

Canada and Human Rights

The respect and promotion of human rights go to the heart of what Canada stands for in the world. The Green Paper has made it clear that this is a cornerstone of Canada's foreign policy. It is also clear that while Canadians deplore the abuse of human rights anywhere, there may be limitations to what we can do to end violations. A wise human rights policy must therefore choose attainable goals and decide upon the appropriate means to bring them about.

Throughout the world, minority and religious groups are being persecuted, including the Bahai in Iran, the Kurds in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq, Christians in Lybia, and Copps in Egypt. South America is also riddled with political persecution.

There is no one method which will bring positive results in all circumstances. We must assess the nature of the regime committing the violations and look at what tools we have available to us for rectifying the situation.