

neighbouring countries, torture, amputations, arrest and detention of political opponents, religious discrimination and intolerance, lack of due process of law, incidents of hostage-taking by SPLA dissident groups, arbitrary summons to government security offices, summary executions, closure of privately-owned newspapers, and inter-tribal clashes and fighting. The report further detailed incidents of indiscriminate killings of Sudanese refugees and abductions from camps in northern Uganda, government closure of Ahlia University (a private institution) to contain and repress dissent, round-ups of street children and their confinement in special camps for children, and arrests related to anti-government protests at Khartoum University.

In the brief section of the report dealing with women's human rights, the Public Order Act is considered. The report notes that the law stipulates that: on public transportation women should not sit in seats near the drivers; in public gatherings, including those organized in schools, farms, educational institutions and clubs, women should be separated from men by curtains; in demonstrations and rallies, special places and routes should be kept separately for women; women are not allowed to move around markets in the evenings if they are not accompanied by their husbands or a male relative; women are only allowed to practise sport in closed places away from men; in public places people are not allowed to sit together in a manner that leads to suspicion; people are not allowed to stay without a good reason on roads that lead to girls' schools or any women's gathering places; and, all places and shops providing services to girls' schools are to keep the shop entrance open wide, have adequate internal lighting and not use coloured glass for the entrance. The report notes that the law also prohibits coeducation, including in private education institutions. The report also observes that, in June 1996, out of 200 workers who lost their jobs at two state-owned media houses, 150 were women and included some of Sudan's most renowned female journalists.

The recommendations in the report generally mirrored those from previous years and included that the government:

- ▶ comply with applicable international human rights instruments, bring national legislation into conformity with those instruments to which Sudan is a party and ensure that all persons in its territory and subject to its jurisdiction enjoy fully the rights recognized in those instruments;
- ▶ cease immediately the deliberate and indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets;
- ▶ release all political detainees, cease all acts of torture, close down all secret detention centres, ensure due process of law, permit lawyers and family members to visit detainees, ratify the Convention against Torture, accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, sign the Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, the last related to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflict;
- ▶ ensure that security forces, army, police and members of the Popular Defence Forces and other paramilitary or

civil defence groups are properly trained and act in compliance with international law;

- ▶ ensure that any member of the above groups responsible for violations is brought to justice;
- ▶ cease immediately rounding up children from streets in towns under government control, release all children from special camps or other places of detention, make all necessary efforts to reunite these children with their families, and ensure proper living conditions for orphans;
- ▶ terminate policies or activities that support, condone, encourage or foster the sale of or trafficking in children or subject children to forced internment, indoctrination or inhuman treatment or punishment;
- ▶ provide free access to all areas of the country to regional and international humanitarian organizations and representatives of human rights organizations;
- ▶ carry out a thorough and comprehensive investigation of reported cases of slavery and slavery-like practices;
- ▶ agree with other parties to the conflict to a cease-fire as soon as possible; and,
- ▶ address the problem of displacement and create the appropriate conditions for return to their homes for displaced persons and refugees sheltering in neighbouring countries.

The recommendations also included a call to all parties in the conflict to prevent violence by their agents against civilians-including torture, summary/arbitrary executions and killings and arbitrary detention. The report calls for all parties to permit unimpeded delivery of relief, through Operation Lifeline Sudan, to those in need, and to begin negotiations to enlarge existing tranquillity corridors. The report concludes by calling for priority to be given to the placement of human rights field monitors to facilitate information flow and assessment and verification of reports of violations, particularly in areas of armed conflict.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

At the 1997 session, the Commission on Human Rights adopted a resolution by consensus on the situation in Sudan (1997/59) and renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for another year. In the resolution the Commission: expressed concern at reports of detention without trial, forced displacement, torture, religious persecution, and forced conversion of Christians and animists; expressed concern at the continued deliberate bombardment of civilian targets in southern Sudan; expressed concern at continued reports of slavery and slavery-like practices and ideological indoctrination affecting displaced families and women and children belonging to racial, ethnic and religious minorities; welcomed the cooperation of the government with the Special Rapporteur on Sudan and the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance, and the invitation extended to the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (Sub-Commission); welcomed the government's support for a visit by a delegation from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (December 1996); regretted that the visit by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression had not yet taken place; expressed concern at the actions of non-state entities in the conflict, including kidnapping, arbitrary detention, forced