

- ♦ provide information on legislative reforms which have been scheduled or undertaken, particularly with regard to the right to freedom of association;
- ♦ provide information on measures taken relative to civil and political rights, economic and social indicators for all the country's ethnic groups, and on the teaching, educational, cultural and information activities carried out to prevent and combat all forms of racial discrimination; and
- ♦ provide information on the activities of the Association nigérienne pour la défense des droits de l'homme (Niger Association for the Protection of Human Rights).

### THEMATIC REPORTS

#### Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

##### Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1998/44, paras. 19, 21)

The report notes that one urgent appeal was sent to the government on behalf of three persons. Information subsequently received indicated that the persons named were not in detention. No details of the cases were provided.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 147; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 280–283)  
Information was sent to the government on behalf of two named persons who were part of a group of demonstrators reported to have been arrested in Niamey in July 1996, and then taken to the military camp at Ekrafane. The incidents arose when opposition sympathizers preparing to stage a peaceful demonstration were attacked by a police patrol using tear-gas grenades. Police actions also reportedly included bludgeoning. Approximately 40 demonstrators were rounded up and taken to the military camp at Ekrafane where they were said to have been subjected to protracted beatings over the course of a week and had had their heads shaved. One of the persons named was said to have been led, blindfolded, in front of a firing squad several times; the order had then been given to fire into the air to frighten him.

The Special Rapporteur (SR) also sent to the government a case related to a militant member of the Front for the Restoration and Defence of Democracy who was arrested in Niamey in February 1997 by six police officers. Information indicated that he was taken to the outskirts of the town, beaten, and abandoned there. The SR noted the victim had also been beaten up at a judicial police station the month before, after being arrested for criticizing the government over the radio.

A fourth case sent to the government related to a lecturer at the University of Niamey who was abducted in April 1997 by four men, one in military uniform, and taken some kilometres from Niamey. There he was stripped and beaten unconscious. The SR noted that some days

before the incident he had published an article in a newspaper criticizing the government.



## NIGERIA

**Date of admission to UN:** 7 October 1960.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 29 July 1993.

Nigeria's initial report (E/1990/C/Add.31) was considered at the Committee's May 1998 session; the second periodic report is due 30 June 2000.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 29 July 1993.

Nigeria's second periodic report is due 28 October 1999.

#### Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 16 October 1967.

Nigeria's 14th and 15th periodic reports were due 4 January 1996 and 1998 respectively.

#### Discrimination against Women

Signed: 23 April 1984; ratified: 13 June 1985.

Nigeria's second and third periodic reports were submitted as one document (CEDAW/C/NGA/2-3), which was considered at the Committee's July 1998 session; the fourth periodic report was due 13 July 1998.

#### Torture

Signed: 28 July 1988.

#### Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 19 April 1991.

Nigeria's second periodic report was due 18 May 1998.

### REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

#### Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Nigeria's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.31, February 1996) was considered by the Committee at its May 1998 session. The report was prepared by the government that came into office on 17 November 1993 and contains information on, *inter alia*: the right to work, trade unions and workers' rights; the Labour Act 1990 and the Minimum Wage Act; women in the labour force; provisions related to young people and persons with disabilities in the labour force; the Young Persons Act 1958; health care policy and delivery of medical services; the National Pri-