

## Student handout 5.3

### Cases of human rights violations

Human rights violation or infringement	Human right
a. Mrs X, who some years ago lost her daughter and husband in a car accident, could not marry another man unless her brother-in-law explicitly gave his permission.	
b. The prison guards used dogs to frighten and intimidate detainees with threats of attack, and in one instance they made dogs actually bite a detainee.	
c. In the local factory the workers have to work for at least 10 hours a day without a break.	
d. Since the three men were arrested, they have had problems obtaining access to lawyers. On many occasions the lawyers would arrive and were not be permitted to see them; the men were not allowed to have a collective discussion with their lawyers, which effectively meant that two of them had no access to their lawyer.	
e. The woman, doing exactly the same job and having the same age and experience, received a lower wage than her male colleagues.	
f. X abducted and detained Y for three days and shot him in the head, which resulted in his death 3 days later.	
g. A photo of Mrs X, a drug addict, was taken when leaving a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. Later the photo was published.	
h. A woman, mistreated by her husband, was only able to obtain a divorce when she gave him her house, her car and all her property. She was left with nothing.	
i. X, suffering from a life-threatening case of pneumonia, received no medical treatment in hospital as she had entered the country illegally.	
j. Seventy per cent of the population of area X were forced to move away from their homes and were later prevented from returning. They were not allowed to leave their camps to go to nearby fields to cultivate their crops, and they were forbidden to travel on many roads.	
k. Black Africans were bought in Africa for, for example, a bottle of whisky, and sold in North America for between 1 200 and 1 500 US dollars.	
l. In country X, all means of survival for the local population have been intentionally destroyed: crops, water supplies and livestock.	
m. In country X, citizens may be jailed without being charged.	
n. A 26-year-old reporter for a daily newspaper was shot dead in a suspected reprisal attack for his coverage of recently concluded election campaigns.	
o. Mr X was called up for enrolment in the army. He wrote to the enrolment military office declaring his conscientious objection to military service and refused to report for military duty. He was charged with insubordination and was banned from leaving the country.	
p. In country X, those who want to belong to the Falun Gong religion are prohibited from meeting.	
q. The ethnic majority ruled that those belonging to the minority groups, such as Jews and Roma people, were obliged to live in defined areas of the town.	

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r. The children living in the village are unable to attend a primary school, as there is no such school available within a reasonable distance.	
s. Because the religious authorities of the country disapproved, X could not run as a candidate in the parliamentary elections.	
t. Being black, X cannot get a job as a doctor in the local hospital.	
u. In some countries, underprivileged people have no access to food or housing programmes, nor to affordable health services.	
v. Mr. X, whose house was burned down, could not make any claim for compensation.	
w. X, a 47-year-old woman, who has always worked in the home as a housewife and mother of five children, loses every social security benefit once she is divorced from her husband.	
x. Mr X, father of two, was jailed and tortured in country X for writing poems criticising the regime in power. His application for political asylum in country A was turned down. He claimed he would face torture when returning home, as he is now obliged to.	
y. For so-called practical reasons, physically disabled people such as wheelchair users are not allowed to attend cultural events at the local theatre.	
z. To apply for nationality in country X, a 15-year period of residence is required, plus a physical and mental health test and unreasonably high administrative fees. As a result, thousands of Roma, who have long-standing ties to their country, are stateless in their own land.	