

situation of women, leading to the continued practices of relegating women to an inferior position and discrimination against them which is often derived from cultural factors; and the continuation of discrimination against persons belonging to ethnic minorities.

The recommendations arising from these and other points call on the government to:

- ▶ adopt legislative and administrative measures to institutionalize the separation of state powers into its three components justice, law and executive authority to ensure independence and make effective a system of checks and balances;
- ▶ accede to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- ▶ regularly publish laws, decrees and governmental acts;
- ▶ adopt legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the full independence and impartiality of the judiciary and to ensure due process and enforcement of judicial decisions by the security forces;
- ▶ take the necessary steps to put the right and remedy of habeas corpus into effective operation;
- ▶ limit the jurisdiction of military courts to strictly military offences committed by military personnel;
- ▶ give precise instructions to forces of order and security to eliminate practice of arbitrary detention and arrest and take all necessary steps to eliminate torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- ▶ put an end to intimidation and harassment of political party activists and citizens in general and make clear that all authorities have an obligation to respect the right of all nationals freely to express their opinions and to unite in acting on them;
- ▶ adopt measures to end impunity, including prompt and impartial investigations of any report of torture and any form of ill-treatment or arbitrary imprisonment; bring to trial those responsible for such conduct; ensure rehabilitation of victims; and provide compensation for them and/or their relatives;
- ▶ take measures to implement a system of remuneration to prisoners for work they perform;
- ▶ reform the Electoral Act to guarantee that elections are both "clean" and credible; revise the electoral roll; legalize political groups to enable the formation of political parties on a regional basis; adopt measures to ensure access by all political parties to state media; and establish institutions independent of the Executive to be responsible for all aspects of the electoral process;
- ▶ take necessary measures to overcome cultural factors affecting the status of women and expand their effective participation in the education, professional and political spheres; and
- ▶ oppose any sign or symptom of discrimination against ethnic minorities.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights:
(1997/67)

The Commission adopted a resolution by consensus. The resolution: acknowledged the progress made but noted with

concern remaining areas of difficulties, including impunity, lack of an independent judiciary, military jurisdiction over criminal matters, intense repression of dissidents and opponents of government, continuing reports of torture and ill-treatment, continuing limitations on the right of assembly and other political rights, discrimination against persons belonging to ethnic minorities, and the failure to complete the process legally to recognize NGOs. It also noted the continuity of the process of democratization; invited the government to take all necessary measures to guarantee transparency and respect for the electoral law in force; invited the government to continue reform of electoral laws; encouraged the government to pay particular attention to economic, social and cultural rights; encouraged the government to continue efforts to overcome the relegation of women to inferior positions and discrimination against them; encouraged the government to ensure regular and periodic publication of laws, decrees and governmental acts; encouraged the government to accede to Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; encouraged the government to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and put into effect habeas corpus; encouraged the government to take appropriate measures to put a stop to arbitrary arrest and detention and end intimidation and harassment of political party activists and the general citizenry and put an immediate end to all acts of torture and cruel treatment or punishment; encouraged the government to dismantle police and military checkpoints responsible for human rights violations; encouraged the government to act positively in opposition to any sign or symptom of discrimination against ethnic minorities; requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a programme of technical cooperation with the government; requested the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Rapporteur to continue the technical assistance project in cooperation with the UNDP and other UN agencies in the field of human rights; and, renewed the mandate of Special Rapporteur for one year.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1997/34, paras. 143–145)

The Working Group did not receive any new cases of disappearance. The three cases still to be clarified concerned the disappearance of members of political opposition parties who were reportedly arrested on 9 and 10 August 1993. The report indicates that police authorities refused to disclose any information on their whereabouts. The government has not provided any information on the cases.

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary execution, Special Rapporteur on: (E/CN.4/1997/60, paras. 16, 18, 35; E/CN.4/1997/60/Add.1, paras. 203–206)

The report notes that the Special Rapporteur transmitted three complaints of violations of the right to life to the government. The deaths were caused when security forces fired on inhabitants celebrating the local victory of the Unión Popular in the elections and as a result of actions or ill-treatment by police both within and outside the context of