

through government regulatory schemes — and notes that laws in Chile take this approach. In the section addressing violence against women migrant workers, the SR notes that in Chile, many rural women migrate internally as *temporeras* (temporary female workers) to work primarily in the agro-export industry and that numerous human rights violations are reported in this sector. These include prohibitions on women's right to organize; a requirement that *temporeras* work 12 to 14 hours a day; and, extremely unhealthy conditions of employment where the women are exposed to high levels of pesticides, many of which have been banned in Northern countries, which have resulted in abnormally high levels of physical illnesses, including cancer, birth defects and death. The report notes that the government's response to related illnesses has been to blame the workers for not taking appropriate precautions.

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 includes information provided by the government. This refers to the promulgation in 1991 of a National Plan of Action in favour of children, giving priority to the issue of children in conflict with the law. The Plan is aimed at the development and implementation of a national policy of child protection, establishment of a new institutional framework and services to deal with child offenders, forestalling hazards to society and, in particular, possible violations of the law, and promoting community participation. It noted further that government set up an Intersectoral Advisory Commission which made a comprehensive assessment of the situation of children at risk and put forward a number of proposals which have generally found their way into the National Plan of Action. The Commission's assessment established the need to give priority to policies on juvenile lawbreakers, most though not all of whom belong to the poorer sectors of the population; one priority set was that of making urgent changes both in the law and in the institutional framework and working methods. The report notes that legislation in force, which dates back to 1928, regards children and teenagers as requiring "protection" and retains the institution of due discernment, the possible finding of danger and the lack of guarantees of due process, giving the courts excessive discretion over minors' freedom and allowing them to go so far as to deprive minors of their liberty as a "protective measure" if they consider them to be at risk, even where they have not been shown to have committed any offence. In modernizing the justice system, the government has given priority to reforming legislation on minors, seeking to create a modern, consistent legal framework in keeping with basic human rights, underpinned by the Chilean Constitution, the international instruments acceded to by Chile and, especially, the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The main changes made as regards juvenile offenders have been: a decree that eliminates entries in the judicial records on cases of minors convicted of a crime, upon completion of the sentence or after three years after completion of the sentence; establishment of a central- and regional-level working party to get minors out of adult penitentiaries; abolition of the option in law of committing non-imputable minors

to prison; legislative measures to reduce the number of minors held in police and penitentiary facilities; launch of a behavioural rehabilitation programme intended to improve, develop and create open treatment systems, evaluate existing rehabilitation systems, and run psychosocial support programmes for imprisoned minors in order to get them out of prisons; establishment of new minors' courts to hear cases brought under the Minors Act and the law on abandonment and maintenance payments; and, proposals for further legislation in the areas of affiliation, adoption, sexual and other offences; breaches of criminal law by juveniles and family courts.

Detention of international civil servants, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/25, para. 74-75)

The report of the Secretary-General refers to an August 1996 judgement by the Chilean Supreme Court in the case of a staff member of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) who was kidnapped and subsequently murdered in Santiago in July 1973 by agents of the Mulchen Brigade of the National Intelligence Agency (DINA). The Court confirmed the validity of application of Amnesty Decree-Law 2191 to the case. The report notes that ECLAC issued a press release stating that the Court's decision had prevented justice from being done and the decision contravened international conventions related to the privileges and immunities of UN staff and personnel.

Migrant workers, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/65, para. 4)

The report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families notes that Chile has signed the Convention.

Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/27, para. 4)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that Chile contributed to the Fund in 1996.

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COLOMBIA

Date of admission to UN: 5 November 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Colombia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.56) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic and statistical data as well as commentary on the structure of the state, rights, guarantees and duties, actions by the government to protect human rights, legislative measures and initiatives and protection against racial discrimination.

The legal framework for the protection of human rights is established in five chapters of the Constitution related to: fundamental rights; social, economic and cultural rights; collective rights and the environment; the protection and application of rights; and, duties and obligations. In addition to the legal framework, the government has established the President's Advisory Council on Human Rights and human rights offices or units within the Ministry of National