



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN INFORMATION KEY DOCUMENT

# MONGOLIA

---

4 FEBRUARY 2010

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## Preface

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- i This Country of Origin Information Key Documents (COI Key Documents) on Mongolia has been produced by COI Service, UK Border Agency (UKBA), for use by officials involved in the asylum/human rights determination process. It provides general background information about the issues most commonly raised in asylum/human rights claims made in the United Kingdom. The COI Key Documents includes information available up to 6 January 2010. It was issued on 4 February 2010.
- ii The COI Key Documents is an indexed list of key reports, papers and articles produced by a wide range of recognised external information sources. It does not contain any UKBA opinion or policy.
- iii For UK Border Agency users, the COI Key Documents provides direct electronic access to each source referred to in the document, via a link on the source numbers in the index and list of sources. For the benefit of external users, the relevant web link has also been included, together with the date that the link was accessed.
- iv As noted above, the documents identified concentrate mainly on human rights issues. By way of introduction, brief background information on Mongolia is also provided. Please note, this background material is not intended to provide a summary of the material contained in the documents listed.
- v This COI Key Documents and the documents listed are publicly disclosable.
- vi Any comments regarding this COI Key Documents or suggestions for additional source material are very welcome and should be submitted to COI Service as below.

Country of Origin Information Service

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**Website:** [http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country\\_reports.html](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html)

## INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP ON COUNTRY INFORMATION

- vii The Independent Advisory Group on Country Information (IAGCI) was set up in March 2009 by the Chief Inspector of the UK Border Agency to make recommendations to him about the content of the UKBA's country of origin information material. The IAGCI welcomes feedback on UKBA's COI Reports, COI Key Documents and other country of origin information material. Information about the IAGCI's work can be found on the Chief Inspector's website at <http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>
- viii In the course of its work, the IAGCI reviews the content of selected UKBA COI documents and makes recommendations specific to those documents and of

a more general nature. A list of the COI Reports and other documents which have been reviewed by the IAGCI or the Advisory Panel on Country Information (the independent organisation which monitored UKBA's COI material from September 2003 to October 2008) is available at <http://www.ociukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

- ix Please note: it is not the function of the IAGCI to endorse any UKBA material or procedures. Some of the material examined by the Group relates to countries designated or proposed for designation to the Non-Suspensive Appeals (NSA) list. In such cases, the Group's work should not be taken to imply any endorsement of the decision or proposal to designate a particular country for NSA, nor of the NSA process itself.

**Independent Advisory Group on Country Information contact details:**

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## Background information

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### GEOGRAPHY

1.01 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Country Profile on Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009 described Mongolia as a "...landlocked country more than six times the size of the UK, located between Russia and China. It is one of the highest countries in the world, with an average elevation of 1580m. It encompasses six distinct geographical zones, high mountains, steppe, forest steppe, dessert steppe, taiga and desert. The southern third of Mongolia is dominated by the Gobi Deserts (there are seven), where temperatures range from -40°C in winter to +40°C in summer." [1a] (Geography Section) Europa Online, accessed on 6 November 2009, stated that "The principal language is Khalkha Mongolian. Kazakh is spoken in the province of Bayan-Ölgii... The national flag (proportions 1 by 2) has three equal vertical stripes, of red, blue and red, with the 'soyombo' symbol (a combination of abstract devices) in gold on the red stripe at the hoist. The capital is Ulan Bator." [2a] (Country Profile – Location, Climate, Language, Religion, Flag, Capital)

1.02 For further information see the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
[1a] (Geography Section, p8)

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm>  
[3b] (Geography Section, p1)

CIA – The World Factbook: Mongolia, updated 28 October 2009

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mg.html> [4a]

British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 3 November 2009

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/1235560.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1235560.stm) [8a]

World Bank Country Brief: Mongolia

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/MONGOLIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20190297~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:327708,00.html> [9a]

Reliefweb: Country Profile: Mongolia

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc104?OpenForm&rc=3&cc=mng> [10a]

Minority Rights Group International (MRG), World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People: Mongolia overview, accessed 12 November 2009

<http://www.minorityrights.org/4860/mongolia/mongolia-overview.html> [24a] (p1)

Ethnologue, Languages of Mongolia, accessed 16 November 2009

[http://www.ethnologue.com/show\\_country.asp?name=MN](http://www.ethnologue.com/show_country.asp?name=MN) [26a]

[See also Section 17: Religious groups](#)

[See also Section 18: Ethnic groups](#)

## MAP

### 1.03 United Nations (UN) Map of Mongolia, January 2004



(UNHCR, January 2004) [6a]

The University of Texas in Austin website also has a number of maps of Mongolia, including city maps, historical maps and links to further maps. [12a]  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/mongolia.html>

### 1.04 Further maps are available at the following sources:

UNHCR Map of Mongolia, January 2004  
<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/map/profile/mongolia.pdf> [6a]

Reliefweb: Maps: Mongolia  
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/doc404?OpenForm&rc=3&cc=mng> [10b]

University of Texas in Austin, Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, updated 16 April, 2009  
<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/search/search.php?filter=1&query=mongolia> [12a]

Lonely Planet: Map of Mongolia



[http://www.lonelyplanet.com/mapshells/north\\_east\\_asia/mongolia/mongolia.htm](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/mapshells/north_east_asia/mongolia/mongolia.htm) [13a]

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## ECONOMY

- 2.01 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009, Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, stated that:

“Mongolia’s economy has been growing due to its extensive mineral deposits and a rapidly expanding tourism industry. Nevertheless, the country continues to struggle with high unemployment and rampant poverty stemming in part from ineffective market reforms in the 1990s. In October 2007, President Enkhbayar visited U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington and signed a Millennium Challenge Compact that committed \$285 million in aid; the bulk of the aid (\$188.3 million) is for rail projects. According to the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Mongolia scored well above the median (median is 50 percent) in the three categories used to determine country eligibility for MCC assistance: ruling justly, investing in people, and economic freedom. Real GDP growth estimate for 2008 was 8.9 percent, and inflation reached 28 percent.” [5a] (p2)

- 2.02 The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) World Factbook, Profile of Mongolia, updated 28 October 2009 noted that:

“Economic activity in Mongolia has traditionally been based on herding and agriculture. Mongolia has extensive mineral deposits. Copper, coal, gold, molybdenum, fluor spar, uranium, tin, and tungsten account for a large part of industrial production and foreign direct investment... In late 2008 falling commodity prices in this import-reliant country helped lower inflation but by that time, the country had begun to feel the effects of the global financial crisis. Falling prices for copper and other mineral exports have reduced government revenues and are forcing cuts in spending. The global credit crisis has stalled growth in key sectors, especially those that had been fueled by foreign investment. Mongolia’s economy continues to be heavily influenced by its neighbors. Mongolia purchases 95% of its petroleum products and a substantial amount of electric power from Russia, leaving it vulnerable to price increases. Trade with China represents more than half of Mongolia’s total external trade - China receives about 70% of Mongolia’s exports.” [4a] (p6)

- 2.03 For further information see the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
(Trade and Investment Section) [1a] (p9)

CIA – The World Factbook: Mongolia, updated 28 October 2009

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mg.html> [4a]

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a] (p2)

World Bank, Country Brief: Mongolia, accessed 10 November 2009

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/EASTASIAPACIFICEXT/MONGOLIAEXTN/0,,contentMDK:20190297~pagePK:1497618~piPK:217854~theSitePK:327708,00.html> [9a]

The Asia Foundation, Country Profile: Mongolia, 8 July 2009  
<http://asiafoundation.org/country/overview/mongolia> [28a]

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[Go to list of sources](#)

## HISTORY

- 3.01 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Country Profile of Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009 recorded that:

“The Mongolian State was founded in 1206 by Genghis Khan. From 1691 Mongolia was part of the Manchu Empire. After the fall of the Manchus in 1911, the area formerly known as 'Outer Mongolia' declared independence. With Soviet help, a revolutionary government seized power in 1921 and in 1924 the Mongolian People's Republic was established. Stalinist one-party rule by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP) lasted until 1990 when, following a popular campaign of mass demonstrations calling for political and economic reform, the first multi-party elections took place.” [1a] (History Section, p5)

- 3.02 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009, Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, recorded that:

“Beginning in 1990, however, Mongolia undertook a relatively rapid transition from Soviet satellite state to democratic republic. In response to persistent antigovernment protests, the ruling MPRP legalized opposition parties. Facing a poorly prepared and underfunded opposition, the MPRP easily won the first multiparty parliamentary elections that year, and won again in 1992. A new constitution in 1992 provided for a president elected by popular vote and a unicameral legislature.

“The MPRP was voted out in 1996 after 72 years in office, and power was transferred peacefully to the Democratic Union Coalition (DUC), which consisted of the Democratic Party (DP) and the Social Democratic Party. The DUC sought to implement political and economic reforms, but after an economic downturn the following year, the MPRP regained power with victories in both the 1997 election for the largely ceremonial presidency and the 2000 parliamentary vote.

“In June 2004, a new parliament was chosen in elections that were marred by irregularities. A coalition government was formed in September 2004 after the voting gave neither side a majority. Under the compromise deal, former prime minister Tsakhilganiin Elbegdorj of the Motherland Democracy Coalition (MDC)—an alliance between the DP and the Motherland Party—returned to the premiership while Natsagiin Bagabandi of the MPRP carried on as president. The MPRP’s Nambaryn Enkhbayar, the parliament speaker and a former prime minister, won the presidential election in May 2005, despite street demonstrations by protesters who accused him of corruption. In January 2006, the MDC–MPRP coalition government broke down, and the MPRP formed a new government with several small parties and defectors from the DP. Miyegombo Enkhbold of the MPRP became prime minister.

“Prime Minister Enkhbold resigned on November 8, 2007 following an October 26 vote by the MPRP to remove him as its chairman. Opponents blamed Enkhbold for excessive political favoritism and corruption. On November 22, parliament chose Sanjaa Bayar as the next prime minister who pledged to eradicate corruption.” [5a] (p2)

- 3.03 The Freedom House report, *Freedom in the World 2009*, Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, recorded that:

“Mongolia held parliamentary elections on June 29, 2008. Initial results declared victory for the MPRP, which captured 44 of the 76 seats; the DP won 26 seats. The DP and its supporters, as well as other smaller parties, challenged the results. After heavy television coverage, small-scale political protests escalated into large demonstrations in the capital Ulaanbaatar. The protests led to the looting of the MPRP headquarters, which was later set on fire; nearby buildings suffered similar destruction. Five people died in the unrest and scores of people were severely injured, including police officers; over 700 people were arrested. The government declared a four day State of Emergency on July 2. On July 14, the General Election Committee announced that the MPRP had won 39 seats and the DP 25 seats; it recommended a recount in some contested constituencies. The final tally in August resulted in MPRP winning 46 seats and DP 27 seats. Next parliamentary election is set for 2012.” [5a] (p2)

- 3.04 Europa Online, accessed on 6 November 2009 stated that:

“On 11 September 2008 the Great Khural [Assembly] re-elected Sanjaagiin Bayar as Prime Minister. Negotiations between the MPRP and the DP, which had encompassed the contentious issue of the development of the country’s mineral resources, resulted in an agreement on the formation of a coalition Government, whereby 60% of the ministerial positions were to be allocated to the MPRP and 40% to the DP. Norovyn Altankhuyag, who in late August had replaced Elbegdorj as Chairman of the DP following the latter’s resignation, became First Deputy Prime Minister. Miyeegombyn Enkhbold of the MPRP was appointed as Deputy Prime Minister. Sükhbaataryn Batbold (MPRP) was allocated responsibility for external relations, formerly the portfolio of foreign affairs, which had been modified to incorporate economic matters; the Ministry of Trade and Industry was abolished. A new Ministry of Mining and Energy was established.

“As the GEC [General Election Committee] continued its investigations into the disputed results in six constituencies, the DP resumed its boycott of the Great Khural. In early 2009 the election results for four seats, in a constituency in Ulan Bator, remained outstanding. When these results were eventually declared, the MPRP held a total of 45 seats in the Great Khural and the DP 27; one seat was occupied by a representative of the CCP, one by a member of the Mongolian Green Party and another by an independent parliamentarian. Meanwhile, the winner of one seat had been imprisoned, pending an investigation into charges of fraud, allegedly committed during his tenure of a previous post.” [1a] (Recent History, p15-16)

- 3.05 For further information see the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
(History Section) [1a] (p5)

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm> [3b]

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a] (p1-2)

British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 3 November 2009

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/1235560.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1235560.stm) [8a]

British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Timeline: Mongolia, updated 3 November 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/1235612.stm> [8b]

Minority Rights Group International (MRG), World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People: Mongolia overview, accessed 12 November 2009

<http://www.minorityrights.org/4860/mongolia/mongolia-overview.html> [24a] (p1)

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## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS (MAY 2009 TO JANUARY 2010)

4.01 Europa Online, accessed on 6 November 2009 stated that:

“At the presidential election held on 24 May 2009 the incumbent Head of State, Nambaryn Enkhbayar of the MPRP, was defeated by Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, the former Prime Minister and candidate of the Democratic Party, whose campaign had focused on the issues of corruption and the need for a more equitable distribution of the country's mineral wealth. Elbegdorj, who had served as Prime Minister in 1998 and again in 2004–06, received 51.2% of the votes cast. His candidacy was supported by the Mongolian Green Party and the Civil Courage Party. The level of voter participation reached 73.6% of the registered electorate.” [1a] (Recent History, p15-16)

4.02 On 25 May 2009 BBC Online reported that

“Mongolia's opposition party candidate has won the presidential election. The leader of the Democratic Party and two-time former prime minister, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, had campaigned on an anti-corruption ticket. Incumbent President Nambaryn Enkhbayar - of the former Communist party - admitted a 'narrow' defeat...President Nambaryn Enkhbayar admitted defeat in Sunday's poll, saying he respected the result, according to Chinese state media. He said that, according to parties' counting of the votes, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj - his only rival in the election - had won a narrow victory. Mongolian media are also reporting that Mr Elbegdorj has won.” [8d]

4.03 On 29 October 2009 a BBC Online article reported that:

“Mongolia's ruling party has nominated Foreign Minister Batbold Sukhbaatar to be the country's new prime minister. If confirmed as prime minister he will replace Bayar Sanjaa, who asked to resign due to ill health. Mr Batbold is reputedly one of the country's wealthiest men and is expected to continue the country's pursuit of investment in mining... Parliament had earlier approved the request of Mr Bayar to resign - he has suffered from hepatitis C and related liver problems and was hospitalised again last week.” [8c]

4.04 See the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
[1a] (Politics – Recent political events, p9)

British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Mongolia nominates a new leader, 29 October 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8331142.stm> [8c]

British Broadcasting Company (BBC), Mongolia opposition wins election, 25 May 2009

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8065608.stm> [8d]

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## CONSTITUTION

5.01 The Constitution and amendments can be found at the following sources:

Government of Mongolia, National Legislative Bodies, Constitution of Mongolia 13 January 1992 (Via Refworld),  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/3ae6b5a38.html> [38a]

Government of Mongolia, National Legislative Bodies, Amendments to the Constitution [Mongolia], 24 December 1999, (Via Refworld)  
<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4af7dde52.html> [38b]

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## POLITICAL SYSTEM

6.01 Europa Online, accessed on 22 December 2009 recorded that:

“Supreme legislative power is vested in the 76-member Mongolian Great Khural (Assembly), elected by universal adult suffrage for four years. The Great Khural recognizes the President on his election and appoints the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet, which is the highest executive body. The President, who is directly elected for a term of four years, is Head of State and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. A revision to the electoral law, adopted in December 2005, provided for the replacement of the 76 single-seat constituencies with 26 multi-seat constituencies, with effect from the 2008 election.

“Mongolia is divided into 21 provinces (aimag) and one municipality (Ulan Bator), with appointed governors and elected local assemblies.” [2c]

## POLITICAL PARTIES

6.02 **Political Parties**

“Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party  
Democratic Party  
Motherland-Mongolian Democratic New Socialist Party  
National New Party  
Civil Will Party  
Mongolian People's Party  
Mongolian Green Party  
Mongolian Traditional United Party  
Mongolian National Solidarity Party  
Mongolian Liberal Democratic Party  
Mongolian Republican Party  
Mongolian Women's National United Party  
Mongolian Liberal Party  
Mongolian Social Democratic Party  
Freedom Implementing Party  
The Civil Movement Party  
The Development Program Party  
Mongolian Democratic Development Party”  
[3b] (USSD Background Note: Government and Political Conditions, p5-6)

6.03 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm>

[3b] (USSD Background Note: Government and Political Conditions, p5-6)

[See also Section 14: Political affiliation](#)

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## Human Rights

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### INTRODUCTION

- 7.01 The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Country Profile of Mongolia, updated, 22 May 2009 recorded that:

“Mongolia is a State Party to all the key UN Human Rights Conventions. An independent Human Rights Commission was established in 2001 and receives substantial support from the UNDP [United Nations Development Programme] to develop human rights awareness. This remains low among the general population and among the police in particular. There is also continuing concern over the conditions in pre-trial detention centres, and in prisons more widely. State secrecy laws inhibit media reporting: the application of capital punishment to an individual remains a state secret and relatives are not informed of executions.” [1a] (Human Rights Section, p10)

- 7.02 The Amnesty International Report 2009: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009 stated that:

“On 1 July [2008], following allegations of electoral fraud, protesters in Ulaanbaatar set fire to the Mongolian People’s Revolutionary Party headquarters and looted commercial offices. On 2 July [2008], a state of emergency was declared for four days. Hundreds of people, including police officers, were injured. Local media reported that police used tear gas, rubber bullets and live ammunition to suppress the rioters. Five people died, four from gunshot wounds. Ten police officers were arrested in relation to the shootings. The Chief of Police was removed from his position. The heads of the Ulaanbaatar Police, the Security Police and the Patrol Police were moved to positions in the Police Academy. A State General Prosecutor’s Office investigation into the shootings was ongoing at the end of the year.” [7a]

- 7.03 The same source reported that “Executions were carried out in secret and no official statistics on death sentences or executions were available. Conditions of detention for prisoners on death row were reported to be poor. Prisoners were typically on death row for 12 months, but some were on death row for more than 24 months.” [7a]

- 7.04 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009, noted in its introductory paragraphs on Mongolia that “The government generally respected the human rights of its citizens; however, the following human rights problems were noted:

- alleged police involvement in the deaths and injuries of citizens during the July 1 [2008] postelection protest;
- police abuse of prisoners and detainees;
- impunity;
- poor conditions in detention centers;
- arbitrary arrest, lengthy detention, and corruption within the judicial system;
- continued refusal by some provinces to register Christian churches; secrecy laws and a lack of transparency in government affairs;

- domestic violence against women;
- international trafficking of persons;
- and child prostitution.”  
[3a] (p1)

7.05 For further information see the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
[1a] (Human Rights Section, p10)

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1, p1-2)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009

<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

Southern Mongolian Human Rights Information Centre (SMHRIC), accessed 12 November 2009

<http://www.smhric.org/> [25a]

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## SECURITY FORCES

8.01 The US State Department 2009 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2009), published on 25 February 2009 stated that "Security forces are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defense (MOD), the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MOJHA), and the General Intelligence Agency (GIA). The MOD oversees national defense and assists in providing domestic emergency assistance and disaster relief, in support of internal security forces." [3a] (Section 1d, p2-3)

8.02 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1d, p2-3)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009  
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

## POLICE

8.03 The US State Department 2009 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2009), published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

"National police operate under the MOJHA [Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs], as does the Border Force. The GIA, [General Intelligence Agency] formerly the State Security Agency, is responsible for both internal security and foreign intelligence collection and operations. The GIA's civilian head reports directly to the prime minister. The SPO [State Prosecutor General's Office] supervises undercover activities of the police and the intelligence agencies." [3a] (Section 1d, p23)

8.04 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (Section 1d, p2-3)

## HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY THE SECURITY FORCES

8.05 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009, noted:

"The government generally respected the human rights of its citizens; however, the following human rights problems were noted: alleged police involvement in the deaths and injuries of citizens during the July 1 [2009]

postelection protest; police abuse of prisoners and detainees; impunity; poor conditions in detention centers; arbitrary arrest, lengthy detention, and corruption within the judicial system..." [3a] (p1)

- 8.06 The Amnesty International Report 2009: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009 concurred with the USSD 2008 report and stated that:

"In July [2009], riots broke out in the capital, Ulaanbaatar, amid allegations of widespread electoral fraud – five people were killed and hundreds injured. Police arrested more than 700 people and denied them access to a lawyer, relatives and medical care. There were reports of detainees being beaten by police while in custody. The death penalty continued to be carried out in secret." [7a]

- 8.07 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009, Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, recorded that "The NCHR [National Commission on Human Rights] has criticized the government for police abuses, poor prison conditions, lengthy detentions without trial, and other failures to implement laws related to human rights... The country's National Commission on Human Rights (NCHR) consists of three senior civil servants nominated by the president, the Supreme Court, and the parliament for terms of six years." [5a]

- 8.08 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (p1)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009  
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

## AVENUES OF COMPLAINT

- 8.09 The US State Department 2009 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2009), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

"According to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), during the year the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) of the State Prosecutor General's Office (SPO) received 30 complaints from citizens against police officers suspected of torture, of which 27 were dismissed and three led to convictions. The NHRC stated that some incidents of torture occurred during investigations but not during imprisonment. The NHRC received five complaints against police and law enforcement officers concerning beatings, abuse, and confessions through torture. The five complaints were transferred to the SIU; none had resulted in arrests or charges by year's end..."

“Laws and mechanisms to investigate police abuses remained inadequate. The SIU investigates allegations of misconduct by law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, and members of the judiciary. During the year the SIU received 519 complaints against law enforcement officials, opened cases on 170 of these complaints, refused to open a case on 255 complaints, and transferred 71 complaints to other agencies. The subjects of 64 percent of the complaints were police officers, 14 percent were investigators, 8 percent were GIA officers, and 3 percent were judges. According to the SIU, police frequently blocked or impeded the work of its investigators, particularly when the targets of investigation were high-ranking police officials.” [3a] (Section 1c, p3)

8.10 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (Section 1c, p2-3)

[See also Section 10: Judiciary](#)

[See also Section 16: Corruption](#)

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## MILITARY SERVICE

9.01 The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) profile of Mongolia described the regulations for joining the military as “18-25 years of age for compulsory military service; conscript service obligation - 12 months in land or air defense forces or police; a small portion of Mongolian land forces (2.5 percent) is comprised of contract soldiers; women cannot be deployed overseas for military operations (2006)” [4a]

9.02 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a]

CIA – The World Factbook: Mongolia, updated 28 October 2009  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mg.html> [4a]

War Resisters' International Country report and updates: Mongolia, 19 May 1998  
[http://www.wri-irg.org/programmes/world\\_survey/country\\_report/en/Mongolia](http://www.wri-irg.org/programmes/world_survey/country_report/en/Mongolia)  
[40a]

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## JUDICIARY

### ORGANISATION

- 10.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“The judiciary consists of district and provincial courts as well as the Supreme Court and Constitutional Court. District courts primarily hear routine criminal and civil cases, while more serious cases, such as murder, rape, and grand larceny, are sent to the provincial courts. Provincial courts also serve as the appeals court for lower court decisions. The 17-member Supreme Court is the court of final appeal, hearing appeals from lower courts and cases involving alleged misconduct by high-level officials. The Constitutional Court, which is separate from criminal courts, has sole jurisdiction over constitutional questions.

“The General Council of Courts, an administrative body within the MOJHA [Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs], nominates candidates for vacancies on the courts; the president has the power to approve or refuse such nominations. The council also is charged with protecting the rights of judges and providing for the independence of the judiciary.” [3a] (Section 1e, p3-4)

- 10.02 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1e, p3-4)

CIA – The World Factbook: Mongolia, updated 28 October 2009  
<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/mg.html> [4a]

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

### INDEPENDENCE

- 10.03 The USSD Report 2008, Mongolia, noted:

“The law provides for an independent judiciary, and the government generally respected this provision in practice; however, corruption and outside influence were problems. Bribery could contribute to getting a case dismissed or a recommended sentence reduced, and blackmail and identity fraud were also a source of corruption. During the year two misconduct cases were opened against judges; at year's end the SIU [Special Investigations Unit] was investigating one case and had transferred the second to another agency.” [3a] (Section 1e, p3)

- 10.04 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1e, p3)

## FAIR TRIAL

10.05 The USSD Report 2008, Mongolia, noted:

“The law provides for the right to a fair public trial by a judge. Juries are not used. Closed proceedings are permitted in cases involving state secrets, rape cases involving minors, and other cases as provided by law. Defendants may question witnesses, present evidence, and appeal decisions. The law provides that defendants are innocent until proven guilty.

“Despite these provisions, trial procedures were often plagued by legal inconsistencies. There was a shortage of state-provided defense lawyers, and many defendants lacked adequate legal representation. Confessions, many of which were coerced by police, were often relied upon in convicting defendants.” [3a] (Section 1e, p3)

10.06 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1e, p3-4)

[See also Section 8: Avenues of Complaint](#)

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## ARREST AND DETENTION – LEGAL RIGHTS

- 11.01 The US Department of State Country Report on Human Rights Practices – 2008: Mongolia. Released by the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour, 25 February 2009 stated that:

“The law provides that no person shall be arrested, detained, or deprived of liberty except by specified procedures; however, arbitrary arrest and detention occurred, in particular during the unrest that followed the June elections. General public awareness of basic rights and judicial procedures, including rights with regard to arrest and detention, was limited, especially in rural areas...

“A judge-issued warrant is required prior to the arrest of a suspect; however, arrest without a warrant was believed to be fairly common. A ‘pressing circumstances’ exception allows police to arrest suspects without obtaining a warrant, and this was widely used.

“Under the criminal code, police must request a court order to continue holding a suspect after 24 hours. If permission is obtained, police may hold suspects for up to 72 hours before a decision is made to prosecute or release them. If a court order is not granted within 72 hours, the suspect must be released.

“Detainees generally were informed promptly of the charges against them. The maximum pretrial detention with a court order is 24 months; an additional six months are allowed for particularly serious crimes such as murder. Detainees are allowed prompt access to family members. Detainees may be released on bail with the approval of a prosecutor.

“A detainee has the right to a defense attorney during pretrial detention and all subsequent stages of the legal process. If a defendant cannot afford a private attorney, the government must appoint an attorney. Despite this legal provision, many detainees were unaware of their right to a government-appointed attorney and did not assert it. There was a shortage of public-funded and pro bono attorneys for low-income defendants, particularly outside Ulaanbaatar. To address the shortage, the government, working with the UN Development Program, placed an attorney in each of the provincial capitals and the districts of Ulaanbaatar to provide free legal advice.” [3a] (Section 1d, p2-3)

- 11.02 For further information see the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
[1a] (Human Rights Section, p10)

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1d, p2-3)

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009

<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

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## PRISON CONDITIONS

- 12.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“Conditions in pretrial detention and prison facilities generally were poor. Insufficient food, heat, and medical care threatened the health and life of inmates. However, NGOs reported that prison and detention center conditions improved during the year, particularly with regard to food quality and access to hot water. However, the food supply was often poor in the latter months of the year due to high inflation and a limited budget for prison administration. Overcrowding continued to be a problem, especially at detention centers, where cells sometimes held eight persons in a space intended for two or three. To address this problem, the government built new prison facilities at two sites, and another detention facility was under construction at year's end.” [3a] (Section 1c, p2)

- 12.02 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, stated that “In recent years, prisons have been outfitted with video-monitoring systems, decreasing the incidence of beatings by guards. Nevertheless, deaths in prisons continue to be reported, due largely to disease—often tuberculosis—exacerbated by poor conditions like insufficient food, heat, and medical care.” [5a] (p4)

- 12.03 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 1c, p2)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a] (p4)

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009  
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

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## DEATH PENALTY

- 13.01 The Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009, stated that:

“Executions were carried out in secret and no official statistics on death sentences or executions were available. Conditions of detention for prisoners on death row were reported to be poor. Prisoners were typically on death row for 12 months, but some were on death row for more than 24 months.

“In December [2008], Mongolia voted against a UN General Assembly resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on executions.” [7a]

- 13.02 For further information see the following sources:

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009  
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

Hands Off Cain: Mongolia, 1 January 2009  
<http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=12001582> [18a]

Hands Off Cain, Mongolian Death Row Inmate Receives Pardon, 15 October 2009  
<http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=12314464> [18b]

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## POLITICAL AFFILIATION

### FREEDOM OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION

14.01 See the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 2a, p4)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

[See also Section 6: Political system](#)

### FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION

14.02 See the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 2b, p5)

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## FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND MEDIA

15.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that “The law provides for freedom of speech and of the press, and the government generally respected these rights in practice. Government interference with licensing and indirect intimidation of the press, particularly broadcast media, was evident.” [3a] (Section 2a, p4)

15.02 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009 recorded that:

“While the government generally respects freedom of speech and of the press, it monitors all media for compliance with content restrictions on violence, pornography, and alcohol, as well as with tax laws. Many journalists and independent publications practice a degree of self-censorship to avoid legal action for violations of the State Secrets Law or libel laws that place the burden of proof on the defendant. The government has at times filed libel suits or launched tax audits against publications or journalists in the wake of critical articles. Mongolia’s press freedom suffered a setback following the riots in the wake of the June 2008 parliamentary election; several journalists were injured, and all television stations except state television were forced to stop broadcasting.

“Mongolia has been slow to implement a 1999 law requiring the transformation of state broadcasters into public corporations. Independent print outlets are common and popular in cities, but the main source of news in the vast countryside is the state-owned Radio Mongolia. Currently, there are more than 30 newspapers, over 120 radio stations, and 68 television stations. Content from foreign sources such as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Voice of America are available. In the capital, foreign television programming via cable and commercial satellite systems are also accessible. The government does not interfere with internet access.” [5a] (p3)

15.03 The USSD 2008 report noted that:

“Observers stated that many newspapers were affiliated with political parties or owned (fully or partly) by individuals affiliated with political parties, and that this affiliation strongly influenced the published reports. The observers also noted that underpaid reporters frequently demanded payment to cover or fabricate a story.

“Broadcast media were similarly not free of political interference. A lack of transparency during the tendering process and lack of a fully independent licensing authority inhibited fair competition for broadcast frequency licenses and benefited those with political connections. At the provincial level, local government control of the licensing process similarly inhibited the development of independent television stations.” [3a] (Section 2a, p5)

15.04 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 2a, p4-5)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009

<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a] (p3)

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009

<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

British Broadcasting Company (BBC) Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 3 November 2009

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country\\_profiles/1235560.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/country_profiles/1235560.stm) [8a]

Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index 2009

<http://www.rsf.org/en-classement1003-2009.html> [19a]

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## CORRUPTION

16:01 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, recorded that "Corruption is a problem in Mongolia. The U.S. State and Commerce departments both have identified 'corruption in the bureaucracy' as one of the obstacles affecting economic and political development. Transparency International ranked Mongolia 102 out of 180 countries surveyed in its 2008 Corruption Perceptions Index." [5a] (p4)

16.02 In its 2009 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), accessed on 19 December 2009, Transparency International ranked Mongolia 120 out of 180 countries, giving it a CPI score of 2.7. (CPI Score relates to perceptions of the degree of corruption as seen to exist among public officials and politicians by business people and country analysts. It ranges between 10 (highly clean) and 0 (highly corrupt). [17a]

16:03 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 3, p7)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a] (p4)

Transparency International (TI) Global Corruption Report 2009, published 23 September 2009  
[http://www.transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/cpi/2009/cpi\\_2009\\_table](http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi/2009/cpi_2009_table) [17a]

[See also Section 8: Police and Avenues of Complaint](#)

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## FREEDOM OF RELIGION

- 17.01 The United States Department of State (USSD) International Religious Freedom Report (IRFR) 2009, covering the period July 2008 to June 2009, published 26 October 2009 stated that:

“The Constitution provides for freedom of religion, and other laws and policies contributed to the generally free practice of religion. However, the law limits proselytizing. There was no change in the status of respect for religious freedom by the Government during the reporting period. Some religious groups faced bureaucratic harassment from local governments or were denied registration. There were reports of societal abuses and discrimination based on religious affiliation, belief, or practice, including pressure on persons who converted to Christianity.” [3d] (p1)

- 17.02 The Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia report, published on 16 July 2009, recorded that:

“The fall of communism led to a growth in Mormonism, Russian Orthodoxy, and other Christian sects, as well as a revival of Mongolia’s traditional religions—Buddhism and a native shamanism. The Kazakh Muslim minority, whose population of some 100,000 is concentrated in the western part of the country, generally enjoys freedom of religion. However, the government monitors the Kazakh community closely for potential political separatism and has not allowed it to construct a mosque in Ulaanbaatar. Academic freedom is respected. Mongolian professors and other teachers generally can write and lecture without interference, and access to higher education is relatively free of discrimination.” [5a] (p3)

- 17.03 The CIA World Factbook Profile on Mongolia, updated 28 October 2009 noted that the religious groups in Mongolia are made up of “Buddhist Lamaist 50%, Shamanist and Christian 6%, Muslim 4%, none 40% (2004)” [4a]

- 17.04 The USSD IRFR 2009, recorded that:

“Throughout the country, there were 457 registered places of worship, 239 of which were Buddhist, 161 Christian, 44 Muslim, and five each were Baha’i and shamanistic. During the reporting period, the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (MJHA) registered 18 churches, 20 mosques, and three shaman temples. Evangelical Christians estimated there were 250 unregistered evangelical churches throughout the country.” [3d] (Sections I, p1-2)

## RELIGIOUS GROUPS:

### Buddhists

- 17.05 The USSD’s IRFR 2009 recorded that:

”The country has an area of 604,247 square miles and a population of 2.7 million. Buddhism is closely linked with the country’s cultural traditions. When the Government ended bans on all religious practices in 1990, Buddhist activity increased. Local scholars claim that more than 90 percent of citizens subscribe to some form of Buddhism, although practice varies widely. Lamaist

Buddhism of the Tibetan variety is the traditional and dominant religion.  
[3d] (Sections I, p1)

## Christians

17.06 The USSD'S IRFR 2009 recorded that:

“There is a small but growing number of Christians. Church officials estimate more than 4 percent of the population practices Christianity, of which an estimated 90 percent are Protestant and 9 percent are members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons)... Authorities in Tuv Province, near Ulaanbaatar, continued to deny registration to Christian churches during the reporting period. There were no churches registered in the province. According to a Tuv religious leader, there were more than 30 unregistered evangelical churches in the province, but none of them had been approved by local authorities. One church that was denied registration during the reporting period sued provincial authorities. The court ruled in favor of the church and provincial authorities appealed the case to the Supreme Court.”  
[3d] (Sections I, p1)

See also Section 18: Ethnic groups

## Muslims

17.07 The USSD'S IRFR 2009 recorded that “The Muslim community in Ulaanbaatar continued to report on the difficult process of attaining registration and land acquisition for proposed mosques in the provinces of Darkhan-Uul and Orkhon. They reported no problems, however, with the ongoing construction of the Muslim cultural center and mosque in Ulaanbaatar.” [3d] (Sections II, p3)

17.08 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (p5-6)

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm> [3b]

United States Department of State (USSD) International Religious Freedom Report 2009, published 26 October 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127280.htm> [3d]

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Concluding observations (2006), accessed 16 November 2009  
[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/E.C.12.1.Add.47.En?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/E.C.12.1.Add.47.En?Opendocument) [27c]

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## ETHNIC GROUPS

18.01 The US State Department 2009 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2009) published on 25 February 2009 recorded that "The constitution states that 'all persons lawfully residing within Mongolia are equal before the law and the courts.'" [3a] (Section 5, p11)

18.02 The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009, stated that:

"Ethnic Mongols account for about 95% of Mongolia's population and consist of Khalkha and other groups, all distinguished primarily by dialects of the Mongol language. Mongol is an Altaic language--from the Altaic Mountains of Central Asia, a language family comprising the Turkic, Tungusic, and Mongolic subfamilies--and is related to Turkic (Uzbek, Turkish, and Kazakh), Korean, and, possibly, Japanese. Among ethnic Mongols, the Khalkha comprise 90% and the remaining 10% include Dorvod, Tuvan, and Buriat Mongols in the north and Dariganga Mongols in the east. Turkic speakers (Kazakhs, Turvins, and Khotans) constitute 5% of Mongolia's population, and the rest are Tungusic-speakers, Chinese, and Russians. Most Russians left the country following the withdrawal of economic aid and collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991." [3b] (Section: People, p2)

18.03 For further information see the following sources:

Foreign & Commonwealth Office Country Profile: Mongolia, updated 22 May 2009

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/travel-advice-by-country/country-profile/asia-oceania/mongolia?profile=geography>  
(Mongolia today Section) [1a] (p1)

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 5, p11)

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm> [3b] (Section: People, p2)

Minority Rights Group International (MRG), World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous People: Mongolia overview, accessed 12 November 2009

<http://www.minorityrights.org/4860/mongolia/mongolia-overview.html> [24a] (p1)

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## LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS

- 19.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 recorded that:

“Homosexuality is not specifically proscribed by law. However, Amnesty International and the International Lesbian and Gay Association criticized a section of the penal code that refers to ‘immoral gratification of sexual desires,’ arguing that it could be used against homosexuals. Homosexuals reported harassment by police but remained divided over the overall level of societal discrimination.” [3a] (Section 5, p12)

- 19.02 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/q/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 5, p12)

The International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA), State-sponsored Homophobia: A world survey of laws prohibiting same sex activity between consenting adults, May 2009  
via [http://www.aidslex.org/site\\_documents/SO-0025E.pdf](http://www.aidslex.org/site_documents/SO-0025E.pdf) [20a]

Sodomy Laws, Laws around the World, Last edited 24 November 2007  
<http://www.sodomylaws.org/world/world.htm> [21a]

The Status of Lesbian and Bisexual Women and Transgendered Persons in Mongolia, Shadow report for the 42nd CEDAW Committee Session 2008  
[http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/Coalition\\_Mongolian\\_LGBT\\_Rights\\_Activists\\_Mongolia41.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/ngos/Coalition_Mongolian_LGBT_Rights_Activists_Mongolia41.pdf) [27d]

GlobalGayz, Gay Vietnam News & Reports  
<http://www.globalgayz.com/search/?q=mongolia> [30a]

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## DISABILITY

- 20.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“The labor law prohibits discrimination in employment and education against persons with disabilities. The Law on Social Protection of the Disabled gives provincial governors and the Ulaanbaatar governor the responsibility to implement measures to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. However, NGOs claimed that the government did little to execute such measures, and in practice most persons with disabilities faced significant barriers to employment, education, and participation in public life.” [3a] (Section 5, p10-11)

- 20.02 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (Section 5, p10-11)

[See also Section 22: Children - Education](#)

[See also Section 28: Employment Rights](#)

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## WOMEN

### LEGAL RIGHTS

21.01 The Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report for Congress, 'The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): Congressional Issues', updated on 28 October 2008 noted that Mongolia is a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). [3f]

21.02 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report on the 'Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Mongolia', published in 2009, stated that "Mongolia is a signatory to 40 UN treaties. The country ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 in and the Convention on Child Rights (CRC) in 1990. Mongolia reports regularly to the UN on the implementation of the conventions." [11c] (p20)

21.03 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

"Divorced women secured alimony payments under the family law, which details the rights and responsibilities regarding alimony and parenting. The former husband and wife evenly split property and assets acquired during their marriage. However, women's activists said that because businesses were usually registered under the husband's name, ownership was increasingly transferred automatically to the former husband." [3a] (Section 5, p8)

21.04 For further information see the following sources:

The Congressional Research Service (CRS) Report for Congress, 'The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): Congressional Issues', updated on 28 October 2008  
<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/RL33652.pdf> [3f]

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
 [3a] (Section 5, p8)

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report on the 'Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Mongolia', published in 2009  
[http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/English\\_version\\_of\\_SITAN.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/English_version_of_SITAN.pdf) [11c] (p20)

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm>  
 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Twenty-fourth session 15 January – 2 February 2001 Excerpted from: Supplement No. 38 (A/56/38)  
[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cdrom\\_cedaw/EN/files/cedaw25years/content/english/CONCLUDING\\_COMMENTS\\_ENGLISH/Mongolia/Mongolia%20-%20CO%20-3-4.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cdrom_cedaw/EN/files/cedaw25years/content/english/CONCLUDING_COMMENTS_ENGLISH/Mongolia/Mongolia%20-%20CO%20-3-4.pdf) [31a] (p1)

## POLITICAL RIGHTS

21.05 See the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a]

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm> [3b] (Political Parties, p6)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

21.06 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“There was no separate government agency to oversee women's rights; however, there was the National Gender Center under the Prime Minister's Office, a national council to coordinate policy and women's interests among ministries and NGOs, and a division for women and youth issues within the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labor. There were approximately 40 women's rights groups concerned with issues such as maternal and child health, domestic violence, and equal opportunity.” [3a] (Section 5, p9)

21.07 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 5, p8-9)

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009  
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), report, Gender Equality and Social Institutions in Mongolia, accessed 21 December 2009  
<http://genderindex.org/country/mongolia> [32a]

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

21.08 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“Rape and domestic abuse are illegal; however, there is no law specifically prohibiting spousal rape, and rape remained a problem...The criminal code outlaws sexual intercourse through physical violence (or threat of violence) and provides for sentences of up to five years. If the victim is injured or



tortured, or is a minor, the penalty can reach five to 10 years. Such a crime inflicting death, victimizing a child under 14 years of age, or committed by a recidivist may result in imprisonment for 15 to 25 years or application of the death penalty. Gang rape is punishable by death.” [3a] (Section 5, p8)

21.09 The USSD 2008 report further noted that:

“Domestic violence against women was a serious problem, particularly among low-income rural families. The law requires the police to accept and file complaints, visit the site of incidents, interrogate offenders and witnesses, impose administrative criminal penalties, and bring victims to refuge. It also provides for sanctions against offenders, including expulsion from the home, prohibitions on the use of joint property, prohibitions on meeting victims and on access to minors, and compulsory training aimed at behavior modification. However, this level of service was rarely provided because the police lacked sufficient funding and, according to women's NGOs, often were reluctant to intervene in what was viewed as an internal family matter.

“There were no reliable statistics regarding the extent of domestic abuse; however, the National Center Against Violence (NCAV) reported that 32 persons were convicted of this offense during the year. The NCAV stated that it received 405 requests for temporary shelter at its five locations and provided psychological counseling to 278 victims and legal counseling to 524 victims in Ulaanbaatar.” [3a] (Section 5, p8)

See also Section 22: Children

See also Section 23: Trafficking

21.10 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
 (Section 5) [3a] (p8)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a]

Amnesty International, International Report: Mongolia, covering events from January to December 2008, released 28 May 2009  
<http://report2009.amnesty.org/en/regions/asia-pacific/mongolia> [7a]

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF): Mongolia - Statistics  
[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mongolia\\_statistics.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mongolia_statistics.html) [11b]

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Concluding observations (2008), Mongolia, accessed 16 November 2009  
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/602/98/PDF/N0860298.pdf?OpenElement>  
 [27a]

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Twenty-fourth session 15 January – 2 February 2001 Excerpted from: Supplement No. 38 (A/56/38)

[http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cdrom\\_cedaw/EN/files/cedaw25years/content/english/CONCLUDING\\_COMMENTS\\_ENGLISH/Mongolia/Mongolia%20-%20CO%20-3-4.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cdrom_cedaw/EN/files/cedaw25years/content/english/CONCLUDING_COMMENTS_ENGLISH/Mongolia/Mongolia%20-%20CO%20-3-4.pdf) [31a] (p1)

The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI), Gender Equality And Social Institutions in Mongolia, accessed 21 December 2009

<http://genderindex.org/country/mongolia> [32a]

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (DAW), Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/committee.htm> [39a]

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## CHILDREN

### LEGAL RIGHTS

- 22.01 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report on the 'Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Mongolia', published in 2009, stated that:

"Mongolia is a signatory to 40 UN treaties. The country ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981 and the Convention on Child Rights (CRC) in 1990. Mongolia reports regularly to the UN on the implementation of the conventions. In 2008, with the support of UNICEF, the Government of Mongolia prepared and submitted its combined Third and Fourth State Party Report on the implementation of the CRC and its optional protocols to the UN Child Rights Committee in Geneva. The report summarized the Government's achievements and highlighted new challenges in government programmes and planning on children's rights issues. A total of 2000 children were consulted for feedback on the report before its finalization and submission." [11c] (p20)

- 22.02 The same report stated that:

"Protecting the Vulnerable is covered in the Millennium Declaration (MD) under Clause VI, Paragraph 26. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, all children below the age of 18 have a right to be protected against all forms of discrimination and punishment.

"The most common child right-related problems in Mongolia are child labour, child abuse, violence and crime, children without parental care, sexual exploitation and the trafficking of women and children." [11c] (p66)

- 22.03 The UNICEF webpage on Mongolia, accessed on 10 November 2009, stated that "Mongolia has made important strides over the past few years in promoting the rights of children and women. The Parliament passed a law on child protection in 1996." [11a]

- 22.04 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

"The law prohibits children under the age of 16 from working, although those who are 14 or 15 years of age may work up to 30 hours per week with parental consent. Those under age 18 may not work at night, engage in arduous work, or work in hazardous occupations such as mining and construction. Labor inspectors assigned to regional and local offices were responsible for enforcement of these prohibitions, as well as all other labor regulations. These inspectors have the authority to compel immediate compliance with labor legislation, but enforcement was limited, due to the small number of labor inspectors and the growing number of independent enterprises.

"Children worked informally in petty trade, scavenging in dumpsites, in unauthorized small-scale mining, and herding animals. Widespread alcoholism and parental abandonment made it necessary for many children to have an income to support themselves. An NCC report placed the number of children

in the labor force as high as 65,000, although up to 90 percent of these children were involved in traditional animal husbandry, while only 1 percent was estimated to be involved in mining.” [3a] (Section 6d, p13)

22.05 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (Section 6d, p13)

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF): Mongolia  
<http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/> [11a]

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report ‘Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Mongolia’, published in 2009  
[http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/English\\_version\\_of\\_SITAN.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/English_version_of_SITAN.pdf) [11c]

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Committee on the Rights of the Child Concluding observations (2005), accessed 16 November 2009  
[http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/480889c76b2a2309c12570bc004c51a0/\\$FILE/G0544018.pdf](http://www.unhchr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/898586b1dc7b4043c1256a450044f331/480889c76b2a2309c12570bc004c51a0/$FILE/G0544018.pdf) [27b]

## VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

22.06 The USSD 2008 report on Mongolia noted that

“Child abuse took two main forms: violence and sexual abuse. According to the governmental National Center for Children (NCC), both problems were most likely to occur within families.

“Commercial sexual exploitation of children--involving those under 18 years of age--was a problem. According to the Gender Equality Center there were instances of teenage girls kidnapped in Ulaanbaatar and forced to work as prostitutes. Police raids freed some victims; however, NGOs claimed other police officers worked with procurers and brothel keepers.” [3a] (Section 5, p9)

22.07 The USSD 2008 report on Mongolia further noted that:

“International organizations continued to voice concern over child jockeys in horse racing. According to the NHRC reports, more than 30,000 child jockeys competed in horse races each year. Children commonly learn to ride horses at age four or five, and young children traditionally serve as jockeys during the national Naadam festival, where horse races range from two to nearly 20 miles.

“In addition to the Naadam festival, human rights groups expressed concern over the rise and proliferation of commercial horse racing involving child jockeys. Such races often occurred during the winter, when temperatures average minus 13 degrees Fahrenheit.” [3a] (Section 6d, p13)

22.08 The US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (TiPR), 16 June 2009 noted that Mongolia was a source country for children “...trafficked for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labor...

“There is also concern about involuntary child labor in the Mongolian construction, mining, and industrial sectors, where they are vulnerable to injury and face severe health hazards, such as exposure to mercury... There have been several reports of Mongolian girls and women being kidnapped and forced to work in the country’s commercial sex trade. According to NGOs, South Korean and Japanese child sex tourists were visiting Mongolia in greater numbers. Methods used by traffickers to lure victims grew increasingly organized and sophisticated.”

[3c] (Country Narratives -- Countries L Through P)

22.09 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (Section 5, p9-13)

US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (TiPR), 16 June 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm>

[3c] (Country Narratives -- Countries L Through P)

United States Department of Labor, 2007 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor – Mongolia, 27 August 2008 (via Refworld)

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/country,,,,MNG,,48caa4803c,0.html> [37a]

Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, Global Report 2008: Mongolia

<http://www.child-soldiers.org/regions/country?id=142> [15a]

## CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION

22.10 The USSD 2008 report stated that:

“According to the NCC, there were 48 international and domestic organizations working on children’s issues. These organizations typically operated two or three shelters. There were two government-funded but privately owned and administered shelters, one for children up to age three and the other for children ages three to 16. Approximately 1,500 children lived in these shelters countrywide, while 60 children were estimated to be living on the street.” [3a] (Section 5, p10)

22.11 The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report on the ‘Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Mongolia’, published in 2009, stated that:

“There are 43 childcare centers operating in Mongolia to care for children without parental care. Five of the centers and orphanages are state-funded and located in Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan and Erdenet. The main orphanage in Ulaanbaatar is overcrowded, with 260 children aged from three to 18 housed in a facility built to accommodate 102 children. Young orphan or abandoned children aged from zero to three are taken care of at the Infant Clinic Sanatorium in Ulaanbaatar. The Child Address Identification Center, the Child Care Center, the Child Labour Education and Training Center and the Living Skills Center are centers designed to provide differentiated care services for children. The Child Labour Education and Training Centre provide services for 140 children abandoned by their parents. The approval of standards for

childcare centers in 2008 was an important step forward in making improvements in quality of services and access to those centers.

“The 43 childcare centers that are run by 36 domestic and foreign organizations providing care for 1484 children in 2009. This represents an increase of 298 compared with 1186 children who were in childcare centers in 2005. One of the reasons for the increasing number of children in care is related to residential care being the only option for orphans and children who lack adequate parental care. Of those 1484 children, 70 percent are orphans and 30 percent are abandoned.” [11c] (p70-71)

22.12 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm> [3a] (Section 5, p10)

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF): Mongolia  
<http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/> [11a]

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) report on the ‘Situation Analysis of Children and Women in Mongolia’, published in 2009  
[http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/English\\_version\\_of\\_SITAN.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/English_version_of_SITAN.pdf) [11c]

Projects Abroad, Volunteer Care work with children overseas in Mongolia  
<http://www.projects-abroad.co.uk/projects/care/mongolia/> [16a]

## EDUCATION

22.13 USSD 2008 Report noted that “The government provided children with compulsory, free, and universal public education through the age of 18; however, family economic needs and state budgetary troubles made it difficult for some children to attend school.” The report further observed that the government struggled to keep pace with education.” [3a] (Section 3)

22.14 The Freedom House report, Freedom in the World 2009, Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009, stated that “...access to higher education is relatively free of discrimination.” [5a] (p3)

22.15 For further information see the following sources:

The US State Department (USSD) Background Note: Mongolia, updated August 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2779.htm>  
[3b] (Geography Section, p1)

Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2009: Mongolia, published on 16 July 2009  
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=363&year=2009&country=7665> [5a] (p1-2)

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF): Mongolia - Statistics  
[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mongolia\\_statistics.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mongolia_statistics.html) [11b]

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## TRAFFICKING

23.01 See the following sources:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009

<http://www.state.gov/q/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>

[3a] (Section 5, p10)

US Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report (TiPR), 16 June 2009

<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2009/index.htm>

[3c] (Country Narratives -- Countries L Through P)

HumanTrafficking.org, Country Update: Mongolia, accessed 12 November 2009

<http://www.humantrafficking.org/countries/mongolia> [14a]

[See also Section 21: Women](#)

[See also Section 22: Children](#)

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## MEDICAL ISSUES

24.01 See the following sources:

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): At a glance: Mongolia  
<http://www.unicef.org/mongolia/> [11d]

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF): Mongolia - Statistics  
[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mongolia\\_statistics.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/mongolia_statistics.html) [11b]

The World Health Organisation (WHO), Mongolia. Accessed 12 November 2009  
<http://www.who.int/countries/mng/en/> [22a]

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS): Mongolia, accessed 12 November 2009  
<http://www.unaids.org/en/CountryResponses/Countries/mongolia.asp> [23a]

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## FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

- 25.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“The law provides for freedom of movement within the country, foreign travel, emigration, and repatriation, and the government generally respected these rights in practice. The government cooperated with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and other humanitarian organizations in providing protection and assistance to refugees, asylum seekers, and other persons of concern.” [3a] (Section 2d, p6)

- 25.02 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/q/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 2d, p6)

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## CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY

26.01 See the following sources:

Citizenship Laws of the World: Mongolia, March 2001  
[http://www.multiplecitizenship.com/wscl/ws\\_MONGOLIA.html](http://www.multiplecitizenship.com/wscl/ws_MONGOLIA.html) [33a]

Migration and Refugee Board of Canada  
[http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/index\\_e.htm?id=1077](http://www2.irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/research/ndp/index_e.htm?id=1077) [34a]

Embassy of Japan in Mongolia, Law of Mongolia on Citizenship, 5 June 1995  
Ulaanbaatar  
[http://www.mn.emb-japan.go.jp/jp/ryouji/immig\\_laws/on\\_citizenship.pdf](http://www.mn.emb-japan.go.jp/jp/ryouji/immig_laws/on_citizenship.pdf) [35a]

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) <http://www.undp.org>  
Follow-Up To The Fifth International Conference Of New And Restored  
Democracies Project, Democratic Governance Indicators: Assessing the State  
of Governance in Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar 2006  
[http://www.undp.org/oslocentre/docs07/workshop/day3\\_wed\\_290807/provided\\_materials/Mongolia%20DGI%20Assessments.pdf](http://www.undp.org/oslocentre/docs07/workshop/day3_wed_290807/provided_materials/Mongolia%20DGI%20Assessments.pdf) [36a]

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## EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS

- 27.01 The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009 stated that:

“The legal minimum wage rose in January from 90,000 tugrik (approximately \$76) per month to nearly 108,000 tugrik (\$94). This minimum wage, which applied to both public and private sector workers and was enforced by the Labor Ministry, did not provide a decent standard of living for a worker and family. Some workers received less than the minimum wage, particularly at smaller companies in rural areas.

“The standard legal workweek is 40 hours, and there is a minimum rest period of 48 hours between workweeks. For persons 14 and 15 years of age, the workweek is 30 hours; for those 16 and 17 years of age, it is 36 hours. By law overtime work is compensated at either double the standard hourly rate or by giving time off equal to the number of hours of overtime worked. Pregnant women and nursing mothers are prohibited from working overtime by law. These laws generally were enforced in practice.

“There is no law mandating sick leave for workers. According to the government, employers set their own rules in this regard.

“Laws on labor, cooperatives, and enterprises set occupational health and safety standards; however, enforcement of the standards was inadequate. The near-total reliance on outmoded machinery and problems with maintenance and management led to frequent industrial accidents, particularly in the mining, power, and construction sectors. According to the National Confederation of Mongolian Trade Unions, 50 to 60 workers died each year in work-related accidents. Workers have the right to remove themselves from situations that endanger health or safety without jeopardy to their employment, and authorities enforced this right.” [3a] (Section 6e, p13-14)

[See also Section 22: Children – Legal Rights](#)

- 27.02 For further information see the following source:

The US State Department 2008 Country Report on Human Rights Practices (USSD Report 2008), Mongolia, published on 25 February 2009  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2008/eap/119049.htm>  
[3a] (Section 6e, p13-14)

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## Annexes

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### ANNEX A – CHRONOLOGY OF MAJOR EVENTS

- 1206-63** Following unification of the Mongol tribes, Genghis Khan launches a campaign of conquest. His sons and grandsons create the world's biggest land empire.
- 1267-1368** Weakened by disunity, the empire implodes. Ming troops oust the Mongols from Dadu - present-day Beijing.
- 1380** The Golden Horde is defeated by the Russian Prince Dmitriy Donskoy. Ming troops destroy the Mongol capital, Karakorum.

#### Manchu rule

- 1636** The Manchu (Qing) empire conquers the southern Mongols, creating Inner Mongolia.
- 1691** The Qing empire offers protection to the northern Mongols, creating Outer Mongolia.
- 1727** The Treaty of Kyakhta fixes the western border between the Russian and Manchu empires, confirming Qing dominion over Mongolia and Tuva.

#### First Soviet satellite state

- 1911** The Qing dynasty falls and Outer Mongolia declares its independence. Russia and the Republic of China recognise its autonomy.
- 1919** The Chinese army occupies Outer Mongolia.
- 1920** Mongolian revolutionaries found the Mongolian People's Party and open contact with Bolsheviks in Siberia.
- 1921** With Red Army support, Mongolian revolutionaries drive out Chinese and Tsarist forces and install the Mongolian 'people's government'.
- 1924** The People's Party chooses Lenin's 'road to socialism bypassing capitalism' and renames itself the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party (MPRP). The Mongolian People's Republic is proclaimed.

#### Purges

- 1928-32** 'Rightists' who want private enterprise are ousted. 'Leftists' who want communes are ousted. A "counter-revolutionary uprising" against the confiscation of monastery property is suppressed.
- 1937** Mongolian Prime Minister Genden is arrested in the USSR and shot for spying for Japan. The Minister of War Marshal Demid is poisoned aboard a Trans-Siberian train. Monasteries are destroyed and lamas murdered.

- 1939** Mongolian and Soviet troops commanded by General Zhukov defeat an invasion by Japanese and Manchukuo forces in the Battle of Halhyn Gol (Nomonhan).
- 1939** 'Mongolia's Stalin', interior minister and new Minister of War Choybalsan, is appointed prime minister. Ex-PM Amar is tried in the USSR and shot for spying for Japan.

### International recognition

- 1945-46** Yalta conference agrees to preserve the status quo - Soviet control - in Mongolia. Mongolians vote for independence in a UN plebiscite. Mongolia is recognised by the Republic of China.
- 1949-55** Relations established with the People's Republic of China. Railway built across Mongolia linking Russia and China.
- 1952** Choybalsan dies, and is replaced as prime minister by Tsedenbal, the MPRP general secretary since 1940.
- 1961-63** UN Security Council approves Mongolia's UN membership. Diplomatic relations established with the UK.

### Soviet buffer against China

- 1966** Soviet Communist Party General-Secretary Brezhnev signs a friendship treaty in Ulan Bator allowing secret stationing of Soviet troops in Mongolia.
- 1973-81** Mongolia accuses China of planning annexation, protests against Chinese leaders' call for withdrawal of Soviet troops, accuses China of "aggressive intentions" and expels some Chinese residents.
- 1984** 'Mongolia's Brezhnev', party General-Secretary Tsedenbal, head of state since 1974, is forced out of office by the MPRP Politburo.
- 1986** Gorbachev's Vladivostok speech opens the way to detente with China and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Mongolia.

### Democracy

- 1990** Street demonstrations force resignation of the MPRP Politburo. Political parties are legalised. Elections to the Great Hural (parliament) are won by the MPRP, but 19 of the 50 seats in a new standing legislature go to non-communists.
- 1992** Mongolia's new constitution gives first place to human rights and freedoms. In the first democratic elections the MPRP wins 71 of the 76 seats in the new single-chamber Great Hural.
- 1993** The first direct presidential elections are won by Ochirbat, nominated by the National and Social Democrats.

- 1996** The National and Social Democrats win 50 seats in the Great Hural elections, but the MPRP can deny a quorum, hindering passage of legislation.
- 1997** MPRP candidate Bagabandi wins presidential election.
- 2000** After the democrats form three new governments in two years the MPRP wins 72 seats in the Great Hural elections. The National and Social Democrats and three other parties form a new Democratic Party.
- 2001 February:** UN launches appeal for \$8.7m (£6m) to support herders suffering in worst winter conditions in more than 50 years.
- 2001 May:** President Bagabandi re-elected.
- 2001 October:** IMF approves nearly \$40 million in low-interest loans over next three years to help tackle poverty and boost economic growth.
- 2002 November:** Dalai Lama visits. China denounces trip and warns Mongolian leaders not to meet the Tibetan spiritual leader.
- 2003 July:** It is announced that 200 soldiers will be sent to Iraq to contribute to peacekeeping.
- 2004 January:** Russia writes off all but \$300 million of Mongolia's debts.

### Power-sharing

- 2004 June-August:** Parliamentary elections, in which the opposition performs strongly, result in political deadlock over contested results. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj is eventually appointed as prime minister following power-sharing deal.
- 2005 March-April:** Protesters in the capital demand the government's resignation and an end to poverty and official corruption.
- 2005 May:** MPRP candidate Nambaryn Enkhbayar wins presidential election.
- 2005 November:** President George W Bush becomes the first serving US leader to visit Mongolia.
- 2006 January:** Coalition government headed by Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj falls after the MPRP pulls out, blaming the leadership for slow economic growth. Parliament chooses MPRP's Miyegombo Enkhbold as the new prime minister.
- 2007 November:** Prime Minister Miyegombo Enkhbold resigns. He is replaced by MPRP leader Sanjagiin Bayar.
- 2008 July:** President Enkhbayar declares a state of emergency to quell riots in the capital which left five dead and hundreds injured. Violence erupted after the opposition accused the governing party of rigging elections.
- 2009 May:** Former Prime Minister and candidate of the opposition Democratic Party, Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj, wins presidential election, defeating incumbent

Nambaryn Enkhbayar by a narrow margin. Governing MPRP says it accepts the result.

**2009** **October:** Prime Minister Sanjagiin Bayar of the MPRP resigns for health reasons. Foreign Minister Sukhbaataryn Batbold succeeds him.

(BBC Timeline: Mongolia, 3 November 2009) [8b]

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**ANNEX B – GUIDE TO ACRONYMS**

<b>AI</b>	Amnesty International
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CRA</b>	Committee for Religious Affairs
<b>FCO</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)
<b>FH</b>	Freedom House
<b>GEC</b>	General Election Committee (Mongolia)
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<b>HRW</b>	Human Rights Watch
<b>ICRC</b>	International Committee for Red Cross
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person
<b>MOD</b>	Ministry of Defence (Mongolia)
<b>MOJHA</b>	Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs (Mongolia)
<b>NCAV</b>	National Center Against Violence
<b>NHRC</b>	National Human Rights Commission
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organization
<b>SIU</b>	Special Investigations Unit
<b>TB</b>	Tuberculosis
<b>TI</b>	Transparency International
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>USSD</b>	United States State Department
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation

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