

October 1997) referred to, *inter alia*: progress towards the development of a comprehensive plan to overhaul the justice system; reform of the prison system related to registration mechanisms, conditions in prisons and training of prison personnel; the appalling destruction caused by decades of arbitrariness, corruption, violence and abuse of the population; the fact that the number of cases of vigilante justice remained high; the need for reforms to strengthen democratic institutions, generate economic growth and create jobs on the basis of a basic consensus among Haitians; the need to pay special attention to the country's growing problem in drug trafficking; the fact that Haiti had not had a fully functioning government for some time because of factional fighting in the ruling Lavalas movement; and, the need to ensure that the Permanent Electoral Council be acceptable to all political forces so that subsequent elections, including the November 1998 legislative and local elections, would be credible and result in the creation of unchallenged democratic institutions; the impact of the political stalemate on economic activity.

Security Council Resolutions

The Security Council adopted resolutions on Haiti (S/RES/1123, July 1997; S/RES/1141, 28 November 1997) in which the Council, *inter alia*: affirmed the link between peace and development and stressed that a sustained commitment by the international community and the international financial institutions to assist and support the economic, social and institutional development in Haiti is indispensable for long-term peace and security; affirmed the importance of a professional, self-sustaining, fully functioning national police force of adequate size and structure, able to conduct the full spectrum of police functions, to the consolidation of democracy and the revitalization of the justice system; and, established the UN Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH), with a mandate to 30 November 1998, composed of up to 300 civilian police. It is to assist the government by supporting and contributing to the professionalization of the Haitian national police.

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HONDURAS

Date of admission to UN: 17 December 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Honduras has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 19 December 1966; ratified: 17 February 1981.

Honduras' initial report was due 30 June 1990; the second periodic report was due 29 June 1995.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 19 December 1966.

Optional Protocol: Signed: 19 December 1966.

Second Optional Protocol: Signed: 10 May 1990.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 11 June 1980; ratified: 3 March 1983.

Honduras' fourth periodic report was due 2 April 1996.

Torture

Acceded: 5 December 1996.

Honduras' initial report was due 3 January 1998.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 31 May 1990; ratified: 10 August 1990.

Honduras' second periodic report (CRC/C/54/Add.2) has been submitted but is not yet scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the third periodic report is due 8 September 2002.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 171-176)

The Working Group transmitted one new case of disappearance to the government of Honduras. The case was said to have occurred in 1995 and involved a person arrested on murder charges. The information indicated that the individual had been transferred from a public security force prison to the Central Penitentiary. The report notes that the authorities at the Penitentiary have denied that the person concerned had been transferred there, and since then his whereabouts have remained unknown.

The majority of the 129 cases yet to be clarified occurred between 1981 and 1984, a period when members of Battalion 3-16 of the armed forces and heavily armed plain-clothes men seized people whom they perceived as ideological enemies; the individuals were abducted from their homes or on the street and taken to clandestine detention centres. The systematic practice of disappearance ended in 1984, although sporadic cases continue to occur. The report notes that, in July 1995, the government informed the Working Group that the Special Prosecutor for Human Rights had charged 10 military officers with the attempted murder and unlawful detention of six students in 1982 and that judicial proceedings continue.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 15, 51; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, para. 217)

The Special Rapporteur (SR) sent an urgent appeal to the government on behalf of a mother and her three daughters. The information on which the case was based indicates that they had left Honduras in February 1996 after receiving death threats. Granted political asylum in Costa Rica, the woman and her children reportedly still suffer harassment and threats, presumably by members of the Honduran security forces. These threats are believed to be related to the fact that the father of two of the woman's daughters was a former member of Honduran Military Intelligence Battalion 3-16, who had testified during investigations into human rights violations in Honduras and, as a result, had been granted asylum in a western country.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 183-188)

The report notes that the Special Rapporteur (SR) transmitted 12 cases to the government involving minors. In one incident, information received indicated that youths- who had been sent to an adult penal farm-had been handcuffed,