



SOFIMUN
Sofia International Model United Nations

Edition: 1/2008
Period: 20-27 July 2008
Location: Sofia, Bulgaria

Website: www.sofimun.org
Forum: www.forum.sofimun.org
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"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"

COMMITTEE:
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON:
AGNES VENEMA & DESISLAVA DIMOVA

**TOPIC: (A) – THE HUMAN RIGHTS
SITUATION IN THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

BACKGROUND GUIDE





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Topic A: The Human Rights Situation in the People's Republic of China - summary

The predecessor of the Human Rights Council was criticized and abolished because it was politically motivated and did not address human rights violations of its members in an appropriate way. The current UN Human Rights Council (UN HRC) recently introduced the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) – a peer review mechanism of the UN HRC, which scrutinizes the human rights record of every UN Member state. The SOFIMUN 2008 Human Rights Council goes even further and will discuss the current human rights situation in one of its member states: The People's Republic of China (PRC).

The human rights situation in the PRC gained a lot of attention over the spring. Intimidation by Chinese officers during the Olympic torch relay, violent crackdown of protests in Tibet and also by on Tibetans outside Tibet by several governments and the subsequent lack of unbiased media coverage from the area but to name a few. The Chinese government defends itself from allegations of human rights violations by relying on national sovereignty and by claiming that internal matters are of no business to the rest of the world. But is this indeed the case? Is it not true that the international community should ask questions when a government may be terrorizing its own population? Or will the international community be blinded by economic stakes and only pro forma discuss the human rights situation in the PRC?

The SOFIMUN 2008 Human Rights Council has already taken the bold step to put the human rights situation of one of the most powerful economies in the world on its agenda. It will be up to the Members of the Council to have a dialogue with the PRC and to come to conclusions that best serve the interest of humanity.

Topic A: The Human Rights Situation in the People's Republic of China – background guide



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Suggested Reading and Additional Sources

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