

Commentary is also provided on prosecution by the state of more than 50 persons in the regular courts on a range of charges including treason, murder and arson. If found guilty all defendants faced the possibility of the death penalty. The report notes that the trials were proceeding against a background of widespread public anger and a desire for quick justice. Reference is also made to the court martial of 38 soldiers before a judicial panel comprising army officers and presided over by a Judge Advocate who is an ECOMOG officer. The government conceded that the judicial system is entirely inadequate and the report notes that, outside Freetown, the courts were not functioning at all and the traditional court system had collapsed. With regard to prisons, the conditions were described as overcrowded and unsanitary, with food and medical care inadequate. Reliable reports were being regularly received of poor discipline within the Civil Defence Force, marked by harassment of the local population and extortion.

In light of these conditions, UNOMSIL had commenced a human rights technical cooperation needs assessment and established that there was an urgent need for human rights education for government officials, traditional leaders, police officers, teachers of civic education, lawyers, journalists and NGO personnel. Technical support to the government was also needed for the National Commission for Democracy and Human Rights. The report notes that UN military observers were to receive training in aspects of international humanitarian law relevant to their duties.

The October 1998 report summarizes findings related to human rights abuses by rebel forces, including: an escalating number of reports of mutilations, amputations, summary executions, abductions, house burnings; detention of elderly or incapacitated men in huts which were then set on fire; the carving of slogans, such as "AFRC", into the flesh of victims; multiple rape of women held captive, summary executions and slave labour; continuing armed deployment of under-age boys and, in some locations, their continued initiation into the Civil Defence Forces (CDF); interference by some CDF elements with the delivery of humanitarian supplies and acts of harassment against the civilian population; and, a prevalence of child prostitution in some heavily militarized areas of the countryside. Commentary is also provided on initial efforts aimed at reform of the civilian police. The report further notes the development of a serious humanitarian crisis in isolated areas of the country because of a deterioration in the security situation and an increased number of displaced persons as a result of ongoing fighting.

### Statements by the President of the Security Council

In the statements by the President (S/PRST/1998/5, February 1998; S/PRST/1998/13 May 1998) the Security Council, *inter alia*: expressed deep regret at the violence, loss of life and property and immense suffering undergone by the people of Sierra Leone since the coup and

grave concern at the continued violence in the country; called for an urgent end to the fighting; welcomed the end to the rule of the military junta and stressed the need for the immediate restoration of the democratically elected government and a return to constitutional order; condemned all reprisal killings and related violence and called for an immediate end to such acts; expressed concern about the serious and fragile humanitarian situation as well as the safety of all humanitarian personnel; condemned the taking of hostages by former members of the deposed junta and called for the immediate release of all international personnel and others who have been detained or held hostage; condemned gross violations of international humanitarian law and the recent atrocities carried out against the civilian population, particularly women and children, by members of the Revolutionary United Front and the deposed military junta — including widespread rape, mutilation, and slaughter — and called for an immediate end to all violence against civilians; called on all rebels to cease their resistance, lay down their arms, and surrender to forces of the ECOMOG immediately; expressed deep concern for the plight of all those affected by the continuing insecurity, including the tens of thousands of refugees and displaced persons; and, welcomed the efforts made by the democratically elected government, since its return in March 1998, to restore peace and stability and to reestablish effective administration and the democratic process in Sierra Leone.

### Resolutions of the Security Council

In the resolutions adopted (S/RES/1156, March 1998; S/RES/1162, April 1998; S/RES/1171, June 1998; S/RES/1181, June 1998), the Security Council, *inter alia*: welcomed the return of the democratically elected President and terminated the prohibitions on the sale or supply of petroleum and petroleum products; welcomed efforts made by the government to restore peaceful and secure conditions, re-establish effective administration and the democratic process, and embark on the task of reconstruction and rehabilitation; emphasized the need to promote national reconciliation; authorized the deployment of up to ten UN military liaison and security advisory personnel; deplored the continued resistance to the authority of the legitimate government by ousted junta and members of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and stressed the urgency for all rebels to put an end to the atrocities, cease their resistance and lay down their arms; lifted remaining sanctions vis-à-vis the government but decided that all states should prevent the sale and supply of arms and related matériel to non-governmental forces in Sierra Leone and should impose limits on the freedom of movement of leading members of the former military junta. The resolutions also: welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal on the establishment of the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL); established UNOMSIL for an initial period of six months until 13 January 1999; defined the UNOMSIL mandate as being: (a) to monitor the military and security situation in the country as a whole, as security conditions permit; (b) to monitor the disarmament and demobilization of former combatants concentrated