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GOOD CALL

## Editorial: Leaving the Human Rights Council

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley announced on Tuesday that the U.S. has withdrawn from the United Nation's Human Rights Council. The departure was not unexpected — and the U.S. was right to leave.

Pompeo says the council has a poor record of defending human rights and some of its members are among the world's greatest tyrants. Haley has called the council a “hypocritical and self-serving” body that protects human rights abusers and is a “cesspool of political bias.”

The withdrawal reverses the Obama administration's 2009 decision to join the group. The nation's return to the council ended the George W. Bush-era policy of shunning the body since its 2006 inception. President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had hoped that a U.S. presence on the council would serve to make it a more effective body. Unfortunately, it didn't work. Even that administration admitted the council's record of accomplishing anything beneficial or actually improving human rights has been less than stellar.

The U.S. did belong to the Human Rights Council's predecessor, the U.N. Commission on Human Rights — until May 4, 2004, the day **the United States ambassador, Sichan Siv**, stood up in disgust and walked out to protest Sudan's election to the body.

Things haven't changed much since the old commission was abolished in 2006 and the new one established. Member nations still include a rogue's gallery of thugs and butchers. While Sudan is no longer a member, consider these member nations: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Congo, Venezuela, and China. In all, 14 of the 47 members of the council are ranked as “not free” by Freedom House.

Those who support the Human Rights Council are criticizing the U.S. decision to leave, claiming it's yet another example of President Trump's decision to withdraw from the world stage. But Haley warned last year that unless the group began to make significant changes, the U.S. would “pursue the advancements of human rights outside of the council.” The reality is that until the rest of the Human Rights Council's members get serious about promoting human rights across the globe, the U.S. will likely get far more accomplished on its own.