

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: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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 was due 8 May 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 18 October 1972.

Yemen's 11th, 12th and 13th periodic reports were due 17 November 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration; article 22; and paragraph 1 of articles 17 and 18.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 30 May 1984.

Yemen's fourth periodic report was due 29 June 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 29.

Torture

Acceded: 5 November 1991.

Yemen's initial report was due 4 December 1992; the second periodic report was due 4 December 1996.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 13 February 1990; ratified: 1 May 1991.

Yemen's second periodic report (CRC/C/70/Add.1) has been submitted and is pending consideration at the Committee's January 1999 session; the third periodic report is due 30 May 2003.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1998 session, the Commission on Human Rights considered the situation in Yemen under the confidential 1503 procedure. The Commission decided to discontinue that consideration.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:

(E/CN.4/1998/44, para. 19, 21)

The report notes that four urgent appeals on behalf of 103 persons were sent, and the government replied stating that the persons named had either never been detained or had been released. No details of the cases were provided.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary:

(E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 6, 10, 397–401)

The report notes that the Working Group has been invited to visit Yemen.

No new cases of disappearances were transmitted to the government. The majority of the 98 cases transmitted in the past occurred between January and April 1986, in the context of fighting which took place between supporters of President Ali Nasser Muhammad and his opponents. The majority of the victims were members of the air force, the army, or the security forces. There were also civilians involved, most of them members of the Yemen Socialist Party. The forces said to be responsible for their arrest include the state security forces, the air force, and the people's militia. One other case concerned the President of the Engineers' Union, who was also said to be a member of the Central Committee of the Yemen Socialist Party and who reportedly disappeared in August 1994. This case was clarified in 1994 when the person concerned was reported to have been released.

During the period under review, the government responded to the outstanding cases, stating: these disappearances occurred in 1986 in what used to be the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen during the armed conflict; the list is only a fraction of what is estimated to be the number of victims to have been killed or disappeared during this time; the government had a moral duty to the families of these victims; this process continues and the government is seeking the extradition of those responsible who are currently being tried *in absentia*; most of these people had probably been executed, but the authorities could not identify where they were buried; and a law had been adopted proclaiming that any persons who disappeared in those circumstances are martyrs and entitled to their full salary.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on:

(E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 12, 14, 18, 27, 36, 39, 68, 85, 92, 94; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, paras. 430–435)

The report notes that the government had not responded to any of the communications transmitted in the three previous years. The Special Rapporteur (SR) expressed