

lawyers who, in presenting such a weak case, effectively allowed the police to get away with custodial rape.



## BHUTAN

**Date of admission to UN:** 21 September 1971.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

#### Racial Discrimination

Signed: 26 March 1973.

#### Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 31 August 1981. Bhutan's initial through fifth periodic reports were due 30 September 1982, 1986, 1990, 1994 and 1998 respectively.

#### Rights of the Child

Signed: 4 June 1990; ratified: 1 August 1990, Bhutan's initial and second periodic report were due 1 September 1992 and 1997 respectively.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

#### Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

**Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:** (E/CN.4/1998/44, paras. 4, 5, 19, 21)

The report notes that cases were transmitted to the government, one under the urgent appeal procedure, and that the government responded. No details of the cases were provided.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 26; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 25-28)

Three urgent appeals were sent to the government. One involved five persons, of whom four were monks at the Kheri Gompa monastery, arrested allegedly for supporting previously targeted political organizations. The government confirmed the arrest of the monks and gave assurances that their physical and mental integrity would be protected. There was no record of the arrest of the fifth person. The second urgent appeal related to the arrest of six persons who were subsequently shackled and subjected to daily public floggings. The government confirmed that the persons named had been detained but denied that shackles and flogging were used. The third appeal related to four individuals who were among 26 people arrested by the Royal Bhutan Police in connec-

tion with a peaceful demonstration. Information indicated that those arrested were chained in groups of four and forced to walk to a prison where they were subjected to a form of torture in which the thighs are pressed between two rods (chepua). The detainees were threatened with further torture if they did not cease their activities. The government confirmed the arrest of the four men named but denied the allegations of ill-treatment or torture. Specifically, the government denied that the prisoners had been chained and it gave assurances that torture is prohibited by law. The government stated that detainees have access both to a lawyer and to their relatives and that, in this case, the detainees had been brought before the Samdrupjongkhar District Court.



## BRUNEI DARUSSALAAM

**Date of admission to UN:** 21 September 1984.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

#### Rights of the Child

Acceded: 27 December 1995.

Brunei's initial report was due 25 January 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* General reservation and articles 14, 20 and 21.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

#### Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/6, paras. 48, 50, 58, 63, 64)

The report refers to violations of freedom of religion and belief against all religions and all religious groups and communities except the official or state religion. It notes restrictions on non-Muslims in religious matters, such as the prohibition of any proselytizing of Muslims by non-Muslims, the prohibition on the import of non-Muslim religious material, restrictions on the teaching of the history of religions and other subjects related to religion in non-Muslim educational institutions and the requirement that Islam be taught there. The report also refers to refusal by the authorities to grant permission for the building, enlargement or renovation of non-Muslim places of worship.

