

to ensure that, should the peasants and their families be deported, their right to life and physical integrity would be guaranteed. (An appeal was also sent to the Colombian government.)

Allegations concerning violations of the right to life were also sent to the government on behalf of three persons in the municipalities of Yape and Yaviza who were killed by Colombian paramilitaries. The report notes that Colombian paramilitaries were said to have made an incursion into Panamanian territory for the purpose of eliminating guerrilla sympathizers. (This case was also sent to the Colombian government.)



PARAGUAY

Date of admission to UN: 24 October 1945.

TREATIES: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Land and People: Paraguay has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/Add.24) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government contains demographic and statistical data as well as information on the general political structure, the separation of powers, and the general legal framework for the protection of human rights.

The Constitution sets out all basic human rights and provides for a number of mechanisms to protect and safeguard them. Remedies for violations include habeas corpus, actions under the law on criminal procedure, actions under the Code for Juveniles, and systems of compensation. The office of the Defensoria del Pueblo (Ombudsman) has been established and functions as a parliamentary commissioner to defend human rights, channel claims by citizens and protect community interests. The Ombudsman may publicly censure acts or conduct contrary to human rights and must report annually to the two chambers of Congress. The Constitution is the supreme law with international treaties ratified by Paraguay directly following it in rank; treaties are defined as a part of domestic positive law which may be invoked before the courts. The Directorate-General for Human Rights was established in 1990 with a broad mandate encompassing the promotion, dissemination and protection of human rights.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 10 June 1992.

Paraguay's second periodic report is due 30 June 1999.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 10 June 1992.

Paraguay's second periodic report is due 9 September 1998.

Optional Protocol: Acceded: 10 January 1995.

Discrimination against Women

Acceded: 6 April 1987.

Paraguay's third periodic report was due 6 May 1996.

Torture

Signed: 23 October 1989; ratified: 12 March 1990.

Paraguay's third periodic report is due 10 April 1999.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 4 April 1990; ratified: 25 September 1990.

Paraguay's second periodic report (CRC/C/65/Add.12) has been submitted and is pending for consideration at the Committee's September/October 2001 session; the third report is due 24 October 2002.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

At its 1998 session, the Commission on Human Rights considered the situation in Paraguay under the confidential 1503 procedure. The Commission decided to discontinue that consideration.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 293–295)

During the period under review no new cases were transmitted to the government. Of the 23 cases transmitted by the Working Group, 20 have been clarified. All of these cases occurred between 1975 and 1977 under the military government, and no reports of disappearances occurring in Paraguay have been received by the WG since. Several of the disappeared persons were members of the Communist Party, including the party's Secretary-General. Although disappearances took place in the capital, Asunción, the majority of the cases affected the rural population and were carried out in the districts of San José, Santa Helena, Piribebuy, Santa Elena, and Santa Rosa. The report notes that no new information was received from the government on the outstanding cases.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1998/68, paras. 14, 17, 39, 40, 66; E/CN.4/1998/68/Add.1, paras. 317–318)

Cases were transmitted to the government related to the deaths of 15 persons as a result of paramilitary activity, and the killing of a member of the Puente Kue Neighbourhood Commission by armed men allegedly acting with the acquiescence of the security forces in Caazapa. In response to a case previously transmitted, the government stated that the Second Rota Criminal Court of First Instance had conducted the investigative proceedings to establish the facts, three persons had been detained on suspicion of murder, and they did not belong to any official or private institution or body. The government also