

- ▶ bring existing legislation into line with the Convention and consider the possibility of enacting a comprehensive code for children;
- ▶ take further steps to strengthen coordination between the various government bodies involved in children's rights, at both national and local levels and make greater efforts to ensure closer cooperation with NGOs working in the field of human and children's rights;
- ▶ make greater efforts to ensure that the provisions of the Convention are widely known and understood by both adults and children;
- ▶ organize systematic training and retraining programmes on the rights of the child for professional groups working with and for children;
- ▶ review the system of data collection with a view to incorporating all the areas covered by the Convention and include all children, with specific emphasis on vulnerable children and children in especially difficult circumstances, and initiate further studies and follow-up surveys on vulnerable groups of children;
- ▶ set up an independent mechanism such as an Ombudsman for Children responsible for receiving and acting on complaints from children of violations of their rights under the law and the Convention;
- ▶ give priority in budget allocations to the realization of the economic, social and cultural rights of children, with particular emphasis on the enjoyment of these rights by disadvantaged children;
- ▶ give special attention to the problems of ill-treatment and abuse, including sexual abuse, of children within the family and corporal punishment in schools;
- ▶ devise information and education campaigns to prevent and combat the use of any form of physical or mental violence on children;
- ▶ adopt all necessary measures to ensure the immediate registration of the birth of nomadic children and take further steps to ensure that nomadic children have access to education and health-care services through a system of specifically targeted education and health-care schemes which will allow these children to enjoy their right, in community with other members of their group, to their own culture;
- ▶ pay further attention to the full realization of the rights of refugee children;
- ▶ adopt all necessary measures to monitor the implementation of Act No. 90-11 of 21 April 1990 (employment of minors), in particular in the private and agricultural sectors of the economy;
- ▶ with respect to the administration of juvenile justice, pay particular attention to the provisions of the Convention when implementing special rules and regulations related to terrorist and subversive activities;
- ▶ develop education and information campaigns in schools on peaceful cohabitation and peaceful resolution of conflicts; and

- ▶ take steps to address the specific problem of the rising number of children orphaned by this violence.

### SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

At its 1997 session the Sub-Commission considered a draft resolution on Algeria (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/L.3 at E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/50, paras. 48–57). The text was intended to focus on violence by extremist religious armed groups and, *inter alia*: noted that Algeria is a party to the ICCPR; expressed concern over the numerous reports related to armed groups of religious extremists, terrorizing civilian populations in order to force them to support their cause, by resorting to, for example, summary executions characterized by, in some cases, decapitation or throat cutting; expressed increasing concern over reports indicating that violations of human rights are being committed with increasing frequency by sectors of the security forces; noted that the civilian population is forced to choose sides and is exposed to the risk of reprisals by the different actors in the conflict; severely condemned the crimes committed by terrorist groups and requested that international cooperation against their accomplices abroad be intensified; urgently called on the government to take action in the fight against terrorism in conformity with the ICCPR; called on the international community to break the silence surrounding the tragedy in Algeria and to express its solidarity with the people; and, recommended to the Commission on Human Rights that it consider at its 1998 session the question of the situation of human rights in Algeria, taking into account the exceptional seriousness of the situation.

By secret ballot, the resolution was rejected with 15 votes against, 9 in favour and 1 abstention.

### THEMATIC REPORTS

#### *Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights*

**Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:** (E/CN.4/1997/4, paras. 3, 14, 15, 17, 21)

The report notes that two urgent appeals on behalf of two individuals were sent. The government replied that the two persons concerned had been released, as well as the 15 people named in the Working Group's 1995 Decision.

**Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary:** (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 40–46)

The Working Group (WG) transmitted three new cases of disappearance to the government, which were reported to have occurred in 1994 and 1995 involved a university student, an engineer and a teacher. Information indicated that military security personnel and the police had conducted the arrests. The report refers to information which states that members of the security forces do not have warrants and do not wear uniforms when they carry out arrests and, in the majority of cases, detainees are not brought before courts and are therefore unaccounted for.

Referring to the 107 cases handled by the WG, the report notes that the majority of these occurred between 1993 and 1995, mainly in Algiers, and that the security forces were