

and punishment of those responsible, and payment of compensation to the victims.

The cases transmitted to the government related to abductions by unknown individuals suspected of belonging to security forces in which the individuals taken were beaten, administered drugs, burned with cigarettes, warned to stop journalist activities, told to leave the country, raped and tortured and killed. The government's responses to the cases variously indicated: no report or complaint had been received; there was no evidence to support the claim that members of the security forces had been involved; the injuries were self-inflicted; an investigation was proceeding; or the investigation had not turned up any evidence on which proceedings could be initiated.

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

In the section of the report dealing with the situation of women migrant workers, the Special Rapporteur referred to internal women migrants in Guatemala who either work as domestic labourers or in *maquilas* (garment assembly factories). The report notes that, to encourage foreign investors, *maquilas* are exempt from regulations guaranteeing workers' rights and that women are subject to sexual violence and harassment, forced overtime, intimidation and generally poor working conditions.

Other Reports

Indigenous and tribal peoples, ILO Memorandum:
(E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/25, para. 23)

The memorandum submitted by the International Labour Office (ILO) notes that, in early 1997, the ILO conducted extensive training for staff of the office of the Ombudsman on implementation of ILO Convention No. 169 (Indigenous and Tribal Peoples).

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People:
(E/CN.4/1997/101, para. 27)

The report notes that UNESCO is carrying out a project in Guatemala, called Maya World. The project deals with education, science, human rights, cultural integrity and biological diversity.

Mass exoduses, Report of the HCHR to the CHR:
(E/CN.4/1997/42, Section I (c))

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights refers to measures taken by the Mexican government to assist Guatemalans refugees. Assistance programmes focussed on areas such as health, education and food and were based on respect for and preservation of the ethnic identity of each of the seven Mayan language groups. Mexico guaranteed their legal stay and security until such time as they individually and voluntarily expressed the wish to return home.

Women's human rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR:
(E/CN.4/1997/40, para. 51)

The report of the Secretary-General on the integration of women's human rights throughout the United Nations system points to the 1996 concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee concerning Guatemala, which state that high levels of poverty and illiteracy, lack of opportunities and discrimination against women have contributed to

widespread violation of human rights in that country. The Committee: expressed concern about customs and traditions which discriminated against women in Guatemala; was particularly concerned at the statement by the Guatemalan delegation that state institutions were frequently not in a position to address the problems affecting the female population; was also especially concerned at violence within the family which affected not only women but also children; and also urged that violence (especially within the home) and acts of discrimination against women (such as sexual harassment in the workplace) should be punishable crimes.

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GUYANA

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1966.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Guyana has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.61) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as brief information on the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, political parties and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Articles 138 through 151 of the Constitution protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual. All levels in the court system are empowered to hear cases related to human rights, and individuals may apply directly to the High Court as the court of first instance in any case alleging that fundamental rights and freedoms have been violated. Remedies for violations include awards, court orders, writs and directions. There is no separate Bill of Rights and the provisions of the ICCPR cannot be invoked directly before the courts other than tribunals or administrative authorities. The provisions in the Covenant may be enforced indirectly to the extent that they are subsumed in comparable provisions in the Constitution and domestic legislation.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 22 August 1968; ratified: 15 February 1977.
Guyana's second periodic report is due 30 June 2000.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 22 August 1968; ratified: 15 February 1977.
Guyana's second through fourth periodic reports were due 10 April 1987, 1992 and 1997 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 3 (d) of article 14; paragraph 6 of article 14; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 10 May 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 11 December 1968; ratified: 15 February 1977.
Guyana's initial and second through 10th periodic reports have not been submitted (for the period 1978-1996); the initial report was due 17 March 1978 and the 10th periodic report was due 17 March 1996.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration.

At its August 1997 session, the Committee reviewed implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report from the government. The Committee's concluding