

may arbitrarily require women to show consent of a male relative to their leaving the Sudan; reports of inadequate prison conditions and "ghost house" detention centres; the system of licensing the press and media, and the requirement to register the names and addresses of editors, journalists and printers; the lack of recognition in law of the right to use local languages in official communications or administrative or court proceedings; the fact that religious minorities can be adversely affected by a range of discretionary administrative actions which can include the destruction of schools and educational facilities under town planning regulations; the fact that there is no independence of the judiciary; and, the official enforcement of strict dress requirements for women in public places and the inhuman punishment imposed for breaches of such requirements.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ include in the next report, information on the number of executions which have taken place, the type of offence for which the death penalty has been imposed, and the manner in which the execution has been carried out;
  - ▶ abolish punishments such as flogging, amputation and stoning;
  - ▶ forbid, as a matter of law, the practice of female genital mutilation and pursue social and educational campaigns to eliminate this practice;
  - ▶ repeal any possible legal basis as well as all other rules differentiating women's and men's rights to marry and within marriage and establish a minimum age for marriage;
  - ▶ establish permanent and independent mechanisms to investigate alleged abuses of power by police, security forces and Popular Defence Forces; make public the methodology of such investigations and the outcome;
  - ▶ ensure that such investigations lead to the release of any person improperly detained, with proper compensation, and to disciplinary or criminal proceedings against those found responsible; include in the next report complete information, including statistics, about such investigations and their outcome;
  - ▶ clearly define by law the concept of "national security", require police and security officers to state in writing why a person has been arrested, make that information available to the public and reviewable by the courts, and repeal the provisions of the National Security Act 1994, as amended, allowing detention by the National Security Council;
  - ▶ establish by law any limitations on the freedom of movement and ensure that they are compatible with the provisions of the ICCPR;
  - ▶ bring all places of detention under the control of the Prison Service and take the necessary measures to bring prison conditions into line with international law and standards;
  - ▶ provide training to judges as to appropriate penalties and procedural safeguards which must be observed, exclude lashes as a punishment, and introduce an appellate procedure to review convictions and sentences;
- ▶ ensure that police and security forces are subject to prosecution and civil suits for abuse of power without any restriction by law and repeal the provisions of the National Security Act 1994 which are inconsistent with that concept;
  - ▶ include in the next report statistics on complaints filed, prosecutions, convictions and sentences of police and security forces for abuse of power, as well as statistics on the number of requests for compensation and the amount of compensation actually awarded to victims of human rights violations;
  - ▶ revise current laws and decrees related to the press so as to remove all disproportionate limitations, which have the effect of jeopardizing freedom of expression itself; remove unnecessary restrictions from freedom of expression and association; and ensure that the right of peaceful assembly is respected by law enforcement officers;
  - ▶ take measures to improve the independence and technical competence of the judiciary, including the appointment of qualified judges from among women and members of minorities; provide training to all judges, law enforcement officers, and members of the legal profession, in human rights law; and,
  - ▶ establish a mechanism to protect minority religious groups from discrimination and action seeking to impede their freedom to teach and practice their religious beliefs.

#### **Racial Discrimination**

Acceded: 21 March 1977.

Sudan's ninth periodic report was due 20 April 1994; the 10<sup>th</sup> periodic report was due 20 April 1996.

#### **Torture**

Signed: 4 June 1986.

#### **Rights of the Child**

Signed: 24 July 1990; ratified: 3 August 1990.

Sudan's second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

### **COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **Report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Sudan**

A Special Rapporteur (SR) on the situation of human rights in Sudan was appointed pursuant to resolution 1993/60 of the Commission on Human Rights in March 1993. In 1997, the SR was Mr. Gáspár Bíró.

Between 27 July and 8 August 1996 the Special Rapporteur (SR) undertook a mission to Eritrea, Egypt and Sudan. A second visit to Sudan was undertaken in January 1997 but was interrupted because the government stated that it could not guarantee the safety of the SR. The report to the 1997 session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1997/58) was, therefore, an update of the report to the 1996 General Assembly and contained information mainly gleaned from sources outside Sudan.

The concerns and issues raised in the report relate to a number of types of violations, including: slavery, continued aerial bombardments of civilian targets, massive displacement of populations and a significant outflow of refugees into