

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/91, paras. 9, 10, 17, 22, 23, 24, 26, 45, 59, 60, 66)

The summary of information received indicates that, in China, religious discrimination and intolerance has taken the form of: restrictions and bans on Christian and Buddhist public manifestations, closure and/or destruction of some places of worship; and, detentions of Tibetan nuns and monks. In terms of the latter, the report notes that the Special Rapporteur had sent an urgent appeal to the government following the detention of a Tibetan monk with whom the SR had consulted during his 1994 visit to China.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/477, paras. 8, 12, 13, 21, 25, 26, 28, 33, 36, 37, 38, 53) recalls that a mission to China was undertaken in 1994 and that efforts continue to follow up on points raised as a result of the visit. The report includes a reply from the government to the case of the Tibetan monk whom the Special Rapporteur had met while on mission. The government stated that, in 1959, the monk had been sentenced to life imprisonment for having participated in rebel movements and was pardoned in 1979. In 1987 he was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment for incitement to acts of subversion aimed at overthrowing the government and dividing the country and was paroled in 1994 for good behaviour. The period of parole expired in December 1995 and, contrary to reports received by the SR, he is not under house arrest and is not deprived of the right to freedom of movement.

The report refers to violations of religious freedom against Christians and Buddhists and notes information indicating that the authorities have imposed controls on or interfered illegally with religious activities of all or certain religious groups or communities, as well as arrests, detentions and disappearances. On the latter, the report refers to the situation of the eleventh Panchen Lama.

The government replied to some of the cases transmitted by the SR, variously stating: legislation and policy guaranteed the protection of freedom of religion; all religious organizations operate independently, are autonomous and disseminate their teachings; in Shanghai the authorities responsible for religious affairs had begun to register all places of worship and had searched and closed some where "nefarious" beliefs were being taught; religious buildings in the town of Wenzhou were destroyed because they did not comply with regulations; the Dalai Lama was agitating for the independence of Tibet; in the cases involving Tibetan monks, their arrest and/or death had resulted from attacks on government officials and destruction of a police station.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1995/95, para. 39)

The report refers to the ILO International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) and notes that the Mekong region in Asia, which includes China, is rife with child trafficking.

The Special Rapporteur's report to the 1997 General Assembly (A/52/482, paras. 24, 108) refers to child pornography on the Internet and notes that Internet users in China must register with the police and that efforts by the government are under way to acquire technology enabling it to censor the Internet.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 70-85)

The Special Rapporteur has requested an invitation to visit China to assess the impact of recent legal reforms on practices in detention centres, prisons and re-education camps. The government has not acted on the request.

The Special Rapporteur has received information indicating that torture and ill-treatment are used on a widespread and systematic basis against both common criminal detainees and persons detained for political reasons. Criminal suspects were allegedly tortured or otherwise ill-treated during preliminary or pre-trial detention to intimidate, to coerce "confessions", or to elicit information about the detainee or other persons. The forms of punishment reported to be administered in prisons and labour camps include beatings, shackling and prolonged solitary confinement. In some instances, torture was reportedly carried out for discipline or punishment by inmates, known as "trustees", acting as surrogates for or at the instigation of prison officials. Arrangements of this nature were said to allow prison officials to avoid accountability for abuse inflicted upon prisoners. The report notes that information also indicates that torture is endemic to police stations and detention centres in Tibet and includes: kicking; beating; application of electric shocks by means of batons or small electrical generators; the use of self-tightening handcuffs; deprivation of food; exposure to alternating extremes of hot and cold temperatures; enforced standing in difficult positions; enforced standing in cold water; prolonged shackling of detainees spread-eagled to a wall; placing of heated objects on the skin; and striking with iron rods on the joints or hands.

**Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 39)

The report refers briefly to the handling of computer waste exported to China, during which workers strip the cables for copper wire and the remaining material is either burned or stockpiled. The report simply notes that these practices can be dangerous and it is uncertain whether workers are informed about the risks involved.

**Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV)

The report notes that men in Hong Kong are much less inclined than women to view sexual harassment as a valid complaint. On the issue of trafficking in women, the Special Rapporteur (SR) reports that, in China, the incidence of kidnapping and selling of women in rural areas has been increasing since the mid-1980s; in some counties and villages, between 30 and 90 per cent of all marriages result from trafficking. Factors contributing to the demand for women trafficked for forced marriages in China are identified in the report as: a shortage of women in rural areas; traditional views on maintaining the family line which require all sons to marry; and, the high expenses associated with weddings and betrothal gifts of non-forced marriages. The report notes that public security officials in Shandong province have reported that 13,958 women were bought and sold in the province in 1990; of those, 3,966 women were freed and 1,690 individuals were arrested on charges of slave-trading. In Jiangsu province, between 1986 and 1988, 48,100 women from all regions of China were sold.