

Obama's hesitant embrace of human rights by Kenneth Roth, IHT, February 24, 2010.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/04/opinion/04iht-edroth.html>

Dear Editor-in-chief,

Please could you publish the following „Letter to the Editor“:

Kenneth Roth (IHT, Feb. 24, 2010) rightly highlights a painful aspect of Barack Obama's human rights policy: The deep discrepancy between his rhetoric and his deeds. Before pointing a finger at countries, that violate human rights the Obama administration should put its own human rights record straight. The Bush government has not only committed severe violations of human rights in countries it attacked, but through the „Patriot Act“ and illegal eavesdropping also on American citizens. These unlawful measures have to be stopped, and those responsible for these violations must be put on trial. Obama has not done so.

In his Op-Ed, Roth regretfully ignores one particular country with a disastrous human rights record: The State of Israel. The 42-year-old brutal occupation of the Palestinian people and the permanent violation of international law and human rights were not mentioned by the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch although his organization has published excellent reports on this subject. The Obama administration continues a policy of double standards when it comes to Israel's massive human rights violations. Why did Roth not mention Israel, when he knows better?

Dr. Ludwig Watzal, Bonn, Germany (Feb. 25, 2010).

IHT did not publish the letter (Mar. 4, 2010).