

- ▶ take steps to stop immediately all human rights violations, including summary executions, enforced disappearances, looting and torture;
- ▶ lift all measures restricting freedom of expression and opinion;
- ▶ ensure that people are not persecuted for their ideas or the dissemination of them;
- ▶ ensure complete freedom for NGOs to establish themselves, elect their authorities, receive contributions, determine their mandates and exercise their functions; and
- ▶ implement a policy to guarantee the end of legal, cultural and educational discrimination against women.

The report calls on the international community, to help rehabilitate the environment which deteriorated as a result of the need to accommodate more than 1 million Rwandan refugees and assist internally displaced persons.

Following presentation of the report, the General Assembly did not adopt a resolution on the situation of human rights in the DR Congo.

SECURITY COUNCIL

In a resolution and statements by the President (S/RES/1097, February 1997; S/PRST/1997/22, 24 April 1997; S/PRST/1997/31, May 1997) the Council, *inter alia*: endorsed the five-point peace plan for eastern DR Congo (Zaire); expressed increasing alarm at the deterioration of the situation and the humanitarian consequences it was having on refugees, displaced persons and other civilian inhabitants; expressed dismay at acts of violence that hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance; expressed alarm at the reports of massacres and other serious violations of human rights in the eastern part of the country; called for complete cooperation with the UN mission investigating reports of massacres, other atrocities and violations of international humanitarian law in the country; and, expressed particular concern over reports that refugees in the east of the country were being systematically killed.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The Office of the High Commissioner opened an office in Kinshasa on 10 December 1996 with a mandate to follow the human rights situation in the country and advise the authorities and non-governmental organizations in areas related to the promotion and protection of human rights. The office has given special attention to the establishment or strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law, the training of law-enforcement officials and assistance to NGOs and national institutions working for human rights.

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CÔTE D'IVOIRE

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1960.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Côte d'Ivoire has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 26 March 1992.

Côte d'Ivoire's initial report was due 30 June 1994.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 26 March 1992.

Côte d'Ivoire's initial report was due 26 June 1993.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 5 March 1997

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 4 January 1973.

Côte d'Ivoire's fifth through 12th periodic reports (for the 1982–1996 period) have not been submitted; the 12th periodic report was due 3 February 1996.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 18 December 1995.

Côte d'Ivoire's initial report was due 17 January 1997.

Torture

Acceded: 18 December 1995.

Côte d'Ivoire's initial report was due 16 January 1997.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 4 February 1991.

Côte d'Ivoire's initial report was due 5 March 1993.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Independence of judges and lawyers, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/32, paras. 18, 99–100)

The report notes that early in 1996 the Special Rapporteur (SR) expressed concern to the government about a number of draft bills being prepared by the Minister of Justice and Public Liberties, one of which could affect the status of the judiciary by infringing on the principle of the separation of powers, as well as the irremovability of judges. Other draft provisions in the same bill had the potential of infringing upon the right of judges and lawyers to form associations. The SR requested information regarding the dates when the draft bill would be debated in Parliament, and asked the government to forward a copy of the draft Bill to him. At the time the report for the 1997 session of the CHR was finalized, no reply had been received from the government.

Racial discrimination, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/71, para. 82)

The report reproduces the text of a tract with xenophobic contents that was circulating in Côte d'Ivoire, addressed to Ambassadors "for the information of their citizens". It stated that "Côte d'Ivoire belongs to the Ivorians" and told foreigners to get out of the schools, markets, streets, hospitals, temples, churches, mosques, university, countryside, villages, fields, port and "in a word, get out of our country". It carried a warning that, after the November 1996 elections, foreigners would be hunted down and that a situation like that in Algeria would prevail in Côte d'Ivoire. The tract claimed that Bedie would free Côte d'Ivoire and that, "like Hitler", he wanted a pure race and an undivided Côte d'Ivoire for "pure-bred Ivorians". The tract was signed by the "soldiers of Bedie", the "pure-bred Ivorians". The government did not reply to the SR's request for detailed information on the tract. The report notes that the statement was indicative of a wave of xenophobia which was troubling neighbouring countries since many of their nationals live in Côte d'Ivoire.