

# HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS: A STUDY.

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## ABSTRACT:

“Human rights” means the rights inherent to all human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. These also include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and many more. The practice of human rights is still more a dream than reality. Violations exist in every part of the world. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) deals about “Everyone has right to life, liberty and security.” Briefly it is known as “The Right to live free”. But this right violated several times in many parts of the world. According to the World Human Rights Organization some of the countries in the world have bad record regarding the human rights violations. Political, social, economic, religion, race and ethnic factors are responsible for the human rights violations in those countries. The responsibility of human rights protection should be beard by sovereign nations, world peace organizations like UNO and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch etc. Every country should have the accountability to protect the human rights within its territory. Now the researcher attempts how the violations are occurred in various parts of the world and try to give solutions to the violations.

## NEED OF THE STUDY:

Rights are the ground work of a state. The nature of the state is known by the rights it maintains. For the socio, economic and political development of the people in the country as well as in the world, rights are necessary for physical and mental development. Human rights play a important role in a society. Without human rights, there is no peacefulness prevailed in the world. Better implementation of human rights leads to enhance the democratic rule and minimize the problems of the people and ultimately peace will be prevailed in universe. In view of the importance of human rights the national and the international organizations including UNO are stressing for the protection of human rights and try to reduce the violations all over the world. Hence, the paper attempts how the human rights violations are take place all over the world and to trace out the solutions to the human rights violations.

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## OBJECTIVES OF THE PAPER:

1. To study the importance of human rights.
2. To define the violations of human rights.
3. To explore about the violations of human rights across the world.
4. To give solutions to the human rights violations

## INTRODUCTION

“Human rights” means the rights inherent to all human beings regardless of race, sex, nationality, ethnicity, language, religion or any other status. These also include the right to life and liberty, freedom

from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education and many more. Everyone entitled to these rights without discrimination. Human rights demand recognition and respect for the inherent dignity to ensure that everyone is protected against abuses which undermine their dignity and give the opportunities they need to realize their full potential, free from biased.

### HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS:

First we know the definition of violation of human rights. When actions of state or non-state actors, ignore or deny basic rights including civil, political and economic rights. Furthermore, violations can occur when any state or non-state actor breaches any part of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) treaty or other international human rights laws. Wars, aggression, war crimes and crimes against humanity including genocide or breaches of humanitarian law and represent the most serious of human rights violations.<sup>1</sup>

The practice of human rights is still more a dream than reality. Violations exist in every part of the world. Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) deals about “Everyone has right to life, liberty and security.” Briefly it is known as “The Right to live free”. But this right violated several times in many parts of the world. According to the Amnesty International’s 2009 World Report and other sources show that individuals are:

- Tortured or abused in at least 81 countries.
- Face unfair trials in at least 54 countries.
- Restricted in their freedom of expression in at least 77 countries.
- An estimated 6500 people were killed in 2007 in armed conflict in Afghanistan- nearly half being non-combatant civilian deaths at the hands of insurgents. Hundreds of civilians were also killed in suicide attacks by terrorists.
- In Brazil in 2007, according to official figures, police killed at least 1260 individuals. All incidents were officially labeled “acts of resistance” and received little or no investigation.
- In Uganda 1500 people die each week in the internally displaced person camps. According to the WHO 500000 have died in these camps.<sup>2</sup>

Vietnamese authorities forced at least 75000 drug addicts and prostitutes into 71 overpopulated “rehabilitation” camps, labeling the detainees at “high risk” of contracting HIV/AIDS but providing no treatment.

### MAJOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACROSS THE WORLD:

According to the World Human Rights Organization some of the countries in the world have bad record regarding the human rights violations. Political, social, economic, religion, race and ethnic factors are responsible for the human rights violations in those countries. They are:

**North Korea:** In North Korea, there are countless human rights violations. It operates concentration camps, which are used to segregate those seen as enemies of the state, and punish them for alleged political misdemeanors and their relatives as part of the “3 generations of punishment” policy instigated by state founder Kim Il-Sung. Prisoners are frequently subject to slave labor, malnutrition, torture, human experimentation, arbitrary executions and rape. According to Amnesty International reports severe

restrictions imposed on the freedom of association, expression and movement. People have no way to leave the country. They are, instead, forced to escape through highly-dangerous zones manned by guards that are ordered to shoot on sight.<sup>3</sup>

**China:** Political freedom has been very limited since the 1970s, has clamped down on freedom of speech, press, the right to a fair trial, freedom of religion, universal suffrage and property rights. Civil rights violations include allegations of detention without trial, forced abortions, forced confessions, torture, restrictions on fundamental rights and excessive use of the death penalty. The government has suppressed popular protests and demonstrations that it considers a potential threat to “social stability”, as was the case with the Tiananmen Square Protests in 1989. When human rights activists are arrested in China, many of them never get a fair trial or are subject to a complete and utter show trial.

**Eritrea:** The country is called the “the North Korea Of Africa”. Human Rights Watch has considered Eritrea’s human rights record as among the worst in the world. One-party authoritarian dictatorship prevailed in the country, the government arrest and detentions and unknown number of detained people without charge for their political activism. The government banning freedom of press, speech assembly and association. The UNHR has accused Eritrea of extrajudicial executions, torture, forced labor, sexual harassment, rape and sexual servitude by state officials are also wider spread.

**Russia:** According to the Human Rights Watch, the modern Russian government is now more repressive than the soviet Union was. The common violations of human rights in Russia were: deaths in custody, systematic torture of persons in custody by police, security forces and prison guards, hazing in the Russian army, neglect and cruelty of police and violations of children’s rights. And also there was discrimination, racism and murders of members of ethnic minorities. The Russian prison system has been described as troubling, failing below international standards and tuberculosis become a chronic problem.<sup>4</sup>

**Somalia:** Since 2009, Somalia has been engaged in a civil war and it hasn’t had a stable government in over 20 years. War, terrorism and piracy are synonymous with this nation. Even in the most secure of the government controlled areas of Mogadisu, basic services and amenities such as medical care, sanitation and even street lighting are wholly inadequate. Freedom of press is limited, recruitment of child soldiers is rising and the incidents of assault (physical and sexual) on both males and females remain very high.

**Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):** In Congo child soldiers used on a large scale in the army, violence against women, mass rapes, sexual violence and sexual slavery are used by the armed forces of DRC. The eastern part of the country in particular has been ominously described as the “rape capital of the world” and the prevalence of sexual violence there described as the worst in the world. The pygmy population still experiences adversity despite laws passed in 2011 to protect the historically persecuted group. This group was enslaved, massacred and even cannibalized in their thousands before these laws were implemented. Freedom of peaceful assembly, religion, movement within the country, foreign travel, immigration, protection of displaced persons and refugees and workers rights all remain serious problems.

**Venezuela:** The democracy Index has classified Venezuela as a “Hybrid Regime” and as the least democratic nation in South America. Some human rights organizations blamed the government about attacks against journalists, harass the human rights defenders and poor prison conditions. After the failure of two coup attempts against government in 1992, the govt. agents to have killed 40 people both civilians and surrendered rebels. Socialism has failed and most of the country has access to water once a week,

which is mostly filthy and contaminated. The country's population has essentially been left to starve. Food is so scarce here, that people have been forced to resort to eating household pets and zoo animals just to survive.

**Myanmar:** Myanmar's military regime between 1962 - 2010 was one of the world's most repressive and abusive regimes. The military regime encouraged serious human rights abuses against women, children, forced labor, human trafficking, child labor and sexual violence. And also children are being sold as conscripts into the Burmese military for as little as \$40 and a bag of rice or a can of petrol. Burmese military regime expelled nearly half of 800000 Rohingya people from the country on citizenship issue. Genocide of the Rohingyas have been reported in this regard. Censorship is also a problem in Myanmar<sup>5</sup>

**Syria:** The Human Rights Watch Organization declared Syria's record of human rights violations as "among the worst in the world". Syria has been ranked "Not Free" in the annual Freedom of The World Survey. The authorities are accused of arresting human rights activists, censoring websites, detaining bloggers and imposing travel bans. Arbitrary detention, torture, disappearances, discrimination against women and girls are wider spread.<sup>6</sup> The terrorist organization named Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has been running a parallel govt. and creating violence in a large scale at present civil war. The president of Syria Bashar al-Asad is also responsible for the genocide of civilians in the country.

**Saudi Arabia:** Saudi Arabia is widely accused of having one of the worst human rights records in the world. Human rights issues are the worst position of women, capital punishment for homosexuality, religious discrimination and lack of religious freedom. The govt. conducts about two executions per week, mainly for murder and drug smuggling. The method of execution is normally beheading in public.<sup>7</sup>

**Pakistan:** Amnesty International blamed the Pakistan about the violation of human rights regarding the arbitrary detention, torture, deaths in custody, forced disappearances and extrajudicial executions. Besides, the Pakistan has failed to protect individuals- particularly women, religious minorities and children from violence and other human rights abuses committed at home, in the community and while in legal custody.<sup>8</sup> In addition, Pakistan continues to impose the death penalty on persons convicted of crimes. Military operations in North West Frontier Province, the Swat Valley and Waziristan have resulted in the death and injury of civilians and displacement of over two million ..people. Armed groups, including Pakistani Taliban have committed direct attacks on civilians, abduction and hostage taking, torture and killings.

The above said countries are come under the top most human rights violation list. But some of the other countries and organizations of the world also badly violate the human rights. They are:

- In India even after 70 years of independence, India still continues to suffer from significant human rights violations, despite framing many laws and policies and promising and making commitments to tackle the problem. India was a signatory to the UDHR , but the violations and atrocities are still prevalent. The wide scale of violation of human rights like extra-judicial killings, custodial deaths, militant activities in J&K badly disturb the lives of common people particularly kashmir pundits, atrocities by the security forces particularly fake encounters and rape allegations, in the rest of India violations on caste based, raids on religious minorities, increase of political and administrative corruption and scams, violence against women including rapes, sexual harassment, trafficking and

forced labor including violations of equal participation in political, economic and social life are common in India.<sup>9</sup>

- In the USA extreme individual freedom, gun culture, discrimination of the black people, long period of prison life, increase of death sentences, impose discriminative policies on immigrants etc. are some of the violations of human rights.
- Some African countries like Sudan, Nigeria, Uganda etc. are violating the human rights by respective countries' dictatorship regimes. According to the International Human Rights Organizations the mass killings of innocents by security forces and in the ethnic clashes, violence rapes, neglect the taking relief measures during the calamities such as famines, floods and dreadful diseases like hiv/aids are the severe violations of human rights. These govts. also totally failed to provide basic amenities like food, cloth, drinking water, shelter to the people of respective countries.
- The Latin American countries like Mexico, Columbia, Equador etc. are violating the human rights by drug trafficking groups. These groups badly disturbed the human life by creating violence and challenging the respective state power.
- Multi-National Companies (MNCs) also violate the human rights by exploiting the wealth of third world countries and this may leads to creating the worst human life conditions in the undeveloped countries. This type of exploitative policy is supported by the mother countries of respective MNCs.

The activities of terrorist organizations are also responsible to harm the human rights. These are operating the terrorism both in domestic as well as at cross-border which create the mass destruction of both lives and wealth.

#### **REMEDIES TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS:**

The responsibility of human rights protection should be beard by sovereign nations, world peace organizations like UNO and human rights organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch etc. Every country should have the accountability to protect the human rights within its territory. In the course of protecting the human rights the following measures should be taken both nationally and internationally:

- Every sovereign country must respect the international laws, which are related to human rights.
- All countries should be provided basic amenities like food, shelter, clothing, health& sanitation, education and safe drinking water to their people indiscriminately. When these facilities get by the people, the living standard will be raised and ultimately this leads to decrease in human rights violations. We can see this type of situation in the West European countries.
- Where the people have enjoying right to life, liberty, freedom of religion and political opinion there only the human rights are protectable. So all the nations should try to provide these rights .
- Terrorism is a serious threat to the human rights. All the nations should be curb the terrorism in any form and try to trace out the causes for terrorism and find solutions to end the terrorism. The UNO will be take serious actions on the countries which sponsor the cross-border terrorism.

- The developed countries try to minimize the exploitative attitude of the Multi-National Corporations (MNCs). The MNCs also should allocate some amount from its profits and spend on basic amenities (food, eradication of poverty, health and sanitation, education etc.,) providing to the poor people of undeveloped countries under the Corporate Social Responsible (CSR) program.
- In many countries, corruption, nepotism, suppressive attitude of political mechanisms etc., are the major threat to human rights. So these nasty practices should be curbed with the formation of efficient and accountable political mechanisms.
- The UNO should take severe actions on drug trafficking. With the cooperation of member countries of the world body implement the international laws strictly in this regard.

Apart from the above said remedies to the human rights violations, the following rights protection methods proposed hereunder are:

- Education about human rights must become part of general public education. Technical and financial assistance should be provided to increase knowledge about human rights.
- During violent conflict, safe heavens to protect refugees and war victims from any surroundings violence in their communities can sometimes help to safeguard human lives.
- As violent conflict begins to subside, peace keeping strategies to physically separate disputants and prevalent further violence are crucial. These measures, together with violence prevention mechanisms, can help to safeguard human lives.
- External specialists can offer legislative assistance and provide guidance in drafting press freedom laws, minority legislation and laws securing gender equality.
- Those who perpetrate human rights violations find it much easier to do so in cases where their activities can remain secret. International witnesses, observers and reporters can exert modest pressure to bring violations human rights to public notice and discourage further violence.
- Truth commissions are sometimes established after a political transition. To distinguish them from other institutions established to deal with a legacy of human rights abuses, truth commissions can be understood as “bodies set up to investigate a past history of violations of human rights in a particular country—which can include violations by the military or other govt. forces or armed opposition forces.” Finally they conclude with a report that contains recommendations to prevent a recurrence of the crimes and to provide reparations to victims.
- International war crimes tribunals are established to hold individuals criminally responsible for violations of international human rights laws in special courts. The international community rarely has the will to create them. Ex. Rwanda and Yugoslavia cases.
- Various democratization measures can help to restore human rights. For sustainability and long-term viability of human rights standards, strong local enforcement mechanisms, have to be established. An independent judiciary that provides impartial means and protects individuals against politically influenced persecution must be restored. And various social structural changes, including reallocations of resources, increased political participation and the strengthening of civil society can ensure that people’s basic needs are met.

Humanitarian aid and development assistance seeks to ease the impact that violent conflict has on civilians. During conflict, the primary aim is to prevent human casualties and ensure access to

basic survival needs. These basics include water, sanitation, food, shelter and health care. Once conflicts have ended, development assistance helps to advance reconstruction programs that rebuild infrastructure, institutions and the economy. This assistance helps countries to undergo peaceful development rather than sliding back into conflict.

### CONCLUSION:

No doubt human rights are giving positive life, good values and better development of mankind. These are also useful to the people to enhance their literacy, protect their cultural heritage and provide social justice. And also these are the best thought of as potential moral guarantees for each human being to lead a minimally good life. International peace also will be restored by the better implementation of human rights. In view of the above said importance of human rights there is need to protect them by all the sovereign nations, the UNO and the human rights organizations like Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Asia Watch etc., and the people. The basic amenities of food, clothing and shelter, right to education and employment continue to top the list of human rights issues. There are also country-specific issues of human rights violations that need to address by respective governments in coordination with the global community. Nevertheless, as long as corrupt practices continue to exist in the world, newer issues of human rights violations happening all over the world. But, at the same time, it should be noted that human rights are not just for the international organizations to propagate and for us to read in the newspapers. We, as a citizens of the global community, need to take an active part in eliminating the vices leading to the violation of human rights and in making the world a better place to live.

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