Between the lines

An exhibit of more than 60 cartoons on human rights by cartoonists and graphic artists from 40 countries opened at the UN Headquarters in New York on Dec. 10, 2007. The exhibit, “Sketching Human Rights,” commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document signed in Paris in 1948. The exhibit will be on display through mid-January before traveling around the world as part of a year-long series of events leading up to the Dec. 10 anniversary. The exhibition was put together by cartoonist and comics historian Jerry Robinson.

Talking points

1. Cartoons are a universal language. Each of these artists comes from a different country and none are from the United States, yet you can understand the point each toon makes. What captions would you add to make each toon more clear to your classmates?

2. These drawings from the exhibit show a common theme -- the quest for freedom. But each comes at the topic from a slightly different point of view. Can you explain the subtle differences?

3. Read the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the UN’s website (below) and discuss which of the 30 points in that document these drawings address.

Additional resources

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UN website)
http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html

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