

- ♦ consider the possibility of undertaking educational campaigns related to corporal punishment to change societal attitudes towards the use of physical punishment within the family, at schools and in institutions;
- ♦ consider accession to the Hague Convention of 1993 on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption;
- ♦ adopt the necessary steps for establishing alternative measures to the institutionalization of children (e.g., foster families), especially for those living with one of their parents in penitentiary centres; undertake follow-up measures and a monitoring and evaluation system to ensure the adequate development of these groups of children;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures, including international cooperation, to ensure access to basic health care and services for all children; develop adolescent health policies and programmes, including prevention, care and rehabilitation measures; make a more concerted effort to combat malnutrition and ensure the adoption and implementation of a national nutritional policy for children;
- ♦ adopt legislation to protect all the rights of asylum-seeking and refugee children;
- ♦ take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of children living in the region of Chapare; take all necessary measures — including awareness raising programmes on landmines and training for the population at large — for the protection of children living in the border towns with Chile, and consider seeking international cooperation as well as conducting bilateral consultations for the clearance of landmines;
- ♦ not lower the minimum age for access to work; continue to give attention to the situation of children involved in hazardous labour, including domestic labour and prostitution; undertake research on the issue of children living and/or working on the streets as a basis to adopt appropriate programmes and policies for their protection and rehabilitation and the prevention of this phenomenon;
- ♦ reinforce its legislative framework to protect children fully from all forms of sexual abuse or exploitation, including within the family; and
- ♦ ensure the improvement of the conditions of children living in special institutions; ensure that violence is not used by law enforcement officials, that deprivation of liberty is only used as a measure of last resort, and that children are not detained together with adults; consider ratifying the Convention Against Torture; and conduct training programmes on the relevant international standards for all professionals involved with the juvenile justice system.

## THEMATIC REPORTS

### Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

#### Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1998/44, paras. 4, 7, Annex III)

The report notes that one case was transmitted to the government but no details are provided.

Opinion No. 16/1997 was adopted at the Working Group's (WG) November/December 1997 session and related to the arrest of one person, in April 1992, by eight armed personnel of the CEIP (Police Intelligence). Information indicated that: during the eight days when the detainee was on police premises he was tortured and had no access to counsel; the individual faces 12 charges of rebellion and sedition, although in fact the only real accusation relates to his alleged militancy in a group known as the Ejército Guerrillero Tupaj Katari (EGTK); and, that the individual had been deprived of liberty for five and a half years although the case has not gone beyond the investigation stage, basically because relevant documents were transferred successively, owing to problems of competence, to the Second, Third and Fourth Courts. The WG noted that: the government has not reported any act of violence attributed to the person named, nor has it denied that, after five and a half years of deprivation of liberty, he has not yet been brought to trial; the fact of torture was corroborated by a report of the Commission on Human Rights of the Bolivian Chamber of Deputies, apparently with the aim of obtaining self-incrimination. The WG decided that the deprivation of liberty in this case was arbitrary.

#### Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 105–107)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. The report notes that the majority of the 48 cases of disappearance reported to the Working Group occurred between 1980 and 1982, in the context of measures taken by the authorities following two military coups d'état. Twenty of those cases have been clarified and the others remain on the books.

#### Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 12, 14, 15, 17, 29, 30, 36, 38, 57, 65, 68, 70; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, paras. 30–35)

The report notes that communications were sent to the government related to death threats — from both state officials and private individuals cooperating with or tolerated by the authorities — and excessive use of force. Some of the urgent appeals were sent on behalf of women and children.

The cases involved, *inter alia*: a lawyer, the President of the Permanent Human Rights Assembly of Bolivia (APDHB), who was detained by eight police officers and threatened with death, possibly in connection with public statements he made concerning a clash between miners and the police in the Department of Potosí which left nine