

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/38, paras. 172–173; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 382–386)
The Special Rapporteur (SR) noted that in August 1996 the government took the necessary steps, under the Convention against Torture, to recognize the competence of the Committee against Torture to consider communications from individuals. The government also indicated that there were plans to allow counsel to be present during detention in custody, the National Assembly had passed a law defining and explicitly making any act of torture a criminal offence under the Criminal Code, and fresh instructions had been issued to the Ministry of Justice, the armed forces, and all law enforcement authorities to prosecute perpetrators of violations of human rights.

The government's reply to cases previously transmitted stated: an autopsy showed that the person died as a result of a heart attack brought on by a hereditary condition, and not torture; the police officers involved had been charged and the case was before the First Examining Magistrate's Office in Dakar; with regard to the three persons named, none had been arrested — one had gone to Guinea-Bissau where he died of illness, the second had moved to Gambia, and the third had joined the underground and might have been killed in an incident between the army and freedom fighters; and the person named had made an official statement asserting that he had never been tortured and had not lodged a complaint.



SEYCHELLES

Date of admission to UN: 21 September 1976.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial and second periodic reports were due 4 August 1993 and 1998 respectively.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 15 December 1994.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 7 March 1978.

Seychelles' sixth through 10th periodic reports were due 6 April 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial report was due 4 June 1993; the second periodic report was due 4 June 1997.

Torture

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial report was due 3 June 1993; the second periodic report was due 3 June 1997.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 7 September 1990.

Seychelles' initial and second periodic reports were due 6 October 1992 and 1997 respectively.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 336–338, 417)

During the period under review no new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. The three previously reported cases of disappearance allegedly occurred on the main island of Mahé in the years 1977 and 1984. All three persons are said to have been abducted by persons believed to belong to the security forces, shortly after the individuals had left their homes. At least two of the persons were reportedly known opponents of the government. The report notes that the government has never responded to any requests from the Working Group for information.

FIELD OPERATIONS

Seychelles is a member of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and, therefore, a beneficiary of and participant in the Regional Human Rights Programme Office for Southern Africa, a joint project of OHCHR and UNDP, which is based in Pretoria (see profile under "South Africa").



SIERRA LEONE

Date of admission to UN: 27 September 1961.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 23 August 1996.

Sierra Leone's initial report was due 30 June 1998.