

## ALGERIA

**Date of admission to UN:** 8 October 1962.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 10 December 1968; ratified: 12 September 1989. Algeria's second periodic report was due 20 June 1996. *Reservations and Declarations:* Article 1; paragraph 3 of article 1; article 8; paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 13.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 10 December 1968; ratified: 12 September 1989. Algeria's second periodic report (CCPR/C/101/Add.1) was considered by the Committee at its July 1998 session. Algeria's third periodic report is due 1 June, 2000. *Reservations and Declarations:* Articles 1; article 22; paragraph 4 of article 23; declaration under article 41.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 12 September 1989.

#### Racial Discrimination

Signed: 9 December 1966; ratified: 14 February 1972. Algeria's 13th periodic report was due 15 March 1997. *Reservations and Declarations:* Declaration under article 14.

#### Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 22 May 1996. Algeria's initial report was due 21 June 1997. *Reservations and Declarations:* Article 2; paragraph 2 of article 9; paragraph 4 of article 15; article 16; paragraph 1 of article 29.

#### Torture

Signed: 26 November 1985; ratified: 12 September 1989. Algeria's third periodic report was due 11 October 1998. *Reservations and Declarations:* Declaration under articles 21 and 22.

#### Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 16 April 1993. Algeria's second periodic report is due 15 May 2000. *Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraphs 1 and 2 of article 14; articles 13, 16 and 17.

### REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

#### Human Rights Committee

Algeria's 2nd periodic report (CCPR/C/101/Add.1, March 1998) was considered by the Committee at its July 1998 session. The report prepared by the government contains information on, *inter alia*: conditions leading to the 1992 declaration of a state of emergency; the anti-ter-

rorism campaign; political and legal machinery; the mandate and functions of the National Human Rights Observatory; the mandate and functions of the Ombudsman of the Republic; the actions of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS); constitutional provisions related to derogation from Covenant rights; freedom of the press, expression, opinion and information; the rights of detainees, due process, conditions of detention; the functioning of the Constitutional Council; rights and guarantees in the revised Constitution; relevant provisions in the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Penal Code; the death penalty; freedom of thought, conscience and religion; measures to promote and preserve Berber culture and language; the equal rights of women and men; the law on terrorism and subversion and the functioning of special courts; the Ordinance on clemency measures; the enabling Act on political parties and the enabling Act on the electoral regime; the elections of 1995 and 1997, including statistical data on representation based on the election results; the right to elect and be elected; and the rights of minorities.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CCPR/C/79/Add.95) noted: the government addressed some of the issues raised following consideration of Algeria's initial report in 1992; the second periodic report was submitted with a delay of more than two years; the report and subsequent submissions provided information as to the laws and regulations adopted by the government to implement the provisions of the Covenant but does not provide sufficient specific data on the prevailing human rights crisis; and the government's undertaking to submit additional written information in response to questions raised by Committee members. The Committee acknowledged that widespread and indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population, involving the loss of innumerable lives, and a general climate of violence hindered implementation of the Covenant. The Committee noted, however, that these conditions heighten the government's responsibilities to re-establish and maintain the conditions necessary for the realization and protection of fundamental rights and freedoms in Algeria.

The Committee welcomed the establishment of the National Observatory for Human Rights, the *Médiateur de la République* (Ombudsman of the Republic) — with competence to receive complaints from individuals about human rights violations, the establishment of the National Committee for the Preservation and the Promotion of Women, and the increased participation of women in public life.

The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee included, *inter alia*: the widespread massacre of women, children, and men in a great number of villages and towns; that women have been the victims of not only killings but also of abduction, rape and severe violence; the lack of timely or preventive measures of protection to the victims from police or military officials in the vicinity, and the persistent allegations of collusion of members of the security forces in terrorist attacks; innumerable