

international standards and practice and provides for an effective process of appeal against refusal or withdrawal of licenses;

- ♦ ensure that individual journalists are protected from harassment and are able to carry out their professional activities freely, including in all matters of public interest, irrespective of whether or not they support the government;
- ♦ disseminate to the widest possible audience basic human rights instruments and information, initiate and organize training in international human rights standards and practice for various groups of professionals — including government officials, members of Parliament and the judiciary, particularly with regard to the right to freedom of opinion and expression — and ensure that international standards are applied in the respective areas of competence;
- ♦ provide a facilitating environment for the establishment and operation of professional associations and non-governmental organizations;
- ♦ encourage professional associations in the media field to organize training programmes for professionals in the information sector — representing both state-financed and independent media and with the participation of international media professionals — which addresses ethical and professional standards of reporting as well as the rights and responsibilities of the media and the government;
- ♦ ensure that the law and practice governing public demonstrations are in compliance with international standards and repeal provisions failing this test; and
- ♦ further efforts to provide appropriate training to all law enforcement officials involved in operations related to demonstrations, and ensure that all such officials are competent to carry out their work in accordance with international standards.

Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on the: (E/CN.4/1998/39, paras. 19, 38–39)

The report notes a reply received from the government in January 1997 related to previously expressed concerns over the process of suspending the Constitutional Court following the Court's decision concerning the referendum on two draft constitutions. The government provided the Special Rapporteur (SR) with information on the provisions in the Constitution concerning the administration of justice and the appointment and independence of judges. Detailed information was also provided regarding the organization of the judicial system and the status of judges as contained in the Republic of Belarus Act of 13 January 1995. The SR was informed of the appointment proceedings, the activities and the competence of the Constitutional Court judges. The government referred to the adoption of a new Constitution by referendum which amended the procedure for the appointment of judges. The new procedure stipulates that the

President of the Constitutional Court, the President of the Supreme Court and the President of the Supreme Economic Court are to be appointed by the President with the consent of the Council of the Republic. Under the previous Constitution these persons were all elected by the Supreme Council. The government also noted that the new Constitution had increased the membership and age limit of the Constitutional Court.

The SR noted that the information provided did not correspond to the specific allegation transmitted and expressed continuing concern that the judiciary may not be independent from the executive branch.

Racism and racial discrimination, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/79, para. 42)

The report notes that an anti-Jewish propaganda programme was reported to have been broadcast on state television in July 1997. The programme was reported to have contained a scene of a ritual Jewish murder which occurred in 1690.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/6, paras. 48, 61, 69, 71)

The section of the report concerning conscientious objection refers to information provided by the government in which it is stated that the law provided for alternative service in lieu of national military service, but that there were no regulations defining the conditions and terms under which military service could be replaced by alternative service, or the nature of such service. According to the authorities, a practical solution had been found to the problem for citizens who refused to perform military service and stated that they were unable to bear arms, use military equipment or take an oath. These individuals were assigned to auxiliary units where their beliefs were respected. The government noted that a bill governing matters relating to alternative service was to be submitted to the National Assembly.



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Date of admission to UN: 22 May 1992.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.89) 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 judicial system, and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights. Chapter III of the Constitution defines human and civil rights and freedoms in such a way that they cannot be removed or limited. The Constitutional Court, as the implementing agent of constitu-