

In this connection, concerned governments would do well to consider the recently adopted Body of Principles on the protection of all persons under any form of detention or imprisonment as a prospective guide to appropriate domestic regulations. Of particular relevance are the principles which outline safeguards concerning incommunicado detention and habeas corpus. As successive reports of the Special Rapporteur and Working Group have noted, the treatment afforded detainees in their first few hours of detention often weighs critically in determining whether their fundamental human rights are being respected or violated.

The treatment of detainees remains a most serious concern, but equally important is the problem of the continued detention of international civil servants and their families. My delegation notes with concern the report of the Secretary-General which describes the significant increases in the detention of international civil servants, contrary to international law.

Mr. Chairman, the binding obligations inherent in the Convention Against Torture remain another important international source of protection for persons subjected to detention. Recent debates on this topic have touched on the problem of questionable reservations registered by States parties to the Convention. I regret to note that again this year similar concerns have been stimulated by the reservations of one new State party to provisions contained in Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention. These reservations will undoubtedly require careful study by all States parties with a view to assessing their consistency with the object and purpose of the Convention.