

man was tried and found guilty, the relevant procedural law, whether the accused was present at his trial, what means were made available for his defence, whether a lawyer was present, and whether the trial was public and the verdict handed down in public. The WG stated that the only certain conclusion that could be drawn from the government's reply was that the individual had been held without trial for more than 15 years, and sentenced to death for having belonged to what was described as a terrorist group.

With those points in mind, the WG decided that the deprivation of liberty was arbitrary, in contravention of a number of articles in the Universal Declaration and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 13, 357)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. Two cases were clarified. In one case it was reported that the person named was a medical doctor who was pursuing specialized studies in ophthalmology and working for the Syrian Ministry of Health in Hama; in the other case the government reported that the person had been detained for evading military service, but released under the terms of a presidential amnesty.

Of the 35 cases of disappearance reported to the Working Group (WG), 26 have been clarified. Among the nine outstanding cases, a substantial number allegedly occurred throughout the country in the early to mid-1980s. Some of the persons concerned were allegedly members of terrorist groups; others were reportedly members of the military or they were civilians.

The WG referred to concerns that have been expressed over the fact that the fate of those who have disappeared in Lebanon has still not been determined, nor have the perpetrators been brought to justice. It was further alleged that both Lebanese citizens and stateless Palestinians continue to disappear in Lebanon, taken into custody by Syrian security forces and then transferred to, and detained in, Syria. Information indicated that the Lebanese government not only acquiesces to such activities by Syria, but sometimes also collaborates with Syrian forces in carrying out disappearances.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/38, para. 185; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, paras. 417–418)

An urgent appeal was sent on behalf of an individual who had reportedly been detained since 1981 in connection with the Party of Communist Action. The person was said to have been due for release in mid-1996, but was transferred instead to Tadmur Military Prison because he refused to sign a statement dissociating himself from past political activities and expressing support for the government. Information provided by the government indicated that the person named had been released after the end of the term of his imprisonment. A second urgent appeal was sent on behalf of one person who was reportedly arrested in Qamishli in April 1997 by members of

military intelligence who were seeking the man's brother. The whereabouts of the person named remained unknown.



TAJIKISTAN

Date of admission to UN: 2 March 1992.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

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

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 11 January 1995.

Tajikistan's initial and second periodic reports were due 10 February 1996 and 1998 respectively.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 26 October 1993.

Tajikistan's initial and second periodic reports were due 25 October 1994 and 1998 respectively.

Torture

Acceded: 11 January 1995.

Tajikistan's initial report was due 9 February 1996.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 26 October 1993.

Tajikistan's initial report (CRC/C/28/Add.14) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's January 2001 session; the second periodic report is due 24 November 2000.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/1998/44, para. 19)

The report notes that a communication was sent to the government but no details of the case were provided.

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 3, 13, 361–363, 417)

Two newly reported cases were transmitted to the government, both of which reportedly occurred in 1997 and concerned brothers of Badakhshani ethnic origin. One of the brothers, who remains disappeared, is said to have been a member of the last parliament of the Soviet Union. The six cases of disappearance previously reported to the Working Group were alleged to have