

Van: Human Rights Watch <news@hrw.org>
Verzonden: vrijdag 8 augustus 2014 0:22
Aan: Nieuwsarchief
Onderwerp: Send the Right Message

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THE WEEK IN RIGHTS

August 7, 2014

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Africa Leaders' Summit: Send the Right Message



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Three notorious African leaders – Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, Eritrea's Isaias Afewerki, and Sudan's Omar al-Bashir – are not invited to this week's US-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington, DC. But a number of other long-ruling African strongmen, like Angola's José Eduardo dos Santos, Equatorial Guinea's Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, and Uganda's Yoweri Museveni, are there. In fact, over a dozen African countries are represented at the summit boast disturbing human rights records of ruthlessly suppressing freedom of expression and freedom of association through harassment, arrest, torture, and trumped up charges and killings.

As President Barack Obama said in an inspiring speech in Accra, Ghana, five years ago, the continent's future is up to Africans, and "Africa needs strong institutions, not strongmen." But a closer look at US policy and practice in Africa shows that Washington too often prioritizes security and trade at the expense of good governance and respect for human rights.

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[Thailand Should Investigate Alleged Torture of Activist](#)

The Thai junta's alleged torture of detained "Red Shirt" activist Kritsuda Khunesen is further cause for alarm that rights protections are not on the military's agenda. Only by promptly investigating Kritsuda's allegations and prosecuting those responsible can the junta undo its knee-jerk denial of her serious charges.

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[In Ukraine, Insurgents Disrupt Medical Services](#)

Pro-Russian insurgents' attacks on medical units and personnel are putting sick and vulnerable people and those who care for them at risk. This appalling disregard of people who are sick or wounded can be deadly and needs to stop immediately.

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[In Gaza, Israeli Soldiers Shoot and Kill Fleeing Civilians](#)

Israeli forces in the southern Gaza town of Khuza'a fired on and killed civilians in apparent violation of the laws of war in several incidents between July 23 and 25. Deliberate attacks on civilians who are not participating in the fighting are war crimes.

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US Surveillance is harming journalism, law, and democracy. [Watch Now >>](#)

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Jordan's Treatment of Palestinians
Escaping Syria
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Tx to @amandataub at vox for the great compilation of tweets 2 show how impunity drives violence in #CARcrisis. <http://ow.ly/A4fN5>
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