

# Liberia

Liberia 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



Liberia 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. Liberia 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 Liberia to the [African human rights system](#). For example, the ACHPR received a complaint concerning three journalists who were arrested and detained without formal charges, and whose case was

to be tried in a military tribunal, allegedly denying them the rights to liberty, freedom, and due process. However, the ACHPR found the case inadmissible due to failure to exhaust domestic remedies. See ACommHPR, [Samuel Kofi Woods, II and Kabineh M. Ja'neh v. Liberia](#), Communication No. 256/02, 20 November 2003. Additionally, the ACHPR has issued [provisional measures](#) to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Liberia.

Liberia has fallen behind in submitting its [periodic reports](#) to the ACHPR on human rights conditions in the country.

Liberia 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
- AU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa
- Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
- AU Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa

## United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Liberia 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](#). In 2003, the former Commission on Human Rights established the [Independent Expert](#) on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia, whose mandate was, until 2008, to monitor, consult with the government, and report back on human rights challenges in the country. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Liberia's policies and practices are monitored by [UN treaty bodies](#). It has not accepted the complaints procedure of any treaty bodies.

Liberia 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)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

Liberia has ratified the Optional Protocol to CAT and the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR aimed at abolishing the death penalty. Liberia has a duty to submit **State reports** to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties it has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Liberia has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Liberia has not authorized individuals to submit **complaints** against the State alleging violations of any 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. Liberia has accepted the inquiry procedures of the CAT.

On September 25, 2015, Liberia extended a **standing invitation** to UN special procedures, which means any special rapporteurs or working groups are welcome to conduct visits in Liberia.

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

*Last updated: September 15, 2017*