

- ▶ undertake a comprehensive study of child abuse, including sexual abuse, and ill-treatment in the family, as well as a study on youth suicide, and design and adopt adequate programmes to prevent sexual abuse and exploitation of children, especially child prostitution;
- ▶ adopt a strategy to tackle the problem of children working and/or living on the street and promote informal education programmes;
- ▶ adopt a comprehensive national policy to promote and advance the health of children and mothers, give particular attention to the impact of environmental pollution and undertake a study on this subject;
- ▶ promote pupil retention programmes and education on conflict resolution and education for peace, tolerance and friendship among all people in all schools;
- ▶ give special attention to refugee and internally displaced children to ensure that they have equal access to basic facilities and take all appropriate measures, including through international cooperation, if necessary, to address the physical, psychological and social reintegration needs of children affected by the armed conflict and related types of violence; and,
- ▶ consider undertaking a comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system, with particular attention to protecting the rights of children deprived of their liberty, the establishment of an appropriate and independent monitoring mechanism, and the improvement of the quality and adequacy of alternative measures to imprisonment; organize training 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.4/1997/4/Add.1, Decision 11)

Decision 11 (1996) related to two cases of detention to which the government responded within the time period set by the Working Group (WG). The government informed the WG that the two men had been released. On that basis, the cases were filed.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras 16, 17, 18, 32; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 36–40)

The report notes information indicating that a high number of deaths occurred among prisoners as a result of overcrowding and unsanitary conditions in which the spread of diseases was difficult to check-in 1994, 244 out of a total of 320 prisoners infected with tuberculosis had died and in 1995, the number of prisoners suffering from tuberculosis had reached 1,200.

The report notes that Special Rapporteur (SR) transmitted to the government one case of a death in a prison hospital due to inadequate medical treatment. In response, the government provided general information concerning the procedure for investigating deaths in custody, bringing perpetrators to justice and providing compensation. The SR informed the government that a reply of such a general nature did not meet

his request for specific information and called on the government to take all necessary measures to ensure the right to life of all persons detained or imprisoned .

Religious intolerance, Special Rapporteur: (A/52/477, paras. 25, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37)

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly notes that communications were sent to the government related to: violations of religious freedom against Christians and followers of Islam; refusal to grant official recognition to certain religious groups and communities; a climate of intolerance that adversely affects certain religious minorities and communities; imposition of controls and interference with religious activities; a prohibition on all forms of proselytizing by non-nationals; obstacles to securing places of worship for some religious minorities; and, harassment and threats against clergy and believers.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 9)

The report refers to information received related to an individual who was severely beaten after being taken into police custody, with the aim of forcing him to make a confession to theft. The information indicated that the man died from injuries sustained from the beatings. The report notes that it was unclear whether any investigation had taken place.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Freedom of movement, Working Paper: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/22, para. 24, 32)

The report refers to the laws in Azerbaijan on refugee status, forcible relocation and the state language. It notes that laws such as these are often inconsistent with international standards and sometimes discriminatory in their treatment of nationals, foreigners and stateless persons with respect to the right to freedom of movement and choice of residence. The report also refers to the conflict in Azerbaijan as one of the factors contributing to massive flows of refugees.

Other Reports

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

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights briefly refers to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) programme for reconstruction and rehabilitation of key return areas for internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan, carried out in close cooperation with the World Bank. Information from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) noted its reconstruction activities in Azerbaijan, and the creation of the Azerbaijan Resettlement and Reconstruction Agency.

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BELARUS

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Belarus has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.70) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government is entirely based on demographic data which include population figures and