

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 22 July 1976.
Qatar's ninth, 10th and 11th periodic reports were due 21 August 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 8 December 1992; ratified: 3 April 1995.
Qatar's initial report was due 2 May 1995.
Reservations and Declarations: General reservation.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

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

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes communications sent to the government related to violations of religious freedom against Christians and the strict prohibition on the conversion of a Muslim to another religion.

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SAMOA

Date of admission to UN: 15 December 1976.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 25 September 1992.
Samoa's initial report was due 25 October 1993.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 29 November 1994.
Samoa's initial report was due 28 December 1996.
Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph (1) (a) of article 28.

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SAUDI ARABIA

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Racial Discrimination:

Acceded: 23 September 1997.
Saudi Arabia's initial report is due 22 October 1998.
Reservations and Declarations: Article 22.

Torture:

Acceded: 23 September 1997.
Saudi Arabia's initial report is due 22 October 1998.
Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 3; article 30.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 26 January 1996.
Saudi Arabia's initial report was due 24 February 1998.
Reservations and Declarations: General reservation.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1997 session the Commission considered the situation in Saudi Arabia under the confidential 1503 procedure and decided to continue consideration for the 1998 session.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1997/4/Add.1, Decision 48)

Decision 48 (1995) related to the cases of 10 named individuals. Eight of the ten were among hundreds of suspected Sunni opponents of the government reportedly arrested in September 1994 by the General Intelligence ("al-Mabahith al-'Ama") and other security forces. The eight included a religious scholar, the former Head of Shari'a Department at 'Um al-Qura University; a lawyer; a lecturer at al-Imam University; a journalist at 'Akadh newspaper; and a student. The information received indicated that all those arrested were held in incommunicado detention in al-Hair prison, General Intelligence headquarters in al-'Ulaisha, and in police stations in al-Qaseem and Riyadh. The arrests were reportedly carried out following the transfer to London of an opposition group, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), which was banned in May 1993.

In its response to the WG, the government did not deny that the persons concerned were charged with establishing the "Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights" (CDLR). However, it pointed out that under national legislation, the establishment of such a committee required official permission beforehand; therefore, the establishment of the CDLR constituted a violation of national law. The government also recalled that Saudi Arabia had not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, nor its Optional Protocol. According to the government, three of the ten people named were not being detained and the others had been charged.

The WG noted that, under article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 22 of the ICCPR, the right to freedom of association may be subjected to restrictions only on two conditions: that such restrictions are prescribed by law, and that they are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals, or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. On that basis the WG stated that the restriction placed on the right to freedom of association, which consists of the obligation to obtain an authorization beforehand, does not meet these two conditions and cannot therefore be considered as admissible. The WG also noted that none of the persons concerned had exercised their rights to freedom of opinion and expression and to freedom of association by resorting to or by inciting to violence.

The WG declared all of the detentions to have been or be arbitrary in contravention of articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration and articles 19, 21 and 22 of the ICCPR.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, para. 308)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group (WG) to the government. The one