

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/38, paras. 34–36; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 35–39)

In July 1997 the Special Rapporteur (SR) advised the government that information had been received on what was alleged to be a substantial incidence of torture or other ill-treatment inflicted by members of the police against street children, especially those of Roma ethnicity. The ill-treatment, which was said to take place both at the time of arrest and during detention at police stations, was allegedly carried out to intimidate or to extract a "confession". The children were reportedly sometimes picked up on suspicion of such crimes as theft, but were also arrested as part of generalized "street sweeps". The abuse reported included beatings with fists, boots, electric shock batons, clubs, chains, rubber hosing, boxing gloves or a metal rod with a ball attached to its end (*beech*) and beatings on the soles of the feet, sometimes with electric batons (*falaka*). Detained children who were held at police stations were said frequently to be held without beds, blankets and sometimes without food or use of toilets. The parents of such children were reportedly rarely informed of their detention and, sometimes, these children were held together in lock-ups with adult detainees.

The individual cases transmitted to the government involved detentions and ill treatment at the Shumen police station and the Regional Directorate for Internal Affairs in Stara Zagora and by police officers of the Sofia Department of Internal Affairs.



CROATIA

Date of admission to UN: 22 May 1992.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Croatia has submitted a revised core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.32/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the organization of government and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Articles 14 to 20 of the Constitution regulate fundamental freedoms and the rights of individual and citizens and relate to civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. Croats have a right to file a constitutional complaint after all legal remedies available by judicial and administrative bodies have been exhausted. Protection of human rights is implemented on the basis of the Law on the Ombudsman, which provides that the Ombudsman takes action in order to examine individual violations of constitutional and legal rights of citizens, shortcomings or other irregularities in the operation of administrative bodies and bodies vested with public authority, either on

an independent initiative, or subject to application of citizens to that effect. The Coordination on Internal Policies and Human Rights is the central body of the government regarding issues of human rights, with the principal task of systematically monitoring the state of human rights in Croatia and coordinating the activities of relevant bodies in charge of the promotion and protection of human rights. International human rights instruments ratified by Croatia are self-executing as an integral part of the internal legal order and take precedence over domestic law. The provisions of these instruments may be invoked and must be enforced by the judicial authorities or other agencies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's initial and second periodic reports were due 30 June 1993 and 1998 respectively.

Civil and Political Rights

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's initial report was due 7 October 1992 [sic]; the second periodic report was due 7 October 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 12 October 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 (a) of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 12 October 1995.

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's initial, second and third periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/290/Add.1) which was considered at the Committee's August 1998 session; the fourth periodic report was due 8 October 1998.

Discrimination against Women

Succeeded: 9 September 1992.

Croatia's initial report (CEDAW/C/CRO/1) was considered at the Committee's January 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 9 October 1997.

Torture

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's second periodic report (CAT/C/34/Add.4) was considered at the Committee's November 1998 session; the third periodic report is due 7 October 2000.

Rights of the Child

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's second periodic report was due 7 October 1998.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee against Torture

Croatia's second periodic report (CAT/C/33/Add.4, March 1998) was considered by the Committee at its