

including violations of the right to life, have not been brought to justice; and, further, that the National Security Act (1994) conferred on security officials immunity from prosecution for offences carried out in the course of their duties. The report acknowledges that information has also been received indicating that the armed opposition forces the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) and the South Sudan Independence Movement/Army (SSIM/A) have also killed civilians, sometimes on a mass scale.

The cases transmitted by the Special Rapporteur (SR) to the government included a joint appeal with the SR on torture and involved six men who had been sentenced to be hanged, three men sentenced to be hanged until dead and their bodies then publicly crucified, and 10 men sentenced to amputation of their right hand and left foot. A second joint appeal, sent with the SR on torture and the Working Group on arbitrary detention, involved 65 people, including military officers, some of whom are retired, and 10 Chadian nationals arrested by members of the Sudanese security forces. The information upon which the appeals were based indicated that all of those arrested were being detained without charge and at risk of being tortured or otherwise ill-treated. A separate case addressed by the SR related to the killing of the Chief of the Jur Chol tribe by members of the security forces in the Aweil area in southern Sudan.

The report notes that the government has not responded to any of the cases referred to it by the SR.

Freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/31, Section II)

The report notes that the government has invited the Special Rapporteur to visit Sudan.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/477, paras. 8, 12, 13, 25, 28, 34, 38)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly recalls the mission to Sudan in September 1996 and the cooperation extended by the government since the visit. The report notes that communications were sent related to violations of religious freedom against Christians, including the bulldozing of Christian schools.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 47)

The report refers to comments by the Special Rapporteur on Sudan related to a racial dimension in the violations and abuse of children who are abducted and sold into slavery in both northern and southern Sudan., para. 5) reproduces a report prepared by UNIFEM, citing information from the reports of the Special Rapporteur on Sudan. Among the points noted are: the abduction of children in the southern and northern Sudan; the use of some boys as servants; and, subjection of girls to sexual slavery (concubines) and forced marriage.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, para. 18) notes that information continues to be received related to the abduction of children for the purposes of child labour or recruitment into the armed forces.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Sections I & III ; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 454-472)

The report notes that the Special Rapporteur (SR) had received information indicating that the use of torture in the

Sudan remained widespread. Reference is made to the closure of the secret detention centre known as "City Bank" or "the Oasis" (al-Waha) and the transfer of detainees to a section of Khober prison to be administered by the security authorities. The report states, however, that many other secret detention centres were said to continue to operate throughout the country. A summary of new legislation promulgated in 1994 and amended in 1995, to replace the 1990 National Security Act, indicates that: individuals may be detained, without notice of the reasons for detention, for three months by order of the National Security Council or "its authorized representative" approved by a magistrate; the three-month detention may be renewed once without magisterial approval; further periods of removal were allowed with the approval of a "competent judge"; and, detainees do not have the right to challenge judicially the legality of their detention. The report notes that during these periods of pre-trial detention, individuals are said to be held frequently incommunicado, leaving them vulnerable to torture.

Twenty-five cases and nine urgent appeals on behalf of 66 persons were transmitted to the government by the SR, some jointly with the SR on Sudan, others jointly with the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and still others jointly with the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The report notes that the government replied to one of the appeals concerning seven persons and to 14 cases transmitted in previous years. The cases handled by the SR involved, among others, opponents of the government, students, a cleric, trade unionists, foreign dissidents and professionals. The methods of torture and ill-treatment used included beatings, lashings, sleep deprivation, enforced standing, amputations and denial of access to medical attention.

On the basis of the information received, the SR on torture expressed agreement with the conclusion of the SR on Sudan, namely that torture of detainees continues to be routinely practised by the armed and security forces in Sudan.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Contemporary forms of slavery, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, paras. 75-76)

The report of the Working Group notes that information has been received on the deteriorating situation in regard to slavery in the Sudan as well as other practices including forced labour and kidnapping. The report notes that the government has invited the Working Group to visit Sudan and that the invitation is being considered, bearing in mind the terms of reference for the Working Group.

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 Sudan on 6 April 1985, 25 July 1987, and 30 June 1989, and is still in force.

Other Reports

Detention of international civil servants, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/25, paras. 55-58)

The World Food Programme (WFP) provided information related to a case in which a WFP aircraft was diverted by Sudanese rebels upon landing and an international and a local