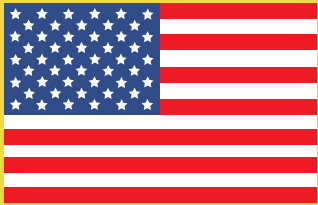


# How are we doing?

## THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TOP 3 GLOBAL ECONOMIES

A SNAPSHOT OF THE KEY ISSUES IN 2021 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON THE WORLD'S LARGEST ECONOMIES

### #1 US ECONOMY: TOTAL GDP OF \$25.66 T



Ranked with the highest GDP in the world, the United States continues to face various human rights challenges. Gun-related violence continues to be an issue across the nation, and despite recent steps to support the LGBTQ+ community, the U.S. faces allegations of inequality and racial injustice, with criticisms around criminalization for drug violations and immigration enforcement, unevenly affecting racial and ethnic minorities.

### #2 CHINA ECONOMY: TOTAL GDP OF \$17.4 T

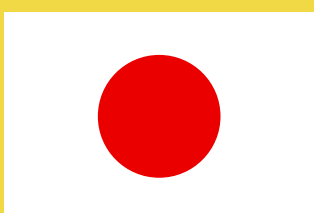


Ranked as the second-highest GDP in 2021, China is undoubtedly one of the most influential countries in the world today. Considering this, it may come as a surprise that China has a poor record when it comes to human rights. Serious allegations of human rights violations include the arbitrary detention and torture by the government, suppression of religious freedom, forced and child labor, and restrictions on free expression. Despite all this, the Chinese government has taken little action to properly address ongoing violations and actions.

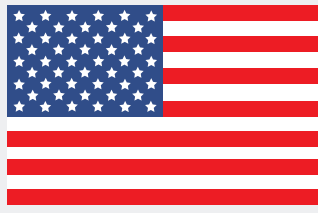
#### **WHAT ARE "HUMAN RIGHTS"?**

*The term "human rights" includes those related to the most basic foundational rights such as freedom from war and persecution), as well as rights related to poverty and standard of living, gender and tolerance, labor, and the environment.*

### #3 JAPAN ECONOMY: TOTAL GDP OF \$4.3 T



Ranked as the third-highest GDP in 2022, Japan, a country known for its Cherry Blossoms (Sakura) and the famous Mount Fuji, full of beauty and scenery, faces allegations of a variety of human rights issues. According to the most recent 2021 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices on Japan, Japan faces reports of significant improper immigration detention and prison facilities, violence (or threats of violence) targeting members of minority groups, indigenous peoples, children, LGBTQI+, and individuals with disabilities.



# 2021 SNAPSHOT: THE US

A REVIEW OF KEY ISSUES IN 2021 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON THE US

## **GUN & GANG VIOLENCE**

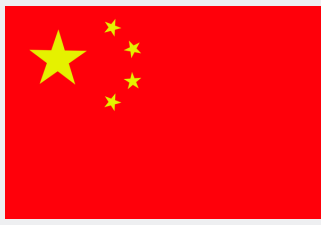
The U.S. accounts for 97 percent of gun-related child deaths among similarly large and wealthy countries, despite making up just 46 percent of this group's overall population. Along with gun-related violence, the US is unique in challenges around the freedom to bear arms in the US, which many have alleged has resulted in the acceleration of violence of all types, such as gang killings and racially targeted shootings. Regardless of the cause, the US criminal and enforcement system continues to fail at addressing high levels of gun and gang-related violence across the nation with tragic impact.

## **CRIMINAL SYSTEM IN NEED OF REFORM**

In relation to drugs and immigration policies, the US continues to report the world's highest criminal incarceration rates, with nearly 2 million people held in state and federal jails according to the 2022 Human Rights Watch Report. According to the report, minority youth are more than four times as likely to be incarcerated. Many allege that the US drug policies still prioritize criminalization and fail to address real solutions which can reduce discriminatory outcomes against minorities. Furthermore, the report suggests the US criminal system in regard to immigration does not adequately address challenges asylum seekers experience, as a result of continued occurrences of alleged process violations.

## **INEQUALITY IN AMERICA**

Although the pandemic affected all citizens, minorities were especially impacted economically. The education of children living in areas of predominantly minority populations was also especially impacted, as many minority children live in neighborhoods and attend schools that lacked the requisite funding for technological solutions to Covid-19 lockdowns.



# 2021 SNAPSHOT: CHINA

A REVIEW OF KEY ISSUES IN 2021 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON CHINA

## CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

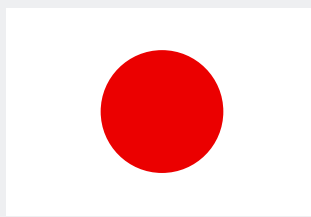
China's most serious allegations of human rights violations relates to genocide and crimes against humanity of the majority Muslim Uyghur population living in Xinjiang. What started as an alleged anti-terrorism campaign has become widespread oppression against the majority Muslim Uyghur population. The Chinese government has been accused of arbitrary detention, political indoctrination, mass surveillance, forced labor, forced sterilization and more. Since 2017, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, more than one million Muslims have been arbitrarily detained in China's Xinjiang region. The rest of the world has not stayed silent, with the US, Canada, and many countries in the European Union speaking out and even imposing sanctions to address the abuses.

## COVID PROTESTS

Most recently, China's weak human rights protections have been on display during protests which arose all over China in protest of the fire in Xinjiang and then widening to protest broader issues. Xinjiang residents took to the streets, following the death of 10, to protest the region's Covid-19 lockdowns and its contribution to the delayed response from the fire department. In Shanghai, however, the protests did not only demand the lessening of the zero-Covid policies but for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and its newly reappointed leader, Xi Jinping to "step down." Most recently, in Beijing, protestors held blank posters to signify their desire for basic universal rights, such as freedom of expression.

## IRRESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

The government has taken little action to address any of the human rights violations that have occurred in connection to these protests. Sui Rong, the propaganda chief of Urumqi, even took to the stand to claim that Covid-19 had been eliminated as a result of severe lockdowns, without mention of the fire and protests. Xinjiang continues to be one of the most strictly policed places in the world, without basic rights such as freedom of speech, freedom of protest, and continuous violent restrictions from the government.



# 2021 SNAPSHOT: JAPAN

A REVIEW OF KEY ISSUES IN 2021 HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON CHINA

## UNETHICAL PRISON AND DETENTION

Prison and detention facilities fell low on the score of appropriate conduct in Japan. Facilities reportedly imposed forceful control and refusal of privacy of detainees, specifically women. A year-long inspection conducted in prisons and immigration detention centers found that medical care was inadequate, and a major concern.

Ratnayake Liyanage, a 33-year-old who was detained at an immigration facility for overstaying her visa, was denied outside medical care when seriously needed, which resulted in her death. Civil society organizations continue to urge police to end ethnic profiling and unjustified surveillance of foreigners, yet unjust arrest procedures and treatment of detainees persist.

## DISCRIMINATION & MISTREATMENT

There are many allegations of discrimination and mistreatment of foreigners and indigenous people in Japan. Although the Japanese legislative system has instituted a law to eliminate hate speech against foreigners, hate speech has increased in propaganda and online. In addition, crimes targeting members of specific ethnicities have continued, with certain facilities, such as hotels and restaurants, prohibiting the entry of foreign nationals and “foreign-looking” citizens.

Even foreigners granted refugee status face similar discrimination to other foreigners, in which they had reduced access to housing, education, and employment. Japanese discriminatory policies continue to refuse to provide subsidies for tuition in schools for ethnic Koreans.

## ABUSE & ABUSIVE POLICY; FORCED LABOR

Children, LGBTQI+, and persons with disabilities were just some groups that had reported accounts of discrimination and abuse. Reports of child abuse, as a result of Covid-19 policies, increased by 8.2 percent, alongside online sexual exploitation of children. In addition, a survey done on 10,000 LGBTQI+ individuals revealed that 38 percent had been sexually harassed or assaulted. Persons with disabilities experienced abuse, including sexual abuse of women with disabilities, by family members, care-facility employees, and employers.

Furthermore, signs of forced labor were also found in both the construction and manufacturing sectors through the employment of foreign nationals through Technical Intern Training Program (TITP) in Japan.

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