

the former director of the Institute of Marxist-Leninist Philosophy, who was arrested and accused of "anti-socialist propaganda". He was released and, in an article, urged the deletion from the Vietnamese Constitution of article 4, related to the predominant role of the VCP. The government informed the Working Group (WG) that the men had been tried in a public hearing by the People's Court of the City of Hanoi and sentenced to 15 and 12 months' imprisonment, respectively, for defamation of state bodies and social organizations, under article 205 of the Vietnamese Penal Code, which punishes any person who "abuses democratic freedoms to jeopardize the interests of the State and social organizations". The WG noted that the major defect of vague and imprecise charges of the kind provided for in article 205 is that they do not distinguish between armed and violent acts capable of threatening national security, on the one hand, and the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, on the other. The WG declared the detentions to be arbitrary.

**Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 15, 19; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 559-560)

The report refers to an urgent appeal sent on behalf of three individuals, jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture, one of whom was reportedly facing the death penalty for crimes aimed at overthrowing the government. Information received on the case expressed concern that the man would not be allowed sufficient time to exhaust appeal procedures and to make use of his right to petition the President.

**Freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/31, Section II)

The report notes that the Special Rapporteur has requested an invitation to visit Vietnam.

**Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/91, paras. 9, 17, 24, 58,66)

The report notes violations of religious freedom against Christianity and Buddhism with cases involving ill-treatment, arrests and detention. The report also notes that Special Rapporteur has requested an invitation to visit Vietnam and that the government is considering the request.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/477, paras. 10, 21, 25, 28, 36, 38, 45, 46) notes that communications were sent to the government related to violations of religious freedom against Buddhism, including arrests and detentions. The government replied to the case of three bonzes (*sic*) who were reported to be under house arrest, stating that they had been released and were free to carry on their religious activities.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 39)

The report refers to information provided by the International Labour Organization in which Vietnam is identified as one of the countries in the Mekong region where trafficking in children is rife.

**Torture, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 565-566)

Two urgent appeals were sent to the government. The first, sent jointly with the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, involved three people who had been deported from Cambodia, detained and subjected to various forms of ill-treatment. Two of the three were accused of writing articles critical of the government. The government response to the urgent appeal stated that the three had been deported from Cambodia for having engaged in activities opposing Vietnam and that they were being treated humanely, receiving adequate medical attention and were in a normal condition of health. A second urgent appeal was transmitted, jointly with the Chairman of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of a Buddhist monk who, information indicated, was being held in an underground solitary confinement cell and denied urgent medical treatment for stomach ulcers. The government replied that health care had been provided and that he was not being held in solitary confinement underground.

**Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV)

In the section dealing with trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the report notes that in Taiwan, poor farmers and the elderly are among the men who pay intermediaries approximately US\$3,000 for young Vietnamese wives. The report also notes that in Vietnam the traffic in brides is growing as ethnic Chinese women from poor northern Vietnamese villages are transported across the border into China to marry rural Chinese men from villages devoid of women.

#### Other Reports

**Regional arrangements, Report of the S-G to the CHR:** (E/CN.4/1997/44, para. 22)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that, at the request of the government, a needs assessment mission on juvenile justice was fielded to Vietnam in March 1996.

\* \* \* \* \*

## YEMEN

(Republic of)

**Date of admission to UN:** 30 September 1947. (In May 1990 Democratic Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen merged; the former had been admitted to the UN in 1967 and the latter in 1947.)

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 9 February 1987.

Yemen's initial report was due 6 June 1990; the second periodic report was due 6 June 1995.

*Reservations and Declarations:* General declaration.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 9 February 1987.

Yemen's third periodic report is due 8 May 1998.

*Reservations and Declarations:* General declaration.