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For Immediate Release
Office of the Press Secretary
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President Bush Addresses The United Nations General Assembly

The United Nations Headquarters

New York, New York

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9:57 A.M. EDT

PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen: Thank you for the opportunity to address the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Sixty years ago, representatives from 16 nations gathered to begin deliberations on a new international bill of rights. The document they produced is called the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- and it stands as a landmark achievement in the history of human liberty. It opens by recognizing "the inherent dignity" and the "equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family" as "the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world." And as we gather for this 62nd General Assembly, the standards of the Declaration must guide our work in this world.

Achieving the promise of the Declaration requires confronting long-term threats; it also requires answering the immediate needs of today. The nations in this chamber have our differences, yet there are some areas where we can all agree. When innocent people are trapped in a life of murder and fear, the Declaration is not being upheld. When millions of children starve to death or perish from a mosquito bite, we're not doing our duty in the world. When whole societies are cut off from the prosperity of the global economy, we're all worse off. Changing these underlying conditions is what the Declaration calls the work of "larger freedom" -- and it must be the work of every nation in this assembly.



This great institution must work for great purposes -- to free people from tyranny and violence, hunger and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and poverty and despair. Every member of the United Nations must join in this mission of liberation.

First, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from tyranny and violence. The first article of the Universal Declaration begins, "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights." The truth is denied by terrorists and extremists who kill the innocent with the aim of imposing their hateful vision on humanity. The followers of this violent ideology are a threat to civilized people everywhere. All civilized nations must work together to stop them -- by sharing intelligence about their networks, and choking their -- off their finances, and bringing to justice their operatives.

In the long run, the best way to defeat extremists is to defeat their dark ideology with a more hopeful vision -- the vision of liberty that founded this body. The United States salutes the nations that have recently taken strides toward liberty -- including Ukraine and Georgia and Kyrgyzstan and Mauritania and Liberia, Sierra Leone and Morocco. The Palestinian Territories have moderate leaders, mainstream leaders that are working to build free institutions that fight terror, and enforce the law, and respond to the needs of their people. The international community must support these leaders, so that we can advance the vision of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security.

Brave citizens in Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have made the choice for democracy -- yet the extremists have responded by targeting them for murder. This is not a show of strength -- it is evidence of fear. And the extremists are doing everything in their power to bring down these young democracies. The people of Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have asked



for our help. And every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand with them.



Every civilized nation also has a responsibility to stand up for the people suffering under dictatorship. In Belarus, North Korea, Syria, and Iran, brutal regimes deny their people the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Americans are outraged by the situation in Burma, where a military junta has imposed a 19-year reign of fear. Basic freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship are severely restricted. Ethnic minorities are persecuted. Forced child labor, human trafficking, and rape are common. The regime is holding more than 1,000 political prisoners -- including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party was elected overwhelmingly by the Burmese people in 1990.

The ruling junta remains unyielding, yet the people's desire for freedom is unmistakable. This morning, I'm announcing a series of steps to help bring peaceful change to Burma. The United States will tighten economic sanctions on the leaders of the regime and their financial backers. We will impose an expanded visa ban on those responsible for the most egregious violations of human rights, as well as their family members. We'll continue to support the efforts of humanitarian groups working to alleviate suffering in Burma. And I urge the United Nations and all nations to use their diplomatic and economic leverage to help the Burmese people reclaim their freedom.

In Cuba, the long rule of a cruel dictator is nearing its end. The Cuban people are ready for their freedom. And as that nation enters a period of transition, the United Nations must insist on free speech, free assembly, and ultimately, free and competitive elections.

In Zimbabwe, ordinary citizens suffer under a tyrannical regime. The government has cracked down on peaceful calls for reform, and forced millions to flee their homeland. The behavior of the Mugabe regime is an assault on its people -- and an affront to the principles of the Universal Declaration. The United Nations must insist on change in Harare -- and must insist for the freedom of the people of Zimbabwe.

In Sudan, innocent civilians are suffering repression -- and in the Darfur region, many are losing their lives to genocide. America has responded with tough sanctions against those responsible for the violence. We've provided more than \$2 billion in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid. I look forward to attending a Security Council meeting that will focus on Darfur, chaired by the French President. I appreciate France's leadership in helping to stabilize Sudan's neighbors. And the United Nations must answer this challenge to conscience, and live up to its promise to promptly deploy peacekeeping forces to Darfur.

Second, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from hunger and disease. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food and clothing and housing and medical care." Around the world, the United Nations is carrying out noble efforts to live up to these words.

Feeding the hungry has long been a special calling for my nation. Today, more than half the world's food assistance comes from America. We send emergency food stocks to starving people from camps in Sudan to slums in -- around the world. I've proposed an innovative initiative to alleviate hunger under which America would purchase the crops of local farmers in Africa and elsewhere, rather than shipping in food from the developed world. This would help build up local agriculture and break the cycle of famine in the developing world -- and I urge our United States Congress to support this initiative.

Many in this hall are bringing the spirit of generosity to fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria. Five years ago, in Sub-Saharan Africa, an AIDS diagnosis was widely considered a death sentence, and fewer than 50,000 people infected with the virus were receiving treatment. The world responded by creating the Global Fund, which is working with governments and the private sector to fight the disease around the world. The United States decided to take these steps a little further by launching the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Since 2003, this effort has helped bring cutting-edge medicines to more than a million people in sub-Sahara Africa. It's a good start. So earlier this year, I proposed to double our initial commitment to \$30 billion. By coming together, the world can turn the tide against HIV/AIDS -- once and for all.

Malaria is another common killer. In some countries, malaria takes as many lives as HIV/AIDS -- the vast majority of them children under the age of five years old. Every one of these deaths is unnecessary, because the disease is preventable and treatable. The world knows what it takes to stop malaria -- bed nets and indoor spraying and medicine to treat the disease. Two years ago, America launched a \$1.2 billion malaria initiative. Other nations and the private sector are making vital contributions, as well. I call on every member state to maintain its focus, find new ways to join this cause, and bring us closer to the day when malaria deaths are no more.

Third, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from the chains of illiteracy and ignorance. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to education." And when nations make the investments needed to educate their people, the whole world benefits. Better education unleashes the talent and potential of its citizens, and adds to the prosperity of all of us. Better education promotes better health and greater independence. Better education increases the strength of democracy, and weakens the appeal of violent ideologies. So the United States is joining with nations around the world to help them provide a better education for their people.

A good education starts with good teachers. In partnership with other nations, America has helped train more than 600,000 teachers and administrators. A good education requires good textbooks. So in partnership with other nations, America has distributed tens of millions of textbooks. A good education requires access to good schools. So in partnership with other nations, America is helping nations raise standards in their schools at home, and providing scholarships to help students come to schools in the United States. In all our education efforts, our nation is working to expand access for women and girls, so that the opportunity to get a decent education is open to all.

Finally, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from poverty and despair. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, [and] to just and favorable conditions of work." In the 21st century, this requires ensuring that people in poor countries have the same opportunity to benefit from the global economy that citizens of wealthy countries have.

The United Nations provides vital economic assistance designed to help developing nations grow their economies and reach their potential. The United States agrees with that position; we've dramatically increased our own development assistance -- and we're delivering that aid in innovative ways. We started the Millennium Challenge Account to reward nations that govern justly, fight corruption, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom. With this aid, we're reaching out to developing nations in partnership, not paternalism. And we're ensuring that our aid dollars reach those who need them -- and achieve results.

In the long run, the best way to lift people out of poverty is through trade and investment. A nation that is open and trading with the world will create economic rewards that far exceed anything they could get through foreign aid. During the 1990s, developing nations that significantly lowered tariffs saw their per capita income grow about three times faster than other developing countries. Open markets ignite growth, encourage investment, increase transparency, strengthen the rule of law, and help countries help themselves.

The international community now has an historic chance to open markets around the world by concluding a successful Doha Round of trade talks. A successful Doha outcome would mean real and substantial openings in agriculture, goods, and services -- and real and substantial reductions in trade-distorting subsidies. The world's largest trading nations, including major developing countries, have a special responsibility to make the tough political decisions to reduce trade barriers. America has the will and flexibility to make those necessary decisions. Our negotiators are demonstrating that spirit in Geneva. I urge other leaders to direct their negotiators to do the same. And I'm optimistic that we can reach a good Doha agreement -- and seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

In the meantime, America will continue to pursue agreements that open trade and investment wherever we can. We recently signed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements embody the values of open markets -- transparent and fair regulation, respect for private property, and resolving disputes under international law rules. These are good agreements, and they're now ready for a congressional vote, and I urge the Congress to approve them as soon as possible.

As America works with the United Nations to alleviate immediate needs, we're also coming together to address longer-term challenges. Together, we're preparing for pandemics that could cause death and suffering on a global scale. Together, we're working to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Together, we're confronting the challenges of energy security, and environmental quality, and climate change. I appreciate the discussions on climate change led by the Secretary General last night. I look forward to further discussions at the meeting of major economies in Washington later this week.

The goals I've outlined today cannot be achieved overnight -- and they cannot be achieved without reform in this vital institution. The United States is committed to a strong and vibrant United Nations. Yet the American people are disappointed by the failures of the Human Rights Council. This body has been silent on repression by regimes from Havana to Caracas to Pyongyang and Tehran -- while focusing its criticism excessively on Israel. To be credible on human rights in the world, the United Nations must reform its own Human Rights Council.

Some have also called for reform to the structure of the Security Council, including an expansion of its membership. The United States is open to this prospect. We believe that Japan is well-qualified for permanent membership on the Security

Council, and that other nations should be considered, as well. The United States will listen to all good ideas, and we will support changes to the Security Council as part of broader U.N. reform. And in all we do, I call on member states to work for an institution that adheres to strict ethical standards, and lives up to the high principles of the Universal Declaration.

With the commitment and courage of this chamber, we can build a world where people are free to speak, assemble, and worship as they wish; a world where children in every nation grow up healthy, get a decent education, and look to the future with hope; a world where opportunity crosses every border. America will lead toward this vision where all are created equal, and free to pursue their dreams. This is the founding conviction of my country. It is the promise that established this body. And with our determination, it can be the future of our world.

Thank you, and God bless. (Applause.)

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Fact Sheet: Burma: Calling for Human Dignity and Democracy

 [President Bush Addresses The United Nations General Assembly](#)

 [White House News](#)

At the United Nations today, President Bush expressed the outrage of the American people at the continued oppression of the people of Burma. The people of Burma deserve to enjoy basic liberties such as freedom of speech, assembly, and worship. The United States calls on the Burmese regime to engage in a genuine dialogue with its own people, including the leaders of the pro-democracy movement and ethnic minority groups, on a transition to a civilian, democratic government. The Burmese regime should release those who have been arrested for peacefully expressing their views, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and should also exercise restraint in the face of peaceful protests.

President Bush called for a series of steps to help bring peaceful change to Burma. The President urged the United Nations and all nations to use their diplomatic and economic leverage to help the Burmese people reclaim their freedom.

President Bush announced that the United States will tighten economic sanctions. Sanctions against Burma were first imposed in 1997 with the issuance of Executive Order 13047. These sanctions were augmented on July 28, 2003 by the enactment of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act and the issuance of Executive Order 13310.

- The tightened sanctions will block the property and interests in property of certain senior leaders of the regime and individuals who provide financial backing for the regime.
- Under the current executive orders, the assets of a limited number of named entities are blocked, but the United States Government has not designated specific individuals. These new designations will identify members of the regime who are responsible for violations of human rights and for impeding the nation's transition to democracy.

President Bush also announced that the United States will expand the current visa ban.

- The United States will impose an expanded visa ban on those individuals responsible for violations of human rights and those individuals aiding, abetting, and benefiting from the regime's efforts to impede Burma's transition to democracy, as well as their family members.

President Bush instructed his Administration to step up efforts to support the work of humanitarian groups that are alleviating suffering in Burma. Burma is experiencing a crisis on many fronts, including in health and education, and these humanitarian groups carry out important work to help in these areas.

- The United States will review existing policies to ensure that we do all we can to facilitate the work of humanitarian groups, which face significant opposition from the Burmese regime.

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For Immediate Release
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September 25, 2007

Fact Sheet: A Mission of Liberation Around the World

President Bush Calls On Members Of The United Nations General Assembly To Work Toward Standards Of The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights

 [President Bush Addresses The United Nations General Assembly](#)

 [White House News](#)

Today, President Bush addressed the United Nations General Assembly and called on every UN member to join a mission of liberation from tyranny, hunger, disease, illiteracy, and poverty. Achieving the promise of the UN's commitment to "freedom, justice, and peace" laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights requires both confronting long-term threats and answering the immediate needs of today. The UN must work to free people from tyranny and violence, hunger and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and poverty and despair.

Liberation From Tyranny And Violence

Terrorists and extremists who kill the innocent are a threat to civilized people everywhere. All civilized nations must work together to stop them by sharing intelligence about their networks, choking off their finances, and capturing or killing their operatives.

- **In the long run, the best way to defeat the extremists is to defeat their dark ideology with a more hopeful vision of liberty.**
 - **Citizens in Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Iraq have made the choice for democracy, and every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand with them.** The extremists are doing everything in their power to bring down these young democracies, and the people of Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Iraq have asked for our help.
 - **The United States salutes the many nations that have recently taken strides toward liberty – including Ukraine, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Morocco.**

Every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand up for people suffering under dictatorship. In Belarus, Cuba, North Korea, Zimbabwe, Syria, and Iran, brutal regimes deny their people the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Americans are also outraged by the situation in Burma, where a military junta has imposed a 19-year reign of fear.

- **Today, President Bush announced a series of steps to help bring peaceful change to Burma.** The President urges the United Nations and all nations to use their diplomatic and economic leverage to help the Burmese people reclaim their freedom. The United States will:
 - Tighten economic sanctions on the leaders of the regime and their financial backers.
 - Impose an expanded visa ban on those responsible for the most egregious violations of human rights, as well as their family members.
 - Facilitate the efforts of humanitarian groups working to alleviate suffering in Burma.
- **The United Nations must insist on free speech, free assembly, and, ultimately, free and competitive elections in Cuba as the nation transitions from the long dictatorship of Fidel Castro.**
- **The United Nations must insist on freedom for the people of Zimbabwe.** President Robert Mugabe's government has cracked down violently on peaceful calls for reform, and forced millions to flee their homeland.
- **The United Nations must live up to its promise to promptly deploy peacekeeping forces to Darfur.** The U.S. has provided more than \$2 billion in humanitarian and peacekeeping aid to Darfur since 2005, and has responded to the repression in Sudan and genocide in the Darfur region with tough sanctions against those responsible for the violence. The President looks forward to attending a Security Council meeting on Peace and Security in Africa, chaired by French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Liberation From Hunger And Disease

Today, more than half of the world's food assistance comes from America. The President has also proposed using a portion of U.S. emergency food assistance to purchase the crops of local and regional farmers. This would help build up local agriculture and break the cycle of famine in the developing world, and the President urges the United States Congress to support this approach.

The President calls on UN member states to work together to turn the tide against HIV/AIDS and to eliminate malaria.

- **In 2003, the United States launched a \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief – the largest national commitment to combat a single disease in history.** This effort has helped bring life-saving treatments to more than a million people in sub-Saharan Africa. The President has announced a plan to double this initial commitment with an additional \$30 billion over five years.
- **The President's Malaria Initiative is spending \$1.2 billion over five years to combat malaria in 15 African countries.** This funding is providing bed nets, indoor spraying, and anti-malaria medicine with the goal of reducing mortality by 50 percent in the most vulnerable groups.
- **The Global Fund is working with governments and the private sector to fight HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria around the world.** The United States is the fund's largest donor at about 30 percent.

Liberation From Illiteracy And Ignorance

The United States is joining with nations around the world to help them provide a better education for their people. In partnership with other nations, America has: helped train more than 600,000 teachers and administrators; distributed tens of millions of textbooks; and helped nations raise standards in their schools.

Last May, the President committed to provide an additional \$525 million over the next five years to make our international education programs even more robust.

- On September 24, First Lady Laura Bush announced that the basic education initiative will focus on: Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Liberia, Mali, and Yemen.

Liberation From Poverty And Despair

In the long run, the best way to lift people out of poverty is through trade and investment. Open markets ignite growth, encourage investment, increase transparency, strengthen the rule of law, and help countries help themselves.

- **The United States has both the will and the flexibility to help conclude a successful Doha Round, and the President urges other leaders to direct their negotiators to demonstrate the same spirit.** The Doha round of trade talks is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to open up markets, create new trade flows, and help millions escape poverty, and the President is optimistic that we can reach a good agreement.
- **The United States will continue to pursue market-opening agreements that increase trade and investment.** We recently signed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea. These agreements embody the values of open markets, transparent and fair regulation, respect for private property, and resolving disputes under international law rules. They are now moving towards a Congressional vote, and the President urges Congress to approve them as soon as possible.

Through the Millennium Challenge Account, the United States is delivering economic assistance to developing nations in innovative ways. The Millennium Challenge Account increases aid to nations that govern justly, fight corruption, invest in the education and health of their people, and promote economic freedom.

- We have signed Millennium Challenge Compacts with 14 nations, most recently with Morocco. Together, these are worth nearly \$4.6 billion, and we have just approved two more compacts with Mongolia and Tanzania.

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Universal Declaration of Human Rights



The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) turns 60 on 10 December 2008. On Human Rights Day 2007, the United Nations Secretary General launched a year-long UN system-wide advocacy campaign to mark this important milestone. The initiative celebrates the Declaration and the promise that has made this document so enduring: **"Dignity and justice for all of us"**.

The campaign aims to increase knowledge and awareness of human rights among the largest number of rights holders so that they can claim and enjoy their rights. Many governments, civil society, educational, cultural and human rights institutions have taken the opportunity during 2008 to reaffirm their commitment to the values and principles of the UDHR and to disseminate information about the Declaration.

As part of the commemorative year, the High Commissioner for Human Rights proposes that the week of 6 – 12 October 2008 be designated as **"Dignity and Justice for Detainees Week"**. OHCHR calls on all partners to pay special attention to the civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights of persons deprived of their liberty in prisons and other places of detention.

A number of public information documents, including a special logo, more than 437 translations of the UDHR, photographs and background information as well as a list of ideas for activities, are at your disposal to help you commemorate this anniversary. All documents are downloadable and printable for your convenience. They may be helpful in any event you may be preparing. Visit this page frequently for updates.

Campaign materials:



Logo:
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UDHR in booklet form:
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Information Kit 2008:
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60th Anniversary poster
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"Info60" Newsletter about the campaign:
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 Issue No. 3 - [E](#)[F](#)[S](#)
 Issue No. 2 - [E](#)[F](#)[S](#)
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List of ideas for activities:
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UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore, The General Assembly proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.
2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honor and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.
2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor be denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the Government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.
3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

1. Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favorable remuneration insuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.
2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

*Hundred and eighty-third plenary meeting
Resolution 217(A)(III) of the United Nations General Assembly,
December 10, 1948*

President George W. Bush Addresses The United Nations General Assembly
September 25, 2007 - YouTube video: <http://youtu.be/uPEuVW4t4iI>

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<http://georgewbush-whitehouse.archives.gov/news/releases/2007/09/20070925-4.html>

YouTube video: <http://youtu.be/uPEuVW4t4iI>

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United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Signed by President George W. Bush December 9, 2003

Ratified by the United States October 30, 2006

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/>

0:08 PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. Secretary General, Mr. President, distinguished delegates, ladies
0:21 and gentlemen: Thank you for the opportunity to address the General Assembly of the United
0:27 Nations.

0:29 Sixty years ago, representatives from 16 nations gathered to begin deliberations on a new international
0:37 bill of rights. The document they produced is called the Universal Declaration of Human
0:43 Rights -- and it stands as a landmark achievement in the history of human liberty. It opens
0:54 by recognizing "the inherent dignity" and the "equal and inalienable rights of all members
1:02 of the human family" as "the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world."
1:09 And as we gather for this 62nd General Assembly, the standards of the Declaration must guide
1:18 our work in this world.

1:22 Achieving the promise of the Declaration requires confronting long-term threats; it also requires
1:29 answering the immediate needs of today. The nations in this chamber have our differences,
1:38 yet there are some areas where we can all agree. When innocent people are trapped in
1:43 a life of murder and fear, the Declaration is not being upheld. When millions of children
1:52 starve to death or perish from a mosquito bite, we're not doing our duty in the world.

2:00 When whole societies are cut off from the prosperity of the global economy, we're all
2:05 worse off. Changing these underlying conditions is what the Declaration calls the work of
2:12 "larger freedom" -- and it must be the work of every nation in this assembly.
2:19 This great institution must work for great purposes -- to free people from tyranny and
2:23 violence, hunger and disease, illiteracy and ignorance, and poverty and despair. Every
2:29 member of the United Nations must join in this mission of liberation.

2:35 First, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from tyranny and violence.
2:42 The first article of the Universal Declaration begins, "All human beings are born free and
2:47 equal in dignity and rights." The truth is denied by terrorists and extremists who kill
2:54 the innocent with the aim of imposing their hateful vision on humanity. The followers
3:02 of this violent ideology are a threat to civilized people everywhere. All civilized nations must
3:08 work together to stop them -- by sharing intelligence about their networks, and choking
their -- off

3:14 their finances, and bringing to justice their operatives.

3:17 In the long run, the best way to defeat extremists is to defeat their dark ideology with a more
3:23 hopeful vision -- the vision of liberty that founded this body. The United States salutes
3:32 the nations that have recently taken strides toward liberty -- including Ukraine and Georgia
3:39 and Kyrgyzstan and Mauritania and Liberia, Sierra Leone and Morocco. The Palestinian

3:46 Territories have moderate leaders, mainstream leaders that are working to build free institutions
3:54 that fight terror, and enforce the law, and respond to the needs of their people. The
4:01 international community must support these leaders, so that we can advance the vision
4:05 of two democratic states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace and security.

4:14 Brave citizens in Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have made the choice for democracy
4:20 -- yet the extremists have responded by targeting them for murder. This is not a show of strength
4:29 -- it is evidence of fear. And the extremists are doing everything in their power to bring
4:35 down these young democracies. The people of Lebanon and Afghanistan and Iraq have asked
4:41 for our help. And every civilized nation has a responsibility to stand with them.

4:49 Every civilized nation also has a responsibility to stand up for the people suffering under
4:53 dictatorship. In Belarus, North Korea, Syria, and Iran, brutal regimes deny their people
5:01 the fundamental rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration. Americans are outraged by the
5:09 situation in Burma, where a military junta has imposed a 19-year reign of fear. Basic
5:19 freedoms of speech, assembly, and worship are severely restricted. Ethnic minorities
5:27 are persecuted. Forced child labor, human trafficking, and rape are common. The regime
5:38 is holding more than 1,000 political prisoners -- including Aung San Suu Kyi, whose party
5:46 was elected overwhelmingly by the Burmese people in 1990.

5:53 The ruling junta remains unyielding, yet the people's desire for freedom is unmistakable.
5:59 This morning, I'm announcing a series of steps to help bring peaceful change to Burma. The
6:07 United States will tighten economic sanctions on the leaders of the regime and their financial
6:11 backers. We will impose an expanded visa ban on those responsible for the most egregious
6:17 violations of human rights, as well as their family members. We'll continue to support
6:23 the efforts of humanitarian groups working to alleviate suffering in Burma. And I urge
6:29 the United Nations and all nations to use their diplomatic and economic leverage to
6:35 help the Burmese people reclaim their freedom.

6:41 In Cuba, the long rule of a cruel dictator is nearing its end. The Cuban people are ready
6:48 for their freedom. And as that nation enters a period of transition, the United Nations
6:55 must insist on free speech, free assembly, and ultimately, free and competitive elections.

7:05 In Zimbabwe, ordinary citizens suffer under a tyrannical regime. The government has cracked
7:12 down on peaceful calls for reform, and forced millions to flee their homeland. The behavior
7:21 of the Mugabe regime is an assault on its people -- and an affront to the principles
7:26 of the Universal Declaration. The United Nations must insist on change in Harare -- and must
7:34 insist for the freedom of the people of Zimbabwe.

7:39 In Sudan, innocent civilians are suffering repression -- and in the Darfur region, many
7:47 are losing their lives to genocide. America has responded with tough sanctions against
7:53 those responsible for the violence. We've provided more than \$2 billion in humanitarian
7:59 and peacekeeping aid. I look forward to attending a Security Council meeting that will focus
8:05 on Darfur, chaired by the French President. I appreciate France's leadership in helping
8:12 to stabilize Sudan's neighbors. And the United Nations must answer this challenge to conscience,
8:19 and live up to its promise to promptly deploy peacekeeping forces to Darfur.

8:25 Second, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from hunger and
8:29 disease. Article 25 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to a standard
8:38 of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food
8:44 and clothing and housing and medical care." Around the world, the United Nations is carrying
8:50 out noble efforts to live up to these words.

8:54 Feeding the hungry has long been a special calling for my nation. Today, more than half
8:59 the world's food assistance comes from America. We send emergency food stocks to starving
9:05 people from camps in Sudan to slums in -- around the world. I've proposed an innovative initiative
9:12 to alleviate hunger under which America would purchase the crops of local farmers in Africa
9:17 and elsewhere, rather than shipping in food from the developed world. This would help
9:23 build up local agriculture and break the cycle of famine in the developing world -- and I
9:29 urge our United States Congress to support this initiative.

9:35 Many in this hall are bringing the spirit of generosity to fighting HIV/AIDS and malaria.
9:41 Five years ago, in Sub-Saharan Africa, an AIDS diagnosis was widely considered a death
9:47 sentence, and fewer than 50,000 people infected with the virus were receiving treatment.
9:55 The world responded by creating the Global Fund, which is working with governments and the
10:00 private sector to fight the disease around the world. The United States decided to take
10:05 these steps a little further by launching the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.
10:13 Since 2003, this effort has helped bring cutting-edge medicines to more than a million
people in
10:19 sub-Sahara Africa. It's a good start. So earlier this year, I proposed to double our initial
10:26 commitment to \$30 billion. By coming together, the world can turn the tide against
HIV/AIDS
10:36 -- once and for all.

10:39 Malaria is another common killer. In some countries, malaria takes as many lives as
10:44 HIV/AIDS -- the vast majority of them children under the age of five years old. Every one
10:54 of these deaths is unnecessary, because the disease is preventable and treatable. The
11:01 world knows what it takes to stop malaria -- bed nets and indoor spraying and medicine
11:06 to treat the disease. Two years ago, America launched a \$1.2 billion malaria initiative.

11:15 Other nations and the private sector are making vital contributions, as well. I call on every
11:21 member state to maintain its focus, find new ways to join this cause, and bring us closer
11:28 to the day when malaria deaths are no more.

11:32 Third, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from the chains of illiteracy
11:38 and ignorance. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right
11:45 to education." And when nations make the investments needed to educate their people, the whole
11:52 world benefits. Better education unleashes the talent and potential of its citizens,
11:59 and adds to the prosperity of all of us. Better education promotes better health and greater
12:04 independence. Better education increases the strength of democracy, and weakens the appeal
12:10 of violent ideologies. So the United States is joining with nations around the world to
12:18 help them provide a better education for their people.

12:22 A good education starts with good teachers. In partnership with other nations, America
12:28 has helped train more than 600,000 teachers and administrators. A good education requires
12:34 good textbooks. So in partnership with other nations, America has distributed tens of millions
12:40 of textbooks. A good education requires access to good schools. So in partnership with other
12:48 nations, America is helping nations raise standards in their schools at home, and providing
12:55 scholarships to help students come to schools in the United States. In all our education
13:02 efforts, our nation is working to expand access for women and girls, so that the opportunity
13:09 to get a decent education is open to all.

13:13 Finally, the mission of the United Nations requires liberating people from poverty and
13:17 despair. Article 23 of the Universal Declaration states: "Everyone has the right to work, to
13:27 free choice of employment, [and] to just and favorable conditions of work." In the 21st
13:34 century, this requires ensuring that people in poor countries have the same opportunity
13:38 to benefit from the global economy that citizens of wealthy countries have.

13:44 The United Nations provides vital economic assistance designed to help developing nations
13:50 grow their economies and reach their potential. The United States agrees with that position;
13:57 we've dramatically increased our own development assistance -- and we're delivering that aid
14:03 in innovative ways. We started the Millennium Challenge Account to reward nations that govern
14:11 justly, fight corruption, invest in their people, and promote economic freedom. With
14:18 this aid, we're reaching out to developing nations in partnership, not paternalism. And
14:24 we're ensuring that our aid dollars reach those who need them -- and achieve results.
14:29 In the long run, the best way to lift people out of poverty is through trade and investment.

14:35 A nation that is open and trading with the world will create economic rewards that far
14:42 exceed anything they could get through foreign aid. During the 1990s, developing nations
14:49 that significantly lowered tariffs saw their per capita income grow about three times faster
14:56 than other developing countries. Open markets ignite growth, encourage investment, increase
15:04 transparency, strengthen the rule of law, and help countries help themselves.

15:10 The international community now has an historic chance to open markets around the world by
15:15 concluding a successful Doha Round of trade talks. A successful Doha outcome would mean
15:21 real and substantial openings in agriculture, goods, and services -- and real and substantial
15:28 reductions in trade-distorting subsidies. The world's largest trading nations, including
15:35 major developing countries, have a special responsibility to make the tough political

15:41 decisions to reduce trade barriers. America has the will and flexibility to make those
15:50 necessary decisions. Our negotiators are demonstrating that spirit in Geneva. I urge other leaders
15:59 to direct their negotiators to do the same. And I'm optimistic that we can reach a good
16:04 Doha agreement -- and seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity.

16:09 In the meantime, America will continue to pursue agreements that open trade and investment
16:15 wherever we can. We recently signed free trade agreements with Peru, Colombia, Panama, and
16:21 South Korea. These agreements embody the values of open markets -- transparent and fair regulation,
16:30 respect for private property, and resolving disputes under international law rules. These
16:35 are good agreements, and they're now ready for a congressional vote, and I urge the Congress
16:42 to approve them as soon as possible.

16:46 As America works with the United Nations to alleviate immediate needs, we're also coming
16:49 together to address longer-term challenges. Together, we're preparing for pandemics that
16:55 could cause death and suffering on a global scale. Together, we're working to stop the
17:00 proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Together, we're confronting the challenges
17:05 of energy security, and environmental quality, and climate change. I appreciate the discussions
17:11 on climate change led by the Secretary General last night. I look forward to further discussions
17:17 at the meeting of major economies in Washington later this week.

17:21 The goals I've outlined today cannot be achieved overnight -- and they cannot be achieved without
17:28 reform in this vital institution. The United States is committed to a strong and vibrant
17:35 United Nations. Yet the American people are disappointed by the failures of the Human
17:40 Rights Council. This body has been silent on repression by regimes from Havana to Caracas
17:47 to Pyongyang and Tehran -- while focusing its criticism excessively on Israel. To be
17:55 credible on human rights in the world, the United Nations must reform its own Human Rights
18:00 Council.

18:01 Some have also called for reform to the structure of the Security Council, including an expansion
18:09 of its membership. The United States is open to this prospect. We believe that Japan is
18:17 well-qualified for permanent membership on the Security Council, and that other nations
18:22 should be considered, as well. The United States will listen to all good ideas, and
18:27 we will support changes to the Security Council as part of broader U.N. reform. And in all
18:34 we do, I call on member states to work for an institution that adheres to strict ethical
18:39 standards, and lives up to the high principles of the Universal Declaration.

18:44 With the commitment and courage of this chamber, we can build a world where people are free
18:49 to speak, assemble, and worship as they wish; a world where children in every nation grow
18:55 up healthy, get a decent education, and look to the future with hope; a world where opportunity
19:03 crosses every border. America will lead toward this vision where all are created equal, and
19:11 free to pursue their dreams. This is the founding conviction of my country. It is the promise
19:19 that established this body. And with our determination, it can be the future of our world.
19:29 Thank you, and God bless. (Applause.)