



## ARTICLE 21 – RIGHT TO DEMOCRACY

- “1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.*
- “2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.*
- “3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.”*

- In Zimbabwe, hundreds of human rights defenders and members of the main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), were arrested for participating in peaceful gatherings.
- In Pakistan, President Musharraf ordered the arrest of thousands of lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders and political activists for demanding democracy, the rule of law and an independent judiciary.
- In Cuba, at the end of 2007, 62 prisoners of conscience continued in prison for their nonviolent political views or activities.