

requiring surgery; beating by police officers and encouragement to their dogs to attack two men, noting that a medical examination established the presence of bite marks on the legs as well as many bruises on the face and body; use of a spray containing a paralysing substance in combination with beating with a rubber baton; use of the same spray in combination with kicking and beating, noting that the victim fell into a coma and subsequently died in hospital, a complaint was filed with the Military Prosecutor's and the authorities decided not to initiate criminal investigations; and beating while in police custody resulting in hospitalization.

The government did not respond to any of the allegations transmitted.

#### **Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur**

**on:** (E/CN.4/1998/10, para. 56, 73)

The report refers to information indicating that between 1986 and 1988 the OECD countries exported more than 6 million tons of toxic wastes to developing countries and countries in Eastern Europe, with Romania being one of the principal countries of destination.

#### **Violence against women, Special Rapporteur**

**on:** (E/CN.4/1998/54, Section III.C)

In the section dealing with refugee and internally displaced women, the report refers to the case of a woman who was physically abused by her husband in Romania for 16 years. The claimant testified that she was told repeatedly by policemen that they could not get involved because she and her husband were legally married, and that they would only get involved if the beating was connected to a crime. At the refugee hearing the documentary evidence confirmed the unavailability of protection for abused women in Romania. The woman was granted status under the 1951 Convention on the status of refugees by reason of a well-founded fear of gender-related persecution. The Special Rapporteur stated that while domestic violence is estimated to be widespread, many authorities and doctors, invoking Romania's strong family tradition, refuse to consider it a serious issue.



## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Date of admission to UN:** 24 October 1945. [The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was admitted in 1945. The Russian Federation assumed the USSR's membership in UN bodies on 24 December, 1991.]

### **TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS**

**Land and People:** Russia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.52/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic data in areas such as education and economy and information on the structures of govern-

ment and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The legal framework for the protection of human rights is based on constitutional provisions establishing: equality of rights, the inalienability and direct effect of human rights, defence of life and personal dignity, legal protection, presumption of innocence, access to the courts and compensation for loss and damage. The Supreme Court is the highest legal body for civil, criminal, administrative and other cases and for trial courts of general jurisdiction. Protection for human rights is provided through courts of general jurisdiction, military courts (military offences, disciplinary proceedings, civilian cases referred to them), the Constitutional Court, the High Court of Arbitration, the Procurator's Office and the Court of Appeal of the President. There is also a Presidential Human Rights Committee and a Citizenship Board. Primacy of international law is guaranteed in the Constitution and legislation of Russia and may be invoked in courts and administrative bodies, mainly in the areas of civil, family and criminal cases and largely addressing procedural issues.

#### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Signed: 18 March 1968; ratified: 16 October 1973.

Russia's fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 26.

#### **Civil and Political Rights**

Signed: 18 March 1968; ratified: 16 October 1973.

Russia's fifth periodic report is due 4 November 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 48 of the ICCPR; declaration under article 41.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 1 October 1991

*Reservations and Declarations:* Article 1.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Signed: 7 March 1966; ratified: 4 February 1969.

Russia's 14th periodic report (CERD/C/299/Add.15) was considered at the Committee's March 1998 session; the 15th periodic report was due 6 March 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 17.

#### **Discrimination against Women**

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 23 January 1981.

Russia's fifth periodic report was due 3 September 1998.

#### **Torture**

Signed: 10 December 1985; ratified: 3 March 1987.

Russia's third periodic report was due 25 June 1996.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Declarations under articles 21 and 22.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 16 August 1990.

Russia's second periodic report (CRC/C/65/Add.5) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's September/October 1999 session; the third periodic report is due 14 September 2002.