

Other Reports

Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, para. 6)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that conscription into military service exists in Angola.

Detention of international civil servants and their families, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/25, paras. 25, 42-45, 73)

UNICEF reported that, in one year, staff in Angola had been robbed four times at gunpoint by men who were either police or wore police uniforms. The World Food Programme (WFP) reported that staff in Angola have been killed by land mines and fired upon by persons who were never identified. In another attack, 20 armed men looted WFP trucks and robbed those in the convoy of their personal possessions. In addition, in late 1996, while on a mission to coordinate information on tracing families of child soldiers, a WFP staff member was fatally shot by four men dressed in military uniforms. The UN envoy to Angola condemned the attack and called on the authorities to conduct a full inquiry into the murder.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Reports of the Secretary-General: (S/1997/115, 7 February 1997; S/1997/248, 25 March 1997; S/1997/304, 14 April 1997; S/1997/438, 5 June 1997; S/1997/640, 13 August 1997; S/1997/741, 24 September 1997; S/1997/807, 17 October 1997; S/1997/959, 4 December 1997)

The reports of the Secretary-General review the progress made in the peace process in Angola and the difficulties encountered. In addition to sections on the political, military and police aspects of conditions in Angola, comments are included on the human rights situation and note: the Joint Commission overseeing the transition had decided to establish a working group to examine numerous complaints about alleged violations of human rights; the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) was requested to intensify its efforts to reinforce the Angolan judicial system and seminars on human rights had been organized; there were widespread reports of disappearance, arbitrary arrest, denial of fair trial, forced conscription and violations of humanitarian law; humanitarian efforts were concentrated on agricultural services, delivery of basic health services, and tracing the families of under-age soldiers; humanitarian work was hindered by some restrictions on the free movement of people and goods in several provinces, persistent acts of banditry and ongoing security concerns; the promotion of women's rights was encouraged through seminars in schools and churches as well as for police officers in various provinces; the continuing need for normalization of state administration throughout the country, completion of the unified armed forces and the national police, demobilization of the excess UNITA military personnel, resolution to the question of the status of the UNITA's radio Vorgan into a non-partisan station; disarmament of the civilian population, and the dismantling of illegal command posts and checkpoints; the civilian police had investigated a considerable number of individual cases involving allegations of abuse by the national police as well as allegations of human rights abuses; the Human Rights Unit of MONUA (the UN Observer Mission in Angola) continued to promote human rights education in collaboration with

national and international non-governmental organizations; the need to continue efforts to ensure the true transformation of UNITA into a political party; a new practice by UNITA of disseminating hostile propaganda from its offices abroad, especially those based in Bonn, Lisbon and Paris; the National Commission for the Reform of the Penal Code had been established; continuing acts of banditry and troop movements by UNITA; impediments to freedom of movement for both MONUA military and civilian police observers; harassment and physical attacks; resumption of mine-laying activities by UNITA and its supporters as well as by the Angola National Police.

Resolutions of the Security Council: (S/RES/1098, S/RES/1102 and S/RES/1106, S/RES/1129, S/RES/1135)

The resolutions adopted by the Security Council referred to: the mandate of UNAVEM III; the establishment of the UN observer mission in Angola (MONUA) with a human rights component; the lack of cooperation of UNITA in the continuing the peace process; the imposition of restrictions on the movement of UNITA officials into and from other countries; the imposition of a ban on the sale, loan or provision by other means of aircraft to UNITA or passage of UNITA officials by air; and the postponement of restrictions pending renewed cooperation by UNITA in the peace and normalization processes.

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BENIN

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 12 March 1992.

Benin's initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 12 March 1992.

Benin's initial report was 11 June 1993.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 12 March 1992.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 2 February 1967.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 11 November 1981; ratified: 12 March 1992.

Benin's initial and second periodic reports were due 11 April 1993 and 1997 respectively.

Torture

Acceded: 12 March 1992.

Benin's initial and second periodic reports were due 10 April 1993 and 1997 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 25 April 1990; ratified: 3 August 1990.

Benin's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.52) has been submitted and is pending consideration at the Committee's January 1999 session; the second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.