

who will assess the evidence available on the Khmer Rouge genocide and make recommendations on possible legal proceedings to the Secretary-General;

- ♦ Legal Assistance Unit: comments on draft legislation with human rights implications and follows the implementation of legislation; the development of electoral laws and regulations; monitoring of the prison system and following cases with major human rights aspects through the courts; assistance to judges through the Judicial Mentor Programme, which places trained lawyers in provincial courts to advise and train judges, court staff and the judicial police;
- ♦ The Education, Training and Information Unit: programme of training in human rights for the police, the armed forces, teachers, monks, trade unionists, women and minorities; training for election officials, political party members, police and the army on the principles of free, fair and democratic elections; distribution of approximately 100,000 copies each year of basic human rights documents in the Khmer language; support to local NGOs, in particular human rights organisations; provision of grants to NGOs working on ethnic minorities, labour rights and women's and children's rights; preparation of a women's and children's rights project; support for the inter-ministerial committee which is responsible for reporting on the human rights treaties to which Cambodia is a party; and
- ♦ Provincial Office Network: serving as outposts of the Phnom Penh office, monitoring human rights violations and prison conditions, supporting training programmes and liaising with local human rights and other NGOs.



CHINA

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: The core document prepared by the government (HRI/CORE/1/Add.21) includes information on the status of national minorities, religious belief, political history, the pattern of political organization, bodies with jurisdiction over human rights, compensation and rehabilitation systems for victims and constitutional and legal provisions to protect human rights.

The report indicates that constitutional and legal protections of citizen's rights and freedoms consist in preventing injury to personal rights and liberties by strictly applying laws related to investigations, arrests and other encroachments on personal rights and provision of a right of complaint for any citizen whose rights have been violated. The Constitution stipulates equality before the

law, inviolability of home, the right to own lawfully earned income, savings, houses and other property, the inviolability of personal dignity, freedom of speech, the press, assembly and association, freedom of religion or belief, the duty as well as the right to receive an education, the right to lodge complaints and lay charges against state organs and their personnel, the right to compensation, and the right of every nationality to use and develop its own language and script.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Signed: 27 October 1997.

On the transfer by the U.K. of Hong Kong to China, 1 July 1997, China assumed reporting obligations under the ICESCR for Hong Kong. China's reporting schedule has not yet been confirmed.

Civil and Political Rights

Signed: 5 October 1998.

On the transfer by the U.K. of Hong Kong to China, 1 July 1997, China assumed reporting obligations under the ICCPR for Hong Kong. China's reporting schedule has not yet been confirmed.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 29 December 1981.

China's eighth periodic report was due 28 January 1997. *Reservations and Declarations:* Article 22.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 17 July 1980; ratified: 4 November 1980.

China's third and fourth periodic reports were submitted as one document (CEDAW/C/CHN/3-4) which has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the Committee; the fifth periodic report was due 3 September 1998.

Reservations and Declarations: Paragraph 1 of article 29.

Torture

Signed: 12 December 1986; ratified: 4 October 1988.

China's third periodic report was due 2 November 1997. *Reservations and Declarations:* Paragraph 3 of article 30.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 29 August 1990; ratified: 2 March 1992.

China's second periodic report is due 31 March 1999. *Reservations and Declarations:* Article 6.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:

(E/CN.4/1998/44, paras. 19, 21, 22)

The report notes that communications were sent and the government replied, as well as the fact that the Working Group (WG) undertook a field mission to China.

On the basis of a preparatory mission in July 1996, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the WG visited China from 6 to 16 October 1997. The mission included visits in