

referring to cases of violations of the right to life, including deaths in custody in Sindh and its capital, Karachi. The report acknowledges that the information received from various sources does suggest that armed opposition groups are responsible for part of the violence perpetrated against civilians. However, the report also states that law enforcement personnel are often directly responsible for human rights violations. The SR stated that reports repeatedly indicated that the bodies of persons allegedly killed in an "armed encounter" displayed various signs of torture.

The individual cases transmitted to the government involved: individuals without any political affiliation, shot and killed by a group of paramilitary Rangers reportedly acting under the supervision of the army in the context of a cordon-off and search operation; an eyewitness to the murder of two workers of the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM), killed in North Karachi by members of the police; MQM members and others shot and killed during a police operation in Korangi and Karachi by members of the police; deaths in custody by shooting, torture, denial of medical treatment or summary execution; deaths caused by armed factions allegedly supported by the government, including shooting after kidnapping; and, deaths caused by unknown assailants following anonymous death threats.

The report notes that the government has not responded to any of the cases transmitted in 1995 and 1996 and states that "The government's strategies to combat human rights violations committed by the police, law enforcement officials, security forces and paramilitary Rangers, as well as human rights abuses by armed opposition groups, have failed to provide protection to political activists, journalists and ordinary civilians."

**Independence of judges and lawyers:** (E/CN.4/1997/32, paras. 8, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 143-147)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) has requested an invitation from the government to visit Pakistan. The cases transmitted to the government involved threats and harassment against a lawyer defending a woman in a habeas corpus petition filed by the young woman's father. It also involved the murder of a former justice of the Sindh High Court and member of the Pakistan Bar Council, and his son, following death threats and demands that the individual withdraw a case that he had filed with the Sindh High Court in Karachi. In terms of the latter case, the report notes that the information received stated that the threats had been reported to the authorities and that no steps were taken to investigate the allegations or to provide the judge with protection.

The report also refers to a previously reported challenge before the Supreme Court related to the constitutionality of the appointment of ad hoc judges to the Supreme Court. The SR noted that the Supreme Court, after hearing lengthy arguments, issued its decision in March 1996 and reaffirmed the independence of the judiciary by asserting the power of appointment of the judiciary, rather than of the executive, which was the position previously.

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/91, paras. 9, 17, 24, 25, 43, 45, 60, 66)

The report notes information received related to religious intolerance or discrimination in Pakistan towards people of

Islamic faith as well as threats and murder of members of the clergy and believers. The report also notes that the Special Rapporteur visited Pakistan in 1995 and has requested an invitation from the government to undertake a follow-up visit.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/477, paras. 8, 12, 13, 21, 25, 28, 34, 36, 37, 46) notes communications transmitted to the government related to: violations of religious freedom against Christians and Ahmadis, including suppression of demonstrations and the murder of clergy and believers.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 39)

The report notes that Pakistan is among the countries in South Asia where trafficking in children is rife.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, para. 22) notes that there is extensive trafficking in women and girls from Pakistan to the Middle East and Western and Eastern Europe.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section II; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 352-373)

The main report of the Special Rapporteur (SR) notes that 20 cases and two urgent appeals were transmitted to the government and that a response to one of the urgent appeals, involving the situation of 7 people, had been received.

The first addendum to the main report refers to cases transmitted to the government. One case involved a 13-year-old girl who was employed as a housemaid and reportedly raped by her employer's son; after her parents approached the employer regarding the incident, the employer allegedly filed a false case of theft against the girl who was then arrested. After a habeas corpus petition was filed she was discovered in the home of a police sub-inspector who had allegedly raped her repeatedly in custody. Other cases involved the abduction and rape of a 15-year-old Hindu girl by soldiers; kickings and beatings following detention; demands for money from a detainee; detention and ill-treatment against a worker for the Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM); death in custody of a former MQM counsellor; rape by police officials of a 17-year-old pregnant woman, at home, during a police raid; death in custody following incommunicado detention; abduction of a journalist by plain-clothes members of the Rangers, followed by detention in police custody and severe beatings; death from gunshot wounds in an alleged "encounter" with police; death following arrest without charge; arrest of and use of electric shocks, slashes with sharp instruments, burnings with cigarettes and hot rods, and the removal of nails and hair against an MQM worker; detention and torture of an executive member and members of the Jammu Kashmir National Student Federation (NSF); and, detention and torture of a member of the National Executive Council of the National Awami Party. The report notes that in some cases the victims were later summarily executed and also refers to an urgent appeal sent jointly with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial and summary execution. The appeal was made on behalf of seven persons who were arrested without warrant in February 1996 and held incommunicado. A joint communications was also sent, with the Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial and summary execution and the independence of judges and lawyers, related to the murder of a former Justice