



May 17, 2004

Dear Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of Secretary Powell, we are pleased to transmit to you the second annual report entitled *Supporting Democracy and Human Rights: The U.S. Record 2003-2004*. This report is submitted in compliance with Sec. 665 of P.L. 107-228, the FY03 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which calls for a report on actions taken by the United States to encourage respect for human rights. We welcome this opportunity to catalog the steps we are taking to help build free, stable and democratic societies.

The State Department annually submits the *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices*, a factual account of the human rights performance of nations around the globe. The *Country Reports* have been an indispensable human rights tool for more than 25 years.

This new report supplements the *Country Reports* and identifies in a more systematic way actions to integrate foreign policy with human rights reporting. We detail our efforts in 101 countries, taking care to include places of concern for “extrajudicial killings, torture, or other serious violations of human rights,” as called for in the FY03 Foreign Relations Act.

More and more, we are using human rights reporting to tailor assistance programs to help countries achieve democratic governance. Examples of this approach are President Bush’s U.S.-Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). As Secretary Powell has said, “America stands willing to help any country that wants to join the democratic world.”

The Honorable

Henry J. Hyde, Chairman,

Committee on International Relations,

House of Representatives.

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Both reports, which are published by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, are available on the State Department web site at www.state.gov. We hope you find them helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul V. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul V. Kelly
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure:

As stated.