

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that communications were sent to the government related to violations of religious freedom against Christians and followers of Islam, including refusal to grant official recognition, imposition of controls on and interference with religious activities, and harassment and threats.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 26)

The government informed the Special Rapporteur (SR) that problems related to the commercial exploitation of children generally do not exist in Uzbekistan; therefore, there was no need for special legislation and programmes to protect child victims. The SR noted in her report that, despite a perceived absence of the phenomenon of commercial exploitation of children in a country, appropriate preventive measures should be in place to ensure that children's rights will not be limited or directly violated at some future time.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 543-544)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) transmitted three individual cases to the government. He also made an urgent appeal in conjunction with the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the SR on the independence of judges and lawyers on behalf of four persons. The cases involved criminal charges in which the information indicated that torture and ill-treatment had been used to extract confessions which were then used in court to get convictions.

Other Reports

UN Decade for Human Rights Education, Report of the S-G to the GA: (A/52/469, para. 42)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that the National Centre for Human Rights prepared a national plan of action for human rights education and public information. Among the activities included in the plan are initiatives addressed to high school and post-high school institutions and the Academy of the Ministry of Interior; seminars for various professional groups and for NGO leaders, and on women's rights; translation of UNESCO publications and publications of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; translation and publication of international instruments; and other public information activities, such as the production of brochures, posters, television shows and the like.

VANUATU

Date of admission to UN: 15 September 1981.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 8 September 1995.

Vanuatu's initial report was due 8 October 1996.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 7 July 1993.

Vanuatu's initial report (CRC/C/28/Add.8) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's January 1999 session; the second periodic report is due 5 August 2000.

VIETNAM

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1977.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 24 September 1982.

Vietnam's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 26.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 24 September 1982.

Vietnam's second periodic report was due 31 July 1991; the third periodic report was due 23 December 1993.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 48.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 9 July 1982.

Vietnam's sixth through eighth periodic reports were due 9 July 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of articles 17 and 18; article 22.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 29 July 1980; ratified: 17 February 1982.

Vietnam's second through fourth periodic reports were due 19 March 1987, 1991 and 1995 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 29.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 28 February 1990.

Vietnam's second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1997/4, paras. 4, 5, 6, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21; E/CN.4/1997/4/Add.1, Decision 3)

The main report notes that one case and three urgent appeals were transmitted. The government responded to the communications, informing the Working Group that the persons named in the urgent appeals had been released. The government also reported that the two persons named in Decision 3/1996 had been released.

Decision 3 (1996) related to the cases of two individuals, both arrested in June 1995. The first was a founding member of the Club of Former Resistance Fighters, in charge of religious affairs within the Vietnamese Communist Party (VCP), and author of an essay concerning the policy and line of action of the VCP. He was arrested in June 1995 at his home in Ho Chi Minh City and held in a centre for interrogation in Ho Chi Minh City, on the charge of having committed acts of propaganda against the socialist regime. The second man was