

conditions; refugee children have full access to education; and the government has cooperated in addressing the overall needs of refugees and shown a readiness to discuss problems on a case-by-case basis.

The report recommends that:

- ♦ the government continue to take all possible measures to prevent ongoing abuse of police authority, related to, *inter alia*, unlawful arrests and detentions, excessive use of force and physical ill-treatment of detainees;
- ♦ the Ombudsman maintain strict independence from the government, and at the same time, close contact with citizens, communicate regularly with non-governmental human rights organizations and other citizens' groups to learn of their concerns and be able to respond appropriately and enter into contact with ombuds-offices in other countries, to have the benefit of their experience;
- ♦ the government take all possible measures to ensure that police respect their new obligation to seek and produce written court orders before calling citizens in for "informative talks";
- ♦ the government make urgent arrangements for a strengthened training programme for police, including establishment within the programme of a permanent mechanism for ongoing instruction by experienced international police;
- ♦ based on the work of the inquiry into the Gostivar incident, the police officers implicated in the use of excessive force be immediately suspended from duty, pending the inquiry's final results;
- ♦ the government and leaders of the Albanian community work together to address the problems raised by the existence of the so-called "Tetovo University", with the interests of young people who have conducted their studies there as the main concern;
- ♦ the government maintain its close communication and cooperation with international offices concerned with minority issues, notably the office of the OSCE High Commissioner for National Minorities;
- ♦ in the interest of maintaining peace and protection of human rights, the government maintain a constructive dialogue in its bilateral relations with its neighbours, in particular with Albania;
- ♦ the Commission on Human Rights remove FYR Macedonia from the mandate; and
- ♦ the OHCHR maintain its presence in Skopje to work on implementation of its technical cooperation project with the government.

The Commission on Human Rights accepted the recommendation to remove FYR Macedonia from the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/6, paras. 48, 50, 69, 81–83)

The report refers to violations of freedom of religion or belief against communities and individuals who practice Christianity and Islam. The government provided detailed information on legislative and institutional provisions guaranteeing freedom of religion, which are designed to prevent and eliminate hatred, intolerance, and violence. In particular the information noted: the ban on the use of religion by religious groups and communities for political ends or to encourage intolerance; the obligation for political parties and other associations to pursue programmes and activities that respect the constitutional order and do not encourage hatred and intolerance, particularly religious intolerance, under pain of dissolution; and, the principle of non discrimination, particularly on religious grounds in secondary education. The importance to be attached to human rights, non discrimination, and tolerance in primary and secondary school curricula was also underscored.

In reply to allegations about the shortage of mosques — or even the destruction of premises serving as mosques — and the failure by the authorities to issue the necessary building permits for mosques, the authorities stated that no religious community had so far claimed that it was unable to conduct its religious activities or that it lacked sufficient places of worship. The government further stated that out of a total of 2,030 religious establishments 1,550 belong to the Macedonian Orthodox Church, 450 to the Muslim community, 15 to the Catholic Church and 15 to the Protestant Church. Concerning the Serbian Orthodox Church, the authorities explained that applications from members of the clergy to enter the country had been refused on the grounds that their Church did not recognize the independence of the Orthodox Church, within which it appointed its own administrators. Nevertheless, it was emphasized that members of the Serbian Orthodox Church were able to practise their religion and to have their own church, which had to have the status of a church of the diaspora. The authorities further stated that the adoption of a new law on religious groups and communities had been preceded by joint meetings with all the religious denominations, some of whose proposals had been adopted.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Report of the Secretary-General

The June 1998 report of the Secretary-General (S/1998/454) relates to the completion of the mandate of the UN Preventive Deployment Force (UNPREDEP) on 31 August 1998 and recommendations on the type of international presence that would be most appropriate in Macedonia after that date.