

the judiciary and vet the national police; the withdrawal of the private security firm, Executive Outcomes; the imperative of putting in place resettlement assistance for all groups so that those with no secure means of livelihood are given the opportunity to find employment and are not lured into banditry; the fact that the conflict had resulted in the destruction of schools, health facilities, water supply systems and transport infrastructure, mostly in the rural areas, and the erosion of an already weak productive capacity; civilian casualties during armed clashes, looting by armed men in uniform, theft of equipment and vehicles from international humanitarian agencies, incidents of looting and arson targeted at the homes of prominent individuals, and, the activities of youth gangs; a significant increase in the incidence of communicable diseases, especially measles; information indicating that some harvests were being looted by armed elements; an increasingly acute shortage of petrol resulting from the embargo on petroleum and petroleum products; and the fact that the RUF had started releasing to non-governmental child protection organizations some of the children under its control, with these children being given special care until reunification with their families became possible.

The statements by the President and the resolution adopted by the Security Council (S/PRST/1997/36, 11 July 1997, S/PRST/1997/42, 6 August 1997; S/RES/1132, 8 October 1997; S/PRST/1997/52, 14 November 1997) *inter alia*: expressed deep concern about the atrocities committed against citizens, foreign nationals and personnel of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) monitoring group; called for the immediate and unconditional restoration of constitutional order in the country; condemned the overthrow of the democratically elected government and called on the military junta to take immediate steps to bring about the unconditional restoration of that government; expressed deep concern about the deteriorating humanitarian situation and at the continued looting and commandeering of relief supplies of international agencies; called on the military junta to cease all interference with the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the people of Sierra Leone; expressed grave concern at the continued violence and loss of life in Sierra Leone following the coup; established a programme of sanctions; and reiterated the need for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance in response to local needs.

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SOMALIA

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Somalia's initial and second periodic reports were due 30 June 1992 and 1997 respectively.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Somalia's initial and second periodic reports were due 23 April 1991 and 1996 respectively.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 26 January 1967; ratified: 26 August 1975.

Somalia's fifth through 11th periodic reports have not been submitted (covering the period 1984–1996); the 11th periodic report was due 25 September 1996.

Torture

Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Somalia's initial and second periodic reports were due 22 February 1991 and 1995 respectively.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Report of the Independent Expert on the situation in Somalia

The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia was appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with Commission resolution 1993/86 of 10 March 1993. The Independent Expert for 1997 was Ms. Mona Rishmawi.

The report of the Independent Expert on the situation in Somalia (E/CN.4/1997/88) identifies a number of concerns that influence the approach taken in attempts to fulfil the Expert's mandate, including: exacerbation of the grave situation of human rights as a result of the breakdown of governmental authority; continuation of serious violations including torture, summary/arbitrary execution, violence against women, violence against children, attacks on humanitarian personnel and the absence of an effective judicial system established on the basis of international standards; and attacks and other acts of violence, sometimes causing death, against UN personnel, humanitarian organizations, NGOs, and representatives of international media. The report notes that, in light of the gravity of the concerns, the mandate remains a most sensitive and difficult one since it relates to a UN Member where governmental authority is absent and state administration non-existent, with the adverse impact this implies on the observance and protection of basic human rights and freedoms.

To the extent that the establishment of a positive human rights regime and a representative and responsive national government depend on the attention and cooperation of, and assistance from, the international community, the report characterizes prospects as not good. The Independent Expert states that Somalia has been almost abandoned and is classified as a "collapsed State"; as such, it continues to present a serious challenge to the traditional manner in which the international community has dealt with conflict, humanitarian emergencies, rehabilitation opportunities, and human rights promotion and protection. Reference is made to the fact that Somalia remains without a central government and that at least 30 clan-based and region-based factions are operating there while, at the same time, assistance has been largely linked to the existence of a central authority — an approach that UN agencies working in Somalia recognize as having a devastating impact.