

lize all sectors of society against violence in all its forms; and programmes of aid to, and rehabilitation of, victims have been established.



## NICARAGUA

**Date of admission to UN:** 24 October 1945.

### TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 12 March 1980.

Nicaragua's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 12 March 1980.

Nicaragua's third periodic report was due 11 June 1991; the fourth periodic report was due 11 June 1996.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 12 March 1980.

**Second Optional Protocol:** Signed: 21 February 1990.

#### Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 15 February 1978.

Nicaragua's 10th periodic report was due 17 March 1997.

#### Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 27 October 1981.

Nicaragua's fourth periodic report (CEDAW/C/NIC/4) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report was due 26 November 1998.

#### Torture

Signed: 15 April 1985.

#### Rights of the Child

Signed: 6 February 1990; ratified: 5 October 1990.

Nicaragua's second periodic report (CRC/C/65/Add.4) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's May/June 1999 session; the third periodic report is due 3 November 2002.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

#### Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

**Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary:** (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 285–288)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the

government. Of the 234 cases reported to the Working Group (WG), 131 have been clarified. Most of these cases occurred between 1979 and 1983, in the context of the internal armed conflict which took place during the decade of the 1980s. Many of the reports of these disappearances pointed to the involvement of members of the army, the former Sandinistas, the former General Directorate for the Security of the State and the Frontier Guard. Two cases, however, reportedly occurred in 1994. One case concerned a farmer who was allegedly detained by a group composed of members of the army and the police; the other case concerned a person allegedly accused of being a member of the Recontras armed group. No information was received from the government concerning the outstanding cases, and the WG was still unable to report on the whereabouts of the persons concerned. The WG expressed regret at the repeated lack of communication from the government on these cases, and reminded the authorities of their responsibilities to conduct thorough and impartial investigations for as long as the fate of the victim of enforced disappearance remains unclarified.

**Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/68, para. 17; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, paras. 294–296)

In response to cases previously transmitted, the government replied that the two persons named died during the course of a demonstration in Managua. An investigative commission had been established on the instructions of the Minister of the Interior and had recommended that the case should be tried by the ordinary courts. Judicial proceedings had been initiated and an interlocutory judgement handed down, with charges dismissed against some of the accused, and a temporary stay granted the others. The police were ordered to continue investigating the case. The government stated that, with regard to two other cases, charges were filed in the Eighth Criminal District Court of Managua and criminal proceedings were in the judicial investigation stage. Finally, with regard to the deaths of 11 members of the "Meza Rearmed Group" during an attack by members of the army, the government stated that the charges of homicide and bodily injury had been dismissed, there was no appeal, and the case was closed.

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/6, paras. 48, 50, 60)

The report refers to violations of freedom of religion or belief against all religions, all religious groups and communities, except the official or predominant religion. The report notes information indicating that the Catholic Church was trying to introduce Catholic textbooks in state schools and, further, that these textbooks would appear to preach a message of intolerance towards other religions.

