

the use of force; conditions of custody, detention and imprisonment; complaints against the police; and, compensation.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CAT/C/XVIII/CRP.1/Add.4) welcomed: judicial reforms in Greenland; efforts to ensure that the composition of the police forces reflects the diversity of the population; the fact that human rights are part of the training programme for police forces; and, the funding provided to independent private organizations working in the area of rehabilitation for victims of torture.

The Committee noted difficulties related to incorporation of the Convention in domestic law as one of the factors hindering implementation of the Convention. The principal subjects of concern identified by the Committee were: the fact that doubts still exist related to the possibility of invoking the Convention before the courts and the competence of the courts to apply *ex officio* the provisions of the Convention; the fact that the penal system still does not include the specific crime of torture and that the definition of torture still does not conform to that in the Convention; the use of solitary confinement as a preventive measure during pre-trial detention and disciplinary measure in cases, for example, of repeated refusal by an inmate to work; police methods related to the treatment of detainees and during public demonstrations; and, the degree to which mechanisms established to handle complaints by detainees are actually independent.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ consider incorporating the provisions of the Convention into domestic legislation (as was done with the European Convention on Human Rights);
- ▶ adopt a law establishing the crime of torture consistent with the definition of torture in the Convention in article 1;
- ▶ but for exceptional circumstances, abolish solitary confinement, for example, as a measure during preventive detention;
- ▶ establish through law strict and precise regulations on the use of solitary confinement;
- ▶ reconsider the methods used by police in cases of custodial detention and crowd control; and,
- ▶ ensure that complaints of ill-treatment are handled by mechanisms that are independent.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 19 July 1991.

Denmark's second periodic report is due 17 August 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 2 (b) (v) of article 40.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/482, para. 113)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly refers to problems associated with the Internet and notes that Denmark cooperated with US authorities to track down the identity of callers from the US who were downloading child pornography from Danish bulletin boards.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10/Add.1, para. 22)

The report notes Denmark's statement on follow-up to the Beijing Conference to the effect that it has examined the need to amend the Danish regulations governing asylum in order to make it easier to grant asylum and residence permits to persons for gender specific reasons such as bride burning, female genital mutilation, forced sterilization or forced marriages. The report also notes that government decided to set up a working group with the aim of launching an extensive educational campaign against female genital mutilation.

Other Reports

Decade for Human Rights Education: (E/CN.4/1997/46, para. 23)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights refers to a joint project between the Ministry of Education and the Danish Centre for Human Rights, through which a plan of action has been established with the purpose of strengthening human rights education in the Danish primary and lower secondary schools and among youth. The aim of the plan is to enable key personnel from training institutions and professional organizations to carry out their own training of teachers as the basis for concrete training courses and the development of human rights education programmes in schools. The information provided by the government also stated that a human rights education bibliography will be published and highlighted the activities of the Danish Centre for Human Rights, which deals with human rights education in relation to schools, professional groups and the general public as well as in international cooperation in the area of human rights education with educational organizations and human rights non-governmental organizations.

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FINLAND

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: The core document prepared by the government (HRI/CORE/1/Add.59/Rev.1) provides demographic and statistical data and information on the economic system, the political system, and the judicial system. In Finland international human rights instruments are applied as domestic law and supervision of observance of human rights by public authorities is handled by the Parliamentary Ombudsman and the Chancellor of Justice. At the legislative level it is the duty of the Constitutional Law Committee of Parliament to oversee the observance of human rights. Domestic law provides for right of appeal and restitution, and criminal proceedings can be brought against a civil servant who has violated human rights. The constitutional guarantees related to rights were extended, by amendment in 1995, to all persons under the jurisdiction of the government and not only to Finnish citizens. The scope of fundamental rights regulated by the Constitution has also been extended to include economic, social and cultural rights, rights related