

- ♦ the competent authorities pursue their efforts to establish an independent and credible National Human Rights Commission based on recognized international norms governing the composition and the mandate of such commissions and that the international community provide the necessary financial support for its effective functioning;
- ♦ the international community forcefully and unequivocally condemn the insurgent forces which are determined to resume the genocide they launched in 1994, destabilizing efforts to bring peace and security to Rwanda and sabotaging the efforts of the government to foster national reconciliation;
- ♦ all states cooperate fully with any and all requests of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) concerning the arrest and transfer of any person sought;
- ♦ the efforts of the government to prosecute violations committed by some elements of its armed forces be strongly encouraged and supported;
- ♦ a survey be undertaken to identify the specific needs of genocide survivors throughout the country, with a view to implementing a programme of social and economic assistance to victims and survivors;
- ♦ all states contribute urgently to a fund for genocide survivors in view of the extreme hardship they continue to suffer with little or no assistance;
- ♦ with regard to mass education and public awareness in the field of human rights, the human rights component of all school curricula be regularized and strengthened; and
- ♦ the international community provide a substantial level of development assistance to the countries of the Great Lakes region to raise the level of personal and economic security in the region so that meaningful improvement in the human rights situation can take root.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

At the 1998 session the Commission adopted a resolution by consensus (1998/69). The Commission, *inter alia*: welcomed the ongoing rehabilitation of the justice system and expressed concern over the very large number of detainees awaiting trial; commended the government for the cooperation extended to the Special Representative and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women as well as to HRFOR; reiterated its strong condemnation of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and all other human rights violations in Rwanda and expressed concern at the continuation of human rights violations; reaffirmed that all persons who committed or authorized actions of genocide or other grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law are individually responsible and accountable; urged the government to give priority to the

prosecution and punishment of crimes of sexual violence committed against women; strongly condemned the continuing violence and genocidal activities perpetrated by former members of the Rwandan armed forces, Interahamwe and other insurgent groups; condemned the illegal sale and distribution of arms; encouraged the government to continue to investigate and prosecute violations of human rights and humanitarian law committed by individual members of the security forces in the course of military counter-insurgency operations; welcomed the draft Law on Matrimonial Property and Succession and encouraged the government to continue efforts to improve the welfare, status and role of women, with particular attention paid to issues related to property; commended the government for establishing a fund to assist genocide survivors; commended the work of HRFOR and welcomed the ongoing review of its role, priorities and functions; expressed deep concern at the conflict in the northwest of Rwanda; noted the progress made by the government in the establishment of a national human rights commission; encouraged the government to facilitate broad public debate on how to ensure that the national commission is independent and effective; welcomed the continuing trials of those suspected of genocide and crimes against humanity; expressed concern that perpetrators of the genocide and other gross violations of human rights continue to evade justice; reiterated its request that all states cooperate fully with the ICTR; expressed concern at the slow rate of progress in the proceedings of the ICTR; reiterated its concern at the conditions of detention in some centres; welcomed and encouraged government initiatives to reduce the prison population through the release of minors and elderly prisoners and others; welcomed the commitment of the government to promote national unity and reconciliation; called for close consultation between the government and the Special Representative on the functioning of the future national human rights commission; and, extended the mandate of the Special Representative for a further year.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:

(E/CN.4/1998/44, paras. 19, 20)

The report notes that an urgent appeal was sent to the government. No details of the case were provided.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary:

(E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 13, 329–335, 417)

The report notes that the human rights field officers deployed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights have been instructed to receive pertinent information about disappearances and to channel such reports to the Working Group (WG). The Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) informed the WG that it had received relatively few reports of cases of alleged disap-