

the implications of discriminatory policies for the distribution of aid; appealed to all states and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan integrates gender concerns and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and to promote peace and human rights; encouraged the continuing efforts of the UN, international and non-governmental organizations and donors to ensure that all UN-assisted programmes in Afghanistan are formulated and coordinated in such a way as to promote and ensure the participation of women in those programmes, and that women benefit equally with men from such programmes; welcomed the establishment of the ad hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Gender in Afghanistan under the leadership of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women; encouraged Member States to make particular efforts to promote human rights for women in Afghanistan; and requested the Secretary-General to ensure that reports of future gender missions are made available to the Commission on the Status of Women.

The same resolution was adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its June 1998 session (1998/9).



BAHRAIN

Date of admission to UN: 21 September 1971.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 27 March 1990.

Bahrain's initial and second through fourth periodic reports were due 26 April 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 22.

Torture

Acceded: 6 March 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 20; article 30, paragraph 1.

Bahrain's initial report is due 4 April 1999.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 13 February 1992.

Bahrain's initial report was due 12 March 1994.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:

(E/CN.4/1998/44, paras. 4, 5, 8, 19, 21 ;

E/CN.4/1998/44/Add.1, Opinion No. 15/1997)

The main report simply notes that an urgent appeal and other cases were sent to the government and the government did reply. No details of the cases were provided. The addendum to the main report contains opinions that were adopted by the Working Group (WG) on specific cases.

Opinion No. 15/1997 concerned 33 minors who had been detained between July and November 1996 under the 1974 State Security Law, article 1, which reportedly provides for administrative detention without charge or trial for up to three years. The boys were arrested in connection with protests to mark the first anniversary of a hunger strike undertaken by a jailed member of the dissolved Parliament. Information indicated that the boys had not resorted to or incited violence. The detained minors — including a boy aged 11, two boys aged 13, two boys aged 14 and several others aged between 15 and 18 — were allegedly held incommunicado, denied access to their families and doctors, and were at high risk of torture.

The government's reply to the WG's communications described the allegations as the "recognisable product of the terrorists' propaganda that should be treated with extreme caution". It further stated that: eight of the boys had not been detained arbitrarily but that issues concerning their detention, trial and release were determined by due process of law; four of the others were released; and there was no record that the remaining 21 persons had ever been detained or held in custody. The government also provided details on the rules applicable in Bahrain for the detention of children under 15, and described its cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

In its opinion, the WG restated its previous conclusion that the application of the State Security Law is liable to cause grave violations of the right to a fair trial. It noted the government's reply failed to provide any information about the present legal status of the eight persons whom the government confirmed to be in detention. As a result, it was not known whether they had been tried and, if so, what charges had been brought against them and what sentences were handed down. The WG decided that, with regard to the eight minors, the detentions were arbitrary. The other 25 cases were kept pending.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 14, 17, 32, 36; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, paras. 25–28)

Cases were transmitted to the government regarding deaths in custody and excessive use of force against participants in demonstrations. The cases involved: deaths resulting from a beating by members of the security