

10.10 Human Rights Violations

Since the Holocaust, human rights violations have generated worldwide attention and concern. The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights has provided a set of principles to guide efforts to protect threatened groups and has served as a lens through which historical occurrences of oppression can be evaluated.

<p style="text-align: center;">Throughout history there have been numerous human rights violations perpetrated by individuals, groups and governments.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pogroms against Jews in Russia Armenians in the Ottoman Empire The Holocaust against Jews in Nazi Germany Forced Famine in the Ukraine under Stalin Untouchables in India Rape of Nanking Genocide against Tutsis in Rwanda Genocide in Cambodia under Pol Pot (Killing Fields) Chinese students in Tiananmen Square Genocide in Darfur (Sudan) Muslim Rohingya in Burma (Myanmar) Kurds in Iraq Bosnian Muslims in Yugoslavia Ethnic Cleansing of Serbians in Kosovo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Global Attempts to Address Human Rights Violations</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Universal Declaration of Human Rights United Nations Amnesty International Human Rights Watch UNICEF</p> <p style="text-align: center;">International Military Tribunal (Nuremberg) Nuremberg Trials Tokyo War Crimes Trials International Court of Justice (World Court) Truth and Reconciliation Commission (S. Africa) UN International Tribunal for Yugoslavia/Rwanda Iraqi Special Tribunal</p>
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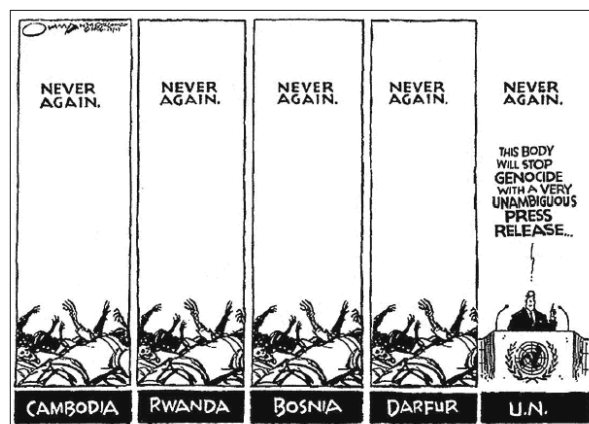
1. The migration of over a million people from Rwanda in the 1990s was the result of
 - A. human rights atrocities
 - C. desertification
 - B. massive flooding
 - D. disease

2. The Armenian massacre (1910s) and the forced famine in Ukraine (1930s) are examples of
 - A. international terrorism
 - C. religious conflicts
 - B. guerrilla warfare
 - D. human rights violations

3. One way the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire (1915) and the Tutsis in Rwanda (1994) are similar is that both groups
 - A. sought safe haven in the Soviet Union
 - C. suffered human rights violations
 - B. seceded to create an independent state
 - D. fled to escape a severe flood

4. What is the key idea of this cartoon? (RIGHT)
 - A. Genocide in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur has been stopped.
 - B. Human rights issues are best dealt with by the United Nations.
 - C. The United Nations has not been effective in ending genocide.
 - D. Fear of war crimes trials has brought peace to troubled regions.

5. One purpose of the Nuremberg Trials and of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa was to
 - A. address human rights abuses
 - B. support the establishment of democratic governments
 - C. establish free trade zones throughout the world
 - D. provide encouragement to people behind the Iron Curtain



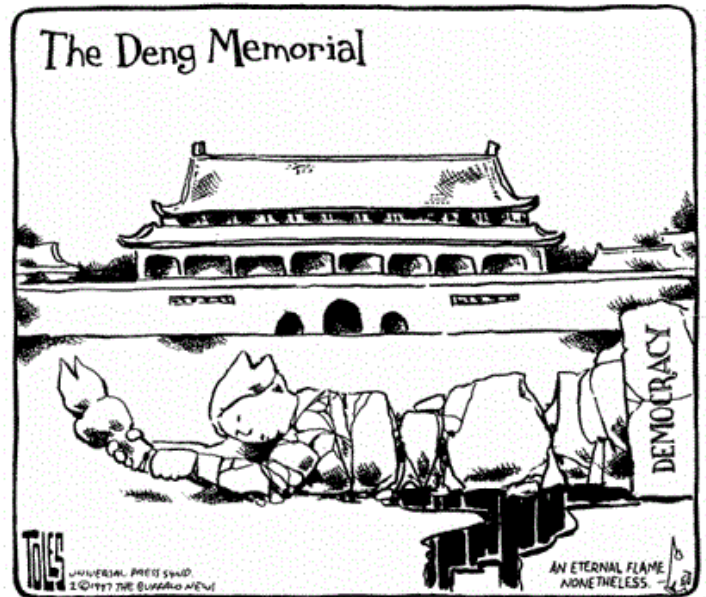
Source: Jack Ohman, *The Portland Oregonian*, December 2006

6. Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi are closely associated with movements to
 - A. establish theocratic rule
 - C. guarantee rights and liberties
 - B. introduce socialistic economic principles
 - D. support military juntas

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Source: Chris Britt, *The State Journal-Register*, Springfield, IL



7. Which global issue is addressed in this cartoon? (RIGHT)
- A. human rights
 - B. ethnic strife
 - C. environmental pollution
 - D. Cold War tensions
8. What is the main idea of this cartoon? (LEFT)
- A. Fences were built to prevent the spread of illness and suffering.
 - B. The world continues to ignore human rights violations.
 - C. The people of Darfur are reaching out to those suffering in Europe.
 - D. Poverty affects both the people of Darfur and of Europe.
9. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was written in response to
- A. atrocities committed during World War II
 - B. the burning of Hutu homes in Rwanda
 - C. demands for better treatment of Latin American peasants in Guatemala
 - D. the forced migrations of city people under the rule of the Khmer Rouge
10. The treatment of Christian Armenians in Ottoman Turkey (1915) and the treatment of Bosnian Muslims in the former Yugoslavia (1990s) are examples of
- A. international relief efforts
 - B. human rights violations
 - C. expansion of voting rights
 - D. government protection of minorities
11. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the founding of Amnesty International (1961) are both associated with efforts to recognize and protect the
- A. economic diversity of nations
 - B. right of each nation to enforce its own laws
 - C. dignity of individuals
 - D. balance of power between nations
12. The treatment of untouchables in India, the treatment of Jews during the Holocaust, and the treatment of Chinese student demonstrators in Tiananmen Square are all examples of
- A. fascist policies
 - B. excommunication
 - C. extraterritoriality
 - D. human rights violations

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Child Soldiers

To commemorate our 25th anniversary, The Advocates for Human Rights would like to dedicate this issue of Rights Sites News to the abolition of one of the worst forms of child labor, child soldiers. When armed conflict exists, children will almost inevitably become involved as soldiers. In over twenty countries around the world, children are direct participants in war. Denied a childhood and often subjected to horrific violence, an estimated 200,000 to 300,000 children are serving as soldiers for both rebel groups and government forces in current armed conflicts. These young combatants participate in all aspects of contemporary warfare. They wield AK-47s and M-16s on the front lines of combat, serve as human mine detectors, participate in suicide missions, carry supplies, and act as spies, messengers or lookouts.

Physically vulnerable and easily intimidated, children typically make obedient soldiers. Many are abducted or recruited by force, and often compelled to follow orders under threat of death. Others join armed groups out of desperation. As society breaks down during conflict, leaving children no access to school, driving them from their homes, or separating them from family members, many children perceive armed groups as their best chance for survival. Others seek escape from poverty or join military forces to avenge family members who have been killed....

Despite progress achieved over the last decade in the global campaign to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers, large numbers of children continue to be exploited in war and placed in the line of fire. The international treaty on child soldiers, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, entered into force on February 12, 2002. With over 100 countries signed on, this treaty is a milestone in the campaign, strengthening the legal protection of children and helping to prevent their use in armed conflict... Source: "Child Soldiers Edition," *Rights Sites News*, The Advocates for Human Rights, Spring 2008

According to the Advocates for Human Rights, what is **one** effort that has been made to keep children, or former child soldiers, from being used in armed conflict?

According to the Advocates for Human Rights, what is **one** problem faced by child soldiers?

This is "Maria's story" describing her life in Guatemala.

Only thirteen years old, Maria works at Sung Sil S.A., a . . . machine shop . . . which is located in a recently constructed factory park ten miles outside Guatemala City. Maria lives with her brothers, her parents, and her grandmother in a two-room shack on a dirt road near the modern factory. She does not attend school and cannot read. But Maria can sew—for eleven hours a day, six days a week she sews. When management requires, she works until 3:00 a.m. and then rises four hours later to begin again.

How are Maria's human rights being violated in present-day Guatemala?

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General Augusto Pinochet was arrested in London on October 16, 1998. He was accused of committing human rights crimes as the former leader of Chile. General Pinochet was handed over to Spain to stand trial for these crimes.

The Pinochet Case—A Wake-up Call to Tyrants and Victims Alike

...In 1996, lawyers acting on behalf of victims of military repression in Argentina and Chile who were unable to pursue their claims at home filed criminal complaints in Spain against the former military leaders of those countries, including General Pinochet. Although most of the crimes were committed in Argentina and Chile, Spanish courts allowed the cases to proceed in Spain, using the principle of “universal jurisdiction” over human rights atrocities that is firmly enshrined in Spanish legislation and international law though rarely invoked....

Human Rights Watch described the Pinochet arrest as a “wake-up call” to tyrants everywhere, but an equally important effect of the case has been to give hope to other victims that they can bring their tormentors to justice abroad. Indeed, in January 2000, Human Rights Watch helped Chadian victims to bring a criminal prosecution in Senegal against the exiled dictator of Chad, Hisssein Habre, who has been indicted and awaits trial on torture charges....

Source: “The Pinochet Precedent: How Victims Can Pursue Human Rights Criminals Abroad,” Human Rights Watch, March 2000 (adapted)

According to this document, what is one way victims can seek justice when their human rights have been violated?

Peter Fischel described everyday life for the children of Terezin concentration camp. His story, along with the poetry, prose, and artwork of other children, was published in *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*.

We got used to standing in line at seven o'clock in the morning, at twelve noon, and again at seven o'clock in the evening. We stood in a long queue [line] with a plate in our hand, into which they ladled a little warmed up water with a salty or a coffee flavor. Or else they gave us a few potatoes. We got used to sleeping without a bed, to saluting every uniform, not to walk on the sidewalks and then again to walk on the sidewalks. We got used to undeserved slaps, blows, and executions. We got accustomed to seeing people die in their own excrement, to seeing piled up coffins full of corpses, to seeing the sick amid dirt and filth and to seeing helpless doctors. We got used to it from time to time, one thousand unhappy souls would come here, and that from time to time, another thousand unhappy souls would go away.

What human rights violations against children does Peter Fischel describe in his writing on life in a concentration camp?