

human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and summary executions, detentions without due process, violations of the rights of women and children, forced displacement of persons, enforced or involuntary disappearances, torture and other forms of cruel and unusual punishment, slavery, practices similar to slavery and forced labour, denial of the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, and discrimination based on religion; urged the government to ensure that all cases of slavery, servitude, slave trade, forced labour and similar practices brought to its attention are investigated, all appropriate measures implemented to put an immediate end to those practices and to publicize the existence and activities of the Special Committee investigating such practices; urged the government and all parties to the conflict to grant international human rights and humanitarian organizations and independent observers free and unimpeded access to all areas where violations have been reported; continued to urge the placement of human rights monitors to facilitate improved information flow and assessment and independent verification of reports; urged the government to release all political detainees, cease all acts of torture and ill-treatment, close down all clandestine or unacknowledged detention centres, and ensure that all accused persons are held in ordinary police or prison custody where family members and lawyers can visit them, and that such persons receive prompt, just and fair trials under internationally recognized standards; urged authorities to take all steps necessary to respect the human rights of persons belonging to the most vulnerable groups of the society; called for an immediate halt to the aerial bombardment of civilian targets by the government; and, encouraged the government to work actively for the eradication of practices which are directed against and particularly violate the human rights of women and girls.

* * * * *

SWAZILAND

Date of admission to UN: 24 September 1968.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 7 April 1969.

Swaziland's 15th periodic report is due 5 May 1998.

Swaziland's fourth through 14th periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/299/Add.2) which was considered by the Committee at its March 1997 session. The report prepared by the government provides general demographic and statistical data and information on the political and legal structures in the country. The information related to articles 2 through 7 of the Convention is confined to summary comments on the Race Relations Act 1962, the Employment Act 1980, the Citizenship Act 1992 and the Industrial Relations Act 1980. The report, dated 29 April 1996, noted that the drafting of a constitution was to begin soon and that it would cover adequately all aspects of the Convention not addressed in existing legislation.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CERD/C/304/Add.31) noted that the report contained insufficient information on the actual implementation of the Convention in Swaziland. It also commented on the fact that a core document has not been submitted by the government.

The Committee viewed positively several developments in Swaziland, including adoption of the Race Relations Act 6/1962, the Employment Act of 1980 (sect.29), and the Citizenship Act of 1992 and the consideration the government has given to modifications to the Race Relations Act 6/1962 in order to address relevant issues raised by the Convention.

The principal subjects of concern for the Committee were: insufficient information in the report related to the practical implementation of articles 2 (prohibition of racial discrimination), 3 (racial segregation and apartheid) and 6 (protection and remedies) of the Convention; failure to adopt legislative, administrative and other measures implementing fully the provisions of the Convention; and the fact that the Race Relations Act adopted in 1962 adopted a narrower approach to the definition of the term "racial discrimination" than that subsequently included in the Convention, since it addresses discrimination only based on race and colour.

The Committee recommended that the government:

- ▶ comply fully with the reporting obligations under article 9 of the Convention and ensure that the next report be prepared in accordance with the Committee's general guidelines and submitted on time;
- ▶ prepare and submit without further delay the core document;
- ▶ include in the next report detailed information on such specific issues as: measures taken to implement article 4; measures which have been taken under articles 5 (civil and political rights) and 7 (combatting prejudice and promoting tolerance); and the difficulties encountered in implementing the provisions contained in the Convention;
- ▶ consider requesting technical assistance provided under the advisory services and technical assistance programme of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; and,
- ▶ take into account the provisions of the Convention during elaboration of a draft new Constitution.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 22 August 1990; ratified: 7 September 1995.

Swaziland's initial report was due 5 October 1997.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 4.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Conscientious objection to military service, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/99, paras. 2, 15)

The report of the Secretary-General notes that neither compulsory military service nor conscription exists in Swaziland and that the system was based on voluntary military service.

* * * * *