

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ include in its next report information on the implementation in practice of the laws relating to the prevention and elimination of racial discrimination, and in particular, reference to any relevant court cases;
- ▶ adopt specific legislation to prohibit racial discrimination by private groups or organizations;
- ▶ provide comprehensive information in its next report on the effective enjoyment by all groups of the rights related to participation in public life and economic, social and cultural rights and consult with national or ethnic minority associations in order to take into account their experiences in these areas;
- ▶ provide information in its next report on the availability of the right to seek from the courts reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of racial discrimination as well as instances of cases where reparation was sought from the courts, together with the courts' decisions;
- ▶ provide in its next report an explanation for the absence of prosecutions relating to racial discrimination offences in order to facilitate an assessment of whether this is due to the actual non-existence of such offences, or to a lack of awareness of the population of their rights, or to a lack of effective enforcement of the relevant laws by the competent authorities;
- ▶ pay due attention to the availability of education in the Belorussian language for all students who desire to study in this language;
- ▶ provide training on the principles and rights set out in the Convention to law enforcement officials, judicial personnel, teachers and social workers; and,
- ▶ continue efforts to incorporate the principles of the Convention in school curricula at all levels.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 10 July 1985.

Belarus's fourth periodic report was due 3 September 1994.

Torture

Signed: 19 December 1985; ratified: 13 March 1987.

Belarus's third periodic report was due 25 June 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 20.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 1 October 1990.

Belarus's second periodic report was due 30 October 1997.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, para. 86)

The report notes the Special Rapporteur's concern regarding the secrecy which surrounds trials and the application of the death penalty in Belarus.

Freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/31, Section II.)

The report notes that the Special Rapporteur was invited by the government to visit Belarus.

Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/32, paras. 17, 77-78)

According to the report, the Special Rapporteur sent an appeal to the government concerning measures taken by the President to suspend the Constitutional Court. This presidential move followed a decision of the Court which favoured a draft constitution prepared by Parliament over one prepared by the President. The report notes a statement by the President that he would ignore the Court's decision. Earlier, following five Court decisions which found certain presidential decrees to be unconstitutional, the President had threatened to take decisive action against the court, and to dismiss the Court's chairman.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1997/91, paras. 9, 17, 22, 23, 26, 41, 66; A/52/477, paras. 21, 25, 33, 37)

The reports note discrimination against all religions and religious groups except the official or state religion in Belarus, as well as measures such as restrictions and bans on the religious beliefs and practices of certain categories of persons, mainly aliens. Note is also made of violations of the freedom to dispose of religious property and questions related to the restitution of goods and properties to religious communities and the fact that the law in Belarus does not provide for an alternative to military service for conscientious objectors.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Freedom of movement, Working Paper: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/22, para. 24)

In the section considering the emergence of new states following the break-up of the Soviet Union and laws affecting freedom of movement, the report notes laws in Belarus on: refugee status; the legal status of foreigners; national minorities; and the procedure for entry and departure of nationals.

* * * * *

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Date of admission to UN: 22 May 1992.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Succeeded: 1 September 1993.

The initial report for Bosnia and Herzegovina was due 30 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Succeeded: 1 September 1993.

The initial report for Bosnia and Herzegovina (CCPR/C/81/Add.1) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the second periodic report is due 5 March 2000.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.