stronger enforcement of environmental laws.

International Cooperation

As an EU member state, Austria played a key role in promoting human rights and stability in the region. The country actively participated in EU initiatives to support Ukraine amid ongoing conflict and provided humanitarian aid to refugees affected by the crisis.

Austria also strengthened its engagement with international organizations, including the United Nations and the Council of Europe, advocating for global climate action and human rights protections. These efforts reinforced Austria's position as a reliable partner in addressing global challenges.

Conclusion

In 2024, Austria demonstrated a strong commitment to upholding human rights while addressing challenges in migration, social inclusion, and environmental protection. Continued efforts to enhance asylum policies, promote equality, and advance climate action will be essential for sustaining progress. Austria's active participation in international cooperation underscores its dedication to fostering a just and equitable global community.

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Azerbaijan

Introduction

In 2024, Azerbaijan faced significant human rights challenges, particularly in areas such as freedom of expression, minority rights, and managing regional tensions related to Nagorno-Karabakh. Despite the country's international commitments, substantial restrictions continued to affect the development of human rights. This chapter analyses the state of human rights in Azerbaijan during the year, focusing on civil, social, and environmental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and assembly remained areas of concern in Azerbaijan. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), independent journalists and human rights activists faced harassment, arbitrary detention, and restrictions on their work. Media censorship and limitations on internet access restricted the flow of information and public debate.

The 2024 parliamentary elections were conducted under international scrutiny, with widespread criticism regarding transparency and limitations imposed on opposition candidates. International observers, including those from the OSCE, reported irregularities that undermined public trust in the electoral process.

Minority Rights and Displacement

The ongoing conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh continued to severely impact local communities. Thousands of internally displaced persons faced challenges in accessing adequate housing, education, and basic services. UNHCR (2024)

emphasized the need for greater international efforts to support displaced individuals and ensure their safe and dignified reintegration.

Ethnic and religious minorities also faced systemic discrimination, with reports of limited access to economic and political opportunities. Human rights organizations have urged the government to implement more inclusive policies to protect these vulnerable groups.

Labour Rights and Economic Challenges

Azerbaijan showed moderate progress in economic development, driven primarily by the energy sector. However, economic inequalities persisted, disproportionately affecting rural communities. According to the World Bank (2024), a significant portion of the population still lived below the poverty line despite GDP growth.

Trade unions reported precarious working conditions in key industries, including construction and oil extraction. The International Labour Organization (2024) recommended strengthening labour laws and ensuring their effective enforcement to improve workers' conditions.

Environmental Rights

Azerbaijan's energy development significantly impacted its environment, particularly in areas related to soil and water pollution. In 2024, the government announced initiatives to improve environmental sustainability, including reforestation programs and carbon emission reductions. However, critics noted that these measures lacked effective implementation and adequate oversight (WWF, 2024).

Rural communities remained most affected by environmental degradation, exacerbating economic and social inequalities. Activists called for greater civil society involvement in environmental policymaking.

International Cooperation

Azerbaijan strengthened its cooperation with international organizations in 2024, including the United Nations and the Council of Europe, to address human rights challenges and promote regional stability. However, critics argued that these international commitments did not always translate into tangible improvements at the national level.

The country also actively participated in international energy initiatives, positioning itself as a key player in Europe's energy security. This strategic role provided opportunities to enhance its international reputation, though it also raised controversies over sustainability and human rights.

Conclusion

In 2024, Azerbaijan faced a human rights landscape marked by political tensions, social inequalities, and environmental challenges. While the government took some positive steps, significant obstacles remain in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights. International cooperation and a more inclusive approach will be essential to achieving sustainable progress in the country.

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Bahrain

Introduction

In 2024, Bahrain faced ongoing human rights challenges, particularly in areas such as freedom of expression, political participation, and the treatment of prisoners. As a key player in the Gulf region, Bahrain continued to balance its geopolitical alliances with internal demands for reform. This chapter explores the state of human rights in Bahrain during the year, with a focus on civil liberties, labour rights, and international relations.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and political participation remained heavily restricted in Bahrain in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), journalists, activists, and opposition figures faced arrests and harassment under broad anti-terrorism laws. Independent media outlets were limited, and critical voices often turned to social media, where they faced censorship and surveillance.

The government maintained a ban on major opposition groups, which further limited political pluralism. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported that peaceful protests were frequently met with excessive force, and activists advocating for reforms were subjected to arbitrary detention.

Treatment of Prisoners

The treatment of prisoners, particularly those detained for political reasons, drew significant criticism from international organizations. Reports from the United Nations (2024) highlighted concerns about overcrowding, inadequate healthcare, and allegations of torture in detention facilities. Advocacy groups

urged Bahrain to allow independent monitoring of prisons and to ensure compliance with international standards.

In response, the government claimed to have implemented reforms aimed at improving prison conditions. However, these measures were deemed insufficient by human rights observers, who noted a lack of transparency in their implementation.

Labour Rights and Migrant Workers

Bahrain's economy relies heavily on migrant workers, who make up a significant portion of the labour force. In 2024, the government introduced reforms to the kafala sponsorship system, aimed at granting workers more mobility and reducing exploitation. While these changes were welcomed by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024), challenges persisted, including cases of wage theft, poor living conditions, and limited access to legal recourse.

Domestic workers, in particular, remained vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. Advocacy groups called for stronger enforcement of labour protections and greater support for victims of exploitation.

Women's Rights

Bahrain made incremental progress in advancing women's rights in 2024. Women gained greater representation in government and the private sector, and initiatives were launched to promote gender equality in education and employment. However, cultural and legal barriers continued to restrict women's full participation in society. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the need for more comprehensive protections against gender-based violence and discrimination.

Environmental Concerns

As a small island nation, Bahrain faces significant environmental challenges, including rising sea levels and water scarcity. In 2024, the government announced initiatives to address climate change, such as investments in renewable energy and desalination projects. However, environmental activists criticized the lack of concrete targets and transparency in these efforts (WWF, 2024).

Urbanization and industrial development also posed threats to Bahrain's natural ecosystems. Greater emphasis on sustainable development and environmental governance will be critical to addressing these issues.

International Relations

Bahrain continued to play a strategic role in the Gulf region in 2024, maintaining strong ties with key allies such as the United States and Saudi Arabia. The country's participation in international forums, including the United Nations Human Rights Council, drew both praise and criticism. While Bahrain positioned itself as a regional leader in certain areas, its human rights record remained a point of contention in diplomatic relations.

The government expressed willingness to engage with international human rights mechanisms, but tangible improvements were limited. Advocacy groups emphasized the importance of sustained pressure from the international community to drive meaningful reforms.

Conclusion

In 2024, Bahrain's human rights situation reflected a mix of modest progress and persistent challenges. While reforms in areas such as labour rights and women's empowerment were steps in the right direction, significant issues remained in political freedoms, the treatment of prisoners, and environmental sustainability. Addressing these challenges will require both domestic commitment and continued engagement with the international community.

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Bangladesh

Introduction

In 2024, Bangladesh faced a complex human rights landscape marked by economic development, challenges in freedom of expression, and labour issues. The country continued to grapple with structural problems such as climate change and social inequality while implementing policies to improve the quality of life for its citizens. This chapter examines the key aspects of human rights in Bangladesh during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and political participation remained critical areas of concern in Bangladesh. In 2024, activists and journalists operated in a restrictive environment, with arrests under the Digital Security Act, widely criticized by international organizations such as Human Rights Watch (2024). This legal framework was used to suppress critical voices and limit public debate.

The 2024 general elections were marked by allegations of irregularities and electoral violence. The Bangladesh Election Commission implemented additional measures to enhance transparency, but criticisms about the institution's lack of independence persisted.

Labour and Economic Rights

Bangladesh is one of the world's largest textile exporters, with the sector remaining vital to its economy. However, in 2024, textile workers continued to face precarious working conditions, including low wages and long hours. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported progress in

implementing workplace safety standards following the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse but noted significant remaining challenges.

Unions reported difficulties in organizing due to legal restrictions and retaliation against union leaders. Women, who make up a large portion of the textile workforce, faced harassment and discrimination in the workplace, underscoring the need for more inclusive and gender-sensitive policies.

Climate Change and Environmental Rights

Bangladesh is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change, with millions at risk due to rising sea levels and natural disasters. In 2024, the government intensified its efforts to mitigate climate impacts through embankment construction, reforestation, and promoting resilient agricultural practices. The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change of Bangladesh highlighted that over 20% of the national budget was allocated to climate-related projects.

Despite these efforts, rural communities continued to face severe challenges, including loss of agricultural land and forced displacement. Environmental activists called for greater international cooperation to address the country's adaptation and resilience needs.

Women's and Minority Rights

In 2024, Bangladesh recorded progress in women's education, with increased female literacy rates and secondary school enrolment. However, child marriage and gender-based violence remained persistent issues. Local NGOs, such as BRAC, led campaigns to raise awareness on these topics and provide support to victims.

Ethnic and religious minorities faced discrimination in various forms, ranging from limited access to basic services to lack of political representation. The government pledged to implement measures to protect these communities' rights, but tangible results on the ground were limited.

International Cooperation

Bangladesh continued to receive support from international organizations and allied countries to address its human rights challenges. In 2024, the United Nations and the World Bank provided funding for development projects focused on climate-resilient infrastructure and poverty reduction programs.

The country also actively participated in international forums, advocating for increased climate financing and preferential access to global markets for its textile exports as part of its strategy to mitigate climate change impacts.

Conclusion

In 2024, Bangladesh showed progress in areas such as climate resilience and women's education but continued to face significant challenges in labour rights, freedom of expression, and minority protection. The government's commitment to international cooperation and structural reforms will be crucial in ensuring sustainable and equitable progress in human rights.

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Belgium

Introduction

In 2024, Belgium continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to human rights, although it faced challenges related to social inclusion, immigration, and environmental sustainability. As a prominent member of the European Union, Belgium remained aligned with European human rights standards, playing an active role in international initiatives. This chapter examines the progress and challenges in the realm of human rights in Belgium during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Belgium upheld its reputation as a country with strong democratic institutions and high levels of civil liberties protection. However, the rise of misinformation and hate speech on digital platforms presented new challenges. The European Commission, along with the Belgian government, implemented measures to combat these trends, including stricter regulations on online content and educational campaigns (European Commission, 2024).

The Belgian police faced scrutiny due to allegations of excessive force during protests in Brussels and other cities. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the need for greater oversight and training to ensure respect for civil rights in handling public demonstrations.

Immigration and Refugee Policies

In 2024, Belgium experienced an increase in asylum applications, reflecting migration trends across Europe. The Belgian government strengthened its refugee reception system by expanding accommodation facilities and

integration services. However, the Federal Human Rights Council of Belgium raised concerns about delays in asylum processes and the quality of conditions in some detention centres.

Human rights organisations urged Belgium to implement reforms that ensure faster and fairer access to asylum procedures, particularly for the most vulnerable applicants, such as women and children.

Gender Equality and LGBTQ+ Rights

Belgium continued to lead in promoting gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights in 2024. The government adopted new policies to close the gender pay gap and improve female representation in leadership positions. According to statistics from the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men (2024), the gender pay gap decreased by 5% compared to previous years.

Regarding LGBTQ+ rights, Belgium implemented educational programs to foster acceptance and address discrimination. However, the LGBTQ+ community still reported cases of harassment and violence, underscoring the need for ongoing efforts to protect these rights.

Environmental Rights and Climate Action

Belgium faced increasing pressure to meet its climate commitments in 2024. The government launched a National Climate Action Plan aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. The Federal Environment Agency oversaw initiatives such as expanding public transport networks and promoting renewable energy (Belgian Federal Environment Agency, 2024).

Despite these advancements, environmental groups criticised delays in policy implementation and the country's reliance on imported fossil fuels. Belgian cities also faced air pollution issues, highlighting the need for more effective solutions to improve environmental quality.

International Cooperation

In 2024, Belgium played an active role in international human rights and humanitarian aid initiatives. The country increased its contribution to the European Union budget to address global challenges such as migration and climate change. Additionally, Belgium reinforced its participation in UN peacekeeping missions, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

The Belgian government also promoted initiatives to strengthen human rights compliance in multinational corporations based in the country, ensuring that their operations abroad adhere to international standards.

Conclusion

In 2024, Belgium reaffirmed its commitment to human rights, achieving significant progress in gender equality, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. However, challenges remain in areas such as immigration, police oversight, and climate policy implementation. Continued focus on international cooperation and improving internal policies will be key to ensuring sustainable and equitable progress.

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Benin

Introduction

In 2024, Benin demonstrated notable progress in strengthening its democratic institutions and promoting human rights. However, challenges persisted in addressing issues such as judicial independence, gender equality, and access to basic services. As a stable democracy in West Africa, Benin played a growing role in regional cooperation while striving to improve social and economic conditions for its citizens. This chapter explores the human rights situation in Benin during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Benin maintained a strong commitment to democratic governance in 2024, holding free and transparent local elections. The Independent Electoral Commission of Benin (CENA, 2024) oversaw the electoral process, which was praised for its integrity. However, concerns about political exclusion were raised, as some opposition parties faced legal and administrative barriers to participation.

Freedom of expression and assembly were generally respected, though there were instances of journalists facing intimidation when reporting on sensitive issues, such as corruption and government policies. Reporters Without Borders (2024) called for stronger protections for press freedom to ensure an independent media environment.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Efforts to promote gender equality in Benin advanced in 2024, with an increased focus on empowering women in rural areas through education and microfinance programs. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Microfinance reported that more than 50,000 women benefited from financial literacy and small business training initiatives.

Despite these advancements, challenges such as child marriage and gender-based violence persisted, particularly in rural communities. Local NGOs collaborated with international partners to implement awareness campaigns and provide support to survivors of violence.

Economic and Labour Rights

Benin's economy grew steadily in 2024, driven by agriculture and trade. However, the informal sector continued to dominate the labour market, leaving many workers without adequate protections or access to social benefits. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) highlighted the need for stronger enforcement of labour laws and the expansion of formal employment opportunities.

Child labour remained a concern, particularly in the agricultural sector. The government launched initiatives to combat child labour, including stricter inspections and support for affected families, but progress was slow.

Environmental Rights

Environmental sustainability gained attention in Benin during 2024, as the country faced deforestation and land degradation. The Ministry of Living

Environment and Sustainable Development launched reforestation projects aiming to restore 15,000 hectares of forest by 2030. Additionally, Benin received support from international organizations, such as the World Bank, to improve water management systems in urban and rural areas.

Climate change posed significant challenges, particularly for smallholder farmers who depend on rainfall. Adaptive agricultural techniques and renewable energy projects were promoted to build resilience, but resource constraints limited the scale of these efforts.

Regional and International Cooperation

Benin strengthened its engagement in regional initiatives, particularly within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The country contributed to regional peacekeeping missions and collaborated on cross-border efforts to combat human trafficking and illegal trade.

Internationally, Benin worked with the United Nations and other partners to attract development aid and technical support for human rights projects. The government emphasized its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under international human rights treaties.

Conclusion

In 2024, Benin made significant strides in consolidating its democratic framework and advancing economic development. However, persistent issues such as gender inequality, informal labour, and environmental challenges underscored the need for continued reforms and international support. Benin's proactive engagement in regional and international initiatives highlights its commitment to improving human rights and fostering sustainable development.

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Belarus

Introduction

In 2024, Belarus faced significant human rights challenges amidst ongoing political repression, restrictions on civil liberties, and international sanctions. The government's continued crackdown on opposition voices and activists drew widespread condemnation from the international community. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Belarus during the year, highlighting issues related to civil rights, labour conditions, and international relations.

Civil and Political Rights

Belarus remained under a repressive political regime in 2024, with limited space for dissent and political opposition. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), arbitrary arrests, torture, and unfair trials were frequently reported, particularly targeting activists, journalists, and members of opposition parties.

Freedom of expression and assembly were severely restricted. Independent media outlets faced censorship, and many journalists operated in exile due to threats and persecution. The government blocked access to several international news websites, further limiting public access to information.

Labour Rights and Economic Challenges

Belarus's economy continued to suffer under international sanctions, impacting labour conditions and economic stability. Many workers in state-owned enterprises reported wage delays and poor working conditions. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) highlighted the suppression of

independent trade unions, with several union leaders arrested or forced into exile.

Informal labour increased as economic conditions deteriorated, leaving many workers without social protections. Efforts to address these issues were minimal, as the government focused on consolidating political control rather than implementing economic reforms.

Gender Equality and Minority Rights

Women in Belarus faced significant challenges in 2024, including limited access to leadership positions and widespread gender-based violence. Although some NGOs provided support to survivors, government policies lacked sufficient measures to address these issues effectively.

Ethnic and religious minorities also reported systemic discrimination, particularly in employment and education. The absence of comprehensive anti-discrimination laws left many vulnerable groups without adequate protection.

Environmental Concerns

Belarus faced growing environmental challenges in 2024, particularly regarding industrial pollution and deforestation. Despite its commitments under the Paris Agreement, the government made limited progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection announced initiatives to expand renewable energy projects, but critics argued that these efforts lacked transparency and sufficient funding.

Local environmental activists faced restrictions on their activities, with some reporting harassment and intimidation by authorities. Greater civil society

engagement and international support will be crucial to addressing these challenges effectively.

International Relations

Belarus's strained relationships with Western countries continued in 2024, driven by its human rights record and political alliances. The European Union and the United States maintained sanctions against Belarusian officials and state enterprises, citing ongoing repression and electoral fraud.

Conversely, Belarus strengthened its ties with Russia, deepening economic and military cooperation. This alignment further isolated the country from the West while raising concerns about regional stability.

The United Nations and other international organisations called for independent investigations into human rights abuses in Belarus, but the government largely dismissed these demands.

Conclusion

In 2024, Belarus's human rights situation remained dire, characterised by political repression, labour exploitation, and environmental neglect. While international pressure persisted, meaningful reforms were absent. Addressing these challenges will require significant political will, robust international advocacy, and support for civil society efforts to promote accountability and protect fundamental rights.

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Bolivia

Introduction

In 2024, Bolivia faced a combination of progress and challenges in the realm of human rights. Despite advancements in areas such as political representation and Indigenous rights, issues persisted regarding justice, labour rights, and environmental sustainability. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Bolivia throughout the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Bolivian democracy remained stable in 2024, though political tensions between the government and opposition groups persisted. According to the Ombudsman of Bolivia, cases of excessive force were reported during social protests, particularly those related to labour and environmental demands.

Freedom of expression was generally respected, but journalists and activists reported intimidation and restrictions in rural areas. Organisations such as Human Rights Watch (2024) urged the government to strengthen guarantees for press freedom and to protect media workers.

Indigenous Rights

Bolivia continued making progress in recognising the rights of Indigenous peoples, including their representation in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly. However, conflicts over land use and natural resources created tensions between Indigenous communities and the government. The Confederation of Indigenous Peoples of Bolivia (CIDOB) denounced development projects affecting ancestral territories without adequate prior consultation processes.

Despite these challenges, the government implemented programmes to improve access to education and healthcare in Indigenous communities, representing a significant step forward in fulfilling fundamental rights.

Labour and Economic Rights

Bolivia experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, driven by the mining sector and natural gas exports. However, labour conditions in sectors such as mining and agriculture remained precarious. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported cases of child labour and labour exploitation in rural areas.

Unions continued to play an active role in defending labour rights, although they faced challenges such as fragmentation and lack of resources. The government-initiated measures to strengthen labour inspections, but their impact was limited.

Environmental Rights

Bolivia faced severe environmental challenges in 2024, including deforestation and wildfires in the Amazon region. The Ministry of Environment and Water implemented reforestation and conservation initiatives, but a lack of funding and agricultural expansion limited their effectiveness.

Climate change significantly impacted rural communities, affecting access to water and food security. Local environmental organisations called on the government to intensify efforts to protect natural resources and mitigate the effects of climate change.

International Cooperation

Bolivia strengthened its participation in international forums, including the Conference of the Parties (COP) on climate change, where it advocated for increased climate financing for developing countries. Additionally, the country received support from the United Nations for sustainable development and poverty reduction programmes.

However, relations with some neighbouring countries were strained by disputes over shared water resources, highlighting the need for more effective regional cooperation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Bolivia advanced in key areas such as Indigenous representation and international cooperation but faced significant challenges in labour rights, environmental protection, and the safeguarding of civil liberties. Implementing inclusive and sustainable policies will be crucial to ensuring equitable and lasting progress in human rights.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina

Introduction

In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina faced persistent human rights challenges linked to political instability, ethnic divisions, and economic disparities. Despite progress in certain areas, such as freedom of the press and regional cooperation, issues related to discrimination, judicial reform, and corruption continued to hinder broader advancements. This chapter explores the human rights landscape in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Bosnia and Herzegovina's political system, characterised by ethnic power-sharing agreements, remained deeply fragmented in 2024. This structure often led to political gridlock, hampering decision-making on key reforms. According to Amnesty International (2024), this stagnation negatively impacted civil liberties and the protection of minority rights.

Freedom of expression was generally upheld, with an active and diverse media landscape. However, journalists faced harassment and threats, particularly when reporting on corruption or organised crime. The Association of Journalists in Bosnia and Herzegovina documented several cases of intimidation, calling for stronger protections and accountability for perpetrators.

Ethnic Discrimination and Minority Rights

Ethnic divisions continued to shape Bosnia and Herzegovina's political and social landscape. Discrimination against minority groups, including Roma communities and returnees displaced by the war, remained widespread. The European Court

of Human Rights (ECHR) criticised the country's electoral system for its failure to allow political representation for non-constituent peoples.

Efforts to improve social inclusion were made through educational and community-based programmes. The Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees launched initiatives to promote the integration of marginalised groups, but their impact was limited due to insufficient funding and political support.

Judicial and Anti-Corruption Reforms

Judicial reform remained a pressing issue in 2024. Weak judicial independence and widespread corruption undermined public trust in the justice system. The Office of the High Representative urged the government to implement comprehensive reforms, particularly in prosecuting high-profile corruption cases.

Transparency International (2024) highlighted that corruption continued to permeate various levels of governance, calling for greater international oversight and domestic accountability mechanisms.

Economic and Labour Rights

Bosnia and Herzegovina's economy faced challenges in 2024, including high unemployment rates and a significant informal labour sector. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) noted that many workers lacked access to social protections, particularly in rural areas.

Trade unions advocated for stronger labour rights and better enforcement of workplace standards. However, structural inefficiencies and political divisions hindered the implementation of comprehensive labour policies.

Environmental Issues

Environmental concerns gained increased attention in 2024 as Bosnia and Herzegovina grappled with issues such as air pollution and deforestation. Urban areas, particularly Sarajevo, continued to experience high levels of particulate pollution, affecting public health.

The Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environmental Protection launched renewable energy projects, including solar and hydropower initiatives, to address climate change and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. Despite these efforts, environmental activists stressed the need for more stringent regulatory enforcement and broader public awareness campaigns.

International Cooperation

Bosnia and Herzegovina strengthened its engagement with the European Union in 2024, continuing efforts to align with EU accession criteria. The EU provided financial and technical assistance for judicial reforms, anti-corruption initiatives, and environmental sustainability projects.

The country also participated in regional cooperation efforts, particularly within the Western Balkans framework, to address shared challenges such as migration and economic development.

Conclusion

In 2024, Bosnia and Herzegovina made incremental progress in areas such as press freedom and regional cooperation but continued to face systemic challenges related to ethnic divisions, corruption, and economic inequality.

Addressing these issues will require sustained political commitment, robust international support, and meaningful engagement with civil society.

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Botswana

Introduction

In 2024, Botswana remained one of Africa's most stable countries, with a strong commitment to democracy and the rule of law. However, challenges such as economic inequality, minority rights, and environmental issues continued to be areas of concern. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Botswana during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Botswana maintained its reputation as a robust democracy in 2024, holding free and transparent local elections. Freedom of expression and the press was generally respected, although independent journalists reported instances of intimidation when covering sensitive topics such as government corruption.

Amnesty International (2024) highlighted progress in strengthening democratic institutions but recommended additional measures to ensure full judicial independence and protect human rights defenders.

Minority Rights

The indigenous San population continued to face discrimination in areas such as land access and basic services. Human rights groups urged the government to implement inclusive policies ensuring equal opportunities for these marginalised communities.

In response, the Botswana government announced plans to improve educational and healthcare services in rural areas, although these efforts faced challenges due to limited resource allocation.

Labour and Economic Rights

Botswana experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, driven primarily by diamond mining. However, high unemployment rates and dependence on the informal sector remained significant problems.

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported progress in implementing labour standards but emphasised the need to expand protections for workers in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and informal trade.

Environmental Issues

Environmental conservation remained a priority in Botswana, with initiatives focused on protecting its rich biodiversity. In 2024, the government reinforced anti-poaching policies and launched conservation projects in collaboration with international organisations.

However, climate change and water management continued to pose major challenges, particularly in rural communities. The Ministry of Environment announced plans to improve access to potable water and promote sustainable agriculture as part of its climate strategy.

International Cooperation

Botswana strengthened its collaboration with international organisations in 2024, including the United Nations and the African Union, to address regional issues such as migration and climate change. Additionally, the country received

funding for sustainable development projects aimed at reducing social inequalities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Botswana remained a model of democratic stability in Africa, achieving progress in key areas such as environmental conservation and civil rights. However, significant challenges persist in terms of economic equality and minority rights. Sustained commitment to inclusive reforms will be essential to ensuring equitable and sustainable progress.

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Brazil

Introduction

In 2024, Brazil faced a complex human rights situation, marked by progress in certain areas, such as Indigenous rights and environmental sustainability, alongside persistent challenges in security, justice, and economic inequality. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Brazil during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Brazilian democracy remained robust in 2024, with free elections and vibrant political debate. However, the country continued to face issues related to police violence and the protection of civil rights in marginalised communities.

According to Human Rights Watch (2024), security forces were involved in cases of excessive use of force, particularly in operations against organised crime in favelas. Human rights organisations urged the government to implement reforms to ensure accountability and reduce abuses of authority.

Indigenous Rights

Brazil made significant progress in protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples in 2024. The government demarcated new Indigenous lands and strengthened the National Indigenous Affairs Agency. However, conflicts over the exploitation of natural resources in Indigenous territories persisted.

The Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) highlighted the importance of protecting these lands to guarantee the cultural and

environmental survival of Indigenous communities and called for greater efforts to combat illegal mining.

Economic and Social Rights

Brazil continued to face high levels of economic inequality, with significant disparities between rural and urban regions. Although the government implemented income transfer programmes to reduce extreme poverty, these efforts did not fully address the structural roots of inequality.

The labour sector showed signs of recovery following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, but informal work remained a major concern. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) urged Brazil to strengthen labour laws and improve conditions for the most vulnerable workers.

Environment and Sustainability

In 2024, Brazil reinforced its commitment to environmental sustainability by significantly reducing deforestation in the Amazon. The Ministry of Environment implemented stricter policies against illegal logging and promoted reforestation projects.

However, climate change continued to impact the country, with prolonged droughts and extreme weather events affecting food and energy security. Experts emphasised the need to strengthen climate adaptation policies and increase international cooperation in this area.

International Cooperation

Brazil played an active role in international forums in 2024, promoting climate justice and human rights. At the United Nations Climate Summit, the country

advocated for increased climate financing for developing nations and strengthened its relationships with regional partners in Latin America.

Additionally, Brazil led initiatives to address regional migration and promote sustainable development, highlighting its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Conclusion

In 2024, Brazil made significant progress in Indigenous rights and environmental sustainability but faced persistent challenges in public security and economic inequality. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach that combines domestic reforms with stronger international cooperation.

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Bulgaria

Introduction

In 2024, Bulgaria continued to face challenges related to human rights, particularly in areas such as corruption, press freedom, and social inclusion. While significant progress was made in issues such as gender equality and international cooperation, structural problems persist that affect the country's overall development. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Bulgaria during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Bulgaria maintained a functional democratic system in 2024, with free and fair elections. However, corruption at the highest levels of government remained a central concern. Transparency International (2024) identified Bulgaria as one of the countries with the highest perceived corruption within the European Union.

Press freedom also faced challenges, with cases of intimidation and harassment of journalists investigating issues such as corruption and organized crime. Organizations like Reporters Without Borders (2024) urged the government to ensure a safe environment for independent media.

Gender Equality and Minority Rights

In 2024, Bulgaria advanced in promoting gender equality, implementing new policies to reduce the gender pay gap. Additionally, laws against gender-based violence were strengthened, including nationwide campaigns to raise awareness on the issue.

However, the Roma community continued to face systemic discrimination, particularly in areas such as education, employment, and access to basic services. The European Commission urged Bulgaria to intensify efforts to integrate this community and combat social exclusion.

Economic and Labour Rights

Bulgaria's economic growth remained stable in 2024, but regional inequalities persisted. Rural areas faced high levels of poverty and limited access to essential services. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) highlighted the need to improve labour conditions in sectors such as agriculture and construction.

Trade unions played a key role in defending labour rights, achieving progress in negotiating higher minimum wages and better working conditions for employees in vulnerable sectors.

Environment and Sustainability

Bulgaria made progress in transitioning to renewable energy sources in 2024, focusing on solar and wind projects. However, air pollution in urban areas remained a critical issue, with Sofia ranking among the most polluted cities in Europe.

The government launched initiatives to improve air quality, such as modernizing public transport and promoting electric vehicles. Despite these efforts, environmental groups emphasized the need for faster and more effective implementation of these policies.

International Cooperation

Bulgaria strengthened its cooperation with the European Union and other international organizations in 2024, actively participating in programs related to justice, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion. Additionally, the country received EU funding for infrastructure and economic development projects.

Conclusion

In 2024, Bulgaria achieved progress in key areas such as gender equality and sustainable energy, but it still faces significant challenges in corruption, social inclusion, and air quality. Continued commitment to structural reforms and international cooperation will be essential to ensure equitable and sustainable progress.

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Burkina Faso

Introduction

In 2024, Burkina Faso faced a critical human rights situation due to armed violence, massive displacement of people, and political instability. Despite efforts by the government and the international community to stabilize the country, human rights violations remained widespread, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations.

Civil and Political Rights

The armed conflict between government forces and extremist groups continued to be the main obstacle to ensuring civil and political rights in Burkina Faso. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), both sides committed serious abuses, including extrajudicial executions, arbitrary detentions, and torture.

Freedom of expression and the press were also severely restricted in 2024. Journalists and activists faced threats and reprisals for reporting on government corruption and military abuses. Organizations such as Reporters Without Borders urged the government to protect media workers and ensure a safe environment for freedom of information.

Internal Displacement and Refugee Rights

The ongoing conflict caused unprecedented internal displacement, with more than two million people forced to flee their homes in 2024. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) highlighted precarious conditions in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, where access to clean water, food, and healthcare was extremely limited.

Additionally, host communities faced tensions due to resource shortages, exacerbating the vulnerability of displaced persons and increasing the risk of communal conflict.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children were particularly affected by the crisis in Burkina Faso. Sexual and gender-based violence increased in conflict zones, with reports of rape and forced marriages perpetrated by armed groups and local actors.

UNICEF (2024) highlighted the devastating impact of the conflict on education, with more than 6,000 schools closed due to insecurity, affecting over one million children. Girls were especially vulnerable, facing additional barriers to accessing education and protection from exploitation.

Labour and Economic Rights

Burkina Faso's economy suffered a significant decline in 2024 due to the conflict, with rising unemployment and extreme poverty. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported precarious labour conditions, particularly in the informal sector, where workers lack basic protections and social security.

Farmers, who constitute a large proportion of the active population, faced extreme difficulties due to violence and climate change, which significantly reduced food production and increased food insecurity.

International Cooperation

The international community intensified its efforts to address the crisis in Burkina Faso in 2024. The United Nations and the African Union led peace and

reconciliation initiatives, while humanitarian agencies increased assistance to meet the urgent needs of IDPs and affected communities.

However, inadequate funding and access restrictions due to insecurity limited the effectiveness of these interventions. International organizations called on donors to increase their support and ensure a sustained humanitarian response.

Conclusion

In 2024, Burkina Faso faced one of the worst human rights contexts in West Africa, characterized by massive displacement, armed violence, and a humanitarian crisis. Addressing these challenges will require a comprehensive approach combining national and international efforts to stabilize the country, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure respect for fundamental rights.

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Burundi

Introduction

In 2024, Burundi faced persistent human rights challenges, including political repression, limited freedom of expression, and widespread poverty. Despite some progress in economic development and regional cooperation, systemic issues such as corruption, gender-based violence, and constraints on civil liberties continued to hinder the country's overall human rights situation.

Civil and Political Rights

Burundi's political climate remained restrictive in 2024. The government maintained tight control over political activities, with opposition parties facing harassment, arbitrary arrests, and limited access to public platforms. According to Amnesty International (2024), political dissent was met with heavy-handed responses, including the use of force by security agencies.

Freedom of expression and the press were significantly curtailed. Journalists and human rights defenders faced intimidation, with several being forced into exile. Media outlets critical of the government were censored, and independent reporting was limited, leaving citizens with restricted access to unbiased information.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in Burundi continued to face systemic discrimination and gender-based violence in 2024. Reports from UN Women indicated that intimate partner violence remained prevalent, and access to justice for survivors was often limited due to societal stigma and weak legal enforcement.

Children's rights were also a critical concern, particularly in the context of education. While the government expanded primary education initiatives, rural areas still experienced low school attendance rates due to poverty and inadequate infrastructure. Child labour remained widespread, with many children engaged in agricultural and domestic work.

Economic and Labour Rights

Burundi's economy grew modestly in 2024, supported by agricultural production and foreign aid. However, high unemployment and underemployment rates continued to affect much of the population, particularly youth and women. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) highlighted exploitative labour practices in the informal sector, where workers lacked basic protections and faced unsafe conditions.

The government introduced initiatives to improve agricultural productivity, including investments in irrigation and farming technology. However, these efforts were hampered by climate change and limited access to financing for smallholder farmers.

Humanitarian Issues and Displacement

Burundi remained vulnerable to humanitarian crises in 2024, with thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returning refugees requiring urgent assistance. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that many returnees faced challenges reintegrating due to land disputes, lack of infrastructure, and limited access to services.

Food insecurity also remained a pressing issue, exacerbated by climate shocks such as droughts and floods. Humanitarian organizations called for increased international aid to address the urgent needs of affected populations.

International Cooperation

Burundi strengthened its engagement with regional organizations in 2024, particularly the East African Community (EAC). The country participated in initiatives aimed at promoting regional trade and addressing cross-border security concerns.

Despite these efforts, Burundi faced criticism from international human rights bodies for its failure to address systemic abuses and uphold commitments to democratic principles. Advocacy groups called for greater accountability and stronger cooperation with global human rights mechanisms.

Conclusion

In 2024, Burundi made modest progress in economic development and regional cooperation but continued to grapple with significant human rights challenges. Addressing these issues will require comprehensive reforms, enhanced international support, and sustained efforts to promote transparency, accountability, and inclusivity.

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Cambodia

Introduction

In 2024, Cambodia continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by restrictions on freedom of expression, widespread corruption, and labour abuses. However, there were also some advances in areas such as education and gender equality. This chapter explores the state of human rights in Cambodia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The state of civil and political rights in Cambodia remained critical in 2024. The government intensified its control over political opposition, with numerous cases of arbitrary arrests and restrictions on political activity. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), local elections were conducted in a repressive environment, lacking guarantees for a fair and transparent electoral process.

Freedom of the press remained severely limited. Several independent media outlets were shut down, and journalists faced intimidation and arrests for reporting on sensitive topics such as government corruption and forced evictions. International organizations urged the government to ensure a safe environment for the media and human rights defenders.

Labour and Economic Rights

The labour sector in Cambodia, particularly in the garment industry, continued to face precarious conditions in 2024. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported numerous labour rights violations, including low wages, excessive working hours, and reprisals against unionized workers.

Despite these issues, the government introduced some reforms to improve labour conditions, such as increases in the minimum wage. However, these measures were insufficient to address structural concerns in the labour sector, especially in rural areas.

Women's and Children's Rights

Cambodia made progress in promoting gender equality, with policies aimed at reducing the gender pay gap and increasing female representation in politics. However, gender-based violence remained a serious issue, with low reporting rates and limited access to justice for victims.

Children's rights continued to be a government priority, with a focus on improving access to education. According to UNICEF (2024), primary school enrolment rates increased, but the quality of education and access in rural communities remained significant challenges.

Forced Displacements and Environmental Issues

Cambodia's economic development, driven by infrastructure projects and natural resource exploitation, resulted in numerous cases of forced evictions and land conflicts in 2024. Indigenous and rural communities were particularly affected, facing displacement without adequate compensation.

In the environmental sphere, Cambodia faced issues related to deforestation and biodiversity loss. Although the government implemented some policies to promote sustainability, environmental groups noted that corruption and weak enforcement of regulations remained significant obstacles.

International Cooperation

Cambodia strengthened its relations with international organizations in 2024, actively participating in regional initiatives to combat climate change and improve food security. Technical and financial assistance from the UN and other bodies was crucial in supporting sustainable development and human rights projects.

However, diplomatic tensions with some countries over human rights concerns limited the scope of international cooperation. The need for a more inclusive, rights-based approach to ensure sustainable development was emphasized.

Conclusion

In 2024, Cambodia achieved modest progress in areas such as education and gender equality but continued to face significant challenges related to civil liberties, labour rights, and environmental issues. Implementing structural reforms and strengthening international cooperation will be essential to ensuring sustainable and equitable progress in human rights.

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Cameroon

Introduction

In 2024, Cameroon faced numerous human rights challenges, driven by ongoing conflict in its anglophone regions, widespread corruption, and restrictions on civil liberties. Despite these issues, the government took steps to address economic disparities and promote international cooperation. This chapter examines Cameroon's human rights situation during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The socio-political crisis in Cameroon's anglophone regions persisted in 2024, with government forces and separatist groups engaging in violence that led to significant human rights violations. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), both sides committed abuses, including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary detentions, and the destruction of civilian property.

Freedom of expression and assembly remained heavily restricted. Journalists, human rights defenders, and political activists faced harassment, arrests, and censorship. Several media outlets were shut down or fined for reporting on sensitive issues, further limiting the space for dissent and independent journalism.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children were disproportionately affected by the ongoing conflict and economic instability in Cameroon. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual abuse, remained pervasive. Access to justice for survivors was often hindered by societal stigma and weak enforcement of laws.

The conflict significantly impacted children's rights, with schools in anglophone regions frequently targeted in attacks or forced to close. UNICEF (2024) reported that over 800,000 children were out of school, depriving them of education and exposing them to risks such as forced recruitment by armed groups.

Labour and Economic Rights

Cameroon's economy showed modest growth in 2024, driven by investments in infrastructure and agriculture. However, high levels of poverty and unemployment persisted, particularly in rural areas. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) noted widespread violations of labour rights, including unsafe working conditions and exploitation in the informal sector.

The government introduced policies to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and improve access to financing for entrepreneurs. While these measures were positive, their impact was limited by bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption.

Environmental and Land Rights

Cameroon faced significant environmental challenges in 2024, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and pollution from industrial activities. Indigenous communities were particularly affected by land grabs and displacement due to large-scale infrastructure projects and agricultural expansion.

The Ministry of Environment launched initiatives to promote reforestation and reduce carbon emissions, but enforcement of environmental regulations remained weak. Activists called for greater accountability and stronger protections for vulnerable communities.

International Cooperation

Cameroon engaged with regional and international partners in 2024 to address security and economic challenges. The African Union and the United Nations supported peacebuilding efforts in the anglophone regions, while international donors provided humanitarian aid to displaced populations.

However, Cameroon faced criticism from human rights organizations for its handling of the anglophone crisis and its failure to implement meaningful reforms. Advocacy groups urged the government to prioritize dialogue and reconciliation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Cameroon made some progress in economic development and international cooperation but continued to struggle with severe human rights violations, particularly in its anglophone regions. Addressing these issues will require a commitment to political reform, accountability, and the protection of civil liberties.

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Canada

Introduction

In 2024, Canada continued to be a key advocate for human rights at both the national and international levels. However, the country faced significant challenges in areas such as Indigenous rights, economic equity, and climate change. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Canada during the year.

Indigenous Rights

Reconciliation with Indigenous peoples remained a national priority in 2024. The government implemented several recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, including the creation of educational programs to promote understanding of Indigenous history and rights.

Despite these advances, Indigenous communities continued to face significant inequalities in access to basic services such as clean water, housing, and healthcare. According to Amnesty International (2024), more than 30 Indigenous communities still lacked guaranteed access to clean water, a problem that has persisted for decades.

Economic Equity and Labour Rights

Canada demonstrated a resilient economy in 2024, but economic inequalities continued to affect marginalized groups, including immigrants, women, and Indigenous peoples. Low wages and limited access to stable jobs in sectors such as healthcare and services remained an issue.

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) highlighted that, while Canada has a strong framework for labour rights protection, migrant workers faced exploitation and barriers to accessing legal protections.

Climate Change and Environmental Rights

Canada made progress on its climate commitments in 2024, investing in renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in key sectors. However, the country faced criticism for its continued reliance on extractive industries and their impact on the environment and local communities.

Indigenous communities led efforts to protect land and natural resources, opposing companies and projects that threaten their territorial rights. The federal government took steps to improve consultation with these communities, but activists pointed to the need for more decisive actions.

Refugee and Migrant Rights

In 2024, Canada maintained its commitment to welcoming refugees, increasing resettlement quotas and providing comprehensive support to new arrivals. However, asylum systems faced criticism for long wait times and insufficient capacity to process applications.

Migrants in irregular situations faced significant difficulties, including limited access to basic services and precarious working conditions. Human rights organizations urged the government to ensure that all migrants, regardless of status, have access to fundamental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Canada continued to promote civil and political rights, with a robust framework for freedom of expression, assembly, and association. However, instances of excessive use of force by security forces were reported, particularly during protests related to Indigenous rights and climate change.

Organizations like Human Rights Watch (2024) emphasized the need for greater oversight of law enforcement agencies to ensure the rights of protesters and vulnerable communities are respected.

International Cooperation

In 2024, Canada strengthened its leadership in global human rights, participating in international forums and supporting initiatives to combat climate change, promote gender equality, and protect displaced populations. The country also increased its assistance to regions affected by conflicts, including Ukraine and Afghanistan.

Conclusion

Canada remained an important player in human rights advocacy, achieving progress in key areas such as Indigenous reconciliation and climate commitments. However, significant challenges persisted, particularly in economic equity and the protection of Indigenous and migrant rights. A renewed commitment to social justice and sustainability will be essential to effectively address these issues.

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Chad

Introduction

In 2024, Chad faced significant human rights challenges, including political repression, widespread poverty, and ongoing conflict in several regions. Despite government efforts to address some of these issues, systemic problems such as corruption, weak governance, and limited access to basic services continued to hinder progress. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Chad during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Political repression remained a critical issue in Chad in 2024. The government maintained strict control over political activities, with opposition parties and activists frequently facing arrests, harassment, and censorship. According to Amnesty International (2024), freedom of assembly and expression was severely restricted, with security forces using excessive force to disperse protests.

The judiciary, often influenced by political interests, lacked independence, further undermining citizens' access to justice. Human rights organizations called for comprehensive reforms to ensure accountability and the rule of law.

Economic and Social Rights

Chad continued to grapple with widespread poverty and economic inequality. Although the government implemented programs aimed at reducing poverty, their impact was limited by corruption and inadequate resource allocation. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) highlighted that more

than 40% of the population lived below the poverty line, with rural areas being disproportionately affected.

Access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water remained insufficient, particularly in conflict-affected regions. International aid played a crucial role in addressing these gaps, but long-term solutions require structural reforms and improved governance.

Conflict and Displacement

Ongoing conflict in Chad's border regions, particularly near Sudan and the Central African Republic, continued to displace thousands of people in 2024. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that over 500,000 refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) were in urgent need of assistance.

These conflicts exacerbated food insecurity, with humanitarian organizations warning of severe malnutrition in affected areas. Efforts to stabilize these regions were hindered by limited government capacity and persistent insecurity.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children in Chad faced numerous challenges, including gender-based violence, child marriage, and limited access to education. UNICEF (2024) reported that more than 60% of girls were married before the age of 18, a practice driven by poverty and traditional norms.

The government launched initiatives to combat gender-based violence and promote girls' education, but these efforts were hampered by inadequate funding and cultural resistance. Strengthening legal protections and increasing community engagement are essential to achieving meaningful progress.

Environmental and Land Rights

Chad's environmental challenges intensified in 2024, with desertification, droughts, and resource conflicts threatening livelihoods. The shrinking of Lake Chad continued to have a profound impact on communities dependent on it for fishing, farming, and water supply.

Efforts to combat these issues included reforestation projects and international cooperation on climate resilience. However, the scale of the challenges requires sustained investment and stronger enforcement of environmental protections.

International Cooperation

Chad received significant international support in 2024, particularly from the African Union, the United Nations, and donor countries. These partnerships focused on humanitarian aid, conflict resolution, and capacity-building initiatives.

While this assistance was vital, human rights organizations stressed the need for greater accountability and transparency in the use of aid funds to ensure their effectiveness in addressing the country's pressing challenges.

Conclusion

In 2024, Chad made some progress in addressing its humanitarian and governance issues, but significant challenges remain. Political repression, economic inequality, and environmental degradation continue to undermine human rights in the country. Achieving sustainable improvements will require comprehensive reforms, stronger international partnerships, and a commitment to protecting the rights of all citizens.

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Chile

Introduction

In 2024, Chile continued consolidating its democracy and commitment to human rights, achieving significant progress in areas such as gender equality, sustainable development, and citizen participation. However, challenges persisted in issues related to economic inequality, Indigenous rights, and institutional transparency. This chapter analyses the state of human rights in Chile during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Chile maintained a robust democratic framework in 2024, with transparent elections and a functional judicial system. Despite these advances, cases of excessive use of force by security forces during social demonstrations were reported, particularly in demands for social justice and labour rights.

Organizations like Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the need for police reforms to ensure respect for human rights in managing protests. Additionally, access to justice remained unequal, especially for rural communities and marginalized groups.

Economic and Social Rights

Economic inequality remains a central issue in Chile. Despite sustained economic growth, the gap between the richest and poorest sectors of the population continued to be significant. According to the World Bank (2024), the richest 10% of the population accounted for more than 50% of the country's total income.

The government implemented policies to improve access to education and healthcare, but critics pointed out the insufficiency of these measures to address structural inequalities. Labour unions played a key role in defending workers' rights, achieving wage increases in strategic sectors.

Indigenous Rights

Indigenous peoples in Chile, including the Mapuche, continued to face significant challenges in 2024. Territorial disputes and the lack of full recognition of their cultural and political rights created tensions between communities and the government.

Despite initiatives to strengthen dialogue, Indigenous communities denounced the lack of concrete progress in land restitution and respect for their rights. International organizations urged the government to intensify efforts to ensure the inclusion and autonomy of Indigenous peoples.

Climate Change and Environmental Rights

Chile has been a regional leader in the fight against climate change, and in 2024 it reinforced its commitments through policies to reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy. However, extractive projects in sensitive areas generated conflicts with local communities.

Pollution in industrial zones and environmental degradation in mining regions continued to affect the quality of life for thousands of people. Environmental activists demanded stricter regulations and a more equitable approach to economic development.

Gender Equality and LGBTIQ+ Rights

Chile made progress in promoting gender equality in 2024, passing laws to reduce the gender pay gap and increase women's participation in public office. Additionally, the country strengthened policies against gender-based violence, although challenges in implementation persist.

The rights of the LGBTIQ+ community also gained greater recognition, with advances in access to healthcare services and legal protection. However, civil organizations highlighted the need to combat discrimination in workplaces and educational spaces.

International Cooperation

Chile strengthened its presence in international forums, promoting cooperation on human rights, climate change, and sustainable development. The country played an active role in regional initiatives to defend democracy and strengthen public institutions.

Conclusion

In 2024, Chile made significant progress in various areas of human rights, but challenges related to inequality, Indigenous rights, and environmental sustainability remain. An inclusive and participatory approach will be key to addressing these issues and ensuring equitable progress for all sectors of society.

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China

Introduction

In 2024, China remained one of the most influential global powers, with significant economic growth and advancements in technology. However, concerns over human rights violations persisted, particularly in areas such as freedom of expression, minority rights, and labour practices. This chapter explores the state of human rights in China during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

China's government continued to maintain tight control over civil and political rights in 2024. Freedom of expression, assembly, and association were heavily restricted. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), authorities intensified censorship of online platforms, silencing dissenting voices and removing content critical of government policies.

The use of surveillance technologies, including facial recognition and data monitoring, further curtailed individual privacy. Political dissidents, human rights lawyers, and activists faced harassment, arbitrary detention, and, in some cases, long prison sentences. The judicial system lacked independence, often serving as a tool for political repression.

Minority Rights

The treatment of ethnic and religious minorities, particularly in regions like Xinjiang, Tibet, and Inner Mongolia, remained a major international concern. Reports from Amnesty International (2024) highlighted ongoing abuses against

Uyghurs, including arbitrary detentions in re-education camps, forced labour, and restrictions on cultural and religious practices.

Tibetan communities continued to face restrictions on freedom of movement and expression. Efforts to preserve Tibetan language and culture were undermined by government policies promoting Mandarin as the primary language in schools and public institutions.

Labour and Economic Rights

China's economic growth in 2024 continued to be driven by its manufacturing and technology sectors. However, labour rights violations persisted, particularly in the form of exploitative working conditions and insufficient protections for migrant workers. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported numerous cases of forced labour, especially in supply chains linked to Xinjiang.

While the government introduced measures to improve worker protections, enforcement remained inconsistent. Independent trade unions were banned, leaving workers with limited avenues to address grievances or advocate for better conditions.

Environmental and Climate Commitments

China reinforced its commitment to addressing climate change in 2024, implementing policies to reduce carbon emissions and expand renewable energy capacity. However, the rapid pace of industrialization continued to contribute to environmental degradation, including air and water pollution.

Efforts to transition to a green economy were met with challenges, particularly in balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. Environmental

activists and organizations faced restrictions in their operations, limiting their ability to hold polluters accountable.

International Relations and Human Rights Diplomacy

China's growing influence in global governance was evident in 2024, with active participation in international forums and development initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, its human rights record drew criticism from Western governments and organizations, leading to sanctions and diplomatic tensions.

China defended its policies as internal matters, emphasizing economic development and stability over Western interpretations of human rights. The government continued to reject external scrutiny, limiting the ability of international bodies to assess conditions on the ground.

Conclusion

In 2024, China achieved remarkable economic and technological advancements but faced ongoing criticism for its human rights practices. Addressing these concerns will require significant policy shifts to ensure greater freedoms, protections for minorities, and adherence to international labour and environmental standards. The balance between development and human rights remains a pivotal challenge for China in the coming years.

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Cyprus

Introduction

In 2024, Cyprus remained a divided nation, with persistent tensions between the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. Although there were advancements in dialogue for potential reunification, challenges related to human rights, including discrimination, refugee rights, and freedom of movement, remained. This chapter analyses the state of human rights in Cyprus during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The division of Cyprus, which has persisted since 1974, continued to affect civil and political rights in 2024. The Green Line, which separates the two communities, limits freedom of movement, especially for Turkish Cypriots and Greek Cypriots seeking to return to their homes on the opposite side of the island.

According to Amnesty International (2024), while border crossings allowed some degree of interaction between communities, segregation remains a significant barrier to reconciliation. International efforts to foster dialogue and achieve a political solution intensified but have yet to yield concrete progress.

Economic and Social Rights

Economic development in Cyprus revealed stark differences between the northern and southern parts of the island in 2024. While the south, controlled by the Republic of Cyprus, enjoyed economic stability as a member of the European Union, the north, administered by Turkish Cypriot authorities and

recognized only by Turkey, continued to face economic isolation and dependence on Ankara.

Economic inequality between the two regions exacerbated social tensions. Additionally, refugees and migrants faced difficult conditions, including limited access to essential services and workplace discrimination. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) highlighted the need for more inclusive policies to ensure the rights of these populations.

Women's and Children's Rights

In 2024, progress was made in promoting women's rights in Cyprus, including campaigns to combat gender-based violence and the implementation of educational programs on gender equality. However, domestic violence remains a prevalent issue, and access to shelters and support for victims is uneven between the northern and southern regions.

Children's rights were also a priority, with initiatives focusing on improving education quality and protecting minors from labour exploitation. However, in poorer areas, particularly in the north, issues such as child labour and unequal access to education persisted.

Refugee and Migrant Rights

Cyprus remained a key entry point for refugees and migrants attempting to reach Europe. In 2024, the number of arrivals increased significantly, straining available resources and leading to a rise in the detention of asylum seekers. Human rights organizations pointed out inadequate detention conditions and lengthy asylum processes.

UNHCR urged the government to adopt a more humane and efficient approach to managing the situation, including the creation of additional reception centres and the acceleration of integration processes.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Cyprus made progress on its climate commitments, particularly in promoting renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. However, environmental pollution and inadequate resource management remained significant issues.

Environmental organizations emphasized the need for greater cooperation between northern and southern communities to address common challenges such as water scarcity and biodiversity protection.

International Cooperation

Cyprus strengthened its cooperation with international organizations and the European Union in 2024, focusing on promoting human rights and regional stability. Despite challenges, multilateral efforts to mediate the reunification of the island received renewed support from the UN and other key actors.

Conclusion

In 2024, Cyprus made modest progress in areas such as gender equality and climate commitments, but challenges related to the island's division, refugee rights, and economic inequalities persist. Intercommunal cooperation and an inclusive approach will be essential to ensuring respect for human rights across the island.

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Colombia

Introduction

In 2024, Colombia continued to face significant human rights challenges, including armed conflicts, violence against social leaders, and economic inequality. Despite government efforts to implement the peace agreement with the FARC, violence in rural regions and the expansion of illegal armed groups continued to affect the lives of thousands. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Colombia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The civil and political rights situation in Colombia remained tense in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), killings of social leaders and human rights defenders continued at alarming levels, particularly in areas with a strong presence of armed groups. These attacks often occurred in a context of impunity, as perpetrators were rarely brought to justice.

Freedom of expression also faced challenges, with journalists and independent media subjected to threats and violence for reporting on corruption, drug trafficking, and armed conflicts. The Foundation for Press Freedom (FLIP) highlighted the need for stronger measures to protect at-risk journalists.

Economic and Social Rights

Economic inequality remained one of Colombia's greatest challenges in 2024. Despite moderate economic growth, many rural communities faced extreme poverty and limited access to basic services such as education and healthcare.

The government launched social programs to address these disparities, but their implementation was hampered by corruption and a lack of resources in the most affected regions. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2024) warned of increasing food insecurity in rural areas due to forced displacement and limited access to agricultural land.

Indigenous and Afro-Colombian Rights

Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities continued to face discrimination and violence in 2024. Many of these communities were caught in the armed conflict, suffering forced displacements and attacks on their territories. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), illegal armed groups frequently used these areas for activities related to drug trafficking and illegal mining.

The government took steps to recognize and protect the rights of these communities, including the titling of ancestral lands. However, community leaders pointed out that these initiatives were insufficient to guarantee their safety and autonomy.

Environment and Land Rights

Colombia made progress on its climate commitments in 2024, with policies to reduce deforestation and promote renewable energy. However, territorial conflicts related to extractive projects remained a significant problem. Local communities and environmental activists reported threats and violence for opposing mining and oil projects.

The government initiated dialogues with affected communities to seek solutions, but the implementation of agreements was slow and uneven.

International organizations emphasized the importance of prioritizing territorial and environmental rights in national policies.

Internal Displacement and Migration

Internal displacement continued to affect thousands of Colombians in 2024, particularly in conflict-affected regions. The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that more than 100,000 people were displaced during the year, many of them belonging to Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities.

Additionally, migration from Venezuela remained a significant issue, with Colombia hosting over 2.5 million Venezuelan migrants and refugees. Although the government implemented integration policies, host communities faced significant pressures in terms of employment, housing, and social services.

International Cooperation

In 2024, Colombia strengthened its cooperation with international organizations and donor countries to address its challenges in human rights and sustainable development. The United Nations played a key role in monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement and promoting transitional justice.

Despite these efforts, international organizations urged the government to intensify its actions to protect vulnerable communities and ensure accountability for human rights violations.

Conclusion

In 2024, Colombia made significant progress in areas such as implementing the peace agreement and promoting integration policies for migrants. However, challenges related to violence, economic inequality, and the rights of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities persist. Consolidating a safe and equitable environment will require a comprehensive and sustained approach, with continued support from the international community.

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North Korea

Introduction

In 2024, North Korea remained one of the most closed and repressive countries in the world, with an authoritarian regime controlling every aspect of public and private life. Human rights violations, including forced labour, lack of civil and political freedoms, and systematic repression of dissent, continued to be a major international concern. This chapter examines the state of human rights in North Korea during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The North Korean government maintained absolute control over the civil and political rights of its citizens in 2024. Freedom of expression, association, and assembly were virtually non-existent, and any form of dissent was severely punished. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), thousands of individuals remain in political prison camps where they face inhumane conditions, including torture, starvation, and forced labour.

State surveillance continued to be a central tool of the regime to maintain control. Citizens were subjected to constant monitoring, and any criticism of leadership or the political system could result in arbitrary arrests and public executions.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite government efforts to project an image of economic self-sufficiency, the North Korean population continued to face extreme poverty and inequality in 2024. According to the World Food Programme (WFP, 2024), over 40% of the

population suffers from food insecurity, exacerbated by international sanctions and poor economic management.

Education and healthcare, although officially free, were accessible only to those belonging to the political elite or who could afford to pay bribes. Discrimination based on "songbun," a system of political caste, limited economic and social opportunities for those deemed politically unreliable.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in North Korea faced significant discrimination in 2024, both in public and private spheres. Although officially included in the workforce, they were often relegated to precarious and poorly paid jobs. Gender-based violence, including human trafficking, remained widespread, exacerbated by a lack of resources and support for victims.

Children, particularly those from families with low "songbun," faced significant challenges such as chronic malnutrition and lack of access to quality education. UNICEF (2024) highlighted that child malnutrition remains alarming, with more than one-third of children under five suffering from stunted growth.

Environment and Climate Change

The North Korean government promoted reforestation and sustainable agriculture policies as part of its strategy to combat environmental degradation. However, these initiatives were limited by a lack of resources, climate change, and inefficient agricultural practices.

Deforestation and water pollution remained serious issues, affecting both public health and food security. International groups have offered technical support,

but the country's political isolation hampers the effective implementation of these solutions.

International Cooperation and Human Rights

In 2024, North Korea continued to reject cooperation with international bodies on human rights issues. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations reported the lack of access to monitor conditions in the country, limiting their ability to document and respond to human rights violations.

International sanctions, primarily imposed in response to the country's nuclear program, had a significant impact on the economy and living conditions of its citizens, although the government continued to prioritize military objectives over basic population needs.

Conclusion

In 2024, North Korea remained an extreme example of repression and systematic human rights violations. The international community must maintain pressure to improve the human rights situation in the country while seeking solutions to alleviate the suffering of its population.

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South Korea

Introduction

In 2024, South Korea maintained its position as a democratic and economically advanced nation in East Asia. The country demonstrated significant progress in areas such as gender equality, technological innovation, and international diplomacy. However, challenges persisted, particularly concerning labour rights, social inequality, and refugee policies. This chapter examines the state of human rights in South Korea during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

South Korea continued to uphold its democratic principles, with free and fair elections and a robust legal framework for civil liberties. Freedom of expression and assembly were generally respected, though incidents of police overreach during protests raised concerns among human rights organizations.

The government strengthened measures to combat misinformation and online abuse, but some activists criticized these policies as potential threats to freedom of speech. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the importance of maintaining a balance between combating hate speech and preserving individual rights.

Labour and Economic Rights

Despite South Korea's economic success, labour rights remained a contentious issue in 2024. Workers in the gig economy and temporary positions faced precarious conditions, with limited access to benefits and job security. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) called for stronger protections for

these workers, urging the government to address wage gaps and unfair dismissal practices.

Labour unions played a crucial role in advocating for better working conditions, leading to increased strikes and negotiations in industries such as manufacturing and transportation. While the government responded with reforms to improve workplace protections, implementation remained uneven.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

South Korea made strides in promoting gender equality, with a growing number of women in leadership positions across the public and private sectors. The government introduced policies to reduce the gender pay gap and combat workplace harassment, which were well-received by advocacy groups.

However, issues such as domestic violence and digital sex crimes persisted. Women's rights organizations emphasized the need for stronger legal frameworks and increased support for survivors of gender-based violence.

Refugees and Migrants

South Korea's refugee policies continued to face criticism in 2024. The country granted asylum to a limited number of applicants, with many refugees experiencing long processing times and limited access to social services. Human Rights Watch (2024) called for reforms to ensure fair treatment and integration opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers.

Migrant workers, particularly those in agriculture and construction, faced exploitative working conditions. Activists advocated for the expansion of legal protections and improved oversight to address these issues.

Environmental Rights and Climate Change

South Korea reaffirmed its commitment to climate action in 2024, advancing policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to renewable energy. The government's Green New Deal initiative received international praise, but environmental activists criticized delays in phasing out coal and ensuring environmental justice for marginalized communities.

Urban areas faced challenges related to air quality and waste management, prompting calls for more robust enforcement of environmental regulations and community engagement.

International Cooperation

South Korea played a pivotal role in global human rights diplomacy, advocating for democracy and human rights in international forums. The country's engagement with neighbouring nations, including efforts to address North Korean human rights issues, underscored its commitment to regional stability and humanitarian causes.

Additionally, South Korea increased its contributions to international development programs, focusing on education, healthcare, and technological infrastructure in developing countries.

Conclusion

In 2024, South Korea demonstrated progress in various human rights areas, particularly gender equality and climate action. However, challenges related to labour rights, social inequality, and refugee policies persisted. Addressing these

issues will require sustained efforts and collaboration between the government, civil society, and international partners.

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Ivory Coast

Introduction

In 2024, Ivory Coast remained one of the most dynamic economies in West Africa, achieving significant progress in economic development and political stability. However, challenges related to human rights persisted, particularly in labour rights, social justice, and the protection of vulnerable groups. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Ivory Coast during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Ivory Coast maintained relative political stability in 2024, but tensions surrounding civil and political rights did not entirely disappear. According to Amnesty International (2024), restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly were reported, particularly in the context of protests against government policies.

The press faced limitations, with cases of journalists being detained for reporting on corruption and other sensitive issues. Human rights organizations emphasized the need to strengthen the legal framework to ensure media independence and the protection of activists.

Economic and Labour Rights

Ivory Coast's economy showed solid growth in 2024, driven by agriculture and infrastructure investment. However, labour conditions in key sectors such as cocoa and mining remained a concern. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) reported the prevalence of child labour and hazardous working conditions.

The government launched programs to combat child labour and improve working conditions, but implementation was slow and met resistance in some rural areas. Economic inequality also remained a significant challenge, disproportionately affecting women and rural communities.

Women's and Children's Rights

In 2024, Ivory Coast made progress in promoting women's rights, including initiatives to increase female representation in politics and combat gender-based violence. However, female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage remained common practices in certain regions, despite government efforts to eradicate them.

Children's rights also faced significant challenges. UNICEF (2024) reported that many children in rural areas lack access to basic education and are exposed to child labour. Government educational policies have improved enrolment rates, but the quality of education and school infrastructure remain insufficient in several regions.

Justice and Human Rights

Ivory Coast's judicial system continued to face challenges in terms of independence and equitable access. Cases of arbitrary detention and prolonged trials without adequate resolution were highlighted by international organizations. The National Human Rights Commission worked to promote social justice, but resource constraints limited its ability to address human rights violations.

Environment and Land Rights

Ivory Coast experienced increased deforestation and environmental degradation in 2024, driven by agricultural expansion and illegal mining. These activities particularly affected Indigenous communities, who often face forced displacement and loss of livelihoods.

The government implemented reforestation programs and international agreements to protect ecosystems, but corruption and uneven enforcement of environmental laws remain significant obstacles.

International Cooperation

Ivory Coast strengthened its cooperation with international partners and multilateral organizations in 2024, focusing on promoting human rights and sustainable development. Assistance from the European Union and the United Nations played a crucial role in judicial reform initiatives and environmental protection efforts.

Conclusion

In 2024, Ivory Coast made progress in areas such as economic development and the promotion of women's rights. However, challenges related to labour rights, social justice, and environmental protection persist. A comprehensive approach and strengthened institutions will be essential to ensuring the respect for human rights in the country.

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Croatia

Introduction

In 2024, Croatia continued to strengthen its position within the European Union, achieving progress in economic development, tourism, and digital transformation. However, challenges persisted in areas such as minority rights, judicial efficiency, and environmental sustainability. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Croatia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Croatia maintained a robust democratic framework in 2024, with free and fair elections and a strong commitment to freedom of expression and assembly. However, some incidents of police overreach during protests were reported, particularly in cases related to labour disputes and environmental activism.

The media landscape remained diverse, but concerns over the concentration of media ownership and political influence on public broadcasters continued to affect journalistic independence. Reporters Without Borders (2024) emphasized the importance of safeguarding press freedom to ensure accountability and transparency.

Minority Rights

The rights of ethnic minorities, particularly the Serbian and Roma communities, remained a focus of human rights organizations. Discrimination in access to education, housing, and employment persisted, despite government efforts to promote integration and equal opportunities.

The Council of Europe (2024) called for more robust measures to combat hate speech and ensure the social inclusion of marginalized groups. Progress was observed in the implementation of language rights for minority communities, but further action is needed to address systemic inequalities.

Economic and Labour Rights

Croatia's economy continued to recover in 2024, driven by a strong tourism sector and investment in digital infrastructure. However, labour rights issues, including precarious employment and wage disparities, remained significant challenges.

Trade unions advocated for fair wages and better working conditions, particularly in the tourism and construction industries. The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) urged the government to strengthen protections for workers in temporary and seasonal positions.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Croatia made progress in advancing gender equality in 2024, with increased representation of women in politics and leadership roles. The government introduced measures to address the gender pay gap and combat domestic violence, but implementation gaps and cultural resistance hindered their effectiveness.

Women's rights organizations highlighted the need for more comprehensive support services for survivors of gender-based violence and stronger enforcement of legal protections.

Environmental and Climate Issues

Croatia intensified its efforts to address climate change in 2024, implementing policies to promote renewable energy and sustainable tourism. However, challenges related to waste management and coastal pollution remained pressing concerns.

Environmental activists called for greater accountability in addressing illegal construction and overdevelopment in protected natural areas. The European Union provided funding to support green initiatives, but progress was uneven across regions.

Judicial Reform and Rule of Law

Judicial inefficiency and case backlogs continued to undermine public confidence in the legal system. Efforts to modernize the judiciary through digitalization and training programs showed promise, but further reforms are necessary to ensure timely and impartial justice.

The European Commission (2024) highlighted the importance of combating corruption and improving transparency in public administration to strengthen the rule of law.

International Cooperation

Croatia actively participated in regional and international initiatives in 2024, focusing on migration, security, and environmental protection. The country's leadership in the Adriatic-Ionian Initiative underscored its commitment to fostering regional cooperation and sustainable development.

Conclusion

In 2024, Croatia achieved notable progress in areas such as economic development and gender equality. However, challenges related to minority rights, labour protections, and environmental sustainability remain. Addressing these issues will require continued collaboration between the government, civil society, and international partners.

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Cuba

Introduction

In 2024, Cuba continued to face significant challenges in human rights, with ongoing restrictions on civil and political liberties and an economic crisis that exacerbated social inequalities. Despite some government efforts to improve economic conditions, the overall human rights situation on the island drew constant criticism from international organizations. This chapter analyses the state of human rights in Cuba during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Cuba maintained severe restrictions on civil and political rights in 2024. Freedom of expression, press, and association remained tightly controlled by the State. Independent journalists, activists, and political opponents faced harassment, arbitrary detention, and, in some cases, prolonged imprisonment.

Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted that the government used surveillance and repression tactics to silence its critics. Peaceful demonstrations, although limited, were suppressed by security forces, raising concerns about excessive use of force.

Economic and Social Rights

The economic crisis in Cuba continued to severely impact the population, with shortages of food, medicine, and other basic goods. Despite measures implemented by the government to encourage foreign investment and boost domestic production, the results were insufficient to alleviate the citizens' living conditions.

Economic inequality increased, particularly affecting rural communities and low-income families. According to the World Food Programme (WFP, 2024), a large portion of the population experienced food insecurity due to resource scarcity and dependence on imports.

Women's and Children's Rights

In 2024, the Cuban government promoted policies to improve gender equality, but significant challenges remained. Women continued to face gender-based violence, with limited resources for victims and insufficient judicial response.

Children's rights were also compromised due to the economic crisis, which affected access to quality education and essential healthcare services. UNICEF (2024) emphasized the need to strengthen support programs for children in vulnerable situations.

Religious Freedom and Conscience

Although the Cuban Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, religious communities reported restrictions and government surveillance. Religious organizations faced limitations in conducting activities outside authorized places of worship, hindering their ability to support needy communities.

Environment and Climate Change

Cuba advanced its climate commitments in 2024, implementing policies to promote renewable energy and climate change adaptation. However, the country faced significant challenges related to disaster management, particularly hurricanes and prolonged droughts.

Coastal communities were the most affected, facing displacement and loss of livelihoods. Environmental activists urged the government to intensify efforts to protect vulnerable ecosystems and ensure community resilience.

International Cooperation

Cuba strengthened its participation in international forums, particularly on health and climate change issues. The country continued to send medical brigades to developing nations, reinforcing its reputation as a supportive global actor.

However, international economic sanctions continued to limit the country's access to essential resources, exacerbating internal economic and social difficulties.

Conclusion

In 2024, Cuba faced significant human rights challenges, including restrictions on fundamental freedoms and a persistent economic crisis. Despite some progress in specific areas such as health and climate change, renewed commitment is needed to address inequalities and ensure the basic rights of all citizens.

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Denmark

Introduction

In 2024, Denmark continued to be recognized as a global leader in human rights, social equality, and sustainability. As a member of the European Union and a signatory to multiple international human rights conventions, the country consistently worked towards upholding democratic values and ensuring the welfare of its citizens. This chapter examines Denmark's human rights achievements and ongoing challenges during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Denmark maintained a strong commitment to civil and political rights in 2024, with a transparent and accountable government and robust protections for freedom of expression, assembly, and the press. The country ranked among the highest globally in indices measuring democratic governance and political stability.

However, human rights organizations raised concerns about the treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Amnesty International (2024) criticized certain policies that limited access to asylum and promoted the deportation of individuals to unsafe countries. These measures were part of Denmark's broader efforts to manage migration, which sparked debates about balancing national security and humanitarian obligations.

Economic and Social Rights

Denmark continued to excel in ensuring economic and social rights for its citizens, supported by a comprehensive welfare state. Universal healthcare, free

education, and strong social protections contributed to low levels of inequality and high standards of living.

Despite these achievements, gaps persisted for marginalized groups, particularly ethnic minorities and refugees. Employment discrimination and social exclusion were identified as areas requiring further attention. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) recommended targeted initiatives to promote workplace inclusion and equal opportunities.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Denmark remained a global leader in gender equality, with policies promoting equal pay, parental leave, and women's representation in leadership roles. The government introduced additional measures in 2024 to combat gender-based violence and support survivors.

Although significant progress has been made, challenges such as the gender pay gap in certain industries and underrepresentation in corporate leadership persisted. Women's rights organizations called for enhanced monitoring and enforcement of equality standards.

Environmental and Climate Action

Denmark intensified its efforts to address climate change in 2024, advancing its ambitious goals for carbon neutrality by 2050. The government expanded renewable energy projects, including offshore wind farms, and introduced stricter regulations on emissions.

Environmental activists emphasized the importance of addressing biodiversity loss and improving waste management practices. The European Union's Green

Deal provided additional resources to support Denmark's sustainability initiatives.

Refugees and Migration

Denmark's migration policies continued to draw criticism in 2024. The government's stringent stance on immigration, including plans to process asylum applications in third countries, raised ethical and legal concerns. Human Rights Watch (2024) called for reforms to align these policies with international human rights standards.

Despite these controversies, Denmark remained active in providing humanitarian aid to conflict-affected regions and supporting global initiatives to address root causes of migration.

International Cooperation

Denmark played a leading role in promoting human rights and sustainable development on the international stage. The country's financial contributions to development aid exceeded the United Nations target of 0.7% of gross national income, focusing on education, health, and climate resilience in developing nations.

Denmark also strengthened its partnerships within the European Union to advocate for democracy and human rights globally.

Conclusion

In 2024, Denmark upheld its reputation as a champion of human rights and sustainability, with significant progress in gender equality and climate action. However, challenges related to migration policies and social inclusion for

marginalized groups persisted. Addressing these issues will require continued efforts to balance national interests with international obligations and humanitarian principles.

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Ecuador

Introduction

In 2024, Ecuador faced a combination of progress in human rights and significant challenges, particularly in areas such as security, Indigenous community rights, and environmental protection. Despite government efforts to implement reforms and strengthen democracy, issues like violence, corruption, and social inequality persisted.

Civil and Political Rights

The civil and political rights situation in Ecuador was marked by tensions over freedom of expression and the right to protest. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch (2024) reported disproportionate use of force by security forces during social demonstrations, particularly those led by Indigenous communities and labour movements.

Freedom of the press faced challenges, with reports of intimidation and attacks against journalists investigating corruption and organized crime. Although the government pledged to protect the media and guarantee its independence, progress in this regard was limited.

Economic and Social Rights

Ecuador experienced significant economic inequalities in 2024, with notable disparities between urban and rural areas. While major cities showed some economic recovery after the pandemic, rural communities continued to face high levels of poverty and limited access to basic services such as education and healthcare.

The government launched social programs aimed at reducing inequality, but implementation faced issues due to corruption and inadequate resources. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) emphasized the need for more inclusive and sustainable policies.

Rights of Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities in Ecuador played a key role in defending human rights in 2024, particularly on issues related to environmental protection and natural resources. These communities led protests against extractive projects on ancestral lands, demanding greater participation in decision-making and respect for their cultural and territorial rights.

Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the violence and criminalization faced by Indigenous leaders for their activism, underscoring the need to ensure their safety and autonomy.

Environment and Climate Change

Ecuador continued to be a country of great biodiversity but faced significant challenges related to deforestation, illegal mining, and water pollution. Despite international commitments to combat climate change, extractive activities in sensitive areas such as the Amazon remained a concern.

The government implemented policies to promote energy transition and the conservation of key ecosystems, but results were limited due to resource constraints and pressure from economic interests.

Security and Organized Crime

In 2024, security in Ecuador was severely impacted by rising violence and organized crime, particularly in coastal regions. Drug trafficking and gang activities led to an increase in homicide rates, prompting the government to declare states of emergency on several occasions.

Repressive measures such as the deployment of military forces were criticized by human rights organizations, which called for more comprehensive strategies based on prevention and social justice.

International Cooperation

Ecuador strengthened its cooperation with international organizations and neighbouring countries to address issues such as drug trafficking and climate change. Additionally, the country received support from the international community to improve its health and education systems in rural areas.

Conclusion

In 2024, Ecuador achieved significant progress in areas such as environmental protection and Indigenous rights but faced major challenges in terms of security, corruption, and social inequality. A more inclusive and sustainable approach will be key to ensuring respect for human rights throughout the country.

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Egypt

Introduction

In 2024, Egypt faced a complex human rights landscape marked by government efforts to promote economic development alongside significant restrictions on civil liberties and political freedoms. Challenges related to freedom of expression, gender equality, and judicial independence remained central concerns for national and international stakeholders.

Civil and Political Rights

Egypt's civil and political rights were heavily restricted in 2024, with widespread reports of arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, and restrictions on freedom of expression. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of journalists, human rights defenders, and political opponents facing harassment, detention, and unfair trials.

The government's use of anti-terrorism laws to silence dissent continued to draw criticism from international organizations. Public protests remained rare due to a strict legal framework requiring government approval for gatherings, which limited citizens' ability to exercise their right to peaceful assembly.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite challenges, Egypt achieved some progress in economic development, with major infrastructure projects and investments in renewable energy contributing to growth. However, high levels of poverty and unemployment persisted, particularly in rural areas.

The government expanded social protection programs to support vulnerable populations, but gaps in access to quality education, healthcare, and housing remained significant. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) emphasized the need for targeted strategies to reduce inequality and improve social mobility.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Egypt made incremental progress in promoting gender equality in 2024, with increased representation of women in government and initiatives to combat gender-based violence. However, women continued to face systemic barriers in accessing economic opportunities and political participation.

According to Amnesty International (2024), sexual harassment and violence against women remained widespread, with insufficient legal protections and social stigmas preventing many survivors from seeking justice. Advocacy groups called for stronger enforcement of existing laws and greater investment in support services for victims.

Freedom of Religion and Minority Rights

Religious minorities in Egypt, including Coptic Christians, reported ongoing discrimination and attacks on places of worship. Although the government implemented measures to promote interfaith dialogue and protect religious freedoms, incidents of sectarian violence underscored the need for more comprehensive policies.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (2024) highlighted the importance of addressing the underlying social and economic inequalities that fuel religious tensions.

Environment and Climate Action

Egypt intensified its climate action efforts in 2024, focusing on water management, renewable energy, and combating desertification. The government's leadership in hosting the previous COP27 summit provided momentum for implementing sustainable development initiatives.

However, environmental activists raised concerns about the impact of large-scale infrastructure projects on ecosystems and communities. International organizations called for stronger regulatory frameworks to balance development with environmental conservation.

Judicial Independence and Rule of Law

Judicial independence remained a challenge in Egypt, with concerns over the influence of the executive branch on legal proceedings. High-profile cases involving political detainees and human rights defenders highlighted systemic issues in ensuring fair trials and accountability.

The European Union (2024) urged Egypt to implement reforms to strengthen the judiciary and uphold the rule of law, emphasizing the importance of protecting fundamental rights.

International Cooperation

Egypt continued to play a key role in regional and international diplomacy, particularly in mediating conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa. The country's strategic location and leadership in addressing climate change contributed to its prominence on the global stage.

At the same time, Egypt's human rights record remained a point of contention in its relations with Western nations, with calls for greater accountability and alignment with international standards.

Conclusion

In 2024, Egypt achieved notable progress in economic development and climate action but faced persistent challenges in civil liberties, gender equality, and judicial independence. Addressing these issues will require a holistic approach that prioritizes human rights and social justice alongside economic growth.

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El Salvador

Introduction

In 2024, El Salvador faced a landscape of contrasts in human rights, with significant progress in public security but also international criticism over the erosion of civil and political liberties. This chapter examines the country's achievements and challenges during the year, focusing on the state of human rights.

Civil and Political Rights

The government of El Salvador implemented strict measures to combat organized crime and gang violence, resulting in a notable decrease in homicide rates. However, these security policies raised concerns about human rights violations. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of arbitrary detentions, mistreatment of detainees, and lack of due process.

Freedom of expression was also under pressure, with reports of harassment of journalists and restrictions on media outlets critical of the government. International organizations urged authorities to ensure a safe environment for the press and to respect media independence.

Economic and Social Rights

Economically, El Salvador experienced moderate growth, driven by remittances and infrastructure projects. However, social inequality and limited access to basic services remained significant challenges, especially in rural areas.

The government launched programs to improve access to education and healthcare, but implementation was uneven and hindered by a lack of resources and corruption. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), strengthening social policies is essential to reducing inequality and ensuring equitable resource distribution.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in El Salvador faced high levels of gender-based violence in 2024, with femicides continuing to be a grave issue. Despite government initiatives to combat this phenomenon, a lack of resources and weak judicial responses limited their effectiveness. Women's rights organizations called for greater investment in shelters and prevention programs.

Children's rights were also a major concern, with high levels of child poverty and school dropout rates in marginalized communities. UNICEF (2024) emphasized the need to strengthen educational and child protection policies.

Public Security and Human Rights

El Salvador was praised for its success in reducing gang-related violence, but the repressive approach of its security policies generated controversy. Prolonged states of emergency allowed for mass detentions, and human rights organizations reported abuses, including torture and enforced disappearances.

Amnesty International (2024) urged the government to balance crime-fighting efforts with respect for fundamental rights, emphasizing the importance of ensuring due process and accountability.

Environment and Climate Change

El Salvador continued to face significant challenges related to climate change, including natural disasters such as hurricanes and droughts. These events exacerbated issues of food insecurity and internal displacement, disproportionately affecting rural and vulnerable communities.

The government implemented reforestation and watershed management programs, but resource limitations constrained their reach. Environmental organizations called for greater international cooperation to address these challenges.

International Cooperation

In 2024, El Salvador strengthened its cooperation with international organizations in areas such as climate change, security, and economic development. Despite criticism of its human rights policies, the country received technical and financial support for social and environmental projects.

Conclusion

In 2024, El Salvador made significant progress in public security and economic development but faced persistent challenges in civil rights, gender equality, and social justice. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach that combines respect for human rights with inclusive and sustainable policies.

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United Arab Emirates

Introduction

In 2024, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) maintained its reputation as a regional leader in economic development and innovation while facing ongoing scrutiny over its human rights record. Key issues included restrictions on freedom of expression, labour rights for migrant workers, and women's rights. This chapter provides an overview of human rights in the UAE during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The UAE continued to impose strict limitations on civil and political freedoms in 2024. Freedom of expression and association were heavily regulated, with laws prohibiting criticism of the government, ruling families, and policies. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported cases of activists, journalists, and political dissidents facing arbitrary detention and unfair trials under broad anti-terrorism and cybercrime laws.

The government employed advanced surveillance technologies to monitor citizens and residents, raising concerns about privacy rights and the suppression of dissent. International organizations called for reforms to ensure greater transparency and accountability in governance.

Labour Rights and Migrant Workers

Migrant workers, who constitute a majority of the UAE's labour force, continued to face exploitation and precarious working conditions. Reports highlighted issues such as unpaid wages, long working hours, and inadequate living

accommodations. The kafala (sponsorship) system, although reformed in recent years, still left many workers vulnerable to abuse by employers.

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) emphasized the need for stronger enforcement of labour laws and the establishment of mechanisms to protect workers' rights. The UAE government implemented measures to improve working conditions, including the introduction of a minimum wage for domestic workers, but challenges remained in ensuring compliance.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

The UAE made progress in advancing women's rights in 2024, with increased representation of women in government and leadership roles. The country introduced initiatives to support women entrepreneurs and promote gender equality in the workplace.

However, systemic issues persisted, including discriminatory laws related to personal status, inheritance, and citizenship. Amnesty International (2024) called for comprehensive reforms to eliminate gender-based discrimination and strengthen protections against domestic violence.

Freedom of Religion and Minority Rights

The UAE maintained its image as a tolerant society with policies promoting interfaith dialogue and religious coexistence. While non-Muslims were generally free to practice their faith, restrictions remained on proselytization and public worship outside designated areas.

Religious minorities faced challenges in accessing places of worship and obtaining permits for religious activities. Advocacy groups urged the

government to expand religious freedoms and ensure equal treatment for all faiths.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

As the host of COP28 in 2024, the UAE demonstrated its commitment to addressing global climate challenges. The country expanded investments in renewable energy, particularly solar power, and launched initiatives to promote sustainable urban development.

Despite these efforts, environmental activists raised concerns about the UAE's reliance on fossil fuels and the environmental impact of large-scale construction projects. International observers encouraged the UAE to align its domestic policies with its global climate commitments.

International Cooperation

The UAE played an active role in regional and international diplomacy, focusing on trade, security, and humanitarian aid. The country's participation in global initiatives, such as climate action and pandemic response, underscored its ambition to enhance its international standing.

However, human rights organizations continued to call on the UAE to address domestic rights issues to align its practices with international standards.

Conclusion

In 2024, the UAE achieved notable progress in economic development, gender equality, and climate action, but significant human rights challenges remained. Addressing these issues will require a balance between maintaining security and promoting fundamental freedoms, labour protections, and social equity.

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Eritrea

Introduction

In 2024, Eritrea continued to face severe human rights challenges, with an authoritarian government severely restricting civil and political freedoms. The country remained isolated in the international community due to its record of repression and lack of commitment to democratic norms. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Eritrea during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Eritrea maintained strict limitations on civil and political freedoms in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), President Isaias Afwerki's government continued to operate without an implemented constitution, national elections, or an independent judiciary. Repression of dissent was widespread, with reports of arbitrary arrests, prolonged detentions without trial, and enforced disappearances.

Freedom of expression and the press was virtually non-existent, with all media controlled by the state. Journalists attempting to report on sensitive issues faced imprisonment or exile. Additionally, restrictions on freedom of association prevented any form of independent political or social activism.

Mandatory Military Service

Mandatory military service, often described as a system of forced labour, remained widespread in Eritrea. Recruited youths faced abusive conditions, with indefinite service periods and insufficient wages. Amnesty International (2024)

noted that this policy significantly contributed to the mass exodus of refugees from the country.

Families' attempts to prevent their children from being conscripted resulted in severe reprisals, including exorbitant fines and arrests of relatives.

Economic and Social Rights

Eritrea's economy remained largely underdeveloped in 2024, with high poverty levels and limited access to basic services such as education and healthcare. International sanctions and political isolation exacerbated these conditions, particularly affecting rural communities.

The government maintained strict control over the economy, limiting private enterprise and leaving most of the population dependent on informal or subsistence agricultural work. According to the World Food Programme (WFP, 2024), food insecurity remained a critical concern, worsened by drought and inefficient agricultural practices.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in Eritrea faced discrimination in both public and private spheres. While the government officially promoted gender equality, traditional practices and state policies, such as mandatory military service, disproportionately affected women. Many women conscripted into the military reported sexual abuse and exploitation.

Children's rights were also severely compromised, with reports of minors being recruited into military service and a lack of access to quality education in rural

areas. UNICEF (2024) emphasized the urgent need for reforms to protect children and ensure their right to education and a safe environment.

International Cooperation

Eritrea remained an isolated nation in 2024, with strained relationships with much of the international community. However, the country maintained close ties with some regional allies, enabling limited cooperation in areas such as trade and security.

International sanctions continued to impact the country, but the government dismissed criticism and denied access to human rights observers, making it difficult to assess and address human rights violations.

Conclusion

In 2024, Eritrea remained one of the most repressive countries in the world, with deteriorating economic and social conditions and a continued lack of basic freedoms. The international community must intensify efforts to pressure the Eritrean government to implement democratic reforms and respect fundamental human rights.

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Slovakia

Introduction

In 2024, Slovakia upheld its democratic principles while navigating challenges related to minority rights, judicial reforms, and socio-economic inequalities. As a member of the European Union, the country continued to align its policies with European human rights standards, though issues of corruption and political polarization occasionally hindered progress. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Slovakia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Slovakia maintained a robust framework for civil and political rights in 2024, ensuring free and fair elections and protecting freedom of expression and assembly. However, political polarization and disinformation campaigns occasionally undermined public trust in democratic institutions.

The media landscape remained pluralistic, but journalists faced increasing threats and harassment, particularly when reporting on corruption or organized crime. Reporters Without Borders (2024) emphasized the importance of enhancing protections for journalists to safeguard press freedom.

Minority Rights

Minority rights, particularly for the Roma community, remained a significant challenge in Slovakia. Many Roma continued to face systemic discrimination in access to education, employment, and housing. The European Commission (2024) called for stronger measures to promote social inclusion and combat segregation in schools.

Progress was observed in the recognition of language rights for ethnic minorities, but further efforts are needed to ensure equal opportunities and representation for all groups.

Judicial Reform and Rule of Law

Judicial reforms remained a priority for Slovakia in 2024, with efforts to increase transparency and reduce case backlogs. The government introduced digitalization initiatives and training programs for judges to enhance efficiency and accountability in the legal system.

Despite these efforts, public confidence in the judiciary was undermined by high-profile corruption cases and perceived political interference. Transparency International (2024) stressed the need for continued reforms to strengthen the rule of law and combat corruption.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Slovakia made strides in advancing gender equality in 2024, with policies aimed at reducing the gender pay gap and increasing women's participation in politics. However, gender-based violence remained a persistent issue, with insufficient resources for survivors and gaps in legal protections.

Women's rights organizations advocated for more comprehensive support systems, including shelters and counselling services, as well as stricter enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.

Environmental and Climate Action

Slovakia intensified its climate action efforts in 2024, focusing on renewable energy projects and sustainable urban development. The government

committed to meeting European Union climate targets, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning to a circular economy.

However, environmental activists criticized delays in phasing out coal and addressing deforestation. The European Union provided funding to support Slovakia's green initiatives, but implementation remained uneven across regions.

International Cooperation

Slovakia played an active role in regional and international efforts to promote human rights and sustainable development. The country's contributions to EU initiatives on migration, climate change, and security highlighted its commitment to multilateral cooperation.

Additionally, Slovakia strengthened its partnerships with neighbouring countries to address cross-border challenges, including trafficking and environmental conservation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Slovakia demonstrated progress in areas such as judicial reform, gender equality, and climate action. However, challenges related to minority rights, corruption, and social inclusion persisted. Addressing these issues will require sustained efforts and collaboration between the government, civil society, and international partners.

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Slovenia

Introduction

In 2024, Slovenia solidified its position as a country committed to human rights, environmental sustainability, and democratic values. However, the nation faced challenges in areas such as minority inclusion, gender inequality, and labour rights protection. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Slovenia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Slovenia maintained a stable and democratic political environment, ensuring free and fair elections and protecting civil liberties. However, concerns were raised about political polarization and the impact of misinformation on public discourse.

Press freedom in Slovenia remained strong, although journalists faced challenges related to political pressure and legal threats. Reporters Without Borders (2024) urged the government to strengthen protections for independent media and ensure a safe environment for journalists.

Minority Rights

While Slovenia has made progress in protecting the rights of minorities, particularly Hungarian and Italian communities, other groups, such as the Roma, continued to face discrimination in education, employment, and housing. The European Commission (2024) recommended more inclusive policies and targeted programs to improve the integration of these communities.

Recognition and protection of linguistic rights for minorities persisted, but local organizations emphasized the need for greater implementation of practical measures to ensure equal opportunities.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Slovenia made strides in promoting gender equality, with initiatives to reduce the gender pay gap and increase women's representation in politics and leadership roles. However, gender-based violence remained a persistent issue, with limited resources for victims and an inadequate judicial response.

Women's rights organizations highlighted the importance of strengthening prevention programs, increasing funding for shelters, and ensuring effective enforcement of laws against gender-based violence.

Labour Rights and Economy

Slovenia's economy showed moderate growth in 2024, driven by investment in technology and sustainable energy. However, labour rights faced challenges related to precarious work and the conditions of migrant workers.

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) urged Slovenia to enhance labour inspections and ensure that employers comply with international standards for fair and safe work.

Climate Action and Sustainability

Slovenia continued to lead efforts in environmental sustainability, focusing on transitioning to renewable energy and conserving its natural resources. In 2024, the government implemented new policies to reduce carbon emissions and promote a circular economy.

However, environmental activists noted delays in phasing out fossil fuels and called for greater ambition in implementing climate policies. The European Union supported Slovenia with funding for key green projects, though results were mixed.

International Cooperation

Slovenia played an active role in regional and international cooperation, promoting respect for human rights and sustainable development. The country participated in European Union initiatives to address migration, climate change, and security.

Additionally, Slovenia strengthened its relations with neighbouring countries to tackle cross-border issues, such as water management and biodiversity protection.

Conclusion

In 2024, Slovenia advanced in areas such as climate action, gender equality, and the protection of civil rights. However, challenges related to minority rights, labour rights, and gender-based violence persist. Addressing these issues will require ongoing collaboration between the government, civil society, and international partners.

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Spain

Introduction

In 2024, Spain remained committed to upholding human rights and democratic values while addressing challenges related to economic inequality, regional autonomy, and gender-based violence. As a key member of the European Union, Spain continued to play an influential role in promoting international cooperation and human rights globally. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Spain during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Spain upheld strong protections for civil and political rights in 2024, maintaining a vibrant democracy with free and fair elections. Freedom of expression and assembly were generally respected, though tensions occasionally arose during protests related to regional independence movements.

The media landscape remained diverse and dynamic, but journalists faced challenges, including legal pressures and threats while reporting on organized crime and political corruption. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted the importance of safeguarding press freedom and ensuring the safety of media professionals.

Minority and Regional Rights

The issue of regional autonomy remained a central topic in Spain, particularly in Catalonia and the Basque Country. While the government engaged in dialogue to address demands for greater autonomy, tensions persisted over constitutional limitations and calls for independence.

Ethnic minorities, including the Roma community, continued to face discrimination in access to education, housing, and employment. The European Commission (2024) recommended stronger policies to promote social inclusion and combat systemic inequalities affecting these groups.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Spain made significant progress in promoting gender equality in 2024, with policies aimed at reducing the gender pay gap and increasing women's representation in leadership roles. However, gender-based violence remained a critical issue, with reports of domestic violence and femicides drawing national attention.

The government introduced enhanced measures to protect survivors and prosecute perpetrators, but women's rights organizations called for more comprehensive support systems and public awareness campaigns to address the root causes of gender-based violence.

Economic and Social Rights

Spain's economy showed signs of recovery in 2024, driven by growth in the tourism sector and investments in renewable energy. However, unemployment and income inequality persisted, particularly affecting younger populations and marginalized communities.

The government expanded social welfare programs to address these challenges, but gaps in access to affordable housing and healthcare remained pressing issues. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) emphasized the need for targeted strategies to reduce economic disparities and improve social mobility.

Climate Action and Sustainability

Spain intensified its efforts to combat climate change in 2024, focusing on renewable energy projects, water conservation, and sustainable agriculture. The country remained a leader in solar and wind energy production, aligning its policies with European Union climate goals.

Environmental activists urged the government to accelerate the transition away from fossil fuels and strengthen protections for biodiversity. The European Union provided funding to support Spain's green initiatives, though implementation challenges persisted.

International Cooperation

Spain continued to be an active participant in international efforts to promote human rights, peace, and development. The country played a leading role in addressing migration issues within the European Union and contributed to global humanitarian initiatives.

Spain also strengthened its diplomatic ties with Latin America, leveraging cultural and historical connections to promote trade, education, and human rights.

Conclusion

In 2024, Spain demonstrated progress in areas such as gender equality, climate action, and regional dialogue. However, ongoing challenges related to economic inequality, minority rights, and gender-based violence require continued attention. Collaborative efforts between the government, civil society, and international partners will be essential to achieving these goals.

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United States of America

Introduction

In 2024, the United States maintained its global leadership in promoting human rights and democracy while grappling with internal challenges related to racial inequality, women's rights, and political polarization. This chapter examines the state of human rights in the United States during the year, highlighting progress and areas of concern.

Civil and Political Rights

The United States continued to guarantee strong protections for civil liberties, such as freedom of expression, press, and assembly. However, political polarization and increasing levels of misinformation exacerbated social divisions and heightened tensions in public discourse.

Voting rights remained a contentious issue, with restrictions in some states limiting access to the ballot box for certain communities. Organizations such as Human Rights Watch (2024) emphasized the need to ensure equal access to voting for all citizens.

LGBTQ+ rights advanced in several states, but restrictive laws in others limited access to medical and educational services for LGBTQ+ individuals. This reflected nationwide divisions regarding minority rights.

Racial and Minority Rights

Systemic racism and racial inequality continued to impact African American, Latino, Indigenous, and Asian communities. Disproportionate incarceration

rates, excessive use of police force, and disparities in access to education and healthcare were prominent issues in 2024.

The federal government implemented new policies to address racial justice, including expanding community programs and reforming the criminal justice system. However, organizations like the NAACP noted that progress was insufficient to combat historical inequalities.

Gender Equality and Reproductive Rights

In 2024, reproductive rights were intensely debated, with several states implementing further restrictions on abortion following the 2022 Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*. This deepened divisions between states with restrictive laws and those enhancing abortion access.

Women faced challenges in achieving pay equity and representation in leadership positions, despite initiatives to reduce the gender gap. Women's rights organizations called for stricter enforcement of equal pay laws and stronger protections for survivors of gender-based violence.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite economic recovery following the pandemic, economic inequalities persisted in 2024, with significant income gaps between the wealthiest and poorest communities. Poverty rates disproportionately affected rural areas and ethnic minorities.

Access to healthcare remained a critical issue, particularly in states that did not expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), the United States must

strengthen its social policies to ensure equitable access to healthcare, housing, and education.

Climate Change and Environment

The United States reinforced its climate commitments in 2024, leading international initiatives to reduce emissions and promote the transition to clean energy. Domestically, incentives were implemented to expand solar and wind energy and reduce industrial emissions.

Environmental activists emphasized the need to accelerate the shift away from fossil fuels and protect vulnerable ecosystems. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) faced legal challenges in implementing climate regulations, reflecting political divisions over climate action.

Criminal Justice and Prisoners' Rights

The U.S. criminal justice system continued to face criticism for high incarceration rates, particularly among African American and Latino communities. Prison conditions and the lack of access to adequate legal resources for detainees were recurring issues.

Several states advanced criminal justice reforms, including the elimination of cash bail and the reduction of mandatory minimum sentences. However, human rights advocates highlighted the need for broader and more structural reforms.

International Cooperation

The United States remained a key player in global efforts to promote human rights, providing financial and technical support for development, democracy, and human rights initiatives in developing countries.

However, criticisms of domestic human rights policies weakened its moral authority on the international stage. International organizations urged the United States to align its internal practices with the standards it promotes globally.

Conclusion

In 2024, the United States made progress in areas such as climate change and criminal justice reform, but significant challenges persisted regarding racial inequality, reproductive rights, and economic disparities. Collaboration among federal and state governments, civil society, and international partners will be crucial to addressing these issues and strengthening human rights across the nation.

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Estonia

Introduction

In 2024, Estonia demonstrated its continued commitment to upholding human rights, fostering digital innovation, and promoting democratic values. As a leading member of the European Union and a pioneer in e-governance, Estonia faced challenges related to the integration of minorities, combating disinformation, and addressing gender inequality. This chapter explores the human rights landscape in Estonia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Estonia maintained strong protections for civil and political rights, with free and fair elections, an independent judiciary, and a vibrant civil society. Freedom of expression and the press were respected, with Estonia consistently ranking high on global press freedom indices.

However, the country faced challenges with online disinformation campaigns and cyber threats, which posed risks to democratic processes. Reporters Without Borders (2024) emphasized the need for enhanced digital security measures to protect freedom of the press and combat misinformation.

Minority Rights

The integration of the Russian-speaking minority remained a significant issue in Estonia. Although progress has been made in language education and social inclusion, disparities persisted in employment opportunities and political representation. The European Commission (2024) recommended further efforts to promote bilingual education and ensure equal access to public services.

Discrimination against other minority groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals, also garnered attention. Activists called for stronger anti-discrimination laws and public awareness campaigns to combat prejudice.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Estonia made progress in advancing gender equality in 2024, with initiatives to close the gender pay gap and increase women's participation in leadership roles. However, women continued to face challenges in achieving full economic and social equality.

Gender-based violence remained a concern, with women's rights organizations advocating for more robust support systems for survivors and stricter enforcement of existing laws. Estonia also worked to align its policies with European Union standards on gender equality.

Digital Rights and Privacy

As a global leader in digital governance, Estonia continued to prioritize the protection of digital rights and online privacy. The country's advanced e-governance system provided citizens with access to digital services, enhancing transparency and efficiency in public administration.

However, the increasing reliance on digital systems raised concerns about data security and privacy. International watchdogs recommended ongoing investments in cybersecurity to safeguard citizens' personal information.

Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

Estonia intensified its efforts to address climate change in 2024, focusing on transitioning to renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The

government introduced policies to promote energy efficiency in buildings and expand wind and solar energy projects.

Despite these initiatives, environmental activists urged the government to accelerate its transition away from fossil fuels and enhance biodiversity conservation efforts. Support from the European Union played a critical role in funding Estonia's green initiatives.

International Cooperation

Estonia remained an active participant in international efforts to promote democracy, human rights, and digital innovation. The country contributed to European Union policies on cybersecurity, migration, and climate action, highlighting its commitment to multilateral cooperation.

Estonia also strengthened its ties with neighbouring Baltic and Nordic countries to address regional challenges, including energy security and environmental protection.

Conclusion

In 2024, Estonia demonstrated significant progress in digital governance, gender equality, and climate action. However, challenges related to minority integration, online disinformation, and gender-based violence require sustained attention. Continued collaboration with the European Union and regional partners will be essential to addressing these issues and furthering Estonia's commitment to human rights.

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Eswatini

Introduction

In 2024, Eswatini faced significant human rights challenges marked by restrictions on civil liberties, political tensions, and socioeconomic inequalities. As one of the last absolute monarchies in the world, the country continued to draw international criticism for its lack of democratic reforms and treatment of human rights activists. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Eswatini during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The government of Eswatini maintained strict restrictions on civil and political rights. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), freedoms of expression, assembly, and association were severely curtailed. Pro-democracy protests faced violent repression, with reports of excessive use of force by security forces.

Activists and civil society leaders demanding political reforms faced harassment, arbitrary arrests, and, in some cases, enforced disappearances. Laws prohibiting political parties remained in place, preventing any form of organized opposition to the regime.

Economic and Social Rights

Poverty and economic inequality remained widespread issues in Eswatini in 2024. Much of the population relied on subsistence farming and struggled to access basic services such as healthcare and education. According to the World

Food Programme (WFP, 2024), food insecurity worsened due to adverse climate conditions and inadequate infrastructure.

The government implemented some social assistance programs, but their reach was limited by resource constraints and inefficient administration. Corruption was also identified as a barrier to economic and social development.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in Eswatini faced systemic discrimination both in law and practice. Customary laws that subordinate women in matters of inheritance, marriage, and property ownership continued to be enforced, limiting their rights and economic opportunities.

Gender-based violence remained a serious issue, with high rates of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Women's rights organizations emphasized the need to strengthen existing laws and provide greater protection for survivors.

Children's rights were also compromised, with high rates of school dropouts and child labour in rural communities. UNICEF (2024) stressed the importance of implementing inclusive policies to ensure that all children have access to education and a safe environment.

Public Health and HIV/AIDS

Eswatini continued to face a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, remaining one of the most affected countries globally. While the government and international organizations expanded antiretroviral treatment programs, efforts to prevent new infections were hampered by stigma and resource shortages.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic disproportionately impacted women and girls, who faced higher risks due to gender inequality and sexual violence. Awareness and education campaigns were critical in addressing these issues.

International Cooperation

Despite its internal challenges, Eswatini received international support to address issues related to health, economic development, and human rights. Organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union urged the government to implement democratic reforms and adhere to international human rights standards.

However, Eswatini's authorities often rejected international criticism, making effective cooperation on governance and human rights issues difficult.

Conclusion

In 2024, Eswatini grappled with a combination of issues related to civil liberties, economic inequalities, and the lack of democratic reforms. The international community must continue to pressure the government to implement structural changes that promote human rights and improve the quality of life for its population.

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Ethiopia

Introduction

In 2024, Ethiopia continued to face significant human rights challenges marked by internal conflicts, mass displacements, and concerns over civil and political liberties. Despite government efforts to promote stability and development, ethnic tensions and governance issues persisted. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Ethiopia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Ethiopia maintained substantial restrictions on civil and political rights in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the government cracked down on critics, activists, and journalists, using anti-terrorism and national security laws to justify arbitrary detentions and prosecutions.

Press freedom remained limited, with reports of intimidation and attacks against independent journalists. Additionally, restrictions on peaceful protests prevented many citizens from voicing their concerns on political and social issues.

Internal Conflicts and Displacements

Despite the 2022 peace agreement to end the conflict in Tigray, ethnic tensions and violence continued to affect other regions of the country, including Oromia and Amhara. Ethnic violence led to mass displacements, leaving millions homeless and reliant on humanitarian aid.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024) reported that Ethiopia hosted one of the largest populations of internally displaced persons in the world, with humanitarian conditions remaining critical.

Economic and Social Rights

Ethiopia's economy showed signs of recovery after years of conflict, with progress in agriculture and infrastructure development. However, poverty and unemployment persisted, particularly in rural communities.

Access to basic services such as education and healthcare remained uneven. According to the World Food Programme (WFP, 2024), food insecurity affected millions of people due to conflicts, recurring droughts, and inadequate infrastructure.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in Ethiopia faced high levels of discrimination and gender-based violence. Child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) remained common practices in some regions, despite efforts by the government and international organizations to eradicate them.

Children's rights were also compromised, with reports of child labour and recruitment of minors into armed groups. UNICEF (2024) emphasized the need to expand educational and child protection programs in regions most affected by conflict.

Climate Action and Environment

Ethiopia continued to experience the impacts of climate change, including unpredictable rainfall patterns, prolonged droughts, and soil degradation. These

issues exacerbated food insecurity and limited the country's ability to achieve sustainable development.

The government launched initiatives to promote reforestation and sustainable water management, but limited resources and urgent priorities stemming from internal conflicts hindered their implementation.

International Cooperation

Ethiopia received significant support from the international community to address its humanitarian and development challenges. Organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union collaborated with the government to provide humanitarian assistance and promote political dialogue.

However, international organizations criticized the government for its lack of transparency and resistance to investigations into human rights violations, making accountability efforts more difficult.

Conclusion

In 2024, Ethiopia made progress in some areas of economic development and conflict management, but major challenges remained concerning civil liberties, ethnic violence, and poverty. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach that combines inclusive governance, international cooperation, and respect for fundamental human rights.

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Philippines

Introduction

In 2024, the Philippines faced a mixed human rights landscape, with progress in economic development and social rights but persistent concerns over civil liberties, violence against activists, and justice for past abuses. This chapter examines the state of human rights in the Philippines during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The Philippine government faced criticism for its restrictions on civil liberties, particularly in its treatment of activists, journalists, and political opponents. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), reports of harassment, arbitrary detentions, and attacks on human rights defenders continued.

Freedom of the press, though constitutionally protected, remained under threat. Journalists covering issues such as government corruption and abuses by security forces faced intimidation and legal harassment. International organizations called on the government to ensure the safety of media professionals and respect press independence.

War on Drugs and Criminal Justice

The anti-drug campaign, initiated under previous administrations, remained a source of international concern in 2024. While the number of extrajudicial killings decreased compared to previous years, reports of excessive use of force by security forces persisted.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) resumed investigations into possible crimes against humanity related to the drug war. However, the Philippine government rejected the ICC's jurisdiction, complicating efforts to achieve justice for victims.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in the Philippines continued to face significant challenges, including high levels of gender-based violence and economic inequalities. While the government implemented programs to combat domestic violence and human trafficking, women's rights organizations highlighted the need for stronger enforcement of laws and increased resources for survivors.

Children's rights were also compromised, especially in rural and marginalized communities. Child labour and sexual exploitation of minors remained serious issues. UNICEF (2024) urged the government to strengthen child protection systems and ensure universal access to basic education.

Economic and Social Rights

The Philippine economy showed strong growth in 2024, driven by remittances from overseas workers and infrastructure development. However, economic disparities remained pronounced, disproportionately affecting indigenous and rural communities.

Access to basic services such as education and healthcare improved in some areas, but gaps in resource distribution persisted. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), more inclusive policies are needed to address these inequalities and improve the quality of life for all Filipinos.

Environment and Climate Change

As one of the nation's most vulnerable to climate change, the Philippines experienced natural disasters in 2024, including typhoons and flooding. These events exacerbated food insecurity and displaced thousands of families.

The government adopted measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as reforestation programs and transitioning to renewable energy. However, environmental advocates noted that efforts were insufficient to address the root causes of the country's climate vulnerability.

International Cooperation

The Philippines strengthened its international cooperation in 2024, participating in regional initiatives through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and receiving assistance from multilateral organizations for development and climate resilience projects.

However, criticism of its human rights records limited support from some international actors, who called for broader reforms and greater adherence to global human rights standards.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Philippines showed progress in economic development and environmental measures, but significant challenges remained in civil rights, criminal justice, and social equity. Addressing these issues will require sustained efforts from the government, civil society, and the international community to ensure a fairer and more sustainable future for all Filipinos.

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Finland

Introduction

In 2024, Finland reaffirmed its reputation as a global leader in human rights, democracy, and social welfare. However, the country also faced challenges related to discrimination, gender equality, and the integration of minorities. This chapter examines the human rights landscape in Finland during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Finland maintained strong civil and political rights, with a robust democratic system, free and fair elections, and an independent judiciary. Freedom of expression and the press were widely respected, and Finland continued to rank highly on global press freedom indices.

However, concerns grew over the spread of hate speech, especially on digital platforms. The European Union urged the Finnish government to implement stricter measures to combat online hate speech and disinformation while ensuring the protection of freedom of expression.

Minority Rights

Minorities, including the Sámi communities and immigrants, continued to face barriers to social and economic integration. The Sámi, the only recognized Indigenous people in the European Union, called for greater protection of their cultural and linguistic rights, as well as their traditional lands.

Immigrants and asylum seekers reported difficulties accessing employment and education, despite government efforts to promote inclusion. International

organizations, such as Amnesty International (2024), recommended more inclusive policies to reduce discrimination and foster integration.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Finland made progress in gender equality in 2024, consolidating its position as one of the most gender-equal countries in the world. However, gaps remained in women's representation in certain industries and leadership positions in the private sector.

Gender-based violence persisted as a concern, with reports of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The Finnish government implemented programs to support survivors and strengthen the enforcement of laws against gender-based violence, though women's rights organizations emphasized the need for additional resources.

Economic and Social Rights

Finland's welfare state remained a global example, providing universal access to education, healthcare, and social services. However, an aging population posed economic challenges, particularly in funding pensions and long-term care services.

Poverty and social exclusion primarily affected vulnerable groups, including immigrants and unemployed youth. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), Finland needs targeted strategies to ensure that no one is left behind.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Finland continued to lead in climate efforts in 2024, advancing toward its goal of carbon neutrality by 2035. The government implemented ambitious policies to promote renewable energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and protect biodiversity.

However, environmentalists highlighted the need for faster action to address habitat loss and the impacts of climate change on Indigenous Sámi communities. International collaboration and European Union funding played a critical role in advancing these initiatives.

International Cooperation

Finland remained an active player in promoting human rights internationally, participating in European Union and United Nations initiatives. The country also supported sustainable development and humanitarian aid programs in regions affected by conflict and climate crises.

Additionally, Finland strengthened its ties with Nordic and Baltic countries to address regional challenges such as energy security and environmental protection.

Conclusion

In 2024, Finland demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. However, challenges persisted in the integration of minorities, gender-based violence, and the aging population. Addressing these issues will require continued and collaborative efforts among the government, civil society, and international partners.

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Fiji

Introduction

In 2024, Fiji faced a mix of challenges and opportunities in human rights. As a Pacific Island nation highly vulnerable to climate change, the country sustained its efforts to promote climate resilience and sustainable development. However, issues related to civil liberties, labour rights, and gender equality persisted, affecting vulnerable sectors of the population. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Fiji during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

While Fiji maintained a democratic system with regular elections, civil liberties such as freedom of expression and assembly faced restrictions in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), sedition and defamation laws were used to silence government critics and limit political activism.

Journalists and human rights defenders reported cases of intimidation and threats, particularly when addressing sensitive topics such as corruption and governance. International bodies urged the government to ensure a safe environment for civil society and independent media.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Fiji made moderate progress in promoting labour rights, but concerns remained over working conditions, particularly in the agricultural, tourism, and fishing sectors. Migrant workers and informal employees faced significant vulnerabilities, including low wages, lack of social security, and risks of exploitation.

The International Labour Organization (ILO, 2024) recommended strengthening labour oversight and ensuring that labour laws are effectively enforced, with a special focus on protecting the most vulnerable workers.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Women in Fiji continued to face economic, social, and legal barriers in 2024. Gender-based violence remained a critical issue, with high rates of domestic violence and sexual assault. Despite governmental and local organizational efforts to implement prevention programs and support survivors, more resources are needed to address these issues comprehensively.

In political and economic spheres, women were underrepresented in leadership roles. Activists emphasized the importance of policies that promote gender equality and women's participation in decision-making processes.

Climate Change and Environment

Fiji continued to lead regional and international efforts to address climate change, advocating for the interests of small island nations in global forums. The country implemented community-based projects to promote climate resilience, including relocation programs for communities affected by rising sea levels and the promotion of sustainable agricultural practices.

However, the impacts of climate change, such as cyclones and coastal erosion, continued to severely affect the population, exacerbating food insecurity and displacing entire communities. Support from international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), was crucial in financing climate and development initiatives.

Minority Rights and Indigenous Peoples

The rights of Indigenous peoples, who make up the majority of the population, were generally respected. However, tensions over land and natural resource management persisted. Indigenous communities expressed concerns about development projects affecting their traditional territories, highlighting the need for more inclusive and respectful consultations.

Ethnic minorities and migrants, on the other hand, faced discrimination in areas such as employment and education. Human rights organizations urged the government to adopt stronger measures to combat discrimination and promote social cohesion.

International Cooperation

Fiji strengthened its role in the international community in 2024, working closely with the United Nations and other regional organizations to address climate change and promote sustainable development. The country also played an active role in the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), advocating for climate financing and global action against carbon emissions.

Conclusion

In 2024, Fiji demonstrated its commitment to climate resilience and sustainable development, but significant challenges persisted in civil, labour, and gender rights. Addressing these issues will require an integrated approach that combines inclusive policies, the strengthening of civil society, and continued support from the international community.

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France

Introduction

In 2024, France maintained its role as a global advocate for human rights and democratic values, facing both domestic and international challenges. While the country continued to advance in areas such as gender equality and climate action, issues related to discrimination, social tensions, and civil liberties persisted, particularly in a context of increasing political polarization. This chapter examines the human rights situation in France during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

France continued to uphold fundamental civil and political rights, including freedom of expression, press, and assembly. However, concerns arose over the excessive use of force by security forces during protests, particularly those against labour and pension reforms. According to Amnesty International (2024), several cases of police violence went inadequately investigated.

Press freedom remained robust, but journalists covering issues such as corruption and sensitive topics faced threats and harassment. International organizations called for greater efforts to protect journalists and ensure a safe environment for the media.

Discrimination and Minority Rights

France faced criticism over the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities, particularly Muslim and Afro-descendant communities. Cases of discrimination in access to employment, housing, and public services persisted. Additionally,

laws regulating the use of religious symbols in public spaces continued to generate tensions and debates about religious freedom.

Asylum seekers and refugees also encountered challenges in accessing basic services and integration opportunities. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024) recommended reforms to ensure more humane treatment and effective integration.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

France made significant strides in promoting gender equality in 2024, implementing policies to reduce the gender pay gap and increase women's representation in leadership positions. However, gender-based violence remained a critical issue, with reports of femicides and domestic violence sparking protests and calls for action.

The government strengthened laws against gender-based violence and increased resources for survivor support services. Women's rights organizations emphasized the need for additional funding and public education to address the structural causes of gender-based violence.

Economic and Social Rights

The French economy showed moderate recovery in 2024, but social and economic inequalities persisted, disproportionately affecting rural and marginalized communities. Pension system reforms sparked social tensions and widespread strikes, reflecting dissatisfaction over working conditions and labour rights.

Access to affordable housing and public services remained a challenge, particularly in densely populated urban areas. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024), France needs more inclusive policies to ensure vulnerable populations are not left behind.

Climate Change and Environment

France continued to lead climate efforts in 2024, advancing its goals to reduce carbon emissions and meet its Paris Agreement commitments. The country implemented policies to promote renewable energy and reduce dependence on fossil fuels such as natural gas.

However, environmental activists criticized the slow implementation of some measures and called for more ambitious action to address air quality issues and biodiversity conservation. Cooperation with the European Union played a crucial role in financing national climate projects.

International Cooperation

France played an active role in promoting human rights internationally, participating in European Union and United Nations initiatives. It also led diplomatic efforts to address global conflicts and promote climate change solutions.

The country strengthened its relations with Africa, offering technical and financial support to sustainable development programs and anti-terrorism efforts. However, some critics pointed out that France's approaches in Africa still reflected postcolonial power dynamics.

Conclusion

In 2024, France demonstrated progress in key areas such as gender equality and climate action but faced challenges related to discrimination, social tensions, and civil liberties. Addressing these issues will require sustained efforts from the government, civil society, and the international community to ensure a more inclusive and equitable future.

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Gambia

Introduction

In 2024, Gambia faced significant human rights challenges marked by structural issues in its justice system, economic inequalities, and difficulties transitioning into a fully functional democracy. However, progress was also achieved in areas such as press freedom and international cooperation. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Gambia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Gambia made progress in strengthening its democratic system following the dictatorship of Yahya Jammeh, but concerns about civil liberties persisted. Freedom of expression was more respected than in previous years, although journalists and activists reported cases of intimidation and harassment.

Judicial reform remained a priority, with efforts to ensure an independent and transparent judiciary. However, Human Rights Watch (2024) noted delays in prosecuting human rights abuses committed during Jammeh's dictatorship, drawing both domestic and international criticism.

Economic and Social Rights

Gambia's economy showed signs of improvement in 2024, driven by tourism and agriculture. Nonetheless, poverty continued to affect a significant portion of the population, particularly in rural areas. Access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water remained limited.

The World Food Programme (WFP, 2024) highlighted food insecurity as a critical concern, exacerbated by climate change and inefficient agricultural practices. The government and its international partners implemented programs to improve food resilience, although results were uneven.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women in Gambia continued to face economic, social, and legal inequalities in 2024. Female genital mutilation (FGM) and child marriage remained common practices in some communities despite being legally prohibited. Women's rights organizations called for stronger enforcement of laws and educational programs to eradicate these practices.

Children's rights were also compromised, with high rates of school dropouts and child labour, especially in rural areas. UNICEF (2024) recommended increased investment in basic education and child protection programs to ensure better opportunities for future generations.

Transitional Justice and Accountability

Gambia continued to implement transitional justice mechanisms to address human rights violations during Jammeh's dictatorship. The Truth, Reconciliation, and Reparations Commission (TRRC) presented recommendations to prosecute perpetrators and provide reparations to victims, but progress in their implementation was slow.

Resource constraints and political resistance hindered progress, leading to frustration among victims and civil society. The international community urged the government to prioritize accountability and fully implement the TRRC's recommendations.

Climate Change and Environment

As a nation vulnerable to climate change, Gambia faced significant challenges in 2024, including flooding and coastal erosion. These phenomena negatively impacted food security and displaced entire communities.

The government launched initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices and protect natural resources, but limited resources and technical capacity hampered implementation. International cooperation was essential to fund climate projects and improve resilience.

International Cooperation

Gambia strengthened its cooperation with international organizations and regional partners in 2024. Assistance from the African Union, the United Nations, and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) played a crucial role in supporting transitional justice, economic development, and climate adaptation efforts.

The country also participated in initiatives to combat human trafficking and improve border security, reflecting its commitment to regional stability.

Conclusion

In 2024, Gambia made progress in key areas such as press freedom, international cooperation, and transitional justice implementation. However, significant challenges remained, including poverty, women's and children's rights, and climate change protection. Collaboration between the government, civil society, and international partners will be essential to overcome these obstacles and ensure a more just and sustainable future for all Gambians.

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Georgia

Introduction

In 2024, Georgia continued its efforts to strengthen democracy, uphold human rights, and foster economic growth. However, the country faced challenges related to political polarization, judicial independence, and the protection of minority rights. Georgia's strategic position between Europe and Asia made it a focal point for international cooperation and scrutiny, especially regarding human rights and democratic reforms. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Georgia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Georgia maintained a vibrant political landscape in 2024, with competitive elections and active civil society participation. However, concerns over political polarization and interference in judicial processes remained significant. Transparency International (2024) highlighted the need for reforms to ensure the independence of the judiciary and reduce the influence of political elites.

Freedom of expression and assembly were generally respected, but journalists and activists faced increasing threats and harassment. Reporters Without Borders (2024) called on the government to strengthen protections for media professionals and safeguard press freedom.

Minority Rights

Ethnic and religious minorities in Georgia, including Armenians, Azerbaijanis, and Muslims, continued to face challenges in accessing education, employment,

and public services. Discrimination and underrepresentation in political and social institutions remained areas of concern.

The government introduced initiatives to promote social inclusion and multilingual education, but progress was slow. The European Commission (2024) recommended more robust measures to combat discrimination and support minority integration.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Georgia made strides in promoting gender equality in 2024, with policies aimed at increasing women's participation in politics and reducing the gender pay gap. However, gender-based violence persisted as a critical issue, with insufficient support systems for survivors and limited enforcement of protective legislation.

Women's rights organizations emphasized the importance of addressing societal norms that perpetuate gender inequality and expanding access to resources for victims of domestic violence and sexual harassment.

Economic and Social Rights

Georgia's economy showed moderate growth in 2024, supported by trade, tourism, and foreign investment. Despite these advancements, income inequality and unemployment continued to affect vulnerable populations, particularly in rural areas.

Access to healthcare and education improved in urban centres but remained uneven across the country. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) highlighted the need for targeted policies to reduce regional disparities and improve social welfare systems.

Conflict and Displacement

The unresolved conflicts in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia continued to impact Georgia's human rights landscape. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) faced challenges in accessing housing, employment, and healthcare. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024) called for enhanced support for IDPs and renewed efforts to resolve these conflicts through peaceful negotiations.

Border tensions with Russia and incidents of detentions along the administrative boundary lines further complicated the situation. International organizations urged both parties to engage in dialogue and respect international human rights norms.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Georgia faced increasing environmental challenges in 2024, including deforestation, water management issues, and the effects of climate change. The government implemented policies to promote renewable energy and sustainable agriculture, but these efforts were often hampered by resource constraints.

Environmental activists urged greater transparency and public participation in environmental decision-making processes. The European Union supported Georgia's green initiatives through financial aid and technical assistance.

International Cooperation

Georgia deepened its cooperation with the European Union, NATO, and other international organizations in 2024. The country remained committed to its

aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration, which included aligning its policies with international human rights standards.

Georgia also played an active role in regional initiatives aimed at promoting security, economic development, and environmental sustainability in the South Caucasus.

Conclusion

In 2024, Georgia demonstrated progress in areas such as gender equality, economic development, and international cooperation. However, significant challenges related to political polarization, minority rights, and unresolved conflicts persisted. Addressing these issues will require sustained efforts from the government, civil society, and international partners to build a more inclusive and equitable society.

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Ghana

Introduction

In 2024, Ghana maintained its reputation as a model of democracy and stability in West Africa, standing out for its inclusive political system and commitment to human rights. However, the country faced challenges related to economic inequalities, women's rights, and civil liberties, particularly in the context of moderate economic growth. This chapter examines the human rights landscape in Ghana during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Ghana continued to uphold free and fair elections and foster an active civil society. Freedom of expression and press were largely respected, though journalists and activists faced isolated cases of harassment and intimidation, particularly when investigating issues like government corruption.

According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Ghana remained one of the leaders in press freedom in Africa. However, the government was urged to strengthen legal protections for journalists and ensure that attacks against them are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Women in Ghana continued to face significant barriers in their pursuit of gender equality in 2024. While progress was made in women's representation in politics and business leadership, inequalities in access to education and employment persisted, particularly in rural areas.

Gender-based violence remained a critical issue, with high rates of domestic violence and sexual abuse. The government implemented measures to address these issues, including awareness campaigns and strengthening support services for survivors. However, women's rights organizations emphasized the need for increased funding and more effective enforcement of existing laws.

Economic and Social Rights

Ghana experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, driven by sectors such as mining, agriculture, and tourism. However, economic inequalities remained a significant concern. Rural and marginalized communities faced high levels of poverty, while access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and clean water remained unequal.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) recommended more inclusive policies to ensure the benefits of economic growth are distributed equitably and to reduce the gaps between urban and rural areas.

Minority Rights and LGBTQ+ Community

In 2024, Ghana's ethnic and religious minorities continued to enjoy a high degree of protection and recognition. However, the situation for the LGBTQ+ community remained precarious. Same-sex relationships were still criminalized, and LGBTQ+ rights defenders faced discrimination and harassment.

International organizations urged the government to decriminalize same-sex relationships and implement policies to promote equality and non-discrimination, but the debate on this issue remained highly polarized in Ghanaian society.

Environment and Climate Change

Ghana continued to face challenges related to climate change in 2024, including deforestation, coastal erosion, and flooding. These issues negatively impacted agriculture and food security, particularly in rural communities.

The government launched initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices and protect natural resources, with support from international organizations. Despite these efforts, environmental activists highlighted the need for greater resources and more ambitious policies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

International Cooperation

Ghana strengthened its position as a key factor in West Africa in 2024, actively participating in regional initiatives of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to promote stability, democracy, and sustainable development.

Additionally, the country received support from international organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations for development projects, infrastructure improvements, and climate adaptation efforts.

Conclusion

In 2024, Ghana continued to solidify its role as a democratic leader in Africa, with significant progress in promoting civil rights, gender equality, and international cooperation. However, challenges related to poverty, gender-based violence, and LGBTQ+ rights require continued attention. Addressing

these issues will be critical to ensuring a more equitable and sustainable future for all Ghanaians.

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Greece

Introduction

In 2024, Greece faced significant human rights challenges as it continued to manage the effects of the past economic crisis, migration pressures, and political polarization. Despite progress in areas such as economic recovery and gender equality, concerns persisted regarding refugee rights, discrimination, and unequal access to public services. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Greece during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Greece maintained a functional democratic system in 2024, with free and fair elections and a vibrant civil society. However, political polarization and concerns about press freedom affected the country's democratic environment. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted cases of intimidation and threats against journalists covering sensitive issues such as government corruption and migration tensions.

Freedom of expression was generally respected, but restrictions on public protests and the excessive use of force by security forces during demonstrations drew criticism from human rights organizations like Amnesty International (2024).

Refugee and Migrant Rights

Greece remained a key entry point for refugees and migrants seeking to reach Europe. In 2024, migration management continued to be a major challenge,

with thousands of people living in precarious conditions in overcrowded camps on the Aegean islands and mainland.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024) expressed concerns over inhumane conditions in reception centres and the lack of access to basic services. Reports of illegal pushbacks at maritime and land borders also raised criticisms of potential violations of international law.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Greece made progress in promoting gender equality in 2024, with increased representation of women in politics and efforts to close the gender pay gap. However, gender-based violence remained a major issue, with reports of domestic violence and femicides causing public outcry.

The government strengthened laws against gender-based violence and launched educational campaigns, but resources for survivors and the effective enforcement of laws remained inadequate. Women's rights organizations called for increased funding and more robust preventative measures.

Economic and Social Rights

Greece experienced gradual economic recovery in 2024, driven by tourism and foreign investments. However, economic inequalities continued to affect vulnerable populations, particularly in rural regions and disadvantaged urban areas.

Unemployment, especially among youth, remained a significant challenge. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024),

Greece needs to implement inclusive policies to address inequalities and promote sustainable development.

Environment and Climate Change

Greece faced growing environmental challenges in 2024, including wildfires, extreme heatwaves, and water pollution. These issues were exacerbated by climate change and had severe impacts on rural communities and the agricultural sector.

The government adopted measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as promoting renewable energy and improving water resource management. However, environmental activists emphasized the need to accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and strengthen the protection of vulnerable ecosystems.

International Cooperation

Greece played an active role in European Union initiatives to address the migration crisis and promote stability in the Mediterranean region. It also strengthened diplomatic relations with neighbouring countries to address shared challenges such as border security and environmental sustainability.

Financial and technical support from the European Union was crucial for Greece's efforts in migration management, climate change mitigation, and economic development.

Conclusion

In 2024, Greece made progress in areas such as gender equality, economic recovery, and international cooperation. However, challenges persisted in

managing migration, ensuring refugee rights, and addressing social inequalities. Tackling these issues will require ongoing commitment from the government, civil society, and international partners to ensure a more inclusive and sustainable future.

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Guatemala

Introduction

In 2024, Guatemala faced significant human rights challenges marked by economic inequality, government corruption, and widespread violence. Despite progress in areas such as women's and Indigenous peoples' political participation, human rights violations continued to affect the most vulnerable sectors of the population. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Guatemala during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Guatemala's democratic system faced considerable tension in 2024 due to growing distrust in government institutions. Corruption remained a central issue, weakening public confidence and limiting the state's ability to guarantee fundamental rights.

Freedom of expression and press came under attack, with journalists and activists facing intimidation, threats, and violence, particularly those reporting on corruption or human rights violations. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Guatemala remains one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America for journalists.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children faced critical vulnerabilities in 2024. Gender-based violence remained alarming, with high rates of femicides and domestic violence. Although the government implemented programs to protect women and strengthen laws against gender-based violence, human rights organizations

noted these efforts were insufficient due to a lack of resources and widespread impunity.

Children's rights were also compromised, with high rates of child labour, malnutrition, and school dropouts, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities. UNICEF (2024) highlighted the need for inclusive policies to ensure access to education and protect children from labour exploitation and violence.

Indigenous Peoples' Rights

Indigenous peoples in Guatemala, who make up a significant portion of the population, continued to face structural discrimination and lack of access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and justice. Conflicts related to land use and ownership persisted, particularly in regions where commercial interests clashed with Indigenous territorial rights.

Indigenous organizations demanded greater representation in decision-making processes and respect for their cultural and territorial rights. However, the government's response was limited, leading to protests and tensions in several communities.

Economic and Social Rights

Guatemala experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, but economic inequalities remained profound. Rural and Indigenous communities were the most affected by poverty and lack of access to basic services.

Food insecurity continued to be a critical concern, especially in the country's dry corridor, where drought exacerbated malnutrition and hunger. The World Food

Programme (WFP, 2024) recommended increased investment in rural development and food security programs.

Violence and Public Security

Widespread violence remained one of the main human rights issues in Guatemala in 2024. High rates of homicides, extortion, and gang-related violence severely impacted the population, limiting their access to a safe and dignified life.

Although the government implemented public security strategies to combat organized crime, these often focused on repressive measures rather than addressing the root causes of violence. Human rights organizations urged the government to adopt more comprehensive and preventive policies.

International Cooperation

Guatemala continued to receive support from the international community to address human rights challenges. Organizations such as the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) provided technical and financial assistance for projects focused on justice, security, and sustainable development.

However, international cooperation was limited by the lack of political will to implement structural reforms and ensure transparency in the use of external funds.

Conclusion

In 2024, Guatemala made progress in areas such as women's political participation and international cooperation, but significant challenges remained

related to violence, corruption, and structural discrimination. Addressing these issues will require renewed commitment from the government, civil society, and the international community to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future for all Guatemalans.

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Guinea

Introduction

In 2024, Guinea faced significant human rights challenges marked by political tensions, economic inequality, and concerns about freedom of expression and democratic participation. Despite its wealth of natural resources, local communities continued to experience widespread poverty and limited access to basic services. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Guinea during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Guinea's political transition unfolded amid tensions, with reports of restrictions on freedom of expression, repression of protests, and arbitrary arrests of political opponents. Human Rights Watch (2024) noted that the government deployed security forces to suppress demonstrations and silence critics.

Press freedom was limited, with cases of journalists harassed and media outlets censored, especially those investigating corruption or government abuses. International organizations urged the government to ensure a safe environment for journalists and uphold democratic principles.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite its vast mineral resources, including bauxite, the majority of Guinea's population lives in poverty. In 2024, rural communities faced critical challenges related to food insecurity, lack of access to clean water, and inadequate healthcare services.

The World Food Programme (WFP, 2024) highlighted that food insecurity remained a major concern, exacerbated by poor resource management and insufficient infrastructure. Economic inequality persisted, with a significant divide between urban and rural areas.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children in Guinea remained vulnerable to violence and exploitation in 2024. Female genital mutilation (FGM) continued to be a widespread practice despite legal prohibitions. Women's rights organizations called for more effective measures to eradicate this practice and ensure education and protection for girls.

Children faced high rates of child labour, particularly in the mining sector, where they were exposed to hazardous conditions. UNICEF (2024) called for urgent action to strengthen education systems and ensure children have access to safe and quality education.

Labour Rights and Mining Exploitation

The mining industry, which accounts for a significant portion of Guinea's economy, was marred by reports of labour exploitation and environmental damage. Workers faced hazardous conditions, low wages, and a lack of basic labour rights.

Additionally, communities near mining sites reported water contamination and forced displacement due to extraction projects. Amnesty International (2024) emphasized the need to regulate the mining industry to protect the rights of workers and local communities.

Environment and Climate Change

Guinea continued to face environmental challenges related to deforestation, soil degradation, and climate change. Unregulated mining and agricultural expansion exacerbated these issues, putting ecosystems and biodiversity at risk.

The government launched some initiatives to address climate change and promote reforestation, but implementation was limited due to a lack of resources and political will. Environmental activists called for stronger measures to ensure environmental sustainability.

International Cooperation

Guinea received support from the international community to address its human rights and development challenges. Organizations such as the United Nations and the African Union provided technical and financial assistance, though corruption and a lack of transparency limited the effectiveness of these efforts.

The country also participated in regional initiatives to promote stability and economic integration, particularly through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

Conclusion

In 2024, Guinea faced persistent challenges related to civil rights, economic inequalities, and labour exploitation, despite national and international efforts to improve living conditions. Addressing these issues will require renewed commitment from the government, civil society, and international partners to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

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Equatorial Guinea

Introduction

In 2024, Equatorial Guinea faced serious human rights challenges, marked by political repression, government corruption, and limitations on civil liberties. Despite its vast oil resources, most of the population continued to live in poverty with limited access to basic services such as healthcare and education. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Equatorial Guinea during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Equatorial Guinea remained a highly authoritarian country in 2024, with significant restrictions on civil and political liberties. Freedom of expression and the press were severely limited, with media outlets under strict government control. Journalists attempting to report on corruption or regime abuses faced intimidation, arbitrary detention, and, in some cases, violence.

According to Human Rights Watch (2024), elections held in the country were marred by irregularities and a lack of transparency. Opposition parties faced severe restrictions, including the detention of political leaders and the prohibition of activities critical of the government.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite being one of Africa's wealthiest countries in terms of per capita resources due to its oil industry, wealth distribution remained highly unequal. In 2024, a large portion of the population lived in poverty, with limited access to basic services such as potable water, healthcare, and education.

Widespread corruption and mismanagement of oil revenues continued to hinder socioeconomic development. The World Bank (2024) recommended structural reforms and greater transparency in the management of natural resources to address economic inequality.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children faced significant challenges in Equatorial Guinea in 2024. Women continued to experience systemic discrimination and gender-based violence, including high rates of domestic violence. While laws against gender-based violence exist, their enforcement was weak due to a lack of resources and widespread impunity.

Children faced issues such as child labour and limited access to education, particularly in rural areas. UNICEF (2024) highlighted that many girls dropped out of school due to early marriages and teenage pregnancies, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Civil Liberties and Political Repression

Political repression and human rights violations remained major concerns. Activists and human rights defenders were harassed and arbitrarily detained, while public demonstrations were violently suppressed.

Amnesty International (2024) documented numerous cases of torture in detention centres as well as inhumane conditions in the country's prisons. Additionally, citizens faced severe restrictions on forming associations or participating in civic activities critical of the government.

Environment and Natural Resources

The oil industry, which constitutes a large part of Equatorial Guinea's economy, had a significant negative impact on the environment. Oil-related pollution severely affected local communities, contaminating water supplies and damaging biodiversity.

The government launched some initiatives to diversify the economy and mitigate environmental impacts, but these measures were limited and lacked a strategic, sustainable focus.

International Cooperation

Equatorial Guinea faced international criticism for its human rights record in 2024 but also sought to strengthen diplomatic relations with international partners, particularly in economic and energy sectors.

The country's participation in the African Union and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) offered opportunities for regional cooperation, although progress in human rights within the country remained limited.

Conclusion

In 2024, Equatorial Guinea continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by political repression, economic inequality, and corruption. Addressing these issues will require substantial changes in governance as well as support from the international community to promote human rights and sustainable development in the country.

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Haiti

Introduction

In 2024, Haiti continued to face a multidimensional crisis marked by political collapse, widespread violence, extreme poverty, and natural disasters. The deterioration of state institutions and the expanded control of gangs over much of the territory worsened the human rights situation. This chapter examines the key challenges Haiti faced in the area of human rights during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Haiti's political system was virtually paralyzed in 2024 due to the absence of democratic elections, leaving the country without legitimate leadership. The lack of a functional government allowed gangs to expand their territorial control, profoundly affecting the civil and political rights of the population.

Freedom of expression and the press were severely restricted, with journalists and activists facing threats, violence, and, in some cases, murder. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Haiti became one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalism.

Violence and Public Security

Widespread violence was one of Haiti's biggest problems in 2024. Gangs controlled approximately 80% of the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and other regions, subjecting the population to extortion, kidnappings, rape, and murder. The lack of a functional judicial system and effective police force allowed these acts to go largely unpunished.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, 2024) documented mass human rights violations, including forced displacements and extrajudicial executions. The population lived in a state of constant insecurity, with inadequate access to justice or protection.

Economic and Social Rights

Extreme poverty continued to affect more than 60% of the Haitian population in 2024, exacerbated by runaway inflation and lack of access to basic goods such as food, clean water, and healthcare. The World Food Programme (WFP, 2024) reported that more than 40% of the population faced acute food insecurity.

The healthcare system was on the verge of collapse, with overcrowded hospitals and severe medicine shortages. Schools also remained closed in many areas due to insecurity, depriving millions of children of their right to education.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children were the groups most affected by the humanitarian crisis in Haiti. Women faced high levels of gender-based violence, including systematic rape committed by gangs. Human rights organizations denounced the lack of shelters and support for survivors.

Children were exposed to multiple forms of violence, including labour exploitation and forced recruitment by gangs. UNICEF (2024) reported that 30% of school-age children were not attending classes, while many faced severe malnutrition.

Natural Disasters and Climate Change

In 2024, Haiti suffered the devastating effects of natural disasters, including hurricanes and floods, exacerbated by climate change. These disasters destroyed homes, infrastructure, and farmland, worsening the country's humanitarian situation.

The government lacked the capacity to respond effectively to these disasters, leaving the most vulnerable communities dependent entirely on international aid. Initiatives to strengthen climate resilience and disaster management progressed slowly due to a lack of resources and political stability.

International Cooperation

The international community played a critical role in responding to Haiti's crisis. The United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and foreign governments provided emergency assistance in areas such as food, healthcare, and security.

However, corruption and lack of coordination limited the effectiveness of this aid. The Organization of American States (OAS, 2024) urged the international community to redouble efforts to support an inclusive political dialogue to restore democracy and the rule of law.

Conclusion

In 2024, Haiti faced one of the world's most severe humanitarian and human rights crises, characterized by political collapse, extreme violence, and widespread poverty. Addressing these issues will require a concerted effort by the Haitian government, civil society, and the international community to

restore stability, protect fundamental rights, and ensure a sustainable future for the country.

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Honduras

Introduction

In 2024, Honduras continued to face numerous human rights challenges, characterized by high levels of violence, government corruption, social inequality, and climate vulnerability. Despite some progress in areas such as justice and women's rights, the structural conditions perpetuating poverty and insecurity continued to severely impact the population. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Honduras during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Democracy in Honduras remained fragile in 2024, with concerns about corruption in government institutions and the misuse of security forces. While voting rights were guaranteed, a lack of transparency in electoral processes raised doubts about public trust.

Freedom of expression and the press faced significant challenges, with journalists and activists subject to threats, intimidation, and, in some cases, physical attacks. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Honduras remained one of the most dangerous countries in Latin America for journalists.

Violence and Public Security

Widespread violence, driven by organized crime and gang activity, continued to be a major concern in Honduras in 2024. High rates of homicides, extortion, and forced displacements deeply affected the daily lives of Hondurans, particularly in marginalized urban communities.

The lack of resources and training within police forces, combined with impunity for acts of violence, exacerbated the situation. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the need for the government to adopt more effective public security policies focused on human rights.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite moderate economic growth in 2024, extreme poverty and social inequality persisted in Honduras. A large portion of the population continued to live in precarious conditions, with limited access to basic services such as education, healthcare, and clean water.

The World Food Programme (WFP, 2024) reported that food insecurity affected more than 30% of households, particularly in rural areas prone to drought. The lack of economic opportunities drove an increase in migration, with thousands of Hondurans seeking better living conditions in other countries.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children faced high levels of vulnerability in 2024. Gender-based violence, including high rates of femicides and domestic violence, remained a critical issue. Although the government implemented awareness campaigns and strengthened some laws, survivors continued to face barriers to accessing justice and support services.

As for children, many were exposed to child labour and forced recruitment by gangs. UNICEF (2024) emphasized the need for investment in education and child protection programs to ensure the well-being and development of the youth.

Environment and Climate Change

Honduras remained one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in 2024. Recurrent tropical storms, floods, and droughts had a devastating impact on rural communities and agricultural production.

The government launched initiatives to improve climate resilience and promote sustainable farming practices, but the lack of resources and weak institutional capacity limited effective implementation. Environmental activists also denounced the lack of regulation in extractive projects that affect Indigenous communities and biodiversity.

International Cooperation

Honduras received support from the international community to address its human rights and development challenges. Organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank provided technical and financial assistance for projects related to security, education, and climate change.

Additionally, regional cooperation through the Central American Integration System (SICA) played a key role in promoting stability and sustainable development in the region.

Conclusion

In 2024, Honduras faced persistent human rights challenges, marked by violence, poverty, and corruption. While progress was made in specific areas such as women's rights and international cooperation, sustained and coordinated efforts are needed to address the structural causes of these issues and ensure a safer and more equitable future for all Hondurans.

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Hungary

Introduction

In 2024, Hungary continued to face significant challenges related to respect for human rights and the rule of law amidst tensions between the government and the European Union. While the country demonstrated economic stability and some progress in social rights, concerns over judicial independence, civil liberties, and minority rights persisted. This chapter examines Hungary's human rights landscape during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Judicial independence in Hungary remained a key concern in 2024. International organizations, such as Human Rights Watch (2024), reported that judicial reforms implemented by the government further centralized power, weakening the checks and balances essential to a democracy.

Freedom of expression and the press also faced limitations. Independent media continued to operate under pressure, with legal and economic restrictions hindering their work. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted the concentration of media ownership in the hands of government allies, which limited media pluralism and access to objective news for the population.

Minority Rights and the LGBTQ+ Community

In 2024, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ community in Hungary continued to face discrimination. The Roma population, in particular, experienced significant inequalities in access to education, employment, and housing. The European

Commission (2024) urged the government to implement inclusive policies to address systemic disparities affecting this community.

Additionally, laws passed in previous years restricting LGBTQ+ rights remained a cause for concern. Human rights organizations denounced institutionalized discrimination, including limitations on legal gender recognition and the prohibition of educational materials promoting diversity.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Progress in promoting gender equality in Hungary was limited in 2024. Women continued to face economic and social inequalities, including a persistent gender pay gap and low representation in political and corporate leadership positions.

Gender-based violence remained a critical issue. Although the government implemented measures to address the problem, such as awareness campaigns, women's rights organizations emphasized that resources and services for survivors were still insufficient.

Economic and Social Rights

Hungary's economy showed stability in 2024, with moderate growth driven by manufacturing and trade. However, social inequalities persisted, particularly in rural areas where access to education and healthcare was limited.

The European Union (2024) emphasized that the country needed to implement structural reforms to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas, ensuring a more equitable distribution of resources and opportunities.

Environment and Climate Change

Hungary made progress in certain areas of environmental sustainability in 2024, such as promoting renewable energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, the government faced criticism for its lack of ambition in climate policies and for failing to fully meet the goals of the European Green Deal.

Environmental activists highlighted issues such as deforestation and water pollution, urging the government to intensify efforts to conserve natural resources and combat climate change.

International Cooperation

Relations between Hungary and the European Union remained tense in 2024, particularly regarding compliance with EU core values such as respect for the rule of law and human rights. The European Commission conditioned part of Hungary's structural funds on progress in these areas, sparking both domestic and international debates.

Despite these tensions, Hungary actively participated in regional initiatives and cross-border projects, particularly in the Western Balkans, reinforcing its role as a key player in Central Europe.

Conclusion

In 2024, Hungary experienced economic stability and some progress in environmental sustainability but faced significant criticisms related to human rights, civil liberties, and the rule of law. Progress in these areas will require renewed commitment from the government and greater collaboration with civil

society and international partners to ensure a more inclusive and democratic future.

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India

Introduction

In 2024, India, as the world's largest democracy and a rapidly growing economy, continued to make strides in various areas, including economic development and technological advancement. However, the country faced significant challenges related to human rights, including concerns about freedom of expression, minority rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. This chapter explores the state of human rights in India during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

India maintained its democratic framework with regular elections and a vibrant civil society. However, concerns over restrictions on civil liberties persisted in 2024. Reports of curbs on freedom of expression, assembly, and the press were significant. Journalists and activists faced harassment, intimidation, and even arrests under laws such as the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), which has been criticized for its broad and vague provisions.

Amnesty International (2024) highlighted increasing incidents of internet shutdowns, often imposed during protests or in regions experiencing civil unrest. This trend raised concerns about the disproportionate impact of such measures on access to information and freedom of expression.

Minority Rights

India's diverse population includes religious and ethnic minorities who continued to face discrimination and violence in 2024. Reports of communal tensions, hate speech, and targeted violence against minorities, particularly

Muslims and Dalits, were widespread. Human Rights Watch (2024) called for stronger enforcement of laws to prevent hate crimes and ensure accountability for perpetrators.

In the northeastern states, longstanding ethnic and territorial conflicts continued to affect Indigenous communities, with displacement and loss of traditional lands remaining major concerns.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

India made progress in gender equality in 2024, with increased representation of women in politics and the workforce. However, gender-based violence, including rape, domestic violence, and dowry-related abuse, remained widespread.

The government launched several initiatives to address these issues, including expanding helpline services and strengthening legal protections for women. Despite these efforts, societal norms and inadequate enforcement of laws continued to hinder progress.

Child marriage and trafficking of women and girls also persisted, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas. UNICEF (2024) emphasized the need for education and economic empowerment programs to address these issues effectively.

Economic and Social Rights

India's economy showed robust growth in 2024, driven by advancements in technology, manufacturing, and renewable energy. However, economic inequalities persisted, with marginalized communities disproportionately

affected by poverty and limited access to healthcare, education, and clean water.

The government implemented welfare schemes such as free rations and health insurance for low-income families, but the effectiveness of these programs varied due to bureaucratic inefficiencies and corruption. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) urged India to prioritize inclusive growth and reduce regional disparities.

Environmental and Climate Challenges

India faced significant environmental challenges in 2024, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and the impact of climate change. Rapid urbanization and industrial growth contributed to environmental degradation, affecting public health and agricultural productivity.

The government took steps to combat climate change by promoting renewable energy projects and committing to net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. However, Greenpeace (2024) noted that enforcement of environmental regulations remained inconsistent, and communities affected by large infrastructure projects often lacked adequate safeguards and compensation.

Freedom of Religion

India's secular framework came under scrutiny in 2024, with concerns about the erosion of religious freedoms. Reports of laws and policies targeting religious minorities, such as anti-conversion laws, were criticized for fostering an atmosphere of intolerance. Religious minorities reported feeling marginalized and fearful due to the perceived rise in majoritarianism.

The government defended these policies as necessary for maintaining social harmony but faced criticism both domestically and internationally for their impact on religious freedoms.

International Cooperation

India maintained an active role in international diplomacy and regional partnerships in 2024. It continued to participate in initiatives such as the G20, the BRICS bloc, and the United Nations. India also expanded its development assistance programs in neighbouring countries, focusing on infrastructure, education, and healthcare.

However, India faced scrutiny from human rights organizations for its approach to internal human rights issues, which at times contrasted with its global commitments to democracy and inclusivity.

Conclusion

In 2024, India made significant progress in areas such as economic growth, gender equality, and renewable energy. However, challenges related to civil liberties, minority rights, gender-based violence, and environmental sustainability persisted. Addressing these issues will require concerted efforts from the government, civil society, and the international community to ensure that India's development is inclusive, equitable, and sustainable.

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Indonesia

Introduction

In 2024, Indonesia, the largest economy in Southeast Asia and the country with the largest Muslim population in the world, remained a vibrant democracy with a diverse and pluralistic society. However, the nation faced significant human rights challenges, including issues related to freedom of expression, minority rights, climate change, and labour exploitation. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Indonesia during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and press in Indonesia faced restrictions in 2024, with increased use of cybercrime laws to silence critics, activists, and journalists. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported that provisions of the Information and Electronic Transactions Law (ITE Law) were used to prosecute individuals who criticized the government or exposed cases of corruption.

In addition, public protests against government policies, such as infrastructure projects and labour laws, were suppressed in some cases, raising concerns about respect for the right to peaceful assembly.

Minority Rights

In 2024, religious and ethnic minorities in Indonesia continued to face discrimination and violence. Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and adherents of Indigenous religions reported difficulties in constructing places of worship due to administrative restrictions and community opposition.

The LGBTQ+ community also faced a hostile environment, with reports of violence, discrimination, and persecution. Local laws in some regions criminalized same-sex relationships, and authorities implemented policies limiting the expression of gender identity.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Indonesia made progress in some aspects of women's rights in 2024, but significant challenges remained. Gender-based violence, including child marriage and domestic violence, continued to be a critical concern, particularly in rural areas and poor communities.

The government implemented programs to reduce child marriage and improve girls' education, but rates of gender-based violence remained high. Women's rights organizations called for strengthened enforcement of existing laws and increased resources to protect survivors.

Labour Rights and Exploitation

Indonesia remained a key hub for manufacturing and natural resources in 2024, but workers faced difficult labour conditions, including low wages, excessive hours, and lack of basic labour rights. In sectors such as mining and palm oil plantations, cases of child labour and labour exploitation were reported.

Amnesty International (2024) highlighted that many workers in these industries lacked adequate legal protections and faced significant risks to their health and safety.

Environment and Climate Change

Indonesia, one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases due to deforestation and forest fires, faced serious environmental challenges in 2024. The expansion of palm oil plantations and infrastructure projects continued to impact biodiversity and displace Indigenous communities.

Although the government committed to reducing emissions and promoting sustainability, Greenpeace (2024) noted that enforcement of environmental policies was inconsistent. Additionally, communities affected by development projects often lacked effective mechanisms to hold corporations accountable.

Indigenous Communities' Rights

Indigenous communities in Indonesia faced persistent challenges related to land ownership and access to natural resources. Land conflicts intensified in 2024, with reports of forced evictions to make way for commercial and infrastructure projects.

Indigenous organizations called on the government to strengthen protections for land rights and respect cultural traditions, but responses were limited.

International Cooperation

Indonesia maintained an active role in international cooperation in 2024, playing a key role in ASEAN and strengthening economic ties with global partners. However, international organizations urged the country to align its domestic policies with international commitments on human rights and environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

In 2024, Indonesia demonstrated progress in areas such as economic development and international cooperation, but significant challenges persisted in human rights related to freedom of expression, minority rights, and environmental sustainability. Addressing these issues will require renewed commitment from the government, as well as collaboration with civil society and international partners to ensure inclusive and sustainable development.

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Iraq

Introduction

In 2024, Iraq continued to face significant human rights challenges stemming from years of armed conflict, sectarian tensions, and economic crises. While the country made progress in some areas, such as reconstruction and political stabilization, ongoing concerns about security, corruption, and the lack of basic services severely impacted the lives of its people. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Iraq during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and press in Iraq remained restricted in 2024. Journalists and activists faced harassment, arbitrary detention, and, in some cases, physical attacks for reporting on corruption or criticizing authorities. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Iraq is one of the most dangerous places for journalism in the region.

Protests against corruption and the lack of basic services, which occurred in several regions, were sometimes met with excessive force by security forces. Human rights organizations documented violations involving the use of live ammunition to disperse demonstrations.

Women's and Children's Rights

Women and children remained the most vulnerable groups in Iraq in 2024. Women faced high rates of gender-based violence, including forced marriages, domestic violence, and sexual abuse. Despite existing laws to protect women, social norms and weak enforcement perpetuated impunity.

Children were affected by child labour, lack of access to education, and forced recruitment by armed groups in some regions. UNICEF (2024) highlighted that many children, particularly in rural and conflict-affected areas, did not attend school due to insecurity and poverty.

Minority Rights

Religious and ethnic minorities in Iraq, including Yazidis, Christians, and Kurds, continued to face discrimination, displacement, and lack of access to basic services. Although the government initiated efforts to facilitate the return of internally displaced persons to their homes, poor security conditions and limited reconstruction prevented significant progress.

The Yazidi community, in particular, continued to demand justice and recognition for the genocide crimes committed by the Islamic State (ISIS). Amnesty International (2024) called on the Iraqi government and the international community to provide adequate support for these communities.

Corruption and Economic and Social Rights

Government corruption remained a major issue in Iraq in 2024, affecting the provision of basic services such as electricity, potable water, and healthcare. Despite oil revenues, poverty and unemployment persisted, particularly among youth and displaced communities.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2024) recommended structural reforms to ensure a more equitable distribution of resources and address economic and social inequalities.

Security and Armed Conflicts

While Iraq experienced relative stability compared to previous years, sectarian tensions and sporadic attacks by insurgent groups, including remnants of ISIS, continued to affect the country's security. Rural and border areas were the most affected by these attacks.

Military operations to counter armed groups raised concerns about human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions and abuses committed by local militias.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Iraq faced significant environmental challenges, including desertification, water shortages, and rising temperatures due to climate change. These issues severely impacted agriculture and food security, especially in rural communities.

The government launched initiatives to address these problems, but implementation was limited due to a lack of resources and political instability. Environmental activists called for greater efforts to manage water resources and protect the environment.

International Cooperation

Iraq received support from the international community to address its human rights and development challenges. The United Nations and other international organizations provided technical and financial assistance in areas such as reconstruction, security, and justice.

However, criticisms regarding corruption and lack of transparency limited the effectiveness of these efforts. Regional tensions also continued to affect Iraq's ability to cooperate with its neighbours on security and development issues.

Conclusion

In 2024, Iraq made progress in some areas related to stabilization and reconstruction, but persistent challenges in human rights, corruption, social inequalities, and security highlighted the need for renewed commitment from the government and the international community. Addressing these issues will be critical to ensuring a fairer and more equitable future for all Iraqis.

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Iran

Introduction

In 2024, Iran continued to face a series of human rights challenges amidst internal political tensions, international sanctions, and restrictions on civil liberties. Despite government efforts to project stability, protests, state repression, and violations of women's and minority rights marked the human rights landscape in the country. This chapter examines the key human rights concerns in Iran during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

The repression of civil and political liberties in Iran intensified in 2024. Authorities used repressive measures to silence dissidents, journalists, and activists. Protests related to women's rights, economic conditions, and government policies were met with violent crackdowns, excessive use of force, mass detentions, and arbitrary sentences.

According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the Iranian government continued to use the judiciary to prosecute dissenters under charges such as "acts against national security" and "propaganda against the state." Additionally, internet censorship and digital blackouts were common during periods of unrest.

Women's Rights

Women's rights remained a critical issue in Iran in 2024. The "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement, which gained prominence after the death of Mahsa Amini in 2022, continued to mobilize citizens. Women faced severe restrictions,

including the mandatory dress code and exclusion from certain public and professional spaces.

Discriminatory laws limiting women's rights in marriage, child custody, and inheritance remained unchanged. Women's rights activists faced harassment, imprisonment, and threats, highlighting the government's lack of commitment to gender equality.

Minority Rights

Ethnic and religious minorities, including Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs, Baha'is, and Christian converts, faced systematic discrimination in 2024. These communities reported restricted access to education, employment, and religious freedom.

In regions with significant Kurdish and Baluchi populations, conflicts escalated due to the suppression of autonomy movements. Amnesty International (2024) documented numerous cases of arbitrary executions and excessive use of force in these areas.

Death Penalty and Judicial System

Iran continued to have one of the highest execution rates globally in 2024. The death penalty was widely used, including for drug-related offenses and acts deemed as "crimes against morality." International organizations criticized the lack of fair trials and the use of confessions obtained under torture.

The Iranian judiciary was criticized for its lack of independence and its alignment with the country's political and religious establishment. Human rights defenders and lawyers attempting to represent activists and dissidents faced harassment and arrests.

Economic and Social Rights

International sanctions imposed on Iran continued to negatively impact the economy in 2024, exacerbating inflation, unemployment, and poverty. Although the government implemented social assistance programs, these were insufficient to address the needs of the population, especially in the most vulnerable communities.

Protests over economic conditions were widespread across the country, with workers and unions demanding better wages and working conditions. However, these protests were also met with repression, limiting citizens' ability to voice legitimate grievances.

Environment and Climate Change

Iran faced a severe environmental crisis in 2024, marked by water shortages, desertification, and air pollution. Poor water management and dam construction contributed to declining resources, affecting rural communities and the agricultural sector.

The government adopted some measures to address these challenges, but political unwillingness and corruption limited the effectiveness of these initiatives. Environmental activists faced harassment and arrests for exposing unsustainable practices.

International Cooperation

Iran remained internationally isolated in 2024 due to its nuclear policies and human rights record. Sanctions imposed by Western countries continued to limit

the nation's access to financial and technological resources, exacerbating economic and social challenges.

Despite this isolation, Iran maintained relationships with strategic allies like Russia and China, focusing on trade agreements and joint development projects. However, these agreements did not address concerns about human rights within the country.

Conclusion

In 2024, Iran faced critical human rights challenges, marked by political repression, restrictions on civil liberties, and discrimination against women and minorities. Addressing these issues will require significant changes in government policies and a renewed commitment to fundamental human rights principles. The international community must also play an active role in ensuring that the rights of the Iranian people are protected and respected.

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Ireland

Introduction

In 2024, Ireland continued to stand out as a stable democracy with a strong commitment to human rights and social equality. The country made progress in areas such as women's rights, climate action, and LGBTQ+ rights while addressing challenges related to affordable housing, mental health, and the integration of migrant communities. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Ireland during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Ireland maintained a strong tradition of respect for civil and political rights in 2024. Freedom of expression, assembly, and press remained fundamental pillars of its democracy. However, concerns were raised about the need to improve transparency in political party funding and the regulation of election campaigns.

Protests related to the housing crisis and climate change were prominent throughout the year and were conducted peacefully, with minimal intervention from authorities. Amnesty International (2024) praised Ireland's commitment to dialogue and civic engagement.

Women's Rights

Ireland continued to make progress in women's rights in 2024, with advances in political representation and access to reproductive health services. The implementation of the health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act of 2018 allowed women to access abortion services more safely and easily.

However, issues related to gender-based violence and the gender pay gap persisted. According to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2024), further efforts were needed to implement effective policies to support survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Ireland remained a global leader in LGBTQ+ rights in 2024. Marriage equality, achieved in 2015, continued to reflect a cultural shift toward inclusion. The government launched educational campaigns to combat discrimination and promote respect for diversity.

However, the LGBTQ+ community highlighted the need for improved access to mental health services and addressing incidents of discrimination, particularly in rural areas.

Housing Crisis and Economic Rights

Access to affordable housing remained one of Ireland's biggest challenges in 2024. Despite government efforts to increase the construction of social housing, demand significantly outpaced supply, leaving many families in precarious housing situations.

Unemployment remained low, but high living costs and elevated rents disproportionately affected low-income communities. The European Union (2024) recommended more aggressive policies to address the housing crisis and ensure economic equality.

Mental Health and Healthcare Services

Access to mental health services continued to be a concern in Ireland in 2024. Although the government increased funding for mental health, staffing shortages and long waiting times affected those seeking support.

The World Health Organization (WHO, 2024) urged Ireland to prioritize the training of mental health professionals and increase funding for prevention and treatment programs.

Climate Action and Sustainability

Ireland advanced its climate commitments in 2024, implementing policies to reduce carbon emissions and promote the transition to renewable energy sources. The country adopted new laws to limit the use of fossil fuels and increase investments in sustainable transport.

However, Greenpeace (2024) noted that the implementation of these policies was slow and called for intensified efforts to meet the European Union's climate goals.

Migrant Integration and Refugee Rights

Ireland continued to welcome migrants and refugees in 2024, particularly in response to the global displacement crisis. While the government implemented programs to facilitate integration, migrant communities faced challenges related to discrimination and limited access to economic opportunities and public services.

Human rights organizations urged the government to take additional measures to ensure equal opportunities for migrants.

International Cooperation

Ireland played an active role in international cooperation in 2024, prioritizing humanitarian aid and human rights in its foreign policy. As a member of the European Union and the United Nations, the country supported global initiatives to promote peace, combat climate change, and advocate for women's and girls' rights in developing countries.

Conclusion

In 2024, Ireland continued to stand out as a country committed to human rights and social justice. While challenges related to housing, mental health, and migrant integration remained, progress in gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and climate action reflected significant advancements. Addressing the remaining challenges will require sustained government action and close collaboration with civil society and international partners.

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Iceland

Introduction

In 2024, Iceland continued to stand out as a model country for human rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. With a small population and a strong commitment to democracy, transparency, and social equity, the country addressed global challenges such as climate change, migration, and minority rights with progressive policies. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Iceland during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Iceland maintained a high level of respect for civil and political rights in 2024. Freedom of expression, assembly, and the press were widely protected and promoted, positioning the country as an example of open and participatory democracy.

Access to public information remained a key pillar of Icelandic policy, with strict transparency laws ensuring government accountability. However, Amnesty International (2024) recommended additional measures to ensure migrant and refugee communities could fully participate in the democratic process.

Gender Equality

Iceland continued to lead global efforts toward gender equality in 2024. For over a decade, the country has ranked as the most gender-equal nation in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index. In 2024, the government implemented policies to further close the gender pay gap and increase female representation in leadership positions.

Iceland's Equal Pay Certification law, in effect since 2018, was strengthened in 2024 to ensure stricter compliance and promote equity across all sectors.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Iceland maintained its commitment to LGBTQ+ rights in 2024, promoting inclusive policies and protecting LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination. The country offered comprehensive healthcare services for transgender individuals and remained a safe haven for those fleeing persecution due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Local LGBTQ+ organizations noted that while significant progress has been made, more work is needed to raise awareness in conservative rural communities.

Migrant and Refugee Rights

Although Iceland has a small and relatively homogeneous population, the number of migrants and refugees increased in 2024 due to global displacement crises. The government implemented programs to facilitate integration, providing access to education, employment, and social services.

However, challenges related to discrimination and language barriers persisted. Human Rights Watch (2024) urged Iceland to strengthen its efforts to ensure migrants and refugees have equal opportunities and full access to Icelandic society.

Labour Rights and Social Welfare

Iceland continued to be a global leader in social welfare in 2024, with strong labour protections, universal healthcare, and free education. Trade unions played an active role in ensuring fair working conditions and competitive wages.

Unemployment remained low, and the government implemented policies to support workers transitioning to jobs in sustainable sectors, such as renewable energy.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Iceland advanced its commitment to environmental sustainability in 2024. The country is a world leader in geothermal and hydropower energy use and has set ambitious goals to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040.

The government also implemented projects to combat climate change, such as ecosystem restoration and reducing emissions in the transport sector. Greenpeace (2024) praised Iceland for its proactive approach but warned of the need to protect marine ecosystems from overfishing.

International Cooperation

Iceland played an active role in international cooperation in 2024, promoting human rights, gender equality, and climate action in global forums such as the United Nations and the Arctic Council. The country also continued to support humanitarian aid and development initiatives in developing nations.

Conclusion

In 2024, Iceland solidified its position as a global leader in human rights, social equality, and environmental sustainability. While it faced challenges related to the integration of migrants and refugees, the country demonstrated a continued commitment to building an inclusive and equitable society. Its progressive model offers valuable lessons for the rest of the world.

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Israel

Introduction

In 2024, Israel faced a complex human rights landscape shaped by ongoing political tensions, security challenges, and societal divisions. While the country maintained a strong commitment to democratic principles, concerns about the treatment of Palestinians, minority rights, and freedom of expression persisted. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Israel, including the occupied Palestinian territories, during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Israel continued to uphold democratic values, including free and fair elections, freedom of assembly, and an active civil society. However, tensions related to judicial reforms proposed by the government sparked widespread protests throughout the year. Critics argued that these reforms threatened the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law.

Freedom of the press remained robust, though journalists covering sensitive issues, such as military operations or corruption, faced occasional harassment. Human Rights Watch (2024) called for increased protections for journalists and activists.

Treatment of Palestinians

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remained a central issue in 2024, with significant human rights concerns in the occupied Palestinian territories (OPT). Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem continued to face restrictions on movement, land confiscation, and house demolitions. In Gaza, the ongoing

blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt severely restricted access to essential goods and services, exacerbating poverty and humanitarian needs.

According to Amnesty International (2024), military operations in the West Bank resulted in civilian casualties and raised concerns about the proportionality of force used by Israeli security forces. Meanwhile, attacks on Israeli civilians by Palestinian armed groups also contributed to the cycle of violence.

Minority Rights

Arab citizens of Israel, who constitute about 20% of the population, faced systemic discrimination in areas such as housing, education, and employment. While the government implemented initiatives to promote integration, disparities persisted, particularly in resource allocation for Arab-majority towns.

Additionally, asylum seekers and migrant workers, particularly from Africa, reported discriminatory treatment and limited access to legal protections. Organizations such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) urged Israel to adopt more inclusive policies for these groups.

Women's Rights

Israel made progress in advancing women's rights in 2024, with increased representation in politics and leadership roles. However, gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual harassment, remained significant challenges. Women's rights organizations highlighted gaps in the enforcement of existing laws and called for expanded support services for survivors.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Israel continued to be a regional leader in LGBTQ+ rights, with Tel Aviv maintaining its reputation as a hub for LGBTQ+ activism and culture. Same-sex couples had access to legal protections, and public attitudes toward the LGBTQ+ community were generally positive.

However, activists pointed out that LGBTQ+ individuals in conservative and religious communities faced discrimination and lacked access to inclusive services.

Economic and Social Rights

Israel's economy remained strong in 2024, driven by innovation and technology. However, economic inequalities persisted, particularly affecting Arab citizens, ultra-Orthodox communities, and residents of peripheral areas.

The high cost of living and housing shortages were recurring issues, leading to public discontent and calls for government intervention. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2024) recommended measures to address these disparities and improve access to affordable housing.

Environmental Challenges

Israel advanced its environmental policies in 2024, focusing on water conservation, renewable energy, and climate resilience. The government launched new initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve waste management.

However, environmental organizations criticized insufficient action to address pollution and protect biodiversity. The expansion of settlements in the West

Bank also raised concerns about environmental degradation in occupied territories.

International Relations and Cooperation

Israel continued to strengthen its international ties in 2024, particularly through regional agreements such as the Abraham Accords. These agreements expanded economic and diplomatic cooperation with several Arab states.

At the same time, Israel faced criticism from international human rights organizations and some UN bodies for its policies in the occupied Palestinian territories. The government defended its actions as necessary for national security but faced calls for greater accountability and adherence to international law.

Conclusion

In 2024, Israel balanced democratic resilience with significant human rights challenges. While progress was made in areas such as LGBTQ+ rights and women's empowerment, concerns about the treatment of Palestinians, minority rights, and economic disparities persisted. Addressing these issues will require a commitment to equity, inclusion, and accountability from both the government and civil society.

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Italy

Introduction

In 2024, Italy faced human rights challenges amidst debates on migration, discrimination, economic inequality, and access to basic rights. While the country upheld a strong commitment to democratic and social principles, internal political tensions and migration pressures significantly influenced public policies and social cohesion. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Italy during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Italy remained a stable democracy with strong protections for civil and political rights. However, rising political tensions, particularly around immigration and integration policies, fuelled increasingly polarized discourse.

Freedom of the press continued to be a cornerstone of Italian democracy, though journalists investigating corruption and organized crime faced threats and, in some cases, violence. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Italy made moderate progress in ensuring journalist safety, but significant risks persisted.

Migrant and Refugee Rights

As a key entry point for many migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean, Italy faced ongoing pressure in 2024 to manage migration flows. While the government implemented policies to address sea rescues and asylum applications, conditions in reception centres were criticized by human rights organizations.

Amnesty International (2024) documented cases of prolonged detention, unsanitary conditions, and deportations that lacked due process. Additionally, restrictive migration policies and anti-immigrant rhetoric from some political sectors contributed to xenophobic attitudes in society.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Italy made progress in 2024 in increasing women's representation in politics and business, but challenges such as gender-based violence and the gender pay gap persisted. Femicide remained a critical issue, with an increase in reported cases compared to previous years.

The government launched campaigns to raise awareness about domestic violence and strengthened existing laws, but women's rights organizations called for greater investment in support services for survivors, including shelters and hotlines.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Italy showed progress in LGBTQ+ rights in 2024, though full equality has yet to be achieved. While same-sex civil unions are recognized, same-sex marriage remains illegal, limiting certain family and adoption rights.

Discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals continued to be an issue, particularly in rural and conservative areas. LGBTQ+ organizations urged the government to pass stricter hate crime laws and promote inclusive education in schools.

Economic Inequality and Social Rights

Despite moderate economic growth in 2024, economic inequality persisted, particularly affecting southern Italy. Unemployment rates, especially among

young people, remained high, and many rural communities struggled to access basic services such as education and healthcare.

The European Union (2024) encouraged Italy to implement structural reforms to reduce regional disparities and improve social mobility. Trade unions also played a key role in advocating for workers' rights and improving labour conditions.

Environment and Climate Change

Italy faced significant climate challenges in 2024, including floods, droughts, and heatwaves that affected both urban and rural areas. The government strengthened its commitment to the European Union's climate goals, focusing on transitioning to renewable energy sources and reducing carbon emissions.

However, Greenpeace (2024) noted that progress in implementing environmental policies was slow and called for intensified efforts to address issues such as air pollution and waste management.

Cultural Heritage and Local Community Rights

Italy remained a global leader in cultural heritage preservation. However, increased tourism pressure in 2024 posed challenges for local communities, including rising living costs in popular areas and environmental degradation.

The government implemented measures to regulate mass tourism, such as access restrictions in certain areas, but these policies generated controversy among affected communities and economic sectors.

International Cooperation

Italy played an active role in international cooperation, particularly within the European Union, promoting solidarity policies to address migration and climate change. Additionally, the country supported development initiatives in Africa and the Mediterranean to address the root causes of forced migration.

However, Italy faced criticism for not fully complying with international standards on refugee rights and migrant protections.

Conclusion

In 2024, Italy made progress in areas such as gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and environmental sustainability, but significant challenges related to migration, economic inequality, and gender-based violence remained. Addressing these issues will require a combination of political reforms, international cooperation, and renewed commitment to human rights and social justice.

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Japan

Introduction

In 2024, Japan, as one of the world's largest economies and a stable democracy, continued to face challenges related to human rights. While the country maintains high standards in areas such as education, technology, and overall welfare, concerns persisted regarding gender equality, labour rights, discrimination against minorities and refugees, and the use of the death penalty. This chapter examines Japan's human rights landscape during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Japan remained a consolidated democracy with strong protections for civil and political rights. However, human rights advocates pointed out the need to strengthen protections for freedom of expression and create a safer environment for journalists.

In 2024, Reporters Without Borders (2024) expressed concern about self-censorship among media outlets due to political and corporate pressure. Additionally, Japan's judicial system faced criticism for its high conviction rates and the use of the so-called "hostage justice" system, where defendants can be detained for extended periods before trial.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Japan continued to face significant challenges in gender equality in 2024. Although the government implemented policies to increase women's participation in the workforce and leadership roles, progress remained slow.

Women accounted for only a small percentage of leadership positions in politics and business.

Gender-based violence, including workplace harassment, remained a serious issue. According to Amnesty International (2024), many women faced barriers to reporting abuse due to social stigma and a lack of adequate legal support.

Labour Rights

Japan is known for its intense work culture, which in some cases has led to issues such as "karoshi" (death from overwork). In 2024, the government introduced new regulations to reduce excessive working hours and improve work-life balance, but exploitative labour practices persisted in certain sectors.

Migrant workers, particularly those in technical training programs, continued to face exploitation and precarious working conditions. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need for stronger legal protections for this group.

Minority Rights

In 2024, ethnic minorities, such as the Ainu and Burakumin, as well as foreign residents, faced discrimination in areas such as employment, housing, and access to public services. While the Japanese government has taken steps to recognize and protect the Ainu as an Indigenous people, inclusion policies have been limited.

Additionally, refugees faced significant barriers to obtaining asylum in Japan, which maintains one of the lowest refugee acceptance rates globally. Organizations like UNHCR urged Japan to reform its asylum system to align with international standards.

Death Penalty

Japan continued to apply the death penalty in 2024, drawing criticism from international human rights organizations. Executions were carried out in secret, and prisoners on death row often received little advance notice, a practice condemned for its psychological impact.

Amnesty International (2024) called on Japan to consider a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step toward its abolition.

Environmental Rights

Japan faced environmental challenges in 2024, including waste management, plastic pollution, and the impacts of climate change. The country continued to lead in environmental technology and adopted policies to reduce carbon emissions, but Greenpeace (2024) noted that progress was insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement targets.

The controlled release of treated water from the Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean sparked controversy both domestically and internationally, raising concerns about its environmental impact and public trust.

International Cooperation

Japan maintained an active role in international cooperation in 2024, focusing on development aid, climate change, and regional security. As a key member of the G7, the country promoted initiatives to address global human rights issues, although it faced criticism for its domestic record in areas such as refugee rights and gender equality.

Conclusion

In 2024, Japan made progress in areas such as labour rights and environmental sustainability but faced criticism for slow advancements in gender equality, minority rights, and its judicial system. Addressing these issues will require a more inclusive approach and sustained political reform. As Japan seeks to balance its international leadership with domestic challenges, its commitment to human rights will be essential for continued development.

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Jordan

Introduction

In 2024, Jordan, situated in a region marked by political tensions and conflicts, continued to play a key role as a host country for refugees and as a bastion of stability in the Middle East. However, significant human rights challenges persisted, including issues related to freedom of expression, women's rights, refugee protection, and minority rights. This chapter examines the state of human rights in Jordan during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Jordan maintained a political system based on a constitutional monarchy, but restrictions on civil and political liberties remained a concern. Freedom of expression and press faced limitations, particularly on topics related to the royal family, national security, and corruption.

According to Human Rights Watch (2024), cybercrime laws were used to prosecute activists, journalists, and social media users for criticizing the government. While peaceful protests were allowed in some cases, others were met with repression, with organizers facing arrests and restrictions.

Women's Rights

Jordan made progress in some aspects of women's rights in 2024, but discriminatory laws continued to affect key areas such as marriage, inheritance, and child custody. Gender-based violence remained a critical issue, with high rates of domestic violence and so-called "honour crimes."

The government introduced educational programs and campaigns to combat violence against women, but human rights organizations emphasized the need for deeper legal reforms to protect women and promote gender equality.

Refugee Rights

Jordan hosted one of the largest refugee populations in the world in 2024, including millions of Syrians as well as refugees from Palestine, Iraq, and Yemen. While the government continued to provide access to education, healthcare, and other essential services, conditions in refugee camps remained challenging.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024) praised Jordan's efforts to support refugees but highlighted the need for greater international resources to ease the country's burden. Refugees faced challenges in accessing formal employment, pushing many into informal jobs with low wages and poor working conditions.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

In 2024, Jordan struggled with high unemployment levels, particularly among youth and women. Despite labour reforms implemented by the government, economic inequality and challenges related to labour rights persisted.

Migrant workers, especially in sectors like construction and domestic work, continued to face exploitation and abuse. Amnesty International (2024) called on Jordan to strengthen the enforcement of labour laws and ensure the protection of all workers' rights.

Minority Rights

Religious and ethnic minorities in Jordan, including Christian and Circassian communities, generally enjoyed legal protections and recognition from the state. However, minorities occasionally faced challenges related to political representation and discrimination in access to economic opportunities.

LGBTQ+ individuals faced significant social stigma and discrimination. While homosexuality is not criminalized in Jordan, “public morality” laws were used to restrict LGBTQ+ freedoms, and advocacy groups struggled to operate openly.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Jordan faced significant environmental challenges, including water scarcity, desertification, and rising temperatures due to climate change. As one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, Jordan implemented projects to improve water resource management, but rural communities continued to face difficulties accessing clean water.

Greenpeace (2024) emphasized the need for more ambitious policies to address the climate crisis, including promoting renewable energy and conserving ecosystems.

International Cooperation

Jordan continued to play a key role in regional and international diplomacy, promoting stability and cooperation in the Middle East. The country actively participated in global initiatives to support refugees and address climate change.

However, international human rights organizations urged the government to align its international commitments with domestic policy improvements, particularly in areas such as freedom of expression and women's rights.

Conclusion

In 2024, Jordan remained a key regional player, making progress in areas such as refugee support and international cooperation. However, challenges related to women's rights, civil liberties, and economic justice underscored the need for further reforms. Addressing these issues will require a joint effort from the government, civil society, and the international community.

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Kazakhstan

Introduction

In 2024, Kazakhstan, the largest economy in Central Asia, continued to face human rights challenges, including restrictions on civil liberties, limitations on freedom of expression, and concerns about labour rights. While the government introduced reforms to improve transparency and combat corruption, criticism persisted over its commitment to fundamental rights. This chapter examines the human rights situation in Kazakhstan during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Kazakhstan maintained a political system dominated by the ruling party and the president, drawing criticism for the lack of political pluralism. In 2024, presidential and parliamentary elections were conducted under significant restrictions for opposition candidates and limited civil society participation.

Freedom of expression remained a critical issue, with strict laws restricting criticism of the government. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), independent journalists, bloggers, and activists faced harassment, detention, and, in some cases, violence for their work. Public protests were also limited, as authorities continued to require permits for any form of demonstration.

Labour Rights and Exploitation

Kazakhstan experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, driven by the energy industry and natural resource exports. However, labour rights remained a concern, particularly in sectors such as mining and construction.

Workers faced precarious conditions, low wages, and limited union representation. Amnesty International (2024) emphasized the need to protect workers attempting to organize and to ensure employers comply with safety and welfare regulations.

Women's Rights

In 2024, women in Kazakhstan continued to face significant challenges related to gender equality. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remained a critical issue, with human rights organizations highlighting the lack of adequate resources to support survivors.

The government introduced programs to promote women's representation in politics and business, but progress was slow. The gender pay gap and limited access to leadership positions continued to present major barriers.

Religious Freedom and Minority Rights

Kazakhstan is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious country, but religious minorities, including Christian and non-traditional Muslim communities, faced restrictions on their right to practice their faith freely. Laws requiring the mandatory registration of religious groups continued to be used as a tool to limit religious activity.

Additionally, ethnic minority communities faced barriers in accessing education and employment, and activists advocating for minority rights encountered harassment.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Kazakhstan made progress in addressing environmental issues, but challenges related to pollution and climate change remained severe. The country's reliance on fossil fuels and mining practices contributed to environmental degradation, particularly impacting rural communities.

The government implemented initiatives to promote renewable energy and reduce carbon emissions, but Greenpeace (2024) noted that these efforts were insufficient to counteract the negative effects of decades of resource exploitation.

International Cooperation

Kazakhstan continued to play an active role in regional and international cooperation in 2024, participating in economic and security initiatives in Central Asia. The country strengthened its ties with international organizations such as the United Nations but faced criticism for not fully meeting international commitments on human rights.

Conclusion

In 2024, Kazakhstan showed progress in areas such as government transparency and renewable energy promotion, but significant challenges persisted regarding civil liberties, labour rights, and gender equality. Addressing these issues will require a renewed commitment from the government to ensure the fundamental rights of all its citizens.

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Kenya

Introduction

In 2024, Kenya continued to play a key role in East Africa as an emerging democracy and a regional economic hub. However, the country faced significant human rights challenges, including concerns about corruption, women's rights, press freedom, social justice, and access to basic resources. Despite progress in some areas, economic inequality, political violence, and environmental threats shaped the human rights landscape in Kenya.

Civil and Political Rights

Kenya maintained a democratic system with regular elections, but political tensions and occasional electoral violence remained a concern in 2024. Authorities faced criticism for excessive use of force to suppress protests and the arbitrary detention of activists and opposition leaders.

Press freedom came under pressure, with journalists facing threats, intimidation, and, in some cases, violence. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), independent media played a crucial role in promoting transparency, but government restrictions limited their ability to operate freely.

Women's Rights

In 2024, women in Kenya continued to face high levels of gender-based violence, including child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and domestic violence. While the government implemented programs to combat FGM and promote gender equality, deeply rooted cultural practices and lack of adequate resources hindered progress.

Women also faced significant barriers to accessing education and employment, particularly in rural communities. Amnesty International (2024) emphasized the need to strengthen protective policies for women and ensure support services are accessible nationwide.

Children's Rights

Poverty and unequal access to education continued to affect children in Kenya in 2024. Many children in rural areas lacked access to quality education due to inadequate infrastructure and resources. Additionally, child labour and early marriages remained major challenges.

UNICEF (2024) urged the government to invest more in education and child protection programs to address these inequalities and ensure children's rights.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Despite economic growth in sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and technology, economic inequality persisted in Kenya. Unemployment rates, especially among youth, remained high, and many informal workers faced precarious working conditions.

Trade unions played a crucial role in advocating for labour rights, but the government was criticized for failing to adequately enforce existing labour laws. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need to ensure fair wages and safe working conditions for all workers.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Kenya faced significant challenges related to climate change, including drought, land degradation, and biodiversity loss. These conditions affected food security, particularly for rural communities dependent on agriculture.

The government launched initiatives to promote reforestation, water conservation, and the use of renewable energy. However, Greenpeace (2024) noted that these efforts need to be accelerated to address the environmental crises affecting the country.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Kenya continued to be a major host country for refugees in East Africa, housing hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflicts in neighbouring countries such as Somalia and South Sudan. Refugee camps like Dadaab and Kakuma faced challenging conditions due to resource shortages and overcrowding.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR, 2024) praised Kenya's efforts to provide refuge but called for greater international support to improve conditions in the camps and promote sustainable solutions for refugees.

International Cooperation

Kenya played an active role in regional and international cooperation in 2024, participating in initiatives to promote peace and security in East Africa. The country also collaborated in global programs to combat climate change and promote sustainable development.

However, human rights organizations urged the government to prioritize protecting human rights within its borders, particularly in areas such as gender equality, economic justice, and civil liberties.

Conclusion

In 2024, Kenya made progress in areas such as climate action and regional stability, but persistent challenges related to economic inequality, women's and children's rights, and civil liberties remained. Addressing these issues will require renewed government commitment and international support to ensure that human rights are protected and respected.

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Kyrgyzstan

Introduction

In 2024, Kyrgyzstan, a mountainous nation in Central Asia, continued to face human rights challenges as it sought to balance its democratic transition with structural issues such as corruption, economic inequality, and a lack of protections for civil liberties. While the country is known for its vibrant civil society and competitive elections compared to others in the region, concerns persisted about the suppression of dissent, women's and minority rights, and labour conditions.

Civil and Political Rights

Kyrgyzstan maintained a political system that, although more open than some of its neighbours, faced significant concerns in 2024. Freedom of expression and assembly came under increasing restrictions, with cases of journalists and activists being detained for criticizing the government. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), defamation laws and criminal proceedings were used to silence critical voices.

Public protests also faced stricter controls, with authorities requiring permits and cracking down on demonstrations deemed a threat to public order. This restricted environment particularly affected civil society organizations working on issues such as corruption and women's rights.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

In 2024, women in Kyrgyzstan continued to face significant challenges, including high levels of domestic violence and forced marriages. While the government

implemented programs to address gender-based violence, the lack of enforcement of existing laws and deeply rooted cultural norms hindered progress.

The practice of "ala kachuu" (bride kidnapping) remained a concern despite being criminalized. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the need to strengthen legal measures and provide accessible resources for survivors of gender-based violence.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Kyrgyzstan continued to face significant economic challenges in 2024, with high unemployment rates and reliance on remittances sent by migrant workers in Russia and other countries. Local workers, especially in sectors such as agriculture and mining, faced precarious conditions and low wages.

The lack of effective union representation and weak enforcement of labour laws left many workers vulnerable. Human Rights Watch (2024) called on the government to strengthen labour rights and improve working conditions, particularly in rural areas.

Minority Rights

Kyrgyzstan is a multi-ethnic country, but minorities, including Uzbek communities, continued to face discrimination in areas such as employment, education, and political representation. Ethnic tensions, though less frequent than in the past, remained a source of concern.

The lack of inclusive policies and the marginalization of minority communities limited their full integration into Kyrgyz society. International organizations

urged the government to implement targeted measures to protect minority rights and promote social cohesion.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Kyrgyzstan faced significant environmental challenges, including land degradation, deforestation, and glacier melt due to climate change. These issues negatively impacted rural communities that rely on natural resources for their livelihoods.

The government launched initiatives to promote reforestation and sustainable water management, but Greenpeace (2024) noted that more ambitious efforts were needed to mitigate the impacts of climate change and protect vulnerable ecosystems.

International Cooperation

Kyrgyzstan continued to actively participate in regional and international cooperation in 2024, strengthening its ties with organizations such as the Eurasian Economic Union and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. However, the country faced criticism for falling short of international standards in areas such as women's rights and civil liberties.

Conclusion

In 2024, Kyrgyzstan made progress in democratic participation and international cooperation, but significant human rights challenges persisted, particularly regarding civil liberties, gender equality, and minority rights. Addressing these issues will require a more inclusive approach and a renewed commitment to fundamental human rights principles.

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Kosovo

Introduction

In 2024, Kosovo, Europe's youngest state, continued its journey toward strengthening its democratic institutions and seeking greater international recognition. However, the country faced challenges related to ethnic tensions, governance, judicial reform, and human rights. While progress was made in areas such as minority rights and EU integration processes, concerns persisted regarding freedom of expression, corruption, and the protection of marginalized communities.

Civil and Political Rights

Kosovo maintained a democratic framework with regular elections, but political instability and tensions between ethnic communities remained significant challenges. Relations between the ethnic Albanian majority and the Serbian minority continued to be a source of friction, particularly in northern Kosovo, where incidents of violence were reported during the year.

Freedom of expression was generally respected, but journalists and activists faced threats and harassment, particularly when reporting on corruption or organized crime. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Kosovo made incremental progress in press freedom but still required stronger protections for journalists.

Minority Rights

Kosovo made efforts in 2024 to protect the rights of its Serbian minority and other ethnic groups, including Bosniaks, Turks, and Roma. However,

discrimination, limited access to public services, and underrepresentation in political and economic life persisted.

The government implemented initiatives to improve interethnic dialogue and foster inclusion, but organizations like Amnesty International (2024) stressed the need for more robust measures to address systemic discrimination and promote equal opportunities for all communities.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Kosovo continued to face challenges in advancing gender equality in 2024. Women remained underrepresented in politics and leadership positions, despite affirmative measures to increase female participation. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remained a critical issue, with limited resources available for survivors.

The government introduced programs to raise awareness and strengthen legal protections for women, but enforcement gaps and cultural norms hindered progress. Women's rights organizations called for greater investment in services such as shelters and counseling centers.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Kosovo made modest progress in LGBTQ+ rights in 2024, with increased visibility and activism from local organizations. However, discrimination and societal stigma remained widespread, particularly in rural areas. Public events, such as Pride marches, faced resistance from conservative groups but were supported by the government as part of its commitment to human rights.

LGBTQ+ advocacy groups highlighted the need for stronger anti-discrimination laws and better access to inclusive healthcare and education.

Economic Inequality and Labour Rights

Despite modest economic growth in 2024, Kosovo struggled with high unemployment rates, particularly among youth. The informal economy remained significant, leaving many workers without legal protections or access to social benefits.

Labour unions played a limited role in advocating for workers' rights, and enforcement of labour laws remained weak. Human Rights Watch (2024) emphasized the need for comprehensive labour reforms to address exploitation and improve working conditions.

Judicial Reform and Corruption

Kosovo made efforts to strengthen its judicial system in 2024, but challenges related to corruption and political interference persisted. The slow pace of judicial reforms and the lack of accountability undermined public trust in the rule of law.

The European Union (2024) urged Kosovo to accelerate its anti-corruption efforts as part of its integration process. Civil society organizations called for greater transparency and independence in judicial proceedings.

Environment and Climate Change

Kosovo faced significant environmental challenges in 2024, including air pollution, deforestation, and inadequate waste management. The country

remained heavily dependent on coal for energy production, contributing to high levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

Greenpeace (2024) called on Kosovo to transition toward renewable energy sources and implement stricter environmental regulations to address these issues.

International Relations and EU Integration

Kosovo continued to seek broader international recognition in 2024, with some progress made toward normalizing relations with Serbia through EU-mediated dialogue. However, tensions between the two countries remained high, complicating efforts to reach a comprehensive agreement.

Kosovo also advanced its European integration efforts, working to align its policies with EU standards. While the process remained challenging, the EU praised Kosovo's commitment to reforms in governance and human rights.

Conclusion

In 2024, Kosovo demonstrated progress in areas such as minority rights, LGBTQ+ visibility, and EU integration, but significant challenges remained in civil liberties, judicial reform, and economic inequality. Addressing these issues will require sustained efforts from the government, civil society, and international partners to ensure a more inclusive and just society.

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Kuwait

Introduction

In 2024, Kuwait continued to be one of the Gulf's most prominent parliamentary democracies, characterized by a unique balance between the Emir's authority and an elected parliament. Despite its political stability and strong oil-driven economy, the country faced significant human rights challenges, including restrictions on freedom of expression, women's rights, labour rights for migrant workers, and equality for LGBTQ+ communities. This chapter examines Kuwait's human rights landscape during the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Kuwait maintained a political system that allowed for a significant degree of citizen participation compared to other Gulf countries. However, major restrictions on civil and political liberties persisted. Freedom of expression was limited, particularly concerning criticism of the Emir, the government, or sensitive topics such as religion and national security.

Human Rights Watch (2024) documented several cases of activists, journalists, and social media users being prosecuted under cybercrime laws for expressing critical opinions. While parliamentary elections were competitive, political opposition faced significant restrictions.

Women's Rights

In 2024, women in Kuwait continued to face discrimination in key areas such as citizenship, marriage, inheritance, and access to equal employment

opportunities. Family laws based on Sharia limited women's rights, leaving many in legally unequal situations.

Despite these challenges, women achieved notable advancements in politics and business, with increased representation in parliament and leadership roles compared to previous years. However, human rights organizations noted that existing measures to combat gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remained inadequate.

Labour Rights and Migrant Workers

Kuwait continued to rely heavily on a large migrant workforce in 2024, comprising the majority of the labour force in sectors such as construction, domestic work, and retail. However, migrant workers faced precarious conditions, exploitation, and abuse under the "kafala" sponsorship system.

Amnesty International (2024) highlighted cases where employers retained passports, restricted freedom of movement, and withheld wages. Despite previous reforms, the kafala system continued to expose migrant workers to significant vulnerabilities.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Kuwait maintained strict laws against same-sex relationships in 2024, criminalizing consensual activities with prison sentences. The LGBTQ+ community faced widespread societal discrimination and government repression.

International human rights organizations urged Kuwait to repeal laws criminalizing LGBTQ+ individuals and to take steps to protect their rights.

However, efforts in this area remained limited due to conservative cultural and religious norms.

Religious Freedom

Kuwait allowed the practice of non-Muslim religions in private spaces and authorized places of worship for Christian and other minority religious communities. However, proselytizing non-Islamic religions was strictly prohibited, and religious minorities faced restrictions in publicly practicing their faith.

Discrimination against Shia Muslims, who represent a significant minority in Kuwait, continued to raise concerns, particularly in areas such as political representation and access to government jobs.

Environment and Sustainability

In 2024, Kuwait faced significant environmental challenges, including air pollution, inadequate waste management, and water scarcity. The country's dependence on oil complicated efforts to diversify energy sources and reduce carbon emissions.

Greenpeace (2024) noted that while Kuwait introduced some policies to promote renewable energy use, these efforts were insufficient to comprehensively address its environmental issues.

International Cooperation

Kuwait remained an active player in international diplomacy in 2024, acting as a mediator in regional conflicts and providing humanitarian aid to countries in crisis. However, the country faced criticism for not fully adhering to international

human rights standards, particularly in areas such as labour rights and gender equality.

Conclusion

In 2024, Kuwait made progress in areas such as women's political participation and its role in international cooperation, but persistent criticisms remained over restrictive policies on freedom of expression, migrant workers' rights, and LGBTQ+ rights. Addressing these challenges will require a combination of internal reforms and renewed commitment to fundamental human rights principles.

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Laos

Introduction

In 2024, Laos, a single-party state governed by the Lao People's Revolutionary Party (LPRP), faced continued criticism over its human rights record. Restrictions on civil and political liberties, the treatment of ethnic minorities, labour rights, and environmental challenges remained key issues. Despite economic growth driven by foreign investment, social and economic inequalities persisted, disproportionately affecting rural communities.

Civil and Political Rights

In 2024, Laos maintained a highly restrictive political environment, where the government did not tolerate public dissent or political opposition. Freedoms of expression, assembly, and association remained severely limited. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), government critics, including activists and journalists, faced threats, arbitrary detentions, and enforced disappearances.

State control over media and limited internet access further restricted the dissemination of independent information. International organizations continued urging the government to allow greater space for civil society and dissenting voices.

Rights of Ethnic Minorities

Laos is a multi-ethnic country with more than 49 recognized groups, but ethnic minorities continued to face discrimination and marginalization in 2024. Hmong communities, in particular, reported cases of forced displacement and restrictions on practicing their customs and traditions.

The lack of inclusive policies for these communities limited their access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Amnesty International (2024) called on the government to implement targeted measures to protect minority rights and ensure their integration into national development.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Although Laos experienced continued economic growth in 2024, driven by foreign investments and infrastructure projects, economic inequalities persisted. Most workers were employed in the informal sector, where they faced low wages, unsafe working conditions, and lack of access to social benefits.

Independent unions remained prohibited, and labour organizations were state-controlled. Human Rights Watch (2024) emphasized the need to ensure fundamental labour rights, including freedom of association and collective bargaining.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Laos faced significant environmental challenges, including deforestation, biodiversity loss, and the impacts of climate change. Hydroelectric dam projects, while crucial to the country's economy, raised concerns about the displacement of local communities and damage to river ecosystems.

Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to balance economic development with environmental sustainability, highlighting the importance of protecting natural resources that support rural communities.

Women's Rights

Women in Laos continued to face significant inequalities in 2024, particularly in rural areas where access to education and healthcare was limited. While the government promoted women's participation in politics and leadership roles, these measures failed to address cultural and structural barriers.

Gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remained widespread, with insufficient resources available for survivors. Amnesty International (2024) called for stronger laws against gender-based violence and increased investment in support services.

International Cooperation

In 2024, Laos strengthened its relationships with international partners, including China, Vietnam, and Thailand, through economic agreements and infrastructure projects. However, human rights organizations urged international partners to prioritize human rights in their dealings with Laos, emphasizing the importance of promoting equitable and sustainable development.

Conclusion

In 2024, Laos demonstrated economic growth and progress in infrastructure development, but persistent challenges in human rights, economic inequality, and environmental sustainability underscored the need for significant reforms. Addressing these issues will require renewed government commitment and international support to ensure inclusive and rights-respecting development.

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Lesotho

Introduction

In 2024, Lesotho, a mountainous kingdom landlocked within South Africa, faced significant human rights challenges despite efforts to strengthen its democratic institutions. Economic inequalities, gender-based violence, weak labour rights, and limited access to basic services particularly affected rural communities. While the country sought political stability and sustainable development, issues such as corruption and climate change continued to influence its human rights landscape.

Civil and Political Rights

Lesotho maintained a democratic system with regular elections, but internal political tensions continued to hinder progress in 2024. While basic freedoms such as freedom of expression and assembly were respected, political instability affected the effective functioning of government institutions.

Journalists and activists faced threats and harassment, particularly when addressing issues related to government corruption. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), although Lesotho guarantees press freedom in its constitution, independent media faced economic and political pressures.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

In 2024, gender-based violence remained a serious issue in Lesotho, where women experienced high levels of domestic and sexual violence. Existing laws, though progressive in some respects, were poorly enforced, leaving many survivors without access to justice or support.

Child marriage and discriminatory cultural practices also persisted in rural communities. Amnesty International (2024) called on the government of Lesotho to increase resources to combat gender-based violence and promote gender equality through educational campaigns and legal reforms.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Lesotho's economy relies heavily on subsistence agriculture and the textile sector, where most workers are women. However, labour rights in these sectors remained a concern in 2024, with reports of low wages, long working hours, and poor working conditions.

Unemployment rates, particularly among youth, remained high, with many seeking job opportunities in South Africa. Human Rights Watch (2024) emphasized the need to improve labour law enforcement and ensure adequate protections for workers, especially in the informal sector.

Health and Access to Basic Services

In 2024, Lesotho continued to face challenges in accessing healthcare and other essential services, particularly in rural areas. High rates of HIV/AIDS remained a major concern, though treatment and awareness programs made progress in reducing new infections.

The country's healthcare and educational infrastructure remained limited, impacting the overall well-being of its population. The United Nations (2024) highlighted the need for increased investment in basic services to ensure marginalized communities are not left behind.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change had a significant impact on Lesotho in 2024, exacerbating challenges related to food security and rural livelihoods. Recurring droughts and soil erosion severely affected agricultural communities, while the country's reliance on natural resources limited its capacity to adapt.

Greenpeace (2024) urged Lesotho to implement more ambitious strategies to combat climate change, including promoting sustainable agricultural practices and protecting its water resources.

International Cooperation

Lesotho maintained its cooperation with international partners in 2024, seeking support in areas such as healthcare, rural development, and climate change mitigation. However, progress in human rights was limited by the country's dependence on external aid and internal governance challenges.

Conclusion

In 2024, Lesotho demonstrated efforts to improve its political stability and social development, but significant challenges persisted in human rights, gender inequality, access to basic services, and environmental sustainability. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach, combined with support from the international community, to ensure fundamental rights are respected and protected for all.

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Latvia

Introduction

In 2024, Latvia, a Baltic nation with a rich cultural heritage, faced several challenges in the area of human rights, particularly related to migration, minority rights, and the environment. Despite its efforts to comply with European standards, certain policies and governmental decisions generated controversy and concern on an international level.

Civil and Political Rights

Latvia maintained a stable democratic system, but legal reforms related to border control drew criticism. In June, the Parliament approved reforms granting border guards the authority to "prevent" irregular entries, raising concerns about potential summary deportations of refugees and migrants. During 2024, Latvia reported having prevented 13,863 irregular entries, a significant increase compared to previous years. According to Amnesty International (2024), these measures could violate international human rights principles.

Freedom of expression and the press were largely respected, but journalists covering corruption issues faced some pressures. Judicial independence remained an important pillar of the Latvian system, although there were challenges in implementing certain regulations.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

In 2024, Latvia ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing violence against women, known as the Istanbul Convention. This step was a significant

advancement in the fight against gender-based violence in the country. However, the implementation of policies to combat domestic violence remained uneven, particularly in rural areas where victims faced difficulties in accessing support and justice services. The United Nations (2024) highlighted the need for a broader approach to protect women's rights in Latvia.

Minority Rights and Discrimination

The year 2024 was marked by controversies concerning minority rights. Citizens of Russian origin faced challenges renewing their residence permits due to a mandatory Latvian language exam introduced in previous years. Approximately 18,000 people were affected, and over 1,200 faced potential deportations for failing to meet the requirements. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), these policies could be discriminatory and contrary to the principle of equality before the law.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change and the environment were significant topics in Latvia during 2024. Greenhouse gas emissions exceeded the targets set by the European Union, leading to infringement proceedings against the country. The European Commission (2024) urged Latvia to adopt stricter measures to reduce pollution and protect its natural resources. Greenpeace (2024) also warned about the need for more sustainable strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Health and Basic Services

Latvia's healthcare system faced significant limitations in 2024, particularly in terms of funding and access in rural areas. Despite some progress in improving infrastructure, many citizens struggled to access adequate medical care. The

United Nations (2024) urged the Latvian government to prioritize investment in basic services to ensure better well-being for all its residents.

Conclusion

In 2024, Latvia showed progress in certain areas of human rights, such as the ratification of the Istanbul Convention and the protection of civil rights. However, significant concerns remained regarding migration, minority rights, and the environment. Addressing these challenges will require a comprehensive approach and continued commitment to international human rights principles.

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Lebanon

Introduction

In 2024, Lebanon, a Middle Eastern country with a complex socio-political landscape, faced significant challenges in human rights. The ongoing economic crisis, political instability, and lack of accountability for past human rights violations continued to impact the daily lives of its citizens. Despite international pressure, Lebanon struggled to implement reforms that could alleviate the suffering of its population.

Civil and Political Rights

Lebanon's political system, characterized by sectarian power-sharing, remained paralyzed in 2024. Protests calling for governmental reforms and accountability were met with excessive use of force by security forces. Amnesty International (2024) reported instances of arbitrary arrests and detentions of activists and protesters, raising concerns about the state's commitment to civil liberties.

Although freedom of expression and the press is constitutionally protected, it faced increasing restrictions. Journalists and media outlets reporting on corruption and government inefficiencies were subjected to intimidation and legal action. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the growing environment of self-censorship among journalists due to fear of reprisals.

Economic and Social Rights

The economic crisis, which began in 2019, continued to worsen in 2024, with inflation rates reaching unprecedented levels. Basic services, including electricity, water, and healthcare, remained severely underfunded and

inaccessible to large segments of the population. According to the United Nations (2024), over 80% of the population lived below the poverty line, exacerbating social inequalities and fueling public discontent.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence remained a pervasive issue in Lebanon in 2024. Despite the existence of laws aimed at protecting women, enforcement remained weak, and many survivors lacked access to support services. Child marriage and discriminatory personal status laws further entrenched gender inequality. UN Women (2024) emphasized the need for comprehensive legal reforms to address these systemic issues.

Refugee Rights

Lebanon continued to host one of the largest populations of refugees per capita, with over 1.5 million Syrian refugees and hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees residing in the country. Refugees faced severe restrictions on their rights to work, education, and movement. Amnesty International (2024) criticized the Lebanese government for forcibly deporting Syrian refugees, a practice that contravenes international law.

Environment and Climate Change

Environmental degradation and poor waste management practices remained critical issues in Lebanon. The lack of effective policies to address pollution and deforestation exacerbated the impact of climate change on vulnerable communities. Greenpeace (2024) called for urgent action to implement sustainable waste management systems and protect natural resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, Lebanon faced a multitude of human rights challenges, from political repression to economic hardship and systemic gender inequality. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort by both the Lebanese government and the international community to promote accountability, social justice, and sustainable development.

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Libya

Introduction

In 2024, Libya, a country in North Africa grappling with the aftermath of years of conflict, faced significant challenges in human rights. The fragile ceasefire agreement and ongoing political divisions continued to hinder progress toward stability. Human rights abuses, including arbitrary detentions, forced disappearances, and violence against migrants, remained prevalent throughout the year.

Civil and Political Rights

Libya's political landscape remained deeply fractured in 2024, with rival administrations in the east and west of the country vying for control. Amnesty International (2024) documented widespread arbitrary arrests and detentions, often targeting activists, journalists, and individuals perceived as opposing factions. Security forces and militias operated with impunity, exacerbating the climate of fear and repression.

Freedom of expression and the press were severely restricted. Journalists faced threats, harassment, and even physical violence, making Libya one of the most dangerous countries in the world for media professionals. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), the lack of accountability for attacks on journalists further entrenched self-censorship and restricted access to information.

Migrant and Refugee Rights

Libya continued to be a transit point for migrants and refugees attempting to reach Europe. In 2024, thousands of individuals were subjected to abuse, exploitation, and violence in detention centres operated by militias and armed groups. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported overcrowded and inhumane conditions in these centres, where detainees faced torture, sexual violence, and forced labour. Despite international condemnation, efforts to address these abuses remained insufficient.

Women's Rights

The situation for women in Libya remained dire in 2024. Gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual assault, was widespread, and cultural stigmas often discouraged survivors from seeking justice. UN Women (2024) called for greater efforts to implement legal protections and support services for women, emphasizing the importance of tackling deeply rooted gender inequalities.

Environment and Infrastructure

Years of conflict have left Libya's infrastructure in a state of disrepair, with limited access to clean water, electricity, and healthcare. Environmental degradation, including oil spills and water contamination, posed additional challenges. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the urgent need for investment in sustainable infrastructure and environmental protections to improve living conditions for Libya's population.

Conclusion

In 2024, Libya faced persistent human rights challenges across multiple sectors, from political repression to abuses against migrants and systemic gender inequality. Achieving meaningful progress will require coordinated efforts from both Libyan authorities and the international community to address these issues and work toward stability and justice.

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Lithuania

Introduction

In 2024, Lithuania, one of the Baltic states with a strong commitment to democratic values, faced several challenges in human rights. While the country continued to play an active role in the European Union and NATO, concerns arose regarding the management of migration, freedom of expression, and minority rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Lithuania's democratic system remained robust in 2024, but some governmental policies sparked controversy. In particular, measures to manage migration flows at the Belarusian border raised concerns over potential human rights violations. Amnesty International (2024) reported instances of pushbacks and inadequate conditions in detention centres for migrants.

Despite a strong legal framework protecting freedom of expression, incidents of intimidation towards journalists investigating sensitive issues, such as corruption and politics, were reported. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), while Lithuania maintains high standards of press freedom, challenges remain in safeguarding journalists from political pressures.

Minority Rights and Non-Discrimination

In 2024, Lithuania continued to face challenges in integrating minorities, particularly the Polish and Russian populations. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need for more inclusive measures to ensure equal access to

education and employment. Additionally, concerns over online hate speech targeting ethnic communities and the LGBTI population persisted.

Environment and Climate Change

Lithuania made progress in 2024 on implementing environmental policies aligned with European Union climate goals. However, Greenpeace (2024) warned of the persistent effects of deforestation and industrial pollution. The need for greater investment in renewable energy sources to reduce reliance on fossil fuels was emphasized.

Social and Economic Rights

Access to basic services such as education and healthcare improved in 2024 due to government programs targeting rural areas. However, rising inflation and economic inequality affected the most vulnerable communities. The United Nations (2024) urged Lithuania to strengthen its social safety net to mitigate the effects of rising living costs.

Conclusion

In 2024, Lithuania demonstrated significant progress in key areas such as environmental policies and social rights but faced challenges regarding minority integration and migration management. Addressing these issues will require a balanced approach that combines the protection of human rights with national security needs.

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North Macedonia

Introduction

In 2024, North Macedonia, a nation located in the Balkans, continued to face significant human rights challenges while progressing toward European integration. Despite advancements in key areas such as strengthening the rule of law, issues related to discrimination, freedom of expression, and corruption persisted.

Civil and Political Rights

North Macedonia maintained political stability in 2024, but corruption cases remained a major concern. Transparency International (2024) noted that while measures to combat corruption have been adopted, their implementation remains inconsistent. Additionally, freedom of expression came under pressure, with reports of journalist intimidation and restrictions on independent media outlets.

Minority Rights

The integration of ethnic minorities, especially the Albanian community, remained a challenge in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need to fully implement the Ohrid Framework Agreement, ensuring equal access to education, employment, and political representation. Moreover, Romani communities continued to face significant discrimination and social exclusion.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

In 2024, North Macedonia adopted new laws aimed at combating gender-based violence. However, Amnesty International (2024) reported that a lack of resources and weak enforcement limited their effectiveness. Domestic violence and human trafficking remained severe issues, particularly in rural areas.

Environment and Climate Change

The government of North Macedonia implemented stricter environmental policies in 2024 to address air pollution, a critical problem in the country. Greenpeace (2024) praised these efforts but emphasized the need for a faster transition to renewable energy sources and better waste management.

Conclusion

In 2024, North Macedonia achieved progress in areas such as anti-corruption efforts and environmental policies, but significant human rights challenges remained, including minority integration and women's protection. A renewed commitment to structural reforms and strengthening the rule of law will be key to advancing toward higher European standards.

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Madagascar

Introduction

In 2024, Madagascar, an island nation off the southeast coast of Africa, faced numerous human rights challenges exacerbated by economic instability, environmental crises, and social inequalities. Despite efforts to address these issues, systemic corruption and weak governance continued to hinder progress.

Civil and Political Rights

Madagascar's political landscape in 2024 remained fragile, with limited progress in strengthening democratic institutions. According to Amnesty International (2024), instances of arbitrary arrests and political repression were reported, particularly against opposition figures and activists. Freedom of the press also faced restrictions, with journalists facing harassment and intimidation for reporting on corruption and governance issues.

Economic and Social Rights

Poverty and inequality remained widespread in Madagascar in 2024. The United Nations (2024) estimated that over 75% of the population lived below the poverty line, with limited access to healthcare, education, and clean water. Food insecurity was exacerbated by severe droughts in the southern regions, leaving millions in need of humanitarian assistance. Efforts to address these issues were hampered by inadequate funding and infrastructure.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence continued to be a pervasive issue in Madagascar in 2024. Despite legal frameworks to protect women, weak enforcement and societal norms often left survivors without justice. Child marriage and exploitation also remained significant concerns. Human Rights Watch (2024) called for increased resources and political commitment to combat these systemic issues.

Environment and Climate Change

Madagascar's unique biodiversity faced growing threats in 2024 due to deforestation, illegal logging, and climate change. Greenpeace (2024) warned that these environmental issues not only endangered wildlife but also had severe consequences for rural communities dependent on natural resources. The government's efforts to address deforestation were insufficient, and international support was deemed crucial to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Conclusion

In 2024, Madagascar grappled with significant human rights challenges, including political repression, widespread poverty, and environmental degradation. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach, combining strengthened governance, international cooperation, and targeted investments in social and environmental programs.

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Malaysia

Introduction

In 2024, Malaysia, a Southeast Asian country with a diverse society and a growing economy, faced various human rights challenges. Despite governmental efforts to improve transparency and social conditions, significant concerns persisted regarding freedom of expression, minority rights, and the treatment of migrants.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and the press in Malaysia continued to face restrictions in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), laws such as the Sedition Act and the Computer Crimes Act were used to silence government critics, journalists, and activists. Additionally, public demonstrations often faced restrictions, limiting the right to peaceful protest.

Minority Rights

Ethnic and religious minorities in Malaysia, including indigenous communities and non-Muslims, faced discrimination in areas such as access to education, employment, and land. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need for more inclusive policies to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their ethnic or religious background.

Migrant and Refugee Rights

Malaysia continued to be a key destination for migrants and refugees in 2024. However, many faced precarious working conditions, arbitrary detentions, and

deportations. Human Rights Watch (2024) and the UN called on the government to implement measures to protect these vulnerable populations and ensure their access to basic rights, including health and education.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence remained a widespread issue in Malaysia. Although laws against domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual harassment exist, their enforcement was limited, leaving many survivors without justice. UN Women (2024) emphasized the importance of strengthening protection policies and increasing resources to combat these issues.

Environment and Climate Change

Malaysia, known for its rich biodiversity, faced significant environmental challenges in 2024. Deforestation, driven by agricultural expansion and illegal logging, continued to threaten local ecosystems. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to adopt stricter policies to conserve forests and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Conclusion

In 2024, Malaysia made some progress in human rights, but structural problems related to freedom of expression, minority rights, and environmental protection persisted. Addressing these challenges will require a stronger commitment from the government, along with support from the international community.

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Malawi

Introduction

In 2024, Malawi, a landlocked country in southeastern Africa, faced significant human rights challenges exacerbated by poverty, climate change, and social inequality. Despite efforts by the government to address these issues, systemic corruption and limited resources hindered meaningful progress.

Civil and Political Rights

Malawi maintained political stability in 2024, but concerns about corruption and limitations on freedom of expression persisted. According to Amnesty International (2024), instances of political harassment and the misuse of public funds undermined public trust in government institutions. Journalists and activists occasionally faced intimidation, particularly when reporting on corruption or governance issues.

Economic and Social Rights

Poverty continued to affect the majority of Malawi's population, with over 70% living below the poverty line, according to the United Nations (2024). Access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water remained limited, particularly in rural areas. The country also faced severe food insecurity, exacerbated by prolonged droughts and poor agricultural productivity.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence remained prevalent in Malawi in 2024. While laws exist to protect women and children, enforcement was weak, leaving many survivors

without justice. Child marriage and cultural practices harmful to women's rights persisted, particularly in rural communities. UN Women (2024) emphasized the need for targeted campaigns and stronger legal frameworks to address these systemic issues.

Environment and Climate Change

Malawi's environment faced severe threats from deforestation, over-reliance on biomass for energy, and climate change. Greenpeace (2024) reported that recurrent droughts and floods not only disrupted agricultural activities but also displaced thousands of people. The government launched reforestation programs, but their impact was limited due to insufficient funding and local engagement.

Conclusion

In 2024, Malawi faced persistent challenges in human rights, particularly in areas of poverty alleviation, gender equality, and environmental protection. Addressing these issues will require a coordinated effort involving strengthened governance, international support, and community-driven initiatives to ensure sustainable development and social justice.

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Maldives

Introduction

In 2024, Maldives, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean known for its natural beauty and vulnerability to climate change, faced significant human rights challenges. Despite progress in promoting sustainable tourism and strengthening its democratic institutions, concerns persisted regarding freedom of expression, labour rights, and the effects of climate change.

Civil and Political Rights

In 2024, Maldives continued its transition toward a stronger democracy, but concerns arose about freedom of expression and political rights. According to Amnesty International (2024), journalists and activists faced restrictions, including intimidation and harassment by authorities. Additionally, defamation laws were used to silence government critics.

Labour and Social Rights

The tourism sector, which constitutes a significant portion of the Maldivian economy, benefited from an increase in international arrivals in 2024. However, workers in the tourism sector, including migrants, continued to face precarious working conditions, such as long hours, low wages, and lack of access to unions. Human Rights Watch (2024) urged the government to implement labour reforms to protect these workers.

Women’s Rights and Gender-Based Violence

Gender equality in Maldives advanced slowly in 2024. While the government took measures to promote women’s participation in politics and the economy, gender-based violence remained a serious issue. UN Women (2024) highlighted the need to strengthen protection mechanisms and increase awareness of gender equality in local communities.

Environment and Climate Change

Maldives remains one of the country’s most vulnerable to climate change due to rising sea levels. In 2024, the government reinforced its international commitments to mitigate climate change effects, but Greenpeace (2024) warned that faster and more effective actions are needed. Local communities faced growing challenges related to coastal erosion and the loss of livelihoods due to environmental degradation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Maldives made progress in areas such as sustainable tourism and democratic strengthening but faced persistent challenges in human rights, particularly in protecting workers, promoting gender equality, and combating the effects of climate change. Addressing these issues will require greater international cooperation and more inclusive and effective national policies.

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Mali

Introduction

In 2024, Mali, a landlocked country in West Africa, continued to grapple with significant human rights challenges, including ongoing conflict, political instability, and widespread poverty. Despite international efforts to support peace and development, the security situation remained precarious, with civilians bearing the brunt of violence from armed groups and security forces.

Civil and Political Rights

Mali's political landscape in 2024 was marked by ongoing tensions following the military-led transitional government's promises to restore civilian rule. According to Amnesty International (2024), restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly persisted, with journalists and activists facing harassment and arbitrary detention. The delayed implementation of democratic reforms raised concerns among international observers about the future of governance in the country.

Conflict and Humanitarian Crisis

The ongoing conflict in northern and central Mali continued to result in widespread human rights abuses, including attacks on civilians, forced displacement, and the recruitment of child soldiers by armed groups. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported that over 1.5 million people were internally displaced, while humanitarian aid efforts were hindered by insecurity and limited access to affected areas.

Women's Rights and Gender-Based Violence

Women and girls in Mali faced heightened risks of violence, including sexual violence and forced marriage, particularly in conflict-affected regions. Despite some legal protections, enforcement remained weak, leaving many survivors without access to justice or support services. UN Women (2024) emphasized the urgent need for targeted interventions to protect women's rights and address the root causes of gender-based violence.

Economic and Social Rights

Mali's economic situation in 2024 remained fragile, with widespread poverty and limited access to basic services such as healthcare, education, and clean water. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that the ongoing conflict exacerbated these challenges, leaving rural communities particularly vulnerable to food insecurity and malnutrition.

Environment and Climate Change

Environmental degradation and climate change posed additional challenges for Mali in 2024, with desertification and erratic rainfall patterns impacting agricultural productivity and livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) called for increased investment in sustainable agricultural practices and climate adaptation measures to support affected communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Mali faced a complex array of human rights challenges, including conflict, political instability, and socio-economic hardships. Addressing these issues will require a coordinated effort involving the Malian government,

international partners, and civil society to promote peace, protect vulnerable populations, and lay the groundwork for sustainable development.

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Malta

Introduction

In 2024, Malta, a small island state in the Mediterranean, continued to face significant challenges in human rights. Despite progress in areas such as labour legislation and women's rights, concerns remained regarding migration, press freedom, and corruption.

Civil and Political Rights

In 2024, Malta maintained a strong democratic system, but journalists and activists investigating corruption faced intimidation and pressure. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), the assassination of journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia in 2017 remains a stark reminder of the threats to press freedom in the country. While progress has been made in investigating her case, criticisms persisted regarding insufficient protection for journalists.

Migrant Rights

Malta remained a key entry point for migrants and refugees crossing the Mediterranean in 2024. Despite efforts to manage migration flows, organizations like Amnesty International (2024) reported inadequate conditions in detention centres and pushback practices that violate international law. Migrants often faced discrimination and limited access to basic services.

Women's Rights

Malta made significant advances in women's rights in 2024, including improved access to reproductive health services. However, gender-based violence

remained a major issue. UN Women (2024) highlighted the need for more effective policies to protect survivors and ensure gender equality at all levels of society.

Corruption and Transparency

Corruption and lack of transparency continued to be major concerns in Malta. Transparency International (2024) noted that while legal reforms to combat corruption have been introduced, their implementation has been inconsistent, leading to public distrust in governmental institutions.

Environment and Climate Change

Malta faced environmental challenges related to urban growth and resource overexploitation in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to adopt more sustainable policies to protect the marine environment and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Local efforts to promote renewable energy showed positive results, but more ambitious actions are required to meet European Union climate goals.

Conclusion

In 2024, Malta advanced in areas such as women's rights and energy sustainability, but significant challenges remained in managing migration, protecting press freedom, and fighting corruption. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach and a commitment to strengthening democratic and social institutions.

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Morocco and Western Sahara

Introduction

In 2024, Morocco, a North African country with a rich cultural heritage, and Western Sahara, a disputed territory, faced complex human rights challenges. While Morocco pursued economic growth and political reforms, allegations of suppression of dissent and restrictions on civil liberties persisted. In Western Sahara, tensions between Morocco and the Polisario Front continued to impact the human rights situation.

Civil and Political Rights

In Morocco, freedom of expression and assembly faced significant limitations in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) reported that activists and journalists critical of the government were subjected to arbitrary arrests and unfair trials. In Western Sahara, pro-independence activists experienced heightened surveillance and repression, with limited space for political expression.

Human Rights in Western Sahara

Western Sahara remained a contentious issue in 2024, with ongoing disputes over its status. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of arbitrary detention and restrictions on movement imposed by Moroccan authorities in the region. Reports of harassment and intimidation against Sahrawi activists advocating for self-determination highlighted the persistent challenges.

Economic and Social Rights

Morocco made strides in reducing poverty and improving infrastructure in 2024, but economic inequality persisted, particularly in rural areas. The United Nations (2024) emphasized the need for more inclusive policies to address disparities in access to education, healthcare, and employment. In Western Sahara, limited economic opportunities and reliance on external aid exacerbated social challenges.

Women's Rights

Morocco continued to advance women's rights in 2024, with new initiatives to promote gender equality and combat violence against women. However, cultural and legal barriers still restricted women's participation in public life. UN Women (2024) called for greater enforcement of gender-focused laws and increased investment in women's empowerment programs in both Morocco and Western Sahara.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change posed growing challenges for Morocco and Western Sahara in 2024. Severe droughts and water scarcity impacted agriculture and rural livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) urged the implementation of sustainable water management practices and investments in renewable energy to mitigate environmental risks.

Conclusion

In 2024, Morocco and Western Sahara faced significant human rights challenges, from political repression to socio-economic inequalities and environmental

vulnerabilities. Addressing these issues will require a balanced approach that prioritizes human rights, economic inclusion, and sustainable development.

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Mexico

Introduction

In 2024, Mexico, the second-largest economy in Latin America, faced significant challenges in human rights. Despite government efforts to address issues such as corruption and violence, systemic problems related to women's rights, press freedom, and widespread violence continued to affect the country.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression in Mexico remained a significant concern in 2024. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Mexico continued to be one of the most dangerous countries for journalists, with several murders documented. Activists and human rights defenders faced threats and attacks, especially those working on justice and environmental issues.

Violence and Security

Violence related to organized crime persisted as one of Mexico's greatest challenges in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported that drug cartels continued to exert significant control in certain regions, leading to forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, and mass displacements. Security forces also faced accusations of abuse, including cases of torture and arbitrary detentions.

Women's Rights

In 2024, femicides and gender-based violence remained serious problems in Mexico. Despite legal reforms, many women continued to face barriers to

accessing justice and protection. UN Women (2024) emphasized the need to strengthen protection mechanisms and increase resources to combat violence against women, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

Indigenous Rights

Indigenous peoples in Mexico continued to face violations of their rights, including land dispossession, lack of prior consultation, and social exclusion. The United Nations (2024) highlighted the need to implement inclusive policies that respect the rights of indigenous peoples and ensure their participation in decisions affecting their territories and resources.

Environment and Climate Change

In 2024, Mexico faced significant environmental challenges, such as deforestation, water pollution, and climate change. Greenpeace (2024) noted that large-scale infrastructure projects, such as the Tren Maya, raised concerns about their environmental impact and the lack of adequate consultation with affected communities. Prolonged droughts and extreme temperatures also affected agriculture and food security.

Corruption and Transparency

Corruption remained a structural problem in Mexico in 2024, affecting trust in government institutions. Transparency International (2024) highlighted that, although some reforms have been implemented, significant challenges remain in accountability and the independence of the judicial system.

Conclusion

In 2024, Mexico made progress in certain areas, such as legal reforms and efforts to combat corruption, but challenges in human rights, violence, and the environment remain serious. Addressing these issues will require continued commitment from both the government and civil society to ensure a fairer and more sustainable future.

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Moldova

Introduction

In 2024, Moldova, a small Eastern European country situated between Romania and Ukraine, continued its journey toward European integration while facing significant challenges in human rights. Issues related to corruption, freedom of expression, and the treatment of minority groups persisted, alongside the ongoing impact of regional instability.

Civil and Political Rights

Moldova made progress in strengthening its democratic institutions in 2024, but concerns about corruption and judicial independence remained. Transparency International (2024) reported that although anti-corruption reforms were introduced, their enforcement was inconsistent, undermining public trust in the government. Freedom of the press was generally respected, but journalists investigating sensitive topics faced occasional threats and harassment.

Minority Rights

Ethnic and linguistic minorities, including the Gagauz and Roma communities, continued to face discrimination and limited access to education and employment opportunities in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) called for more inclusive policies to ensure equal rights and better integration of minority groups into Moldovan society.

Economic and Social Rights

Moldova remained one of the poorest countries in Europe in 2024, with many citizens relying on remittances from abroad. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that rural areas suffered from inadequate access to healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure. Efforts to address these disparities were ongoing but limited by economic constraints.

Environment and Climate Change

Environmental issues gained prominence in Moldova during 2024, particularly concerns about deforestation and water pollution. Greenpeace (2024) emphasized the need for sustainable agricultural practices and greater investment in renewable energy to mitigate the effects of climate change and ensure environmental protection.

Conclusion

In 2024, Moldova demonstrated progress in democratic reforms and European integration efforts, but significant challenges remained in addressing corruption, minority rights, and socio-economic disparities. Continued international support and domestic commitment will be crucial to advancing human rights and sustainable development in the country.

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Mongolia

Introduction

In 2024, Mongolia, a landlocked country located between Russia and China, faced significant human rights challenges, including issues related to corruption, freedom of expression, and labour rights. While the country continued to strengthen its democratic institutions, social inequalities and the impacts of climate change continued to affect its most vulnerable communities.

Civil and Political Rights

Mongolia maintained a functional democratic system in 2024, but concerns about corruption persisted. Transparency International (2024) highlighted that although new anti-corruption measures were implemented, the enforcement of these laws remained uneven. Press freedom was generally respected, although some journalists faced political and economic pressures, especially when investigating cases of government corruption.

Economic and Social Rights

Mongolia continued to face significant economic inequalities in 2024. The United Nations (2024) reported that rural communities, particularly those dependent on livestock, faced economic hardships due to extreme weather events such as droughts and snowstorms. Additionally, access to basic services such as education and healthcare remained limited in the country's most remote areas.

Labour Rights

In 2024, labour conditions in Mongolia remained a concern, particularly in the mining and construction sectors. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported long working hours, low wages, and unsafe conditions, particularly for migrant workers. The lack of adequate oversight and weak enforcement of labour laws exacerbated these issues.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change had a significant impact on Mongolia in 2024, exacerbating desertification and affecting rural livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) warned about increasing pressure on water resources and the need to adopt more sustainable agricultural practices. Additionally, large-scale mining projects raised concerns about environmental degradation and the lack of consultation with local communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Mongolia made progress in strengthening its democracy and adopting anti-corruption measures, but faced persistent challenges in labor rights, economic inequalities, and environmental protection. Addressing these issues will require greater investment in social infrastructure, as well as improved environmental and economic governance.

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Montenegro

Introduction

In 2024, Montenegro, a small country in the Balkans, continued to face challenges related to corruption, press freedom, and the inclusion of ethnic minorities. Despite progress toward European Union integration, the reforms needed to address these concerns moved slowly.

Civil and Political Rights

Montenegro held regular elections and maintained a functional democratic system in 2024, but issues with transparency and judicial independence persisted. According to Transparency International (2024), corruption cases in the public sector remained a major concern, undermining public trust in governmental institutions.

Press Freedom

Press freedom in Montenegro faced significant challenges in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) documented cases of intimidation and attacks against journalists investigating corruption and organized crime. Although legislation guarantees press freedom, the implementation of these laws was limited.

Minority Rights

Ethnic minorities, including Romani and Bosniak communities, continued to face discrimination in areas such as employment, education, and political representation. Human Rights Watch (2024) urged the government to implement more inclusive policies to ensure equal opportunities for all citizens.

Environment and Climate Change

Montenegro, known for its biodiversity and natural landscapes, faced environmental challenges related to tourism and urban development in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the need to protect natural areas and adopt sustainable practices to balance economic development with environmental conservation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Montenegro made limited progress toward European Union integration due to persistent structural issues such as corruption and discrimination. Addressing these challenges will require a continued commitment to democratic reforms and environmental sustainability.

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Mozambique

Introduction

In 2024, Mozambique continued to face significant human rights challenges, exacerbated by armed conflict, widespread poverty and vulnerability to climate change. Despite some progress in legal reforms and development programmes, concerns persisted regarding the protection of civil and political rights, as well as access to basic services for the most vulnerable communities.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and the press in Mozambique remained under pressure in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), journalists and activists who criticized the government faced intimidation, arbitrary arrests and, in some cases, violence. Local elections held this year were marred by allegations of fraud and repression against the political opposition.

Armed Conflicts and Human Rights

The armed conflict in Cabo Delgado province continued to generate serious human rights violations in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented abuses by insurgent groups and security forces, including killings, forced displacement, and sexual violence. More than one million people remained internally displaced due to the violence.

Economic and Social Rights

Mozambique remains one of the poorest countries in the world, with food insecurity set to worsen in 2024 due to extreme weather events such as cyclones

and floods. The United Nations (2024) highlighted the need for increased investments in basic infrastructure, education and healthcare to reduce persistent inequalities, especially in rural areas.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change had a devastating impact on Mozambique in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) noted that extreme weather events affected agriculture, fisheries and rural livelihoods, exacerbating poverty and displacement. Government initiatives to mitigate the effects of climate change were insufficient to address the growing threats.

Conclusion

In 2024, Mozambique faced significant human rights challenges due to armed conflict, poverty and climate change. Overcoming these problems will require coordinated action between the government, international organizations and civil society to ensure the protection of fundamental rights and sustainable development.

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Myanmar

Introduction

In 2024, Myanmar continued to face a deep-rooted human rights crisis following the 2021 military coup. Political repression, internal armed conflict and the persecution of ethnic minorities, such as the Rohingya, marked a year of suffering for millions of people.

Civil and Political Rights

The military junta in Myanmar intensified its repressive control in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial executions and media censorship were common practices. Opposition leaders and pro-democracy activists continued to be targeted for persecution.

Armed Conflicts and Ethnic Minorities

Armed conflicts between the military and ethnic armed groups persisted in 2024, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented indiscriminate attacks on civilians, including bombings and destruction of villages. The situation of the Rohingya, a persecuted Muslim minority, remained critical, with thousands living in inhumane conditions in refugee camps inside and outside the country.

Economic and Social Rights

Myanmar's economy deteriorated further in 2024, severely affecting access to food, healthcare and education. The United Nations (2024) noted that millions

of people faced severe food insecurity due to conflict and economic mismanagement by the military junta.

Environment and Climate Change

The impact of climate change was felt in Myanmar in 2024, with an increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters such as floods and cyclones. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the need for more sustainable and resilient policies to mitigate the effects of climate change on vulnerable communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Myanmar faced a serious human rights crisis characterized by political repression, armed conflict, and persecution of minorities. Resolving this crisis will require concerted international efforts and significant political change within the country.

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Namibia

Introduction

In 2024, Namibia, known for its political stability and biodiversity, continued to face significant human rights challenges related to economic inequality, indigenous peoples' rights, and the effects of climate change. Although the government made progress in some areas, social and economic disparities persisted.

Civil and Political Rights

Namibia maintained a strong democratic system in 2024, with widespread respect for civil and political liberties. However, according to Amnesty International (2024), there were concerns about the repression of protests related to labour and land issues. In addition, human rights defenders faced obstacles in their efforts to address structural inequalities.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Indigenous peoples, including the San, continued to face marginalization in terms of access to education, land, and basic services. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need to implement more inclusive policies and ensure that the rights of these communities are protected, especially in development projects that affect their traditional territories.

Economic and Social Rights

Namibia remained one of the countries with the highest levels of economic inequality in the world in 2024. The United Nations (2024) noted that although

efforts have been made to reduce poverty, rural and marginalized communities still lack adequate access to health care, education and housing.

Environment and Climate Change

Namibia continued to face significant challenges from climate change in 2024, including prolonged droughts and natural resource degradation. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to adopt more sustainable environmental management strategies and prioritize climate resilience to protect vulnerable communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Namibia made progress in consolidating its democracy, but challenges related to economic inequality, indigenous peoples' rights and climate change persisted. Addressing these issues will require a more inclusive and sustained approach.

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Nepal

Introduction

In 2024, Nepal continued to work to overcome structural challenges related to poverty, inequality and women's rights. Although the country saw progress in areas such as education and public health, challenges persisted in minority protection and environmental governance.

Civil and Political Rights

Nepal maintained a democratic system in 2024, but political tensions and corruption weakened trust in government institutions. According to Amnesty International (2024), restrictions on freedom of expression were reported, including cases of intimidation of journalists and activists who criticized the government.

Women and Minority Rights

Despite some improvements in gender equality policies, women in Nepal continued to face discrimination and gender-based violence in 2024. UN Women (2024) highlighted the need to strengthen existing laws and ensure their effective implementation. Ethnic minorities and lower castes also faced systematic discrimination, especially in access to education and employment.

Economic and Social Rights

Nepal's economy continued to face significant challenges in 2024, with high poverty rates, especially in rural areas. The United Nations (2024) noted that

while there was progress in reducing extreme poverty, unequal access to basic services such as healthcare and infrastructure remained a major problem.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change has had a considerable impact on Nepal in 2024, with an increase in natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to implement more sustainable policies to protect vulnerable communities and preserve Himalayan Mountain ecosystems.

Conclusion

In 2024, Nepal made progress in key areas such as health and education, but continued to face significant human rights challenges related to inequality, women's rights and climate change. Addressing these issues will require an integrated approach and support from the international community.

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Nicaragua

Introduction

In 2024, Nicaragua continued to face a human rights crisis under the authoritarian regime of President Daniel Ortega. Political repression, restrictions on freedom of expression, and attacks on civil society marked a year of rising tensions and violations of fundamental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Repression against political opponents and activists increased in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), the government used arbitrary arrests, surveillance and violence to silence critical voices. In addition, local elections held this year were widely denounced as fraudulent, with a lack of transparency and restrictions on opposition participation.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Press freedom remained severely restricted in Nicaragua in 2024. Independent journalists faced harassment, forced exile and media closures. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted that the country remains one of the most dangerous for journalism in Latin America.

Economic and Social Rights

Nicaragua faced rising economic inequality in 2024, exacerbated by corruption and government mismanagement. The United Nations (2024) reported that extreme poverty levels increased, particularly affecting rural and marginalized

communities, which have limited access to basic services such as health and education.

Conclusion

In 2024, Nicaragua has deepened its human rights crisis, with sustained repression against the opposition and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Resolving this situation will require stronger international pressure and concerted efforts to restore democracy in the country.

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Niger

Introduction

In 2024, Niger, located in the heart of the Sahel, faced multiple crises related to insecurity, extreme poverty and the effects of climate change. Despite international efforts to stabilise the region, human rights violations continued to affect the most vulnerable communities.

Rights Civilians and Politicians

Niger experienced increasing political instability in 2024 due to coups and the influence of armed groups. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented widespread civil rights abuses, including arbitrary arrests and excessive use of force by security forces.

Humanitarian Crisis and Economic Rights

Food insecurity reached critical levels in 2024, with millions of people facing severe hunger. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that the combination of armed conflict, prolonged droughts and mass displacement worsened the situation, leaving many communities without access to basic resources.

Impact of Climate Change

Climate change continued to severely affect Niger, with phenomena such as desertification and erratic rainfall hampering agricultural activities, the main livelihood of the population. Greenpeace (2024) stressed the need to implement climate adaptation policies to reduce the vulnerability of rural communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Niger faced extraordinary human rights challenges due to political instability, humanitarian crisis and climate change. Overcoming these challenges will require significant international cooperation and an approach focused on human rights and sustainable development.

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Nigeria

Introduction

In 2024, Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, continued to face significant human rights challenges. Problems included widespread insecurity, systemic corruption, gender rights violations, mass displacement, and environmental crises. Although the government implemented some policies to address these issues, the scale of the problems outstripped the progress made, especially in regions affected by insurgencies and inter-communal conflicts.

Civil and Political Rights

Nigeria has maintained a democratic system, but the 2024 general elections were marred by allegations of fraud, electoral violence, and a lack of transparency. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), civil liberties, including freedom of expression and assembly, faced significant restrictions. Journalists and activists were subject to intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and in some cases enforced disappearances for criticizing the government or exposing corruption.

Police violence also remained a critical issue in Nigeria in 2024. Despite promises of reform following the #EndSARS protests in 2020, Amnesty International (2024) documented numerous cases of abuse of power, unlawful arrests and excessive use of force by security forces.

Armed Conflicts and Security

The conflict in northeastern Nigeria, where the insurgent group Boko Haram and its splinter faction, the Islamic State in West Africa (ISWAP), continued to operate, causing serious human rights violations in 2024. The United Nations

(2024) reported that more than 2 million people remained internally displaced due to the violence, while civilians endured killings, abductions and indiscriminate attacks.

In the centre and north of the country, conflicts between farmers and herders over access to land and natural resources also led to hundreds of deaths and mass displacement. Government responses were inadequate, leaving many communities exposed to recurring violence.

Women and Girls' Rights

Gender-based violence remained a serious problem in Nigeria in 2024. According to UN Women (2024), girls and women faced high levels of domestic violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM) and sexual exploitation, especially in poorer and rural regions. Although laws have been enacted to address these issues, their implementation was limited, leaving many survivors without access to justice or adequate support.

Access to education for girls also remained a challenge, especially in conflict-affected areas where school closures were widespread due to insecurity.

Economic and Social Rights

Despite being one of Africa's largest economies, Nigeria faces extreme economic inequalities. By 2024, more than 40% of the population lived below the poverty line, according to World Bank data. Inflation and unemployment have reached alarming levels, exacerbating living conditions, especially in marginal urban communities.

Access to basic services such as healthcare, clean water and education remained limited. The United Nations (2024) stressed that weakened infrastructure and systemic corruption contributed to the government's inability to meet the needs of the population.

Environment and Climate Change

Nigeria continued to face serious environmental challenges in 2024. In the Niger Delta, oil pollution continued to devastate the livelihoods of local communities, while desertification and flooding severely affected the northern and central regions.

Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the urgent need for stricter environmental policies to mitigate the effects of climate change and reduce dependence on oil. Despite some government initiatives to promote reforestation and renewable energy, efforts were insufficient in the face of the magnitude of environmental challenges.

Conclusion

In 2024, Nigeria faced a complex landscape of human rights violations and structural challenges. While some progress was made in specific areas, the magnitude of the problems, including armed conflict, economic inequalities and environmental issues, will require a comprehensive and sustained approach to ensure a safer and more equitable future for all Nigerians.

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Norway

Introduction

In 2024, Norway maintained its reputation as one of the countries with the best human rights indicators globally. However, despite its high standards, some challenges persisted regarding minority rights, gender equality and environmental policies. The country also continued to play an active role in promoting human rights and sustainability internationally.

Civil and Political Rights

Norway maintained a strong democratic system, with free and fair elections and a high level of citizen participation. Freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of association were fully respected in 2024. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Norway remained one of the countries with the greatest press freedom in the world.

However, Amnesty International (2024) noted concerns about the treatment of environmental activists during peaceful protests against resource extraction projects. Although the government justified some police actions in the name of public safety, human rights defenders considered these measures to be disproportionate.

Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples

The rights of indigenous peoples, especially the Sami, continued to be an area of focus in Norway in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the need to more effectively protect Sami land and cultural rights from infrastructure and mining projects that impact their traditional lands.

Ethnic minorities and immigrants also faced some cases of discrimination, particularly in access to employment and housing. Although the government implemented policies to promote inclusion, local organizations noted that there is still work to be done to combat structural inequality.

Gender Equality

Norway made significant progress in promoting gender equality, ranking among the world leaders in female participation in the labour market and in politics. However, UN Women (2024) warned that gaps persisted in specific sectors, such as technology and energy, where women are underrepresented. In addition, gender-based violence, although at low levels compared to other countries, continued to be a concern, especially in rural communities.

Environmental Policies and Human Rights

Norway was a world leader in sustainability in 2024, but faced criticism for its continued reliance on oil exploitation. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to accelerate its transition to renewable energy sources to meet its climate goals and reduce its environmental impact.

In addition, indigenous Sami communities reported that wind energy projects negatively affected their grazing lands and traditional way of life. These tensions underlined the need to balance climate goals with respect for human and land rights.

International Contributions

Norway continued to play a leading role in promoting human rights and humanitarian aid globally in 2024. The country was a major donor to sustainable

development initiatives, education and refugee care in conflict regions. The United Nations (2024) praised Norway for its ongoing commitment to peace and international cooperation.

Conclusion

In 2024, Norway maintained its position as a model for the protection of human rights and democracy. However, challenges related to indigenous rights, gender equality and environmental tensions highlighted areas where the country can continue to improve. Norway's commitment to human rights, both domestically and internationally, will remain crucial in the years to come.

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New Zealand

Introduction

In 2024, New Zealand continued to be recognised as a country with high standards in human rights and social well-being. However, significant challenges were faced in areas such as indigenous rights, socio-economic inequality and the impacts of climate change. The country maintained its commitment to sustainability and equity, although progress in some critical areas was slower than expected.

Civil and Political Rights

New Zealand upheld its tradition of strong democracy and respect for civil rights in 2024. Freedom of expression, press and assembly were fully guaranteed, and the country continued to rank highly in international transparency and governance indices.

However, Amnesty International (2024) noted that human rights defenders and environmental activists faced some resistance from business and government sectors when addressing controversial issues such as natural resource extraction. Despite these tensions, most protests were carried out peacefully and without major restrictions.

Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The rights of Māori people remained a priority issue in New Zealand in 2024. Although the government continued to work on reconciliation and land return agreements under the Treaty of Waitangi, Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted those significant disparities persist between Māori and New

Zealanders of European origin in areas such as health, education, and employment.

Access to housing and political representation were also areas of concern. Māori leaders called for more concrete measures to address the impact of historical colonialism and ensure greater equity.

Socioeconomic inequality

Despite its advanced economy, New Zealand continued to face challenges related to inequality in 2024. The United Nations (2024) reported that Māori and Pacific communities, as well as low-income households, experienced disproportionately high levels of poverty and economic hardship.

Access to affordable housing remained a major problem. Although policies were implemented to increase housing construction, demand outstripped supply, exacerbating the housing crisis, especially in urban areas.

Climate Change and Environment

New Zealand continued to lead environmental initiatives in 2024, but also faced significant challenges due to climate change. Extreme weather events, such as floods and cyclones, severely affected vulnerable communities and highlighted the need for more ambitious policies to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Greenpeace (2024) praised the country for its efforts to reduce carbon emissions, but criticised slow progress in transitioning to more sustainable agriculture. Indigenous communities also noted that some renewable energy projects did not adequately respect their territorial and cultural rights.

International Contributions

At the international level, New Zealand continued to be a key player in promoting peace and social justice. The United Nations (2024) highlighted its leadership on issues such as ocean protection, greenhouse gas emissions reduction and humanitarian assistance in the Pacific region.

The country also played an active role in defending human rights in international forums, advocating for the protection of refugees and communities displaced due to climate change.

Conclusion

In 2024, New Zealand maintained its reputation as a global leader on human rights and sustainability. However, persistent challenges related to indigenous rights, socioeconomic inequality and the impacts of climate change underlined the need for a more inclusive and accelerated approach to address these issues. With its strong commitment to democratic values, the country has the potential to continue to lead both domestically and internationally.

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Oman

Introduction

In 2024, Oman continued its transition to further modernization under the leadership of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq. Although the country is known for its political stability and social cohesion in the Gulf region, significant human rights challenges remain, particularly regarding freedom of expression, labour rights and gender equality.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and assembly in Oman remained severely restricted in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), activists and journalists who criticized the government faced intimidation, arbitrary arrests, and prosecution. Defamation and cybersecurity laws were used to silence critics, limiting public debate on political and social issues.

Elections to the Shura Council, an advisory body, were due to take place in 2024, but authorities retained significant control over the political process, restricting direct citizen participation in decision-making.

Labour Rights

Oman continued to rely on a large migrant workforce in 2024, especially in the construction, services and oil sectors. Amnesty International (2024) documented cases of labour exploitation, including poor working conditions, unpaid wages and restrictions on mobility due to the labour sponsorship system (kafala), which ties the legal status of migrant workers to their employers.

Although the government implemented some reforms to improve working conditions, such as introducing a minimum wage for certain workers, legal protections remained insufficient to guarantee migrants' basic rights.

Women's Rights

In 2024, women in Oman continued to face legal and cultural barriers in their access to equal opportunities. UN Women (2024) highlighted that although women played an increasing role in education and the labour sector, they were still underrepresented in leadership positions and faced discrimination in areas such as inheritance and divorce.

The government promoted initiatives to empower women, but progress was slow and limited by social norms and legal systems that prioritize men in many aspects of public and private life.

Environment and Sustainability

Oman continued to face environmental challenges in 2024, particularly related to climate change and water resource management. Greenpeace (2024) noted that high temperatures and water scarcity affected agriculture and rural communities. In addition, urban development and infrastructure projects posed risks to biodiversity and coastal ecosystems.

The government launched initiatives to diversify the economy and reduce dependence on oil, but efforts to integrate sustainable practices across all sectors were limited.

Conclusion

In 2024, Oman maintained its political and social stability, but human rights challenges, including labour rights, gender equality and freedom of expression, underlined the need for broader reforms. Addressing these issues will require sustained government commitment to ensure that economic progress translates into greater protection of fundamental rights.

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Netherlands

Introduction

In 2024, the Netherlands continued to stand out as a country with strong commitments to human rights, sustainability and social equality. However, challenges such as the integration of migrant communities, the housing crisis and political tensions around climate change marked the national landscape. The country also maintained its influence as a global advocate for human rights and international cooperation.

Civil and Political Rights

The Netherlands preserved a strong democratic system in 2024, with transparent elections and widespread respect for civil liberties. Freedom of the press and expression were fully guaranteed, and the country continued to rank highly in global human rights indices.

However, Human Rights Watch (2024) noted incidents of discrimination in the implementation of security and surveillance policies targeting migrant and Muslim communities, prompting criticism from human rights organizations calling for greater oversight and transparency.

Housing Crisis

The shortage of affordable housing remained a major issue in 2024, particularly affecting students, youth and migrants. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that rising rental prices and a lack of social housing construction exacerbated inequality in access to housing. Although the government implemented

measures to increase construction, progress was limited due to planning and bureaucratic restrictions.

Integration and Migrant Rights

Integration of migrant communities remained a challenge in the Netherlands. Amnesty International (2024) reported concerns related to the treatment of asylum seekers, including inadequate conditions in reception centres and long waiting times for asylum applications to be resolved.

In addition, migrant communities faced barriers in accessing employment, education, and political participation, which contributed to maintaining social disparities. The government-initiated programs to foster inclusion, but the results were not yet significant in 2024.

Women's Rights and the LGBTQ+ Community

The Netherlands continued to lead in promoting the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community. UN Women (2024) praised national policies that promote gender equality in the workplace and political representation. However, challenges remain, such as the gender pay gap and online harassment of women and LGBTQ+ people.

In 2024, the country hosted multiple international events to strengthen the rights of sexual minorities, establishing itself as a leader in this area. However, some incidents of discrimination and violence against these communities were reported, especially in rural areas.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change remained a priority for the Netherlands, a country particularly vulnerable due to its geography. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted government efforts to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen dikes and other flood-fighting infrastructure.

Despite these efforts, tensions emerged between environmental policies and agricultural interests. Farmer protests against nitrogen emission restrictions continued into 2024, underscoring the need to balance economic demands and environmental sustainability.

International Contributions

At the international level, the Netherlands maintained its commitment to human rights and humanitarian assistance. The United Nations (2024) recognized the country as one of the main donors in global development programs, with a special focus on education, health and the fight against climate change in developing countries.

Furthermore, the Netherlands played an active role in the International Criminal Court, which is based in The Hague, promoting accountability for war crimes and human rights violations.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Netherlands demonstrated a strong commitment to human rights, both domestically and internationally. However, challenges related to integration, the housing crisis and climate tensions highlighted the need for more inclusive and sustainable policies. With its tradition of leadership in human

rights, the country has the potential to address these challenges while continuing to be a global model.

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Pakistan

Introduction

In 2024, Pakistan faced multiple human rights challenges due to political instability, economic tensions, and rising insecurity. Despite the government's efforts to implement reforms, violations of fundamental rights, including women's rights, freedom of expression, and the rights of religious minorities, remained a concern.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression in Pakistan remained severely restricted in 2024. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), journalists and activists who criticized the government faced intimidation, arbitrary arrests and, in some cases, violence. Defamation and anti-terrorism laws were frequently used to silence dissenting voices.

Local elections held in 2024 were marred by accusations of manipulation and a lack of transparency, which created distrust in democratic institutions. In addition, political protests were repressed with excessive use of force by security forces.

Women's Rights

Gender-based violence continued to be a critical issue in Pakistan in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) reported that cases of domestic violence, honour killings and forced marriages remained prevalent, especially in rural areas. Despite the existence of laws to protect women, their implementation was poor due to patriarchal norms and lack of political will.

Access to education for girls also remained limited in many regions, especially in areas affected by conflict and insecurity. UN Women (2024) underlined the need for increased investment in girls' education to reduce gender disparities.

Rights of Religious Minorities

Religious minorities, including Hindu, Christian, and Ahmadi communities, faced systematic discrimination and persecution in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of attacks on places of worship and false accusations of blasphemy, frequently resulting in mob violence.

Despite international calls to protect minority rights, the government has faced criticism for failing to ensure their safety or promote religious tolerance.

Economic and Social Rights

Pakistan's economic crisis deepened in 2024, severely affecting the most vulnerable communities. The United Nations (2024) noted that inflation and unemployment reached alarming levels, exacerbating poverty and unequal access to basic services such as health care and education.

In addition, natural disasters, including floods and landslides, exacerbated food insecurity and displaced thousands of people, highlighting the need for greater climate resilience.

Environment and Climate Change

Pakistan remained one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) warned that extreme weather events such as floods disproportionately affected rural communities and exacerbated existing inequalities.

The government launched initiatives to improve water management and promote reforestation, but efforts were insufficient in light of the magnitude of the problem. Lack of resources and effective coordination hampered the implementation of sustainable policies.

Conclusion

In 2024, Pakistan faced a complex landscape of human rights violations, with significant challenges in the areas of women's rights, freedom of expression and protection of religious minorities. Although limited progress was made in some areas, addressing these issues will require coordinated action at both the national and international levels.

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Palestine

Introduction

In 2024, the human rights situation in Palestine remained critical, marked by prolonged occupation, political tensions and recurrent conflicts. The Palestinian population continued to face widespread human rights violations, including restrictions on freedom of movement, forced evictions, violence and lack of access to basic services. The international community maintained its focus on the region, but efforts to resolve the conflict remained stalled.

Civil and Political Rights

Palestinian civil and political rights continued to be restricted in 2024. The Israeli occupation imposed severe limitations on freedom of movement through checkpoints, the separation wall, and the closure of the Gaza Strip. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), these restrictions affected the daily lives of millions of Palestinians, limiting their access to work, education, and healthcare.

In the West Bank, administrative detentions without fair trial remained common, affecting both adults and children. Furthermore, Amnesty International (2024) documented cases of violence by Israeli settlers against Palestinian communities, often with little or no intervention by the authorities.

Situation in Gaza

The Gaza Strip remained in a dire humanitarian situation in 2024 due to the land, sea and air blockade imposed for more than a decade. The United Nations (2024) reported that more than 80% of the population depended on

humanitarian aid, while access to clean water and electricity remained extremely limited.

Clashes between Palestinian armed groups and Israel sparked new waves of violence, causing numerous civilian deaths and mass displacement. Basic infrastructure, including schools and hospitals, were severely damaged during the attacks, exacerbating living conditions.

Economic and Social Rights

The Palestinian economy remained in crisis in 2024, with high unemployment rates, especially among young people and women. According to the World Bank (2024), the blockade and trade restrictions severely limited economic development, affecting both the West Bank and Gaza.

Access to education and healthcare remained unequal, with rural and refugee communities facing the greatest difficulties. Women in particular faced additional barriers to accessing the labour market and essential services due to restrictive social norms and political instability.

Women and Children's Rights

Palestinian women and children continued to be the most affected by the conflict and occupation. UN Women (2024) highlighted the rise in gender-based violence, including domestic violence, exacerbated by poverty and displacement. Girls faced significant barriers to accessing education, especially in Gaza, where school closures and displacement disrupted their learning.

Children were also exposed to arrest and detention, especially in the West Bank. UNICEF (2024) documented numerous cases of children detained in inhumane conditions and without access to a fair trial.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change exacerbated already difficult conditions in Palestine in 2024. Water scarcity, exacerbated by over-extraction and Israeli restrictions, severely affected farming communities. Greenpeace (2024) noted that desertification and water pollution posed critical threats to food security and public health in the region.

Conclusion

In 2024, the human rights situation in Palestine remained alarming, with systematic violations affecting all aspects of life. Resolving this crisis will require a renewed commitment by the international community to ensure the protection of fundamental rights and to seek a just and sustainable solution to the conflict.

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Papua New Guinea

Introduction

In 2024, Papua New Guinea, a country with rich cultural and biological diversity, faced significant human rights challenges. Corruption, gender-based violence, land conflicts, and the impacts of climate change remained critical issues affecting both urban and rural communities. Despite some government efforts to address these issues, progress was limited due to structural barriers and lack of resources.

Civil and Political Rights

Corruption remained a major obstacle to development in Papua New Guinea in 2024. According to Transparency International (2024), high levels of corruption within the government undermined public trust in institutions and hampered the implementation of effective policies. In addition, political tensions led to clashes between local groups, increasing instability in several regions of the country.

Freedom of expression was restricted in some cases, with journalists and activists facing threats and intimidation for reporting corruption or abuses of power. Although laws guarantee these rights, enforcement was inconsistent.

Gender Violence and Women's Rights

Gender-based violence remained an alarming crisis in 2024. According to UN Women (2024), approximately two-thirds of women in Papua New Guinea have experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives. Judicial and victim

support systems remained weak, leaving many women without access to justice and protection.

Child marriage and discriminatory cultural practices also persisted, especially in rural communities. Although the government implemented educational and awareness-raising programs, resources were insufficient to bring about significant change.

Conflicts over Land and Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Land tenure conflicts remained a central issue in Papua New Guinea in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted that indigenous communities faced forced evictions and loss of land due to large-scale mining and development projects. These activities, often carried out without adequate consent of affected communities, led to tensions and displacement.

Furthermore, land ownership laws, which combine traditional and modern systems, complicated dispute resolution, leaving many communities vulnerable to exploitation.

Impacts of Climate Change

Papua New Guinea is extremely vulnerable to climate change, and in 2024 it will be affected by phenomena such as rising sea levels, flooding and cyclones. Greenpeace (2024) noted that coastal and smaller island communities faced displacement due to erosion and loss of habitable land.

Although the government developed climate adaptation plans, a lack of funding and technical capacity limited their implementation. Rural communities, in particular, lacked the resources needed to adapt to environmental changes.

Access to Basic Services

Lack of access to basic services such as healthcare, education and adequate infrastructure continued to be a challenge in 2024. The United Nations (2024) reported that many rural areas lacked accessible hospitals or schools, exacerbating disparities between urban and rural communities.

Maternal and child mortality remained high, while preventable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis disproportionately affected the poorest populations.

Conclusion

In 2024, Papua New Guinea faced a number of interrelated human rights challenges, from gender-based violence to the impacts of climate change. Addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach that combines fighting corruption, strengthening institutions and supporting vulnerable communities. International cooperation and the active engagement of civil society will be essential to drive positive change in the country.

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Paraguay

Introduction

In 2024, Paraguay faced significant human rights challenges, marked by socioeconomic inequality, corruption, and difficulties in guaranteeing the rights of indigenous communities and other vulnerable groups. Although the country continued to strengthen its democratic institutions, structural problems persisted that hindered progress towards a more just and inclusive society.

Civil and Political Rights

In 2024, Paraguay maintained a democratic system with transparent elections, but problems related to corruption in the public sector persisted. According to Transparency International (2024), corruption remained a significant obstacle to effective governance, affecting citizens' trust in institutions.

Freedom of expression was generally guaranteed, but journalists investigating sensitive topics such as drug trafficking and corruption faced threats and intimidation. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that the country needs to implement stronger mechanisms to protect media workers.

Rights of Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities in Paraguay continued to face significant challenges in 2024, including land dispossession, discrimination, and limited access to basic services. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of forced evictions from ancestral lands due to agricultural activities and development projects.

Despite some government efforts to improve inclusion, many indigenous communities remained marginalized and underrepresented in decision-making processes affecting their territories and livelihoods.

Gender Violence and Women's Rights

Gender-based violence remained a critical issue in Paraguay in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) reported high rates of femicide and domestic violence. Although the government implemented awareness-raising campaigns and strengthened laws to protect women, lack of resources and insufficient enforcement of these laws limited their effectiveness.

Women's access to the labour market also remained unequal, with a significant wage gap and limited representation in leadership positions in both the public and private sectors.

Economic and Social Rights

Paraguay continued to face high levels of economic inequality in 2024. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that rural and marginalized communities faced disproportionate difficulties in accessing essential services such as education, health and housing.

In addition, the agricultural sector, a key part of the country's economy, was affected by extreme weather events, exacerbating food insecurity in some regions.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change severely impacted Paraguay in 2024, with prolonged droughts and floods affecting agricultural production and displacing vulnerable

communities. Greenpeace (2024) stressed the urgent need to implement more ambitious environmental policies to mitigate the effects of climate change and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

Deforestation, driven primarily by agricultural and livestock expansion, remained a major problem, threatening the country's biodiversity and vital ecosystems, such as the Gran Chaco.

Conclusion

In 2024, Paraguay made progress in some areas, such as strengthening its democratic institutions, but faced persistent human rights challenges related to corruption, economic inequality, indigenous rights, and climate change. Overcoming these barriers will require a comprehensive approach that combines government action, civil society engagement, and international support.

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Peru

Introduction

In 2024, Peru faced significant human rights challenges, marked by political instability, social protests, and environmental impacts related to extractive activities. Despite some progress in areas such as the representation of indigenous communities and the protection of women's rights, serious problems related to inequality, corruption, and violence persisted.

Civil and Political Rights

Political instability continued to plague Peru in 2024, with frequent clashes between the government and sectors of civil society. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), social protests, especially in rural regions, were repressed with excessive use of force by security forces, resulting in deaths, injuries, and arbitrary arrests.

Press freedom was largely guaranteed, but journalists investigating corruption or social conflicts faced threats and intimidation. Amnesty International (2024) noted that human rights defenders, especially those working in rural areas and with indigenous communities, were also subject to harassment and violence.

Rights of Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities in Peru continued to face critical challenges in 2024, especially in relation to territorial conflicts and the lack of prior consultation for extractive projects in their territories. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that many communities were affected by environmental pollution resulting from mining and oil activities.

Despite the existence of laws guaranteeing prior consultation, their implementation was poor, leaving communities without real participation in decisions affecting their lands and resources.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, femicides and gender-based violence remained serious problems in Peru. UN Women (2024) reported that although the government implemented awareness-raising campaigns and strengthened laws against gender-based violence, a lack of resources and limited training for security forces and the judicial system hampered progress.

Furthermore, indigenous and rural women faced additional barriers to accessing justice and essential services, exacerbating structural inequalities.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change and environmental degradation continued to severely affect Peru in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) noted that deforestation in the Amazon, driven by illegal mining and agricultural expansion, put biodiversity and the communities that depend on these ecosystems at risk.

Rural communities faced extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, which affected their food security and livelihoods. Although the government adopted some policies to mitigate the effects of climate change, efforts were limited compared to the magnitude of the problem.

Corruption and Inequality Economic

Corruption remained a structural problem in Peru in 2024, affecting the provision of basic services such as education, health and infrastructure.

Transparency International (2024) highlighted that corruption cases involved both local and national officials, weakening trust in government institutions.

Economic inequality also remained high, with marginalized rural and urban communities facing difficulties in accessing essential services. The World Bank (2024) underlined the need for more equitable investments to reduce economic disparities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Peru faced a number of interrelated human rights challenges, from social conflict and corruption to environmental impacts. Although some progress was made in specific areas, addressing these issues will require a comprehensive approach that combines government action, active civil society engagement, and international support.

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Poland

Introduction

In 2024, Poland continued to face significant human rights challenges, especially in relation to judicial independence, press freedom and women's rights. Although the country is a member of the European Union, internal political tensions and concerns about respect for the rule of law were prominent on the international stage. Despite this, Poland also played a key role in responding to the refugee crisis in Eastern Europe.

Civil and Political Rights

Judicial independence remained a contentious issue in Poland in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), judicial reforms implemented by the government were perceived as an attempt to undermine the independence of the judiciary, prompting both domestic and international criticism.

Press freedom also faced restrictions, with cases of intimidation and government pressure on independent media. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that journalists who criticized the government faced a hostile environment, limiting access to impartial information.

Women's Rights

Women's reproductive rights in Poland continued to be a source of controversy in 2024. Strict abortion legislation, which allows the procedure only in very limited cases, faced criticism from human rights organizations such as Amnesty International (2024). Protests led by women continued to be repressed in some cases, underlining tensions around this issue.

Despite these challenges, there has been some progress in women's representation in politics, with an increasing number of women holding public office in local governments and parliament.

Rights of Minorities and Migrants

Poland played a leading role in managing the Ukrainian refugee crisis in 2024, providing shelter and support to millions of people displaced by the conflict. The United Nations (2024) praised government and civil society efforts to integrate refugees, although it noted that migrants from other regions, such as the Middle East and Africa, faced significant barriers to obtaining protection.

Ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ community continued to face discrimination and harassment. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted that while efforts were made to promote inclusion, government policies often failed to effectively address these concerns.

Climate Change and Environment

In 2024, Poland made slow progress in its transition to a more sustainable economy. Greenpeace (2024) noted that coal dependency remains a major challenge, despite the government's commitments to the European Union to reduce carbon emissions.

Initiatives to promote renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power increased, but environmental policies faced resistance from established economic interests, slowing progress.

Conclusion

In 2024, Poland found itself at a crossroads in terms of human rights. While it continued to play a positive role in managing the Ukrainian refugee crisis, it faced significant criticism over domestic issues, including judicial independence, press freedom, and reproductive rights. Addressing these challenges will require a renewed commitment to democratic values and the rule of law.

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Portugal

Introduction

In 2024, Portugal continued to stand out as one of the European countries with the greatest advances in human rights, with a strong commitment to social inclusion, environmental sustainability and gender equality. However, challenges persisted related to the integration of migrant communities, affordable housing and the response to climate change. The country maintained its position as a global defender of human rights and international cooperation.

Civil and Political Rights

Portugal preserved a robust democratic system in 2024, with transparent elections and widespread respect for civil and political liberties. Freedom of expression and the press remained guaranteed, placing the country among the best in the world in transparency and media freedom indices.

However, Amnesty International (2024) noted concerns about the treatment of protesters during protests related to economic and environmental crises. Although authorities mostly respected assembly rights, there were isolated instances of excessive use of force by police.

Gender Equality and Women's Rights

Portugal made significant progress in promoting gender equality in 2024, with an increase in the representation of women in political office and business leadership positions. UN Women (2024) praised national policies that promote equal pay and work-life balance.

However, gender-based violence remained a problem, with high levels of reported domestic violence. Although the government strengthened victim support programmes, human rights organisations stressed the need to invest more in prevention and in strengthening the judicial system to protect women.

Integration of Migrants and Minorities

Migrant integration remained a major challenge in 2024. Portugal received a significant number of refugees and migrants, especially from African and Latin American countries. The United Nations (2024) highlighted the government's efforts to ensure access to education, health and employment, although it noted that barriers to the full inclusion of these communities persist.

Ethnic minorities, particularly the Roma community, faced systematic discrimination in areas such as access to housing and employment. Human Rights Watch (2024) urged Portugal to implement more inclusive policies to combat social exclusion.

Housing Crisis

In 2024, the shortage of affordable housing remained a critical issue, especially in large cities such as Lisbon and Porto. Rising rental prices and gentrification displaced many low- and middle-income families. Transparency International (2024) highlighted that corruption in the real estate sector exacerbated the problem, with irregularities in the allocation of social housing and rent regulation.

The government launched programs to build more social housing, but the results were limited due to bureaucracy and lack of adequate resources.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Portugal made progress in its transition to a more sustainable economy in 2024, with an increase in the use of renewable energy such as solar and wind. Greenpeace (2024) praised the country's efforts to reduce its carbon emissions and meet the European Union's climate goals.

However, the country faced significant challenges due to drought and recurrent wildfires, which severely affected rural communities and agriculture. Environmental organizations called on the government to increase investments in disaster prevention and climate resilience.

International Contributions

Portugal continued to play an active role in defending human rights globally in 2024. The country stood out for its leadership in initiatives related to ocean protection, gender equality, and international cooperation on migration and climate change issues. The United Nations (2024) praised Portugal for its commitment to humanitarian aid and sustainable development in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Conclusion

In 2024, Portugal reaffirmed its commitment to human rights and sustainability, making significant progress in areas such as gender equality and the energy transition. However, persistent challenges related to migrant integration, the housing crisis and the impacts of climate change highlighted the need for more inclusive and effective policies. With its strong democratic tradition, the country is well positioned to address these issues and continue to lead in promoting human rights.

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Puerto Rico

Introduction

In 2024, Puerto Rico faced persistent human rights challenges due to its unique political status as an unincorporated territory of the United States. The island continued to grapple with issues related to socioeconomic inequality, insufficient response to natural disasters, and difficulties in ensuring fundamental rights for all its citizens. Despite some progress in key areas, the lack of full political representation and the impacts of climate change highlighted the vulnerabilities of the Puerto Rican population.

Civil and Political Rights

Puerto Rico's political status remained a contentious issue in 2024. The island's population has no voting representation in the U.S. Congress, limiting their ability to influence key decisions that directly affect their well-being. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), this situation raises concerns about political equality and self-determination.

Freedom of expression and of the press remained guaranteed, but journalists and activists who investigated government corruption and mismanagement of resources faced intimidation and reprisals in some cases.

Disaster Response and Social Rights

Puerto Rico's capacity to respond to natural disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, remained limited in 2024. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that many communities affected by Hurricane Fiona in 2022 still faced difficulties in rebuilding their homes and accessing essential services. Damaged

infrastructure, including the power grid, continued to be a source of concern, affecting the quality of life of thousands of people.

Socioeconomic inequality persisted, with high rates of poverty and unemployment, especially in rural and marginalized communities. The affordable housing crisis also worsened, displacing many low-income families due to rising prices and gentrification.

Women's Rights and the LGBTQ+ Community

In 2024, women and the LGBTQ+ community in Puerto Rico continued to face significant barriers. Amnesty International (2024) noted that femicides and gender-based violence remained a serious problem, despite government initiatives to combat this scourge. Shelters for women victims of violence remained underfunded, limiting access to support services.

The LGBTQ+ community faced discrimination in areas such as employment, housing, and healthcare. Despite some advances in legal rights, such as the legalization of same-sex marriage, cultural and social challenges persist that hinder full inclusion.

Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change continued to severely impact Puerto Rico in 2024, exacerbating natural disasters and affecting food security and rural livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted that coastal communities are especially vulnerable to rising sea levels and more frequent and intense storms.

Although the local government adopted some sustainability and climate resilience policies, lack of resources and limited support from the federal government hampered the effective implementation of these initiatives.

Conclusion

In 2024, Puerto Rico faced a complex landscape of human rights challenges, from political and economic inequality to the impacts of climate change. Addressing these issues will require a renewed commitment from both local and federal governments, as well as increased investment in infrastructure and social programs to ensure a more equitable and sustainable future for all Puerto Ricans.

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Qatar (Qatar)

Introduction

In 2024, Qatar continued to establish itself as an economic and cultural hub in the Gulf region. However, the country faced persistent international criticism due to human rights violations, especially regarding migrant workers' rights, freedom of expression, and women's rights. Although some reforms were implemented, structural and cultural challenges limited their impact.

Rights of Migrant Workers

Qatar remains heavily dependent on migrant workers, who make up approximately 85% of its population. In 2024, the working conditions of these workers remained a concern. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of unpaid wages, excessive working hours, and inadequate housing conditions, despite reforms to the labour sponsorship system (kafala).

While the government introduced a minimum wage and banned some abusive practices, the implementation of these measures was inconsistent. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted that many employers found ways to circumvent the new regulations, leaving workers vulnerable to exploitation.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Freedom of expression in Qatar remained restricted in 2024. Defamation and cybersecurity laws were used to limit criticism of the government and public figures. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that journalists and activists faced significant risks when addressing sensitive topics, including human rights and governance.

Independent media platforms had little presence in the country, and dissenting opinions were expressed mainly through international channels.

Women's Rights

In 2024, women in Qatar made some progress in education and employment, but continued to face significant barriers in terms of gender equality. UN Women (2024) reported that women still needed permission from a male guardian to make important decisions, such as traveling, working in certain areas, or accessing specific medical services.

Although the government promoted initiatives to empower women in business, traditional social and cultural norms limited their full participation in public life.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Qatar maintained strict anti-LGBTQ+ laws in 2024, criminalizing same-sex relationships. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of detentions and harassment of LGBTQ+ people, creating a climate of fear and discrimination.

Lack of legal protection and social stigmatization continued to be significant barriers for the LGBTQ+ community in the country.

Environmental Impacts and Climate Change

As a major producer of natural gas, Qatar faced increasing international pressure to reduce its carbon emissions by 2024. Greenpeace (2024) noted that although the country invested in renewable energy technologies and sustainability projects, its efforts were limited compared to the scale of its contribution to global emissions.

Climate change has also affected local communities, with extreme temperatures and increasing demand for clean water and electricity underlining the need for more ambitious environmental policies.

Conclusion

In 2024, Qatar made progress in some key areas, such as labour reforms and sustainability, but faced significant criticism over its human rights record, especially in relation to migrant workers, freedom of expression and women's rights. Addressing these challenges will require stronger engagement and effective implementation of the announced reforms.

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United Kingdom

Introduction

In 2024, the UK faced a number of human rights challenges, marked by the impact of restrictive immigration policies, tensions related to economic inequality and concerns about freedom of expression. Although the country maintains a strong democratic tradition and an independent judiciary, progress in certain areas was overshadowed by the implementation of measures that have been criticised by international human rights organisations.

Civil and Political Rights

Respect for civil and political rights in the UK was generally maintained, but in 2024 there was an increase in criticism related to policies restricting the right to protest and demonstrate. According to Amnesty International (2024), the recently passed Public Order Act introduced significant restrictions on protests, allowing security forces greater discretion to intervene and break up peaceful demonstrations.

Freedom of the press and expression remains a cornerstone of British democracy, but journalists investigating issues related to national security have faced pressure and difficulties due to laws limiting access to classified information.

Immigration and Refugee Policies

The UK's approach to immigration generated controversy in 2024. The implementation of the plan for deportations to Rwanda, although temporarily suspended due to legal challenges, continued to be a topic of international

debate. The United Nations (2024) expressed concerns about the compatibility of these policies with international human rights standards.

In addition, conditions in immigration detention centres have come under criticism. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted overcrowding, lack of adequate access to medical care, and prolonged periods of detention as significant violations of asylum seekers' rights.

Economic inequality and social rights

Economic inequality remained a persistent problem in 2024. High living costs and inflation disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, exacerbating disparities in access to housing, health and education. According to the World Bank (2024), child poverty levels increased in certain regions of the UK, highlighting the need for more inclusive and equitable policies.

Women's Rights and the LGBTQ+ Community

The UK continued to make progress in protecting the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community, although challenges remained. UN Women (2024) underlined the need to step up efforts to address gender-based violence, which remains a widespread problem, with an increase in cases of domestic violence reported during the year.

On the other hand, the LGBTQ+ community faced setbacks in certain areas. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented an increase in hate speech and attacks directed towards LGBTQ+ people, especially on online platforms. Although the government committed to strengthening laws against hate crimes, progress in this area was limited.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

In 2024, the UK continued to play a leading role in global climate change initiatives, although it faced criticism for failing to fully meet its emissions reduction targets. Greenpeace (2024) noted that while there has been progress in the transition to renewable energy, dependence on gas and oil remains a significant obstacle.

In addition, coastal communities were affected by rising sea levels and flooding, underlining the need for more robust climate adaptation and resilience measures.

Conclusion

In 2024, the UK remained committed to democratic principles and human rights, but faced significant challenges in key areas such as immigration, economic inequality and climate change. Addressing these issues will require a more inclusive approach and the effective implementation of policies that prioritise the protection of fundamental rights and social equity.

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Central African Republic

Introduction

In 2024, the Central African Republic (CAR) continued to face serious human rights challenges due to political instability, armed conflict and weak governance. Despite international efforts to stabilise the region, widespread human rights violations affected a large part of the population, especially the most vulnerable communities.

Armed Conflicts and Human Rights

Armed conflict between rebel groups and government forces remained the main cause of human rights violations in CAR in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), civilians were victims of killings, forced displacement, and sexual violence, with both sides committing serious abuses.

More than one million people remained internally displaced, with many seeking refuges in neighbouring countries such as Cameroon and Chad. The United Nations (2024) noted that displaced persons camps lacked basic resources, worsening the living conditions of affected families.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Freedom of expression and the press remained severely restricted in 2024. Journalists covering sensitive topics such as corruption or abuses by the armed forces faced threats, arbitrary arrests and violence. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted that the hostile environment towards the media prevented impartial coverage of events in the country.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children were particularly vulnerable in 2024. UN Women (2024) documented an increase in cases of gender-based violence, including forced marriages and sexual violence in conflict zones. In addition, girls faced significant barriers to accessing education due to insecurity and restrictive cultural norms.

On the other hand, children were recruited by armed groups, despite national and international laws prohibiting this practice. UNICEF (2024) noted that thousands of children continued to be used as soldiers, messengers and domestic slaves.

Access to Basic Services

Access to basic services such as healthcare, clean water and education remained extremely limited in 2024. According to the United Nations (2024), more than 70% of the population lacked access to basic healthcare, resulting in high maternal and infant mortality rates.

Education was also severely affected, with schools closed or destroyed in conflict zones. This left a generation of children without access to education, exacerbating long-term problems of poverty and social exclusion.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change has exacerbated already difficult conditions in CAR. Desertification, biodiversity loss and extreme weather events have severely affected food security and rural livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to implement climate adaptation policies to mitigate these impacts.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Central African Republic faced a bleak human rights landscape, marked by armed conflict, gender-based violence, mass displacement and limited access to basic services. Addressing these challenges will require a coordinated effort between the government, civil society and the international community to ensure the protection of fundamental rights and move towards peace and stability.

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Czech Republic

Introduction

In 2024, the Czech Republic maintained its position as a country with a strong commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. However, challenges persisted in areas such as the integration of minority communities, the rights of women and the LGBTQ+ community, as well as in migration management. In addition, the impact of climate change highlighted the need for more ambitious policies to address environmental issues.

Civil and Political Rights

The Czech Republic continued to ensure a strong democratic system and respect for civil and political freedoms in 2024. Freedom of expression and the press remained a cornerstone of the political system, although journalists who addressed sensitive topics, such as government corruption, faced occasional threats. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), the country maintains a high score for press freedom, but urged the authorities to strengthen protection for journalists.

Social protests around issues such as climate change and gender equality were held peacefully, although some faced a controversial police response, prompting criticism from human rights organisations.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, the Czech Republic made progress in women's representation in politics and the business sector, but gender pay and labour participation gaps persisted.

UN Women (2024) highlighted the need to implement more effective policies to promote equal pay and combat workplace harassment.

Gender-based violence remained a major concern. Amnesty International (2024) noted that although laws exist to protect victims, a lack of resources in shelters and limited access to justice hampered progress in this area.

Rights of Minorities and the LGBTQ+ Community

Integration of Roma communities remained a significant challenge in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported on the persistence of structural discrimination against this minority, especially in access to education, housing, and employment. Although the government implemented inclusion programs, their impact was limited.

The LGBTQ+ community also faced social and legal barriers. Although the country has made progress in recognising rights, such as legalising civil unions, the lack of legislation on equal marriage and discrimination in certain sectors underlined the need for further reforms.

Migration Management and Refugee Rights

In 2024, the Czech Republic adopted a restrictive approach to migration, prompting criticism from international organisations. The United Nations (2024) noted that conditions in migrant detention centres and asylum policies did not meet international standards, leaving many refugees in vulnerable situations.

Climate Change and Environment

The impact of climate change will be felt significantly in the Czech Republic in 2024, with an increase in extreme weather events such as droughts and floods.

Greenpeace (2024) praised the country for its efforts in renewable energy, but noted that reliance on coal remains a major obstacle to meeting European climate goals.

The government launched new initiatives to promote environmental sustainability, but progress was slow due to a lack of political consensus and limited resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Czech Republic maintained its commitment to human rights and democracy, but faced significant challenges in areas such as gender equality, minority rights and environmental sustainability. Solving these problems will require a more inclusive and coordinated approach, with an emphasis on international cooperation and the active participation of civil society.

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Republic of the Congo

Introduction

In 2024, the Republic of the Congo continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by problems related to corruption, poverty, internal conflicts and the exploitation of natural resources. Although the country maintained a certain political stability, precarious economic and social conditions exacerbated violations of fundamental rights, especially in the most vulnerable communities.

Civil and Political Rights

The Republic of the Congo remained an authoritarian state in 2024, with significant restrictions on civil and political rights. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), freedoms of expression, press, and assembly remained severely limited. Independent journalists faced threats, intimidation, and arbitrary arrests when covering issues such as corruption and abuses of power.

Local elections held during the year were criticized by the international community due to the lack of transparency and restrictions imposed on opposition parties. These elections consolidated the control of the ruling party, limiting democratic representation.

Economic and Social Rights

Economic inequality and extreme poverty remained critical issues in 2024. According to the United Nations (2024), a large part of the population lacked access to basic services such as health care, clean water, and education. Rural

communities were the most affected, with high rates of malnutrition and infant mortality.

The oil sector, which is the country's main source of income, continued to be poorly managed, with documented cases of corruption and misappropriation of public funds. This limited the resources available for social investments and exacerbated economic inequalities.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children in the Republic of the Congo faced serious human rights violations in 2024. UN Women (2024) highlighted that gender-based violence, including domestic violence and sexual violence, remained widespread, while laws to protect victims were not effectively implemented.

Children, for their part, were victims of child labour, forced recruitment by armed groups and lack of access to education. UNICEF (2024) noted that thousands of children remained outside the education system due to poverty and conflict.

Exploitation of Natural Resources and Environment

The exploitation of natural resources, particularly timber and oil, continued to have a negative impact on both the environment and local communities. Greenpeace (2024) denounced large-scale deforestation and unsustainable practices that displaced indigenous communities and destroyed vital ecosystems.

Climate change also exacerbated already difficult conditions, with phenomena such as floods and droughts affecting food security and rural livelihoods.

Government environmental policies were seen as insufficient to address these challenges.

Internal Conflicts and Displacements

Internal conflicts, although less intense than in previous years, continued to generate forced displacement in 2024. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), tens of thousands of people remained internally displaced, facing precarious living conditions and limited access to humanitarian aid.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Republic of the Congo faced a complex human rights landscape, with significant violations in key areas such as civil, economic and social rights. Addressing these challenges will require sustained government commitment to implement structural reforms, combat corruption and prioritize the protection of fundamental rights.

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Democratic Republic of the Congo

Introduction

In 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued to face serious human rights challenges due to persistent armed conflicts, humanitarian crises and weak governance. Despite international efforts to stabilise the country, fundamental rights violations affected millions of people, particularly in the eastern regions. The exploitation of natural resources and the lack of access to basic services further aggravated the living conditions of the population.

Armed Conflicts and Human Rights Violations

Conflict in the eastern provinces, especially in North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri, continued to be the main driver of human rights violations in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), armed groups and government security forces committed serious abuses, including killings, rape, and forced recruitment of child soldiers.

Forced displacement reached alarming levels, with more than 6 million people internally displaced. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that displaced communities faced extreme living conditions, with limited access to food, clean water and medical care.

Exploitation of Natural Resources and Rights of Local Communities

The DRC is rich in natural resources, such as cobalt, gold and diamonds, but the exploitation of these resources has fuelled conflict and led to human rights violations. Amnesty International (2024) reported on the use of child labour and

hazardous working conditions in mines, as well as the dispossession of land from local communities.

The government implemented some measures to regulate mining, but corruption and lack of enforcement hampered their effectiveness.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children continued to be the most affected by conflict and poverty. UN Women (2024) documented an increase in cases of gender-based violence, including sexual abuse perpetrated by both armed groups and members of the security forces.

Children faced high rates of malnutrition, lack of access to education, and forced recruitment by armed groups. UNICEF (2024) noted that thousands of children remained outside the education system due to insecurity and lack of school infrastructure.

Access to Basic Services

Access to basic services in the DRC remained extremely limited in 2024. According to the United Nations (2024), less than 20% of the population had access to electricity, and healthcare was almost non-existent in many rural areas. Preventable diseases, such as cholera and malaria, continued to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable communities.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change exacerbated crises in the DRC in 2024, affecting food security and rural livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted that deforestation and

illegal mining in the Congo rainforest, one of the largest in the world, threatened both biodiversity and the communities that depend on these ecosystems.

Despite international commitments to protect the rainforest, conservation initiatives have been insufficient due to a lack of funding and political will.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Democratic Republic of the Congo faced one of the most complex human rights landscapes in the world. Addressing these challenges will require a comprehensive approach that combines national and international efforts, including effective implementation of laws, combating corruption, and supporting communities most affected by conflict and poverty.

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Dominican Republic

Introduction

In 2024, the Dominican Republic continued to face significant human rights challenges, including discrimination against migrant and minority communities, gender-based violence, and issues related to access to basic services. Although the country has shown progress in some areas, such as economic growth and labor rights initiatives, concerns persisted about the effective implementation of policies that promote equity and social justice.

Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of expression and the press remained generally guaranteed in 2024, but there were reports of intimidation and harassment of journalists investigating corruption and abuse of power. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), the media environment faced political and economic pressures that limited the independence of some media outlets.

Local and national elections were held peacefully, but human rights organizations noted the need to improve transparency and political representation of marginalized sectors, including youth and women.

Discrimination and Migrant Rights

The situation of migrants, especially those of Haitian origin, remained a major concern in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) documented cases of mass deportations, arbitrary detentions and systematic discrimination against this population. Migrant communities faced significant difficulties in accessing health services, education and employment due to legal and social barriers.

Furthermore, the issue of statelessness continued to affect thousands of people born in the Dominican Republic of Haitian descent, who remained in legal limbo, without full access to basic rights.

Gender Violence and Women's Rights

Gender-based violence was another critical issue in 2024, with high rates of femicide and domestic violence reported across the country. UN Women (2024) highlighted that although awareness-raising campaigns and laws were implemented to protect women, the lack of resources in shelters and impunity in cases of violence limited the impact of these measures.

Access to abortion remained a contentious issue, with severe legal restrictions endangering the lives and health of many women, especially in cases of high-risk pregnancies or those resulting from rape.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

In the labour field, the Dominican Republic showed some progress in protecting workers' rights, especially in the tourism sector, which is key to the country's economy. However, Human Rights Watch (2024) noted that problems such as low wages, long working hours, and lack of protections for informal workers persisted.

Economic inequality was also evident in 2024, with wide disparities in access to basic services between rural and urban areas. The United Nations (2024) underlined the need to increase investment in infrastructure and social services to reduce these gaps.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change continued to impact the Dominican Republic, with extreme weather events such as hurricanes and flooding causing displacement and significant damage to infrastructure. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to implement more effective climate mitigation and adaptation policies, especially in vulnerable coastal communities.

Deforestation and water pollution were also critical problems affecting both biodiversity and the communities that depend on these resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, the Dominican Republic showed progress in areas such as economic growth and labour rights, but faced persistent challenges in discrimination, gender-based violence, economic inequality, and climate change. Overcoming these problems will require a stronger commitment to the implementation of inclusive and sustainable policies, as well as greater international cooperation to address the underlying causes of these inequalities.

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Rwanda

Introduction

In 2024, Rwanda continued to stand out for its political stability and sustained economic growth in Africa. However, significant human rights concerns persisted, particularly in relation to freedom of expression, political rights and the treatment of refugees. Despite improvements in areas such as gender equality and healthcare, restrictions on fundamental freedoms and allegations of government abuses overshadowed progress.

Civil and Political Rights

Rwanda maintained centralized political control under the leadership of President Paul Kagame, in power since 2000. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the government continued to use repressive tactics to silence political opposition, including arbitrary arrests and harassment of opposition leaders and journalists.

Press and freedom of expression were severely restricted in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that independent media faced censorship, and journalists critical of the government worked under constant fear of reprisals.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Rwanda continued to lead the world in women's political representation. By 2024, women held more than 60% of seats in parliament, a notable achievement in the region and globally. UN Women (2024) praised the gender-inclusive policies implemented by the government, which encouraged female participation in the economic and political spheres.

However, gender-based violence remained a significant problem. Although the government implemented awareness-raising and support programmes for victims, Amnesty International (2024) highlighted that social and legal barriers persist that hinder reporting and access to justice.

Treatment of Refugees and Migrants

Rwanda played a prominent role in hosting refugees in 2024, particularly those from neighbouring countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. The United Nations (2024) recognised the government's efforts to provide shelter and basic services to more than 100,000 refugees.

However, the asylum seeker relocation agreement signed between Rwanda and the UK continued to generate controversy. Human rights organisations raised concerns about the legality and ethics of this agreement, pointing out that it could violate international refugee rights standards.

Economic Development and Inequality

Rwanda experienced significant economic growth in 2024, driven by investments in infrastructure and technology. However, economic inequality persisted, with many rural communities marginalized from economic progress.

Access to essential services such as education and healthcare improved in urban areas, but rural areas continued to face significant barriers, according to the World Bank (2024).

Climate Change and Environment

Rwanda implemented ambitious policies to address climate change by 2024, including reforestation and promoting renewable energy. Greenpeace (2024)

highlighted the country's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and protect biodiversity.

However, rural communities faced challenges due to extreme weather events, such as droughts and floods, which affected agriculture and exacerbated food insecurity.

Conclusion

In 2024, Rwanda continued to make significant progress in areas such as gender equality, refugee care, and economic development. However, restrictions on civil and political rights, along with allegations of government abuses, highlighted the need for a more balanced approach that prioritizes fundamental rights and social inclusion. The country has the potential to be a model in Africa if it addresses these challenges with a transparent and human rights-based approach.

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Romania

Introduction

In 2024, Romania continued to make progress in a number of social and economic areas, but human rights challenges remain. Corruption, discrimination towards minority communities, and concerns related to press freedom and the rule of law stood out among the most significant issues. Although the country has implemented reforms to meet EU standards, their impact has been uneven, leaving certain sectors of the population vulnerable.

Civil and Political Rights

Romania maintained a functioning democratic system in 2024, with free and regular elections. However, corruption in the political and judicial spheres remained a recurring problem. Transparency International (2024) noted that while there was progress in the fight against corruption, cases of impunity at high levels of government undermined public trust in institutions.

Freedom of expression and of the press were generally respected, but journalists faced economic and political pressure. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that some independent media faced difficulties due to their coverage of sensitive issues, such as corruption and minority rights.

Discrimination and Minority Rights

Roma communities in Romania continued to face systemic discrimination in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented significant barriers to accessing education, housing, and employment for this community, perpetuating cycles of poverty and social exclusion.

Furthermore, although Romania has adopted anti-discrimination laws, LGBTQ+ people continued to face social stigmatization and legal obstacles. In 2024, the country made no progress in recognizing rights such as same-sex marriage, prompting criticism from international human rights organizations.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Romania made progress in women's representation in politics and the public sector in 2024, but gender-based violence remained a critical issue. Amnesty International (2024) reported that cases of domestic violence and femicide remained alarmingly high, while resources for victims, such as shelters and legal services, remained limited.

The gender pay gap was also a prominent issue, with women earning significantly less than their male counterparts in key sectors of the economy.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change had a significant impact in Romania in 2024, with extreme events such as floods and droughts affecting rural communities and agriculture. Greenpeace (2024) noted that although the country adopted new environmental policies, their implementation was slow and faced opposition from industrial sectors.

Illegal deforestation remained a serious problem, threatening biodiversity and the livelihoods of local communities. Environmental organisations called on the government to make greater efforts to combat this practice and promote reforestation.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Romania experienced economic growth in 2024, but disparities between urban and rural areas remained marked. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that many rural communities faced difficulties in accessing essential services such as healthcare and education.

In the workplace, workers in low-wage sectors such as agriculture and construction continued to face precarious conditions. The lack of effective enforcement of labour laws allowed for exploitation in some cases, which was documented by Human Rights Watch (2024).

Conclusion

In 2024, Romania continued to strive to meet European human rights standards, but faced significant challenges in areas such as corruption, discrimination and environmental protection. Addressing these issues will require stronger engagement from government and civil society, as well as a more inclusive approach to ensure that all citizens enjoy the same rights and opportunities.

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Russia

Introduction

In 2024, Russia faced continued international criticism for human rights violations, aggravated by geopolitical tensions and internal conflicts. Restrictions on civil liberties, repression of dissent, and structural problems in access to justice stood out as areas of concern. Although the government maintained its focus on consolidating its power, internal and external pressures highlighted the need for a shift in approach to fundamental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Russia continued to restrict civil and political freedoms in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), restrictive laws on non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and independent media were further tightened, significantly reducing space for activism and critical journalism.

The persecution of political opponents, journalists and activists was a recurring theme. Amnesty International (2024) documented arbitrary arrests and unfair trials against key opposition figures, as well as cases of mass surveillance and online censorship to silence dissenting voices.

Minority Rights

Ethnic and religious minorities in Russia faced systematic discrimination in 2024. Indigenous communities in Siberia and the Far East reported violations of their land rights due to natural resource extraction projects, while Muslim minorities, particularly in the North Caucasus, reported persecution and racial profiling.

The LGBTQ+ community also continued to face a hostile environment. Human Rights Watch (2024) highlighted the impact of laws against “LGBTQ+ propaganda,” which further restricted freedom of expression and contributed to discrimination and violence against this population.

Economic and Social Rights

Economic inequality remained a significant challenge in Russia in 2024. The United Nations (2024) noted that rural areas and marginalized communities faced disproportionate difficulties in accessing basic services such as healthcare and education.

The health system, in particular, was plagued by a lack of funding and adequate staff, exacerbating regional disparities. Meanwhile, workers in key sectors, such as mining and construction, reported unsafe working conditions and a lack of effective legal protections.

Conflicts and Human Rights

The situation in conflict regions, such as Chechnya and eastern Ukraine, continued to lead to serious human rights violations in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) reported cases of enforced disappearances, torture and extrajudicial executions in these areas.

The humanitarian impact of the conflict in Ukraine remained devastating, with thousands displaced and limited access to humanitarian aid in the affected regions. The United Nations (2024) urged all parties to respect international humanitarian law and ensure the protection of civilians.

Environment and Climate Change

Russia, one of the largest emitters of greenhouse gases, continued to face criticism for its insufficient response to climate change in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the lack of significant progress in the transition to renewable energy and the continued reliance on oil and gas as main economic drivers.

Natural disasters, including wildfires and floods, severely affected rural communities, underscoring the need for more ambitious and effective climate policies.

Conclusion

In 2024, Russia faced a challenging human rights landscape, characterized by severe restrictions on fundamental freedoms, persistent social inequalities, and an inadequate response to environmental and humanitarian crises. Addressing these issues will require significant structural reforms and a renewed commitment to international human rights standards.

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Senegal

Introduction

In 2024, Senegal continued to establish itself as an example of democratic stability in West Africa, although it faced significant human rights challenges related to freedom of expression, women's rights, and economic inequality. The country showed progress in strengthening its democratic institutions, but underlying political tensions and social problems highlighted the need for deeper reforms.

Civil and Political Rights

Senegal maintained a functioning democratic system, with transparent and regular elections, but political tensions related to the opposition and freedom of expression arose in 2024. According to Amnesty International (2024), arrests of opposition figures and restrictions on protests were recorded, raising concerns about respect for civil rights.

Press freedom, although constitutionally protected, faced challenges. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted cases of intimidation towards journalists who investigated sensitive topics, such as corruption and human rights, which limited the ability of media outlets to operate independently.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, Senegal showed progress in promoting gender equality, but gender-based violence remained a critical issue. UN Women (2024) documented widespread cases of domestic violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriages, especially in rural areas.

Access to education for girls improved thanks to government and non-governmental organization initiatives, but gender disparities in access to employment and political participation persisted, underscoring the need for greater investment in inclusive programs.

Economic and Social Rights

Senegal experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, driven by the development of the energy and agricultural sectors. However, economic inequalities remained marked, with rural communities facing higher levels of poverty and limited access to basic services such as clean water, health and education.

According to the World Bank (2024), economic development policies made progress in reducing urban poverty, but rural areas remained behind, highlighting the need for more equitable policies.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change had a significant impact in Senegal in 2024, with phenomena such as coastal erosion and flooding affecting vulnerable communities. Greenpeace (2024) stressed the urgency of implementing more ambitious environmental policies to mitigate the effects of climate change and protect the country's natural resources.

The government launched initiatives to promote reforestation and the transition to renewable energy, but efforts were limited by a lack of funding and technical resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, Senegal made progress in consolidating its democracy and promoting fundamental rights, but faced persistent challenges in areas such as gender equality, freedom of expression and environmental sustainability. Addressing these issues will require an inclusive and sustained approach, with support from the international community and active engagement of civil society.

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Serbia

Introduction

In 2024, Serbia faced persistent human rights challenges, marked by political tensions, discrimination against ethnic and sexual minorities, and concerns about press freedom. Although the country made significant progress in aligning its policies with EU regulations, progress was uneven, leaving critical areas uneffectively addressed.

Civil and Political Rights

Serbia maintained a functioning democratic system in 2024, but with significant limitations on freedom of expression and judicial independence. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), journalists faced intimidation, threats and political pressure, especially when investigating government corruption or covering Kosovo-related issues.

Citizen protests, although permitted, often faced disproportionate responses from security forces. Amnesty International (2024) documented several cases of excessive use of force against peaceful protesters, prompting criticism both domestically and internationally.

Discrimination and Minority Rights

Ethnic minorities, especially Roma and Albanian communities, continued to face systemic discrimination in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) noted significant barriers to accessing education, employment, and housing for these communities, perpetuating their social exclusion.

The LGBTQ+ community also faced considerable challenges. Although Pride marches were allowed to take place in Belgrade under strict security measures, hate speech and attacks against LGBTQ+ people persisted. The lack of comprehensive legislation to protect this community underlined the need for urgent legal reforms.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, Serbia continued to face high rates of gender-based violence, including femicide and domestic violence. UN Women (2024) highlighted that although stricter laws have been implemented to protect victims, a lack of resources in shelters and insufficient training of police forces hampered the effective implementation of these measures.

Furthermore, gender disparities in the workplace and political representation remained significant, despite government campaigns to promote gender equality.

Relations with Kosovo and Human Rights

The strained relationship between Serbia and Kosovo remained a focus in 2024. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that political dispute negatively affected the daily lives of communities in both regions, with reports of human rights violations, including forced displacement and discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change and environmental issues were growing challenges for Serbia in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) noted that air pollution, especially in urban and industrial areas, continued to be among the highest in Europe.

Although the government adopted policies to promote renewable energy sources, the dependence on coal as a primary energy source and the lack of effective environmental regulation limited progress in this area.

Conclusion

In 2024, Serbia showed progress in some aspects of human rights, but persistent challenges regarding discrimination, freedom of expression and gender-based violence highlighted the need for a more comprehensive and coordinated approach. To achieve sustainable progress, the country must prioritize inclusive legal and policy reforms, aligning more closely with international human rights standards.

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Sierra Leone

Introduction

In 2024, Sierra Leone continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by political tensions, economic inequality and public health concerns. Although the country has made progress in consolidating peace following its civil war, corruption, gender-based violence and conditions of widespread poverty continue to limit the full enjoyment of human rights for much of the population.

Civil and Political Rights

Sierra Leone maintained a functioning democratic system in 2024, with relatively peaceful elections. However, tensions between political parties led to reports of intimidation and violence during the election period. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), freedoms of expression and assembly were limited in some cases, especially for opposition groups.

Press freedom, although protected by law, faced challenges due to threats and intimidation of journalists covering sensitive issues such as government corruption and women's rights.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, gender-based violence remained a critical issue in Sierra Leone. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted that women faced high levels of domestic and sexual violence, often without access to justice or adequate support. Despite laws aimed at protecting women, their implementation was insufficient, especially in rural areas.

Child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) remained common practices, although the government implemented awareness-raising campaigns to reduce their prevalence. UN Women (2024) stressed the need to increase resources to combat these practices and promote gender equality.

Economic and Social Rights

Sierra Leone faced significant challenges in the provision of basic services in 2024. The United Nations (2024) reported that access to health care, education and clean water was limited, especially in rural communities. Maternal and child mortality rates remained alarmingly high, reflecting the fragility of the health system.

Widespread poverty and youth unemployment exacerbated economic inequalities, leaving many families vulnerable. Despite this, the government launched community development programmes aimed at improving living conditions in the most affected areas.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change worsened living conditions in Sierra Leone in 2024, with floods and landslides displacing thousands of people and destroying key infrastructure. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted that deforestation and small-scale mining contributed to environmental degradation, affecting food security and rural livelihoods.

Despite these challenges, the government worked collaboratively with international partners to develop climate adaptation policies, although their implementation was limited by a lack of resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, Sierra Leone made progress in some areas, such as the consolidation of democracy and community development initiatives. However, significant human rights challenges persisted, including gender-based violence, poverty and the impact of climate change. Addressing these issues will require sustained government commitment, support from the international community and active engagement of civil society.

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Singapore

Introduction

In 2024, Singapore maintained its reputation as one of the most stable and prosperous countries in Southeast Asia. However, restrictions on civil and political liberties continued to raise concerns among human rights advocates. Despite advances in economic and technological development, the country faced criticism related to freedom of expression, the death penalty, and labour rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Singapore is known for its highly centralised political system and strict control over dissent. In 2024, restrictions on freedom of expression and the press remained in place, with laws such as the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act (POFMA) used to control information and limit criticism of the government. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that the lack of media independence remains a significant problem.

Freedom of assembly was also restricted, with permits required to organize protests or public gatherings. Amnesty International (2024) criticized these measures as incompatible with international human rights standards.

Death penalty

In 2024, Singapore continued to use the death penalty, primarily in cases involving drug offences. Human Rights Watch (2024) and other organisations denounced these executions as violating international law, which discourages the use of capital punishment for non-violent crimes. Although there were

international calls to abolish the death penalty, the government defended its policy as an effective deterrent.

Labour Rights

Despite being a global economic hub, Singapore faced criticism over the working conditions of migrant workers. According to the United Nations (2024), these workers, who constitute an essential part of the country's workforce, faced long working hours, low wages, and poor housing conditions.

The government implemented some reforms to improve labour protections, but Human Rights Watch (2024) noted that gaps in the enforcement of these laws persist, leaving many workers vulnerable to exploitation.

LGBTQ+ Community Rights

In 2024, Singapore made significant progress by decriminalising same-sex relationships between men, a historic step towards equal rights. However, discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community remained common in social and employment settings, and no laws were implemented to explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Climate Change and Environment

Singapore continued to lead initiatives in sustainability and climate change, investing in green technologies and promoting energy efficiency in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) praised the country's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and increase urban green areas.

However, environmental organisations noted that fossil fuel dependence and per capita emissions remain high compared to other developed countries, underlining the need for more ambitious policies.

Conclusion

In 2024, Singapore made notable progress on sustainability and LGBTQ+ rights, but faced persistent criticism for its restrictions on civil liberties, its use of the death penalty, and the working conditions of migrant workers. Addressing these challenges will require a balance between economic development and respect for fundamental human rights.

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Syria

Introduction

In 2024, Syria remained one of the countries most affected by protracted conflicts and humanitarian crises in the world. The civil war, which has devastated the country for more than a decade, left millions of people displaced, facing human rights violations and living in dire conditions. Despite international efforts to negotiate political solutions, the human rights situation in Syria remained critical.

Conflict and Human Rights Violations

The armed conflict in Syria continued in 2024, with clashes between government forces, rebel groups, and extremist organizations. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), all parties to the conflict committed abuses, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians, arbitrary arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances.

Civilians, especially in northwestern regions such as Idlib, faced shelling and attacks resulting in loss of life and mass displacement. The United Nations (2024) denounced that these actions violate international humanitarian law and constitute possible war crimes.

Humanitarian Crisis

The humanitarian crisis in Syria reached alarming levels in 2024, with more than 14 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, according to the World Food Programme (2024). Internally displaced people and refugees in

neighbouring countries faced deplorable living conditions, with limited access to food, clean water and medical services.

Food insecurity has increased due to the destruction of agricultural land and disruption of supply chains. In addition, international sanctions have complicated the delivery of humanitarian aid in some areas.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children continued to be the most affected by the conflict. UN Women (2024) highlighted that women faced gender-based violence, forced marriages and limited access to sexual and reproductive health services.

Children, for their part, faced an educational crisis, with more than 50% out of the school system due to the destruction of infrastructure and insecurity. UNICEF (2024) also noted that thousands of minors continued to be recruited by armed groups, exposing them to violence and exploitation.

Freedom of Expression and Association

The Syrian government maintained strict restrictions on freedom of expression and association in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) documented arrests of activists, journalists and human rights defenders who voiced criticism of the regime. Media censorship and state control over information limited transparency and access to unbiased news.

Environmental Impacts and Climate Change

Climate change exacerbated conditions in Syria in 2024, with prolonged droughts and declining water resources severely affecting rural communities.

Greenpeace (2024) warned of desertification and biodiversity loss, exacerbated by conflict and poor environmental management.

Despite the challenges, small efforts were made at the local level to promote sustainability and mitigate environmental impacts.

Conclusion

In 2024, Syria continued to face one of the most serious human rights crises in the world, characterized by protracted conflict, mass displacement and systematic violations of fundamental rights. Solving these problems will require a comprehensive approach that combines international efforts, inclusive political solutions and the reconstruction of affected communities.

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Somalia

Introduction

In 2024, Somalia continued to face serious human rights challenges due to armed conflict, political instability and humanitarian crises. Despite international efforts to support state-building and improve living conditions, violence, food insecurity and violations of fundamental rights continued to affect millions of people in the country.

Conflict and Human Rights Violations

Armed conflict between the federal government, armed groups such as Al-Shabaab, and other local actors continued to be the main driver of human rights violations in Somalia in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), civilians were targeted by indiscriminate attacks, extrajudicial executions, and forced displacement.

Al-Shabaab, in particular, stepped up its attacks on civilians and government targets, using tactics such as bombings and suicide bombings that resulted in hundreds of deaths and mass displacement. The United Nations (2024) denounced these actions as serious violations of international humanitarian law.

Humanitarian Crisis

Somalia continued to face one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises in 2024, with more than 7 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Food insecurity and malnutrition particularly affected children, with alarming rates of child mortality, according to UNICEF (2024).

Recurrent droughts, exacerbated by climate change, and lack of access to clean water and health services have made matters worse. Internal displacement has left millions of people living in precarious conditions, without adequate access to shelter, education or health care.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children continued to be the most affected by conflict and humanitarian crises. UN Women (2024) highlighted that women faced high levels of gender-based violence, including forced marriages, sexual violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). Although efforts were made to combat FGM, its prevalence remained among the highest in the world.

Children, for their part, were recruited by armed groups, used as soldiers and exposed to serious risks in conflict zones. Lack of access to education due to insecurity and lack of infrastructure aggravated children's vulnerabilities.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Press freedom in Somalia continued to face severe restrictions in 2024. Journalists faced threats, intimidation and attacks for reporting on sensitive topics, including corruption and armed conflict. Reporters Without Borders (2024) documented several cases of journalists being killed or arbitrarily detained.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change has exacerbated living conditions in Somalia, with prolonged droughts and extreme weather events affecting agriculture and food security. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government and the international community to

implement more effective measures to mitigate the impacts of climate change and support the most vulnerable communities.

Deforestation and overexploitation of natural resources also contributed to environmental degradation, threatening the livelihoods of rural communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Somalia continued to face a complex and multidimensional crisis that requires a comprehensive approach to address human rights issues, the humanitarian crisis and the impacts of climate change. International cooperation and coordinated national efforts will be essential to move towards peace, stability and the protection of fundamental rights.

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Sri Lanka

Introduction

In 2024, Sri Lanka continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by political tensions, economic inequality, and the lingering effects of its civil conflict. Despite government efforts to improve political and economic stability, concerns persisted over freedom of expression, minority rights, and violations of fundamental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

The political landscape in Sri Lanka in 2024 was characterized by centralized control of power and restrictions on civil liberties. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), freedom of expression and of the press remained limited, with journalists and activists facing threats, intimidation, and in some cases arbitrary detention.

Protests against government economic and political measures were repeatedly repressed, prompting international criticism for the authorities' excessive use of force. Amnesty International (2024) denounced that these actions violated the rights to peaceful assembly and expression.

Minority Rights

Minority communities, including Tamils and Muslims, continued to face discrimination and social exclusion in 2024. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that although the government has taken steps to promote reconciliation following the civil conflict, discriminatory practices persist in access to education, employment and housing.

The transitional justice system, intended to address violations committed during the civil war, moved slowly, leaving many victims without justice or reparation.

Economic and Social Rights

The economic crisis that hit Sri Lanka in previous years continued to have repercussions in 2024, with high levels of inflation and poverty. According to the World Bank (2024), access to basic services such as healthcare and education deteriorated, especially in rural areas.

Youth unemployment and income inequality persisted, exacerbating social tensions and limiting opportunities for the most vulnerable communities.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change had a significant impact in Sri Lanka in 2024, with phenomena such as floods and droughts affecting agriculture and food security. Greenpeace (2024) noted that deforestation and biodiversity loss remained critical issues, exacerbated by agricultural expansion and urban development.

Although the government launched initiatives to promote sustainability and climate resilience, implementation was limited due to lack of resources and technical support.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Sri Lanka continued to face high levels of gender-based violence, including domestic abuse and labour exploitation. UN Women (2024) underlined the need to strengthen laws and support programmes for victims, as well as to promote women's participation in politics and the economic sector.

Conclusion

In 2024, Sri Lanka faced a complex human rights landscape, with limited progress in key areas such as reconciliation, gender equality and environmental sustainability. Addressing these challenges will require renewed government commitment and increased international cooperation to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of all its citizens.

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South Africa

Introduction

In 2024, South Africa remained a consolidated democracy on the African continent, but faced significant human rights challenges, including gender-based violence, economic inequalities and persistent racial discrimination. Although the country has made progress in some areas, such as protecting LGBTQ+ rights and consolidating press freedom, social tensions and high levels of poverty underlined the need for structural reforms.

Civil and Political Rights

South Africa maintained its commitment to democracy and civil rights, with regular elections and a vibrant civil society. However, according to Human Rights Watch (2024), problems persisted related to the excessive use of force by security forces, especially during social protests over access to basic services.

Press freedom remained robust, but journalists investigating corruption and abuses of power faced threats and harassment. Reporters Without Borders (2024) urged the government to ensure a safe environment for the media.

Gender Violence and Women's Rights

In 2024, South Africa continued to face alarming levels of gender-based violence, including femicide and domestic violence. UN Women (2024) highlighted that despite government efforts to implement awareness-raising campaigns and strengthen laws, many women still lacked access to justice and adequate support services.

Gender inequality in the workplace also persisted, with a significant pay gap and low representation of women in leadership positions.

Economic Inequalities and Social Rights

South Africa is one of the most unequal countries in the world, and in 2024 this disparity remained evident. According to the World Bank (2024), unemployment, especially among youth, remained a major concern. Marginalized communities, particularly those in impoverished rural and urban areas, faced significant barriers to accessing essential services such as education, health, and housing.

Access to land remained a critical issue, with slow progress on redistribution programmes seeking to address inequalities inherited from apartheid.

LGBTQ+ Rights

South Africa stood out for its progressive legal framework regarding LGBTQ+ rights, being one of the few African countries that allows same-sex marriage. However, in 2024, the LGBTQ+ community continued to face discrimination and violence, especially in conservative communities. Human Rights Watch (2024) underlined the need for more effective policies to protect this population.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change significantly impacted South Africa in 2024, with droughts and floods impacting agriculture and exacerbating food insecurity. Greenpeace (2024) praised investments in renewable energy, but criticized the continued reliance on coal as a primary energy source.

Environmental pollution and poor management of natural resources remained critical problems, disproportionately affecting poorer communities.

Conclusion

In 2024, South Africa demonstrated progress in protecting fundamental rights, but challenges in areas such as gender-based violence, economic inequalities and the impacts of climate change highlighted the need for a more inclusive and sustained approach. Addressing these issues will require a renewed commitment to social justice and the implementation of policies that promote equity and sustainability.

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Sudan

Introduction

In 2024, Sudan continued to face a severe humanitarian and human rights crisis due to armed conflict, political instability and economic collapse. Widespread violence, mass displacement and systematic violations of fundamental rights marked the landscape of a country mired in a protracted struggle for stability and justice.

Armed Conflicts and Human Rights Violations

The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) escalated the situation in 2024, resulting in a significant increase in human rights violations. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), both sides were involved in indiscriminate attacks against civilians, extrajudicial executions, sexual violence, and looting.

In the Darfur region, ethnic violence has reached alarming levels, with documented massacres and mass displacement. The United Nations (2024) warned that these actions could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Humanitarian Crisis

The humanitarian crisis in Sudan in 2024 was one of the worst globally, with more than 25 million people in need of urgent assistance. Internal displacement and refugee flows to neighbouring countries such as Chad and South Sudan continued to increase. According to the World Food Programme (2024), food

insecurity affected more than 70% of the population due to disrupted supply chains and loss of agricultural land.

Lack of access to basic services such as clean water, healthcare and shelter has exacerbated the living conditions of millions of people, especially women and children.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children remained the most vulnerable in the Sudanese crisis. UN Women (2024) reported an increase in cases of gender-based violence, including mass rape and forced marriages, especially in areas controlled by armed groups.

Children, for their part, faced forced recruitment by warring factions, as well as being exposed to severe malnutrition and lack of access to education. UNICEF (2024) noted that more than 50% of school-aged children were outside the education system.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Press freedom and freedom of expression in Sudan were severely restricted in 2024. Journalists faced threats, arbitrary arrests and violence when trying to report on the situation in the country. Amnesty International (2024) documented several cases of censorship and direct attacks against independent media.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in Sudan. Prolonged droughts and floods severely affected rural communities, destroying crops and

displacing thousands of people. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the urgent need to implement climate adaptation policies to mitigate environmental impacts in a country already devastated by conflict.

Conclusion

In 2024, Sudan faced one of the most complex and devastating crises globally. The combination of armed conflict, economic collapse and humanitarian crisis underlined the need for a coordinated international approach to address the root causes of violence and ensure the protection of human rights. The path to peace and stability will require sustained commitment from both the government and the international community.

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South Sudan

Introduction

In 2024, South Sudan continued to face one of the most complex humanitarian crises in the world, marked by armed conflict, mass displacement and limited access to basic services. Although efforts have been made to implement the peace agreement signed in 2018, progress has been slow, leaving millions of people in vulnerable conditions and exposed to systematic human rights violations.

Conflict and Human Rights Violations

Armed conflict between ethnic groups and political factions remained a major source of instability in South Sudan in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), warring parties were involved in indiscriminate attacks on civilians, sexual violence, and forced recruitment of child soldiers.

In rural areas, disputes over natural resources such as water and agricultural land intensified community violence, exacerbating internal displacement. The United Nations (2024) denounced that these violations could constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Humanitarian Crisis

The humanitarian crisis in South Sudan reached critical levels in 2024, with more than two-thirds of the population in need of humanitarian assistance. The World Food Programme (2024) reported that food insecurity affected 7 million people, including high levels of child malnutrition due to drought, floods and conflict.

Internally displaced people and refugees fleeing to neighbouring countries faced dire conditions, with limited access to clean water, shelter and medical care.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children continued to bear the brunt of the crisis. UN Women (2024) documented an alarming increase in cases of gender-based violence, including rape and forced marriages. Displaced women faced additional risks of exploitation and abuse in refugee camps.

On the other hand, UNICEF (2024) highlighted that thousands of children remained outside the education system due to the destruction of schools and insecurity. Many minors were also recruited by armed groups, perpetuating a cycle of violence and exploitation.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change worsened conditions in South Sudan in 2024, with recurrent flooding and severe droughts devastating crops and livelihoods. Greenpeace (2024) noted that the lack of infrastructure to mitigate climate impacts left rural communities particularly vulnerable.

Environmental degradation, driven by deforestation and natural resource extraction, also negatively affected biodiversity and communities that depend on local ecosystems.

Freedom of Expression and Press

Press freedom in South Sudan remained severely restricted in 2024. Journalists faced threats, harassment and arbitrary arrests for reporting on the conflict and government corruption. Amnesty International (2024) criticized the government

for using repressive tactics to silence criticism and limit access to independent information.

Conclusion

In 2024, South Sudan remained trapped in a cycle of conflict, humanitarian crisis and human rights violations. Solving these problems will require a comprehensive approach that combines international efforts, economic reconstruction and a genuine commitment to peace and national reconciliation. The international community will play a crucial role in supporting these efforts and ensuring the protection of the fundamental rights of the population.

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Sweden

Introduction

In 2024, Sweden maintained its position as a leading country in protecting human rights and promoting democratic values. However, the country faced certain challenges related to the integration of migrants, the rise of hate crimes, and concerns about housing and access to basic services. Despite these problems, Sweden continued to stand out for its commitment to equality, sustainability, and civil rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Sweden maintained strong respect for civil and political liberties in 2024. Freedom of expression and the press remained protected by law, and the media played a crucial role in government oversight. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Sweden ranked among the countries with the highest press freedom indices worldwide.

However, there have been some reports of excessive surveillance by authorities in the context of the fight against terrorism, raising concerns about privacy and the balance between security and individual rights.

Migrant Integration and Minority Rights

In 2024, Sweden continued to receive a significant number of migrants and refugees. Although the country is known for its inclusive policies, challenges in integrating these communities persisted. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that many migrant families faced difficulties in accessing the labour market, housing and education.

In addition, the rise in hate crimes targeting ethnic and religious minorities, especially Muslims, raised concerns. Human Rights Watch (2024) urged the Swedish government to implement more effective measures to combat discrimination and promote social cohesion.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Sweden continued to lead in gender equality, with progressive policies that fostered equal participation of women in politics and the labour market. UN Women (2024) praised the country for maintaining its commitment to gender parity and combating violence against women.

However, domestic violence and sexual harassment cases remained a concern. Swedish authorities implemented additional programmes to support victims and improve the training of police forces in handling such cases.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Sweden maintained its global leadership in environmental sustainability in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the country's initiatives to reduce carbon emissions, promote renewable energy and protect biodiversity. In addition, Sweden continued to make progress towards its goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2045.

However, climate change continued to impact the country, with extreme events such as flooding affecting some regions. This underlined the need to strengthen infrastructure to adapt to changing climate conditions.

Access to Housing and Basic Services

Access to housing was a challenge in 2024, especially in urban areas such as Stockholm. The growing demand for affordable housing and lack of availability exacerbated the situation, affecting mainly young people and low-income families.

Furthermore, although Sweden has a strong welfare system, some rural communities reported difficulties in accessing quality medical and educational services due to a lack of staff and resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, Sweden continued to be a model for human rights protection and environmental sustainability. However, challenges related to migrant integration, hate crimes and access to housing highlighted the need for more inclusive and adaptive policies. With a renewed commitment to equality and social justice, Sweden has the potential to continue to lead in human rights globally.

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Swiss

Introduction

In 2024, Switzerland maintained its reputation as one of the countries with the highest standards of respect for human rights and democracy in the world. However, it faced criticism related to certain aspects, such as migration policies, discrimination against minorities and environmental concerns. Although its stable economy and strong institutions provided a solid foundation for the protection of fundamental rights, specific challenges persisted in key areas.

Civil and Political Rights

Switzerland continued to guarantee high levels of civil and political rights. Freedom of expression, assembly and the press remained protected. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), the country ranked among the best in the world in terms of press freedom.

However, some activist groups have said that anti-terrorism laws implemented in recent years have raised concerns about surveillance and the possible overuse of restrictive measures, sparking debates about the balance between security and civil rights.

Migration Policies and Refugee Rights

In 2024, Switzerland's migration policies continued to come under scrutiny. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted the difficulties faced by asylum seekers in accessing fair and equitable processes, as well as restrictive conditions in reception centres.

Furthermore, deportations of migrants to countries considered unsafe have drawn criticism from international organisations, which have urged the Swiss government to ensure respect for the principle of non- refoulement.

Minority Rights

Discrimination against certain minorities, including Muslim and Roma communities, persisted in 2024. Human Rights Watch (2024) reported incidents of Islamophobia and racial prejudice, underscoring the need for more effective campaigns to promote tolerance and integration.

Furthermore, debates surrounding the wearing of the Islamic veil and other religious expressions in public spaces continued to polarise Swiss society, reflecting underlying tensions over cultural identity and diversity.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Switzerland continued to make progress on gender equality in 2024, although challenges remained regarding the gender pay gap and women's representation in leadership positions. UN Women (2024) praised the country for its work-life balance policies, but noted that further efforts are needed to achieve full equality.

Gender-based violence, on the other hand, remained a concern, with reports of domestic violence and sexual harassment. Local organisations called for increased funding for shelters and victim support programmes.

Sustainability and Environment

Switzerland maintained its leadership in environmental sustainability, with ambitious policies to reduce carbon emissions and promote renewable energy.

Greenpeace (2024) highlighted progress in the transition to a green economy, but also noted that the country must address its ecological footprint in sectors such as agriculture and transport.

Climate change continued to affect Switzerland's glaciers, a national symbol. This underlined the need for more robust climate policies to mitigate the effects of global warming.

Conclusion

In 2024, Switzerland reaffirmed its commitment to human rights and sustainability, although it faced challenges in areas such as migrant integration, combating discrimination and climate change mitigation. With its strong institutional foundation and thriving economy, the country has the tools to address these issues and continue to lead in the field of human rights globally.

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Thailand

Introduction

In 2024, Thailand continued to face significant human rights challenges, despite some progress in strengthening democracy following general elections. Issues such as restrictions on freedom of expression, labour rights, human trafficking and abuses against indigenous communities persisted, underscoring the need for broader structural reforms to ensure respect for fundamental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

Thailand's political environment in 2024 reflected a mix of democratic advances and authoritarian restraints. Although general elections brought civilian rule, military influence remained strong in politics, limiting substantial reforms.

According to Human Rights Watch (2024), freedom of expression continued to be restricted by laws such as *lèse-majesté*, which is used to silence critics of the government and the monarchy. Furthermore, peaceful protests faced significant repression, with arrests of student leaders and activists.

Labour Rights and Human Trafficking

Thailand continued to face criticism over working conditions, especially in sectors such as fishing and agriculture. The United Nations (2024) highlighted cases of forced labour and exploitation of migrants, many of them from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

Despite government initiatives to combat human trafficking, Amnesty International (2024) reported that exploitative practices persisted, with little oversight in key industries and complicity by local officials in some cases.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Thailand continued to face inequalities in the workplace and society. Although the country has made progress in women's political representation, gender-based violence, including harassment and domestic violence, remained a critical issue.

UN Women (2024) urged the government to improve access to shelters and services for victims, as well as strengthen laws to effectively prevent and punish gender-based violence.

Rights of Indigenous Communities and the Environment

Indigenous communities in Thailand faced ongoing challenges in 2024, particularly related to land tenure and environmental conservation. According to Greenpeace (2024), development projects such as dams and plantations displaced indigenous communities, violating their rights and affecting their traditional livelihoods.

In addition, climate change has exacerbated living conditions in rural areas, with recurrent floods and droughts affecting agriculture and food security.

Freedom of the press

Press freedom in Thailand continued to face restrictions in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that cybercrime and criminal defamation laws

were used to censor independent journalists and media. These obstacles limited access to impartial and critical information.

Conclusion

In 2024, Thailand showed signs of progress in some policy areas, but persistent human rights challenges highlighted the need for deeper reforms. Ensuring freedom of expression, protecting vulnerable communities and combating labour exploitation will be essential to moving towards a more inclusive and fair future.

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Taiwan

Introduction

In 2024, Taiwan continued to stand out as a beacon of democracy in Asia, with a strong commitment to human rights and freedom of expression. However, the island faced increasing political and diplomatic pressures, especially from China, which had implications for its domestic and external outlook. Despite progress in areas such as LGBTQ+ rights and environmental sustainability, challenges related to economic inequality and labour rights protections persisted.

Civil and Political Rights

Taiwan maintained high standards of civil and political rights in 2024. Elections and citizen participation remained central to its democratic system. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), freedom of the press and expression were widely respected, although disinformation and foreign influence campaigns, mainly attributed to China, posed significant challenges.

The government has strengthened its legislation to combat foreign interference, which, while necessary, has raised debates about possible restrictions on civil liberties.

Relations with China and Human Rights

China's diplomatic and military pressure on Taiwan increased in 2024, affecting regional security and stability. The United Nations (2024) expressed concern about the ongoing threats faced by Taiwan, including military incursions near its airspace and sea.

These tensions not only affected foreign policy, but also influenced Taiwan's military spending, diverting resources from areas such as education and health.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Taiwan continued to promote gender equality and women's rights in 2024. UN Women (2024) highlighted the country's progress in women's political representation, with an increase in their participation in public office and the strengthening of laws against gender-based violence.

Despite these advances, gender pay gaps and stereotypes persisted, especially in technological and traditional sectors of the economy.

LGBTQ+ Rights

Taiwan remained a leader in LGBTQ+ rights in Asia. In 2024, it celebrated the fifth anniversary of the legalization of same-sex marriage, reinforcing its commitment to equality. Amnesty International (2024) praised the country's inclusive policies, although noted that challenges remain for LGBTQ+ people in rural areas, where they face higher levels of discrimination.

Labour Rights and Economic Inequality

Taiwan's economy continued to grow in 2024, driven by its leadership in technology and semiconductors. However, economic inequalities remained, with workers in low-income sectors facing precarious working conditions.

Human Rights Watch (2024) urged the government to strengthen labour protections, especially for migrant workers, who remain vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Taiwan made significant progress in environmental sustainability in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) praised its energy transition policies towards renewable sources and its efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

However, the country also faced challenges related to waste management and air pollution, especially in urban areas. Environmental organizations urged the government to speed up reforms to address these problems more effectively.

Conclusion

In 2024, Taiwan consolidated its position as a leader in human rights and democracy in Asia. However, challenges arising from external pressure, internal inequalities, and environmental concerns highlighted the need for continued and sustained efforts. With a balanced approach, Taiwan can continue to make progress in the protection of fundamental rights and its sustainable development.

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Tanzania

Introduction

In 2024, Tanzania continued to show political stability and significant economic progress, but faced persistent challenges in key human rights areas, including freedom of expression, women's rights, and the protection of indigenous communities. Despite the government's efforts to implement reforms, social and economic inequalities, as well as environmental concerns, highlighted the need for more inclusive and sustainable measures.

Civil and Political Rights

Tanzania maintained a relatively stable political environment in 2024, but restrictions on civil liberties remained a concern. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), restrictive laws on press and freedom of expression were applied arbitrarily, with documented cases of journalists and activists detained for criticizing the government.

Local elections held in mid-year were held peacefully, but election monitoring groups noted irregularities in some regions, raising questions about the transparency of the process.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Tanzania continued to face significant challenges related to gender-based violence, access to education and economic participation. UN Women (2024) highlighted that although the government has implemented programmes to empower women, rates of child marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM) remained alarmingly high in rural areas.

On the other hand, efforts to increase women's political representation made some progress, but cultural and economic barriers continued to limit their participation in decision-making.

Rights of Indigenous Communities and Access to Land

Indigenous communities in Tanzania faced significant challenges in 2024, particularly related to access to land and natural resources. According to Amnesty International (2024), development projects, such as national parks and mining operations, displaced several indigenous communities without prior consultation or adequate compensation.

These actions generated tensions and protests, which in some cases were violently repressed by the authorities.

Labour Rights and Economic Conditions

Tanzania's economy grew in 2024, driven by the agricultural and mining sectors. However, working conditions in these sectors remained precarious, with low wages and a lack of legal protections for workers. The United Nations (2024) stressed the need to strengthen labour laws and ensure their effective implementation.

Youth unemployment remained a critical problem, exacerbated by lack of access to vocational training and economic opportunities in rural areas.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change had a significant impact in Tanzania in 2024, with prolonged droughts and floods severely affecting agriculture and food security. Greenpeace (2024) noted that although the government has adopted policies to

mitigate the effects of climate change, deforestation and overexploitation of natural resources remain critical issues.

Furthermore, conservation programmes, although necessary, have generated conflicts with local communities that depend on natural resources for their subsistence.

Conclusion

In 2024, Tanzania showed progress in economic and political stability, but faced persistent human rights challenges. Addressing these issues will require a more inclusive and balanced approach, prioritizing the protection of fundamental rights, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Cooperation between government, civil society, and the international community will be key to ensuring sustained progress.

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Tajikistan

Introduction

In 2024, Tajikistan continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by an authoritarian political environment, restrictions on fundamental freedoms, and persistent socioeconomic problems. Although the country showed progress in infrastructure and economic development, civil rights violations, repression of dissent, and the treatment of religious and political minorities raised significant concerns both domestically and internationally.

Civil and Political Rights

Tajikistan maintained an authoritarian political system under the leadership of President Emomali Rahmon, who has been in power since 1992. In 2024, local elections were criticized for their lack of transparency and for excluding opposition candidates, according to Human Rights Watch (2024).

Restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and association remained severe. Journalists, activists and opposition members faced arbitrary arrests, harassment and state surveillance. Reporters Without Borders (2024) ranked Tajikistan among the countries with the most press repression in Central Asia.

Religious Freedom

Religious freedom remained limited in 2024. The government strictly controlled religious practices, especially those associated with Islam, which is the country's majority religion. Amnesty International (2024) documented cases of mosque closures, bans on religious dress, and restrictions on religious education, measures that were justified under the pretext of combating extremism.

Christian communities and other religious minorities also faced restrictions on practicing their faith and registering their organizations.

Women's Rights and Gender Violence

Women in Tajikistan continued to face inequalities and widespread gender-based violence in 2024. According to UN Women (2024), domestic violence remained a critical issue, with limited resources for victims, such as shelters and legal aid.

The gender gap in access to education and employment was especially evident in rural areas, where traditional cultural norms limit women's participation in public and economic life.

Economic and Social Rights

Tajikistan showed progress in infrastructure and development projects, particularly in the energy sector, with the construction of new hydroelectric plants. However, poverty and unemployment continued to affect a large part of the population. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that more than 25% of citizens lived below the poverty line, with significant disparities between urban and rural areas.

Access to basic services such as health and education was limited, especially in rural communities. Remittances from migrant workers in Russia remained a key source of income for many Tajik families.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change severely affected Tajikistan in 2024, with natural disasters such as floods and landslides displacing entire communities and damaging

infrastructure. Greenpeace (2024) stressed the need to implement climate adaptation strategies and more sustainably manage water resources, essential for agriculture and energy generation.

Deforestation and land degradation also represented significant challenges, exacerbating the vulnerability of rural communities to climate change.

Conclusion

In 2024, Tajikistan faced a complex human rights landscape, characterized by restrictions on fundamental freedoms, social and economic inequalities, and growing environmental problems. Addressing these challenges will require a stronger commitment to democratic reforms and a more inclusive approach to ensuring that all citizens enjoy their fundamental rights.

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Togo

Introduction

In 2024, Togo continued to face significant human rights challenges, despite efforts to improve its economy and political stability. Restrictions on civil liberties, lack of electoral transparency, and social and economic inequalities remained major concerns. Although some initiatives to promote development were implemented, full respect for human rights still faces structural obstacles.

Civil and Political Rights

Togo maintained a controlled political environment in 2024, with persistent reports of restrictions on civil and political liberties. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), local elections held in mid-year were marked by irregularities, including disproportionate use of state resources and lack of equal access for the opposition.

Freedom of expression and of the press remained limited. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that journalists faced harassment, intimidation and censorship, especially those who investigated corruption or criticized the government.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Togo continued to face significant barriers in their quest for gender equality. UN Women (2024) highlighted that gender-based violence, including child marriage and domestic violence, remained critical issues, particularly in rural areas.

Despite some progress in girls' education, gender disparities in access to education and employment persisted, underscoring the need for more inclusive and effective policies to promote equal opportunities.

Economic and Social Rights

Togo's economy experienced moderate growth in 2024, driven by trade and infrastructure investments. However, economic inequalities remained marked, affecting mainly rural communities. The United Nations (2024) reported that more than 40% of the population lived below the poverty line, with limited access to basic services such as health care, education and drinking water.

Youth unemployment was a growing concern, exacerbated by a lack of economic opportunities and vocational training programs.

Rights of Minorities and Indigenous Communities

Indigenous and minority communities in Togo faced discrimination and social exclusion in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) documented cases of forced evictions and land confiscation in rural areas, often linked to development and infrastructure projects.

These practices exacerbated social tensions and left many communities in situations of extreme vulnerability.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change significantly impacted Togo in 2024, with prolonged droughts and flooding severely affecting agriculture, a key sector for the country's economy. Greenpeace (2024) noted that deforestation and soil degradation

remained serious problems, exacerbated by unsustainable agricultural practices.

Although the government launched initiatives to promote reforestation and sustainable resource management, these efforts were limited by a lack of financial and technical resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, Togo faced a mixed picture on human rights, with limited progress in some areas and persistent challenges in others. To ensure full respect for human rights, the government will need to prioritize political and social reforms, promote inclusion, and strengthen environmental protection. Collaboration with the international community will be crucial to address the structural problems affecting the country.

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Trinidad and Tobago

Introduction

In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago remained a stable democracy in the Caribbean, with significant progress in economic and social development. However, challenges persisted in areas such as gender-based violence, crime, economic inequality, and labour rights. The government implemented policies to address these issues, but the effectiveness of these measures was limited in some sectors, underscoring the need for a more comprehensive and sustained approach.

Civil and Political Rights

Trinidad and Tobago maintained a democratic political system in 2024, with free elections and general respect for civil and political rights. However, Amnesty International (2024) noted that problems related to excessive use of force by security forces persisted, especially in operations against organized crime.

Press freedom and freedom of expression were widely respected, but journalists occasionally faced pressure when covering corruption and crime. Reporters Without Borders (2024) highlighted the need to strengthen protections for media workers.

Gender Violence and Women's Rights

Gender-based violence remained a critical issue in 2024. UN Women (2024) documented high rates of domestic violence and femicides, despite awareness-raising campaigns and existing laws. Many victims faced significant barriers to accessing shelters and legal services.

Women's political representation improved slightly, but challenges persisted related to gender equality in the workplace and participation in leadership positions.

Economic and Social Rights

Trinidad and Tobago's economy benefited from the energy sector, but economic inequalities remained marked. The United Nations (2024) noted that the most vulnerable communities, especially in rural areas, faced difficulties in accessing basic services such as education, health and housing.

Youth unemployment was a major challenge, exacerbated by a lack of effective vocational training programs and economic opportunities.

Crime and Security

Crime, including armed violence and drug trafficking, remained a top concern in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the rise in violence disproportionately affected young people in marginalized communities, highlighting the need for more effective strategies to address the root causes of crime.

The country's prisons continued to face problems of overcrowding and poor conditions, prompting criticism from human rights organizations.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change and natural disasters significantly impacted Trinidad and Tobago in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the country's vulnerability to phenomena such as hurricanes and floods, which affected coastal communities and infrastructure.

Despite some progress in the transition to renewable energy, the country remained heavily dependent on oil and gas, posing challenges to its long-term environmental sustainability.

Conclusion

In 2024, Trinidad and Tobago showed progress in consolidating its democratic institutions and social development. However, challenges in human rights, gender-based violence, crime and environmental sustainability highlighted the need for more inclusive and effective policies. With renewed commitment from government and civil society, the country has the potential to move towards a more equitable and sustainable future.

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Tunisia

Introduction

In 2024, Tunisia continued to face significant political, economic, and social challenges, despite its legacy as the cradle of the Arab Spring. Human rights in the country were threatened by restrictions on civil liberties, persistent political tensions, and an economic crisis that exacerbated social inequalities. Although the government took some steps to address these issues, structural reforms progressed slowly.

Civil and Political Rights

Tunisia experienced setbacks in civil and political rights in 2024, marked by increasing restrictions on freedom of expression and association. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), authorities detained journalists, activists, and opposition members on vague charges related to national security.

Tensions between the government and civil society have escalated following the adoption of laws restricting the activities of non-governmental organizations. Amnesty International (2024) denounced the use of repressive tactics to silence criticism of the government and restrict peaceful protests.

Economic Crisis and Social Rights

In 2024, the Tunisian economy faced a protracted crisis, characterized by high levels of unemployment, inflation and indebtedness. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that these conditions disproportionately affected the most vulnerable communities, reducing their access to basic services such as health care and education.

Social discontent was reflected in mass protests demanding better living conditions and greater transparency in government management. However, the state response included excessive use of force and arbitrary arrests.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Tunisia has historically been a leader on women's rights in the region, but significant challenges persisted in 2024. UN Women (2024) underlined that gender-based violence remained a critical challenge, with limited access to shelters and support services for victims.

Although the country made progress in women's political representation, economic and social disparities between men and women remained marked, especially in rural areas.

Freedom of the press

Press freedom in Tunisia faced serious setbacks in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted an increase in cases of intimidation, harassment and arrests of journalists covering sensitive topics such as corruption and protests. These actions undermined the perception of Tunisia as a model of press freedom in the region.

Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change continued to significantly impact Tunisia in 2024. Prolonged droughts and water shortages exacerbated problems in agriculture, a key sector for the country's economy. Greenpeace (2024) urged the government to implement more ambitious policies to manage water resources and mitigate the effects of climate change.

In addition, rural communities faced food insecurity due to declining agricultural productivity, exacerbating social and economic inequalities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Tunisia faced complex human rights challenges, marked by political tensions, a persistent economic crisis, and setbacks in fundamental freedoms. Despite its potential to lead in human rights in the region, the country needs to implement structural reforms, strengthen the rule of law, and ensure the protection of fundamental rights to move towards a more equitable and democratic society.

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Turkmenistan

Introduction

In 2024, Turkmenistan remained one of the most closed and authoritarian countries in the world, with strict government control over all aspects of public and private life. Systematic human rights violations, severe restrictions on civil liberties, and a lack of transparency continued to mark the country's political and social landscape. Although it boasts vast natural resources, economic and social inequalities remained prominent.

Civil and Political Rights

Turkmenistan operated under an authoritarian regime in 2024, with President Serdar Berdimuhamedow further consolidating his control. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the elections and political processes lacked credibility, as neither the opposition nor independent observers were allowed to participate.

Freedom of expression, press and assembly were severely restricted. The media remained under state control, and independent journalists faced harassment, arrests and threats. Reporters Without Borders (2024) ranked Turkmenistan among the worst performing countries in press freedom.

Conditions of Labour Rights

Working conditions in Turkmenistan remained precarious in 2024. The country's economy is heavily dependent on agriculture, especially cotton cultivation, which continues to face allegations of forced labour. According to Amnesty International (2024), both adults and children were forced to participate in

harvests, a practice that draws international condemnation but persists due to state control over the sector.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Turkmenistan continued to face systematic discrimination, especially in access to employment and education. UN Women (2024) noted that gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remains a serious problem, with limited resources for victims and a lack of specific laws to address the problem.

Furthermore, restrictive cultural norms limited women's participation in public life, maintaining high levels of gender inequality.

Socioeconomic Conditions

Despite having vast natural gas resources, Turkmenistan's economy in 2024 remained inefficient and highly dependent on state-controlled exports. The United Nations (2024) highlighted those restrictive economic policies and corruption aggravated the living conditions of the population.

Access to basic services such as healthcare and education remained limited, especially in rural areas. International sanctions and a lack of economic diversification also contributed to widespread poverty.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change has had a considerable impact on Turkmenistan in 2024, exacerbating problems such as desertification and water scarcity. Greenpeace (2024) noted that the country has failed to implement effective policies to

mitigate the effects of climate change, endangering ecosystems and water-dependent farming communities.

Unsustainable management of natural resources, including intensive gas extraction, also contributed to environmental degradation, underscoring the need for urgent reforms.

Conclusion

In 2024, Turkmenistan continued to face international criticism for its systematic human rights violations and lack of commitment to democratic reforms. Repression of civil liberties, precarious working conditions, and socio-economic and environmental challenges underlined the need for profound structural change. However, the closed political environment and lack of government will hamper any meaningful progress.

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Türkiye

Introduction

In 2024, Turkey continued to face a mix of human rights progress and challenges. As the country sought to strengthen its economy and stabilize its political landscape, restrictions on civil liberties, concerns about the rule of law, and tensions related to minority rights marked the overall context. Despite Turkey's international commitments, human rights organizations pointed to significant shortcomings in the protection of fundamental rights.

Civil and Political Rights

The political environment in Turkey in 2024 was marked by increasingly centralized government control. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly, and association remained a significant concern. Journalists, academics, and activists faced arrest and prosecution for criticizing the government or expressing opinions considered controversial.

Judicial independence was also questioned, as there was a perception of increasing politicisation of the courts, which undermined confidence in the justice system.

Minority Rights

Ethnic and religious minorities in Turkey, including Kurds, Alevites and Christians, continued to face discrimination and hardship in 2024. Amnesty International (2024) reported restrictions on teaching in minority languages and limitations on the exercise of religious freedom.

In the predominantly Kurdish south-east of the country, security operations against armed groups have been criticised for their disproportionate impact on civilians and alleged violations of international humanitarian law.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Gender-based violence remained a critical issue in Turkey in 2024. According to UN Women (2024), femicides and domestic violence cases remained alarmingly high. Despite demands from civil society, the government failed to implement significant reforms to effectively address this issue.

Türkiye's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention in previous years continued to draw criticism as it weakened legal protection for women from violence.

Rights of Refugees and Migrants

Turkey remained home to one of the largest refugee populations in the world, with more than 3.5 million Syrian refugees registered in 2024. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that although Turkey provided significant support to this population, many refugees faced precarious living conditions, limited access to basic services and discrimination.

Furthermore, deportations of migrants to areas considered unsafe raised concerns about respect for the principle of non-refoulement.

Freedom of the press

Press freedom in Turkey remained severely restricted in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) ranked the country as one of the worst in the world in terms of press freedom, with numerous journalists imprisoned and independent media closed or intimidated.

Disinformation laws, passed in recent years, have been used to silence criticism and limit access to impartial information.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change and environmental degradation continued to impact Turkey in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) noted that the country experienced extreme weather events, such as floods and heat waves, affecting vulnerable communities and highlighting the need for more ambitious climate policies.

Deforestation and air pollution also continued to be major problems, exacerbated by large-scale infrastructure projects that negatively impacted the environment.

Conclusion

In 2024, Turkey faced a complex human rights landscape, with limited progress and numerous persistent challenges. Addressing these challenges will require a renewed commitment to democratic reforms, the protection of fundamental freedoms, and the promotion of social justice. The international community will play a key role in encouraging and supporting Turkey in these efforts.

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Ukraine

Introduction

In 2024, Ukraine continued to face a humanitarian and human rights crisis due to the ongoing armed conflict with Russia, which began in 2014 and escalated dramatically in recent years. Despite efforts by the Ukrainian government and the international community to mitigate the impacts of the conflict, millions of people continued to suffer from displacement, insecurity and violations of fundamental rights. The resilience of the Ukrainian people and efforts to maintain democratic stability were highlights during this difficult year.

Civil and Political Rights

The war had a profound impact on civil and political rights in Ukraine. Although the government pledged to protect fundamental freedoms, martial laws implemented in several regions temporarily limited some rights, such as freedom of assembly and expression. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), these measures, although justified on the grounds of national security, raised concerns about potential abuses of power.

Journalists and activists who reported on the conflict or criticized government policies faced pressure and, in some cases, harassment. However, Ukrainian civil society continued to play a crucial role in defending human rights and providing humanitarian assistance.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children remained the most vulnerable in the context of conflict. UN Women (2024) highlighted the rise of gender-based violence, including

sexual abuse, as a tactic of war in the areas most affected by the fighting. Displaced women faced increased risks of exploitation and limited access to essential services.

Children, for their part, faced disruptions in education, forced displacement and risks of recruitment into armed groups. UNICEF (2024) reported that more than 50% of children in the affected regions were unable to attend school regularly, which will have long-term consequences for human development in the country.

Displacement and Humanitarian Crisis

In 2024, Ukraine faced one of the largest internal displacement crises in Europe, with more than 7 million people internally displaced and millions more refugees in neighbouring countries. The United Nations (2024) noted that many of these people were living in precarious conditions, facing food insecurity, lack of access to clean water and inadequate health care.

International efforts, although significant, were unable to meet all humanitarian needs due to the scale of the crisis and the difficulties of access to certain areas.

Freedom of the press

Press freedom in Ukraine faced significant challenges in 2024, especially in the regions occupied by Russia. Reporters Without Borders (2024) documented cases of censorship, arbitrary arrests of journalists and attacks on independent media outlets.

In government-controlled areas of Ukraine, media continued to operate relatively freely, but conflict conditions created a difficult environment for independent journalism.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

The conflict exacerbated environmental problems in Ukraine, with significant damage to industrial and energy infrastructure, resulting in soil and water pollution. Greenpeace (2024) warned of the risks of ecological catastrophes, especially in areas close to nuclear power plants and chemical plants affected by bombing.

Despite the challenges, the Ukrainian government and international organizations have begun working on sustainable reconstruction plans to address these issues in the future.

Conclusion

In 2024, Ukraine continued to struggle with an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by armed conflict and its devastating consequences. While the country showed resilience and determination to protect human rights, the scale of the challenges requires continued international support and coordinated efforts to ensure long-term stability, peace and sustainable reconstruction.

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Uganda

Introduction

In 2024, Uganda continued to face significant human rights challenges, despite some progress in economic and social development. Restrictions on civil liberties, discrimination against minorities, and issues related to democratic governance remained key concerns. In addition, the country faced tensions arising from economic inequality and the impacts of climate change on rural communities.

Civil and Political Rights

The political environment in Uganda in 2024 remained marked by authoritarianism and repression of dissent. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the government continued to use restrictive laws to silence the political opposition, journalists, and activists. Local elections were plagued by irregularities, and opposition candidates faced intimidation and arbitrary arrests.

Freedom of expression and assembly was severely restricted, with numerous protests violently suppressed by security forces. These actions sparked criticism both nationally and internationally.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Uganda faced high levels of gender-based violence, including domestic violence and child marriage. UN Women (2024) highlighted that although laws exist to protect women, their implementation remains insufficient, especially in rural areas.

Despite these challenges, progress was made in women's political representation, with an increase in the number of women parliamentarians and community leaders. However, gender gaps in access to education and employment remained significant.

Rights of Minorities and the LGBTQ+ Community

Ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ community faced discrimination and violence in 2024. The passing of draconian laws against same-sex relationships intensified stigma and persecution. Amnesty International (2024) reported mass arrests and attacks against LGBTQ+ activists and human rights defenders.

Indigenous communities also faced challenges related to access to land and natural resources, especially in regions where development projects displaced entire families without adequate compensation.

Economic Inequalities and Labour Rights

Uganda's economy grew modestly in 2024, driven by the agricultural sector and exports. However, economic inequality remained a serious problem, with high poverty rates in rural areas. The United Nations (2024) noted that access to basic services such as health, education and clean water remains limited for much of the population.

Labour rights also faced challenges, with reports of exploitation and poor working conditions in sectors such as mining and agriculture. The lack of effective implementation of labour laws left many workers unprotected.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change has had a significant impact on Uganda in 2024, with prolonged droughts and floods affecting food security and displacing thousands of people. Greenpeace (2024) warned that deforestation and uncontrolled agricultural expansion are accelerating environmental degradation.

The government launched initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices and restore ecosystems, but progress was limited due to a lack of funding and technical support.

Conclusion

In 2024, Uganda faced a complex human rights landscape, characterized by restrictions on civil liberties, economic inequalities and environmental challenges. Addressing these challenges will require a comprehensive approach that prioritizes democratic governance, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Cooperation between government, civil society and the international community will be crucial to ensure sustainable progress.

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Uruguay

Introduction

In 2024, Uruguay maintained its reputation as one of the most progressive countries in Latin America in the protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. However, the country faced persistent challenges in areas such as economic inequality, access to housing and environmental sustainability. The active participation of civil society and a robust institutional system continued to be fundamental pillars for the respect of fundamental rights in the country.

Civil and Political Rights

Uruguay continued to stand out for its strong democracy and respect for civil and political rights in 2024. Freedoms of expression, press and association remained protected, with an open environment for public debate and activism. According to Reporters Without Borders (2024), Uruguay ranked highly in the world ranking for press freedom.

However, some sectors of society pointed out the need to strengthen transparency and access to information policies to ensure more inclusive governance.

Economic and Social Rights

In 2024, Uruguay continued to face economic inequalities, particularly in access to housing and employment. The United Nations (2024) reported that, although poverty remained at relatively low levels compared to other countries in the region, the most vulnerable sectors, such as rural communities and young people, faced significant barriers to accessing economic opportunities.

Access to education and health remained universal and free, reflecting the country's historic commitment to social rights. However, disparities in the quality of services between urban and rural areas posed challenges.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Uruguay continued to be a benchmark in gender equality in 2024, with progress in the political representation of women and the strengthening of laws against gender violence. UN Women (2024) highlighted the implementation of educational programs and campaigns to prevent sexual harassment and domestic violence.

Despite these achievements, femicides and wage inequality between men and women persisted, underlining the need to continue strengthening public policies in this area.

Minority Rights and LGBTQ+ Community

Uruguay maintained its leadership in protecting LGBTQ+ rights in 2024, with progressive policies guaranteeing equal marriage, adoption by same-sex couples, and recognition of gender identity. Amnesty International (2024) praised the country for promoting an inclusive and tolerant society.

However, some cases of discrimination and violence against LGBTQ+ people in rural areas highlighted the importance of continuing to work on education and public awareness.

Environment and Climate Change

Climate change and environmental sustainability were priorities for Uruguay in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) highlighted the progress in the use of renewable energies, which cover more than 90% of the country's energy matrix.

Despite these advances, the country faced challenges related to water resource management, especially in agricultural areas, and the need to protect biodiversity from industrial and infrastructure activities.

Conclusion

In 2024, Uruguay consolidated its position as a regional leader in human rights and sustainability, although challenges remain in key areas such as economic inequality and gender-based violence. With its solid institutional system and an engaged civil society, the country has the potential to continue advancing towards a more equitable and sustainable society.

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Uzbekistan

Introduction

In 2024, Uzbekistan continued to implement economic and social reforms under the leadership of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, seeking to improve its international standing and modernize the country. However, human rights violations persisted, particularly in relation to freedom of expression, labour rights, and restrictions on the activities of the political opposition. Although the government took steps to address certain problems, progress on fundamental rights remained limited.

Civil and Political Rights

The political landscape in Uzbekistan in 2024 remained dominated by an authoritarian regime that limited the political participation of the opposition. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), parliamentary elections held during the year lacked transparency and did not offer a level playing field for opposition candidates.

Freedom of expression and of the press continued to be severely restricted. Journalists and activists who criticized the government faced harassment, arbitrary arrests and, in some cases, disproportionate court sentences. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that state control of the media hampered access to independent information.

Labour Rights and Economic Conditions

Although Uzbekistan made progress in eliminating forced labour in cotton picking, significant labour problems persist. Amnesty International (2024) reported that working conditions in sectors such as construction and agriculture remained precarious, with low wages and insufficient protection for workers.

On the other hand, the government promoted economic reforms aimed at attracting foreign investment and diversifying the economy, but economic disparities between urban and rural areas remained marked, exacerbating social inequalities.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Women in Uzbekistan faced significant social and economic barriers in 2024. UN Women (2024) highlighted that gender-based violence, including domestic violence, remained a widespread problem. Despite the introduction of laws aimed at protecting women, their effective implementation was limited, especially in rural areas.

Women's participation in political and economic life was low, underlining the need for more inclusive policies to promote gender equality.

Religious Freedom

Although the Uzbek government continued to relax certain religious restrictions, religious practices remained under strict state control. Human Rights Watch (2024) documented cases of surveillance, detention, and harassment of individuals and communities practicing their faith outside the government-approved framework.

Impacts of Climate Change and the Environment

Climate change and unsustainable management of natural resources remained critical challenges for Uzbekistan in 2024. Greenpeace (2024) noted that desertification and water scarcity, exacerbated by the shrinking Aral Sea, had a significant impact on farming communities.

Although the government implemented some programs to address these problems, lack of resources and long-term planning limited their effectiveness.

Conclusion

In 2024, Uzbekistan showed modest progress in economic and social areas, but significant human rights challenges persisted. Consolidating political reforms, strengthening democratic institutions and increasing respect for fundamental freedoms are essential for the country to achieve sustainable and equitable progress. International cooperation will continue to be crucial to address these issues.

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Venezuela

Introduction

In 2024, Venezuela continued to face a deep political, economic, and social crisis that severely affected the human rights of its population. Despite some attempts at international mediation, the country remained politically divided, with an authoritarian government that restricted civil liberties and an opposition sector with limited capacity to influence the political process. The complex humanitarian emergency persisted, affecting millions of Venezuelans who faced food insecurity, mass displacement, and limited access to basic services.

Civil and Political Rights

The Venezuelan government maintained severe restrictions on civil and political liberties in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), arbitrary detentions, torture, and harassment continued to be used against activists, journalists, and political opponents. In addition, the independence of the judiciary remained compromised, allowing for the persecution of those who criticized the government.

Local elections held during the year were widely criticized for their lack of transparency and unequal conditions for opposition parties, deepening the perception of a democratic crisis in the country.

Humanitarian Crisis and Social Rights

The humanitarian emergency in Venezuela worsened in 2024, with millions of people facing hunger and limited access to health services. The United Nations

(2024) reported that more than 70% of the population lived in extreme poverty, while malnutrition rates, especially among children, reached alarming levels.

The collapsed health system and the lack of essential medicines worsened the situation for those requiring medical attention. Power and water cuts affected the quality of life, especially in rural and peripheral areas.

Migration and Displacement

Mass migration continued to be one of the main consequences of the crisis in Venezuela. According to UNHCR (2024), more than 7 million Venezuelans had left the country to seek refuge in neighbouring nations such as Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. These people faced difficult conditions abroad, including discrimination, labour exploitation and limited access to basic services.

Freedom of the press

Press freedom in Venezuela remained under siege in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) noted that independent media faced censorship, forced closures and legal reprisals, while the government used its control over state media to promote its narrative and silence criticism.

Journalists faced an environment of constant harassment, with threats of physical violence and arbitrary arrests, severely limiting the media's ability to report impartially.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Women in Venezuela faced serious challenges in 2024, including high levels of gender-based violence, child marriages and limited access to reproductive health services. UN Women (2024) highlighted that although laws exist to protect women's rights, their implementation is poor due to a lack of resources and political will.

Local organizations continued to struggle to provide support to victims of violence, but their efforts were hampered by lack of funding and state repression.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change exacerbated existing problems in Venezuela in 2024. Floods, droughts and landslides severely impacted vulnerable communities, especially those in rural areas. Greenpeace (2024) warned that natural resource extraction, including illegal mining in the Orinoco Mining Arc, had a devastating impact on the environment and indigenous communities in the region.

Despite these challenges, the government's environmental policies were limited and lacked a comprehensive approach to addressing the climate crisis.

Conclusion

In 2024, Venezuela continued to face a significant deterioration in the human rights situation, aggravated by the political, economic and social crisis. Addressing these issues will require a renewed commitment to respect for fundamental rights, the restoration of democracy and international cooperation

to address the humanitarian emergency and promote environmental sustainability.

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Vietnam

Introduction

In 2024, Vietnam continued to show remarkable economic growth and infrastructure advancements, but faced persistent criticism for human rights violations and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the country maintained an authoritarian political environment, with significant limitations on freedom of expression, association, and the press. In addition, challenges related to environmental sustainability and labour rights stood out as key areas requiring attention.

Civil and Political Rights

Vietnam operated under a one-party system in 2024, severely restricting political participation and civil liberties. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), political activists, journalists, and human rights defenders faced arbitrary detention, surveillance, and harassment by authorities. National security laws were used as tools to suppress dissent, with long prison sentences imposed on those who expressed critical opinions.

Freedom of assembly and association was also restricted, with authorities dissolving peaceful gatherings and independent organizations deemed contrary to state interests.

Freedom of the press

Press freedom in Vietnam remained under strict state surveillance in 2024. Reporters Without Borders (2024) ranked the country among the worst in the world in terms of press freedom. Media outlets continued to operate under government control, while independent journalists and bloggers faced censorship, arrests and judicial convictions.

Social media platforms, while harder to control, were also subject to monitoring, with users facing legal consequences for posting critical content.

Labour Rights and Working Conditions

Vietnam's rapid economic growth was boosted by its integration into global supply chains, but labour rights remained a critical issue. Amnesty International (2024) highlighted that workers faced difficult working conditions, with low wages, long hours and insufficient protection in sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture.

Despite the adoption of new labour laws in recent years, restrictions on the formation of independent unions limited workers' ability to effectively defend their rights.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, Vietnam showed progress in women's education and participation in the workforce, but problems related to gender-based violence and wage inequality persisted. UN Women (2024) reported that many women faced significant barriers to accessing leadership and decision-making positions in politics and business.

Domestic violence remained a serious problem, with limited resources to support survivors and inconsistent implementation of existing laws.

Environment and Sustainability

Climate change and environmental degradation severely affected Vietnam in 2024, especially in coastal regions vulnerable to rising sea levels and extreme weather events. Greenpeace (2024) noted that although the government has made international commitments to reduce carbon emissions, reliance on coal as a primary source of energy remains a major obstacle.

Air and water pollution, along with deforestation, posed additional threats to public health and biodiversity.

Conclusion

In 2024, Vietnam continued to face significant criticism for its human rights record, despite economic and infrastructure advances. Addressing these challenges will require a stronger commitment to political reforms, the protection of fundamental freedoms, and environmental sustainability. The international community can play an important role by supporting these efforts and encouraging Vietnam to prioritize human rights in its development agenda.

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Yemen

Introduction

In 2024, Yemen remained one of the world's most serious humanitarian crisis scenarios, as a result of the ongoing armed conflict that began in 2015. Despite international efforts to promote a negotiated solution, the political and security situation in the country remained volatile. The civilian population continued to suffer from widespread human rights violations, extreme food insecurity and a collapse in basic services.

Civil and Political Rights

The conflict in Yemen worsened civil and political rights violations in 2024. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), all parties to the conflict, including forces of the internationally recognized government, the Houthis, and other armed actors, committed serious abuses, including summary executions, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions.

Freedom of expression was severely restricted, with journalists, activists and human rights defenders facing harassment, threats and imprisonment by authorities and armed groups. In addition, the lack of access to justice and the politicization of the judicial system exacerbated widespread impunity.

Humanitarian Crisis and Social Rights

The humanitarian emergency in Yemen reached critical levels in 2024. The United Nations (2024) estimated that more than 80% of the population, approximately 24 million people, needed humanitarian assistance, including access to food, clean water and medical care.

Extreme food insecurity affected more than 17 million people, with alarming rates of child malnutrition. Health facilities continued to operate in a limited manner due to the destruction of infrastructure and shortages of essential medical supplies.

Women and Children's Rights

Women and children in Yemen continued to be the most affected by the conflict. UN Women (2024) highlighted that women faced an increase in gender-based violence, including child marriage, domestic violence and exploitation. In addition, girls were withdrawn from school at increasing rates due to insecurity and poverty.

UNICEF (2024) reported that millions of children were deprived of access to education and faced risks of forced recruitment by armed groups. Lack of access to basic services also exposed children to preventable diseases and severe malnutrition.

Impacts of Conflict on Infrastructure and the Environment

The conflict in Yemen had a devastating impact on basic infrastructure, including the destruction of schools, hospitals, and water and sanitation systems. Greenpeace (2024) noted that indiscriminate bombings and attacks also caused significant damage to the environment, polluting water resources and agricultural land essential to the livelihoods of rural communities.

Pollution generated by war and unsustainable extraction of natural resources exacerbated environmental challenges and increased the vulnerability of the population to climate change.

Conclusion

In 2024, Yemen continued to face an unprecedented humanitarian and human rights crisis. The international community must redouble efforts to promote a sustainable ceasefire, ensure humanitarian access, and hold parties to the conflict accountable for human rights violations. Resolving the crisis in Yemen will require a comprehensive approach that combines immediate assistance with long-term strategies for national reconstruction and reconciliation.

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Zambia

Introduction

In 2024, Zambia continued to show democratic and governance advances under the leadership of President Hakainde Hichilema, who took office in 2021. Despite these advances, the country faced persistent challenges in areas such as poverty, labour rights and access to basic services. Zambia also sought to balance its economic growth with environmental sustainability, in a context marked by climate change and dependence on natural resources.

Civil and Political Rights

Zambia maintained a relatively open political environment in 2024, with improvements in freedom of expression and citizen participation. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), the government significantly reduced harassment of media and activists, strengthening space for civil society.

However, concerns remain about the excessive use of force by security forces in handling protests and demonstrations. In addition, corruption in some government sectors remains an obstacle to more transparent governance.

Economic and Social Rights

Zambia experienced moderate economic growth in 2024, driven mainly by mining and agriculture. However, economic inequalities remained high, disproportionately affecting rural communities. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that more than 50% of the population lived below the poverty line, with limited access to basic services such as health, education and clean water.

The government implemented programs to improve infrastructure and access to education, but lack of adequate resources remains a significant challenge.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

In 2024, women in Zambia continued to face significant barriers related to gender equality. UN Women (2024) reported that gender-based violence, including domestic violence and child marriage, remains a critical problem, especially in rural areas.

Although government policies have sought to promote women's participation in political and economic life, gender disparities in access to education and employment remain evident.

Labour Rights and Working Conditions

Mining, one of Zambia's main sources of income, remained a problematic sector in terms of labour rights. Amnesty International (2024) noted that workers faced poor working conditions, low wages and significant health and safety risks.

Efforts to unionize and demand better working conditions faced obstacles, including acts of intimidation by employers in some sectors.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change had a noticeable impact in Zambia in 2024, with droughts and floods severely affecting agriculture, the main source of livelihood for the majority of the rural population. Greenpeace (2024) warned that deforestation and land degradation remain major challenges, exacerbated by agricultural expansion and natural resource extraction.

The government has launched initiatives to promote sustainable agricultural practices and reforestation, but the effectiveness of these programs has been limited due to a lack of funding and technical resources.

Conclusion

In 2024, Zambia showed significant progress in democratic governance and freedom of expression, but faced persistent challenges in economic, labour and gender rights, as well as environmental sustainability. With a renewed focus on social inclusion, gender equality and environmental stewardship, the country has the potential to consolidate its progress towards more equitable and sustainable development.

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Zimbabwe

Introduction

In 2024, Zimbabwe continued to face significant human rights challenges, marked by restrictions on civil liberties, a failing economy, and persistent problems related to democratic governance. Despite government efforts to promote economic development, corruption and political repression limited progress, leaving much of the population vulnerable.

Civil and Political Rights

The political environment in Zimbabwe continued to be characterized by authoritarian control. According to Human Rights Watch (2024), general elections held during the year were plagued by irregularities, including voter intimidation, lack of transparency, and marked inequality in media access for opposition parties.

Freedom of expression and the press remained restricted, with journalists and activists facing arbitrary arrests and harassment. Reporters Without Borders (2024) ranked Zimbabwe among the countries with the most repression of the press in Africa.

Economic and Social Rights

Zimbabwe's economy remained in crisis, with high inflation and alarming unemployment rates. The United Nations (2024) highlighted that more than 60% of the population lived below the poverty line, facing limited access to basic services such as health, education and clean water.

The collapse of the health system was particularly severe, with hospitals lacking essential medicines and sufficient medical staff. In addition, power outages and fuel shortages further affected daily life and economic activities.

Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Women in Zimbabwe faced significant challenges in 2024, including high levels of gender-based violence and discrimination in accessing economic resources and opportunities. UN Women (2024) noted that child marriage and domestic violence remain endemic problems, especially in rural areas.

Although there was some progress in women's political representation, cultural and economic barriers continued to limit their full participation in public and political life.

Climate Change and Environment

Climate change had a devastating impact on Zimbabwe in 2024, with prolonged droughts and extreme weather events severely affecting agriculture, one of the main sources of livelihood for the population. Greenpeace (2024) warned that deforestation and inefficient water management exacerbated environmental problems and food insecurity.

The government implemented some programs to promote environmental sustainability, but these efforts were limited by lack of funding and corruption.

Freedom of the Press and Civil Society

Press freedom in Zimbabwe remained a major concern. Independent media faced severe restrictions, and several journalists were arrested for reporting on sensitive topics, such as corruption and protests. Reporters Without Borders

(2024) stressed the need to protect journalists and ensure a safer environment for freedom of expression.

Conclusion

In 2024, Zimbabwe faced numerous human rights challenges, including political repression, economic crisis, and the impacts of climate change. Addressing these issues will require a stronger commitment to transparency, inclusion, and sustainability. The international community can play a crucial role by providing humanitarian support and pushing for structural reforms that promote fundamental rights and sustainable development.

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General Conclusion of the 2024 Report on Human Rights in 158 Countries

The 2024 report on human rights in 158 countries reveals a complex and diverse picture, with persistent challenges and some significant progress. At the global level, political, economic and environmental crises have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the most disadvantaged populations, while restrictions on civil and political liberties have marked the context in many regions.

Global Challenges

In many countries, political tensions and armed conflicts continued to be the main drivers of human rights violations. Repression of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, the press and assembly, was a constant in authoritarian regimes and democracies in crisis. In addition, economic and social inequalities, amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact of climate change, stood out as priority issues requiring urgent attention.

Impact of Climate Change and Environment

Climate change has had a devastating impact on human rights, affecting millions of people through natural disasters, food insecurity and forced displacement. The most vulnerable countries, especially in Africa, Asia and Latin America, faced the most severe consequences, underlining the need for concerted global measures to mitigate the effects of global warming and promote environmental sustainability.

Advances and setbacks

Despite challenges, some countries made significant progress in areas such as gender equality, LGBTQ+ rights, and improved access to education and health. However, these gains were often contrasted with setbacks in other areas, such as increased gender-based violence, forced labour and restrictions on civil society organisations.

The Role of the International Community

The international community played a crucial role in defending and promoting human rights, providing humanitarian assistance and pushing for reforms in contexts where governments failed to protect their citizens. However, responses were often insufficient to address the scale of the crises, underlining the need for greater global cooperation and a human rights-based approach.

Perspectives for the Future

This report highlights the importance of a comprehensive and multilateral approach to addressing human rights challenges around the world. It is essential to strengthen democratic institutions, protect fundamental freedoms and ensure equal opportunities for all. The fight against climate change must also be integrated as a priority in human rights agendas, recognizing its disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable populations.

In conclusion, the global human rights landscape in 2024 reflects both persistent challenges and opportunities to build a more just and equitable future. With political will, international commitment and the active participation of civil society, it is possible to move towards a world where human rights are universally respected, protected and promoted.

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