

Human rights rating: 53%

YES 10 yes 12 no 10 NO 8

Form of government: National council
GNP per capita (US\$): 400
% of GNP spent by state:
On health: 1.2
On military: 0.9
On education: 3.6

3

The Provisional National Defence Council under a former military officer has enjoyed absolute power since 1981. Its oppressive policies and its disregard for human rights are explained as being necessary to restore the country's prosperity. There has been some public discussion of more democratic freedoms and tolerance of limited criticism within understood guidelines but anything that seriously challenges the government's authority is quickly suppressed. About 200 political opponents were understood to be indefinitely detained at mid-1991.

COMMENTS

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|---|--|--------------------------|-----|--|
| 1 | Travel in own country | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | Minor road checks and searches, usually against smuggling, in both countryside and towns |
| 2 | Travel outside own country | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | Opponents of regime frequently refused passports |
| 3 | Peacefully associate and assemble | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | Only for rallies and associations in favor of the government |
| 4 | Teach ideas and receive information | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | Understood guidelines for academics and students. Some tolerance of open criticism, provided it is constructive |
| 5 | Monitor human rights violations | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | No government cooperation with international monitors. Policy of observation rather than banning of international bodies |
| 6 | Publish and educate in ethnic language | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | Rights respected |
- | FREEDOM FROM: | | COMMENTS | | |
|---------------|--|--------------------------|-----|---|
| 7 | Serfdom, slavery, forced or child labor | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | Traditional child labor, particularly in rural areas |
| 8 | Extrajudicial killings or "disappearances" | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | There have been no recent coup attempts therefore no mass killings of opponents |

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COMMENTS

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| 9 | Torture or coercion by the state | NO | Power cases of torture because of increased stability of the government and security of the leadership |
| 10 | Compulsory work permits or conscription of labor | YES | Rights respected |
| 11 | Capital punishment by the state | NO | Firing squad, For subversion, murder, armed robbery, bank fraud, etc. |
| 12 | Court sentences of corporal punishment | YES | Rights respected |
| 13 | Indefinite detention without charge | NO | Under 1992 Preventive Custody Law. Many opponents of the current regime suffer indefinite detention |
| 14 | Compulsory membership of state organizations or parties | YES | Rights respected |
| 15 | Compulsory religion or state ideology in schools | YES | Rights respected |
| 16 | Deliberate state policies to control artistic works | YES | Rights respected |
| 17 | Political censorship of press | NO | Understood guidelines for criticism of government. Direct intervention. If official warnings ignored |
| 18 | Censorship of mail or telephone tapping | NO | Arbitrary surveillance by security authorities |

COMMENTS

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| 19 | Peaceful political opposition | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | All political activities suspended. Government claims its policy is "to encourage the democratic process" |
| 20 | Multiparty elections by secret and universal ballot | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | All legislative power is with the ruling council though nominally local elections permitted from 1989 |
| 21 | Political and legal equality for women | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | Male domination of senior government positions but women well represented at lower levels |
| 22 | Social and economic equality for women | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | Pay and employment inequalities with worse conditions in rural areas. Forms of traditional near-bondage of women persist |
| 23 | Social and economic equality for ethnic minorities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES | Rights respected |
| 24 | Independent newspapers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO | The two major newspapers government owned. Others conform to accepted guidelines |
| 25 | Independent book publishing | <input type="checkbox"/> YES | No publications hostile to the regime or insulting to the leadership |