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**Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner
for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the
High Commissioner and the Secretary-General**

Written statement* submitted by Sikh Human Rights Group, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[26 May 2025]

* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



Can the United States of America's Efforts at Ending Endless Wars Reduce Human Rights Violations?

Several reports from independent human rights organisations have stated that human rights violations are increasing particularly in war zones. Wars lead to breakdown of civil society, law and order. It is not difficult to see how this leads to parties in a war becoming increasingly aggressive and losing respect for human rights, respect and dignity. We are encouraged to see efforts by some countries, especially the United States of America, to diffuse wars and even possibly end them.

The rise in human rights violations raises several issues. Is it simply lack of implementation, lack of scrutiny or indifference to human dignity and human rights. Or is there lack of empathy with the political theories of human rights? Do different civilisations have different ways of ensuring dignity and respect of the human? The answers to these can take a long time and many thought provoking discussions.

One of the important immediate steps that can be taken to reduce human rights violations are to make efforts to end wars around the world. Many wars appear to be for resources complicated with ideology and territory.

Whether it is the conflict between the Russian Federation and Ukraine, or Israel and Palestinians or India and Pakistan, there seems to be a trend towards endless war without any effective mediation process. It is difficult to see how more education and training in human rights or more scrutiny of human rights violations in these and other conflicts will be enough to reduce human rights violations.

Women, children, the disabled and the vulnerable suffer the most in wars even though they are not the participants. Welfare support, health, education and even the climate are collateral victims in wars.

It is important that if human dignity, respect and human rights are to be upheld, there should also be efforts to examine the roots and causes of many human rights violations. Endless wars is one of them. While it is not the remit of the Human Rights Council to mediate in wars, we wonder if greater attention should be drawn to this in reports where human rights violations become endemic in conflict areas. Perhaps a call to end wars should be made strongly to identify a possible resolution to end human rights violations.

The United States of America under the current Government may or may not succeed in ending wars. However its reluctance to engage in wars and to avoid escalating them is commendable. An end to some of the protracted wars with outcomes acceptable to all, will go a long way to reduce human rights violations. It is hoped that the era of protracted wars will come to an end.

As there is greater recognition of emerging multipolarity, it is also hoped that conflicts for ideological hegemony will also come to end and not be the cause for continuing human rights violations at least in unnecessary conflicts. The role that the United States of America plays is crucial in moving towards a multipolar world and improvement in human rights.
