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Asian Nations Respond Angrily to Annual US Human Rights Report

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Asian nations are reacting harshly to the U.S. State Department's annual human rights report, released Monday. Leading the criticism was China, which accused the United States of implementing a double standard on human rights, and interfering in its internal affairs.

Asian nations figured prominently in the report, with North Korea named as world's most repressive government and China receiving criticism for continuing to imprison political dissidents and religious activists.

The U.S. report said China had committed numerous and serious abuses during 2004, especially around politically sensitive dates such as the 15th anniversary of the June 4 Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy activists. In the weeks leading up to that anniversary, the authorities detained a number of writers and relatives of crackdown victims.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao on Tuesday criticized the U.S. report, saying it does nothing to improve Sino-U.S. relations.

Mr. Liu defended China's record over the past year, saying important progress has been made, and citing the insertion of the first-ever mention of human rights in China's constitution last year.

The Chinese official said the United States should - in his words - stop using double standards on human rights and stop interfering in the internal politics of China.

Thailand had a similar reaction to the U.S. report, which accused Thai authorities of abuses in dealing with separatists in the country's Muslim-dominated pointed to the deaths of more than 180 people at government hands.

Thai officials on Tuesday said the United States should not use its own standards to judge the human rights situation in other countries, and said the report could hurt ties between Bangkok and Washington.

Analysts expected North Korea's response to the U.S. report to be no less harsh. But Pyongyang had yet to issue an official reaction by Tuesday afternoon.

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The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report examines the condition of individual and political liberties around the globe, using a variety of factors, from the protection of political freedoms to the treatment of women, children and minorities. The State Department says each country's profile is based on its record of upholding international standards of human rights, including the protection of political freedoms, workers' rights and...

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US Issues Annual Human Rights Report

The State Department, in its annual report on human rights, says widespread abuse continues to be a major concern in many parts of the world. The report cites countries such as China, North Korea, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan as nations where it says serious human

rights violations are occurring. The State Department released reports on 196 nations, saying intense problems exist in many countries but the world is also going through an era of monumental advancement...



By **Meredith Buel**
Sat, 10/31/2009 - 03:00 AM

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A United Nations report on narcotics says that despite drops in opium production in Southeast Asia, more people in the region are injecting heroin, causing fears of an increase in HIV/AIDS. Amphetamine abuse is another major concern for the region. A U.N. International Narcotics Control Board report says more addicts in Southeast Asia have moved from smoking opium to injecting heroin, which could trigger the spread of the AIDS virus in the region. The report...

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Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice vowed Monday to make respect for human rights a test of U.S. bilateral relations around the world. She spoke on release of a report on U.S. efforts to advance human rights and freedoms worldwide. Ms. Rice's comments are a further sign of a new assertiveness on human rights, marked by President Bush's declaration in his inaugural address in January that ending tyranny in the world is a U.S. policy goal. At a...