

Concerning the use of images of children in fashion and other industries, the report notes that members of the British Association of Photographers who work in advertising, fashion and publishing, have proposed the development of a code of practice governing the use of child models. The guidelines proposed recommended that: photographers should avoid taking pictures of children in their underwear; no child should ever go on a photographic shoot without a chaperone and the chaperone should remain in the same room as the child at all times; strict guidelines must be enforced as to the length of time children in different age groups may work and be kept waiting on location; and parents must be educated as to what constitutes acceptable modelling activities. On the last point the report notes that too many parents are so intent on getting their children photographed that they ignore the potential dangers of the situations in which their children are placed.

Referring to "helplines" and "hotlines" to allow victims to talk about their abuse, the report refers to the establishment of Childline, a permanent free telephone helpline that counsels an estimated 90,000 children and young people every year. The service offers children a free and confidential opportunity to speak about their problems. Callers may remain anonymous if they choose, and are not asked to name their abusers.

On the issue of media and the rights of the defendant, the report notes that the government is considering more effective ways of supervising sex offenders when they are released from prison and is in the process of setting up a national register of paedophiles. The number of sexual offenders in the U.K. is unknown but is estimated to be 110,000, most of them men. At the time the report was prepared the government had not responded to pressure from child rights groups and concerned parents to legislate in favour of community notification of the whereabouts of convicted offenders.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 196; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 447-448)

The report notes allegations that were transmitted to the government concerning arrest by soldiers of the Special Air Services (SAS) in South Armagh, Northern Ireland in April 1997 and reports that two of those arrested were beaten repeatedly and kicked by soldiers and one person had a gun placed inside his mouth. Reports indicated that one man required treatment in hospital following the incident. The government confirmed that both men had been arrested during a security operation as a result of which several persons were charged with serious terrorist offences and, further, that both men had made formal complaints that they were assaulted by soldiers and police officers at the time of arrest. The government informed the Special Rapporteur that the complaints were being fully investigated by the police in one case, and by the Independent Commission for Police Complaints in the other.

**Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1998/10, paras. 54; E/CN.4/1998/10/Add.1, para. 2 and section "Comments received from States")

The report notes that among the countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Kingdom is one of the biggest waste exporters — including through legal exports of wastes for recycling programmes — with countries in Asia as the primary destinations.

The addendum to the main report summarizes the reply of the government to information contained in the Special Rapporteur's (SR) report to the 1997 session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1997/19). The government stated that concerns related to the operation of a toxic waste incinerator in Pontypool, South Wales, do not fall within the mandate of the SR since it does not involve an issue in which an African or other developing country is involved. With regard to information alleging environmental damage arising from the operations of British Petroleum (BP) in Colombia, insufficient detail was provided, making it impossible to investigate the truth or otherwise of the allegation. The same lack of detail was cited by the government in response to concerns over the export of battery scrap to the Philippines and of lead acid batteries to Indonesia for recycling. On questions arising from the operations of Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Malaysia, and allegations concerning the misuse of Gramoxone (paraquat) the government stated that the issues are outside the mandate of the SR as they do not involve the illicit traffic and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes. The government stated that Gramoxone is approved for use as a herbicide by the Malaysian government and Zeneca, which replaced ICI Agrochemicals, undertakes extensive training for those involved in its distribution, storage and use. The specific plant referred to in the allegation in the 1997 report was sold to the Chemical Company of Malaysia in 1994 and therefore questions as to its operations are not matters upon which the U.K. government can comment. On questions arising from operations by Thor Chemicals, related to the import of spent mercury catalyst for processing in South Africa, the government stated that the company had informed the government that such shipments had been stopped in 1992. The government informed the SR that it had found no evidence to suggest that the company did not comply with relevant U.K. legislation on the shipment of dangerous goods and, further, that compliance of the working practices of Thor Chemicals SA (Pty.) Ltd. with health and safety legislation is a matter for the relevant authorities in South Africa. The government referred to a statement by the South African government declaring that the import of spent mercury catalyst into South Africa by Thor Chemicals was known and permitted by the South African government and there was no illicit dumping or trafficking. In light of this, the U.K. government noted that the allegation did not fall within the SR's mandate.