

## THEMATIC REPORTS

**Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights****Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary:** (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 3, 13, 159–162)

One new case of disappearance, reported to have occurred in 1997, was transmitted to the government under the urgent action procedure. The majority of the 20 cases of disappearance reported in the past occurred between 1985 and 1992 and concerned persons who were arrested by members of the Criminal Investigation Service of the National Police. The disappearances occurred in Quito, Guayaquil and Esmeraldas. In three cases the victims were children, and in three others the victims were Peruvian citizens who were reportedly detained in January and February 1995 in the cities of Huaquillas, Loja and Otavalo.

The newly reported case concerns a Colombian citizen who was said to have been detained in Quito by members of the National Police and to have subsequently disappeared. According to the government, the individual had been detained by members of the National Police. His whereabouts remained unknown, however, and the government was continuing its investigation.

**Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 14, 32, 36, 57; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, para. 145)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) transmitted cases to the government involving death by a gunshot fired by a police officer at the prison of Litoral, Guayaquil. Detainees were killed in January 1997 as they tried to escape. The SR was informed that the prisoners had been captured alive.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 88; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 88–89)

The report refers to a response from the government on a series of cases transmitted by the Special Rapporteur (SR) in 1995 concerning Peruvian citizens reportedly arrested and tortured by Ecuadorian authorities (E/CN.4/1995/34, paras. 167–171). The government stated that only some of the persons named were arrested. No further details were provided.

The SR sent an urgent appeal concerning the situation in the García Morena prison in Quito. Information indicated that a group of prisoners were seriously ill treated after beginning a peaceful hunger strike to urge the authorities to honour certain agreements that had been reached. It was alleged that several hooded members of the National Police beat the prisoners with batons and pipes and fired pellets at them, causing various injuries. The SR noted that the prisoners had expressed fears that such actions might be repeated.

**EL SALVADOR**

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

**TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS**

**Land and People:** El Salvador has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.34/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistic data as well as information on the general political structure, economic and social trends and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The rights set out in the ICCPR are included in the Constitution and international treaties to which El Salvador is a state party have a higher ranking than domestic law. No legislation may repeal or amend the provisions of a treaty. The constitutional reforms of 1991 and 1992 improved the administration of justice. The protection of human rights has been strengthened through measures and laws related to: the independence of judges and the judiciary; the participation of the judiciary in law-making; constitutional remedies for violations; and, the remedy of *amparo*. In addition to protections under law, a number of institutions and bodies have been created in the area of human rights, including the Presidential Commissioner for Human Rights, the post of Deputy Procurator for Human Rights, the Department of Human Rights within the Supreme Court, the Commission on Justice and Human Rights which was established by the Legislative Assembly, and the Human Rights Commission which was established by the Armed Forces as part of the Civil Affairs Section.

**Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Signed: 21 September 1967; ratified: 30 November 1979. El Salvador's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

**Civil and Political Rights**

Signed: 21 September 1967; ratified: 30 November 1979. El Salvador's third periodic report was due 31 December 1995; the fourth periodic report was due 28 February 1996.

**Optional Protocol:** Signed: 21 September 1967; ratified: 6 June 1995.

*Reservations and Declarations:* General declaration.

**Racial Discrimination**

Acceded: 30 November 1979. El Salvador's ninth periodic report was due 30 December 1996.

**Discrimination against Women**

Signed: 14 November 1980; ratified: 19 August 1981. El Salvador's third, fourth and fifth periodic reports were due 18 September 1990, 1994 and 1998 respectively. *Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 29.