

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur: (A/52/477, paras. 25, 28, 30, 33, 38)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that communications were transmitted to the government related to: violations of religious freedom against all religions, religious groups and communities except the official or state or predominant religion; and, religious restrictions placed on non-Muslims, such as a prohibition on proselytizing aimed at Muslims.

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CONGO

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 5 October 1983.

Congo's initial and second periodic reports were due 30 June 1990 and 1995 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 13.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 5 October 1983.

Congo's second periodic report (CCPR/C/63/Add.5) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the third periodic report was due 4 January 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 11; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 5 October 1983.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 11 July 1988.

Congo's initial and second through fifth periodic reports (covering the period 1989–1997) have not been submitted; the fifth periodic report was due 10 August 1997.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 29 July 1980; ratified: 26 July 1982.

Congo's initial and second through fourth periodic reports (covering the period 1983–1995) have not been submitted; the fourth periodic report was due 25 August 1995.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 14 October 1993.

Congo's initial report was due 12 November 1995.

SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

The Sub-Commission considered a resolution on Congo (Brazzaville) (E/CN.4/1998/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50) at its 1997 session. In it, the Sub-Commission, *inter alia*: recalled the international human rights instruments to which Congo is a state party; recalled the Peace Pact of 24 December 1995 in which the parties agreed to general disarmament and the

dissolution of militias and expressed concern that the Pact has not been fully implemented; expressed concern at reports of hundreds of deaths, including those of children and other civilians, which have occurred since early June 1997 and the continuing loss of life in Brazzaville; expressed concern at reports that thousands of people have been forced to leave their homes in Brazzaville, allegations of torture by parties to the conflict, the continuing difficulties experienced by the government and humanitarian organizations in providing medical care and other social services in the city, and that the presidential elections could not be held; called on the government and all parties to the conflict to abide by their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law, cease abuses, create conditions for the delivery of medical care and other social services in Brazzaville; called on the government and all parties to select an independent, respected and impartial elections commission to arrange for elections, allow free and fair elections, and agree to abide by the results, taking into account the need for diversity in the ethnic composition of the government and the need to develop a civil society for the maintenance of human rights and peace; called on the government and all parties to develop confidence-building measures to facilitate freedom of movement and mechanisms for transparency in how governmental revenues are distributed and spent; called on the government and all parties to provide access to and cooperate with a recognized humanitarian body in protecting the rights of detainees and contributing to the protection of the civilian population, ensure thorough and impartial investigations into allegations of violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and to bring the perpetrators to justice; and decided to recommend that the Commission on Human Rights consider the situation of human rights in the Congo at its 1998 session; and, if the Commission is unable to take action on the situation of human rights in the Congo, to continue consideration of the matter at its own 1998 session. The resolution was adopted by secret ballot with 13 votes in favour, 10 opposed, 2 abstentions.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1997/4, para. 17)

The report notes that two urgent appeals were sent on behalf of two individuals but provides no details on the cases.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 106)

Two urgent appeals were sent to the government. The first related to trade union leaders who were alleged to have been arrested and tortured in January 1996 by members of the Direction de la sécurité du territoire (DST) in Brazzaville. The second appeal concerned a businessman reportedly arrested in September 1996 in Brazzaville by members of the armed forces without a warrant. The information received indicated that he was held without contact with his family, his doctor or his lawyers.