

Another case involved an individual who had been drafted into the army in May 1995 and was said to have been ill-treated by his sergeant who verbally abused him, inflicted a knife wound near his ribs, and hit him in the head with a spade. Information indicated that the conscript was denied medical care and threatened that he would be "blown up on a mine" if he complained. It was further alleged that he was beaten by fellow soldiers at the instigation of the sergeant, as a result of which he lost consciousness. Information further stated that after the soldier was transferred to hospital, he was beaten by a medical attendant when he was too weak to perform cleaning tasks, and subjected to further beatings when he refused to give another soldier his clothes. The report notes that the soldier was diagnosed with lymphosarcoma, and eventually discharged from the army. Information indicated that the military authorities did not respond to an official complaint concerning his ill treatment.

The Special Rapporteur also transmitted cases related to allegations of ill treatment by the police during demonstrations following the national elections of September 1996. The incidents involved, *inter alia*: a member of parliament from the suspended ARF, who was reportedly detained at the National Assembly building and kicked and beaten unconscious with gun butts; a number of persons who were severely beaten with rifle butts and kicked when uniformed troops were said to have entered the premises of the opposition National Self-Determination Union (NSDU) — among them the NSDU President and staff members and a member of parliament who was subsequently detained and again subjected to beatings in police custody; and, a reporter from the opposition Russian-language newspaper *Golos Armenii* (Voice of Armenia) and as well as a member of the opposition National Democratic Union who were reportedly detained in September 1996 and taken to the 6th Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where they were allegedly severely beaten.



AZERBAIJAN

Date of admission to UN: 9 March 1992.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Azerbaijan has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.41/Rev.2) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the general political structure, the juridical framework within which human rights are protected and legal remedies for violations.

The legal framework for the protection of human rights is established by the Constitution which states that Azer-

baijan subscribes to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Helsinki Final Act and other generally recognized international instruments. All rights and freedoms set out in these instruments are respected and may be exercised without discrimination based on sex, race, nationality, religion, social origin, political convictions or any other ground. The protection of rights is provided through a number of legal measures, including the Criminal and Civil Codes and codes related to labour, marriage and family, housing and land. Remedies for violations may be sought through the judicial system which includes the Supreme Courts of the Azerbaijani and Nakhichevan Republics, the Baku City Court, district people's courts, military tribunals, and the High Court of Arbitration. The creation of a Constitutional Court is under way.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 13 August 1992.

Azerbaijan's second periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 13 August 1992.

Azerbaijan's second periodic report is due 12 November 1998.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 16 August 1996.

Azerbaijan's initial report was due 15 September 1997.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 10 July 1995.

Azerbaijan's initial report (CEDAW/C/AZE/1) was considered at the Committee's May 1998 session; the second periodic report is due 9 August 2000.

Torture

Acceded: 16 August 1996.

Azerbaijan's initial report was due 14 September 1997.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 13 August 1992.

Azerbaijan's second periodic report is due 11 September 1999.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Azerbaijan's initial report (CEDAW/C/AZE/1, September 1996) was considered by the Committee at its January 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains general information on the land and people, the effects of the conflict with Armenia, the general political framework, and the general legislative framework related to human rights. Information is also provided on, *inter alia*: legal provisions related to equality between women and men; the Marriage and Family Code, spousal and parental rights, relations between family members, measures for the social protec-