

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1997/91, paras. 9, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 41, 66; A/52/477, paras. 21, 25, 28, 34, 37, 46)

The reports refer to discriminatory policies, laws and/or regulations affecting Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unification Church in Singapore. On the question of conscientious objection the reports note that there have been reported cases of imprisonment for refusal to perform military service and there is no legal recognition of the right of conscientious objection. The reports also note information indicating that clergy and believers have been subjected to ill-treatment, arrests and detention.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (*A/52/482, paras. 6, 107)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that the government responded to the SR's request for information on the media and education as catalysts in the commercial sexual exploitation of children. The government's approach to the Internet is summarized, noting the Class Licence Scheme through which Internet service and content providers are required to block out objectionable sites as directed by the Singapore Broadcasting Authorities. The report notes further that schools, libraries and other providers of Internet access to children must institute tighter levels of control although the means to accomplish this have not yet been determined. The SR cites information indicating concerns as to the scope and vagueness of the Internet content guidelines and the effect they might have on freedom of expression.

Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 57)

The report indicates that in the last three years Singapore has become one of the major exporters of drained or undrained scrap batteries to the Philippines, citing exports totalling 9,280 tons between 1994 and April 1996.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1997/47, Section V)

In the section dealing with women migrant workers, the report refers to the fact that, despite promises of education and a better standard of living for women and girls who are migrant domestic workers, they often live in a state of indentured servitude that includes physical abuse. The report notes that receiving states have implemented various policies both to encourage and discourage the "maid trade" and that a formal Foreign Domestic Maid programme was established in Singapore in 1978 to encourage educated women to assume formal employment. The report also notes that the government levies a substantial tax on the employment of foreign domestic workers and that none of the US\$146 million per year generated by this taxation is used to benefit the domestic workers.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

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

The report notes that emergency legislation is currently in force in Singapore which expressly provides for preventive detention.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS

Date of admission to UN: 19 September 1978.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Solomon Islands has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Succeeded: 17 March 1982.

The initial and second periodic reports of Solomon Islands were due 30 June 1990 and 1995 respectively. The Committee has scheduled a review of implementation of the Covenant for its April/May 1998 session in the absence of a report from the government.

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 17 March 1982.

The second through eighth periodic reports of Solomon Islands (covering the period 1985-1997) have not been submitted; the eighth periodic report was due 16 April 1997.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 10 April 1995.

The initial report of Solomon Islands was due 9 May 1997.

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SRI LANKA

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Sri Lanka has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.48) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data and information on the general political structure.

The legal framework for the protection of human rights is established in the preamble and articles 10 to 16 of the Constitution. In addition to constitutional and legal provisions, there is an Ombudsman — the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration — who has the duty to investigate and report on complaints or allegations of infringements of fundamental rights and other injustices by public officers and officers of public corporations, local authorities and other similar institutions. There is, as well, the Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination and Monitoring of Fundamental Rights, Citizens Rights Watch Committees to act as a link between the public and police, and the Human Rights Task Force (which was subsequently replaced by the Human Rights Commission). The Commission of Inquiry Act No. 17 of 1948 provides for the appointment of commissions of inquiry as required. The Sri Lanka Law Commission is charged with the responsibility to review legislation to ensure compatibility with international human rights standards, the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary laws, and the simplification and modernization of law.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 11 June 1980.