

The Working Group (WG) transmitted one new case of disappearance to the government which reportedly occurred in 1995. This reportedly involved a Swiss citizen travelling from Greece to Italy on a Greek ship who was denied entry into Italy and returned to Greece on the same ship. The government responded, noting that the individual involved had twice been denied entry into Greece and had been expelled on several occasions for involvement in international criminal activity. No official exit from the ship was recorded and authorities suggested that the passenger had gone ashore before disembarkation control was in place. The authorities were investigating. As of December 1996, two cases that had been referred to the government in 1993 remained to be clarified.

Racial discrimination, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/27, para. 45)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly refers to discrimination against Romas and cites information indicating that, in October 1996, police officers swooped down on the Roma camp at Ano Liosia in Attica on the pretext of arresting a 21-year-old Roma suspected of stealing cannabis. In the suspect's absence, the police officers took his mother and sister hostage and verbal exchanges took place as a result of the rage felt by the camp's population. Stones were thrown at the police and they reacted with a second incursion. The information indicated that on the same day, the Minister of the Interior stated that the police had been doing their job and that people should not believe what gypsies said.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/477, paras. 8, 12, 15, 25, 28, 34, 38, 39, 46, 51, 56)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes the mission to Greece in June 1996 and communications sent to the government related to: violations of religious freedom against followers of Islam and the case of a Muslim religious leader who was reportedly taken to court and then released after being accused of illegally building a mosque. In response to the case, the government stated that the construction work on the mosque had been interrupted because aspects of the building had not been included in the approved building licence. The actions were taken to stop arbitrary construction, pending issuance of a revised licence. The government stated that no application for a revised building permit had been submitted. In response to a previously transmitted case related to conscientious objection, the government informed the SR that the person, a Seventh-Day Adventist minister, had been exempted from military service.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 50)

The report refers to the arrest of more 700 people in Athens in August 1996 following newspaper reports that child prostitution involved not only children from Eastern Europe but also under-aged Greek girls who had been forced into prostitution. Information also indicated that child sex tourism had been organized from Belgium to Greece. During searches carried out under warrants, children were found chained in brothels in order to facilitate rape. The report notes that the case has raised the question of how many of the 500 Greek

girls and 170 boys reported missing over the past five years may have been picked up by child prostitution recruiters.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 172-173)

Five cases were transmitted to the government alleging beatings by officers of the Anti-Drug Squad or use of excessive force by police against demonstrators, including ill-treatment during arrest and transfer to the Security Police building. Concerning the drug case, the government replied that no such person had ever been detained or interrogated in the Security Division of Thessaloniki for breach of the "law on drugs". Responding to the allegations of excessive use of force, the government stated that the preventive inspection of 100 anarchist demonstrators had been considered necessary by the Public Prosecutor because some of them were carrying bags which could have contained weapons. The government asserted that the demonstrators had violently attempted to prevent the inspection, a minor clash had followed and those individuals on whose behalf the Special Rapporteur had sent the query had been arrested. Forensic examination revealed that they had received minor injuries which had been sustained while resisting arrest, not from torture or ill-treatment. The government informed the SR that nine police officers had also been slightly injured and that the detainees had been convicted by the First Three-Member Magistrate Court of Thessaloniki on various charges, including sedition. The findings of an administrative examination had failed to establish any disciplinary or other responsibilities on the part of the General Police Division of Thessaloniki.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV)

The report notes that Colombian women are being trafficked to markets in Greece.

Other Reports

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, Report of the S-G: (E/CN.4/1997/101, para. 9)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that Greece has contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

Minorities, Report of the S-G: (E/CN.4/1997/82, para. 42)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues in which concern was expressed that article 19 of the Nationality Code of Greece provides a legal basis for racial discrimination to the extent that nationality may be withdrawn from any person who is not of Greek origin and who leaves Greece without the intention of returning. The Federation asserted that this article is used against the Muslims of Thrace of Turkish origin, on the occasion of their return after a lengthy visit abroad, or against students returning from Turkey after their studies or holidays. The information also states that this minority is subjected to discrimination with regard to acquisition of property, the securing of shop licences, use of their language and in the field of education. Further, the report notes that the Macedonian minority in Greece is not recognized as a minority by the Greek authorities and, therefore, cannot benefit from guarantees on the use of, and instruction in, their mother tongue. They are also subject to the application of article 19 of the Nationality Code and are restricted in