

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/54, Section II.D)

In the section dealing with custodial violence against women, the report refers to the case of a woman in Tunisia who was arrested in 1995, imprisoned for her alleged support of an "unauthorized political opposition party" — the al-Nahda, the illegal Islamist party — and had helped her husband seek political asylum in France. The report notes that, since her husband's departure in 1992, the woman was repeatedly taken into custody and interrogated. The Special Rapporteur stated that other women were also arrested solely on the basis of their alleged "association" with supporters or leaders of the Islamist movement, and that wives of exiled Islamist members cannot leave Tunisia to be with their husbands because their passports have been confiscated.



UGANDA

Date of admission to UN: 25 October 1962.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Uganda has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.69) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the economy, political history, organization of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, and the legal framework for the protection of human rights.

Laws for the protection of human rights are upheld through the formal courts — the Supreme Court, the High Court and the Magistrates Courts — as well as informal courts mainly composed of Resistance Council courts. The Resistance Councils were established at the grass roots level to organize people and check the human rights abuses that were common in the country prior to 1986. The Resistance Council structure blends the traditional style of government with modern democratic principles. The rights set out in various human rights instruments are protected by the Constitution, supplemented by the Penal Code Act, Magistrates Court Act, the Trial and Indictment Decree and other statutes. The Inspector General of Government is mandated to protect and promote human rights and rule of law as well as deal with administrative abuses. The Human Rights Commission is empowered to hear human rights related cases but cannot try anyone implicated in violations. There is also a Human Rights desk at the Ministry of Justice. International human rights instruments are not directly enforceable by the courts or administrative authorities nor are they self-executing.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 21 January 1987.

Uganda's initial and second periodic report were due 30 June 1990 and 1995 respectively.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 21 June 1995.

Uganda's initial report was due 20 September 1996.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 14 November 1995.
Reservations and Declarations: Article 5.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 21 November 1980.

Uganda's second through ninth periodic reports (covering the period 1983-1997) have not been submitted; the ninth periodic report was due 21 December 1997.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 30 July 1980; ratified: 22 July 1985.

Uganda's third and fourth periodic reports were due 21 August 1994 and 1998 respectively.

Torture

Acceded: 3 November 1986.

Uganda's initial, second and third periodic reports were due 25 June 1988, 1992 and 1996 respectively.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 17 August 1990; ratified: 17 August 1990.

Uganda's second periodic report was due 15 September 1997.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

At the 1998 session of the Commission, under the agenda item dealing with the rights of the child, the government proposed a resolution on the issue of abduction of children from the northern part of the country (1998/75).

In the resolution, adopted by roll call vote, the Commission, *inter alia*: acknowledged the concern expressed in the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC/C/15/Add.80) about the abduction, killing and torture of children, as well as the recruitment of children as child soldiers in northern Uganda; recognized the urgent need for the adoption of effective measures, nationally, regionally and internationally, to protect the civilian population in northern Uganda, especially women and children, from the effects of armed conflict; expressed concern over the continuing abduction, torture, detention, rape and forced recruitment of children from northern Uganda and condemned all parties involved in these practices, particularly the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA); demanded the immediate cessation of all abductions and attacks in northern Uganda by the LRA and called for the immediate and unconditional release and safe return of all abducted children currently