**HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Human Rights can be characterized in many ways although global consensus has been developing that incorporates both traditional concerns with political liberty and more recent concerns with socioeconomic rights.

- Simple categorization:
  1. political and intellectual rights
  2. economic and social rights
  3. right to peace and to a safe natural environment

- In general, human rights are essentially claims against the authority of government. These claims include:
  1. freedom froms---guarantees that governments will refrain from behaving badly toward their own people.
  2. freedom tos-----the obligations of society to help its members achieve a better life.

- In addition to the focus on personal liberty and socio-economic rights, there is another major area of concern: the rights of categories of people:

- Women, 200 million indigenous people, children, racial minorities, refugees, migrant laborers, political dissidents, etc.

- In most cases, the freedom froms seem easier for governments to achieve; certain states may simply lack the resources to make substantial improvements in socioeconomic conditions, but they all can stop torturing, murdering, and otherwise oppressing their people.

- Though human rights constitute a diverse array of causes, they share a common humanizing focus, placing the individual at the center of public policy.

- “The goal of human rights advocacy is to insist that the power, security, and economic well-being of states and their ruling elites be accompanied by concern for the average citizen and/or the least well-off in political and economic terms”