

tigate urgently and prosecute, in accordance with due process of the law and international standards relating to human rights, all those who have perpetrated human rights violations; expressed grave concern at the situation of impunity in Cambodia and stressed that addressing the continuing problem of impunity remains a matter of critical and urgent priority; welcomed the convening for the first time of the Supreme Council of the Magistracy in December 1997, as well as the adoption of the law on the Constitutional Council in March 1998; condemned the use of racist rhetoric and acts of violence against ethnic minorities, especially Cambodians of Vietnamese ethnicity; strongly urged the government to continue efforts to create a functioning and impartial system of justice and to implement the Prison Regulations signed in March 1998; and stressed the need to improve the implementation of the freedoms laid down in the Cambodian Constitution with regard to the operation of free electronic and print media, the security of persons and the rights of association, assembly and expression.

The GA: endorsed the comments of the Special Representative that the most serious human rights violations in Cambodia in recent history have been committed by the Khmer Rouge; noted with concern that no Khmer Rouge leaders have been brought to account for their crimes; welcomed the appointment by the Secretary-General, in response to the request by the authorities for assistance in responding to past serious violations of Cambodian and international law by the Khmer Rouge, of a group of experts to evaluate the existing evidence and propose further measures; commended the efforts of the government and others to improve the quality of, and access to, education; noted with serious concern the prevalence of child labour and called upon the government to ensure adequate health and safety conditions and access to education for working children and to outlaw the worst forms of child labour; welcomed the development of an action plan to combat child prostitution and trafficking; urged the government to take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women, to combat violence against women in all its forms, and to take all steps to meet its obligations as a party to the Women's Convention; expressed grave concern at the devastating consequences and destabilizing effects of the use of anti-personnel landmines; and encouraged the government to continue its support and efforts for the removal of these mines and urged the government to give priority to banning all anti-personnel landmines.

FIELD OPERATIONS

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The original authority of the Office is derived from the Paris Peace Agreements (Part III, Article 17). Resolution 1993/6 of the Human Rights Commission assigned the

mandates of the Office and of the Special Representative. This was accepted by the government in a letter dated 6 November 1993. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the government and the High Commissioner for Human Rights was signed in 1996, covering the period March 1996 to March 1998. The validity of the MOU was extended for a further two years by an exchange of letters between the High Commissioner and the government in early 1998.

The mandate of the OHCHR in Cambodia is to: manage the implementation of educational and technical assistance and advisory services programmes and to ensure their continuation; assist the government established after the election, at its request, in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments to which Cambodia is a state party, including the preparation of reports to the relevant monitoring committees; provide support to bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia; contribute to the creation and/or strengthening of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; continue to assist with the drafting and implementation of legislation to promote and protect human rights; and continue to assist with the training of persons responsible for the administration of justice.

As of November 1998, the Office was staffed by 8 international and 10 national professionals, 2 UN Volunteers, 14 international consultants, 29 national project staff and 9 support staff. The Office is funded partly from the regular budget, which covers its operating cost and core staff. The allocation for 1998 was approximately US\$1,250,000. Funding for all project activities comes from the Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia. Trust Fund expenditures in 1998 were projected to amount to about US\$1,750,000. The Judicial Mentor Programme is partly financed by UNDP through UNOPS. Annual reports on the work of the Office are submitted to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly.

Resolution 1993/6 of the Commission on Human Rights also requested the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to Cambodia. Although there is no specific reference to the Office's monitoring role in resolution 1993/6, one of its functions is to provide support to the Special Representative in work related to maintaining contact with the government and people and assisting the government in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The main activities of the Office carried out as of August 1998 included:

- ♦ Director's Office: external and donor relations; monitoring, investigation and protection activities, most recently focussed mainly on political violence; oversight of six Mobile Monitoring teams, monitoring political violence and intimidation in the period leading up to and after the late July general elections; monitoring human rights aspects of election preparation, especially media access for political parties and NGOs; providing support to the Group of Experts