

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 8, 362–365)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group (WG) to the government. The majority of the 36 cases of disappearance reported to the WG, of which 28 remain unclarified, occurred between 1975 and 1978 under the military government, in the context of its fight against alleged subversion. The report notes that no reports of disappearance in Uruguay were received after 1982. The government declared its willingness to try to determine the fate and whereabouts of the persons reported as disappeared.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 552–553)

The report notes that the government provided information concerning the case of a man who died during a demonstration in Montevideo in August 1994. At the time that the government's reply was received, the results of the administrative investigation were still pending. However, the government stated that, in accordance with the order of the court of first instance, prosecution proceedings, without detention, were brought against four police officers, two on charges of repeatedly and wrongfully failing to prevent the offence of causing bodily harm, and two for repeatedly and wrongfully failing to prevent the offences of causing serious bodily harm and grievous bodily harm. The Special Rapporteur requested the government to keep him informed of procedural developments in the case.

Other Reports

Women's human rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/40, para. 63)

The report of the Secretary-General on the integration of women's human rights throughout the UN system refers to the government report submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. In its report, the Committee had expressed concern over the high rate of early pregnancy which had negative effects on the health of the mothers and the babies, and on the mothers' enjoyment of their right to education, hampering the school attendance of the girls concerned and causing high numbers of school drop-outs. The report notes that the Committee recommended that measures be adopted to provide appropriate family education and services for young people within the school and health programmes implemented in the country.

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VENEZUELA

Date of admission to UN: 15 November 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 24 June 1969; ratified: 10 May 1978.

Venezuela's second periodic report was due 30 June 1991; the third periodic report was due 30 June 1996.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 24 June 1969; ratified: 10 May 1978.

Venezuela's third periodic report was due 31 December 1993; the fourth periodic report was due 1 November 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 3 (d) of article 14.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 15 November 1976; ratified: 10 May 1978.

Reservations and Declaration: Same as for article 14 (3) (d) of the ICCPR.

Second Optional Protocol: Signed: 7 June 1990; ratified: 22 February 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 21 April 1967; ratified: 10 October 1967.

Venezuela's 14th periodic report was due 4 January 1996.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 2 May 1983.

Venezuela's fourth periodic report was due 1 June 1996.

Venezuela's third periodic report (CEDAW/C/VEN/3) was considered by the Committee at its January 1997 session. The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CEDAW/C/1997/L.1/Add.6) noted that Venezuela's report had not been prepared according to the Committee's guidelines and did not include statistics on problems related to each article of the Convention or a detailed, factual description of the policies and programmes being carried out and their success in meeting the de facto needs of Venezuelan women. The report did, however, include a significant amount of data on the *de jure* situation of women.

Among the factors and difficulties affecting implementation of the Convention in Venezuela the Committee identified: the poverty facing a large percentage of the population (77 per cent of the urban population and 75 per cent of the rural population); economic measures taken by the government to control inflation and balance the budget, resulting in severe restrictions on social spending that has primarily affected women and the most vulnerable population groups and led to the "feminization of poverty"; the lack of a successful state plan to combat poverty and mitigate the social costs of economic adjustment; the persistence of entrenched patriarchal patterns and stereotypes and prejudices against women; reinforcement of such patterns and attitudes by laws that require amendment; lack of continuity in state policies and programmes for women, leading to constant changes in the concepts, methods and mechanisms for solving problems and implementing the Convention coherently and systematically; the difficulty in securing passage by the legislative branch of proposals for combatting discrimination against women; and, inadequate resources, lack of decision-making power, and lack of influence for the National Women's Council, which has impeded the Council's ability to introduce a gender perspective in the various government bodies.

The Committee commended a number of developments in Venezuela, including: the proposal to introduce a Penal Code Reform Bill and the Sexual and Domestic Violence Bill as well as the Equal Opportunities for Women Act, under