

committed by the security forces and, further, that numerous innocent civilians have died in attacks by the MFDC. The individual cases transmitted to the government related to: the arrest, torture and murder of an MFDC political officer; death as a result of torture following arrest by soldiers; and arrest and murder by soldiers of an individual suspected of connivance with independence forces. At the time the report was prepared, no reply had been received from the government. The SR urged the authorities to initiate speedy, thorough and impartial inquiries into all allegations of violations of the right to life committed in Casamance region, make the results of the investigations public, and give greater consideration to the rights of victims to justice and compensation in the search for durable solutions to the situation.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, paras. 439–445)

The report notes information received indicating that members of the police deliberately resort to physical violence in the hours or days following arrests in order to obtain confessions. The victims of these police practices were reported to be both ordinary law detainees as well as political detainees, particularly those accused in connection with the conflict in Casamance. The report notes that while several gendarmes and police officers have been arrested as a result of complaints of torture and ill-treatment, the authorities appear to have shown very little zeal in opening an inquiry, and impunity was widespread in the absence of an exhaustive investigation. Information also stated that allegations of torture were not investigated and that confessions obtained in that way were taken into account in convicting the accused. This was facilitated by a procedure under which suspects could be held in custody incommunicado for a maximum period of four days. Four individual cases and one collective appeal were transmitted to the government. In its reply the government denied accusations of ill-treatment in one case and stated that the man had died from a heart attack.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Traditional practices affecting women and children, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/10/Add.1, paras. 29)

The report refers to CEDAW's consideration of Senegal's second periodic report (1994) and the concern expressed over the persistence of discriminatory practices, including female circumcision and polygamy. The report notes that the Committee encouraged the government to step up public information campaigns on behalf of women and to expand its programmes to combat traditional practices which affect women's health and advancement in order to eliminate persistent forms of discrimination against women.

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SEYCHELLES

Date of admission to UN: 21 September 1976.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial report was due 4 August 1993.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Second Optional Protocol: Acceded: 15 December 1994.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 7 March 1978.

Seychelles' sixth through 10th periodic reports were due 6 April 1989, 1991, 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

At its March 1997 session, the Committee reviewed implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report from the government. The Committee's concluding observations (CERD/C/50/Misc.29) noted that no report has been submitted since 1986 and the government had not responded to the invitation to participate in the meeting and to furnish relevant information. The Committee suggested that the government may wish to request technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to facilitate the drafting and submission of an updated report as soon as possible.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 5 May 1992.

Seychelles' initial report was due 4 June 1993; the second periodic report was due 4 June 1997.

Torture

Acceded: 5 May 1992

Seychelles' initial report was due 3 June 1993; the second periodic report was due 3 June 1997.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 7 September 1990.

Seychelles' initial report was due 6 October 1992.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 311–313)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group (WG) to the government. The three cases that remain to be clarified all reportedly occurred in 1977 and 1984 and involved abduction by members of the security forces. The report notes that at least two of the persons abducted were known opponents of the Government. The government has not responded to the information transmitted by the WG.

Other Reports

Migrant workers, Report of the S-G to the CHR:

(E/CN.4/1997/65, para. 4)

The report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families notes that Seychelles has acceded to the Convention.

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