

The report notes that information received by the Special Rapporteur (SR) referred to amendments to the Estonian Criminal Code which added two offences to the list of criminal acts punishable by death: violence against a police officer or a person equal to a police officer and crimes against humanity. The amendments reportedly entered into force on 11 March 1994 and 9 December 1994, respectively. The SR expressed concern about the extension of the scope of the death penalty, noting that the action runs counter to the international trend towards abolition of the death penalty and is in clear violation of article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ratified by Estonia.

Racial Discrimination, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/71, para. 37)

The report cites information provided by the government which calls attention to Estonia's ratification, in April 1996, of the European Convention on Human Rights and of its optional protocols 4, 7, 10 and 11, and to Estonia's acceptance of the right of individual petition to the European Commission on Human Rights.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 51)

The report refers to child sex exploitation in Central and Eastern Europe and notes that Estonia has an estimated 1,500 child prostitutes.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Contemporary forms of slavery, Report of the S-G:
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/11, Estonia)

The report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography includes information provided by the government, noting that Estonia's criminal code was upgraded in 1995 and now contains tough laws for the protection of minors. The law specifically prohibits: the trafficking of minors and child prostitution; production, possession, and distribution of child pornography; persuading a person to engage in prostitution; and the use of minors as objects of erotic or pornographic activity for the production of erotic and pornographic publications. It was noted that a working group is studying proposals aimed at improving the effectiveness of the implementation of the law.

Other Reports

Children and juveniles in detention, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/26, para. 2, Section I)

The report of the Secretary-General included information provided by the government referring to adoption of the Law on Protection of Children for persons under the age of 18. The government stated that, under this law, minors cannot be arrested "unless absolutely necessary". In Estonia, children and juvenile offenders can be placed in special educational institutions or rehabilitation centres.

Minimum humanitarian standards, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/77, Section 1, Estonia)

The report of the Secretary-General includes views provided by the government, noting that the Turku Declaration [of Minimum Humanitarian Standards, 2 December 1990] combines elements of both humanitarian law and human

rights law and sets out basic standards that should be applicable in all situations, during peacetime as well as wartime. The government noted that the standards should be respected by, and applied to all persons, groups and authorities while at the same time not be interpreted as restricting or impairing the provisions of any existing international humanitarian or human rights instrument. The government welcomed the Turku Declaration and considered the points set out in it to be an appropriate basis for a further elaboration by the Commission on Human Rights, in order to draft a UN declaration on minimum humanitarian standards. The government also referred to a new law in Estonia, the Law on the Situations of Public Emergency, which came into effect in February 1996. The Law specifies the situations during which a state of emergency may be proclaimed, which rights can be restricted, and what obligations can be imposed upon people.

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GEORGIA

Date of admission to UN: 31 July 1992.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 3 May 1994.

Georgia's initial report (E/1990/5/Add.37) has been submitted and is yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee at its November/December 1999 session; the second periodic report is due 30 June 2001.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 3 May 1994.

Georgia's second periodic report is due 2 August 2000.

Georgia's initial report (CCPR/C/100/Add.1) was considered by the Committee at its March/April 1997 session. The report prepared by the government includes information on: principal ethnic and demographic characteristics; organs of government; legislative and other human rights instruments; and, the situation in Abkhazia. The report reviews laws and measures related to each of the rights set out in the articles of the ICCPR, including but not limited to: right to remedy, equality of women and men, the death penalty, health care, forced labour, alternative service to military service, freedom of expression and hate speech, due process, and public emergencies.

The Committee's concluding observations (CCPR/C/79/Add.75) acknowledged the negative effect on implementation of the Covenant of the conflicts in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, both of which have involved serious violations of human rights and massive population displacements. The Committee also acknowledged that the government continues to have difficulty exercising its jurisdiction in those areas in terms of the protection of human rights.

The Committee viewed positively: the entry into force of the 1995 Constitution, notwithstanding the fact that it does not fully reproduce the rights in the Covenant; the establishment of the Constitutional Court; the abolition of the system of internal passports; the reform of the Criminal Code and the