

Judaism and has been manifested in various ways, including through bureaucratic obstacles to the acquisition of property by certain religious communities and attempted extortion. The report comments on the situation of the Muslim minority in western Thrace, noting problems related to the way "muf-tis" are appointed, the way religious property is managed, and the status of religious and mother-tongue instruction. The report notes that the status of the Muslim minority in western Thrace is intrinsically both a religious and a political question in which religion is often turned to political ends. The report states the view of those living in the area that the Muslim minority is a hostage to relations between Greece and Turkey in which Turkey regards them as political pawns and Greece pays little heed to the community, which has long been subjected to both visible and latent forms of intolerance. The report states that the fate of the Muslims in Thrace is still bound up with that of the Greek minority and Orthodox Patriarchate in Constantinople, which are said to suffer intolerance and discrimination in Turkey.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/477, paras. 10, 21, 25, 28, 33, 34, 38, 51, 60) notes that communications were sent to the government related to: violations of religious freedom against Christians; the imposition of controls on and interference with the religious activities of all or certain religious groups or communities; and, the expropriation by a municipality of part of a Christian cemetery in order to widen a road despite opposition by the church and the fact that some graves were reported to have been profaned during the operation. The government response to communications previously transmitted is summarized as stating: non-Muslim minorities enjoy the rights guaranteed in the Constitution; investigations were under way into reports of attacks against non-Muslim places of worship; the allegation that properties of the Armenian Church had been confiscated was not confirmed by the authorities; a change in the legal status of the Halki Theological School made it impossible for the academy-level school to continue its activities; and, the allegations of discrimination against the Alawites were baseless.

The SR has requested an invitation to visit Turkey. The request is being considered by the government but an invitation has not yet been issued.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, para.56)

The report notes that the trafficking in Romanian girls is generally towards countries in southern Europe, including Turkey.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 488-528)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) advised the government of information received indicating that examinations conducted by state-appointed doctors of the Forensic Medicine Institute appeared to be flawed, were often carried out in the presence of soldiers or police officers from the units responsible for the original interrogation under torture and perfunctory and, in a number of cases, resulted in misleading certificates being produced. The report notes that the government characterized the information as being devoid of any element of truth and stated

that the Ministry of Health had taken measures to ensure that medical reports were safely transmitted to the prosecutor and that their contents were withheld from security personnel. The government also asserted that it attached great importance to the prevention of ill-treatment during periods of detention in cases handled by the State Security Courts (SSC) and cited initiatives it had taken to reinforce human rights protection, including a written directive issued by the Prime Ministry stipulating that: under no circumstances may suspects be subjected to ill-treatment; during detention, all time limits and measures prescribed by law shall be strictly observed; interrogation methods should be consistent with those used in European countries and the United States; all medical reports shall be drawn in strict conformity with the circulars issued by the Ministry of Health; suspects shall have access to legal counsel as per relevant laws; police detention centres shall be controlled periodically; all detainees shall be registered; detainees shall be placed in sufficiently large units conforming to health standards; all law enforcement officials who ill-treat detainees shall immediately be subjected to legal action; all governors and security authorities shall constantly supervise their subordinate police departments and inform the Ministry of Interior of the result of their controls so as to ensure strict adherence to these measures.

The report refers to information transmitted to the government by the SR, jointly with the Chairman of the Board of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, about the prosecution of officials of the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey (HRFT), a non-governmental organization operating four torture rehabilitation centres. The charges against those running two of the centres related to operation of a rehabilitation centre without licensing from the Department of Health and failure to notify the judiciary or police magistrate that 167 patients examined by the doctor had claimed to have been subjected to torture and failure to make information about those patients available when requested to do so by the Public Prosecutor. The report also notes that notice was reportedly served upon HRFT by the head of the Department for Annexed and New Foundations that the organization was to be investigated for "collaboration" with various non-governmental and intergovernmental agencies, including the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, without having obtained permission from the authorities.

Notwithstanding the government's responses to the information transmitted, the SR expressed continuing concern at the apparently widespread practice of torture in Turkey and referred to a public statement issued at the end of 1996 by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), namely that "resort to torture and other forms of severe ill-treatment remains a common occurrence in police establishments in Turkey. To attempt to characterize the problem as one of isolated acts of the kind which can occur in any country-as some are wont to do-is to fly in the face of the facts".

The report notes that the government has not invited the SR to visit Turkey.

The individual case information provided in the addendum to the main report catalogues forms of torture and ill-treatment including: incommunicado detention, beatings, electric shocks, food deprivation, death threats, soaking with pressurized water, sexual assault, rape, hanging by the arms, sexual assault with a truncheon, constant playing of loud