

The SR transmitted eight newly reported cases to the government, all of them related to excessive use of force by police, involving beatings with iron bars and rubber truncheons, blows to the head and nape of the neck, and beatings resulting in multiple contusions and fractures. The government informed the SR that four of the cases had either been investigated or were under investigation by the Military Prosecutor's Office; that in one a case, a trial had been ordered for the police officers responsible; and that in another case, four officers had been charged with illegal arrest and investigation. The government also provided the SR with information on four cases that had been previously transmitted which had resulted in prosecution of the police officers responsible; in one of these cases, two officers were sentenced to one and two years' imprisonment respectively.

#### *Other Reports*

#### **Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 2, 6, 13, 29)**

The report of the Secretary-General notes that there is conscription in Romania and that the Constitution makes military service compulsory for all men 20 years old except where otherwise provided for by law. Information provided by the government referred to a draft law prepared by the Ministry of National Defence of Romania which stipulates that anyone refusing to perform combat military service on the ground of religious beliefs must perform alternative military service. Pending adoption of the draft bill, the Ministry of National Defence implemented an administrative decision which established a temporary framework covering the issue of conscientious objection through which anyone refusing combat military service was to be registered and required to perform alternative military service following adoption of the bill.

#### **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 a national committee for human rights education was established in Romania in February 1996; its secretariat is housed at the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, and its members are representatives of relevant ministries and non-governmental organizations.

#### **World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/36, para. 85)**

The report of the Secretary-General refers to activities of UN Information Centres and Services and notes that the S-G's message for Human Rights Day was translated into Romanian and disseminated as a press release to the media and educational institutions. The message was published in several newspapers and some excerpts were read on the television evening news. Assistance was also provided to the Human Rights Committee of the Ministry of the Interior with the publication of a booklet entitled "Human rights and the activity of the public order forces" and of a poster on "The Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials".

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## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**Date of admission to the UN:** 24 October 1945. [The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics was admitted in 1945. The Russian Federation assumed the USSR's membership in UN bodies on 24 December, 1991.]

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

**Land and People:** Russia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.52/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic data in areas such as education and economy and information on the structures of government and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The legal framework for the protection of human rights is based on constitutional provisions establishing: equality of rights, the inalienability and direct effect of human rights, defence of life and personal dignity, legal protection, presumption of innocence, access to the courts and compensation for loss and damage. The Supreme Court is the highest legal body for civil, criminal, administrative and other cases and for trial courts of general jurisdiction. Protection for human rights is provided through courts of general jurisdiction, military courts (military offences, disciplinary proceedings, civilian cases referred to them), the Constitutional Court, the High Court of Arbitration, the Procurator's Office and the Court of Appeal of the President. There is also a Presidential Human Rights Committee and a Citizenship Board. Primacy of international law is guaranteed in the Constitution and legislation of Russia and may be invoked in courts and administrative bodies, mainly in the areas of civil, family and criminal cases and largely addressing procedural issues.

#### **Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Signed: 18 March 1968; ratified: 16 October 1973.

Russia's fourth periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

*Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 1 of article 26.

Russia's third periodic report (E/1994/104/Add.8) was considered at the Committee's April/May 1997 session. The report prepared by the government contains extensive information on the right to work, the Labour Code, conditions of work and work safety, difficulties arising from an economy in transitions, minimum wage and the protection of the workers' rights, the tax system and trade union rights. The report also refers to the Basic Social Policy Concepts for 1994, social security and pensions, protection of the family and the Code on Marriage and the Family. Statistical and narrative information is provided related to the persons living at or below the subsistence level. The report also covers such areas as: the Federal Child Protection Program; the retail trade system; the right to food and housing; health protection and health care guarantees in the Constitution; information generated by the work of the Health and Epidemiological Supervisory Committee; Law No. 3266-1 1992 on education; measures related to vocational training; religious freedom and instruction within the education system; institutions related to the functioning of the media; the Russian Intellectual Property Agency and a draft law on scientific research and work.