

the majority of the 20 reported cases of disappearance occurred between 1985 and 1992 and concerned persons who were reportedly arrested by members of the Criminal Investigation Service of the National Police. The government requested copies of the outstanding cases but has not provided any new information.

Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/32, para. 108)

The report notes the establishment in Ecuador of the Truth and Justice Commission which has been given responsibility for investigating complaints of unresolved human rights violations which occurred in the past 17 years. The commission is mandated to publish its report and to file its findings and recommendations before the relevant judicial authorities. The report observes that the Commission could serve as a measure to end impunity and ensure that victims and their relatives are adequately compensated for violations of their human rights.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 115–117)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) transmitted five cases to the government, involving Colombians who had been legally recognized as refugees by the Ecuadorean authorities. The information on which the cases were based indicated that the five had been arrested in August 1995 by military personnel, held incommunicado for several days on military premises and were subjected to blows, electric shocks and death threats and kept blindfolded. The government response stated that the five had been arrested by army intelligence staff during an investigation of possible conspiracy to subvert the public order. The government also replied to two cases that had been transmitted to it in 1995.

The report notes that cases previously sent were retransmitted and that the government had confirmed the arrests and detention at the Provisional Detention Centre which was under the authority of the Ministry for Social Welfare and where no police investigations were carried out.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 72)

The report notes that the oil industry is seen as the biggest destroyer of Ecuador's 13 million hectares of rainforest which are inhabited by eight groups of indigenous people. It is acknowledged that Texaco, which had 330 wells in Ecuador, has left the country, but that Petro-Ecuador has taken its place. Ninety per cent of the destruction of 1 million hectares of rainforest is reported to have resulted from the operations of Texaco/PetroEcuador. The report notes that some 30,000 Ecuadorians had joined together and sued Texaco in its home state of New York, asking the company to stop dumping waste and to invest in new technology. In 1994, Texaco reached an agreement with the Government of Ecuador for the company to remedy any damage caused by its drilling operations. The plaintiffs' litigation team then filed a complaint on behalf of approximately 25,000 Peruvians living along the Napo River. The report notes that, in 1995, the judge ordered consolidation of the two suits.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV)

In the section of the report dealing with trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the Special Rapporteur notes there are trafficking networks for prostitution in Colombia that traffic women regionally to Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

States of emergency, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/19/Add.1)

The report notes that a state of emergency was proclaimed on 7 February 1997.

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EL SALVADOR

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: El Salvador submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.34/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistic data as well as information on the general political structure, economic and social trends and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The rights set out in the ICCPR are included in the Constitution and international treaties to which El Salvador is a state party have a higher ranking than domestic law. No legislation may repeal or amend the provisions of a treaty. The constitutional reforms of 1991 and 1992 improved the administration of justice. The protection of human rights has been strengthened through measures and laws related to: the independence of judges and the judiciary; the participation of the judiciary in law-making; constitutional remedies for violations; and, the remedy of *amparo*. In addition to protections under law, a number of institutions and bodies have been created in the area of human rights, including the Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights, the post of Deputy Procurator for Human Rights, the Department of Human Rights within the Supreme Court, the Commission on Justice and Human Rights which was established by the Legislative Assembly, and the Human Rights Commission which was established by the Armed Forces as part of the Civil Affairs Section.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 21 September 1967; ratified: 30 November 1979.
El Salvador's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 4 April 1968; ratified: 6 March 1969.
El Salvador's third periodic report was due 31 December 1995; the fourth periodic report was due 28 February 1996.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 21 September 1967; ratified: 6 June 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 30 November 1979.
El Salvador's ninth periodic report was due 30 December 1996.