



A NEW CHAPTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

A handbook on issues of transition
from the Commission on Human Rights
to the Human Rights Council



Annex 3.1

Independent Expert Appointed by the Secretary-General on the Situation of Human Rights in Haiti

Current mandate holder: Louis Joinet **Term of mandate holder:** 2002 – duration not specified
Mandate started: 1987 **Mandate up for renewal:** duration not specified

Areas of focus

- Haiti was considered under the confidential 1503 procedure starting at the 37th session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1981. The consideration was suspended in 1987 and taken up again during the 45th session of the Commission on Human Rights in 1989;
- Mandate was originally focused on the general situation in Haiti, particularly the political instability following the end of the Duvalier regime in 1986, problems in the establishment of and functioning of democratic institutions, and the socio-political environment surrounding the grave human rights situation.

Cooperation with the Government

- The Haitian Government has been cooperating with Independent Expert, and his predecessor, the Special Rapporteur, since 1994;
- The Independent Expert meets with high-level officials, including the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, as well as senior officials and staff in the system of justice, the police and NGOs.

Key developments

- While there is a gradual improvement of civil and political rights in the provinces, there is a worsening in the realisation of these rights in the capital;
- There has been a recent increase in kidnapping and the rights of children have deteriorated substantially, particularly in regards to street children and poverty; violence and sexual assaults; low birth registration numbers; a low school enrolment rate; and a high HIV rate;
- Mass expulsions of Haitians from abroad, particularly from the Dominican Republic and the United States of America, have significantly increased;
- There are ongoing problems with the judiciary and the system of justice.

Country visits

Haiti: November 2005, November 2004, April 2004, September 2002, 2001, July to August 2000, March 1999, August 1998, February to March 1998, August to September 1997, September to October 1995, May 1994

Pending reports:

Annual report (E/CN.4/2006/115).

Communications to the Government of Haiti

- The Independent Expert does not send communications to the Government.

