

the government to establish an independent body to monitor elections; urged the government to give priority to combatting child prostitution and trafficking; expressed grave concern at the consequences and destabilizing effects of the indiscriminate use of anti-personnel landmines and encouraged the government to continue efforts aimed at removal of these mines; urged the government to ban all landmines; requested the Secretary-General to report to 1998 Commission on the role of Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and protection of human rights in Cambodia and on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Special Representative.

## THEMATIC REPORTS

### *Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*

**Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 16, 18, 31, 64, 96, 101; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 90–94)

The report refers to concerns raised about the apparent selectivity of countries for which international tribunals have been established, i.e., that the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda are not the only conflict areas where massive violations of human rights and humanitarian law justify such an institution. Other countries, including Cambodia, have experienced violations on a similar scale. The Special Rapporteur (SR) comments that a climate of impunity is strongly entrenched in Cambodia and that, in those cases where alleged perpetrators of human rights violations have been prosecuted, their acquittals have been suspect.

An urgent appeal was transmitted to the government early in 1996 requesting the authorities to take the necessary measures to guarantee the protection of a UN staff member and her three children. The concern arose from death threats against the woman which were aimed at preventing her from attending the trial of her husband who had been charged with conspiracy to assassinate the Deputy Prime Minister. Information on extrajudicial executions, which was also sent to the government, related to: an individual who had been arrested for having published an article considered to be defamatory in the 30-31 October 1994 edition of *Oddomkete Khmer*; the killing of three persons who had been arrested for establishing contacts with the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea; a young mentally-disabled man suffering from speech problems, who was shot by a militiaman in his village; and, a killing carried out in a village by the Deputy Prefect and seven members of the local militia. The report notes that no reply was received from the government on any of the cases transmitted.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, paras. 35, 39, 70, 74, 75)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) notes the establishment of the Cambodia National Committee for Children, the coordinating, planning and monitoring body with respect to children's rights, composed of representatives of various ministries. Referring to the ILO three-year campaign to draft and ratify a regional convention against child trafficking, the report states that Cambodia is one of the countries in the Mekong region of Asia where child trafficking is common.

The report also notes that, in the past few years, there has been huge influx of pornographic material into Cambodia, and that children, both male and female, have been forced to watch pornographic videos and then carry out the same sex acts with adult clients. With regard to sex workers, the report states that, in 1990, the number of such workers in Phnom Penh was estimated to be 1,500; however, that number increased rapidly during the supervised transition period (1991–1993) of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) which allowed an opening up of the country after a prolonged period of isolation. The Cambodia Women's Development Association estimates that the number of sex workers has now increased to 17,000, with girls between the ages of 12 and 17 making up about 35 per cent of the total. The report acknowledges that the vast majority of child prostitutes are girls but also states that there has been an increase in paedophile activity involving young boys and both Cambodian and foreign men. The report notes that Cambodia's legal enforcement infrastructure for protecting children is minimal and that authorities show little awareness of the problem.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 43)

The report notes that seven cases were transmitted to the government involving arrest and severe beatings by the ordinary police and members of the military police. One case also involved the use of electric shocks by military police; a complaint was reported to have been lodged for ill-treatment, but without response.

**Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section V)

In the section dealing with violence against women migrant workers, the report notes that conditions for migrant domestic workers in Cambodia are often abusive.

### *Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission*

**Indigenous and tribal peoples, ILO Memorandum:** (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/25, para. 26)

The memorandum submitted by the International Labour Office (ILO) noted that the ILO had received a request for technical cooperation from the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Highland Peoples Development in Cambodia, which is engaged in formulating a national policy on this issue. The assistance the ILO provided included training modules to enhance a participatory approach to development policies, workshops to enable trainers to share their knowledge with others, a workshop on research and data collection, and other measures aimed at strengthening the capacity of the inter-ministerial committee and engaging the participation of highland communities.

### *Other Reports*

**Advisory Services in the field of human rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR:** (E/CN.4/1997/84)

The report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia from July to December 1996 provides commentary on UN activities to assist the government in the institutional development required for the promotion and protection of human rights. The report focuses on programmes in the areas of legislative reform, the administration of justice, national