

November 1994 by two officers of the national police while walking down the street in a normal manner. The information received indicated that, while being searched, he was kicked and his head struck repeatedly against a wall. He was released the next day with no charges having been filed. The government reported that the man had categorically refused to produce his identity papers, insulted the police officers who had requested them, and resisted arrest. The government stated that the police were obliged to use the minimum force necessary to subdue him. An investigation had found no evidence of responsibility on the part of the police officers. The second case referred to a complaint, following arrest, of beatings and having the head covered with a plastic bag, resulting in unconsciousness. The National High Court ordered the complainant to be examined by a forensic physician. The report from the examination stated that the detainee had failed to respond when asked what treatment he had received. The Special Rapporteur notes that it was not clear whether an investigation had been carried out or whether a complaint had been lodged for ill-treatment.

The government responded to four cases previously transmitted, related to: two cases of arrest and torture by the Civil Guard in January 1992 and June 1994; and two cases of arrest and torture by police officers in March 1994. In the first two cases, investigations had been carried and the claims of torture not substantiated. In the other two cases the government replied that the proceedings were still pending in anticipation of the filing of charges by the Office of the Prosecutor, which would take place in the near future.

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 traffickers in Colombia have been providing Colombian women for the market in Spain.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10, para. 50-54)

The report refers to information provided by the government, noting: the Institute for Women is actively working to enhance the health of women through programmes aimed at developing preventive measures in the areas of prenatal mortality, family planning and reduction of prenatal mortality; efforts have been made to improve the education of women through teaching materials, the training of professionals and women's associations dealing with subjects such as pregnancy, maternity and paternity, transmission of sexual diseases, AIDS and gynaecological consultations; the creation of "Youth family-planning and sexuality centres" has contributed to health education because these centres deal with the problems of sectors of the community which, although needing help, do not turn to health centres; and the Institute for Women also promotes health care among groups of disadvantaged women such as prisoners. The report also refers to the third Plan for Equality of Opportunity. The most important objectives of the Plan are to support preventive and prenatal programmes, conduct ever-more sweeping health education campaigns aimed at women, cooperate with the

national AIDS plan in developing prevention programmes, and participate in developing Act No. 31/1995 on the prevention of work-related risks in order to promote the improvement of the health and safety of pregnant or nursing women.

Other Reports

Children and juveniles in detention, report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/26, para. 2, Section I)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to information provided by the government noting: establishment, in 1985, of the Juvenile Courts as specialized judicial bodies within the ordinary system of courts; the launching of special training for counsel on the legal aid list for the defence of juvenile delinquents; provisions in the new Penal Code 1995 raising the age of majority from 16 to 18 years, establishing that, if minors of that age commit an offence, they may be held responsible under the terms of a law regulating the criminal responsibility of minors; a February 1991 ruling by the Constitutional Court declaring the 1948 legislation on juvenile courts unconstitutional under the procedure which was followed in those courts; amendments to the Act governing the Competence and Procedure of the Juvenile Courts, which follows the criteria of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; introduction of the principle of discretion throughout the procedure of the juvenile courts, in part related to alternative measures including a warning or detention for one to three weekends; probation; fosterage by another person or by a family; deprivation of the right to drive motorcycles or motor vehicles; provision of community services; outpatient treatment or admission to a treatment centre; and admission to an open, semi-open or custodial establishment.

Women's human rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR:
(E/CN.4/1997/40, para. 59)

The report of the Secretary-General on the integration of women's human rights throughout the UN system refers to work done by the treaty bodies and notes that the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, when considering Spain's report, expressed concern over: continued discrimination against women with regard to the right to equal treatment at work, the right to equal pay and access to education; the unemployment rate which was extremely high, and particularly so for women; and, the persistence of a worrying rate of illiteracy, especially among women and in certain southern regions. The report notes that the Committee recommended that the authorities should continue their efforts to ensure effective equality between women and men, in particular with regard to access to education and jobs and equal pay for equal work and suggested that the government should retain the integration of women in the labour market as a priority policy.

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SWEDEN

Date of admission to UN: 19 November 1946.

THEMATIC REPORTS

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