



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

**Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression**

**Current mandate holder:** Ambeyi Ligabo  
**Mandate started:** 1993

**Term of mandate holder:** 2002-2008  
**Mandate up for renewal:** 2008

**Areas of focus**

- Gather information and make recommendations on discrimination against, threats or use of violence and harassment, directed at persons seeking to exercise or to promote the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, especially professionals in the field of information;
- The legal framework includes the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*;
- The right to freedom of expression includes the right to seek and receive information, as well as impart this information, through any media of one's choice.

**Country visits**

Albania (2000)	Iran (1996)	Serbia and Montenegro (2004)
Argentina (2000)	Ireland (1999)	South Korea (1995)
Belarus (1997)	Italy (2004)	Sudan (1999)
Colombia (2004)	Malaysia (1998)	Tunisia (1999)
Côte d'Ivoire (2004)	Malawi (1994)	Turkey (1996)
Equatorial Guinea (2002)	Poland (1997)	UK (1999)
Hungary (1998)	Republic of Korea (1995)	

**Outstanding requests**

Angola (2002)  
Bangladesh (2003)  
Belarus (2003)  
China (2002)  
Cuba (2003)  
DPRK (2002)  
Eritrea (2003 and 2005)  
Ethiopia (2002 and 2005)  
Request from Indonesia (2002)  
Liberia (2003)

**Outstanding requests**

Nepal (2003)  
The Philippines (2004)  
Russian Federation (2002)  
Spain (2003)  
Swaziland (2003)  
Turkmenistan (2003)  
Uganda (2006)  
Uzbekistan (2003)  
Vietnam (2002)  
Zimbabwe (2003)

**Agreed upon in principle**

Algeria (postponed)  
Azerbaijan (postponed)  
Libya  
Maldives  
Sri Lanka (postponed)  
Sudan  
Ukraine

**Forthcoming visits**

Guatemala (June 2006)  
Honduras (June 2006)

**Pending reports:** Annual report and Summary of communications (E/CN.4/2006/55 and Add.1).

**Thematic research**

- The Internet and new technologies (2006, 2002, 2001, 2000, 1998);
- Defamation (2006);
- Protection and security of media professionals (2006, 2005);
- Education on and prevention of HIV/AIDS (2004, 2003);
- Counter-terrorism measures (2004, 2003, 2002).

**Communications (2005)**

- 497 communications;
- 312 urgent appeals and 185 allegation letters, of which all but one were joint communications;
- There is a model questionnaire for submitting information to the Special Rapporteur<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ohchr.org/english/issues/opinion/questionnaire.htm>.