

with a view to stimulating action on the process of signing and/or ratifying these instruments; development of a human rights awareness campaign which will include distribution of more than 3,000 copies of the Universal Declaration in Monrovia and other parts of Liberia.



LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Libya has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.77) for use by the treaty bodies.

The judicial system consists of the courts, the Department of Public Prosecutions and ancillary bodies staffed by criminal investigation officers. There are four types of courts in Libya: civil, criminal, administrative and personal status. The last applies Islamic law. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in the legal system and hears appeals of judgements handed down by the highest court in each of the four types noted.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 15 May 1970.

Libya's second periodic report was due 30 June 1995.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 15 May 1970.

Libya's third periodic report (CCPR/C/102/Add.1) was considered at the Committee's October 1998 session; the fourth periodic report is due in October 2002.

Reservations and Declarations: General declaration.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 16 May 1989.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 3 July 1968.

Libya's 11th through 14th periodic reports were submitted as one document (CERD/C/299/ADD.13) which was considered at the Committee's March 1998 session; the 15th periodic report was due 4 January 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 22; general declaration.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 16 May 1989.

Libya's second and third periodic reports were due 15 June 1994 and 1998 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 2; paragraphs (c) and (d) of article 16.

Torture

Acceded: 16 May 1989.

Libya's third periodic report (CAT/C/44/Add.3) has been submitted and is scheduled for consideration at the Committee's May 1999 session.

Rights of the Child

Acceded: 15 April 1993.

Libya's initial report (CRC/C/28/Add.6) was considered at the Committee's January 1998 session; the second periodic report is due 14 May 2000.

REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Libya's initial report (CRC/C/28/Add.6, May 1996; CRC/C/Q/LIBYA.1) was considered by the Committee at its January 1998 session. The report was prepared by the government's Special Committee under the supervision of the Higher Committee for Child Welfare and contains information on, *inter alia*: the Great Green Document on Human Rights in the Age of the Masses; the Child Protection and Welfare Ordinance; the Higher Committee for Child Welfare, established in 1990; the definition of the child and minimum ages; provisions in the Civil Code related to name and nationality; provisions in the Penal Code related to preservation of identity; parental guidance and responsibilities; the Social Security Act 1980; grounds for separation from parents; measures on behalf of socially deprived children and social welfare facilities; children with disabilities; social security and child care services and facilities; health and health care services; the policy and principles regarding education, the aims of education; rest, leisure and culture; the juvenile justice system; and economic, sexual and other forms of exploitation. The report also includes information on factors and difficulties hindering implementation of the Convention, and refers to the air embargo imposed by Security Council resolutions 748 (1992) and 883 (1993), covering the period from April 1992 to December 1994.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CRC/C/15/Add.84, January 1998) welcomed: the fact that the Convention is self-executing and that its provisions may be invoked before the courts; the range of services provided, especially in the fields of health and education; the fact that education is free of charge and that primary school attendance is nearly universal; the provision of free health services for all children, the 91 per cent level of breast-feeding, and the existence of a range of specialized services and facilities for persons with disabilities, including children.

Bearing in mind General Comment No. 8 adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1997), the Committee noted that the aerial embargo imposed by the Security Council had adversely affected the economy and many aspects of daily life, thereby impeding the full enjoyment by the population, including children, of their rights to health and education.