

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, paras. 15)

The report notes information indicating that the practice of "Trocosi" girls, or those delivered into the "slavery of God", exists in Benin.

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, in February 1996, the government requested the UN to send observers to the March 1996 Presidential elections; the UN was unable to respond positively to the request because of lack of lead time to plan the mission.

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BOTSWANA

Date of admission to UN: 17 October 1966.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 20 February 1974.

Botswana's 12th periodic report was due 22 March 1997.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 13 August 1996.

Botswana's initial report was due 12 September 1997.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 14 March 1995.

Botswana's initial report was due 12 April 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 1.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

The situation in Botswana was considered at the 53rd session of the CHR under the confidential 1503 procedure. At the session, the Commission decided to discontinue consideration of Botswana and took no action to move discussions into public meetings.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, para. 18; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, para. 60)

Both reports concern the case of an individual who was killed on 19 February 1995 in Mochudi and about which the Special Rapporteur was seeking clarification.

Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/32, paras. 17, 18, 20, 85-87)

The Special Rapporteur referred two cases to the government, one as an urgent appeal. The appeal related to a senior

magistrate who had been removed from the Office of Senior Magistrates with immediate effect, allegedly with no reasons given for the dismissal. The reply from the government: detailed constitutional provisions concerning removal proceedings and criteria; stated that the senior magistrate had been dismissed for "inadequate behaviour" on the basis of a decision of the Judicial Service Commission, an independent body; and noted that the dismissal had been carried out after a hearing and that the senior magistrate had been transferred to a new post "of a less sensitive nature" at the same salary level.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10/Add.1, para. 20)

The report refers to information provided by the government, noting that a draft national plan of action on this issue includes a section on the elimination of discrimination against girls in health and nutrition. Under the plan, the government and international and non-governmental organizations are to take appropriate measures to abolish traditional practices prejudicial to the health of children.

Other Reports

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

The government stated that, by legislation, a Commissioner of Child Welfare had been appointed for each district in the country and special courts have been established to deal with children and juveniles. The law stipulates that children and juveniles may not be sentenced to imprisonment but may, if necessary, be taken to a place of safety or a school of industry. The intention is to ensure that children or juveniles are not treated like ordinary criminals and are afforded every opportunity to stay in society and be brought up as respectable citizens. The legislation also provides that any parent or any person who has custody of a child and neglects or ill-treats the child is guilty of an offence, on the reasoning that negligence or ill-treatment eventually leads into juvenile delinquency.

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BURKINA FASO

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Burkina Faso has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.30) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic and statistical data on, *inter alia*, languages, ethnic groups, religion, employment, income and public finance, as well as information of a historical nature and the framework for the protection of human rights.

The Constitution establishes the responsibility of the judiciary for guaranteeing fundamental human rights and citizens' rights. Remedies for violations may be sought through: the court of first instance, competent in civil, commercial and criminal matters; the Labour Tribunal, with competence to hear individual disputes between employers and employees; a specialized division of the Supreme Court,