



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1990/6
18 January 1990

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Forty-sixth session
Item 6 of the provisional Agenda

VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA:
REPORT OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF EXPERTS

Torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention
in South Africa and Namibia

Report of the Secretary-General

1. At its forty-third session, the General Assembly, on 8 December 1988, adopted resolution 43/134 entitled "Torture and inhuman treatment of children in detention in South Africa and Namibia" in which, *inter alia*, it requested the Commission on Human Rights to continue to pay special attention to this question, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report at its forty-fourth session on the implementation of this resolution. Consequently, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/44/623) containing information received from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, as well as excerpts from the report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-fifth session (E/CN.4/1989/8).

2. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly, on 15 December 1989, adopted resolution 44/143. Noting the report of the Secretary-General, the Assembly reiterated in this resolution its request to the Commission on Human Rights to pay special attention to the question of detention, torture and other inhuman treatment of children in South Africa and also to the children of Namibia who have been victims of torture, detention and other inhuman treatment by the Apartheid régime, with a view to rehabilitating them. It further requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the implementation of this resolution.

3. The Commission on Human Rights, by resolution 1989/4 of 23 February 1989, inter alia, reiterated the condemnation of the detention, torture and inhuman treatment of children in South Africa and Namibia as well as the demands expressed by the General Assembly in this regard; appealed to the international community to adopt concrete and effective measures to bring pressure to bear against the Government of South Africa until it dismantles apartheid and abandons all inhuman practices associated with this policy; and requested the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa to pay special attention to the question of detention, torture and other inhuman treatment of children in South Africa and Namibia and report to the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-sixth session. In operative paragraph 10 of the same resolution, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to intervene with the Government of South Africa in order to bring to an end the detention, torture and other forms of inhuman treatment of children in South Africa and Namibia, and to report on the outcome of his efforts to the Commission at its forty-sixth session.

4. By a note verbale dated 31 May 1989, the Secretary-General drew the content of Commission resolution 1989/4 to the attention of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of South Africa. By a further note verbale dated 20 October 1989, the Secretary-General again referred to resolution 1989/4 and in particular to its operative paragraph 10 and, in view of his reporting responsibilities under the resolution, requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to provide him with any information the South African Government would wish to give on the implementation of the resolution. The Secretary-General further stated that it would be appreciated if such information could reach the Centre for Human Rights by 15 December 1989. At the time of the preparation of this report, no reply had been received from the Government of the Republic of South Africa.

5. In addition to the information already contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/623), the Commission's attention is drawn to the interim report which the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts on southern Africa has submitted to the present session of the Commission (E/CN.4/1990/7). Paragraphs 202 to 229 of this report contains information on the question of the treatment of children in South Africa and Namibia.
