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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda items 3, 4, 7, 9 and 10

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

**Human rights situations that require the Council's attention**

**Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories**

**Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action**

**Technical assistance and capacity-building**

## Communications report of Special Procedures\*

**Communications sent, 1 June to 30 November 2016;  
Replies received, 1 August 2016 to 31 January 2017**

**Joint report by 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 Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism; the Working Group of Experts on people of African descent; the Working Group on arbitrary detention; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia; the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; the Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; the Special Rapporteur on the right to education; the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment; the Working Group on enforced or involuntary**

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\* The present report is circulated as received.



disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea; the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; 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; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief; the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti; the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967; the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; the Independent Expert on the situation on human rights in the Sudan; the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights; the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences; the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice; and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation.

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## Abbreviations

Adequate housing	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
Albinism	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism
African Descent	Working Group of Experts on people of African descent
Arbitrary detention	Working Group on Arbitrary Detention
Belarus	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus
Burundi	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burundi
Business enterprises	Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
Cambodia	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia
Central Africa	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic
Côte d'Ivoire	Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights
Cultural Rights	Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights
Democratic and equitable international order	Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order
Disability	Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
Disappearances	Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
Discrimination against women	Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice
DPR Korea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Education	Special Rapporteur on the right to education
Environment	Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
Eritrea	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea
Extreme poverty	Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights
Food	Special Rapporteur on the right to food
Foreign debt	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
Freedom of expression	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression
Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association
Freedom of religion	Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief
Haiti	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti
Health	Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
Human rights defenders	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders
Independence of judges and lawyers	Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Indigenous peoples	Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples
Internally displaced persons	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons
International Solidarity	Independent Expert on Human Rights and International solidarity
Iran	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran
Mali	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali
Mercenaries	Working Group on the use of mercenaries
Migrants	Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants
Minority issues	Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues
Myanmar	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar
OPT	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967
Older persons	Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons
Privacy	Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy
Racism	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance
Sale of children	Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
Slavery	Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery
Somalia	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia
Sudan	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan
Summary executions	Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions
Terrorism	Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism
Torture	Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment
Hazardous substances and wastes	Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes
Trafficking	Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
Truth justice, reparation & guarantees on non-recurrence	Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence
Unilateral coercive measures	Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights
Violence against women	Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
Water and Sanitation	Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

### Other abbreviations

AL	Letter of allegation
JAL	Joint letter of allegation
JUA	Joint urgent appeal
UA	Urgent appeal

## I. Introduction

1. Special procedures are mandated by the Human Rights Council to report to it on their activities (see Appendix).
2. In 2009, the sixteenth annual meeting of special procedures mandate holders decided that a joint communications report would be prepared (cf. A/HRC/12/47, paras 24-26), with this decision being reconfirmed by the seventeenth annual meeting of special procedures in 2010 in order to avoid duplication, rationalize documentations, allow examination of cross cutting issues and ensure that the content of communications and any follow-up would feed into the universal periodic review mechanism more effectively. Mandate holders decided that the report should contain summaries of communications and statistical information (A/HRC/15/44, para. 26-27).
3. The Outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council calls on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to maintain information on special procedures in a comprehensive and easily accessible manner, and encourages the use of modern information technology to reduce the circulation of paper (A/HRC/RES/16/21, Annex, paras. 29 and 60).
4. All short summaries of allegations communicated to the respective State or other entity are made available on the Special Procedures communications website, link to which is included in paragraph 10 of the present report. The communications sent and responses received are also accessible electronically through hyperlinks. Communications are reproduced in the language in which they were sent. Replies received in Arabic, Chinese or Russian are included with translations into English, where available.
5. This website now reports all urgent appeals, and letters of allegations sent by special procedures mandate holders between 1 June and 30 November 2016 and replies received until 31 January 2017. Communications sent before 1 June 2016 are reported in A/HRC/33/32, A/HRC/33/32 corr.1, A/HRC/32/53, A/HRC/31/79, A/HRC/30/27, A/HRC/29/50, A/HRC/28/85, A/HRC/27/72, A/HRC/26/21, A/HRC/25/74, A/HRC/24/21, A/HRC/23/51, A/HRC/22/67, A/HRC/22/67 corr.1 and corr.2, A/HRC/21/49, A/HRC/20/30, A/HRC/19/44 and A/HRC/18/51 respectively are also made available on the dedicated website.
6. Also as part of this report, the special procedures communications website also includes replies received between 1 August 2016 and 31 January 2017 relating to communications sent by special procedures mandate holders before 1 June 2016. Some of these replies supplement information communicated earlier by the respective State.
7. The present report contains urgent appeals sent by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and joint urgent appeals sent by them together with other mandates. It does not contain other types of communications issued by these mandates, which are processed according to their own distinctive procedures, and are reported in the annual reports of these two working groups.
8. The names of some alleged victims have been obscured in order to protect their privacy and prevent further victimization. Names of victims who would otherwise have their identities protected are mentioned only when the individual concerned or their direct family has expressly consented or requested to have his or her name in the public report. In the original communications, the full names of the alleged victims were provided to the Government concerned. Names of alleged perpetrators have systematically been darkened in State replies to preserve the presumption of innocence.

9. In preparing the statistics included in this report, uniform reporting periods have been used, reflecting all communications sent between 1 June and 30 November 2016, and responses received in relation to these communications up to 31 January 2017.

## Communications and replies by mandate

<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Reporting period: 1 June to 30 November 2016</i>			<i>Reporting period: 1 June 2006 to 30 November 2016</i>		
	<i>Communications sent</i>	<i>replied to by 31 January 2017</i>	<i>response rate</i>	<i>Communications sent</i>	<i>replied to by 31 January 2017</i>	<i>response rate</i>
Adequate housing	11	3	27%	309	151	49%
African descent	2	1	50%	21	13	62%
Albinism	0	0	0%	5	0	0%
Arbitrary detention (+)	57	24	42%	1379	760	55%
Belarus*	1	1	100%	10	7	70%
Burundi**	0	0	0%	6	0	0%
Business enterprises	17	9	53%	85	46	54%
Cambodia	4	1	25%	31	6	19%
Central Africa	0	0	0%	1	0	0%
Cultural Rights	6	3	50%	73	53	73%
Democratic and equitable international order	1	1	100%	28	22	79%
Disability	6	0	0%	29	14	48%
Disappearances (+)	22	8	36%	346	155	45%
Discrimination against women in law and in practice	11	6	55%	180	87	48%
DPR Korea	0	0	0%	9	1	11%
Education	2	2	100%	68	42	62%
Environment	11	6	55%	52	28	54%
Eritrea	0	0	0%	2	0	0%
Extreme poverty	4	2	50%	59	43	73%
Food	2	2	100%	220	90	41%
Foreign debt	5	2	40%	19	11	58%
Freedom of expression	115	56	49%	2726	1429	52%
Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	82	37	45%	1008	579	57%
Freedom of religion	13	7	54%	435	261	60%
Haiti	2	0	0%	11	3	27%
Hazardous substances and wastes***	7	4	57%	72	45	63%



<i>Mandate</i>	<i>Reporting period: 1 June to 30 November 2016</i>			<i>Reporting period: 1 June 2006 to 30 November 2016</i>		
	<i>Communications sent</i>	<i>replied to by 31 January 2017</i>	<i>response rate</i>	<i>Communications sent</i>	<i>replied to by 31 January 2017</i>	<i>response rate</i>
Health	52	29	56%	573	335	58%
Human rights defenders	117	58	50%	2991	1670	56%
Independence of judges and lawyers	47	30	64%	1146	627	55%
Indigenous peoples	21	10	48%	399	237	59%
Internally displaced persons	3	3	100%	22	10	45%
International Solidarity	0	0	0%	12	12	100%
Iran	17	9	53%	137	73	53%
Liberia	0	0	0%	2	0	0%
Mercenaries	3	2	67%	73	28	38%
Migrants	13	10	77%	234	151	65%
Minority issues	11	5	45%	231	137	59%
Myanmar	3	3	100%	107	54	50%
Older persons	1	0	0%	2	1	50%
OPT	6	2	33%	41	9	22%
Privacy	3	2	67%	17	16	94%
Racism	4	2	50%	122	73	60%
Sale of children	2	0	0%	59	21	36%
Slavery	3	1	33%	42	23	55%
Somalia	2	0	0%	19	6	32%
Sudan	1	0	0%	33	6	18%
Summary executions	44	21	48%	1277	616	48%
Terrorism	2	1	50%	278	132	47%
Torture	79	46	58%	2145	1159	54%
Trafficking	1	1	100%	76	45	59%
Truth, justice, reparation & guarantees on non-rec	2	2	100%	40	24	60%
Unilateral coercive measures	1	1	100%	2	2	100%
Violence against women	20	12	60%	536	283	53%
Water and Sanitation	11	8	73%	82	54	66%

(\*) mandate re-established in June 2012, (\*\*) mandate terminated, (\*\*\*) mandate name changed from 'toxic waste'

(+) These figures do not include communications on standard cases sent to Governments by the Working Group on arbitrary detention and the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances.

Please note: Totals are higher than the actual number of communications sent or replies received in the given period, as many communications are sent jointly by two or more mandate holders.

## II. Communications sent and replies received

**Communications sent between 1 June and 30 November 2016 and their replies received until 31 January 2017. Also all replies received during this period to communications sent before 1 June 2016**

10. All communications and their replies are available through Special Procedures communications website at the link

<https://spcommreports.ohchr.org>

## Appendix

### Mandates of special procedures *(until 31 December 2016)*

<i>Mandate title</i>	<i>Human Rights Council resolution</i>
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	25/17
Working Group of Experts on people of African descent	27/25
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism	28/6
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	33/30
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	32/26
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	24/29
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic	24/34
Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire	26/32
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	28/9
Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	27/9
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	25/25
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	26/20
Special Rapporteur on right to development	33/14
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	32/24
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	27/1
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	25/16
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	26/17
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	28/11
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	26/3
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	32/8
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	25/2
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	32/32

<i>Mandate title</i>	<i>Human Rights Council resolution</i>
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	31/16
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	PRST 25/1
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	33/9
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	25/18
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	26/7
Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples	33/12
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	32/11
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	25/24
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	25/36
Working Group on the use of mercenaries	33/4
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	26/19
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	25/5
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	25/26
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	33/5
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	5/1
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	28/16
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation & guarantees of non-recurrence	27/3
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	25/32
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	25/6
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery	33/1
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity	32/2
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	26/6
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	24/28
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	24/30
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	26/12

<i>Mandate title</i>	<i>Human Rights Council resolution</i>
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	S-18/1
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	31/3
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	25/13
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	27/23
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children	26/8
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	26/22
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	27/21
Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences	32/19
Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice	32/4
Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation	33/10