

government within the West African region; expressed the hope that this contribution reflects a determination to pursue the same aim in its domestic policies; noted that the Commonwealth decided to renew Nigeria's suspension; welcomed (a) the declared commitment by the government to civilian rule, multi-party democracy and freedom of assembly, press and political activity by 1 October 1998, (b) the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Nigeria, and (c) information on the Secretary-General's good offices mandate; expressed deep concern at continuing grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including arbitrary detention and failure to respect due process of law; expressed concern that the absence of representative government has led to violations and is contrary to the popular support for democratic government as evidenced in the 1993 elections; expressed concern that persons among those detained are to be tried by the same flawed judicial process which led to the arbitrary execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and his associates; expressed concern at the lack of preparatory steps by the government to secure the reinstallation of a representative government following elections characterized by genuine popular participation in a multi-party context; expressed concern at the past refusal of the government to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights and its mechanisms; called on the government to respect the right to life, release all political prisoners including those detained in connection with the 1993 presidential elections, trade union leaders, human rights advocates and journalists, improve conditions of detention and guarantee freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and association and respect for the rights of individuals, including persons belonging to minorities; called on the government to ensure that all trials are held fairly and promptly and in strict conformity with international human rights standards; called on the government to abide by its freely undertaken obligations under the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments; called on the government to take concrete and credible steps to restore democratic government without delay, and to end rule by decree; called on the government to ensure the independence of the National Human Rights Commission, including in its investigations of human rights abuses and implement its obligations under the International Labour Organization Convention No. 87 concerning Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize; and, called on the government to cooperate fully with the Commission on Human Rights and its mechanisms.

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RWANDA

Date of admission to UN: 18 September 1962.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Rwanda has not submitted a core document for use by the treaty bodies.

Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Acceded: 16 April 1975.

Rwanda's second periodic report was due 30 June 1990.

Reservations and Declarations: General reservation.

Civil and Political Rights

Acceded: 16 April 1975.

Rwanda's third periodic report was due 10 April 1992; the fourth periodic report was due 10 April 1997.

Racial Discrimination

Acceded: 16 April 1975.

Rwanda's eighth through 11th periodic reports were due 16 May 1990, 1992, 1994 and 1996 respectively.

Reservations and Declarations: Article 22.

At its March 1997 session, the Committee reviewed implementation of the Convention in the absence of a report from the government. The Committee's concluding observations (CERD/C/50/Misc.27) noted with regret that no report has been submitted since 1988 and welcomed participation by government representatives at the meeting as well as oral information provided by them. Assurances were given to the Committee that the government would resume its reporting obligations in the near future. The Committee suggested that the government might want to request technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for preparation and submission of an updated report.

Discrimination against Women

Signed: 1 May 1980; ratified: 2 March 1981.

Rwanda's fourth periodic report was due 3 September 1994.

Rights of the Child

Signed: 26 January 1990; ratified: 24 January 1991.

Rwanda's second periodic report was due 22 February 1998.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Rwanda

A Special Rapporteur (SR) on the situation of human rights in Rwanda was first appointed by the Commission in its resolution S-3/1 of 25 May 1994 and the mandate has been renewed in subsequent years. In 1997, the SR was Mr. René Degni-Ségué.

The report of the SR (E/CN.4/1997/61) contains commentary on: the inquiry into the genocide; proceedings against persons suspected of genocide; violations of property rights, freedom of expression, the right to personal security, and the rights to life and physical integrity; the consequences of the continued presence of Rwandan refugees in neighbouring countries; the failure of the strategies of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees; and, the crisis in eastern Zaire. The recommendations address issues related to: the prosecution of persons suspected of genocide; cessation of human rights violations; social reintegration; and a comprehensive settlement of the Great Lakes crisis.

In the commentary on the situation of women in Rwanda, the report notes that: the genocide and hostilities left many women widows and de facto heads of families in conditions of destitution; a number of women raped during the war contracted sexually transmitted diseases and/or became pregnant and bore unwanted children; rape as a weapon of war has led to psychological and social problems for victims, including ostracization and isolation, shame, extreme embarrassment