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www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

By David Brooks
05.04.2023

On the other side



Sources: La Jornada - Image: AP Photo/The Washington Post

A report on human rights in the United States would have to include the issue of torture that was common practice in CIA clandestine detention centers between 2001 and 2009 in various parts of the world, as well as in the Abu Ghraib prison (pictured, in 2004) during the invasion of Iraq.

Since the U.S. government likes to rate and issue human rights reports on other countries, here are just a few (many of them missing) of the elements of what should be included in a U.S. human rights report:

Mass incarceration: The United States, which represents itself as a world champion of "freedom," is the country with the most incarcerated population in the world, with nearly 2 million of its residents in caged; 25 percent of the world's total number of inmates. African Americans and Latinos continue to be overrepresented among this population.

Torture: The United States keeps a number of prisoners in solitary confinement sometimes for years, a practice described by experts as torture. Elsewhere, no officer or official has been held accountable for the practice of torture in clandestine CIA detention centers between 2001 and 2009 in various parts of the world.

Official executions: The United States is one of only 20 in the world and the only one of the "advanced" countries that continues to apply the death penalty. In 2022, 18 inmates were executed in six of the 50 states.

Arbitrary detention: 36 Muslim prisoners remain at Guantánamo, most without charge or trial for more than 20 years, in violation of international law.

Women's rights: Right-wing judges like Trump struck down the constitutional right to abortion at the federal level, and at least 18 states rolled back women's rights over access to abortion and other health services. Indigenous women continued to suffer disproportionately from sexual violence, killings and disappearances.

Freedom of association: More than 80 bills have been pushed in 36 states that seek to limit freedom of assembly and demonstration.

Right to free speech: In 2022, there were 2,571 record attempts to ban certain books — especially those addressing gay and minority issues — from libraries and schools pushed by right-wing groups and state governments, the American Library Association reported, up 38 percent from the previous year. Around the media, the government persists in the persecution of Julian Assange; 15 journalists were arrested by police in 2022, largely covering protests.

Child exploitation: The Department of Labor discovered 835 businesses illegally employing more than 3,800 minors last year and a 69 percent increase in illegally employed children from 2018 to date.

Labor rights: In recent years, nearly half of companies that faced organizing efforts violated labor laws by terminating those who were organizing their workplaces. The federal law on labor rights does not comply with international standards on the right to collective organization of workers.

Voting rights: Laws to suppress minority voting were implemented in 12 states, and another 408 measures to limit voting were contemplated in 39 states in 2022, while the electoral process was threatened by right-wing forces in several states (which reached its maximum expression with an unprecedented coup attempt promoted by then-President Trump in 2021).

Impunity: In the 20 years since the war on Iraq, US officials and officials have gone unpunished for documented violations including indiscriminate attacks, secret detention, enforced disappearance and torture, Amnesty International charged. At home, several organizations denounce the impunity of authorities for repression of demonstrations, excessive use of force by the police and arbitrary imprisonment.

Perhaps some Latin American countries could send a mission to the United States to assess and issue a human rights report in the judge's house.

Sources: Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; ACLU, Death Penalty Information Center; American Library Association, US Press Freedom Tracker, Brennan Center for Justice.

Article source: <https://www.jornada.com.mx/notas/2023/03/27/mundo/american-curios-al-otro-lado/?from=homeonline&block=mundo&opt=articlelink>

Rebellion 04.04.2023