

held by the LRA; requested that the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture provide assistance to the victims and their families suffering from the effects of torture inflicted by the LRA; demanded that all parties external to the conflict in northern Uganda supporting, directly or indirectly, the continuing abduction and detention of children by the LRA cease immediately all such assistance and collaboration; requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on children in armed conflict, and others, to address this situation as a matter of priority; and, decided to continue consideration of the question at the 1999 session.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 24 in favour, 1 opposed, 27 abstentions.

On 19 June 1998 the UN issued a press release (AFR/77, HR/4371) announcing that three children had been released and handed over the care of the UNHCR and UNICEF in Khartoum, pending their return to Uganda within days. The press release also announced that the Sudanese government had pledged to assist efforts to obtain the release of the remaining children abducted from northern Uganda. The release of the three children occurred two days after the Secretary-General's Special Representative (SRep) on the question of children in situations of armed conflict completed a three-day visit to Sudan; during that visit, he made a specific appeal to the Sudanese government to use its influence to help trace and secure the release of girls abducted from St. Mary's College, Aboke, in northern Uganda, by the Lord's Resistance Army.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 379–381)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted to the government. All of the 20 previously reported cases occurred between 1981 and 1985, before the present government took office. The reported arrests or abductions occurred throughout the country, and in one case the person was allegedly abducted while in exile in Kenya and taken to Kampala. One case concerned the 18-year-old daughter of an opposition member of the Ugandan Parliament. The arrests are said to have been made by policemen, soldiers, or officials of the National Security Agency. During the period under review, no new information was received from the government with regard to the outstanding cases.

Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on the: (A/53/311, para. 66)

In the interim report to the 1998 General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur (SR) expressed concern about continuing abductions of children in northern Uganda. Estimates suggest that the Lord's Resistance Army has abducted between 8,000 and 10,000 children from

northern Uganda over the past 11 years, marching their child captives to rebel base camps in neighbouring southern Sudan. Many children die from exhaustion, starvation or disease during the march or are murdered because they try to escape or cannot keep up. The SR stated that, on arrival at the base camps, boys and girls are given military training and forced to take part in hostilities, carry heavy loads and act as personal servants to the rebels. Girls are often given as "wives" to the commanders.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflict, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/13, paras. 30, 67)

Noting that the term "sexual" is used as an adjective to describe a form of slavery and not to denote a separate crime, the report refers to the abduction of girls by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). The girls are "married off" to rebel leaders and, if the man dies, the girl is put aside for ritual cleansing and then married off to another rebel. The report notes that the LRA also uses boys and girls as soldiers and labourers.



ZAMBIA

Date of admission to UN: 1 December 1964.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Zambia has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.22/Rev.1) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic and statistical data as well as information on the multi-party system of government, the separation of powers and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The 1991 Constitution expressly provides safeguards against violation of fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual by the state. Part III of the Constitution contains the Bill of Rights. In addition to the judicial courts through which remedies for violations may be sought, there are the following: an Industrial Relations Court; the Commission for Investigation, which is empowered to investigate and report to the President on complaints related to administrative action taken by government agencies; and the Investigator-General (Ombudsman), whose function is to determine whether there has been any fault in administration on the part of an agency that would justify the complaint, or whether the agency has acted improperly or wrongly. International human rights instruments are not self-executing and require legislative implementation. As such, they cannot be invoked directly in the courts although courts