

including: beatings, immersion of the head in a basin of water, use of electric shocks, sleep and food deprivation, and suspension. The government responses to the cases variously indicated that: a committee responsible for investigating the conditions of treatment of detainees had considered that they conformed to national and international law; the person in question had never been subjected to any ill-treatment and had been allowed medical examinations and visits by relatives and lawyers; no complaint of ill-treatment had been lodged; death was due to natural causes; and, the public health physician had reported no signs of violence.

Other Reports

UN Decade for Human Rights Education, Report of the HCHR to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/46, para. 23)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights refers to information provided by the government, noting the establishment of a National Committee for Human Rights Education. A preliminary report from the National Committee contained information on the status of human rights education in primary schools, secondary schools and higher education, on existing programmes of human rights training for professional groups (such as law enforcement agents, magistrates and lawyers) and in professional training centres, on programmes addressed to vulnerable groups (children, including juvenile offenders, women, people with disabilities, detainees) and on the existing information about human rights among the public in general, with an emphasis on the role of the media. The government also stressed the important role of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, based in Tunis, in the dissemination of a culture of human rights through the organization of several national and regional seminars. Finally, the government illustrated its envisaged national strategy for human rights education, which includes close cooperation with UN agencies.

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UGANDA

Date of admission to UN: 25 October 1962.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

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 eighth periodic reports (covering the period 1983–1995) have not been submitted; the eighth periodic report was due 21 December 1995.

Discrimination against Women

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

Uganda's third periodic report was due 21 August 1994.

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.

Uganda's initial report (CRC/C/3/Add.40) was considered by the Committee at its September/October 1997 session. The report prepared by the government is exhaustive in detail and includes information on general measures to implement the Convention, the definition of a child, and general principles. Specific areas addressed include civil rights and freedoms, family environment and alternative care, basic health and health services, education, leisure and cultural activities, and special protection measures. Under these headings a number of rights are considered including: name and nationality, preservation of identity, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion, freedom of association and peaceful assembly, torture and degrading treatment, protection of privacy, parental guidance and responsibility, family reunification, adoption, protection from abuse and neglect, children with disabilities, social security, vocational training and guidance, situations of emergency, children in conflict with the law, situations of exploitation, and children of minority or indigenous populations.

The Committee's concluding observations and comments (CRC/C/15/Add.80) welcomed: the establishment in 1992 of the National Council of Children; adoption of the Uganda