

Abstract:

“A Summary and Assessment of the 2008 Report of the U.N. Special Representative on Business & Human Rights”

The Office of the U.N. Special Representative on Business and Human Rights John Ruggie has produced 10,000 pages of documents on business obligations regarding human rights including major reports in 2006, 2007, and 2008. In his 2008 Report Ruggie defends a tripartite human rights framework regarding corporate-related human rights harm. Ruggie argues that states have a duty to protect against human rights abuses by non-state actors such as corporations; that corporations have an obligation to respect, or refrain from infringing upon, the rights of others; and that appropriate remedies are needed to ensure that when human rights violations occur they are properly addressed by institutions. This presentation will bring the audience up-to-date on the mission and reports of the U.N. Special Representative and assess the 2008 report.

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