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Washington Scales Back Global Rights Criticism

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The United States is reportedly reducing its criticism of certain foreign governments in relation to their human rights records, according to documents reviewed by *The Washington Post*. The shift marks a departure from previous administrations' approach to promoting rights abroad.

Draft versions of the U.S. State Department's annual human rights reports on El Salvador, Israel, and Russia appear to reflect a more restrained tone. These reports, which are yet to be finalised, are typically released each year to assess the human rights situation in countries worldwide.

According to the report, references to issues such as the treatment of LGBTQ+ individuals, media freedom, and political opposition have been noticeably reduced or removed in the current drafts. This revised approach is understood to reflect a change in priorities under former President Donald Trump's leadership, focusing more heavily on matters of national interest rather than ideological advocacy.

In the case of El Salvador, the report reportedly downplays concerns previously raised by U.S. officials over judicial independence and freedom of the press. Similarly, the draft on Israel appears to reduce emphasis on allegations surrounding the use of force and detention practices in contested areas. Meanwhile, the Russia section is said to minimise descriptions of political repression.

While this more cautious tone has prompted some criticism from international rights groups, the administration at the time defended the change, asserting that the United States should prioritise diplomatic relationships and avoid imposing cultural or political values abroad.

Officials familiar with the drafting process noted that the revisions do not imply an endorsement of any government's actions but are instead intended to reflect a more measured diplomatic posture.

The State Department's annual human rights reports have long served as a benchmark for assessing the conduct of foreign governments. However, each administration has some discretion in how these reports are framed and what emphasis is given to certain issues.

The final versions of the reports are expected to be released publicly in due course, providing further clarity on the United States' evolving stance.