

The report states that the recommendations in the report to the 1997 session of the Commission remain valid and reiterates some of the recommendations from the report to the 1997 General Assembly, namely that the government:

- ♦ ensure wide publicity of the activities and findings of the Special Committee on Allegations of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Reported Cases of Slavery, including through the use of public radio and television broadcasts;
- ♦ give free and unimpeded access to international human rights and humanitarian organizations and independent observers to all areas where enforced or involuntary disappearances or cases of slavery, slave trade and similar institutions and practices — especially the sale of, and trafficking in, children and women — have been reported; and
- ♦ consider the possibility of international participation in the process of addressing reported cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances in the Nuba Mountains area and in contacting representatives of parties to the armed conflict other than the government in areas under their control.

The report also recommends that:

- ♦ a field office of the OHCHR be established in Khartoum to ensure prompt communication, exchange and verification of information or reports regarding the situation of human rights in the Sudan and to provide advice and technical cooperation to the government; and
- ♦ the placement of human rights field officers to monitor the human rights situation be implemented without delay.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

At the 1998 session the Commission adopted by roll call vote a resolution on Sudan (1998/67). The Commission, *inter alia*: urged the government to release all remaining political detainees, cease all acts of torture and ill treatment, close down all clandestine or unacknowledged detention centres and ensure due process of law consistent with international standards; called on the government to bring national legislation into conformity with international human rights instruments to which Sudan is a state party; called on the government and all parties to the conflict to ensure that their forces act in compliance with international humanitarian law and those responsible for violations are brought to justice; urged the government to investigate reports related to the abduction, sale of or trafficking in children, and forced internment and indoctrination of children; welcomed the assistance of the government in the return of 17 abducted Ugandan children to their home country and urged the government to continue cooperation with UNICEF and the UNHCR in this area; called on the government to cooperate fully with the Special Committee on Allega-

tions of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Reported Cases of Slavery; expressed the hope that the Special Committee will independently and actively pursue investigations into cases of slavery, the slave trade, forced labour and similar institutions and practices throughout the country; urged the government to end without delay all violations of human rights against women and girls; called on the government to cease immediately deliberate and indiscriminate aerial bombardment of civilian targets and relief operations; urged all parties to the conflict to cooperate fully with the peace efforts of the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development; expressed the hope that the dialogue between non-governmental organizations and religious minorities will continue with a view to improving relations between those minorities and the government; extended the mandate of the SR for a further year; and recommended that priority be given, within existing resources, to the placement of human rights field officers to monitor the human rights situation in Sudan, as previously described by the SR.

The resolution was adopted by vote of 31 in favour, 6 opposed, 16 abstentions.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 351–356)

During the period under review, no new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. The majority of the 257 outstanding cases concern 249 villagers who were allegedly abducted from the village of Toror in the Nuba Mountains in 1995 by the armed forces. It is suspected that the villagers have been taken to one of the government-controlled "peace camps".

The Working Group (WG) welcomed the release of the report on the results of the investigation carried out by the Judicial Commission concerning the 1992 events in Juba [see the section summarizing the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation in Sudan]. Recalling that most of those arrested have disappeared, the WG stated the report: does not address the question of the treatment of the detainees during detention and investigation; does not address in a convincing manner allegations of extrajudicial and summary killings and summary executions; and fails to provide information to the families on the location of the bodies for those who were reported to have been executed following trial, or for those who were reported to have been killed in the attacks against Juba.

The government submitted to the WG the final report of the Special Committee which investigated disappearances alleged to have occurred between February 1996 and July 1997. Based upon its investigations in the field and personal interviews, the Committee reported that: it had obtained the addresses of about 180 alleged victims