

mercenaries in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. While he has conducted visits to Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, an official mission to B&H had not yet been possible. The report emphasized the importance of a visit in order to look into allegations about the presence of foreigners, mercenaries, volunteers and Islamic fighters or mujahidin in the armed conflict. The government responded that no member of, or individual associated with, the country's armed forces could be described as a mercenary. The government was willing to continue its cooperation with the SR, however, and would, therefore, consider his request for an official visit. The government also expressed the hope that the SR would carry out his mandate in such a way as to help strengthen democratic forces fighting to preserve the multi-ethnic and multicultural character of B&H and to ensure that war criminals and those responsible for acts of genocide were brought to trial and punished.

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur on: (A/52/ 477, paras. 21, 25, 28, 34, 38)

The report notes that communications were transmitted to the government related to violations of religious freedom against Christianity and Islam and refers to attacks on and the destruction of places of worship.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Freedom of movement, Working Paper: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/22, para. 40)

In the section considering states of the former Yugoslavia, the report cites information from the report of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the former Yugoslavia and recalls that, while the Dayton Agreement committed the parties to ensuring freedom of movement, restrictions on movement were common in Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly along the Inter-Entity Boundary Line (IEBL) but also between territories controlled by Bosniak and Bosnian Croat authorities within the Federation.

Other Reports

Detention of international civil servants, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/ 25, para. 46, Annex II)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that a national staff member of the World Food Programme (WFP) was attacked by two armed masked men in Banja Luka, who also stole the WFP vehicle he was using. The report also refers to the case of a staff member of the UN Population Fund who was shot and killed in Tuzla in November 1995.

Mass exoduses, Report of the HCHR to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/42, Sections I.B, I.C, II.A)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights summarizes information received from the World Health Organization (WHO). This pointed to obstacles to freedom of movement for both patients and health workers; it noted that few cases of cross-border referrals and service provision were rare, and that opportunities for displaced health workers to return to their original place of work were not materializing. WHO attributed the lack of movement between communities to fear, sometimes based on rumours or false assumptions, police checks, intimidation from the community, and frequent threats and acts of violence towards minorities and returnees. WHO was, nonetheless, making efforts to overcome problems related to freedom of movement by continued humanitarian assistance to needy populations, in particular

refugees and internally displaced persons, as part of the effort to ensure health to all as a fundamental human right, and by holding meetings, seminars or rehabilitation projects bringing together individuals from all sides.

The report refers to recommendation 1301 (1996) adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 28 June 1996: this recommendation also noted that freedom of movement between the two entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina did not exist in practice, which had a particularly grave impact on enclaves such as Gorazde. The recommendation further: noted that refugees and internally displaced persons had not yet returned in any significant numbers because guarantees for their physical and material safety were lacking; deplored in particular the complete stalemate regarding areas which had undergone ethnic cleansing; noted that, political factors notwithstanding, the total lack of housing made any large-scale return of either internally displaced persons or refugees impossible; and, cited the disastrous state of the infrastructure and the unemployment level as additional deterrent factors.

The report refers to information received from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) concerning the IMF's reconstruction activities in B&H. It emphasized the IMF's commitment, in cooperation with other international institutions and the High Representative, to support only steps that were conducive to reintegration — with disbursement of external financing depending to a considerable extent on progress in reintegration and respect for human rights.

World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/ 36, para. 20.)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that, as part of the international operation in the former Yugoslavia, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights published a Field Guide for International Police Task Force Monitors of the Peace Implementation Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and CIVPOL Officers of the UN Transitional Administration in Eastern Slavonia. The publication was designed to meet the specific needs of the human rights training programme for international police task force and civilian police monitors.

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Women's human rights, Report of the S-G: (E/1997/ 64, para. 47)

The report of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women notes that the resolution adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on the situation in the former Yugoslavia expressed concern for women and children, especially in Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were victims of rape used as a weapon of war. The report recalls that the Commission demanded that the perpetrators of rape be brought to justice and the victims and witnesses receive adequate assistance and protection.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Report of the CHR Special Rapporteur (A/52/490, Section II)

The interim report of the Special Rapporteur (SR) to the 1997 General Assembly covers a number of areas, including: