

Human Rights NOW





Our past activities:

- ✚ Investigating human rights situation;
- ✚ Publishing statements, reports, and policy proposals;
- ✚ Organizing seminars, human rights forum, press conference, etc.; and,
- ✚ Providing free legal consultations in Iwate and Fukushima Prefectures.

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March 11, 2011



Health related issues after the nuclear accident:

- # First thyroid exam will be provided, during October 2011 and the end of March 2014, to those who were 18 years old or younger as of March 2011.
- # After April 2014, thyroid exams will be conducted every two (2) years until the child turns 20 years old, and every five (5) years after that.
- # Other health exams, such as blood tests or urine tests are not conducted, except to those who are subject to secondary exams, due to the size of nodules (>5.1mm) and/or cysts (>20.1mm) in their thyroid.

- # Copies of children's medical records are not released to them unless an official information disclosure procedure is taken.
- # Children and their parents cannot access to the important information about children's health condition even if some abnormalities are found.
- # Ultrasound images of the thyroid exams are not disclosed.
- # There are reports that many doctors refused additional exams, and an opportunity to ask for second opinion, additional exams or treatment is deprived.



The Universal Periodic Review (UPR):

- ✚ Process which involves a review of the human rights records of all 192 UN Member States once every four (4) years.
- ✚ Created through the UN General Assembly in 2006 by resolution 60/251 when Human Rights Council was created.
- ✚ No other universal mechanism of this kind exists.
- ✚ It is not legally binding.



The goal of the UPR:

-  Improvement of human rights situation in every country.

Who conducts the review?

-  The UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Human Rights Council.

What are the reviews based on?

Information provided by:

- ✚ The Country (national report).
- ✚ Reports of independent human rights experts and groups; and,
- ✚ Other stakeholders, such as NGOs.

NGOs can attend the UPR working group sessions and can make statements at the regular sessions of the HRC when the outcome of the State reviews is considered.



Universal Periodic Review – Japan

- ✚ Japan was reviewed for the first time in 2008.
- ✚ The second review was conducted on October 31, 2012 by the UPR working group of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- ✚ On November 2, 2012, the draft report of the Working Group on the UPR of Japan was published with 174 recommendations.

Conclusions and/or recommendations in the report:

The 174 recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue and listed in the report will be examined by Japan which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council in March 2013.

Fukushima related recommendation in the report:

147.155. Take all necessary measures to protect the right to health and life of residents living in the area of Fukushima from radioactive hazards and ensure that the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health can meet with affected and evacuated people and civil society groups (Austria).

HRN requests the Japanese government to:

-  Accept all of the recommendation included in the report;
-  Take all necessary measures to implement the recommendations in order to improve the human rights situation in Japan; and,
-  Ensure that the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health can meet with local citizens in affected areas and civil society groups during his visit to Japan from November 15 to 26, 2012.

UN Special Rapporteur:

- ✚ Independent experts appointed by the HRC to examine and report back on a country situation or a specific human rights theme.
- ✚ The position is honorary and the expert is not a staff of the UN nor paid for his/her work.
- ✚ He/she expresses his/her view in an independent capacity and does not represent his/her government.
- ✚ He/she presents annual reports to the HRC and to the General Assembly.



Special Rapporteur on the right to health will:

- + Gather health information from all relevant sources.
- + Communicate with all relevant actors, including governments, relevant UN bodies, specialized agencies, in particular the WHO, as well as NGOs.
- + Report on the status of the right to health, including laws, policies, good practices and obstacles.
- + Submit reports to the HRC and GA on its activities, findings, conclusions and recommendations on appropriate measures that promote and protect the right to health.



Mr. Anand Grover: Special Rapporteur on the right to everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (Right to Health).

- # Will be on a country mission to Japan from November 15 to 26, 2012. will visit Tokyo, Fukushima and Miyagi Prefectures, and meet with all the stakeholders in Japan.
- # Independent expert appointed by the HRC in 2008.
- # A practicing lawyer and handled several hundred HIV/AIDS related litigations in India.

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