

named were extremists and agents provocateur espousing violence to achieve political goals; and, the person named was associated with foreign-backed groups which sought to endanger the security and stability of the country. In each case, the government asserted that the conditions of detention had been lawful and had not endangered the health and physical well being of the detainees.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/47, Section V.B)

The section of the report addressing the situation of women migrant workers notes that policies implemented by sending states to protect the rights of migrant workers have led to the opening of new recruitment markets. In this context, it cites the example of Bahrain which, in response to the Filipino policy requiring employers to pay a minimum salary of US\$200/month to Filipina housemaids, opened recruiting agencies in Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Other Reports

Terrorism, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/39, Section I)

The report of the Secretary-General includes information provided by the government, asserting that: Bahrain continues to be the target of foreign-backed terrorists seeking to destabilize the region and undermine the Middle East peace process; groups or individuals who act as fronts for the terrorists speak of democracy and human rights while encouraging and instigating acts of violence; the crimes committed by the terrorists include murder, arson and the destruction of private and public property; Bahrain has received widespread international support for the firm and positive measures it has taken to bring criminal offenders to justice; such measures must continue in order to deter the terrorists, and deal with those who are caught, according to the law; and, terrorists provide the media with distorted information, including unfounded charges of human rights violations.

**SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF
MINORITIES**

Resolution of the Sub-Commission

At its 1997 session the Sub-Commission adopted a resolution (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, Resolution 1997/2) on the situation of human rights in Bahrain. The resolution was adopted by secret ballot with 12 in favour, 11 opposed and one abstention. In it the Sub-Commission: reaffirmed the obligation of states under the UN Charter to promote and encourage universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all; reaffirmed that racism and racial discrimination negate the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration; noted that the elected National Assembly of Bahrain was dissolved in August 1975, that for twenty-two years Bahrain has been without an elected legislature, and that there are no democratic institutions in Bahrain; also noted that Bahrain is facing problems of internationally assisted terrorism, and condemned all acts of terrorism in that country; noted further information related to discrimination against the indigenous Shi'a population, extrajudicial killings, persistent use of

torture in prisons, abuse of women and children who are detained, and arbitrary detention without trial or access by detainees to legal advice; expressed concern about the alleged violations of human rights in Bahrain; urged the government to comply with applicable international human rights standards and to ratify the International Covenants on Human Rights and the Convention against Torture; and, requested the Commission on Human Rights at its next session to consider the situation of human rights in Bahrain under its agenda item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories".

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BANGLADESH

Date of admission to UN: 17 September 1974.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 11 June 1979.

Bangladesh's seventh through ninth periodic reports were due 11 July 1992, 1994 and 1996 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 6 November 1984.

Bangladesh's fifth periodic report is due 6 December 2001.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 2 and paragraph (1) (c) of article 16.

At its July 1997 session, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) considered Bangladesh's combined third and fourth periodic reports (CEDAW/C/BGD/3-4). The report prepared by the government sets the context with information on the status of women in Bangladesh, the general legal framework for the protection of human rights, national machineries related to rights, and remaining obstacles encountered by women. On the rights set out in articles 2 through 16, the report addresses areas such as: the obligation to eliminate discrimination; the development and advancement of women; sex roles and stereotyping; the suppression of exploitation of women; women in political and public life; nationality, education, health, employment and training; economic and social benefits; problems faced by women in rural areas; equality before the law; marriage and family law; and, a national action plan on discrimination against women. The report includes a number of tables with statistical data on, *inter alia*: direct elections; enrolment in schools and teaching staff; women and men in the public sector; the labour force and employment; and, indicators related to health and family planning.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CEDAW/C/1997/II/L.1/Add.10) welcomed the government's decision to withdraw reservations to paragraph (a) of article 13 (family benefits) and paragraph 1 (f) of article 16 (guardianship, adoption of children) which had been entered on the basis that they conflict with Sharia law. The remaining reservations (as above) were considered by the Committee to