



United Nations Special Procedures

FACTS AND FIGURES

2009

Communications · Country visits · Coordination and joint activities
Reports · Public statement and press releases · Thematic events





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The *Special Procedures Facts and Figures* provides a general overview of the main activities of the Special Procedures mandates in 2009. This tool is produced by the Information, Coordination and Management Unit of the Special Procedures Branch of the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division of the OHCHR. For more information about Special Procedures, please visit <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm>.

INTRODUCTION

The special procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to investigate, report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. The system of special procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all sets of rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. Their independence, impartiality and flexibility enable the special procedures to play a critical role in promoting and protecting human rights. The experts deal with situations wherever they may occur in the world, including in the context of crises and emergencies. As the most directly accessible mechanism of the international human rights machinery, they interact regularly with human rights defenders and actual and potential victims of human rights violations.

With the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), special procedures undertake country visits (fact-finding missions); act on individual cases and concerns of a broader, structural nature by sending communications to States in which they bring alleged violations to their attention; conduct thematic studies and convene expert consultations, develop international human rights standards, engage in advocacy and raise public awareness, and provide advice and support for technical cooperation. Special procedures report annually to the Human Rights Council; the majority of the mandates also report to the General Assembly.

At the end of 2009, the OHCHR supported 39 special procedures (31 thematic mandates and eight mandates relating to countries or territories) with 55 mandate holders, as well as the system of special procedures, notably its Coordination Committee. These Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts, Working Groups and (Special) Representatives of the Secretary-General serve

in their personal capacities and undertake to uphold independence, efficiency, competence and integrity through probity, impartiality, honesty and good faith. They are not United Nations staff members and do not receive financial remuneration. The OHCHR provides thematic, fact-finding, policy, legal and methodological expertise, research and analysis, prepares documentation, and assists with logistical and administrative matters.

Effective follow-up to special procedures' recommendations is intrinsically linked to cooperation and support by States. To enhance protection and promotion, and encourage cooperation and follow-up, special procedures engage constructively with a wide variety of interlocutors: Governments, other international and regional human rights bodies, United Nations entities, national human rights institutions, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and academic institutions.



Raquel Rohnik, Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, speaks with housing advocates in Los Angeles during her official visit to the United States of America

Mandate	Established in	Mandate-holder
Country mandates		
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	2004	Mr. Akich Okola (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Rapporteur (until March 2009: Special Representative) on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	1993	Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi (<i>Nepal</i>) since May 2009; Mr. Yash Ghai (<i>Kenya</i>) until April 2009
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (<i>Thailand</i>)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Michel Forst (<i>France</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana (<i>Argentina</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. Richard Falk (<i>United States of America</i>)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Shamsul Bari (<i>Bangladesh</i>)
Independent Expert (until September 2009: Special Rapporteur) on the situation on human rights in the Sudan	2005/2009	Mr. Mohamed Chande Othman (<i>Tanzania</i>) since October 2009; Ms. Sima Samar (<i>Afghanistan</i>) until June 2009
Thematic mandates		
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Ms. Raquel Rolnik (<i>Brazil</i>)
Working Group on people of African descent	2002	Ms. Mirjana Najcevska (<i>The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia</i>), Acting Chairperson, Mr. Joe Frans (<i>Sweden</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, until July 2009, Ms. Monorama Biswas (<i>Bangladesh</i>), Mr. Linos-Alexandros Sicilianos (<i>Greece</i>), since September 2009, Mr. Ralston Milton Nettleford (<i>Jamaica</i>), Ms. Maya Sahli (<i>Algeria</i>)
Working Group on arbitrary detention	1991	Mr. El Hadji Malick Sow (<i>Senegal</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Shaheen Sardar Ali (<i>Pakistan</i>), Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Aslan Abashidze (<i>Russian Federation</i>), Mr. Mads Andenas (<i>Norway</i>), since August 2009, Ms. Manuela Carmena Castrillo (<i>Spain</i>), until July 2009, Mr. Roberto Garretón (<i>Chile</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Ms. Najat M'jid Maalla (<i>Morocco</i>)
Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights	2009	Ms. Farida Shaheed (<i>Pakistan</i>), since November 2009
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Vernor Munoz Villalobos (<i>Costa Rica</i>)
Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	1980	Mr. Jeremy Sarkin (<i>South Africa</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur (since August 2009), Mr. Santiago Corcuera Cabezut (<i>Mexico</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur (until July 2009), Mr. Olivier de Frouville (<i>France</i>), Mr. Osman El-Hajje (<i>Lebanon</i>), since August 2009, Mr. Darko Götlicher (<i>Croatia</i>), Mr. Saied Rajaie Khorasani (<i>Islamic Republic of Iran</i>), until July 2009
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Mr. Philip Alston (<i>Australia</i>)
Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	1998	Ms. María Magdalena Sepulveda (<i>Chile</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Olivier De Schutter (<i>Belgium</i>)

Independent Expert on foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. Cephas Lumina (<i>Zambia</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. Frank William La Rue Lewy (<i>Guatemala</i>)
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Ms. Asma Jahangir (<i>Pakistan</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Anand Grover (<i>India</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Margaret Sekaggya (<i>Uganda</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Ms. Gabriela Carina Knaul de Albuquerque e Silva (<i>Brazil</i>), since August 2009; Mr. Leandro Despouy (<i>Argentina</i>), until July 2009
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people	2001	Mr. James Anaya (<i>United States of America</i>)
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Mr. Walter Kälin (<i>Switzerland</i>)
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki (<i>Indonesia</i>)
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Ms. Shaista Shameem (<i>Fiji</i>), Chairperson-Rapporteur, Ms. Najat Al-Hajjaji (<i>Libya</i>), Ms. Amada Benavides de Perez (<i>Colombia</i>), Mr. José Luis Gomez del Prado (<i>Spain</i>), Mr. Alexander Nikitin (<i>Russian Federation</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Jorge A. Bustamante (<i>Mexico</i>)
Independent Expert on minority issues	2005	Ms. Gay J. McDougall (<i>United States of America</i>)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Githu Muigai (<i>Kenya</i>)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences	2007	Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (<i>Armenia</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Martin Scheinin (<i>Finland</i>)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Manfred Nowak (<i>Austria</i>)
Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	1995	Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu (<i>Nigeria</i>)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially in women and children	2004	Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (<i>Nigeria</i>)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2005	Mr. John Ruggie (<i>United States of America</i>)
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Rashida Manjoo (<i>South Africa</i>), since August 2009; Ms. Yakin Ertürk (<i>Turkey</i>), until July 2009
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation	2008	Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque (<i>Portugal</i>)



For the current list of, and contact information for, special procedures mandates, please visit:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countries.htm>
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/themes.htm>

DEVELOPMENTS IN 2009

The [Human Rights Council](#) continued to fill protection gaps by creating an additional mandate, the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan was replaced with the mandate of an Independent Expert. Six new mandate holders were appointed in 2009 - bringing total number of new mandate holders appointed over the past two years under the new selection procedure to 33. As of 2009, a total of 22 thematic and three country mandates report to the General Assembly.

Three States, Albania, Chile and Kazakhstan, issued standing invitations to special procedures, increasing the total number of such invitations to 66.

Special procedures contributed to all special sessions of the Council held in 2009. In the context of special sessions on thematic issues or on crisis situations in countries or territories, such as in relation to the occupied Palestinian territory, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the global food crisis, the Council mandated additional or follow-up reporting by special procedures.

The impact of special procedures has been further enhanced through additional activities carried out by special procedures within the context of their mandates, e.g. through expert consultations, thematic research and the further development of international human rights law and standards.

With the support of the Office, the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures continued its work to harmonize special procedures working methods and supported an initiative to prepare, as of 2010-11, a joint communications report for all mandates that submit urgent appeals and allegations letters to Governments. The Committee also advocated on behalf of the system and continued to make itself available, through its internal advisory procedure on practices and working methods, as well as informally, to all those who might wish to bring issues to its attention in relation to the implementation of the Code of Conduct.



For further information on the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/ccspecialprocedures.htm>

Special procedures continued to strengthen linkages with other expert human rights mechanisms at the international and regional levels as well as with the OHCHR's field presences. Several mandates cooperated with human rights treaty bodies to ensure that references to recommendations made by mandate-holders are included in treaty bodies' concluding observations where appropriate, and that special procedures took the treaty bodies' and UPR outcomes into account.

Information stemming from the work of special procedures has been critical in identifying, assessing, and addressing gaps in the implementation of human rights at the country level. In 2009, as in previous years, special procedures have complemented the efforts of the OHCHR to support greater compliance with human rights standards, and vice versa. The OHCHR's field presences, other United Nations entities, and national human rights institutions have been actively involved in supporting country visits, following up with States on implementation of recommendations, and establishing and maintaining contacts with civil society and potential or actual victims of human rights violations. OHCHR field presences have worked with Governments to support the implementation of special procedures recommendations in normative, institutional and judicial reforms in the Maldives and Nepal, pursuant to recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judiciary and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention respectively. The work of civil society has been supported in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Kyrgyzstan, reflecting recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders and Special Rapporteur on violence against women. Capacity-building for media professionals has been facilitated, for example, in a workshop on international human rights standards in Azerbaijan in March, taking into account recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression.

The outcome of the work of special procedures has also informed the OHCHR's strategic planning process.

Examples of special procedures work in 2009 are outlined on the following pages.

Special procedures & Universal Periodic Review

The universal periodic review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council continued to give visibility to the special procedures. Several States under review have invited mandates to visit and have addressed other issues of concern to special procedures before, during and as follow-up to the review process.



For further information on UPR:
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRmain.aspx>

Sixteenth Annual Meeting of Special Procedures mandate-holders

Special Procedures mandate-holders met in Geneva from 29 June to 3 July 2009 for their Annual Meeting. Discussions focused on substantive thematic issues of interest to the system, as well as on working methods. The meeting emphasized the independence and effectiveness of the special procedures, and the need for sustained efforts to follow up their activities and recommendations. Mandate-holders discussed their relationship with the Council, other United Nations human rights bodies, the OHCHR, and civil society and national human rights institutions. They held exchanges of views with the High Commissioner, the current and former Presidents and the current Bureau of the Human Rights Council, the chairpersons of treaty bodies, and civil society. During the discussion with the Chairpersons of treaty bodies the need to enhance mutual cooperation and coordination and to support the independence and effectiveness of the mechanisms was highlighted. Mandate-holders decided to prepare a joint communications report, which will contain all communications including urgent appeals and allegation letters to States in one report, as well as the responses of States. The report will be submitted to each regular session of the Human Rights Council as of 2011.

Mr. Santiago Corcuera, Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances was elected chair of the Meeting, and new Chair of the Coordination Committee. Ms. Najat M'jiid Maalla, Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography, was elected Rapporteur of the meeting and member of the Coordination Committee. Ms. Joy Ezeilo, Special Rapporteur on trafficking, especially in women and children; Mr. Frank La Rue, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; and Mr. Manfred Nowak, Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment were also elected. Ms. Asma Jahangir, former Chair of the Coordination Committee remained as *ex officio* member for one year.

The report of the sixteenth Annual Meeting was submitted to the twelfth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2009.



For further information on the annual meeting of Special Procedures:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/meeting.htm>

Durban Review Conference

Pursuant to a decision of the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference, 14 Special Procedures mandates submitted a joint contribution in the framework of the Durban Review Process, and several mandate holders (Religion, Racism, Migrants, Slavery, Freedom of Expression, Minorities, Indigenous People) participated in the Durban Review Conference held in Geneva from 20-24 April 2009. The Chair of the Coordination Committee delivered a joint statement.

Standard-setting

Special procedures continued to develop and expand international human rights standards. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food developed a set of core principles and measures to address the human rights challenges posed by large-scale land acquisitions and leases; the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances adopted a general comment on enforced disappearance as a crime against humanity. The Representative on the Human Rights of internally displaced persons participated in various technical meetings that laid the groundwork for the adoption, in October 2009, of the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, the first-legally binding IDP-specific treaty. The Convention builds strongly on the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

Regional Consultations: Working Group on the use of mercenaries

In accordance with General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, the Working Group on the use of mercenaries held a regional consultation for the Asia region in Bangkok on 26 and 27 October 2009. The consultation sought to gather a regional perspective on current practices related to mercenaries and private military and security companies registered, operating or recruiting personnel in Asia, the Pacific, and the Middle East. Representatives from 15 Governments from the region participated and discussed the fundamental question of the role of the State as holding the monopoly of the legitimate use of force and shared information on steps taken by States in the region to introduce legislation or other measures to regulate and monitor activities of such companies on the international market.

The Working Group informed participants about its work on the development of a possible new binding international legal instrument on the regulation of private military and security. The Working Group had held two previous regional consultations, in Panama City for the Latin American and Caribbean region in December 2007, and in Moscow for the Eastern European Group and Central Asian region in October 2008. A fourth consultation, for the African region, took place in March 2010 in Addis Ababa.

Minority Forum

The thematic focus of the second Forum on Minority Issues, mandated by the Human Rights Council to meet annually under the guidance of the independent expert on minority issues, was "Minorities and effective political participation". The Forum, held in Geneva held on 12 and 13 November 2009, attracted the participation of over 500 individuals from all sectors, including numerous minority political actors, who contributed to the formulation of specific recommendations on how to enhance the political participation of minorities, including minority women and other important groups. The document containing the recommendations of the

second session of the Forum will be presented by the independent expert to the Human Rights Council at its thirteenth regular session in March 2010.

Joint advocacy efforts: human rights and climate change

Several mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing and on food, the Independent Experts on extreme poverty and on water and sanitation, devoted attention to the issue of climate change and human rights in 2009. The Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing focussed during a country mission to the Maldives on the impact of climate change on the right to housing, and the mandate's report to the General Assembly highlighted the impact of global warming on the right to housing. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food launched an external study on climate change and the right to food and the Independent Expert on the right to water and sanitation presented a position paper on "Climate Change and the Human rights to Water and Sanitation".

The Representative of the Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally displaced persons has helped to shape the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's analysis of the humanitarian implications of climate change, which resulted in shared terminology on different affected populations and a common understanding of the normative frameworks for their protection and the legal and institutional gaps.

This work culminated in joint advocacy efforts, conducted with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the International Organization of Migration (IOM) and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), on the humanitarian implications of climate change, including large-scale displacement. Nineteen mandate holders issued a joint Statement during the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Copenhagen in December 2009, urging the international community to adopt a human rights based approach in relation to the global warming crisis.

Participation in Human Rights Council panels: Human rights of migrants in

detention, and integration of gender perspectives

Special procedures mandate holders participated in a number of panels held at Human Rights Council sessions in 2009. At its twelfth session in September, the Human Rights Council held a panel discussion on the human rights of migrants in detention centres in which the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of Migrants and the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention participated. The Panel drew attention to the need to seek effective alternatives to prevent violations of rights affecting the large numbers of asylum-seekers and irregular migrants in detention around the world. At the same session, the Council held its annual panel discussion on the integration of gender perspectives into its work, during which the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances made specific suggestions on enhancing the integration of gender perspectives, for examples through stronger linkages between the Council's various mechanisms and the universal periodic review.

Seminars and round tables: Prevention of genocide, and early warning

Special procedures mandate-holders took part in a seminar on the prevention of genocide in Geneva in January 2009 making a joint statement on the role of Special Procedures in this context, including through ensuring effective channels of communication between different parts of the United Nations. Their role in the aftermath of large-scale violence was also raised. At a round table at the General Assembly on the role of special procedures in early warning, organized by the OHCHR in October 2009, the contribution of Special Procedures to early warning processes and suggestions for ensuring regular interaction with the international community and United Nations Departments and agencies in New York were highlighted.



For further information on the round table on early warning at the 64th session of the General Assembly, please visit:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/docs/BPRoundTable.doc>

COMMUNICATIONS

2009 Basic Figures

- 689** Total number of communications sent
- 66%** Joint communications sent by two or more mandates
- 1840** Individuals covered (women 13.5%)
- 119** Countries received communications

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N.B. The present statistics do not include data from the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) which uses different statistics and working methods. According to the 2009 annual report of the WGEID covering the period 5 December 2008 to 13 November 2009, the WGEID transmitted 456 new cases of enforced disappearance to 25 Governments. For further information about WGEID activities, please contact wgeid@ohchr.org or see the WGEID webpage: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/disappear/index.htm>

Some special procedures intervene directly with Governments through communications on specific allegations of human rights violations that fall within their mandates

These communications can relate to a human rights violation that has already occurred, is ongoing, or which has a high risk of taking place. Communications may be sent in relation to individuals or groups of individuals, or focus on domestic legislation, policies, programmes or other measures affecting individuals or groups in a particular country or territory. In general, a letter is sent to the concerned State, or in some cases to third parties, such as international organizations or multinational companies, requesting information on the allegation and calling for preventive or investigative action.

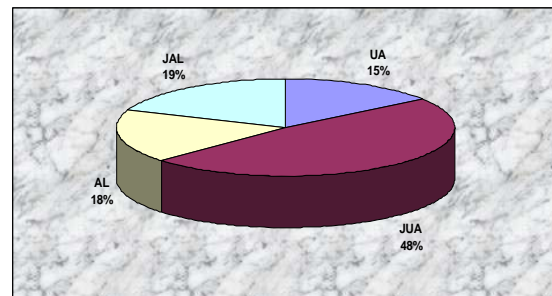
The decision to intervene is at the discretion of the special procedure mandate holder and depends on criteria established by the mandate, as well as criteria laid out in the Code of Conduct adopted by the Human Rights Council (Resolution 5/2). These criteria address the reliability of the source and the credibility of information; the details provided; and the scope of the mandate. Communications must not be politically motivated, abusive or based solely on media reports. Further information is frequently requested from sources; ie individuals, groups or organizations that submit information to the special procedures. Mandates may send joint communications when the case falls within the scope of more than one mandate.

Communications will usually take the form of either urgent appeals (UA) or letters of allegation (AL). **Urgent appeals** are used to communicate information about time-sensitive violations that involve loss of life, life-threatening situations or imminent or on-going damage of a grave nature. The intention is to ensure that the appropriate State authorities are informed as quickly as possible of the circumstances so that they can intervene to end or prevent an alleged human rights violation. **Letters of allegation** are used to communicate

information about violations that are alleged to have occurred or are not urgent, and whose impact on the alleged victim(s) can no longer be changed through immediate intervention.

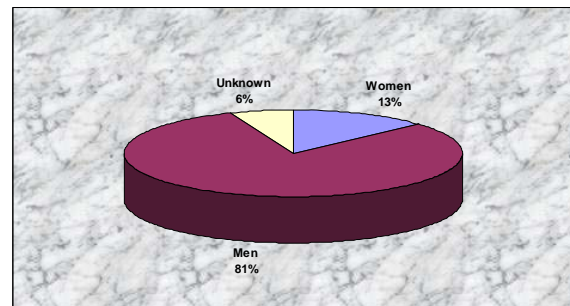
At present, special procedures mandates submit to the Human Rights Council, on an annual basis, individual reports on their communications with States. As of 2011, joint communications reports will be submitted by all concerned mandates to the Council at each of its sessions. The OHCHR's Special Procedures Branch Quick Response Desk coordinates communications and keeps relevant databases updated.

Communications by type



In 2009, 689 Communications were sent to 119 States. Sixty-six percent of all communications were sent jointly by more than one mandate holder. Communications covered at least 1840 individuals, 13.5 % of whom were women. Governments replied to 32 percent of communications sent between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009, and 20 % of communications were followed-up by mandate-holders. Good news stories are reported regularly to the OHCHR, and a selection is reproduced in the Special Procedures' [Quarterly Bulletin](#).

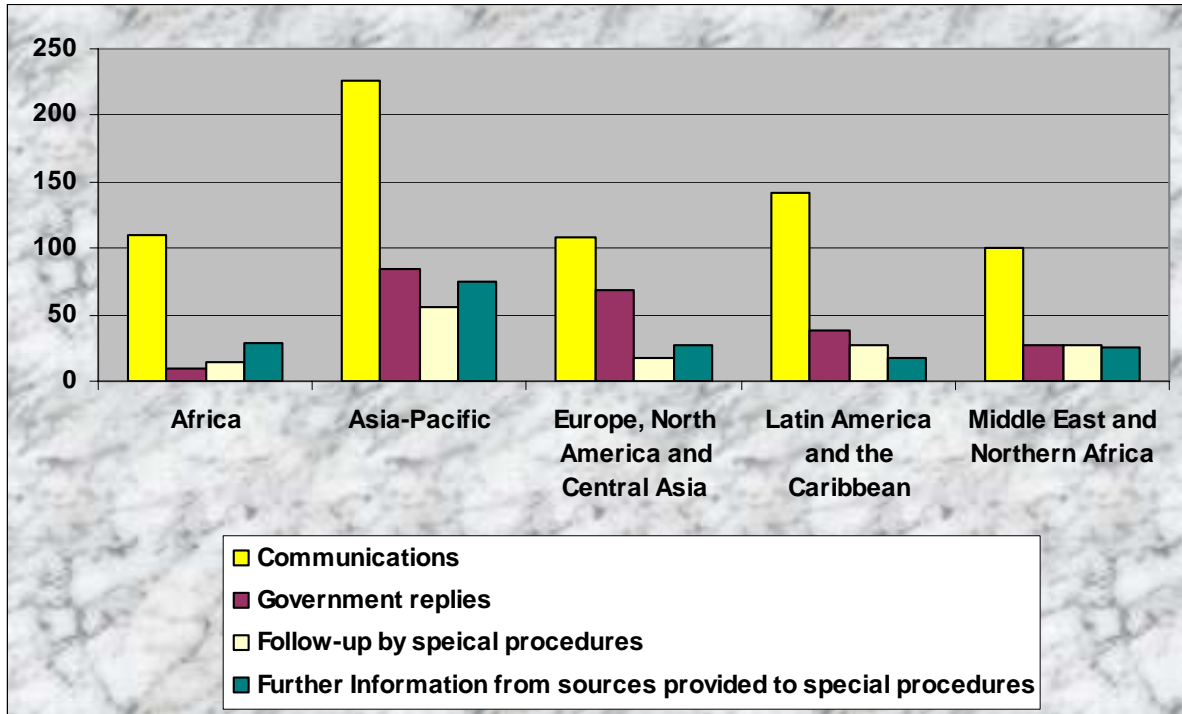
Communications by sex



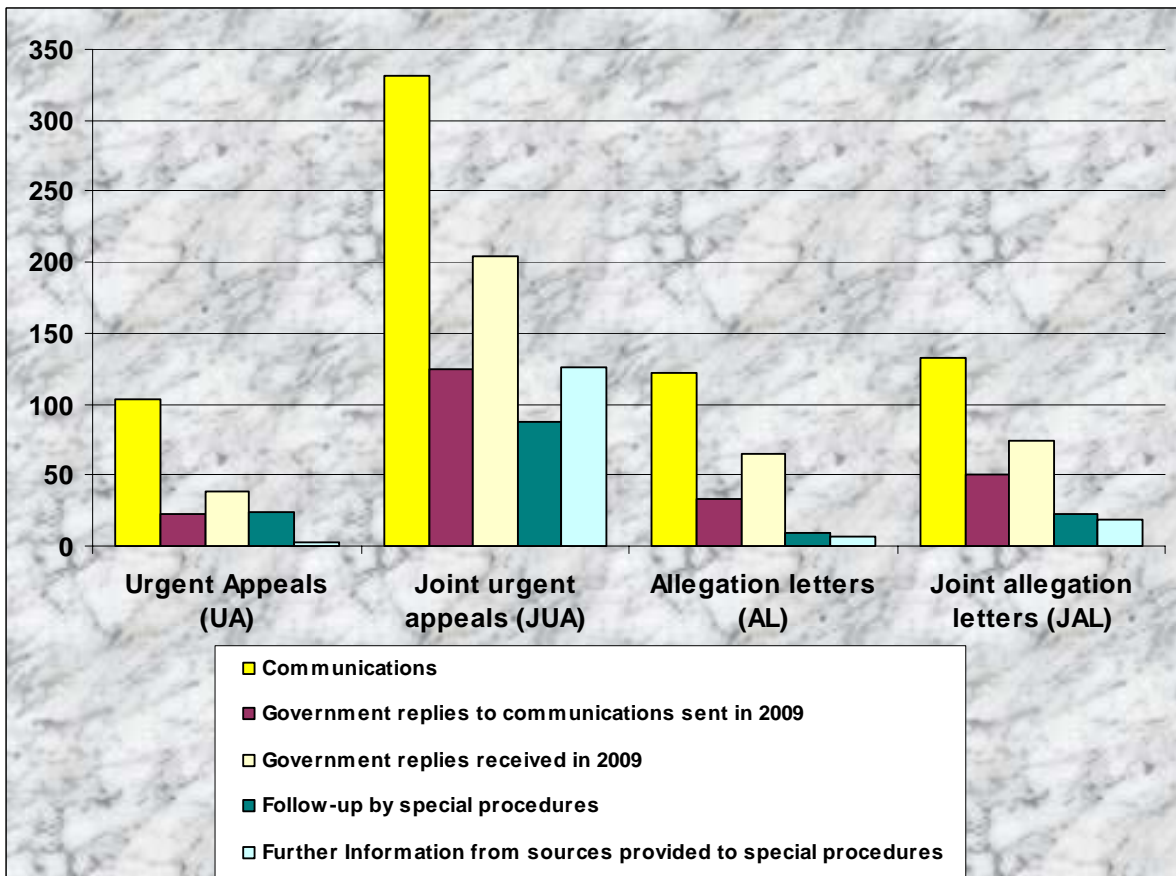
For a leaflet on Special procedures communications, please visit:

http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/docs/communicationsbrochure_en.pdf

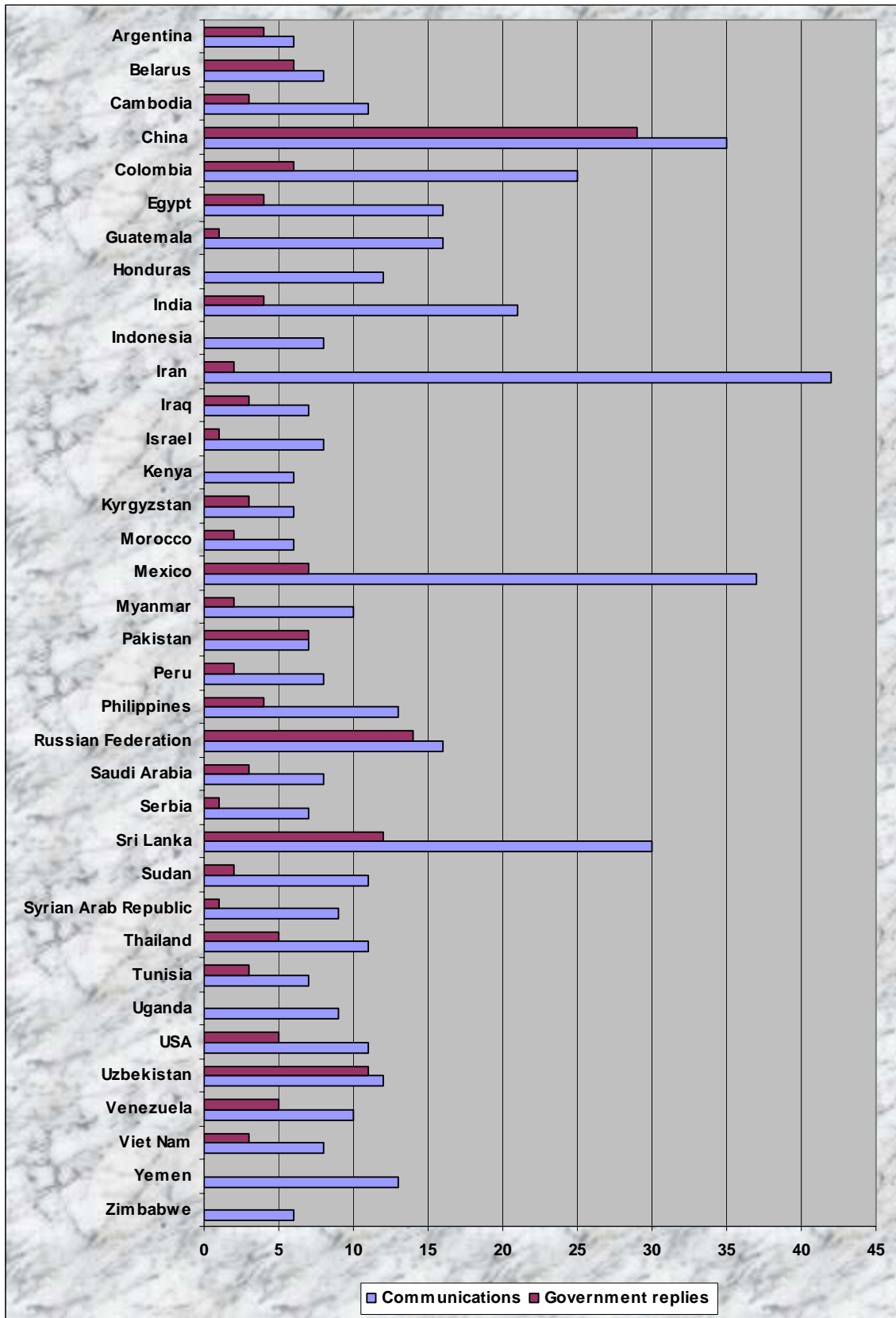
Communications and follow-up by region



Communications and follow-up by type of communications



Communications and Government replies by country
 (Countries to which more than five communications were sent)



COUNTRY VISITS/ FACT-FINDING MISSIONS

Mandate-holders carry out country visits to investigate the situation of human rights on the ground. Mandate holders send a letter to the Government requesting to visit the country, and, if the Government agrees, an invitation is extended by the end of 2009, 66 States (listed below) had issued "standing invitations", which means that they are, in principle, prepared to receive visits from any special procedures mandate-holder.



Gay McDougall, Independent Expert on minority issues, visits Ryerson Community school in Toronto, Ontario, during her official visit to Canada, in October 2009

During missions, the experts assess, from the point of view of their mandates, the general human rights situation in the country, as well as the specific institutional, legal, judicial, policy and administrative framework and *de facto* conditions. They meet with national and local authorities, including members of the judiciary and parliamentarians; members of national human rights institutions, if applicable; non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and victims of human rights violations; the United Nations and other inter-governmental agencies; and the media when giving a press conference at the end of the mission. After their visits, mandate-holders submit a report to the Human Rights Council containing their findings and recommendations.

The number of fact-finding missions increased significantly, from 53 missions to 48 countries in 2008 to 73 missions to 51 countries and territories in 2009. Fifty percent of all fact-finding missions were undertaken to States that had not issued standing invitations, while forty-four percent of all visits were to States that had issued a standing invitation to special procedures. This rise reflects additional invitations received by States as well as the fact that newly appointed mandate holders became increasingly active. This was accompanied by an

increasing demand on OHCHR staff supporting the planning, organization and follow-up to fact-finding missions.



Walter Kälin, Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, meets a Government representative on his country visit to Uganda in July 2009

Fact-finding missions conducted in 2009 continued to highlight critical human rights concerns and sometimes had strong impact at national level. In this context, for example, the mission of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, to Uruguay in March 2009 drew public attention to allegations of ill-treatment and use of excessive force in prisons, police stations and juvenile detention centres. During the mission, staff of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided support and engaged with the Government on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur. The visit was covered extensively by the media, with articles appearing in the major newspapers for several months. In addition, the Government followed up several recommendations, and plans to alleviate overcrowding in prisons were announced by the President shortly after the mission.



Alphabetical tables of country visits by Special Procedures mandate holders since 1998 and a list of all countries having extended standing invitations to all thematic procedures are available at the following link:
<http://www.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/visits.htm>

standing invitations

As of 31 December 2009, the following 66 countries had issued standing invitations to Special Procedures.
(* countries that extended standing invitations during 2009)

ALBANIA*	ESTONIA	LUXEMBOURG	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
ARGENTINA	FINLAND	MALDIVES	ROMANIA
AUSTRALIA	FRANCE	MALTA	SAN MARINO
AUSTRIA	GERMANY	MEXICO	SERBIA
ARMENIA	GREECE	MONACO	SIERRA LEONE
BELGIUM	GHANA	MONGOLIA	SLOVAKIA
BRAZIL	GUATEMALA	MONTENEGRO	SLOVENIA
BULGARIA	HUNGARY	NETHERLANDS	SOUTH AFRICA
CANADA	ICELAND	NEW ZEALAND	SPAIN
CHILE*	IRELAND	NICARAGUA	SWEDEN
COLOMBIA	IRAN	NORWAY	SWITZERLAND
COSTA RICA	ITALY	PARAGUAY	THE FORMER YUGOSLAV
CROATIA	LATVIA	PERU	REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
CYPRUS	JORDAN	POLAND	TURKEY
CZECH REPUBLIC	KAZAKHSTAN*	PORTUGAL	UKRAINE
DENMARK	LIECHTENSTEIN		UNITED KINGDOM
ECUADOR	LITHUANIA		URUGUAY
			ZAMBIA



Jeremy Sarkin and Santiago Corcuera, of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID), visiting the former detention centre of Kelaat M'Gouna, during the visit of the WGEID to Morocco in June 2009.



For annual compilations of recommendations of Special Procedures by country:
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/c hr/special/index.htm>

Follow-up to Special Procedures recommendations

- Following a report by the Special Rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, outlining the right to consultation, and providing examples of consultation mechanisms in other countries, the Government of Chile initiated consultations with indigenous groups on the constitutional reform process. The Special Rapporteur continues to monitor their progress.
- OHCHR field presences have worked in collaboration with States to support the implementation of Special Procedures recommendations in the normative and institutional reforms in the Maldives and Nepal, further to recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judiciary and the Working Group on arbitrary detention, respectively.
- Civil society empowerment activities have been carried out in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda and Kyrgyzstan, further to recommendations by the Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders and on violence against women.
- A workshop for journalists on international human rights standards in Azerbaijan followed up on recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression.

Human Rights Stories

Australia

Following a country visit in 2006, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and to non-discrimination in this context, made several recommendations to the Government of Australia. On 26 November 2009, the Australian House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth, issued a report recommending the enactment of new homelessness legislation which enshrines the right of all Australians to adequate housing. The document, entitled "Housing the Homeless", contains 15 recommendations aimed at preventing and addressing homelessness in the country. The report cited the recommendations addressed to the Government by the Special Rapporteur.

Egypt

Following a communications by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion, a decision of the Supreme Administrative Court of 16 March 2009 ended a policy of non-issuance or renewal of mandatory official documents for approximately 2,000 Baha'i Egyptians unless they had converted to one of the three State recognized religions. This discriminatory practice had caused severe difficulties for Egypt's Baha'i citizens, since basic activities require a national identity document or a birth certificate.

Iran

The Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment; on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on the independence of judges and lawyers sent three joint urgent appeals in July 2008 and January 2009 on behalf of a woman and a man who had been sentenced to death by stoning for adultery. They were released on appeal after six years in detention.

Maldives

The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression had conducted a mission to Maldives in March 2009, and one of his recommendations was the elimination of criminal provisions for defamation with regard to State officials' actions in public office. On 23 November 2009, the Parliament adopted an amendment to the Criminal Code abolishing five articles criminalizing defamation.

Mongolia

The Working Group on arbitrary detention, and the Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment sent communications regarding a man who had been

sentenced to death by the Bayangol District Court of Ulanbattar for murder. He was granted a presidential pardon in October 2009. It was reported that he would not be executed but continue to serve a prison sentence. Mongolia also announced that it would formally institute a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and replace it with a 30-year prison sentence. Persons currently on death row will have their sentences commuted. The President stated that Mongolia would aim for total abolition and called on legislators to take steps to this end.

Morocco

Following a letter of allegation by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in November 2009, a prominent Saharawi human rights defender who had been refused entry to Morocco and was deported to the Canary Islands was allowed to return to Morocco after a 32-day hunger strike.

Panama

Following an urgent appeal from the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, 19 persons of Somali, Eritrean and Ethiopian nationality were released by immigration authorities on 30 January 2009, and the National Office for the Protection of Refugees processed and admitted their cases to the Refugee Status determination procedure.

Serbia

Following his 2005 mission, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) recommended to the Government to improve the local living conditions of IDPs, noting that integration and an eventual return are not mutually exclusive. In the course of a follow-up visit in July 2009, he noted that the Government had launched various programmes, including municipal action plans, to provide housing and livelihood opportunities to IDPs who are not in a position to return at present.

Sudan

Following communications by the Special Rapporteurs on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; on the independence of judges and lawyers; on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; on the situation of human rights in Sudan, and the Working Group on arbitrary detention, a man arrested on 11 April 2009 by the National State Security and detained incommunicado was released without charge on 17 April. His arrest was preceded by the closure of three organizations supporting victims of human rights violations, in particular victims of torture and victims of the ongoing conflict in Darfur.

REPORTS

Special procedures report on their activities to United Nations bodies, in particular the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. Recommendations contained in their reports may include the mandate holder's suggestions on ways to enhance his or her capacity to fulfill the mandate.

In 2009, special procedures mandates submitted 136 reports to the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth sessions of the Human Rights Council and 24 reports to the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly. Some reports were submitted to other bodies, e.g. Special Rapporteur on violence against women reports to the Commission on the Status of Women. Reports included 47 annual reports of the mandate-holders and 51 mission reports. Annual reports continue to provide an overview of the work of the mandate as a whole and focus attention on particular human rights issues or conceptual or legal developments that mandate holders wish to highlight.

In addition, two joint reports requested by special sessions of the Human Rights Council were submitted in 2009: the combined reports of nine mandate holders relating to the human rights situation in Gaza and the report of seven mandate holders relating to the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food also presented a follow-up report on the global food crisis.

The number of mandate holders reporting to the General Assembly has increased: since 2008, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education and the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing also present annual reports to the General Assembly.

To find previous reports of the Special procedures, please visit the OHCHR website:



<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/annual.htm>

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/GA-reports.htm>

REPORTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	
Title of document	Symbol number
10th Session	
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, Mr. Martin Scheinin	A/HRC/10/3
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/3/Add.1
Mission to Spain	A/HRC/10/3/Add.2
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Olivier de Schutter	A/HRC/10/5
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/5/Add.1
Mission to the World Trade Organization	A/HRC/10/5/Add.2
Report of the independent expert on access to safe drinking water and sanitation, Ms. Catarina De Albuquerque	A/HRC/10/6
Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing, Ms. Raquel Rolnik	A/HRC/10/7
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/7/Add.1
Follow-up to country recommendations	A/HRC/10/7/Add.2
Mission to Canada	A/HRC/10/7/Add.3
Preliminary Note Mission to Maldives	A/HRC/10/7/Add.4
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion or belief, Mr. Asma Jahangir	A/HRC/10/8
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/8/Add.1
Mission to Israel	A/HRC/10/8/Add.2
Mission to India	A/HRC/10/8/Add.3
Mission to Turkmenistan	A/HRC/10/8/Add.4
Report of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	A/HRC/10/9
Mission to Argentina	A/HRC/10/9/Add.1

REPORTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Title of document	Symbol number
Report of the independent expert on minorities, Ms. Gay McDougal	A/HRC/10/11
Recommendation of the Forum on Minority issues	A/HRC/10/11/Add.1
Mission to Guyana	A/HRC/10/11/Add.2
Mission to Greece	A/HRC/10/11/Add.3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders, Ms. Margaret Sekaggya	A/HRC/10/12
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/12/Add.1
Mission to Togo	A/HRC/10/12/Add.2
Report of the then Special Representative of the Secretary General on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms Hina Jilani on her country visit to Guatemala in Feb 2008-11-19	A/HRC/10/12/Add.3
Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons, Mr. Walter Källin	A/HRC/10/13
Report on the protection of Internally Displaced Persons in situations of natural disasters	A/HRC/10/13/Add.1
Mission to Georgia	A/HRC/10/13/Add.2
Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Internally Displaced Persons	A/HRC/10/13/Add.3
Mission to Chad	A/HRC/10/13/Add.4
Report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries	A/HRC/10/14
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/14/Add.1
Mission to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	A/HRC/10/14/Add.2
Report on the regional consultation for the Eastern European Group and Central Asia region on the activities of private military and security companies: regulation and oversight	A/HRC/10/14/Add.3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	A/HRC/10/16
Corrigendum	A/HRC/10/16/Corr.1
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	A/HRC/10/18
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	A/HRC/10/19
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	A/HRC/10/20
Report of the Working Group on arbitrary detention	A/HRC/10/21
Opinions adopted by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	A/HRC/10/21/Add.1
Mission to Mauritania	A/HRC/10/21/Add.2
Mission to Colombia	A/HRC/10/21/Add.3
Mission to Ukraine	A/HRC/10/21/Add.4
Mission to Italy	A/HRC/10/21/Add.5
Combined report, under resolution S-9/1, of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, arbitrary or summary executions, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, and the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	A/HRC/10/22
Note by the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmitting to the Human Rights Council the report of the fifteenth meeting of special rapporteurs /representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups	A/HRC/10/24

REPORTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Title of document	Symbol number
Report of the Secretary-General containing conclusions and recommendations by special procedures	A/HRC/10/39
Report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Mr. Manfred Nowak	A/HRC/10/44
Corrigendum	A/HRC/10/44/Corr.1
Report on Equatorial Guinea	A/HRC/10/44/Add.1
Mission to Denmark	A/HRC/10/44/Add.2
Mission to the Republic of Moldova	A/HRC/10/44/Add.3
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/10/44/Add.4
Corrigendum	A/HRC/10/44/Add.4/Corr.1
On Follow ups	A/HRC/10/44/Add.5
Combined report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the RSG on internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, the SRSG on the situation of human rights defenders, the SRSG on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and the SRSG for children and armed conflict, on technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	A/HRC/10/59
Report of the Working Group on People of African Descent	A/HRC/10/66
11th Session	
Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Mr. Philip Alston	A/HRC/11/2
Communications sent to and replies received from governments	A/HRC/11/2/Add.1
Mission to Brazil	A/HRC/11/2/Add.2
Mission to the Central African Republic	A/HRC/11/2/Add.3
Mission to Afghanistan	A/HRC/11/2/Add.4
Mission to the United States of America	A/HRC/11/2/Add.5
Mission to Kenya	A/HRC/11/2/Add.6
Mission to Guatemala (follow-up)	A/HRC/11/2/Add.7
Mission to the Philippines (follow-up)	A/HRC/11/2/Add.8
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. Frank La Rue Lewy	A/HRC/11/4
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/4/Add.1
Mission to Honduras	A/HRC/11/4/Add.2
Mission to the Maldives	A/HRC/11/4/Add.3
Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, Mr. Michel Forst	A/HRC/11/5
Report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, Ms. Yakin Ertürk	A/HRC/11/6
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/6/Add.1
Mission to Tajikistan	A/HRC/11/6/Add.2
Mission to Saudi Arabia	A/HRC/11/6/Add.3
Mission to the Republic of Moldova	A/HRC/11/6/Add.4
15 years of the United Nations SR on violence against women, its causes and consequences (1994-2009): A critical review	A/HRC/11/6/Add.5
The political economy of women's human rights	A/HRC/11/6/Add.6
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, Mr. Jorge Bustamante	A/HRC/11/7
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/7/Add.1

REPORTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	
Title of document	Symbol number
Mission to Mexico	A/HRC/11/7/Add.2
Mission to Guatemala	A/HRC/11/7/Add.3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Mr. Vernor Muñoz Villalobos	A/HRC/11/8
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/8/Add.1
Mission to Malaysia	A/HRC/11/8/Add.2
Mission to Guatemala	A/HRC/11/8/Add.3
Report of the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, Ms. Maria Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona	A/HRC/11/9
Mission to Ecuador	A/HRC/11/9/Add.1
Report of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Mr. Cephias Lumina	A/HRC/11/10
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. James Anaya - Mission to Bolivia	A/HRC/11/11
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, Mr. Anand Grover	A/HRC/11/12
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/12/Add.1
Mission to Glaxo Smith Kline	A/HRC/11/12/Add.2
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, Mr. John Ruggie	A/HRC/11/13
State obligation to provide access to remedy for human rights abuses by third parties, including business: An overview of international and regional provisions, commentary and decisions	A/HRC/11/13/Add.1
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, Ms. Sima Samar	A/HRC/11/14
Report on the status of implementation of recommendations compiled by the Group of Experts mandated by the Human Rights Council	A/HRC/11/14/Add.1
Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Mr. Githu Muigai	A/HRC/11/36
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/36/Add.1
Mission to Mauritania	A/HRC/11/36/Add.2
Mission to the United States of America	A/HRC/11/36/Add.3
Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi, Mr. Akich Okola - Note by the secretariat	A/HRC/11/40
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of the judges and lawyers, Mr. Leandro Despouy	A/HRC/11/41
Communications to and from governments	A/HRC/11/41/Add.1
Mission to the Russian Federation	A/HRC/11/41/Add.2
Mission to Guatemala	A/HRC/11/41/Add.3
12th Session	
Report of the SR on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences	A/HRC/12/21
Addendum: Mission to Haiti	A/HRC/12/21/Add.1
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Ms. Najat M'jid Maala	A/HRC/12/23
Addendum: Mission to Latvia	A/HRC/12/23/Add.1
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography - Addendum: Mission to Estonia	A/HRC/12/23/Add.2

REPORTS TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL	
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Addendum: Communications with Governments	A/HRC/12/23/Add.3
Report of the Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to access to safe drinking water and sanitation, Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque	A/HRC/12/24
Addendum: Mission to Costa Rica	A/HRC/12/24/Add.1
Corrigendum	A/HRC/12/24/Add.1/Corr.1
Addendum: Mission to Egypt (Preliminary note)	A/HRC/12/24/Add.2
Corrigendum	A/HRC/12/24/Add.2/Corr.1
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, Mr. Okechukwu Ibeanu	A/HRC/12/26
Addendum: Communications to and from Governments	A/HRC/12/26/Add.1
Addendum: Joint mission to the Netherlands and Côte d'Ivoire	A/HRC/12/26/Add.2
Report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Mr. Rudi Muhammad Rizki	A/HRC/12/27
Corrigendum	A/HRC/12/27/Corr.1
Report of the Working Group on the right to development	A/HRC/12/28
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Mr. Olivier De Schutter (Follow-up to the seventh special session)	A/HRC/12/31
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, Mr. James Anaya	A/HRC/12/34
Addendum: Communications to and from Governments	A/HRC/12/34/Add.1
Addendum: Mission to Brazil	A/HRC/12/34/Add.2
Addendum: Mission to Nepal	A/HRC/12/34/Add.3
Addendum: Mission to Botswana	A/HRC/12/34/Add.4
Addendum: Observaciones sobre la situación de la Comunidad Charco la Pava y otras comunidades afectadas por el Proyecto Hidroeléctrico Chan 75 (Panamá)	A/HRC/12/34/Add.5
Addendum: Mission to Chile	A/HRC/12/34/Add.6
Addendum: Report on Madrid Expert Seminar	A/HRC/12/34/Add.7
Addendum: Mission to Peru	A/HRC/12/34/Add.8
Addendum: Nota preliminar sobre la situación de los pueblos indígenas en Colombia	A/HRC/12/34/Add.9
Addendum: Preliminary note on the situation of indigenous peoples in Australia	A/HRC/12/34/Add.10
Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on all manifestations of defamation of religions, and in particular on the serious implications of Islamophobia, on the enjoyment of all rights by their followers, Mr. Githu Muigai	A/HRC/12/38
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia, Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi	A/HRC/12/40
Corrigendum	A/HRC/12/40/Corr.1
Report of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, Mr. Shamsul Bari	A/HRC/12/44
Note by the HC transmitting to the Human Rights Council the report of the sixteenth meeting of Special Procedures of the HRC	A/HRC/12/47

REPORTS TO THE 64th SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REPORT TITLE	SYMBOL NUMBER
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the freedom of religion or belief	A/64/159
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food	A/64/160
Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity	A/64/170
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	A/64/181
Report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions	A/64/187
Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	A/64/214
Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	A/64/215 A/64/215Corr.1
Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	A/64/216
Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary form of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	A/64/271
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	A/64/272
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education	A/64/273
Report of the independent expert on human rights and extreme poverty	A/64/279
Progress report of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of states on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	A/64/289
Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	A/64/290
Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary form of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the implementation of GA resolution 63/162	A/64/295
Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the Use of Mercenaries	A/64/311
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	A/64/318
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	A/64/328
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people	A/64/338

PUBLIC STATEMENTS / PRESS RELEASES

In appropriate situations, including those of grave concern or in which a Government has repeatedly failed to provide a substantive response to communications, special procedures may issue public statements or hold a press conference, either individually or jointly with other mandates.

In 2009, special procedures issued 223 press releases and public statements, of which about 14% were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

Several statements of Special Procedures attracted extensive interest. For example, a joint statement by several mandate holders attracted media attention to the humanitarian crisis in Sri Lanka and human rights violations committed in this context. In particular, the statement of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions on a video reportedly showing the extrajudicial execution of two men by the Sri Lankan army, made international headlines, as did

his call for an impartial and independent investigation of the incident.



Asma Jahangir, Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, has a meeting with Government officials and villagers on her official visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic in November 2009

Public statements / press releases issued by special procedures in 2009

UN EXPERTS URGE THAILAND TO STOP IMMEDIATELY THE EXPULSIONS OF HMONG, 31 December 2009

UN EXPERT URGES CHINA TO CANCEL SCHEDULED EXECUTION, 24 December 2009

UN EXPERT URGES PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO END BLOCKADE OF GAZA, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOLDSTONE REPORT, 23 December 2009

UN MINORITIES EXPERT CALLS ON CHINA TO GRANT HER ACCESS TO ASSESS ETHNIC TENSIONS AND VIOLENCE IN XINJIANG UYGHUR REGION, 22 December 2009

UN EXPERT ON TORTURE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT FORCIBLE RETURN OF ETHNIC UYGHURS FROM CAMBODIA TO CHINA, 22 December 2009

UN EXPERT ON FOREIGN DEBT REGRETS BRITISH COURT ORDER THAT LIBERIA MUST PAY 1978 DEBT TO 'VULTURE FUNDS', 18 December 2009

LOS MIGRANTES ESTÁN CADA VEZ MÁS EXPUESTOS A LA MERCANTILIZACIÓN Y LAS VIOLACIONES DE LOS DERECHOS HUMANOS, 18 December 2009

COLOMBIA: UN EXPERT ON INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS EXPRESSES NEED FOR JUDICIAL STRENGTHENING, 17 December 2009

UN EXPERT ON EXTRAJUDICIAL EXECUTIONS CALLS ON UN TO END SUPPORT TO CONGOLESE MILITARY OPERATIONS COMMANDED BY KNOWN WAR CRIMINALS, 16 December 2009

UN EXPERTS: PRESIDENT CHÁVEZ DEALS NEW BLOW TO INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS IN VENEZUELA, 16 December 2009

"BANGLADESH MUST DO MORE TO REACH THE POOREST, INCLUDING TO ENSURE THEIR ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION," DECLARE UN EXPERTS, 10 December 2009

CLIMATE CHANGE, A TICKING TIME BOMB FOR GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY, 16 December 2009

STATEMENT OF THE COORDINATION COMMITTEE OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES ON BEHALF OF MANDATE

HOLDERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON THE OCCASION OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, 10 DECEMBER, 9 December 2009

"AN AMBITIOUS CLIMATE CHANGE AGREEMENT MUST PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL," WARN UN EXPERTS, 7 December 2009

UN SOMALIA EXPERT CONDEMNS MOGADISHU KILLINGS, CALLS FOR GRASSROOTS EFFORT TO PREVENT FURTHER ATROCITIES, 3 December 2009

UN EXPERT ON INDEPENDENCE OF JUDGES AND LAWYERS TO VISIT COLOMBIA, 3 December 2009

UN EXPERTS: MAGUINDANAO MASSACRE MUST BE THE START OF A MAJOR REFORM PROCESS, 2 December 2009

WTO: "TRADE NEGOTIATIONS NEED TO REFLECT THE NEW GLOBAL CONSENSUS ON HUNGER," WARNS UN EXPERT ON RIGHT TO FOOD, 2 December 2009

BANGLADESH: UN EXPERTS FOCUS ON EXTREME POVERTY AND WATER AND SANITATION, 2 December 2009

"SLAVERY EXISTS IN HOUSEHOLDS AROUND THE WORLD" SAYS UN EXPERT ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY, 1 December 2009

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION: UN EXPERT WELCOMES DECRIMINALISATION OF DEFAMATION IN THE MALDIVES, 1 December 2009

L'EXPERT INDÉPENDANT SUR LA SITUATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME EN HAÏTI TERMINE SA QUATRIÈME VISITE DANS LE PAYS, 30 November 2009

SWITZERLAND: UN EXPERT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REGRETS OUTCOME OF VOTE TO BAN CONSTRUCTION OF MINARETS, 30 November 2009

TEST OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN LAO PDR LIES WITH TOLERANCE EXTENDED TO RELIGIOUS MINORITIES, UN EXPERT SAYS, 30 November 2009

MERCENARIES: UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS FOCUS ON NEW INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, 30 November 2009

UN EXPERT CONDEMNS SERIES OF STONINGS IN SOMALIA, URGES RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO REFLECT ON THEIR ACTIONS, 27 November 2009

PANAMÁ: EXPERTO DE LA ONU CONDENA LOS DESALOJOS DE LAS COMUNIDADES NASO Y EXHORTA EL DIÁLOGO, 25 November 2009

UN EXPERT CALLS FOR STRENGTHENED COOPERATION TO INTENSIFY EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, 24 November 2009

UN EXPERT ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM GOES ON FIRST VISIT TO LAO PDR, 23 November 2009

UN EXPERT ON RIGHT TO HEALTH STARTS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, 23 November 2009

INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON SITUATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI TO VISIT THE COUNTRY FROM 24 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER, 20 November 2009

SANITATION IS A RIGHT FOR ALL, INCLUDING FOR THOSE IN DETENTION, SAY THREE UN EXPERTS ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD TOILET DAY, 18 November 2009

UN EXPERT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ENDS VISIT TO KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, 17 November 2009

NORMAL LIVES FOR BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA'S DISPLACED MUST NOT BE DELAYED BY POLITICS, SAYS UN REPRESENTATIVE, 17 November 2009

UNITED NATIONS WORKING GROUP ON DISAPPEARANCES CONCLUDES EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION AND ADOPTS ANNUAL REPORT, 13 November 2009

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UN EXPERT CALLS UPON KENYA TO ESTABLISH AN INVESTIGATION INTO ASSASSINATION OF TWO HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS, 6 March 2009

UN SPECIAL RAPPOREUR ON FREEDOM OF OPINION AND EXPRESSION CONCLUDES VISIT TO THE MALDIVES, 5 March 2009

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Basic Figures 2009

In 2009, with OHCHR's support, special procedures:

- carried out 73 country visits to 51 countries and territories
- sent 689 communications to 119 States – two-thirds as joint communications by two or more mandates. Communications covered at least 1840 individuals and numerous groups of individuals. 13.5 % concerned women. As of 31 December, Governments had responded to 32 percent of communications sent between 1 January 2009 and 31 December 2009. Mandates followed up on one in five of their communications.

(The present statistics do not include data from the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances due to the use of different statistics. For further information about WGEID activities, please see the WGEID website: <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/disappear/index.htm>)

- submitted 136 reports to the Human Rights Council (127 by thematic mandates), including 47 annual reports and 51 country visit reports, and 24 reports to the General Assembly (20 by thematic mandates)
- issued 223 public statements; 14% jointly by two or more mandates

integrated, with the support of their Coordination Committee, six new special procedures mandate-holders into the system

For further information, please visit the OHCHR website:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm>

or for general queries on special procedures, in particular system-wide or cross-cutting issues, contact: spdinfo@ohchr.org

For specific queries relating to individual mandates, please send messages to the generic e-mail addresses listed at:

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/countries.htm>

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/themes.htm>

How to send information on alleged human rights violations to Special Procedures:

Special Procedures Branch, OHCHR
c/o OHCHR-UNOG
8-14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Fax: +41 22 917 90 06
E-mail: urgent-action@ohchr.org

Note: The above-mentioned e-mail address should be used only to communicate information on alleged violations. Due to the large amount of information received by special procedures and related capacity constraints, receipt of information will be acknowledged only if such information is taken up by the special procedures in the context of communications and if further information is required from the source to ensure follow-up.