

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

At the 1997 session, the Commission adopted a resolution by consensus (1997/47) in which it: noted that the breakdown in governmental authority had exacerbated the human rights situation; welcomed efforts by the UN and other humanitarian and non-governmental organizations to improve the humanitarian situation; noted the efforts of the Organization of African Unity, the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development, the League of Arab States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to promote direct political dialogue between warring factions; affirmed the need for the disarmament of factions, political reconciliation and re-establishment of effective government committed to human rights; expressed concern at reports of arbitrary/summary executions, torture, violence against women and children, and the absence of an effective judicial system to ensure the right to fair trial; deplored attacks against humanitarian and non-governmental organizations and representatives of international media; noted that prevailing circumstances have seriously impeded the ability of the Independent Expert to fulfil her mandate; called on all parties to the conflict to work towards a peaceful solution to the crisis; urged all parties to respect human rights and international humanitarian law; called for intensification of efforts by regional organizations and concerned countries aimed at facilitating the national reconciliation process; and, called on donor countries and international and non-governmental organizations to incorporate human rights principles and objectives into humanitarian and development work.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/91, paras. 9, 17, 20, 24, 26)

The report refers to violations of religious freedom against Christianity, violations of the principle of tolerance arising from religious extremism and violations of the right to life, physical integrity and health of persons, including murders of clergy and believers.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/477, paras. 25, 28, 30, 33, 38, 46) notes that communications were sent to the government related to violations of religious freedom against all religions and religious groups and communities other than the official or state religion or predominant religion, including religious restrictions on non-Muslims and a prohibition on proselytizing by non-Muslims aimed at Muslims.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

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

The report refers to a de facto state of emergency in areas affected by armed conflict in Somalia.

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, para. 11)

The report refers to the need for education on traditional practices and cites comments by a Somali who performs circumcision referring to the fact that practitioners make money

from trade and will only stop if they are able to earn a living in some other way-through another job and a better education.

Other Reports

Detention of international civil servants, Report of the S-G to the CHR : (E/CN.4/1997/25, paras. 3, 54)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that two Somali nationals and staff members with UNICEF were shot and killed in Mogadishu in November 1995 and January 1996. The report also refers to information provided by the World Food Programme (WFP) on incidents in Somalia affecting WFP operations, including looting of agency compounds, assaults and hostage-taking.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Women's human rights, Report of the S-G: (E/1997/64, para. 47)

The report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women refers to the resolution adopted at the 1997 session of the Commission on Human Rights in which concern was expressed at violence against women and children in Somalia.

SECURITY COUNCIL

The 17 February 1997 report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia (S/1997/135) contains information on: political developments; background to the situation in Mogadishu, including a major conflict in December 1996 which resulted in the death of about 300 people and the wounding of more than one thousand others; peacemaking efforts; and UN humanitarian relief and rehabilitation assistance to Somalia noting, *inter alia*, crop failure due to lack of rain or to flooding in some areas, low purchasing power due to unemployment and high prices, difficulty of access to many areas due to security and logistical constraints and, a number of cases where UN personnel and the personnel of non-governmental and other organizations have been killed, wounded, threatened or subjected to kidnapping and extortion. The report also refers to the continued absence of a peaceful settlement leading to disturbing violations of humanitarian law and human rights, including: the indiscriminate use of force and the killing of civilians, mostly non-combatants; summary executions; the continuing increase in the number of internally displaced persons; and kidnapping and abduction, which remain common.

On 27 February 1997, the President of the Security Council made a statement (S/PRST/1997/8) in which the Council, *inter alia*: reaffirmed its commitment to a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the situation in Somalia; called on all Somali factions to cease immediately all hostilities and to cooperate with regional and other efforts for peace and national reconciliation; encouraged all states to contribute generously to the appeals of the UN to ensure continued relief and rehabilitation efforts, including those aimed at the strengthening of civil society; reiterated its calls on all states to fulfil their obligations to implement the embargo imposed on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Somalia; called on all states to refrain from any actions which might exacerbate the situation in Somalia; and, called on the Somali factions to ensure the safety and freedom of