

### Other Reports

#### **Children and juveniles in detention, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/26, para. 2, Section I)**

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information received from the government, stating that: children and juveniles are recognized by legislation as vulnerable groups and are therefore protected by laws on criminal procedure; during custody, juveniles must be separated from adult detainees and the treatment of juveniles is carried out with the aim of protecting and helping them to develop their sense of responsibility and enable them to integrate into society; in addition to a network of social work centres which covers the entire country, there are 11 establishments for the education of children and young people with behavioural problems, including delinquency; between 1990 and 1996, there were 97 cases of detained juveniles; in that same period, there were two reported cases of police officials attempting to extract statements from youth by duress and five registered cases of official mistreatment of youth — criminal proceedings were initiated against the police officials involved; and, as of 1 January 1996, the government established special groups of police officials to deal with juveniles.

#### **Decade for Human Rights Education, Report of the HCHR: (E/CN.4/1997/46, para. 23)**

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights notes that a National Committee for Human Rights Education has been established as a consultative body headed by the Minister of Education. The Committee's task is to promote human rights education by suggesting amendments and addenda to the national curricula, from primary schools through to universities. The report also notes that a project has been started with UNESCO entitled "Peace and human rights education for Croatian primary schools" which incorporates field research and the publication of textbooks. Finally, the report recalls that the government has requested technical assistance from Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the drafting of the National Plan for Human Rights Education.

#### **Disappearance, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/103)**

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government stating that implementation of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance was a priority for Croatia and, to that end, a number of legislative and administrative measures had been taken at the national level; it pointed out that the main problem concerning enforced disappearances remained the tracing of persons missing as a result of the armed conflict.

#### **Environment, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/18, Section I)**

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government, noting: the Constitution proclaims the protection of nature and environment as one of the fundamental values of the constitutional order; the Declaration on the Protection of the Environment proclaims Croatia's commitment to the achievement of sustainable development in accordance with the concept and the standards set by the international community; the Law on the Protection of the

Environment calls for the adoption of the National Strategy for the Protection of the Environment being drafted by the State Division for the Protection of the Environment; the Constitution provides for the right of every person to a healthy life and environment and stresses the obligation of all citizens and of public or private bodies to undertake measures to protect the environment; and, environmental protection is a subject of the rules of criminal law which stipulates penalties for pollution of the human environment.

#### **Foreign debt, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/17, Section I)**

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government stating that: there is a need to bring together creditor and debtor countries as well as multi-lateral financial institutions and UN specialized agencies; foreign debt, particularly if followed by an obligation of payment of high interest rates, seriously impedes the possibility of enjoyment of both economic and political development; and, the support of the World Bank and the Group of 24 in respect of the Initiative for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries is welcome.

#### **Minimum humanitarian standards, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/77, Section I)**

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government citing constitutional provisions related to non-discrimination and equality before the law as well as provisions on restrictions on rights during a state of war or proclamation of a state of emergency. The government noted that, in the case of public emergency declared by Parliament or the President, limits may be placed on the freedom of movement of certain individuals by decision of the Minister of the Interior, or require them to report their whereabouts to the competent police authority. Such decision is subject to review by the Supreme Court which must make the decision within 48 hours.

#### **Minorities, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/82, para. 41 in Section III)**

The report of the Secretary-General cites information received from the Civic Committee for Human Rights of Croatia, about the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and Rights of Ethnic and National Groups or Minorities. This law reportedly protects the identity and existence of minorities and guarantees the rights of persons belonging to minorities to enjoy their own culture, practise and profess their own religion and speak their own language. It was noted that key provisions of the Law were suspended in September 1995. The government has resisted international pressure to reinstate these provisions, arguing that minority rights are adequately protected by other provisions of law.

#### **World public information campaign on human rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/36, para. 20)**

The report of the Secretary-General notes that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published a *Field Guide* for the International Police Task Force Monitors of the Peace Implementation Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and CIVPOL Officers of the UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia. This publication was designed to fulfill the specific needs of the human rights