

Human Rights Commission and a workshop on the establishment of the Commission; a human rights training course for police trainers; assistance in reporting under human rights treaties; production of various publications, particularly a general guide to human rights practice, a guide to human rights bodies and NGOs in Malawi, a pocket book of the Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners, and an adapted version of the OHCHR police trainers guide and the pocket book of human rights standards for police; participation in training and strengthening human rights NGOs; and distribution of human rights documentation.

Malawi is a member of the Southern Africa Development Community and, therefore, also 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").



MALI

Date of admission to UN: 28 September 1960.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Mali has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.87) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data and information on the general political structure and legal framework for the protection of human rights. The Constitution, together with other legislation, establishes a number of institutions and structures for the protection and promotion of human rights in such areas as equality of citizens before the law, equality of access to the courts, impartiality in decision making and others. The organization of the judiciary guarantees the independence of judges, remedies, and measures protecting citizens' rights against arbitrary action. National and international NGOs and human rights associations operate in Mali, including, for example, the Malian Human Rights Association, the Malian Association of Jurists, the Malian Section of Amnesty International, the Committee for Action and Defence of the Rights of the Child and Women, the Association for the Protection of Women, and the African League of Human Rights.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 16 July 1974.

Mali's initial report was due 30 June 1990; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 16 July 1974.

Mali's second, third and fourth periodic reports were due

from 1986 through 1996; the fourth periodic report was due 11 April 1996.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 16 July 1974.

Mali's seventh through 12th periodic reports were due from 1987 through 1997; the 12th periodic report was due 15 August 1997.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 5 February 1985; ratified: 10 September 1985.

Mali's second, third and fourth periodic reports were due 10 October 1990, 1994 and 1998 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 20 September 1990.

Mali's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.53) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its September/October 1999 session; the second periodic report was due 18 October 1997.



MAURITANIA

Date of admission to UN: 7 October 1961.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Mauritania has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 21 December 1966; ratified: 13 December 1988.

Mauritania's initial and second through fifth periodic reports were due 12 January 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 16 May 1991.

Mauritania's initial and second periodic reports were due 14 June 1993 and 1998 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: General reservation.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 257-259)

During the period under review, no new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. The one outstanding case reportedly occurred in 1990 and concerned a 21-year-old man who is said to have been taken by members of the National Guard in a village in southern Mauritania during a nightly curfew. During that