

in secure areas of the country, including monitoring of the role of ECOMOG in the provision of security and in the collection and destruction of arms in those secure areas; (c) to assist in monitoring respect for international humanitarian law, and, (d) to monitor the voluntary disarmament and demobilization of members of the Civil Defence Forces (CDF); decided that UNOMSIL would be led by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, with the tasks of (a) advising on the reform and restructuring of the police force, and (b) reporting on violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, as well as assisting the government in its efforts to address the country's human rights needs. The resolutions also demanded that all factions and forces in Sierra Leone strictly respect the status of UNOMSIL personnel, as well as organizations and agencies delivering humanitarian assistance throughout the country, and that they respect human rights and abide by applicable rules of international humanitarian law; expressed serious concern at the reports of cross-border arms flows and support to the rebels in Sierra Leone; and, welcomed the efforts of the government to coordinate an effective national response to the needs of children affected by armed conflict.

### FIELD OPERATIONS

Security Council resolution 1181 (1998) of 13 July 1998 established the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL). As well as establishing a military/CIVPOL observer peace-keeping mission, the resolution mandates the monitoring of human rights and the provision of assistance to the government in addressing its human rights obligations. The resolution also gives the UN military observers a mandate to monitor respect of humanitarian law in the context of a demobilization process. The headquarters is located in Freetown. Michael O'Flaherty, Chief, Human Rights, UNOMSIL, 116 Pademba Road, Freetown, Sierra Leone; Phone: (232-22) 223-914; 229-406; Fax: (232-22) 227-612; e-mail: oflaherty@un.org.

The functions of the UNOMSIL human rights unit include to: monitor the situation of human rights, both directly and by developing and supporting monitoring networks of local and international NGOs and others; report, through the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG), to the Secretary-General and the OHCHR; draft inputs for reports to the Security Council and other public reporting vehicles; under the guidance of the SRSG, devise and implement strategies of intervention with the government to address human rights issues; facilitate the coordination and implementation of human rights technical co-operation programmes of UN agencies; and, through training and technical assistance, assist the UN military observers and CIVPOL in addressing the human rights components of their mandates.

The main activities carried out as of August 1998 included: ongoing human rights monitoring and reporting; development of background papers for the UN Special Conference on Sierra Leone; development of a preliminary human rights needs assessment; participa-

tion in secretariat activities associated with the creation of UNOMSIL; development of a human rights monitoring network comprising, *inter alia*, local NGOs, international humanitarian NGOs, and others; close observation and intervention with regard to the post-junta ongoing treason trials and courts-martial; the development of projects to contribute to the process of healing society following the period of junta rule; and provision of guidance on human rights reporting to UN military advisers.



## SOMALIA

**Date of admission to UN:** 20 September 1960.

### TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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

#### Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Somalia's initial and second periodic reports were due 30 June 1992 and 29 June 1997 respectively.

#### Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Somalia's initial and second periodic reports were due 23 April 1991 and 1996 respectively.

**Optional Protocol:** Acceded: 24 January 1990.

#### Racial Discrimination

Signed: 26 January 1967; ratified: 26 August 1975.

Somalia's fifth through 12th periodic reports have not been submitted (covering the period 1984-1998); the 12th periodic report was due 25 September 1998.

#### Torture

Acceded: 24 January 1990.

Somalia's initial and second periodic reports were due 22 February 1991 and 1995 respectively.

### COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

#### Report of the Independent Expert

The Independent Expert (IE) on the situation of human rights in Somalia was appointed by the Secretary-General in accordance with Commission resolution 1993/86 of 10 March 1993. The main task of the Expert was defined as assisting the Secretary-General's Representative on Somalia to establish a long-term program of advisory services focused on the re-establishment of human rights and rule of law as well as the holding of periodic and genuine elections conducted on the basis of universal suffrage. The Independent Expert for 1998 was Ms. Mona Rishmawi.