

without charge or trial in the security wing of Kober prison; the arrest and beating of a university graduate who was allegedly ordered for further interrogation, noting the government statement that the person named had been arrested and released immediately after interrogation; and, the arrest of four persons on the accusation of having links with the opposition, noting that the government confirmed the arrest of three persons, but denied the arrest of the fourth.

In response to cases previously transmitted the government indicated: the persons named had been arrested on the accusation of involvement in bombardments of some strategic areas but had been released after investigation; the persons named had not been detained; the person named had been summoned to the security services but had been immediately released; the persons involved in a demonstration had not been arrested; and the persons named who were reportedly arrested, some of whom were said to have died as a result, had never been detained.

### **Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission**

#### **Systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflict, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/13, para. 67)

The report notes that the majority of the world's contemporary armed conflicts are non-international, or internal, in character and cites information indicating that sexual violence is a common feature in the ongoing hostilities in Sudan.

#### **Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/11, para. 97)

The report refers to actions taken by the government to eradicate harmful traditional practices. The objective of the Sudanese National Committee on traditional practices affecting the health of women and children is to eradicate or modify undesirable traditions, customs and behaviour in rural and urban areas by the year 2000. The question of the eradication of female genital mutilation has been incorporated in the basic education curriculum and teaching on the subject began in 1997.

### **OTHER REPORTS**

#### **Children affected by armed conflict, Special Representative:** (A/53/482, paras. 43, 71–83)

The Special Representative (SRep) visited the Sudan from 14 to 17 June 1998 with two objectives: first, to assess first-hand the impact on children of the protracted conflict in the Sudan; and second, to seek the support of the government in locating and facilitating the release of children abducted from northern Uganda. On the second point, the report notes that the government made a pledge to assist with the ongoing efforts of the SRep to obtain the release of children who have been abducted from northern Uganda and was requested by the SRep to use its influence to help trace and secure the release of

schoolgirls abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army from St. Mary's College, Aboke.

Concerning the first objective, the government made a number of commitments, namely: access to the Nuba mountains — promising to facilitate the work of the UN team investigating the attack on a UN convoy in the area of the Nuba mountains; recruitment and participation of children in hostilities — undertaking to correct any deviation from its policy not to recruit or deploy children under the age of 18 years; use of landmines — indicating that it would do everything to avoid deploying landmines while insisting that this was a difficult issue because of the continuing use of landmines by other parties to the conflict and also the fact that several neighbouring countries had not signed the Ottawa Convention on the ban of landmines; collaboration with the Southern States Coordinating Council — agreeing to set up a contact group between the Council and relevant UN agencies to develop programmes to build greater awareness within groups under the authority of the Council on humanitarian and human rights standards relating to the protection of children; and observing the Convention on the Rights of the Child — noting that a national charter based on the Convention, in Arabic and English, was being translated into other local languages to ensure wider dissemination in the country.

The report notes that the SRep was not able to visit the SPLA-controlled areas of the Sudan, but did meet with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement's leadership in Nairobi. A visit to SPLA-controlled areas was planned for the near future.

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

#### **Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights**

The note by the Secretary-General (A/53/504) recalls that in March 1998 Gáspár Bíró resigned as Special Rapporteur. Mr. Leonardo Franco of Argentina was appointed to succeed Mr. Bíró but because of the lateness of the appointment an interim report was not prepared for the 1998 General Assembly. Those interested in the situation in Sudan were requested to refer to the report prepared for the 1998 session of the Commission (as above).



### **SWAZILAND**

**Date of admission to UN:** 24 September 1968.

#### **TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS**

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