

prejudice in labour or personal relations, thus widening the scope of the previous law which provided sanctions only for cases of racism involving the media and restrictions of access to public places on grounds of race. The government also commented on Law No. 9.455 of 7 April 1997, which defines the crime of torture and contains specific reference to the racial question, in part characterizing as a crime torture when "a person constrains another using violence or grave threat, with the infliction of physical or mental pain ... for reason of racial or religious discrimination."

The SR commended the government for the measures taken but expressed concern about the potential drawbacks of including a mention of race on school and birth certificates, as well as other documents. Continuing concern was also expressed about the fate of indigenous peoples.

**Sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/95, para. 66)

The report notes that 15 and 16 year old girls from out-back mining communities are imported like chattel by traffickers who promise them employment in the canteens and restaurants of Amazonian mining towns.

The Special Rapporteur's interim report to the General Assembly (A/52/482, paras. 6, 33) notes that the government has provided information, as requested, on: media campaigns related to the sexual exploitation of children; advertising and publicity against sex tourism; school curricula and sex education programmes; education and training programmes for professionals working with or for children; and rehabilitation and education programmes for children. The report notes that the government has initiated a campaign against sex tourism and child prostitution which was organized by the national tourist agency. The campaign includes restrictions on the use of erotic pictures of young woman in advertising holidays to Brazil and an information campaign to deter tourists from engaging in the sexual exploitation of children. The campaign also maintains a 24-hour hotline number for reporting cases of sexual abuse and includes the creation of a special police office to investigate sexual crimes against children.

**Toxic wastes and products, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/19, para. 43, 46)

The report refers to 1987 information concerning workers then employed by two of Brazil's largest lead battery waste importers who either quit or were fired from their jobs after their health had failed. Four years later, the companies were held responsible for lead poisoning. Information dating from 1993 concerned a judge's order to close the Cubatao plant of the French transnational corporation, Rhône Poulenc, in order to protect workers from further exposure to chemicals such as hexachlorobenzene (HCH) and pentachlorophenol.

**Violence against women, Special Rapporteur on:** (E/CN.4/1997/47, paras. 2, 26, 27, Section IV)

In the section dealing with trafficking in women and forced prostitution, the report notes that Brazil has a flourishing network that systematically traffics women and girls for prostitution to mining camps and large civil construction projects. The report also notes that club owners in Suriname reportedly pay women US\$ 500 for every Brazilian recruit.

The Special Rapporteur (SR) on violence against women visited Brazil from 15 to 26 July 1996. Brazil was chosen for a case study on the issue of violence against women in the family because information indicated that domestic violence was prevalent throughout the country and also because a significant number of programmes and activities, both governmental and non-governmental, have been established to combat and prevent such violence. The report of that visit (E/CN.4/1997/47/Add.2) includes commentary on the nature of the problem, the international, regional and national legal frameworks, the police, health policy and shelters, the judicial, executive and legislative branches of government and the activities of non-governmental and women's groups.

The report notes that: economic independence is a crucial factor affecting women's response to domestic violence; most victims do not have alternative accommodation, an independent means of livelihood or the means to meet the expenses of legal proceedings; for most victims to leave their husbands/partners is to leave behind their homes and their children; there are no effective mechanisms that allow abused women to stay in their homes, such as police protection orders; and, "machismo" remains important in society, underscores patriarchy in Brazil, results in extreme male dominance, praises physical superiority and brutal force, legitimizes stereotypes that affirm inequitable power relations between women and men, and is imbued with the notion that violence is a natural part of a relationship between women and men, as an indication of passion.

Other factors related to the nature of the problem are addressed in summary comments and found to include the fact that: economically disadvantaged, black and indigenous women in rural areas do not have equal access to relief by appeal to the state; women in rural areas appear to feel a certain level of alienation from state authorities, preventing them from seeking relief from domestic violence; in rural areas, ineffective law enforcement and criminal justice systems, coupled with a lack of social services for women victims of violence, make the situation of women worse and ensure that violence against them still remains largely invisible; there is a general perception that black women are more susceptible to violence and that racist attitudes and perceived discrimination in the criminal justice system prevent black women from seeking assistance; violence in upper-class families is less frequently reported because of the stigma attached to reporting to the police and, thus, there are no women's police stations in wealthier areas in many cities; there remains a common misperception that domestic violence is a lower-class phenomenon resulting from unemployment and alcoholism, and that police react to cases of violence with this perception in mind; there is a perception that violence against indigenous women is not treated seriously by the criminal justice system and that there are no programmes for combatting violence against indigenous women in the country; incest and sexual abuse of children within the family is also of great concern, with a need to give urgent attention to the vulnerability of girls and to develop and implement more effective governmental strategies than are currently in place; and, domestic violence also occurs against women household workers, the majority of whom are migrant workers from rural areas, and includes rape, beatings and verbal abuse.