

indicating that she was severely tortured and coerced into signing a statement implicating herself in several bombings. After an allegedly unfair trial, she was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment for illegal membership in the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), throwing explosives and separatism. The report notes that in addition to being verbally abused and threatened with death, the woman was sexually assaulted repeatedly and threatened with rape. Her arrest and subsequent torture occurred after she accepted, and then investigated, a case involving the suspicious death of a person of Kurdish background in which state involvement had been alleged.



UNITED KINGDOM

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: The United Kingdom has submitted a revised core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.5/Rev.2) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as detailed information on the general political structure, the organization and functioning of the judicial system in a multi-jurisdictional state and the legal framework for the protection of human rights. The U.K. does not have a bill of rights or written constitution. Under the constitutional arrangements, the possession of rights and freedoms is an inherent part of being a member of society. Rights, therefore, are not conferred by the government; they already exist unless Parliament decides that the needs of society are such that they should be restricted in some specific way.

With regard to remedy for violations by the state, the Criminal Cases Review Commission (1997), a body independent of the executive, is one of the mechanisms through which alleged miscarriages of justice can be reviewed by the courts. Human rights are safeguarded through the work of a number of specialized bodies established by statute, including the Equal Opportunities Commissions, the Commission for Racial Equality, the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration ("the Ombudsman"), the Office of the Data Protection Registrar, the Police Complaints Authority, and the Independent Commission for Police Complaints for Northern Ireland. Also in Northern Ireland are the Independent Assessor of Military Complaints Procedures and the Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights. International human rights treaties to which the U.K. is party are not self-executing and the courts interpret only those laws made by Parliament and those parts of European Community law which have direct effect within Community member states.

The core document prepared by the U.K. government on its overseas dependent territories and Crown dependencies (HRI/CORE/1/Add.62) includes information on Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, Isle of Man, Bailiwick of Jersey, and Bailiwick of Guernsey. In addition to statistical data, each entry summarizes information on the system of government, the law and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 16 September 1968; ratified: 20 May 1976.

The U.K.'s fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph (a) (i), article 7; paragraph 3, article 2; article 6; paragraph (a) (i), article 7; article 9; paragraph 2, article 10; paragraph 2, article 13; and article 14.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 16 September 1968; ratified: 20 May 1976.

The U.K.'s fourth periodic report for Jersey, Guernsey and Isle of Man has been submitted (CCPR/C/95/Add.10) but is not yet scheduled for consideration; fifth periodic for the U.K. is due 18 August 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 3 (d) of article 14; paragraph 4 of article 23; paragraphs (2) (b) and (3) of article 10; paragraph (2) (a) of article 10; article 11; paragraph 1 of article 12; paragraph 4 of article 12; paragraph 3 (d), article 14; article 20; paragraph 3, article 24; declaration under article 41.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 11 October 1966; ratified: 7 March 1969.

The U.K.'s 15th periodic report was due 6 April 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs (a), (b) and (c), article 4; and articles 6, 20 and 15.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 22 July 1981; ratified 7 April 1986.

The U.K.'s third periodic report (CEDAW/C/UK/3; CEDAW/C/UK/3/C/Add.1; CEDAW/C/UK/3/Add.2) has been submitted and is scheduled to be considered at the Committee's January 1999 session; fourth periodic report is due 7 May 1999.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration; paragraph 4 of article 15; article 9; article 11; paragraph 5 of article 15; and, paragraph 1 (f) of article 16.

Torture

Signed: 15 March 1985; ratified: 8 December 1988.

The U.K.'s third periodic report (CAT/C/44/Add.1) was considered at the Committee's November 1998 session; the fourth periodic report is due 6 January 2002.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 19 April 1990; ratified: 16 December 1991.

The U.K.'s second periodic report (CRC/C/41/Add.7) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the initial report for the Isle of Man