

Other Reports

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

The report of the Secretary-General notes a response from Germany to the request for information on national measures related to the detention of children and juveniles. The government drew attention to the fact that a law adopted in 1990 expanded the options available to public prosecutors to avoid bringing charges and to take instead less drastic measures. Such measures could include the discontinuation of proceedings against a juvenile if the offender redressed the wrong done to the victim. Also, stricter preconditions have been attached to the imprisonment of young people awaiting trial. Generally, imprisonment may only be ordered where absolutely necessary and when other options are not available. When an arrest warrant of a juvenile is executed, the law requires that defence counsel be appointed.

The Youth Court Act and the Prison Act set out basic and organizational provisions related to the youth custody system and remand detention of juveniles and adolescents. Most issues related to juvenile detention are addressed through the National Administrative Regulations on Youth Detention, the Prison Act and the Remand Detention Code. The stated task of the youth custody system is to teach convicts to lead a law-abiding and responsible life and includes both schooling and vocational training. Short leave and work outside the prison are permitted, with emphasis placed on maintaining contacts with family members and others outside prison. The government's summary includes descriptions of how the prison system in Germany is administered and by what authority.

Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 6, 26, 39)

Conscription exists in Germany but the Basic law stipulates that no one may be forced to perform "war service", activities that have a direct bearing on the use of weapons of war. The government indicated that the right to refuse to render war service is broadly interpreted and permits an individual to invoke reasons of religion, morals and philosophy. Anyone granted conscientious objector status must perform a substitute service for a time that may not be longer than a regular tour of duty in the military. The substitute service should serve the general good; in determining acceptable forms of substitute service, priority is given to needs in social areas. Substitute service may also involve work in civil defence and disaster prevention.

Minimum humanitarian standards, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/77/Add.2, paras. 1-5)

The report of the Secretary-General includes information provided by the government reaffirming the inviolability the principles of the equal protection of the laws and the unlawfulness of arbitrary rule and briefly reviewing constitutional and legal provisions relevant to a state of tension or state of defence (external state of emergency: crisis and war).

National institutions, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/41, para. 10)

While recognizing the important role national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Germany opposes the establishment of a new category of participants to accommodate participation by national institutions in the work of Commission on Human Rights. Instead, Germany suggested that the approach be one of integrating representatives of national institutions into governmental delegations. This suggestion was made on the basis that, in most cases, national institutions are linked to, or are even part of, either the executive or the legislature.

Voluntary Fund for victims of torture: (E/CN.4/1997/27)

The report notes that Germany contributed slightly more than US\$120,000 to the Fund in 1996.

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GREECE

Date of admission to UN: 25 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 16 May 1985.

Greece's initial report was due 30 June 1990; the second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 5 May 1997.

Greece's initial report is due 4 August 1998.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 5 May 1997.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 5 May 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 2.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 7 March 1966; ratified: 18 June 1970.

Greece's 12th periodic report was due 18 July 1993; the 13th periodic report was due 18 July 1995; the 14th periodic report was due 18 July 1997.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 2 March 1982; ratified: 7 June 1983.

Greece second and third periodic reports (CEDAW/C/GRC/2-3) were submitted as one document which is scheduled for examination at the Committee's January 1999 session; the fourth periodic report was due 7 July 1996.

Torture

Signed: 4 February 1985; ratified: 6 October 1988.

Greece's third periodic report was due 4 November 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under articles 21 and 22.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; 11 May 1993.

Greece's initial report was due 9 June 1995.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 153-156)