Rights Under Pressure

Read evidence, compare rights, and assess responses to abuse.

SS24.CWI.8 "Identify and analyze recent incidents of human rights abuse across the world, utilizing a variety of sources. 8a Compare the individual rights, opportunities..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one reported abuse in Iran and one in Sudan, circle a source for each, and write matching numbers beside each abuse and the rights document that helps you judge it.

When Rights Are at Risk

1. In September 2022, protests spread across Iran after Mahsa Amini died in the custody of the country's morality police. She had been detained over alleged violations of rules requiring women to cover their hair. Iran's government said she died of a medical condition. A United Nations fact-finding mission, drawing on interviews, medical records, and digital evidence, reported in 2024 that physical violence in custody led to her death. Human Rights Watch separately documented arbitrary arrests of protesters. Unlike women in Iran, women in the United States face no national rule requiring a head covering. U.S. citizens also have constitutional protections for peaceful protest, though those rights have legal limits.

2. In April 2023, fighting began in Sudan between the national army and the Rapid Support Forces. In 2024, the World Health Organization reported attacks on health care and warned that many hospitals could no longer operate. Doctors Without Borders, a medical aid group, described violence against patients and staff at a hospital in El Fasher. These reports provide different views: a health agency tracks attacks, while aid workers describe what they witnessed. The Geneva Conventions require parties in armed conflict to protect the wounded and medical workers. Even during war, wounded people must receive care without discrimination. Investigators must examine specific incidents before assigning responsibility.

3. The 1776 Declaration of Independence asserts that people have rights to life and liberty, but it did not make those rights equal in practice. The 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights says everyone has rights to life, expression, and peaceful assembly, regardless of nationality. These ideas help evaluate Iran's treatment of protesters; the Geneva Conventions apply specifically to armed conflict, such as Sudan's war. In June 2024, the UN Security Council demanded that Sudan's Rapid Support Forces stop their siege of El Fasher and called for a halt to fighting there. A demand can signal international pressure, but it cannot by itself ensure that civilians are safe.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the UN mission's evidence challenge Iran's government's account of Mahsa Amini's death?

2. Compare one right or freedom of women in the United States with that of women in Iran, using the passage.

3. Which rights document helps you judge violence against hospital patients and staff in Sudan, and why is it more directly relevant there than to the protests in Iran?

4. What could the UN Security Council's demand accomplish in Sudan, and what is its limitation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 90 to 110 word advisory note recommending one concrete response to an incident in the passage. Use two different kinds of sources named in the passage, connect your proposal to a named rights document, and explain one limit or risk.

ANSWER KEY

Rights Under Pressure

HIGH SCHOOL · SS24.CWI.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one reported abuse in Iran and one in Sudan, circle a source for each, and write matching numbers beside each abuse and the rights document that helps you judge it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the UN mission's evidence challenge Iran's government's account of Mahsa Amini's death?	**Iran's government said Amini died of a medical condition. The UN mission used interviews, medical records, and digital evidence to conclude that physical violence in custody led to her death.**
2	Compare one right or freedom of women in the United States with that of women in Iran, using the passage.	**Women in the United States face no national rule requiring a head covering, while women in Iran are subject to rules requiring them to cover their hair.**
3	Which rights document helps you judge violence against hospital patients and staff in Sudan, and why is it more directly relevant there than to the protests in Iran?	**The Geneva Conventions require protection for wounded people and medical workers during armed conflict. Sudan's war is an armed conflict; the protests in Iran are not described as one.**
4	What could the UN Security Council's demand accomplish in Sudan, and what is its limitation?	**The demand could put international pressure on the Rapid Support Forces to stop the siege and fighting near El Fasher, but a demand alone cannot ensure civilian safety.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend that the UN Security Council ask Sudan's army and the Rapid Support Forces to allow independent monitors into hospitals near El Fasher. The World Health Organization reports attacks on health care, while Doctors Without Borders describes violence affecting patients and staff. Together, an international health agency and aid workers provide different kinds of evidence for urgent action. The Geneva Conventions require parties to protect wounded people and medical workers during war. Monitors could record threats and report them publicly, making it harder to ignore abuses. However, the armed groups might deny access, so monitoring alone cannot guarantee safety.

Accept other supported comparisons and proposals that distinguish a source's findings from a government's claim. For the advisory note, check for a concrete action, two different kinds of named sources, an appropriate rights document, and a plausible limit or risk.