

Morocco's Commitment to Universal Human Rights:

The kingdom of Morocco has made significant advances over the last few decades, becoming a leader on human rights in the MENA Region.

► Our Association express its “deep protest and deep indignation following the article about “Morocco Human Rights Violations and Children Abuse History” written by an unknown person Abe skander and has been published in the website of the Danish parliament. This article testified to a proven lack of knowledge about Morocco’s achievements in human rights the members of this Association condemns all those Allegations.

► «As the first truth commission in the region, Morocco’s Equity and Reconciliation Commission sought to address the legacy of more than 40 years of repression and human rights violations known as the “Years of Lead.” The IER was set up in 2004. The independent investigative body shed light on worst human rights violations in Morocco from 1956 to 1999, specially enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and torture, and arranging reparations for victims and their families. For the kingdom of Morocco, Transitional justice is the full range of processes and mechanisms associated with a society’s attempt to come to terms with a legacy of large-scale past abuses, in order to ensure accountability, serve justice and achieve reconciliation. The king Mohammed VI, political parties, victims and NGOs unanimously voiced their irreversible commitment to reinforce rule of law and total respect of human rights. These steps made it possible for the kingdom of Morocco to turn the page on past violations. The Commission represents a groundbreaking approach for the entire region and is exceptional in many aspects. It was the only Truth Commission to ever have possessed the power to grant compensation directly to victims and the first truth commission in the MENA region. During its mandate, the IER held seven live, televised, public hearings in six regions to establish the historical truth. After many public hearings and testimonies, 23,676 Moroccans received compensation totalling \$193 million. The kingdom of Morocco has made considerable improvements since the repressive years of lead. Now the kingdom of Morocco has become a leading model and reference for many MENA region and African countries. »¹ The Commission submitted its final report to king in November 2005, recommending community reparations in 11 regions. The report also included policy recommendations and emphasized the need to strengthen constitutional protection of human rights, as well as other legal and judicial protections:² The kingdom of Morocco has been conducted several trainings on human rights for security forces and adopted a Justice Reform to consolidate the independence of the courts: raise ethical standards within the justice system, and strengthen protections for human rights and freedoms. A series of constitutional amendments adopted in 2011 advanced civil rights and criminalized torture and other serious human rights violations.³ The role of Morocco human rights organizations and victim s groups was decisive. They seized the political opening and exert the Government to embrace a comprehensive transitional justice framework, instead of only a reparations program. Their goal was to break the silence about Morocco s past⁴.

► The kingdom of Morocco adopted a new constitution in 2011 that allowed it to take a huge step forwards in terms of upholding human rights. In 2011, the kingdom of Morocco replaced the existing Consultative Council of Human Rights (CCDH) with National Human Rights Council (CNDH), enshrined in the Constitution as a fully autonomous body with increased investigative and monitoring powers. The CNDH has the power to investigate any allegations of human rights violations, act as an early warning mechanism to prevent human rights violations; Inspect prison conditions; Establish regional authorities for protecting human rights; and

¹ (www.cndh.org.ma/.../report-equity-and-reconciliation-commission-ier)

² <https://www.ictj.org/news/morocco-still-model-justice-mena-questions-remain>

³ <https://www.ictj.org/news/morocco-still-model-justice-mena-questions-remain>

⁴ <https://www.ictj.org/news/morocco-still-model-justice-mena-questions-remain>

Examine and make recommendations on how to bring legislation in line with the Constitution, international human rights treaties, and international law. Since March 2011, the CNDH has been active in monitoring human rights at the local, regional, and national levels. CNDH, Morocco's active civil society, and reform-minded government have worked together to address ongoing human rights challenges through both judicial and legislative mechanisms. In the past year alone, the kingdom of Morocco has made significant advances in its human rights policies in the areas of migration, women's rights, and the court system. The UN Security Council highlighted Morocco's achievements in human rights, notably through the National Human Rights Council and its branches in Laayoune and Dakhla, as well as the interaction of the Kingdom with the special procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. Through the combined efforts of CNDH, Moroccan civil society, and government leaders, Morocco made significant human rights advances in the areas of migration, women's rights, and the court system. »⁵. The CNDH was entrusted with following up on the IER s recommendations. CNDH is expected to issue a final report on the implementation of recommendations and unresolved cases in 2016.⁶

► Morocco's ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degradation treatments "is a historic turning point in the reform process initiated by the Kingdom in the field of human rights." Through this step in the field of human rights, the kingdom of Morocco becomes the 76th country in the world and the 4th in Middle East to join the optional protocol convention. The kingdom of Morocco is preparing to launch a National Prevention Mechanism against torture as part of the implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). In this regard, The Kingdom is working in collaboration with Danish institute against Torture "Dignity" and others international bodies. The kingdom of Morocco has demonstrated its significant role, both nationally and internationally, in terms of human rights through several initiatives, such as its coordination with four countries, including the kingdom of Denmark and Indonesia, entitled "Initiative for universal adherence to the Convention against torture". As a reminder, The Convention against Torture Initiative (CTI) was launched by the kingdom of Morocco and the kingdom of Denmark in March 2014 and was immediately backed by Chili, Ghana and Indonesia.

► Since April 2008, the kingdom of Morocco has been submitted its report on human rights for the cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), a regular procedure to monitor countries' human rights records based on reports by governments and NGOs. Morocco accepted almost all the recommendations it received (11 out of 13, i.e. nearly 85% of them) and rejected none. Since 2008, the kingdom of Morocco adopted a global approach to follow-up its review going beyond the 11 recommendations accepted, by adopting a National Action Plan for Democracy and Human Rights. Morocco is therefore amongst the first countries in the world to have followed up on the recommendation of the 1993 Vienna Conference to put on place such Plan of Action. It is also the 2nd Mediterranean country and the 27th in the world that implemented this recommendation. On September 2017, Morocco fully supported 191 out of 244 recommendations.⁷

► Praise for Human Rights Progress in Morocco: The steps taken by the kingdom of Morocco in the consolidation of the rule of law and respect for human rights no longer need to be demonstrated and are today recognized and welcomed at all levels by the European Union⁸, the USA, the UN and the international community as a whole.

→ At the conclusion of a May 2013 visit to Morocco, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay stated, "Morocco is undergoing an important transition and is setting high standards through its Constitution and laws. In my exchanges with the authorities, including His Majesty King Mohammed VI and various ministers, it was clear that there is the political will at the highest levels to continue efforts to set firm human rights foundation for Moroccan society."⁹

⁵ (www.cndh.org.ma/an).

⁶ <https://www.ictj.org/news/morocco-still-model-justice-mena-questions-remain>

⁷ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/MENARegion/Pages/MAIndex.aspx>

⁸ http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_PRES-07-178_en.htm (13-14-15-16)

⁹ <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14652&LangID=E>

→ In a statement made at an April 2014 Congressional hearing on US-Morocco relations, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs at the State Department William Roebuck stated, “We are pleased to see this commitment made concrete in the Moroccan government’s initiative to reform the Military Code of Justice and to exempt civilians from trial by military tribunals through a draft law which has moved to Parliament for approval. We have also remarked on the growing role of the National Council on Human Rights (CNDH) as a credible and proactive defender of human rights, and are encouraged by the Council of Government’s decision to strengthen the CNDH by ensuring that government agencies address complaints directed to it. Both of these measures are important steps forward in strengthening the protection of human rights in Morocco and in realizing the promise of the 2011 Constitution.”¹⁰

► The kingdom of Morocco is a signatory¹¹ to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women. The Kingdom of Morocco regularly hosts UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteurs¹² and independent human rights experts.

¹⁰ <https://foreignaffairs.house.gov/hearing/subcommittee-hearing-u-s-policy-toward-morocco/>

¹¹ http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=117&Lang=EN

¹² http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=en&country=MAR