

observations (CERD/CRP1./Add.17) noted that the initial report had not been submitted and regretted that the government had not responded to the invitation to meet with the Committee and provide relevant information. The Committee also noted that the multi-ethnic composition of the population and the existence of indigenous communities in Guyana make implementation of the Convention particularly important. A letter was to be sent to the government setting out its reporting obligations and urging that a dialogue with the Committee be established. It was suggested that the government avail itself of the technical assistance offered by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to draw up and submit the initial report.

#### **Discrimination against Women**

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 17 July 1980.

Guyana's second through fourth periodic reports were due 3 September 1986, 1990 and 1994 respectively.

#### **Torture**

Signed: 25 January 1988; ratified: 19 May 1988.

Guyana's initial and second and third periodic reports were due 17 June 1989, 1993 and 1997 respectively.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 14 January 1991.

Guyana's initial report was due 12 February 1993.

### **THEMATIC REPORTS**

#### *Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*

**Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 15, 19, 83; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 210-212)

An urgent appeal was sent to the government on behalf of two individuals who were to be executed. The information received indicated that the trials of the two men had fallen short of international fair trial standards and that both had been convicted on the basis of written and oral confessions made under duress. The information also indicated that one of the men had been ill-treated while in custody and the other was not represented by a lawyer during the first four days of the trial. The government replied that the Court of Appeal had vacated the decision of the President to sign the death warrants on technical grounds and that the petitions from the two men would be reconsidered.

#### *Other Reports*

**Disappearances, Report of the S-G to the CHR:** (E/CN.4/1997/103)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government stating that: there were no known cases of enforced disappearance in Guyana; the Constitution provided for the protection of the right to life and liberty; the Criminal Law Act provided for the protection of women and children against abduction or kidnapping; and, some potential witnesses, especially in drug related cases, were afraid to give evidence because of threats from the accused or persons connected to the accused. The government stressed the need for a witness protection programme and stated that it had taken appropriate action to ensure compliance with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **HAITI**

**Date of admission to UN:** 24 October 1945.

### **TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES**

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

#### **Civil and Political Rights**

Acceded: 6 February 1991.

Haiti's initial report was due 31 December 1996.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Signed: 30 October 1972; ratified: 19 December 1972.

Haiti's 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> periodic reports were due 18 January 1992, 1994 and 1996 respectively.

#### **Discrimination against Women**

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 20 July 1981.

Haiti's initial and second through fourth periodic reports were due 3 September 1982, 1986, 1990 and 1994 respectively.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 8 June 1995.

Haiti's initial report was due 7 July 1997.

### **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **The report of the Independent Expert on Haiti**

The Commission on Human Rights, after considering the report of the Special Rapporteur on Haiti at its 51st session in 1995, requested the Secretary-General to appoint an independent expert to have responsibility for providing assistance to the government in the area of human rights, to examine the development of the situation in Haiti in that area, and to monitor the fulfilment by Haiti of its obligations in that field. In July 1995, Mr. Adama Dieng was appointed as the Independent Expert.

The report of the Independent Expert to the 53rd session of the CHR (E/CN.4/1997/89) includes substantial commentary on economic, social and cultural rights on the basis that durable solutions to the chronic and extreme poverty in Haiti are key to improvements in other areas, including those related to civil and political rights.

The report refers to problems arising from protests over the government's privatization which have been compounded by the fact that there is a need to transform Haiti from a state ruled by a clique serving its own interests into a state genuinely serving the public by responding effectively to violations of economic and social rights in areas such as:

- ▶ the right to health-including issues such as infant mortality, the spread of infectious diseases in urban slums, the spread of AIDS among the poorest in the population, adequate inspection procedures for companies manufacturing pharmaceuticals and other health products;
- ▶ the right to education-including a coherent programme to reduce the rate of illiteracy from its present level of about 75 per cent; increased access to secondary education; measures to enable children in rural areas to remain in school rather than joining the labour market to supplement family income;