

problems facing the UN system in an effort to more openly and thus more effectively monitor human rights.

First of all, demand is increasing that the latter stages of the 1503 procedure be made public. Not only is it felt that the confidential list of communications should be public information, but once situations are referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission, the debate should become public. Such a change would have allowed a more public airing of ongoing events in Rwanda which would very likely have put pressure upon the Rwandan government to alter its behaviour, and have alerted other parts of the UN and the world community as to the need to prevent further escalation.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should recommend to the Commission on Human Rights that situations referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission under the 1503 procedure should become open to public scrutiny.

Second, the Quaker office in Geneva and others are also calling for an automatic process by which a country which appears concurrently in the reports of three or more thematic mechanisms of the Commission, has a country rapporteur appointed. In 1992 Rwanda was mentioned by the rapporteur on Torture and the rapporteur on Summary or Arbitrary Executions. In 1993 Rwanda continued to feature in the reports of both those rapporteurs as well as the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances and started to be dealt with under the 1503 procedure. In 1994, all four mechanism continued to deal with Rwanda⁶. Arguably, if in 1993 the Commission had automatically appointed a Rwandan country rapporteur, the increased level of UN information and the international signal of censure to the government of Rwanda would have either modulated Rwandan government repression or prepared the international community to move faster than it did.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should recommend to the Commission on Human Rights that it automatically appoint a country rapporteur when that country appears concurrently in the reports of three or more of the Commission's thematic mechanisms.

⁶ Of particular note in all of these UN mechanisms is the report of the Special Rapporteur Waly Bacré Ndiaye on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. In view of the seriousness of events in Rwanda, he submitted a lengthy 36 page addendum to the main report, in which he reported on his mission to Rwanda from 8 to 17 April 1993 (almost exactly one year before the April 6th plane crash). Not only were his observations and recommendations detailed, he published this report on the 11th of August 1993. In addition, his report was formally tabled during the 50th session of the Commission on Human Rights in February 1994. It appears to have disappeared into a black hole.