

pornography on the Internet and is encouraging Internet users to send information to the organization so that it can be handed on to the police.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, para. 110) expands on comments in the report to the CHR and notes that the project, jointly undertaken by the Ombudsman for Children and Save the Children Norway, is aimed at identifying paedophile networks: systems, methods, codes and ways of communication used by criminals in the sexual exploitation of children. The report notes that extensive investigation by professional computer hackers revealed organized trading in child pornography on the Internet and special sites containing information on sex tours and meetings. In one chat group, hard-core amateur child pornography was found showing girls and boys between the ages of 8 and 12 being repeatedly raped by adults of both sexes.

Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:
(E/CN.4/1997/47, Section IV.B)

In the section dealing with trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the report notes that prostitution is not a crime but the solicitation of clients is prohibited to the extent that Norwegian law proscribes "indecent behaviour".

Other Reports

International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, Report of the HCHR to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/101, para. 9)

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights notes that Norway has contributed to the Voluntary Fund for the Decade.

Minimum humanitarian standards, Report of the S-G to the CHR: (E/CN.4/1997/77, Section I, Norway)

The report of the Secretary-General included observations submitted by Norway on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Finland, Sweden and South Africa. The statement expressed grave concern at the large number of situations where internal violence causes extensive suffering and breaches of the principles of humanity and where it undermines the protection of human rights. It recognized the need to address principles applicable to situations of internal violence and disturbance of all kinds in a manner consistent with international law and the UN Charter.

The statement notes that South Africa hosted a workshop in Cape Town from 27 to 29 September 1996 in order to address minimum humanitarian standards applicable in all situations. The workshop was organized by the five Nordic countries and South Africa in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and was attended by representatives of 29 governments from all regions of the world as well as representatives of a number of United Nations bodies, international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. The workshop agreed that:

- ▶ the Commission on Human Rights should request the Secretary-General to undertake, in coordination with the ICRC, an analytical study of the issues addressed at the Cape Town Workshop on Minimum Humanitarian Standards;

- ▶ the analytical study should be guided by the urgent need to protect those who are exposed to extreme suffering resulting from the lack of sufficient protection;
- ▶ the study should, in the light of the prevailing experience during recent years and from the perspective of the various actors, assess the need for a UN document setting out and promoting minimum humanitarian standards or standards of humanity applicable in all circumstances;
- ▶ consideration should be given to the options for making use of the study within the United Nations system including, for example, at an open-ended UN seminar under the aegis of the Commission on Human Rights;
- ▶ governments, international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations and civil society should promote a debate on the need for and use of minimum humanitarian standards or standards of humanity applicable in all circumstances as well as on practical measures aimed at the improvement of the situation of those affected.

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PORTUGAL

Date of admission to UN: 14 December 1955.

TREATIES AND REPORTS TO TREATY BODIES

Land and People: Portugal has submitted a core document (HRI/CORE/1/Add.73) for use by the treaty bodies. The report prepared by the government includes demographic data as well as information on the general political structure, the courts, the legal framework for the protection of human rights, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Women's Equality and Rights Commission.

In Portugal human rights are protected by the Constitution, which consistently upholds the principles of equality before the law and non-discrimination, and ordinary legislation. Under article 8 of the Constitution international law is fully incorporated into domestic law and both the Constitution and laws are interpreted and implemented in harmony with the Universal Declaration. Any legislation that contravenes the Declaration is prohibited. The status of treaty law, however, is considered to be below the Constitution but above ordinary legislation. National institutions for ensuring respect for human rights include the Office of the Provedor de Justiça (Ombudsman), the Women's Equality and Rights Commission, the Attorney-General's Department, the Bureau for Documentation and Comparative Law, and the Commission on the Promotion of Human Rights and the Prevention of Educational Inequalities. For a number of years systematic training in the prevention of human rights violations has been carried out at the National College of Magistrates and the Bar, and for police forces, the prison service and the medical profession. The Ministry of Justice has also launched a programme entitled "the citizen and justice" which is aimed at bringing transparency to the administration of justice and making access to justice easier by setting up reception, information and legal advice offices.