

June and July 1992; the arrests were followed by preliminary verbal interrogation and investigations with the detainees; all detainees against whom there was no evidence were released; all those who had evidence against them were referred to investigation committees and subsequently submitted to trials before the major field tribunals formed according to the armed forces law; all civilians were released except for 25 individuals who were referred to investigation committees, then to military tribunals formed after the attack on the town; the investigation involved both military and civilian persons, after permission was obtained from the Attorney General to allow the military investigation committees to carry out investigations with civilians; all but 84 of the detainees from among the armed forces were released; the 84 who were detained were referred to investigation committees and then to trial; 53 officers and members of the Unified Police Forces were referred to investigation committees and then to trial; seven military tribunals were formed and named the "major field tribunals" and were presided over by high military personnel up to the rank of brigadier; civilian detainees were committed for trial before the same military tribunals; all trials were held at the headquarters of the military zone command in Juba; the trials of civilians before the military tribunals was carried out after obtaining permission from the Attorney General; the trials were also preceded by an investigation carried out by a committee formed of three army officers according to the law of the People's Armed Forces; and, trials were conducted by summary procedure. The SR notes that in the conclusions of the Juba report, the Advisory Council affirmed that it is the government's responsibility to protect and develop human rights, in compliance with the international instruments adopted and within the framework of its cooperation with the international community and its competent mechanisms.

Referring to means and methods to improve communication and the flow of information between the government, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur, the report set out several aspects to be taken into account: the direct and accelerated exchange of information between Sudan's Consultative Council on the one hand and the Office of the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on the other; the more timely transmission of the replies to the communications received by the Consultative Council from the Special Rapporteur and the Office of the High Commissioner, including the transmission of legal documents, statistics and any other relevant documentation; the creation of the conditions that are necessary for an impartial, professional, rapid and objective verification of the information and reports received regarding cases of violations of human rights; regular contacts between representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Consultative Council; and, improved coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and other UN organs and agencies dealing within their mandates with specific aspects of the situation of human rights in the Sudan.

The report recommended that the government, *inter alia*:

- ▶ take all the necessary measures in order to assure that its combat units observe the principles and provisions of international humanitarian law;

- ▶ ensure wide publicity of the activities and findings of the Special Committee on Allegations of Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and Reported Cases of Slavery;
- ▶ ensure full transparency by encouraging representatives of all interested civic groups to participate and to help the fact-finding activities of the Special Committee;
- ▶ give free and unimpeded access to international human rights and humanitarian organizations and independent observers to all areas where enforced or involuntary disappearances or cases of slavery, the slave trade and similar institutions and practices — especially the sale of and trafficking in children and women — have been reported;
- ▶ consider the possibility of international participation in the process of addressing reported cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances in the Nuba Mountains area, and in contacting representatives of parties to the armed conflict other than the government in areas under their control;
- ▶ establish periodic direct contacts in Khartoum with representatives of the Office of the High Commissioner in order to ensure a prompt exchange and verification of information or reports regarding the situation of human rights in the Sudan; and,
- ▶ implement without delay the previous recommendation related to the placement of human rights field officers to monitor the situation of human rights.

General Assembly Resolution

The General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/Res/52/140) on the human rights situation in Sudan in which it, *inter alia*: reaffirmed that all Member States have an obligation to comply with the obligations laid down in the various human rights instruments; recalled the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law; expressed serious concern about continuing reports of religious persecution; welcomed the visit to the Sudan by the CHR Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance; expressed concern over continuing reports of the abuse of children; expressed concern about policies, practices and activities which are directed against and particularly violate the human rights of women and girls and noted the efforts of the government to investigate such activities and practices; welcomed new practices regarding street children which centre on rehabilitation and family reunification; welcomed the invitation extended to the CHR Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression and the Sub-Commission's Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and urged that the visit by the Special Rapporteur take place as soon as possible; noted the establishment of national committees for human rights education; welcomed the establishment by the Consultative Council for Human Rights of subcommittees on detentions without trial, arrests, torture and lack of due process of law, religious persecution, forced displacement and bombardments, extrajudicial killings, access for relief organizations and humanitarian law, slavery and disappearances, the rights of women, the rights of the child, and freedom of expression and peaceful assembly; expressed deep concern at serious, widespread and continuing