

PURPOSE & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the Fiscal Year 2003 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This second annual submission complements the longstanding *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2003*, and takes the next step, moving from highlighting abuses to publicizing the actions and programs the United States has taken to end those abuses.

Unlike the 196 Country Reports, *Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2003-2004* highlights U.S. efforts to promote human rights and democracy in only 101 countries and entities – those with the most human rights abuses. References to Hong Kong, Macau and Tibet have been incorporated into the China report, and Western Sahara is mentioned in the Morocco report. Also unlike the Country Reports for 2003, this report includes Iraq. To make this report consistent with the criteria in the legislation, this report also includes a number of additions: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Thailand and Turkey, as well as a number of deletions, including Bahrain, Ghana, Oman and Qatar.

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2003-2004 reflects the dedicated effort of hundreds of State Department, U.S. Agency for International Development and other U.S. government employees, as well as the employees of numerous non-governmental organizations. U.S. embassies and consulates prepared the initial drafts of the reports which were then sent to Washington for careful review by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, in cooperation with other State Department offices and other Departments and agencies. As they worked to analyze and edit the reports, Department officers drew on their own knowledge of U.S. government programs and activities.

Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2003-2004 will be used as a resource for shaping policy, conducting diplomacy and making assistance, training and other resource allocations. It will also serve as a basis for the U.S. government's cooperation with private groups to promote the observance of internationally recognized human rights and democracy.

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