

Burundi, diplomatic isolation should cease immediately in order to facilitate the conclusion of a cease fire as soon as possible and the beginning of negotiations.

The recommendations in the report are addressed to the national authorities, the rebels, and the international community.

The report recommends that the national authorities, *inter alia*:

- ♦ defer the 71 death sentences and 40 sentences of life imprisonment handed down by the country's three criminal chambers for 1997, at least until the peace negotiations have been completed and a reformed, independent, and impartial judicial system has been established;
- ♦ improve without delay the conditions of detention for persons sentenced to death, consistent with commitments assumed under the main international human rights instruments;
- ♦ improve and expedite investigation procedures in cases of summary execution, sexual abuse, torture or excessive use of force by the army and by the police, and initiate proceedings against the offenders;
- ♦ respect the standards set out in international humanitarian and human rights law with regard to the prohibition on strikes on civilian targets during military operations, indiscriminate attacks on civilians, and the pillaging and arbitrary destruction of their property;
- ♦ continue to implement rapidly the policy of resettling persons in camps on their home collines or on intermediate sites if security conditions so require.

The report recommends that the rebels, *inter alia*:

- ♦ take into account that all attacks on civilian populations or facilities such as schools, and all behaviour leading to sexual abuse or to torture or the pillage or destruction of civilian property, are strictly prohibited by human rights standards and international humanitarian law;
- ♦ take into account that it is forbidden to make use of forced labour, to abduct children or young people, or to resort to coercion to force civilian populations to remain within the limits of territories temporarily under their control;
- ♦ ensure civilians' freedom of movement and domicile on the land which they occupy; and
- ♦ cease using mines, which mostly injure or kill civilians, and demine the territories they frequent.

With regard to the international community the report recommends that, *inter alia*:

- ♦ the UN play a crucial role in the search for a peaceful solution to the conflict, and identify ways to achieve

greater cooperation between the countries of the Great Lakes region and the Organization of African Unity;

- ♦ the mission of inquiry established by the Secretary-General investigate incidents which took place at the frontier between Burundi and Tanzania and begin its work as rapidly as possible;
- ♦ the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees take steps, in conjunction with the Tanzanian authorities, to move the refugee camps near the frontier with Burundi further into Tanzania, in light of the fact that the refugees' presence appears to be a permanent source of tension between the two countries;
- ♦ a serious evaluation be undertaken both of the utility of maintaining the economic sanctions against Burundi and of the authorities' concrete efforts to initiate an internal dialogue and a nationwide peace process;
- ♦ donor countries which have suspended their bilateral health assistance projects in Burundi reverse their decision and support the new strategy introduced by the Ministry of Health to combat epidemics such as typhus or AIDS;
- ♦ the international community, and in particular countries that formerly had significant connections with the Great Lakes region, firmly support the human rights Observer Mission so that it can, without further delay, increase the number of observers deployed in Burundi, open at least three regional offices, and provide them with the necessary security and communications personnel and equipment;
- ♦ until a cease fire has been established and a process of transition towards democracy is genuinely initiated, an international embargo be established on the sale of arms, military matériel and services to all parties in the conflict; the International Commission of Inquiry on the sale of arms, established for Rwanda, be reactivated and its mandate extended to Burundi;
- ♦ the question of an international criminal tribunal again be considered by the UN once the conditions for the establishment of such a body have been met in Burundi, namely, the institution of a cease fire, the existence of internal dialogue, the successful conclusion of the negotiations, and the reform of institutions; and
- ♦ a conference be held in the Great Lakes region on the arms traffic, security, and human rights.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

The Commission on Human Rights adopted by consensus a resolution on the situation in Burundi (1998/82). The Commission, *inter alia*: noted with concern that human rights violations had taken place in var-