
WESTERN COUNTRIES USE UN-BACKED REVIEW TO PRESS CHINA ON ITS TREATMENT OF ACTIVISTS AND MINORITIES

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Western countries used a regular U.N.-backed review of Chinas human rights record Tuesday to press Beijing to do more to allow freedom of expression, protect the rights of ethnic minorities and to repeal a national security law in Hong Kong that troubles independent activists.

Chinas ambassador in Geneva, Chen Xu, led a delegation from some 20 Chinese ministries for the universal periodic review conducted under the U.N. Human Rights Council. He stressed Chinas progress in poverty eradication, said citizens engage in democratic elections and gave assurance that freedom of religious belief is safeguarded.

China upholds respect for and protection of human rights as a task of importance in state governance, Chen said through an interpreter. We have embarked on a path of human rights development that is in keeping with the trend of the times and appropriate to Chinas national conditions and so-called historic achievements in this process.

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