

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/19, paras. 29, 55)

The report referred to information provided by the government, noting: Nigeria's active role in support of the resolution adopted at the 1995 session of the Commission (1995/81); its strong belief that the illicit dumping of toxic wastes is a violation of the right to life and health; and, the fact that Nigeria was one of the African countries that suffered and still suffers from the illegal dumping of toxic and hazardous wastes, due to its limited experience and knowledge in dealing with hazardous and toxic wastes, most of which are deliberately labelled raw materials for certain industries. The government provided examples of illicit dumping that had occurred in the past and suggested measures to control and eliminate the illicit dumping of toxic wastes, including that: the Special Rapporteur (SR) should produce and circulate annually a list of the countries and multinational corporations engaged in illicit dumping; there should be a study of the health effects of the illegal dumping of toxic wastes in developing countries; the SR should explore the possibility of the elaboration of a universal declaration on the effects of illicit dumping of toxic wastes on the enjoyment of human rights; the SR should work closely with various international and local players in developing countries to gather data on illegal waste dumping; all states should be encouraged to adopt and vigorously implement existing conventions related to the dumping of toxic and dangerous products and waste and to cooperate in the prevention of illicit dumping; all states should become parties to the Basel Convention; there should be adequate funding for existing international monitoring mechanisms to function effectively; and, a focal unit in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights should be established to follow up the findings of the SR.

The report also refers to the operations of Royal Dutch Shell and Shell Oil USA in southern Nigeria, stating that, in order to allow employees of Shell to carry out business ventures without being molested, the region has been occupied by the police since May 1994 and that human rights violations have been reported, in addition to sporadic and discretionary enforcement of environmental regulations.

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

In the section dealing with trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the report notes that Nigerian women known as "madams" or "Mama-Loa" act as middle-persons between victims and their traffickers, and that more than 5,000 Nigerian women prostitutes between the ages of 16 and 30 were reportedly sold as wives to farm workers in the south of Italy.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Contemporary forms of slavery, Working Group on:
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, paras. 55, 62)

The report of the Working Group refers to information provided by NGOs indicating that large numbers of migrant domestic workers in Nigeria have no rights and become the

property of their employers. The report also cited NGO information on child prostitution and the trade of children for the purposes of sexual exploitation. It took note of the response of the government, that Nigeria had enacted laws to combat the trade and sexual exploitation of children, and had ratified the relevant international instruments.

States of emergency, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/19/Add.1, Section I)

The report notes that a state of emergency was proclaimed in November 1993, dissolving the Parliament and suspending certain constitutional guarantees, and remains in effect.

Traditional practices affecting women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, para. 15)

The report refers to a report indicating that the practice of "Trocosi" girls, or those delivered into the "slavery of God", exists in several countries, including southeastern Nigeria.

Other Reports

Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 2, 15)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government stating that there is no conscription in Nigeria and that military service is voluntary.

Cooperation with UN representatives, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/50, para. 7)

The report of the Secretary-General recalls the concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee regarding Nigeria (CCPR/C/79/Add.65) in which it noted information indicating that two members of the Civil Liberties Organization were prevented by the State Security Service from attending the fifty-sixth session of the Committee and had their passports impounded. Information from the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions is also cited, related to the case of the coordinator of international lobby projects of the Civil Liberties Organization, who had reportedly been subjected to harassment and intimidation by members of the Nigerian delegation during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights. The report notes that the government responded, stating that the allegation was totally false, without substance and intended to cause mischief.

Detention of international civil servants, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/25, para. 3)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that a Nigerian national working with UNICEF was shot and killed in Lagos in November 1995.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At its 1997 session the General Assembly adopted a resolution on the situation in Nigeria (A/C.3/52/L.70). In it, the GA, *inter alia*: recalled that Nigeria is a party to a number of international instruments, including the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child; welcomed Nigeria's recent contribution, through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), in support of democratic