

2017 Human Rights Report Communiqué

PRESS RELEASE: Release of Annual Country Report on Human Rights Practices

On April 20, 2018, the U.S. Department of State released the 2017 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, which include Morocco and the Western Sahara. The United States would like to recognize the positive steps that Morocco took in 2017 to strengthen its respect for human rights. The U.S. Embassy appreciates the Government of Morocco's invaluable engagement in the preparation of this year's reports, with constructive and open dialogue involving the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Inter-ministerial Delegation on Human Rights, as well as by other partners such as the National Council on Human Rights and the NGO community.

The report notes several positive developments this year, including continued efforts to eradicate torture, steps taken to improve the independence of the judiciary, such as the establishment of the Supreme Judiciary Council, and the implementation of the 2016 press code. The United States also recognizes the overall decline in allegations of torture and abuse in detention and the Moroccan Government's efforts to investigate and hold accountable those responsible for violations. Morocco's police and prison administrations regularly sought and acquired opportunities to expand the capacity and competency of its institutions and personnel, much of it in collaboration with the United States. This has resulted in the further development of police expertise, operational effectiveness, continued improvement in prison conditions and operations, and the construction of new facilities to meet international standards. The United States will continue to follow developments throughout 2018.

The annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – the Human Rights Reports – cover internationally recognized individual, civil, political, and worker rights, as set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international agreements. The U.S. Department of State submits reports on all United Nations member states to the U.S. Congress in accordance with the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the Trade Act of 1974. For the 2017 reports, the Department has changed the format of the Executive Summary to standardize language and has list violations, if applicable to the country concerned, in a common order keyed to the sections of the report. Therefore the order of discussion does not indicate a country-specific rank-ordered list of violations. The publication of this annual report reflects U.S. interest in, and support for, the advancement of human rights around the world.

For more information or to view the full text of the report, please visit <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/>