

the bloodshed and suffering it has endured under the current regime for the past seven years.

There are repetitive patterns in these and other situations treated by this Organization in past decades. First, there is the protective capacity of various great powers, and their ability to extend their fraternal shield over surrogate states and allied regimes. Second, there is the capacity of regional organizations to use their voting strength to prevent decisive action against their member states, regardless the documented gravity of the case. Third, there is a crippling reluctance to violate the principle of the sovereignty of states which, if confronted in objectionable situations, would permit an objective investigation of the facts.

The result has been an uneven series of accomplishments. Special rapporteurs or representatives have been appointed in a few important and prominent cases. The fact-finding and conciliation functions of the organization have been reinforced and strengthened. But many other situations have been allowed to pass unnoticed: we abound in double standards.

As things now stand, the range of situations on the agenda of the Commission on Human Rights defies easy categorization. The regional scope is relatively broad. The allegations cover numerous generic and thematic rights. Emphasis, quite rightly, is placed on gross and persistent violations of human rights and on immediate situations where rapid remedial action might be possible.

Most prominent among the states not subject to examination has been the Soviet Union. Yet there is hardly a shortage of material analyzing in comprehensive and convincing fashion the total failure of the Soviet Union to abide by its charter and treaty obligations in the human rights fields. The USSR has reduced Principle Seven of the Helsinki Final Act - "The right (of citizens) to know and act upon their rights" - to a travesty of its original intent.

Among the victims of oppression have been Soviet Jews who have suffered from a systematic and methodical campaign to obliterate their culture, language and religious heritage. Those who live in the Soviet Union are subjected to a growing and virulent campaign of anti-semitism - in fact, in the words of Andre Sakharov, anti-semitism has been raised to the level of religion in a godless society. Those who attempt to emigrate are the targets of intimidation, trumped-up prosecutions, incarceration in psychiatric hospitals, internal exile and imprisonment in work camps. Soviet Jewry has become a focal point in the rhetorical battles of an increasingly tendentious Cold War. Prominent