

The report reviews circumstances and events related to the fighting that occurred in June/July 1992 between the Sudanese Army and the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Juba. Reports indicated that following the cessation of fighting the security services arrested hundreds of military and civilian personnel, including Sudanese nationals working with international aid agencies. Subsequent reports referred to executions following trials before military courts in which the defendants were reportedly found guilty of treason. The report summarizes the findings of the May 1997 report of the Sudanese Advisory Council for Human Rights, entitled Publication of the results of the investigation carried out by the Judicial Commission about the Juba event of 1992 (the Juba Report). The Judicial Commission found, *inter alia*, that of the 240 persons whose fate was at issue 94 were convicted by tribunals set up according to the law, with sentences ranging from execution to imprisonment and 11 persons were acquitted. The Judicial Commission concluded that the remaining persons had either been killed in the bombardment and exchange of fire or during the battles and armed skirmishes, defected from the service of the various regular forces, voluntarily joined the insurgent movement, were forcibly taken away by the insurgents after the attack, boarded the relief aircraft used to bring supplies to Juba and return empty to Khartoum, or chose to disappear and were arrested during and after the events. The Advisory Council for Human Rights affirmed that its declaration of the results of the investigation came within the responsibility of the government to protect and develop human rights, in compliance with the international instruments adopted in this respect and within the framework of its cooperation with the international community and its competent mechanisms.

Despite this conclusion and the information contained in the Juba Report, the SR concluded that the Juba Report contained a series of self-contradictions and, as a result, should not be regarded by the Commission on Human Rights and the international community as clarifying in a satisfactory manner the question of the summary executions and reported extrajudicial killings, torture and arbitrary arrests which took place in Juba.

The commentary on violations other than summary or arbitrary executions, notes, *inter alia*, that: torture and ill treatment of detainees by security forces were reported continuously during 1997 by such with methods as the use of beatings, electric shocks, exposure to the sun for hours, pouring of cold water on the naked body, rape in custody and threatening with rape, sleep deprivation, refusal of food and medical treatment and forcing some detainees to witness the torture of others. The SR noted that: arrests of hundreds of people had taken place — including of university lecturers, businessmen, lawyers, students, engineers, medical doctors and individuals known for their affiliations with banned political parties who were suspected of "collaboration with the enemy" or political opposition to the regime and therefore part of a larger conspiracy against the state; reports continued to be received related to slavery and slavery-like practices,

including the abduction of people from southern Sudan by armed groups of the Popular Defence Forces (PDF) and mujahedin fighting together with the Sudanese Army against the SPLA; and, numerous allegations continued to be received related to freedom of religion and the demolition of Catholic centres by government authorities.

The report refers to the abduction of thousands of children from northern Uganda and their placement in camps in southern Sudan by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) — which is dedicated to overthrowing the Ugandan government, allegedly with support from the Sudanese government in exchange for LRA assistance in fighting the SPLA — as well as abductions carried out in 1995 and 1996 by another group called the West Nile Bank Front. The report notes that: most of the children abducted by the LRA, girls and boys, range in age from 8 to 16 years; these children are forced to serve the rebels, with smaller children made to run errands or do small chores; girls are given to commanders as "wives"; all of the children are trained as soldiers and forced to fight, both in Uganda and the Sudan; discipline is maintained through a combination of violence and threats, including beatings and killings with the children themselves at times forced to kill other abducted children; and failed escape attempts are punishable by death and successful attempts result in retaliation against the relatives of the escapee.

Concerning the status of women and rights of women, the report refers to a Public Order Act that was supposedly enacted in October 1996 and summarized in the report to the 1997 session of the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1997/58). Of particular concern were elements in the Act restricting freedom of movement for women living in Khartoum and the surrounding area. In an effort to clarify whether the Act had, in fact, been adopted, the report notes that the SR met with representatives of the General Federation of Sudanese Women, in Khartoum on 4 September 1997. The Federation representatives stated that the offending provisions previously cited by the SR had been part of a proposal made during debate in the local council, but had not been incorporated in the Act. A copy of a Public Order Act, apparently adopted in March 1996 rather than October, was provided. The Act stipulates that, *inter alia*: one of the doors and 10 seats on public buses on state routes shall be assigned for women; men are categorically prevented from sitting in places assigned to women, while women are not allowed to sit in places assigned to men; in the case of other public vehicles, 25 per cent of the seats shall be assigned to women; no one shall practise the hair-dressing profession without obtaining a licence from the authorized locality on the recommendation of the authorized People's Committee and the application for the licence shall be made on the form prepared by the locality, after acquiring the commercial and health licences; women's hairdressing salons shall not employ men, men shall not enter women's hairdressing salons, a sign shall be put in front of the salon stating these provisions, the salon shall have one door opening to the road