

brought before the courts and that there is, therefore, no case law in the matter; and inadequacies in the material provided on the measures taken to ensure equal treatment for ethnic groups regarding teaching, culture and information, and efforts to develop human rights training for law-enforcement agents.

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

- ♦ take all appropriate measures to review domestic law, particularly the Penal Code, in order to ensure inclusion of all the provisions required relative to a prohibition on individuals and groups promoting or committing acts of racial discrimination;
- ♦ provide in its next report, information on ethnic groups' representation at the various levels of political life and the civil service, and on their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures in order to promote and protect the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples, particularly as it regards deforestation that may harm such population groups;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures provided for by the Convention to prevent and eliminate acts of racial discrimination against aliens;
- ♦ guarantee all persons within its territory – irrespective of race, colour or ethnic origin – enjoyment of the right to security;
- ♦ take all necessary measures to guarantee freedom of expression to all persons, irrespective of race, colour or ethnic origin, and to guarantee freedom of the press;
- ♦ facilitate access to the courts for victims of racial discrimination so that the perpetrators of racist acts can be brought to trial and the victims of such acts can obtain reparation;
- ♦ take all appropriate measures to give full effect to the provisions of article 7 of the Convention concerning education, training and human rights information, with human rights training for agents of the state especially recommended;
- ♦ take all appropriate steps to acquaint the population with the Convention and to publish the government's periodic reports and the Committee's observations; and
- ♦ strengthen its relations with associations and non-governmental bodies seeking to promote the rights recognized in the Convention.

## THEMATIC REPORTS

### Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

#### Arbitrary detention, Working Group on:

(E/CN.4/1998/44, para. 19)

The report notes that three urgent appeals, on behalf of 42 persons, were sent to the government. No details of the cases were provided.

#### Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 118–119)

No new cases of disappearance were transmitted by the Working Group (WG) to the government. The six cases previously reported occurred in 1992 and concerned five youngsters aged 13 to 17, including three brothers, who were reportedly seen being taken into police custody in Bamenda at the time of the arrest of leaders of the Cameroon Anglophone Movement, and over 40 peasants, following a peaceful demonstration. The father of the three brothers also disappeared, following his inquiries to determine the whereabouts of his children. The government informed the WG that the persons concerned never existed and that an individual had been charged with fraud in this connection, arrested and released on bail. The Group asked the government to provide additional details.

#### Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 14, 32; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, paras. 66–67)

The report cites information related to violence which broke out in March 1997, a few weeks prior to legislative elections in May, in Nord-Ouest Province, an opposition stronghold. A number of persons arrested by the security forces were said to have died in prison as a result of torture and lack of medical care. Four specific cases were transmitted by the Special Rapporteur to the government.

#### Torture, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/38, paras. 38–39; E/CN.4/1998/38/Add.1, "Cameroon")

Cases transmitted to the government referred to: the arrest and ill treatment of two students at the University of Yaoundé who were accused of provoking unrest, noting the government confirmed the arrests but did not respond to allegations of ill treatment; arrest and torture, followed by death in custody, of persons in the North-West Province, noting that the government confirmed the arrests, stated that the individuals had received medical care, confirmed that two of three arrested had died and stated that the third man's condition was improving but that he was too ill to undergo the questioning necessary to charge him; and arrest of some 200 persons, most of whom were said to be members or sympathizers of the Social Democratic Front (SDF) opposition party, in the North-West Province, who were reportedly tortured and denied any contact with their families, lawyers and doctors. The SR noted a separate incident involving the arrest of members and supporters of the SDF in October