



General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2022

English only

Human Rights Council

Forty-ninth session

28 February–1 April 2022

Agenda item 4

Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[7 February 2022]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only. The views expressed in the present document do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations or its officials.



The United States of America's Human Rights Diplomacy Poses a Serious Threat to Global Human Rights

Human rights is a great term. Human rights for all is the common pursuit of all mankind. Since world War II, thanks to the joint efforts of the international community, the international cause of human rights has developed rapidly, and the protection of human rights has entered a stage of institutionalization and rule of law. At the same time, the United States of America's human rights foreign policy deviates from the principles and objectives of the international human rights movement and seriously threatens the steady and sound development of the global human rights cause.

The United States of America decides its attitude to human rights according to its national interests and foreign strategies, and disintegrates human rights into a tool to realize its own political interests. Before the 1970s when the United States of America adopted the international human rights standards after a fashion but still snubbed or even rejected them. In particular, different attitudes were taken by the United States of America towards the norms of freedom rights and social rights, and even the refusal to recognize economic, social and cultural rights. From the 1970s to the end of the Cold War when the United States of America promoted human rights diplomacy and used human rights as a political tool to attack the former Soviet Union. From the end of the Cold War and has lasted ever since, during which the United States of America has arbitrarily imposed upon other countries its own human rights values as a soft power and suppressed countries of different political systems in the attempt to maintain the United States of America's dominant status in the world. Since the establishment of the Human Rights Council in 2006, the Bush administration has passively boycotted the Human Rights Council, while the Trump administration has withdrawn from the Council in 2018, demonstrating its realistic attitude towards international human rights mechanisms. The United States of America always uses human rights to enhance the moral appeal of its foreign policy, but the politicization of human rights makes the world see its hypocritical attitude towards human rights more clearly.

The United States of America's human rights diplomacy poses a serious threat to the global human rights cause. First of all, the United States of America has repeatedly launched foreign wars under the pretext of human rights, causing serious human rights and humanitarian crises. According to incomplete statistics, from the end of World War II in 1945 to 2001, 248 armed conflicts took place in 153 regions of the world, of which 201, or 81 percent, were initiated by the United States of America. In March 1999, on the excuse of avoiding humanitarian disaster, NATO forces led by the United States of America openly bypassed the UN Security Council and carried out continuous bombing against Yugoslavia for 78 days, resulting in the death of more than 2,000 innocent civilians, the injury of more than 6,000 people, the displacement of nearly 1 million people and the loss of livelihood of more than 2 million people. NATO forces also deliberately targeted the infrastructure of Yugoslavia to break their resistance. According to Serbian economists, the total economic damage caused by the bombing was estimated at \$29.6 billion. The bombing caused damage to a large number of bridges, roads and railways, as well as 25,000 homes, 176 cultural monuments, 69 schools, 19 hospitals and 20 health centers, and prevented 1.5 million children from attending school. In addition, at least 31,000 depleted uranium bombs were used by NATO forces, leading to a surge in cancer and leukaemia rates in the region, with long-term and disastrous effects on the ecology of the region and across Europe. According to a research report released by Brown University in November 2018, 43,074 civilians were killed in Afghanistan, 23,924 in Pakistan, 184,382-207,156 in Iraq, 49,591 in the Syrian Arab Republic and 12,000 in Yemen. According to statistics, in recent years, several wars in which the United States of America military has been involved have led to a high number of refugees, such as 11 million in Afghanistan, 380,000 in Pakistan, 3.25 million in Iraq and 12.59 million in the Syrian Arab Republic. In Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan, the number of deaths and injuries caused by medical shortages, malnutrition and environmental pollution far exceeds those caused directly by war. It is estimated that four times as many people die from other causes as from war. Uranium levels per kilogram of soil in Basra, Iraq, jumped from less than 70 becquerels before 1991 to 10, 000 becquerels in 2009, and 36, 205 becquerels in war legacy areas. According to a report on the website of the Guardian on August 22, 2016, 30 percent of Iraqi babies were born with birth defects in 2010, compared with the normal rate of 2 to 4 percent.

Second, the United States of America's human rights diplomacy violates the principle of rule of law, universality, objectivity and non-selectivity. To advance the global cause of human rights, international society must abide by international law and norms governing international relations based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. The Human Rights Council advocates the non-politicization of human rights and a universal and objective attitude toward human rights issues. The Human Rights Council upholds multilateralism and calls for the elimination of human rights politicization through constructive dialogue and international solidarity and cooperation. Resolution 60/251 of the United Nations General Assembly underscores the importance of ensuring universality, objectivity and non-selectivity in consideration of human rights issues, and the elimination of double standards and politicization. The Human Rights Council's Resolution 5/1 demands that the universal periodic review should be conducted in an objective, transparent, non-selective, constructive, non-confrontational and non-politicized manner, and that the principles of objectivity, non-selectivity, and the elimination of double standards and politicization should apply. The Human Rights Council's Resolution 47/9 emphasizes that human rights dialogue should be constructive and based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-politicization, mutual respect and equal treatment. The United States of America has been advocating a rules-based international order, but it has adopted double standards on human rights rules. When promoting human rights diplomacy and handling human rights affairs, the United States of America doesn't comply with the uniform international standards or guarantee human rights from a just and objective perspective. It always exercises double or even multiple standards. It upholds one set of standards for its own human rights issues and another set for those in other countries. It upholds one set of standards for its allies or friendly states and another set for countries that have a different ideology, political and social system, and conflicts of interests with it. The United States of America adopts different human rights standards to a country in different periods, adopts a different attitude toward different human rights issues in different periods, adopts a different attitude toward different types of rights, highlighting the right to freedom rights and diluting or even denying the rights to subsistence and development.

Third, the United States of America uses human rights as a tool to realize its foreign strategy and profanes the sacred concept and ideal of human rights. Dividing the world based on political interests, the United States of America has precluded the possibility of having a normal dialogue between those holding different views on human rights and turned the UN human rights body into a battlefield of political confrontation. Interfering in the internal affairs of other countries on the excuse of human rights, the United States of America has created national turmoil in other countries and started new human rights disasters. The United States of America's violation of the sovereignty of other countries has led to wars and loss of lives in the intervened and invaded countries, resulting in new human rights disasters. The United States of America practice of double standards in the international human rights field has seriously tainted mankind's long-cherished ideal of human rights. The United States of America's politicization of human rights has eroded and ruined the global foundation of human rights and incurred disastrous consequences to the global cause of human rights.

Report of China Society of Human Rights Studies, "America's wars of aggression have caused serious humanitarian disasters", http://www.humanrights.cn/html/2021/2_0409/58160.html, visited on 5th Feb, 2022.

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 March 2006, "Human Rights Council", A/RES/60/251, para.4.

Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, "Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council", para.3(g).

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 12 July 2021, "Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights", A/HRC/RES/47/9, para.16.