

FIELD OPERATIONS

Botswana is a member of the Southern Africa Development Community and, therefore, a beneficiary of and participant in the Regional Human Rights Programme Office for Southern Africa, a joint project of OHCHR and UNDP, which is based in Pretoria (see profile under "South Africa").

The Regional Human Rights Programme Office undertook a mission to Botswana to follow-up on the visit of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to Gaborone from 2 to 4 July 1998. The Regional Programme Adviser also participated in the annual meeting of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Co-operation Organisation (SARPPCO) in Gaborone, with a view to developing joint training and awareness initiatives with SARPPCO and bilaterally with the national police services represented.



BURKINA FASO

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES:

RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Burkina Faso has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.30) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic and statistical data on, *inter alia*, languages, ethnic groups, religion, employment, income and public finance, as well as information of an historical nature and the framework for the protection of human rights.

The Constitution establishes the judiciary's responsibility for guaranteeing fundamental human rights and citizens' rights. Remedies for violations may be sought through: the court of first instance, competent in civil, commercial and criminal matters; the Labour Tribunal, with competence to hear individual disputes between employers and employees; a specialized division of the Supreme Court, which deals with administrative matters; the Court of Appeal; and the Supreme Court. National legislation is largely based on the international human rights instruments and the provisions of these instruments may be invoked directly before the courts or administrative authorities. Under the heading, "National machinery", the report lists the following national non-governmental bodies as responsible for overseeing the observance of human rights: the Burkina Faso Human and Peoples' Rights Movement (MBDHP), the Burkina Faso Association for the Promotion of the Rule of Law and the Defence of Freedoms (APED Libertés), and the Study and Research Group on Democracy and Economic and Social Development in Burkina Faso (GERDES-Burkina).

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 18 July 1974.

Burkina Faso's 12th periodic report is due 17 August 1999.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 14 October 1987.

Burkina Faso's second and third periodic reports were submitted as one document (CEDAW/C/BFA/2-3) which is not yet scheduled for consideration; the 4th periodic report is due 13 November 2000.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 31 August 1990.

Burkina Faso's second periodic report was due 29 September 1997.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 111-113, 417)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. The three outstanding cases of disappearance reported to the Working Group (WG) concerned two soldiers and a university professor, all of whom were reportedly arrested in 1989, together with 27 other persons, on charges of having participated in an alleged conspiracy against the government. The report notes that, despite a number of reminders, the WG has never received any information from the government regarding these cases and is therefore unable to report on the fate and whereabouts of the disappeared persons.



BURUNDI

Date of admission to UN: 18 September 1962.

TREATIES:

RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Burundi has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.16) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government, dated October 1993, includes demographic and statistical data related to population, ethnic characteristics, and social and economic indicators. The information on the general political structure includes an historical overview of the pre-colonial, the colonial and trusteeship period, the period of the monarchy, and the establishment of a republican form of government following independence.

The report states that the principle of respect for individual freedom and human rights has been affirmed through, *inter alia*: normalization of relations between