



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 freedom of religion or belief

Current mandate holder: Asma Jahangir
Mandate started: 1986

Term of mandate holder: 2004-2007
Mandate up for renewal: 2007

Areas of focus

- Monitor and report on incidents and governmental action that constitute violations of religious freedoms to prevent intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, and make recommendations to avoid such abuses;
- The legal framework includes the *Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief*;
- Freedom of religion or belief includes the rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; to choose a religion or belief; manifest this religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching; and protection from discrimination on the grounds of religion or other belief.

Differing working methods and reporting obligations

- The Special Rapporteur also submits reports to the General Assembly (1995-2001, 2003).

Country visits

Algeria (2002)
Argentina (2000)
Australia (1997)
Azerbaijan (2006)
Bangladesh (2000)

France (2005)
Georgia (2003)
Germany (1997)
Holy See (1999)
Nigeria (2005)

Romania (2003)
Sri Lanka (2005)
Turkey (1999)
USA (1998)
Vietnam (1998)

Outstanding requests

Bhutan (2006)
Bulgaria (2006)
Cuba (2006)
DPRK (1999)
Egypt (2005)
Eritrea (2004)

Outstanding requests

Lao (2006)
Malaysia (2006)
Mauritania (2006)
Request from Mauritius
Pakistan (2006)
Russian Federation (1998)

Outstanding requests

Turkmenistan (2003)
USA (2004)
Uzbekistan (2004)
Yemen (2006)

Ethiopia (2006)
India (2006)
Request from Indonesia (1996)
Kyrgyzstan (2004)

Saudi Arabia (2006)
Serbia and Montenegro (2006)
Tajikistan (2006)

Visits agreed upon in principle

China
Iran
Israel

Pending reports: Annual report, Summary of communications, Mission to Nigeria, Mission to Sri Lanka and Mission to France (E/CN.4/5, Add.1-4).

Thematic research

- Framework for communications (2006);
- Religious symbols (2006);

- Education and inter-religious dialogue (2004, 2003, 2002);
- The status of women with regard to religion and tradition (2003).

Communications (2005)

- 84 communications transmitted to 36 different countries;
- 28 were urgent appeals, and 56 were letters of allegation;
- 34 communications were sent jointly with other special procedures;
- 38 responses received from 25 countries.