

and communities in remote areas, and institute awareness-raising campaigns among the public, as well as among civil servants;

- ▶ promote parent education and family counselling and take measures to ensure adherence to the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing of children;
- ▶ following the national campaign to prevent abuse and ill-treatment of children, continue to raise awareness about this issue and systematically monitor all types of child abuse, including in institutions;
- ▶ enact legislation on adoption that is in conformity with the principles and provisions of the Convention;
- ▶ take adequate measures, including through awareness-raising campaigns, to prevent the abandonment of children and to protect poor single mothers from illegal networks of child traffickers;
- ▶ take all appropriate measures to combat the phenomenon of children working and/or living on the street, encourage pupil retention programmes and vocational training for drop-outs, and provide special training to law enforcement personnel to prevent the stigmatization, abuse and ill-treatment of these children;
- ▶ consider ratification of ILO Convention No. 138 concerning the minimum age for employment;
- ▶ consider seeking technical assistance to continue to improve efforts to make primary health care accessible to all children and develop a comprehensive strategy and programmes for mother and child health care;
- ▶ promote adolescent health by strengthening reproductive health and family planning services to prevent and combat HIV/AIDS, other STDs and teenage pregnancy;
- ▶ guarantee the full implementation of the right of children to be educated in their own language;
- ▶ with a view to preventing and combatting sexual abuse and exploitation of children, in particular prostitution, take all appropriate measures, including the adoption of relevant legislation and the formulation of a national policy, seek international assistance in this regard, and strengthen the capacity of existing rehabilitation centres;
- ▶ undertake a comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system, paying particular attention to protecting the rights of children deprived of their liberty, improving alternative measures to imprisonment and guaranteeing due process of law; and,
- ▶ provide training on the relevant international standards for all professionals involved with the juvenile justice system.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group for enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 268–271)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group (WG) to the government. Over the years, the WG has handled 23 cases, all of which occurred between

1975 and 1977 under the military government. The Group has received no reports of disappearances occurring in Paraguay since 1977. Several of the persons concerned were members of the Communist party, including one who was secretary-general of the party. Although disappearances took place in the capital, Asuncion, the majority of the cases affected the rural population and were carried out in the districts of San Jose, Santa Helena, Piribebuy, Santa Elena and Santa Rosa. Three cases remain to be clarified and the government is continuing its efforts to investigate them. The government informed the WG that the political will exists to make sure that crimes such as disappearance, murder and torture do not go unpunished and referred to the establishment of the Office of Ombudsman as well as Act No. 838 regarding compensation for victims of human rights violations during the period from 1954 to 1989. The government also noted that Act No. 933, dated 13 August 1996, approved the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons, and Act No. 913 authorized the Executive to declare that it recognizes the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, para. 381)

The report notes that one case was transmitted to the government. The information received indicated that the man, 84 years old, was shot dead by unidentified men in November 1995 at his home. The information also stated that the victim was the father of two well-known journalists who were investigating drug trafficking and corruption in Paraguay; his death might have been related to the work of his sons and the killers directly affected by the corruption charges the journalists had made.

Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/7, Section III; E/CN.4/1997/7/Add.1, para. 374)

Four cases were transmitted to the government related to the arrest, in November 1995, of a member of the Conscientious Objection Movement. The information received indicated that the soldiers who made the arrest used formalin to put the man partially to sleep and, after he fell to the ground, kicked and threatened to rape him. The information also stated that they tied him to a chair and threatened him with a knife to make him give information on the conscientious objection movement in the country. The report notes that, during 1995, three other conscientious objectors were allegedly arrested, beaten and subjected to harassment for four days.

Mechanisms and Reports of the Sub-Commission

Contemporary forms of slavery, Working Group on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/13, para. 49)

In the section on bonded labour and child labour, the report refers to a study indicating that the indigenous peoples in Paraguay are the victims of slavery-like practices, ranging from the sexual exploitation of women and children to bonded labour and bondage.

States of emergency, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/19, paras. 14, 24)

The report notes that the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission provided technical assistance to Paraguay as part of the technical assistance services of the Office of the