

measures taken to combat these phenomena; the high levels of illiteracy, truancy and school drop-outs; and, the great number of forced evictions of people in the Amazon basin, resulting in the destruction of their habitat and way of life.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ make a greater effort to translate the Covenant into appropriate indigenous languages and to give more publicity to its provisions;
- ▶ include in the next periodic report specific information on the activities of the Defender of the People and those of the Court of Constitutional Guarantees in the field of human rights, especially with regard to the protection of economic, social and cultural rights;
- ▶ take effective action to eliminate all forms of discrimination and marginalization that afflict indigenous populations in the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights;
- ▶ take steps to guarantee equality between women and men in all fields;
- ▶ make the necessary efforts to ensure compliance with the legislation on minimum wages, safety and health in the workplace, equal pay for equal work for women and men, and the legal recognition of young people from 16 to 25 years of age as workers;
- ▶ commit sufficient resources to the labour inspection services to enable them to perform their task properly;
- ▶ ensure that the private pension system is not promoted to the detriment of the government's obligations towards the public pension system, in terms of safeguarding pensioners' acquired rights;
- ▶ take urgent steps, in particular by raising the awareness of employers and state agents, with a view to guarantee fully the right to engage in trade-union activities and the right to strike;
- ▶ launch a programme to combat the exploitation of child labour and the abandonment and exploitation of street children;
- ▶ ratify ILO Convention No. 138 related to the minimum age of employment for children;
- ▶ take additional steps to prevent and combat the use of child labour, based on the full observance of international standards related to the minimum age for the employment of children, including ILO Convention No. 138;
- ▶ take steps to improve the working conditions of domestic employees and make them consistent with the obligations under the Covenant;
- ▶ take steps to improve the health care system and extend it to all sections of the population;
- ▶ increase its investments in education-bearing in mind Peru's obligation under the Covenant to ensure compulsory and free primary education to all children in Peru-with a view to reducing the illiteracy rate;
- ▶ consider ratifying the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights in the Area of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and,

- ▶ take immediate measures to put a stop to the forced evictions of people, especially in the Amazonian basin.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 11 August 1977; ratified: 28 April 1978.

Peru's fourth periodic report was due 9 April 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 11 August 1977; ratified: 3 October 1980.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 22 July 1966; ratified: 29 September 1971.

Peru's 12th and 13th periodic reports were due 29 October 1994 and 1996 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Declaration under article 14.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 23 July 1981; ratified: 13 September 1982.

Peru's third and fourth periodic reports were submitted as one document (CEDAW/C/PER/3-4) which is pending for consideration at the Committee's July 1998 session; the fifth periodic report is due 13 October 1999.

Torture

Signed: 29 May 1985; ratified: 7 July 1988.

Peru's second periodic report (CAT/C/20/Add.6) has been submitted and is pending consideration at the Committee's May 1998 session; the third periodic report was due 5 August 1997.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 4 September 1990.

Peru's second periodic report was due 3 October 1997.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1997 session the Commission on Human Rights there was a Chairman's statement addressing the hostage-taking in the residence of Japan's Ambassador in Lima, Peru. The text of the statement: condemned the occupation of the residence and the hostage-taking by the terrorists as well as hostage-taking all over the world; expressed solidarity with the governments of Peru and Japan as well as with the hostages and their families; expressed strong support for the efforts of both governments to resolve the situation peacefully; and, demanded that the hostages being held in Lima as well as those held in any other country be released immediately.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1997/4, paras. 4, 5, 6, 14, 15, 21, 43; E/CN.4/1997/4/Add.1, Decisions 15, 33, 34, 35, 42, 44)

The report notes that five new cases and one urgent appeal were transmitted to the government but does not provide details of the cases. The government responded to the urgent appeal, informing the Working Group that the person concerned had been released. The government also that six persons named in cases on which the WG had previously taken decisions had been released.

The report notes that the government had extended an invitation for the Working Group (WG) to visit. The