

Background:

The State Department’s annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices document the human rights situation in 199 countries and territories around the world. Every year, diplomats and staff at U.S. embassies and consulates work with human rights activists, governments, non-governmental organizations, and colleagues in Washington to confirm the facts and draft the reports. As mandated by Congress, the U.S. government uses the Human Rights Reports as part of our foreign policy formulation, including our decision making on foreign assistance. The Human Rights Reports are also used by asylum judges and lawyers in the United States, and are a reference for governments, civil society, scholars, journalists, and others around the world.

Accounts to Follow/Share From:

- <https://www.facebook.com/stateDRL>
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Social Media Content:

Facebook Content

Share content from DRL’s account for key quotes from the Secretary and Assistant Secretary Malinowski’s remarks or see below for sample content:

Pre-launch:

- Tune in live on www.state.gov on April 13 at 2:00 PM EDT when Secretary John Kerry releases the U.S. State Department’s 2015 Human Rights Report! *Check State Department feed for final link day of*
- “Governments that protect human rights and are accountable to their citizens are more secure, bolster international peace and security, and enjoy shared prosperity with stable democratic countries around the world.” – Secretary of State John Kerry

In advance of Secretary Kerry's April 13 release of the 2015 #HumanRights Report, read the 2014 Human Rights Report at <http://ow.ly/ILI4f>

- The @U.S. State Department is getting ready for the April 13 release of the 2015 #HumanRights Report! Did you know the United States reports to the @UN on our own #HumanRights record? Read the 2015 UPR Report here: <http://ow.ly/ISYtf>
- The 2015 #HumanRights Report will be released on April 13 at 2:00 PM EDT. Take a look at other U.S. State Department reports on International Religious Freedom, Trafficking-in-Persons and Advancing Democracy & Freedom Reports: <http://www.humanrights.gov/reports.html>

Post-launch:

- 1) “We will continue mobilizing international support to strengthen and expand global norms of human rights. We will support women, youth, civil society, journalists, and entrepreneurs as drivers of change. We will continue to insist that governments uphold their human rights obligations, speak out against repression wherever it occurs, and work to prevent, and, if necessary, respond to mass atrocities.” –2015 National Security Strategy, on why #HumanRights matter.

Want to know about the state of #HumanRights around the globe? Check out the @ U.S. Department of State's 2015 Human Rights Report <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>

- 2) Why are #HumanRights important? “Defending democracy and human rights is related to every enduring national interest. It aligns us with the aspirations of ordinary people throughout the world. We know from our own history people must lead their own struggles for freedom if those struggles are to succeed.” – 2015 National Security Strategy

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- 3) “People want to be free. They want to be treated with dignity and respect. They want to be in control of their lives. And when these things are denied to them, sometimes they endure for a while, but eventually they will stand up and fight to get what they want.”
Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Tom Malinowski

Check out the @ U.S. Department of State's 2015 Human Rights Report here:
<http://ow.ly/tLbNt>

- 4) “The strongmen of today will never extinguish the hope that persists around the world. Dissenters may be jailed, but ideas can never be imprisoned. Controlling access to information will not turn lies into truths, nor will it deter the longing for justice that stirs in every human soul. And refusing to recognize the basic dignity of every man, woman, and child -- regardless of gender, background, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or belief -- will only lend further momentum to the quest for equality that for generations has stirred hearts and spurred action.” - President Barack Obama

Learn more about #HumanRights in your country: <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>

- 5) “The space for civil society is shrinking in many parts of the world. It’s under attack through restrictive laws, arbitrary arrests, and sanctioned brutality. It’s under siege where power has become concentrated in the hands of a few and corruption a way of life. It is under threat by those who see independent media, free assembly, and an open society as a source of insecurity instead of a great reservoir of strength and stability” – Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken

Learn more about #HumanRights in your country: <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>

Twitter Content

Share content from DRL's account for key quotes from the Secretary and Assistant Secretary Malinowski's remarks or see below for sample content:

Pre-Launch:

- Tune in live on 4/13 2:00 p.m. EDT @JohnKerry releases @StateDept 2015 #HumanRights Report
- Did you know the U.S. reports to the UN on our own #HumanRights record? Read the 2015 Report here <http://ow.ly/ISYtf>
- Watch @JohnKerry 4/13 2:00 p.m. EDT for the release of @StateDept 2015 #HumanRights Report

- The road to universal human rights requires a commitment from all of us. Get started by knowing your #HumanRights at <http://ow.ly/KHshc>

Post-Launch:

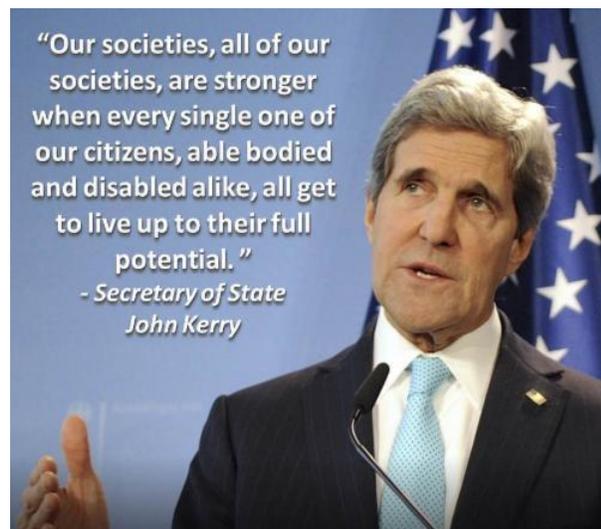
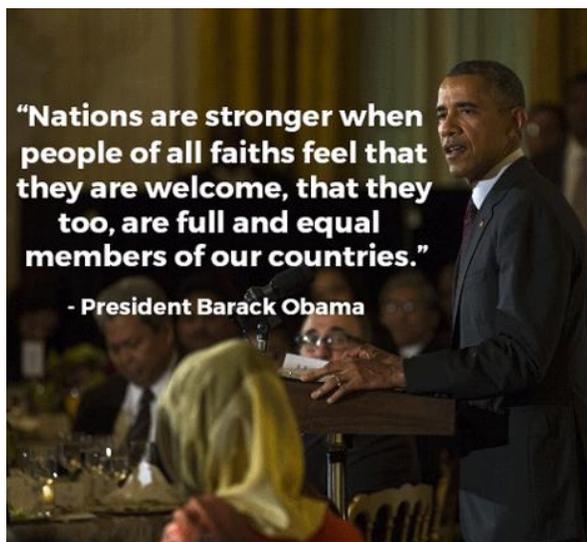
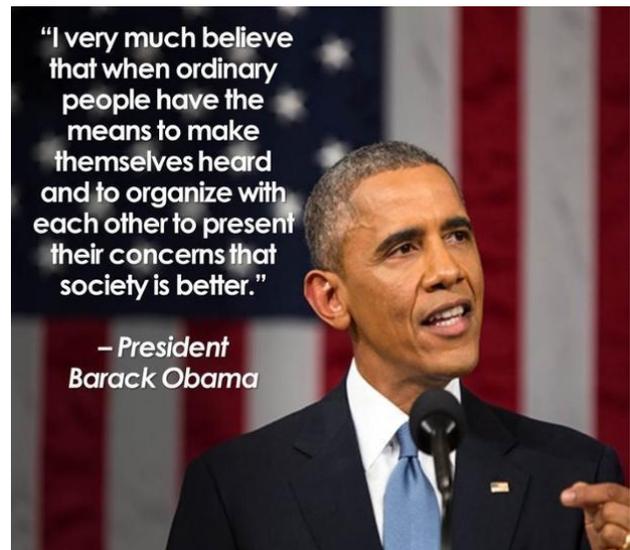
- Just Released! @StateDept 2015 #HumanRights Report <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>
- Legal guarantees of #HumanRights mean little when legal institutions needed to enforce them are absent: <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>
- Use our #HumanRights report viewer to learn about situation in multiple countries or learn about one issue worldwide! <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>
- Out Now: @StateDept 2015 #HumanRights Report - Read about global #WomensRights #MediaFreedom #NetFreedom #LGBTRights <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>
- Differences of religion, race, sexual orientation enrich our societies @StateDept 2015 #HumanRights Report <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>
- Political stability, peace & prosperity require us to do what we can to advance #HumanRights for everyone. <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>
- Know your Universal Declaration of #HumanRights! Article1: All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights <http://ow.ly/tLbNt>

Key Resources:

- HumanRights.gov - www.humanrights.gov
- Human Rights Commitments and Pledges of the United States of America - <http://www.humanrights.gov/dyn/02/human-rights-commitments-and-pledges-of-the-united-states-of-america/>
- Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Human Rights Defenders (*available in multiple languages*) - <http://www.humanrights.gov/dyn/u.s.-support-for-human-rights-defenders>
- Fact Sheet: U.S. Support for Civil Society - <http://www.humanrights.gov/dyn/fact-sheet-u.s.-support-for-civil-society>
- Fact Sheet: U.S. Global Anticorruption Agenda - <http://www.humanrights.gov/dyn/fact-sheet-the-u.s.-global-anticorruption-agenda>

- Fact Sheet: GBV Emergency Response and Protection <http://www.humanrights.gov/dyn/fact-sheet-gender-based-violence-emergency-response-and-protection-initiative/>
- Fact Sheet: Human Rights of LGBT Persons <http://www.humanrights.gov/dyn/fact-sheet-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-human-rights-issues/>
- Fact Sheet: Human Trafficking <http://www.humanrights.gov/five-things-you-did-not-know-about-human-trafficking.html>

Infographics:



Non-governmental organizations rely on the data in the annual human rights reports to inform their reporting and programming.



The President, and other government officials, review the reports prior to meetings with heads of state and civil society.



The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination reviews the annual human rights reports when assessing State Parties' implementation of their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.



The U.S. Department of Justice and human rights lawyers use the annual human rights reports for adjudicating asylum cases.



Congress bases legislation and policy decisions on the information contained in the annual human rights reports.



Academics access the annual human rights reports to research statistics and inform their coursework.



International companies use the annual human rights reports for risk analysis related to investment and business development.

