

Russian MFA Information and Press Department Commentary Regarding Publication of the US State Department's 2008 Global Human Rights Report

The US State Department has issued its annual report on human rights practices in the world.

We understand it was being made up into pages while the past Republican administration was still in office. For us it came as no revelation the approaches used in preparing the report along with the tested arsenal of simple tricks in the past years aiming to form a persistent negative attitude to Russia as a “principal human rights abuser.” To give “weight” to this thesis Washington now has to rehash “facts” that took place in 2006 and 2007 and to speculate with an anti-Semitic subtext on the theme of the collection of books of Rabbi J.I. Schneerson. Also indicative are borrowings from similar documents of a number of international nongovernmental organizations whose political engagement and sources of financing are long-since well known.

As to the odious American assessments of Russia's efforts to defend its citizens and peacekeepers in South Ossetia, they withstand no criticism at all, especially in the light of the widely known facts of the violation by the United States of the generally accepted norms of international humanitarian law during the operations to “advance democratic values” in the former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq. By and large the US practice of double standards in the human rights sphere depending on how loyal a particular state is to the foreign policy course of Washington, along with its methods of defending democracy and human rights, is no longer a secret to anyone.

In the light of the latest statements of the new US administration about the readiness to conduct a mutually respectful and constructive dialogue with states on a broad range of issues of the international agenda, including human rights encouragement and defense, we would like to hope that Washington will correct its approaches to the preparation of such reports.

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