

# Eritrea

Eritrea is a Member State of the African Union (AU) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

## Regional: African System



Eritrea has ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (African Charter), and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which reviews the State's reports concerning its human rights situation and decides complaints of alleged violations. Eritrea has not accepted the jurisdiction of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Eritrea through the [African human rights system](#). For example, in *Article 19 v. Eritrea*, the Commission addressed the arbitrary detention of 18 journalists who were held without trial from September 2001 to April 2003 in Eritrea, when the State banned private press. The Commission found that the journalists were arbitrarily arrested and detained, that their arbitrary detention violated the right to freedom of expression, the right to be free from torture and cruel treatment and punishment, and the right to protection of family life. See ACommHPR, [Article 19 v. Eritrea](#), Communication No. 275/03, 41<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Session, May 30, 2007.

Eritrea has not submitted its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country.

Eritrea has ratified the following **regional human rights treaties**:

- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Eritrea is subject to the oversight of various [UN human rights bodies](#), including the [Human Rights Council](#) and its [Universal Periodic Review](#) and thematic [special procedures](#). The UN Human Rights Council has established a [Special Rapporteur](#) on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, to monitor and report on human rights conditions, and a [Commission of Inquiry](#) on Human Rights in Eritrea, to investigate human rights violations in the country. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Eritrea's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has not accepted the complaints procedure of any treaty bodies.

Eritrea has ratified the following **UN human rights treaties**:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

Eritrea has submitted reservations that modify its obligations under the [CAT](#).

Eritrea has also ratified the optional protocols to the CRC addressing children in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Eritrea has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body that is associated with the relevant treaty Eritrea has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Eritrea has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Eritrea has not ratified [optional protocols](#) or made appropriate declarations allowing individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of UN human rights treaties. Certain UN treaties include **inquiry procedures**, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations. Eritrea has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT.

Eritrea has not extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means that special rapporteurs and working groups must seek specific invitations from Eritrea to conduct a visit within the State. The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea has produced a number of [reports](#) on conditions in the country, without having visited the territory.

For more information on Eritrea's engagement with [UN human rights bodies](#), visit <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/ERIndex.aspx>.

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