

Other Reports

Periodic and genuine elections, Report of the S-G to the GA: (A/52/474, Annex)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that, on request by the government, the UN provided a consultant in training to assist the Electoral Commission in preparing the elections held in December 1996.

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GAMBIA

Date of admission to UN: 21 September 1965.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 29 December 1978.

Gambia's initial and second periodic reports were due 30 June 1990 and 1995 respectively.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 22 March 1979.

Gambia's second, third and fourth periodic reports were due 21 June 1985, 1990 and 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph (3) (d) of article 14; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 9 June 1988.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 29 December 1978.

Gambia's second through ninth periodic reports have not been submitted (covering the period 1982–1996); the ninth periodic report was due 28 January 1996.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 29 July 1980; ratified: 16 April 1993.

Gambia's initial report was due 16 May 1994.

Torture

Signed: 23 October 1985.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 5 February 1990; ratified: 8 August 1990.

Gambia's initial report was due 6 September 1992; the second periodic report was due 6 September 1997.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The situation in Gambia was considered by the Commission at its 1997 session under the confidential 1503 procedure. The Commission decided to continue consideration of Gambia under 1503 at the 1998 session.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1997/4, para. 4, 7)

The report notes that communications were transmitted to the government related to the cases of 35 individuals and the

government had not replied. Details on the cases were not provided in the report.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 151–152)

The Working Group (WG) transmitted for the first time one case of disappearance to the government. The case concerned a member of the now dissolved House of Representatives who was allegedly arrested in 1995 by the police and who subsequently disappeared. Given that the case was referred to the government late in the WG's reporting cycle, no response was expected in time for inclusion in the report to the 1997 session of the Commission.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 179–180)

The report summarizes information provided to the Special Rapporteur (SR) in which it was stated that the Constitution of the Gambia, which was adopted by referendum on 8 August 1996: grants the President and members of the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council (AFPRC) total impunity from criminal prosecution; prohibits the National Assembly from amending any of the provisions which provide impunity to the AFPRC, its members and appointees; and, permits the use of lethal force in defence of a person or property, to effect arrests and to prevent escape, to suppress riots, insurrection or mutiny, and to prevent the commission of a criminal offence.

The SR expressed deep concern and noted that Constitution "seems to violate certain basic human rights standards laid down in several international instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" which Gambia has ratified. The SR strongly urged the Government to amend the Constitution to bring it into line with the Principles on the Effective Prevention and Investigation of Extra-legal, Arbitrary and Summary Executions.

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GHANA

Date of admission to UN: 8 March 1957.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Racial Discrimination

Signed and ratified: 8 September 1966.

Ghana's 12th through 14th periodic reports were due 4 January 1992, 1994 and 1996 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 2 January 1986.

Ghana's third periodic report was due 1 February 1995.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 29 January 1990; ratified: 5 February 1990.

Ghana's second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

Ghana's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.39) was considered at the Committee's May/June 1997 session. The report prepared by the government includes information on *inter alia*: general implementation measures; education acts; labour