

Witnesses, including: an atmosphere of intolerance; imposition of controls and interference with religious activities; and, expulsion, arrest, detention, mistreatment or conviction arising from proselytizing.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 21-41)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) received information alleging that torture and other ill-treatment against criminal suspects occurred on a widespread basis in Bulgaria. Victims were reportedly tortured or beaten to coerce the signing of "confessions" or to elicit other information in connection with criminal investigations. In a number of cases, victims of ill-treatment were apparently not provided with adequate medical treatment and most victims were said not to make official complaints for fear of further harassment or because they did not believe that such action would result in the punishment of the perpetrator.

The SR was concerned by the frequency of such allegations, the rarity of any disciplinary measures and investigations leading to criminal prosecutions, as well as the virtual absence of successful prosecutions of those responsible, and noted that the failure to investigate and prosecute creates a climate of impunity. He recommended that the government take measures to ensure the independent monitoring, on a sustained basis, of the arrest, detention and interrogation practices of the relevant law enforcement agencies.

In replies to the cases transmitted by the SR, the government noted that some cases were still under investigation and that, in others, the investigations had failed to produce sufficient evidence for proceedings to be initiated against the police. The government also discounted a number of the allegations of ill-treatment and excessive use of force on the grounds that the suspect was injured while resisting arrest, that only reasonable force had been used, that the injuries were incurred prior to arrest, that the injuries had been caused by persons unknown, or that the death had been caused by a beating carried out by the victim's cell mate.

Other Reports

Children and juveniles in detention, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/26, Section IV)

The report of the Secretary-General includes a summary of information provided by Human Rights Watch condemning the treatment by the police of Roma (Gypsy) street children and the confinement of children in labour education schools in Bulgaria.

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CROATIA

Date of admission to UN: 22 May 1992.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Croatia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.32) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the creation of an independent state, the constitutional definition of the

Republic, the organization of government and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Article 3 of the Constitution sets out the framework for rights and specifically refers to freedom, equality under the law, national equality, peace, social justice, respect for human rights, inviolability of ownership, conservation of nature and the human environment, rule of law and a democratic multi-party system. The protection of the rights of minorities is established in the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and Rights of Ethnic and National Communities or Minorities (Law on Minorities). Legal remedies for violations of human rights may be sought through appeal, and Croatians have the right to initiate an administrative dispute, a constitutional complaint, or a complaint to the Ombudsman or to the Parliamentary Commission for Human Rights. Compensation and rehabilitation are provided through the Criminal Procedure Act for wrongful conviction, custody without prosecution or for a period longer than the sentence, acquittal on appeal, or deprivation of liberty because of an error or unlawful act of the authorities. Material damages are adjudicated in procedures initiated by legal remedies. International human rights instruments ratified by Croatia are self-executing as an integral part of the internal legal order and have force above domestic law. The provisions of these instruments may be invoked and must be enforced by the judicial authorities or other agencies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's initial report was due 30 June 1993.

Civil and Political Rights

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's initial report was due 7 October 1992 [*sic*]; the second periodic report was due 7 October 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Succeeded: 12 October 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 (a) of article 5.

Second Optional Protocol: Succeeded: 12 October 1995.

Racial Discrimination

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's third periodic report was due 8 October 1996.

Discrimination against Women

Succeeded: 9 September 1992.

Croatia's initial report (CEDAW/C/CRO/1) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's January 1998 session; the second periodic report was due 9 October 1997.

Torture

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's second periodic report was due 7 October 1996.

Rights of the Child

Succeeded: 12 October 1992.

Croatia's second periodic report is due 7 October 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 9.