

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

1. Practical information

Theme	Human rights violations in specific countries
Goal	The pupils can tell which Human Rights are violated in their country and how.
Level	3 ASO/TSO
Time	+ 80 minutes
Type	- Pair work - Reading and speaking
Pupils' initial situation	The pupils already know how to ask the right questions in an interview.

2. Preparation

Preparation time for teacher	± 10 minutes <i>To do...</i> - Collect some dictionaries - Print information and evaluation sheets - Collect a computer and a beamer - Class setting (interview)
Materials	- Dictionaries - Computer and beamer to show a fragment - Extra information - Evaluation sheets

3. Objectives

VOET	Gemeenschappelijke stam: 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 19, 25 Context 1: 15 Context 2: 1 Context 3: 6, 10 Context 5: 3, 4 Context 6: 3 Context 7: 2, 4, 5 Leren leren: 3
Formation objectives: English	<i>Language</i> - The pupils are able to understand, use formal language in an interview. - The pupils are able to ask the right questions in an interview.
Formation objectives: Human rights	<i>Personality formation</i> - The pupils are able to discuss world issues. <i>World view</i> - Pupils get familiar with the violations of Human Rights all over the world. They know which right is violated and how in the country of their interest. - The pupils develop a positive attitude towards human rights. By doing all kinds of activities they obtain insights, become aware of and adapt their own attitudes considering certain human rights.

Final attainment goals	<i>Listening: 7</i> <i>Reading: 10, 11</i> <i>Speaking: 17, 18, 19, 23, 26</i> <i>Writing: 33</i>
Attitudes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pupils are willing to show interest towards what the speakers have to say - The pupils are willing to listen clearly and unprepared. - The pupils are willing to read a text carefully to concentrate on what they need to get out of the text. - The pupils are willing to give and ask information
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pupils are able to use a dictionary - The pupils are able to use the Internet to look up different violations of Human Rights. - The pupils are able to discuss different violations of Human Rights that occur in different countries all over the world.

4. Remarks

Remarks	<p>ASO: Look up the information themselves TSO: Look up themselves or give the texts BSO: Give the texts</p> <p>You can let pupils choose a nation they are interested in. The pupils with no real interest take the nations that are left. There are long and short texts, more difficult and less difficult texts. The texts give you the possibility to differentiate.</p>
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5. Activity and instructions

ACTIVITY	INSTRUCTIONS
Introduction: No one can take your rights	<p>STEP 1: listening Start the lesson with the fragment about women and how they should behave. http://www.humanrights.com/#/videos/no-one-can-take-your-rights</p> <p>STEP 2: discussion Ask the pupils the following questions. - What is the main idea about this fragment? - Does every country stick to these Human Rights?</p>
Task: Interview	<p>STEP 1: explanation of the task Tell the pupils that they are going to have a look at the violations of human rights in different countries. They first have to pick a country of their interest. There are 10 countries: Iran, China, America, North-Korea, Turkey, South-Africa, India, Congo, Mexico, Russia. Hand out the worksheets to the pupils. The pupils have to work in pairs. One pupil is the interviewer, the other pupil is the interviewed one. For the country of their choice they have to look up information on the different human rights that are given on the worksheet. Remark: You can choose to give more specific roles. The interviewer might be working for a paper that rather positive towards the government, or maybe the opposite. The interviewed one can be a policeman, human rights activist, ...</p> <p>STEP 2: pre-speaking After the pupils have picked a country they will have to look up which human rights are violated and how. Remark: The pupils can look up the information on the internet or look up the information by reading the texts.</p> <p>STEP 3: speaking The pupils do the interview.</p>
Evaluation: Evaluation of the interviews	<p>STEP 1: evaluation The teacher and the pupils have an evaluation sheet. When the pupils do the interview in front of the class, the other pupils listen carefully and fill in the evaluation sheet. The interview should not take longer than 5 minutes.</p> <p>STEP 2: discussion Afterwards the teacher can start a discussion. Ask the pupils the following questions. - <i>What is the worst of all the violations they have seen in the interviews and why?</i></p>

6. Enclosures

- 6.1 Worksheet: The interview
- 6.2 Evaluation sheet for pupils
- 6.3 Evaluation sheet for teacher
- 6.4 Information on human rights violations

7. Sources

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The interview

Names:

Interviewer:

The interviewed one:

Country:

Human Rights:

Which human rights are violated? Put a cross in the right column.

Human Rights	Clear violation	Violation	No violation / not mentioned
<i>No torture</i>			
<i>No discrimination</i>			
<i>Right to life</i>			
<i>No child labour</i>			
<i>Freedom of speech</i>			

IMPORTANT!!!





1. Do the interview, make sure you give the right information.
2. Only tell something about the —clear violations!l: which violation and how.
3. Give the information you have found to the teacher.
4. Interview: ± 5 minutes

Evaluation sheet for pupils

Name:

Interviewer:

The interviewed one:

				
Fluency: Speed, Sentences				
Communication: The interview looks and sounds real				
Pronunciation				
Information: Human Rights				

Extra: What Human Rights are discussed during the interview?

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Evaluation sheet for teacher

Name:

				
Fluency: Speed, Sentences				
Communication: The interview looks and sounds real				
Pronunciation				
Information: Human Rights				

Extra remarks: Pay attention!

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Information on human rights violation

Countries

- America
- Iran
- China
- North-Korea
- Turkey
- South-Africa
- India
- Congo
- Mexico
- Russia

America

Growing Anti-Gay Sentiment in the United States

On March 6, 2010, the *Washington Post* reported that Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, a conservative Republican, advised Virginia's public colleges and universities to revoke policies protecting employees on the basis of sexual orientation. According to Cuccinelli, sexual orientation does not fit into the definition of a protected class. The *Chronicle of Higher Education*, detailing the same story (March 5, 2010), hosted dozens of reader comments, the majority of which expressed viewpoints stating that, "bigotry is alive and well in the state of Virginia" and "This is so fifties." But anti-gay activity is not limited to Virginia.

On the same day Cuccinelli's announcement was picked up by the media, Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic School in Colorado told the lesbian parents of a preschool child that they will not be allowed to enroll the child in the next school year. On its website, the Archdiocese of Denver affirmed the action (March 5, 2010), stating that "No person shall be admitted as a student in any Catholic school unless that person and his/her parent(s) subscribe to the school's philosophy..."

The top Bush administration official in charge of deciding whether to bring Guantanamo Bay detainees to trial has concluded that the U.S. military tortured a Saudi national who allegedly planned to participate in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, interrogating him with techniques that included sustained isolation, sleep deprivation, nudity and prolonged exposure to cold, leaving him in a "life-threatening condition."

"We tortured [Mohammed al-]Qahtani," said Susan J. Crawford, in her first interview since being named convening authority of military commissions by Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates in February 2007. "His treatment met the legal definition of torture. And that's why I did not refer the case" for prosecution.

Iran

4 March 2010

Iran Human Rights, March 4: According to web site of the Public Relations Office of the Khuzestan Court House, the amputation sentence of one person was carried out in the Karoun prison of Ahvaz yesterday March 3. The person was identified as "Shoghi Z." (age not mentioned) and was convicted of armed robbery and Moharebeh according to the report. The report didn't mention what parts of the body of the person were amputated.



11 April 2010

Iran Human Rights, April 11: Three people were hanged in the prison of Taibad (Taybad) northeastern Iran, reported the Iranian daily newspaper Quds today. The men who were not identified by name were convicted of drug trafficking according to the report. The report didn't mention the exact date of the executions but it is believed that they were hanged on Thursday April 8.



18 January 2010

Iran Human Rights, January 18: According to several reports from Iran, a woman political prisoner identified as Shirin Alam Hooli (Alamhooli) has been sentenced to death in a revolutionary court in Tehran. The women web site "Change for equality" wrote that Ms. Shirin Alam Hooli was sentenced to death charged for Moharebeh (at war with God) due to cooperation with the Kurdish opposition group "PJAK" and 2 years of prison for illegal exit from the country.



19 June 2009

Like thousands of other Iranian women, Parisa took to Tehran's streets this week, her heart brimming with hope. "Change," said the placards around her. The young Iranian woman eyed the crowd and pondered the possibility that the rest of her life might be different from her mother's. She could see glimmers of a future free from discrimination -- and all the symbols of it, including the head-covering the government requires her to wear every day. Women, regarded as second-class citizens under Iranian law, have been noticeably front and center of the massive demonstrations that have unfolded since the presidential election a week ago.



China

China accounts for the third largest number where child labour is concerned. In fact, many think it to be a phenomenon that has just begun to surface. However, the fact is that child labour in China has been there for years. This is so despite that there have been strict official regulations that ban employment of minors. And according to the laws of China, a minor is an individual below the age of sixteen-years. Due to poverty, teenagers and younger children have been migrating to the southern and coastal regions of China. This is because these regions have been developing and provide a lot of opportunities to earn.



China is tracking, blocking, and recording text messages of its citizens.

China does it again. People of China have been pursued off from availing the luxury of watching Youtube without any official reasons i.e. not yet known. When asked about it, Youtube officials were as clueless as anyone was and Scott Rubin, a Youtube spokes person said "We don't know the reason for the blockage," .

While some suspect that it is a direct consequence of communism looming large, others think it is due to a video on youtube the previous week that showed handcuffed Tibetan prisoners being beaten by a Chinese police officer. Xinhua, the state-run Chinese news service, Tuesday accused the Tibetan government in exile of faking the wounds, but did not mention YouTube. But it got enough exposure already for the Chinese official to think of some actions.

Immersion in sewage, ripping out fingernails, sleep deprivation, cigarette burns and beatings with electric products - these are some of the torture methods used by China's police and prison officers to extract confessions and maintain discipline, a United Nations investigation has found. Manfred Nowak, the UN special rapporteur on torture, said yesterday that abuse of suspects and prisoners remained widespread in China. Treatment was far worse than international norms, despite recent signs of improvement.



North-Korea

Amnesty International's long-standing concerns about human rights violations in North Korea include the use of torture and the death penalty, arbitrary detention and imprisonment, inhumane prison conditions and the near-total suppression of fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression and movement.

While these concerns are long-standing, in recent years many human rights abuses in North Korea have been linked directly or indirectly to the famine and acute food shortages which have affected the country since the mid-1990s. These have led to widespread malnutrition among the population and to the movement of hundreds of thousands of people in search of food - some across the border with China - many of whom have become the victims of human rights violations as a result of their search for food and survival.

To the east of Beijing, China, is communist North Korea, now the very worst place in the world to live. I can only describe this country as a border-to-border, horrid slave labour camp. The North Korean Communist Party owns and dictates everything. Its rule is absolute, uncontested, and above all, the dictates of one psychotic man, Kim Jong-il. This is the only past or present communist country in which the dictator has inherited supreme power. He is the son of Kim Il-sung, who Stalin put in charge of the country when it became formally independent in 1948, and who ruled with no less an iron and bloody fist than his Soviet mentor.



Party command over all, even over what farmers' plant and harvest in the fields and when, has involved mass incarcerations, mass deaths, and mass starvation. The country has been bankrupted while Kim Jong-il continues to squander most of its resources on the military. Any North Korean might well be executed or die in one of the many forced labor camps (really, sub-camps, since the whole country is one prison); or they might die from starvation or disease, as have millions.

Turkey

When Turkey's family affairs minister recently described homosexuality as a curable disease, she was roundly criticized for discrimination and flouting human rights.

But for activists her remarks only underscore what they say is increasing prejudice, discrimination and violence -- even from police -- against homosexuals and transgender people in this Muslim-majority country stuck between its conservative roots and flourishing modernism.



A total of 45 gays and transgender people were killed over three years in "hate murders", said Demet Demir, a transsexual and leading activist from Istanbul-LGBTT, a civic body promoting homosexual rights.

The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has issued a report on child labour that places Turkey third among the sixteen countries studied in terms of the hours that child labourers work, following Mali and Senegal. Girls in Turkey aged 5-14 work around 30 hours a week, while boys work over 25 hours. Around one million children in Turkey are working. Child labour affects 218 million children worldwide, with girls making up 100 million, more than half under the age of 12.

According to the child labour report of the Turkey Statistical Institute (TÜİK), six percent of Turkey's 6-17-year-old population is working. 66 percent of these are boys, and 34 percent girls. 41 percent work in agriculture, 28 in industry, 23 in trade and 9 percent in the service industry.



Lack of economic stability is a factor in keeping girls out of school. Around 54 percent of urban families have no steady income. This rate is 84 percent in Gaziantep and 91 percent in Diyarbakir, in the southeast.

Mexico

The Congress in Mexico has agreed to debate the issue of reinstating capital punishment for some crimes.

The move follows a surge in murders and kidnappings in the country, many linked to drug cartels and organised crime.

Mexico abolished capital punishment in 2005, but recent surveys suggest that 70% of Mexicans are in favour of the death penalty.



The campaign to reinstate judicial executions has, unusually, been led by Mexico's Green Party.

The Mexican army has carried out forced disappearances, acts of torture and illegal raids in pursuit of drug traffickers, according to documents and interviews with victims, their families, political leaders and human rights monitors.

From the violent border cities where drugs are brought into the United States to the remote highland regions where poppies and marijuana are harvested, residents and human rights groups describe an increasingly brutal war in which the government, led by the army, is using harsh measures to battle the cartels that continue to terrorize much of the country.

India

India's dynamic society and political system are juxtaposed by multiple serious human rights concerns. Among the gravest are unlawful killings, excessive use of police force, torture, violence against women, discrimination against Dalits, and severe and pervasive poverty. In many areas governmental mechanisms fail to protect civil and political rights and do not ensure justice for victims of human rights abuses.

Bomb attacks, including attacks by non-state actors, and armed conflict in various parts of the country kill hundreds of people a year. Civilians are often killed as police battle growing Maoist insurgencies in central and eastern states. High levels of violence continue among both security forces and armed opposition groups in the northeastern states of Assam, Tripura and Manipur.



About 300 million people, a quarter of the population, remain living in poverty. Communities in a number of states, including West Bengal, Orissa, Chattisgarh, Madya Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu continue to protest as their livelihoods are threatened by irrigation, mining, and business projects. Unlawful methods are often used to deal with such protests, and impunity for abuses is common.

In Jammu and Kashmir impunity for torture, deaths in custody, and unlawful killings continue for both state and non-state actors. In Gujarat, years after the violence of 2002 in which thousands of Muslims were attacked and more than 2,000 killed, justice continues to elude most victims.

Child labor in India is a human right issue for the whole world. It is a serious and extensive problem, with many children under the age of fourteen working in carpet making factories, glass blowing units and making fireworks with bare little hands. According to the statistics given by Indian government there are 20 million child laborers in the country, while other agencies claim that it is 50 million.

In Northern India the exploitation of little children for labour is an accepted practice and perceived by the local population as a necessity to alleviate poverty. Carpet weaving industries pay very low wages to child labourers and make them work for long hours in unhygienic conditions. Children working in such units are mainly migrant workers from Northern India, who are shunted here by their families to earn some money and send it to them. Their families dependence on their income, forces them to endure the onerous work conditions in the carpet factories.

Congo

Prisoners released by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo have been describing what has for long been suspected and feared - that torture is commonplace, and murder not unknown, inside Kinshasa's jails.

"I was beaten by sticks, I was flogged almost to death," said Golden Misabiko, just days after his release, "My back was striped like a zebra's with blood."

Along with more than 200 other inmates of the central Makala prison, Golden Misabiko was set free, as part of what Kinshasa says is its commitment to human rights and an agreement it signed with the DR Congo's other warring parties in Botswana last month.

Those freed include four Ugandan prisoners of war, now back in Kampala, and many suspects in the on-going Laurent Kabila assassination enquiry. What is the connection between your fancy cell phone, slim line laptop computer, iPod and child labour?

A brutal truth about modern day slavery and a covert military operation involving the illegal trafficking of coltan in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Africa.

Every day millions of children are forced to crawl into underground mines on their hands and knees to dig for the essential raw material, coltan, to make electronic gadgets like cell phones, iPods, laptop computers, play stations, wireless systems, DVD players, blackberries and pagers possible.

These technologically advanced toys are given life from capacitors, which are made from coltan, dug up from dangerous mines by children, under age 10.

The illegal trafficking of coltan in the Congo, has made thousands of children labourers. They work from sunrise to after dark digging with their calloused little hands into the earth to remove the raw material to be traded on the black market for US \$400 a pound.



South Africa

After years of black Africans fighting racism in South Africa, now white students there are claiming that the government is discriminating against them. And now, they've decided to protest in an unusual way.



Students in Pretoria blacken their faces to protest what they see as the lower status of whites in modern South Africa. The group of eleven then registered as Africans with the South African department of labour said that it gives them a better chance of gaining employment.

Ernst Roets, student leader, said: "People are being driven to the point where they say well, we have no option left. We can't get a job in South Africa. We are being discriminated against. We have to leave the country and see whether we can make a living for ourselves somewhere outside."

Russia

Almost 15 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation is still far from the democracy many hoped it would become. Since coming into office in 1999, president Vladimir Putin has consolidated executive power, eliminating the election of regional governors, squashing freedom of press, harassing human rights defenders, and continually abusing civilians in the guise of a war on terror in the North Caucasus. In addition, the harsh economic and social transition has given rise to increasing domestic violence and racial hate crimes. Speaking in Washington, D.C. in October 2005, Moscow Helsinki Group founder Liudmilla Alexeevna warned that she hoped there would be no "colour" revolution in Russia soon, because it would more likely be brown than orange.

Internationally renowned journalist Anna Politkovskaya was found shot to death in the elevator of her apartment building in Moscow on October 7. Amnesty International believes she was targeted because of her reporting on human rights violations related to Chechnya and other Russian regions. Her murder is a serious blow to freedom of expression and the independence of the media in Russia. Call on President Putin to condemn the murder, to protect journalists, and to investigate and prosecute her murder thoroughly.



In addition, Amnesty is concerned for the rights of Russian human rights defenders. Several organizations have faced harassment from both authorities and civilians in their efforts to speak up about human rights abuses in the country.

Overcrowding and disease are comparatively minor problems for inmates in Russia's alleged "torture prisons," where convicts are said to suffer regular beatings. Officials insist that they probe all complaints. Four people were reportedly clubbed to death this spring. "God help you," one former prisoner said, "if you end up in a Russian prison."

"Guards would take me out, handcuff me to a shower, then beat and kick me until I lost consciousness," an ex-inmate said. "Later, I'd wake up back in my cell." One advocate said that torture prisons, designed to instill fear in the general prison population, "are places where totalitarianism rules. That's why it's so important to stop it, because if it takes root, that kind of system will spread to other parts of society."