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TORTURE AND OTHER CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT

Unilateral declarations by Member States against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 1 of resolution 32/64 of 8 December 1977, the General Assembly called upon all Member States to reinforce their support of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment by making unilateral declarations against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, along the lines of a model text annexed to the above-mentioned resolution, and depositing them with the Secretary-General.
2. In paragraph 2 of the same resolution, the General Assembly urged all Member States to give maximum publicity to their unilateral declarations against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
3. In paragraph 3, the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, in annual reports, of such unilateral declarations as might be deposited by Member States.
4. In paragraphs 7, 8 and 9 of resolution 33/178 of 20 December 1978, the General Assembly took note of the first report of the Secretary-General containing unilateral declarations (A/33/197), invited Member States which had not yet done so to deposit unilateral declarations with the Secretary-General, as called for under resolution 32/64, and requested the Secretary-General to continue to inform the General Assembly, in annual reports, of such further unilateral declarations which might be deposited by Member States.
5. In conformity with resolutions 32/64, 33/178, 34/167 and 35/178, this report reproduces the unilateral declarations received as at 30 September 1982 from the following States: France, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Sri Lanka.

II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

FRANCE

[Original: French]

[30 September 1982]

The Government of the French Republic hereby solemnly declares:

- (a) That it subscribes to the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX));
- (b) That it will continue to ensure the strict application of those principles.

/...

RWANDA

[Original: French]

[12 November 1982]

The Rwandese Government, having faith in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)), considering that the promotion of the rights of everyone in his dignity had always been its unremitting concern and that Rwandese legislation provides for the effective protection of fundamental human rights, noting in that connection that the Constitution of the Rwandese Republic, in its article 12, proclaims that the human person is sacred, and bearing in mind that the Rwandese Republic has abided strictly by the international instruments relating to human rights, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol (resolution 2200 A (XXI)), which, in its articles 7 to 10, prohibits torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment:

- (a) Declares its opposition to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (b) Declares its opposition to any form of suffering offensive to the dignity of any person;
- (c) Declares that it will spare no effort to proscribe torture in all its forms.

SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

[Original: English]

[26 March 1982]

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines hereby declares its intention:

- (a) To comply with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1975);
- (b) To implement, through legislation and other effective measures, the provisions of the said Declaration.

SRI LANKA

[Original: English]

[2 September 1982]

1. The Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka hereby declares its intention:

(a) To comply with the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (General Assembly resolution 3452 (XXX) of 9 December 1982);

(b) To continue to implement, by all appropriate means, the principles set forth in the Declaration..

2. The Government of Sri Lanka takes this opportunity to point out that article 11 of the Constitution of Sri Lanka enshrines the fundamental right that no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
