

The government's response to the concerns of the WG detailed the action taken by the authorities since 10 December 1983 to trace and establish the identity of children of persons who disappeared between 1976 and 1983. The actions included a comprehensive investigation carried out by the National Commission on the Disappearance of Persons (CONADEP), which covered the entire spectrum of disappeared persons, including children who disappeared together with their parents as well as children who were born in captivity. The government also stated that, concurrently, judicial proceedings were instituted in various courts, mainly on the basis of a complaint lodged by the organization "Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo", with the aim of tracing children. It further reported that, in 1992, the President had established the National Committee for the Right to an Identity, the aim of which was to promote the search for disappeared children. The government asserted that the Commission regularly and systematically acted in response to requests from the "Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo" or at its own initiative and that, as of 22 February 1996, 57 children and young people had reportedly been traced. In a further communication, the government informed the WG that, on the basis of new information presented to it, the Buenos Aires National Appeals Court for Federal Criminal and Correctional Cases had decided to initiate proceedings in order to determine the fate of three individuals reported to have disappeared between 1976 and 1983. The report notes that 3,384 cases of disappearance in Argentina remain to be clarified.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 15, 16, 18, 19, 31, 34, 51, 57, 58, 66; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 19–25)

Two urgent appeals were transmitted to the government. The first related to surveillance and a lethal shooting by police officers in civilian clothes. The second concerned a lawyer involved in the case of a young man who died in 1994 in police custody and allegedly subjected to threats and intimidation. The Special Rapporteur (SR) also sent information on two cases of alleged extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions committed by police officers.

The government informed the SR that the lawyer, and members of the family of the man who had died in police custody, were under permanent protection by the Federal Police. The report notes that, in some cases, investigations were proceeding. In one case, the trial against the police had concluded with guilty verdicts and sentencing, and compensation awarded to the family.

Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/32, paras. 18, 58–60)

The report refers to a case concerning a lawyer, previously transmitted to the government, where the judge had been removed from the case. The report also refers to the case of a lawyer (discussed above) who reportedly had been threatened and intimidated while working on the case of a man who had died while in police detention in 1994.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 27)

The report to CHR 1997 notes that Argentina has developed a coordinated system to deal with child victims of abuse. The National Council for Children and the Family is the

technical and administrative body responsible for the implementation of programmes addressing all aspects of prevention, promotion, and training of human resources; for the active participation of the community; and for developing a network of services.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, para. 118) refers to the need for AIDS education in schools and to the fact that schools are incorporating sex education programmes into the curriculum in a number of countries. The report notes that, in Argentina, such programmes have not been implemented because of strong opposition from representatives of the Catholic Church to the introduction of sex education. The report does acknowledge that training programmes aimed at professionals working in such strategic areas as immigration and law enforcement, do cover issues of child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/19, paras. 39, 71)

The report refers to information related to the death of seven people in 1993 as a result of toxic gas leaking from drains in the proximity of a concealed deposit of toxic wastes; to date, those responsible for the damages have not been identified. The report also notes information about the export to Argentina of bales of so-called "waste paper" from the United States and some European countries. This is reported to be basically a toxic waste product that poses health and safety risks for workers, both through skin contact and through inhalation. Moreover, there are more general contamination problems associated with the recycled paper produced from these bales, since it is subsequently used in, among other things, toilet rolls, paper serviettes, and food wrapping.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, paras. 55–59)

The report summarizes information provided by the government, noting: the establishment of the "National Commitment to Mothers and Children", the "National Plan of Action", and the "Federal Covenant for Mothers and Children" which set out the goals to be attained by the year 2000 and the activities to be pursued to achieve them; ratification in 1990 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; ratification in 1979 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; provisions in the Constitution guaranteeing, *inter alia*, the right to life and respect for the dignity and integrity of the human being; education, health, justice, work and the essential function of the family; and, the right to equality for all "men". The report notes that the Special Rapporteur takes the use of the word "men" to refer to "human beings".

Other Reports

Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 2, 8)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that military service is voluntary with the exception that the Congress has reserved the right to conscript 18-year-olds for a period of up to one year when, for specified reasons, there is an inadequate number of volunteers for military service. The report also