

of non-Muslim religious material; confiscation of bibles; and, harassment, threats, mistreatment, arrests and detentions, and disappearances.



VANUATU

Date of admission to UN: 15 September 1981.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Vanuatu has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.86) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data and information on the national political structure and the economic system. The report also focusses on areas related to the two international instruments to which Vanuatu has acceded or ratified — women and children. The Constitution, revised in 1988, is the supreme law of the Republic. There is an allowance in the electoral system for proportional representation so as to ensure a fair representation of different political groups and opinions. The most important advisory body to the government in all areas is the Vanuatu National Council of Chiefs, also known as Malfatumaauri, which is composed of chiefs elected by their peers sitting in the district councils of chiefs. The Council advises on custom and tradition as well as the preservation and promotion of the country's culture and indigenous languages. Three additional non-constitutional advisory bodies (NGOs) that assist the government are: the Vanuatu National Council of Women, which presents ideas and advises government and other decision-making bodies on women's issues at all levels; the Vanuatu Council of Churches (VCC), with the role of coordinating Christian activities and advising the government on matters affecting the general population; and the Vanuatu National Youth Council which coordinates youth activities and provides advice on matters relating to youth.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 8 September 1995.

Vanuatu's initial report was due 8 October 1996.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 7 July 1993.

Vanuatu's initial report (CRC/C/28/Add.8) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's September/October 1999 session; the second periodic report is due 5 August 2000.



VIETNAM

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1977

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 24 September 1982.

Vietnam's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 26.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 24 September 1982.

Vietnam's second periodic report was due 31 July 1991; the third periodic report was due 23 December 1993.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 48.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 9 July 1982.

Vietnam's sixth through eighth periodic reports were due 9 July 1993, 1995 and 1997 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of articles 17 and 18; article 22.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 29 July 1980; ratified: 17 February 1982.

Vietnam's second through fourth periodic reports were due 19 March 1987, 1991 and 1995 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 29.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 28 February 1990.

Vietnam's second periodic report was due 1 September 1997.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:

(E/CN.4/1998/44, para.s. 4, 7, 19, Annex III; E/CN.4/1998/44/Add.1, Opinion No. 9/1997)

The report notes that two communications on behalf of five persons were transmitted to the government, and that it had not yet replied. An urgent appeal on behalf of one person was also sent. No details of the cases were provided.

Opinion No. 21/1997 was adopted at the Working Group's (WG) November/December 1997 session, and concerned three Buddhist monks.

The first monk was arrested in January 1995, in Ho Chi Minh City, and accused "of having sabotaged the Government's policy of religious solidarity", and "of having