

FIELD OPERATIONS

The Office was established as part of a technical cooperation project (GUA/96/AH/13) signed by the OHCHR with the government in 1996. The headquarters is located in Guatemala City. Fredy Ochaeta, Director, Avenida Reforma, 7-62, Zona 9, Edificio Aristos Reforma, 5o nivel, Oficina 506, Guatemala City, Guatemala; Phone: (502) 362-8153/4/5/6; Fax: (502) 362-8157; e-mail: centrohdh@infovia.com.gt.

The technical cooperation programme focusses on developing Guatemala's national capacity in the field of human rights. The main activities carried out as of August 1998 included: assisting the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman to strengthen its capacity to perform its mandate; organizing training courses for civil society organizations; training for the presidential commission, COPREDE, in charge of human rights issues and Guatemala's reporting obligations; in coordination with MINUGUA, carrying out training for the National Civil Police. New project activities planned include training courses for members of Congress (Parliament).



GUYANA

Date of admission to UN: 20 September 1966.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Guyana has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.61) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as brief information on the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, political parties and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Articles 138 through 151 of the Constitution protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual. All levels in the court system are empowered to hear cases related to human rights, and individuals may apply directly to the High Court as the court of first instance in any case alleging that fundamental rights and freedoms have been violated. Remedies for violations include awards, court orders, writs and directions. There is no separate Bill of Rights and the provisions of the ICCPR cannot be invoked directly before the courts other than tribunals or administrative authorities. The provisions in the Covenant may be enforced indirectly to the extent that they are subsumed in comparable provisions in the Constitution and domestic legislation.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 22 August 1968; ratified: 15 February 1977.
Guyana's second periodic report is due 30 June 2000.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 22 August 1968; ratified: 15 February 1977.
Guyana's second through fourth periodic reports were due 10 April 1987, 1992 and 1997 respectively.
Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 3 (d) of article 14; paragraph 6 of article 14; declaration under article 41.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 10 May 1993.

Racial Discrimination

Signed: 11 December 1968; ratified: 15 February 1977.
Guyana's initial and second through 11th periodic reports have not been submitted (for the period 1978-1998); the initial report was due 17 March 1978 and the 10th periodic report was due 17 March 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 17 July 1980.
Guyana's second through fifth periodic reports were due 3 September 1986, 1990, 1994 and 1998 respectively.

Torture

Signed: 25 January 1988; ratified: 19 May 1988.
Guyana's initial and second and third periodic reports were due 17 June 1989, 1993 and 1997 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 30 September 1990; ratified: 14 January 1991.
Guyana's initial and second periodic reports were due 12 February 1993 and 1998 respectively.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/68, para. 17)

The report notes that the government responded to cases previously transmitted. Details of the cases were not provided.

Racism and racial discrimination, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/79, paras. 74, 77-79)

The report notes information provided by the government related to, *inter alia*: funding of a parliamentary body to establish a commission on interracial relations and to promulgate relevant legislation; a firm commitment on the part of the Administration to deal with the consequences of racial discrimination and racism and to use all necessary means to eliminate them; establishment within the government of a service specifically responsible for responding to allegations of racial discrimination in employment; and, government support for the decision of one of the four civil service trade unions to create its own interracial relations body.

