

- ♦ the database of dismissed police officers be monitored closely to ensure that these officers do not transfer from one jurisdiction to another;
- ♦ all Procurator's Offices (Procuradurías Generales de Justicia) establish a system of rotation among members of the police and of the Public Prosecutor's Office, to lessen the risk of establishing links that could lead to corrupt practices;
- ♦ prosecutors and judges not treat as proof of false allegations the absence of marks on the body that would be consistent with allegations of torture;
- ♦ cases of serious crimes committed by military personnel against civilians, in particular torture and ill treatment, be subject to civilian justice, irrespective of whether they took place in the course of service;
- ♦ the military penal code be amended to include explicitly the crime of torture inflicted on military personnel;
- ♦ doctors assigned to the protection, care and treatment of persons deprived of liberty be employed independently of the institution in which they practise, given training in the relevant international standards and be entitled to levels of remuneration and conditions of work commensurate with their role as respected professionals;
- ♦ the government support the initiative of the CNDH to improve the law on compensation for victims of human rights violations;
- ♦ bearing in mind the poor record of the Public Prosecutor's Office in prosecuting crimes committed by public officials, consideration be given to the possibility of establishing an independent prosecution service with responsibility for such prosecutions, perhaps appointed by and responsible to Congress;
- ♦ legislation be enacted to make it possible for victims to challenge, before the judiciary, the failure of the Public Prosecutor's Office to initiate proceedings on human rights cases;
- ♦ a limit be established by law to the duration of investigations on human rights cases, including torture, carried out by the Procurator's Offices (Procuradurías) and sanctions established in cases where the limit is not respected;
- ♦ measures be taken to ensure that the authorities properly comply with the recommendations of human rights commissions;
- ♦ efforts be pursued to increase awareness among personnel of the Procurator's Offices and the judiciary that torture should not be tolerated and that those responsible for this crime should be punished; and
- ♦ cases of threats and intimidation against human rights defenders be fully investigated.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/54, Section I.A)

In the section dealing with violence against women in the context of armed conflict, the report refers to death threats against and the continual harassment of women who had witnessed the killing, by state security forces, of peasants in Aguas Blancas who were demonstrating for the release of a fellow villager. The report also notes that in Chiapas and Guerrero human rights groups have documented human rights violations, including violence against women.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and girls, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/11, paras. 68–77)

The report cites information provided by the government stating that, while traditional practices such as they are usually understood (e.g., female genital mutilation) do not exist in Mexico, there are other practices which may affect the health of women, such as early maternity. Other customs that might be considered detrimental include: the practice of a fiancé abducting his future wife in order to save the families the cost of a formal wedding; the belief that a pregnant woman runs a risk if she exposes herself directly to an eclipse or to a full moon; and the belief concerning the "loss of one's shadow", viz. the possibility of persons losing or suffering the theft of their souls through witchcraft or chastisement.

The government stated that efforts have been made to encourage a strengthening of the dialogue between modern medicine and the traditional medicines which are sources of useful information. Reference is also made to: certain practices, directly associated with beliefs and customs, that are designed to affirm the superiority of men and the subordination of women; the fact that the dissemination in the media of aggressive images that flout rights of which women are ignorant is often the cause of various forms of violence directed against women, including domestic violence; and government efforts to combat violence, and the penalization and prevention of violence.

The government referred to the initiative of the Department of Justice in the Federal District to establish, in 1989, three centres — the first intended for the victims of domestic violence, the second for lost persons or run-aways, and the third for the victims of offences, particularly minors and persons with disabilities. The government also noted: legislation relating to sexual offences was amended in 1991; in 1993, the government found itself constitutionally obliged to provide legal and medical aid to victims of such offences and to ensure their compensation; a number of measures were adopted that are designed to ensure that women participate fully and on the same footing as men in the economic, social, political and cultural life of the nation; a number of seminars, round tables and conferences were held and activities undertaken to inform, develop awareness in, and mobi-