



OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



1994/42. Staff members of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies in detention

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 42/219 of 21 December 1987, 43/225 of 21 December 1988, 44/186 of 19 December 1989 and 45/240 of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly deplored the increase in the number of cases where the functioning, safety and well-being of officials had been adversely affected, including cases of detention in Member States and

abduction by armed groups and individuals, and the increasing number of cases in which the lives and well-being of officials had been placed in jeopardy during the exercise of their official functions,

Recalling its resolution 1993/39 of 5 March 1993, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fiftieth session an updated version of the report on the situation of United Nations staff members, experts and their families detained, imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will,

Aware of the need to update and strengthen the relevant international legal instruments, and taking note of the decision of the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 48/37 of 9 December 1993, to establish an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, with particular reference to responsibility for attacks on such personnel,

Considering that, at a time when the United Nations is undertaking greater responsibilities sending missions in difficult conditions to various parts of the world, it is imperative that its staff members and other personnel acting under its authority be able to perform their duties with the assurance that their human rights, privileges and immunities will be fully respected, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments,

Gravely concerned that a significant number of United Nations staff members, experts and their families continue to be detained, imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will,

Gravely concerned also that a significant number of United Nations staff members, recruited nationally or internationally, and other personnel acting under the authority of the United Nations and their families have been killed since January 1993,

Noting the need for updated and complete information on the situation of United Nations staff members, experts and their families detained, imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will,

Convinced that a better coordinated and more detailed reporting system, with a better dialogue between the United Nations and the host country, may contribute to a faster solution of cases,

Preoccupied by the inordinate delays and obstacles which different organizations of the United Nations system face when trying to exercise fully the right of functional protection of their staff members,

Greatly appreciating the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote a satisfactory resolution of all cases of this kind, and noting that these efforts have already produced concrete results concerning the security of United Nations staff members, experts and their families,

Having examined the updated report by the Secretary-General on detention of international civil servants and their families (E/CN.4/1994/30 and Corr.1),

1. Takes note with interest of the updated report of the Secretary-General;
2. Again requests the Secretary-General to take steps aimed at ensuring the application without delay of all the recommendations contained in the final report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on the protection of the human rights of United Nations staff members, experts and their families (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1992/19);
3. Appeals once again to Member States to respect and to ensure respect for the rights of staff members and other personnel acting under the authority of the United Nations and their families and to take the necessary measures to ensure the protection of United Nations and associated personnel in their territory;
4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations staff members, experts and their families are fully respected and to seek redress and compensation of the damage caused to them, as well as their full reintegration, when their human rights, privileges and immunities have been violated;
5. Urges Member States, in accordance with the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment (General Assembly resolution 43/173, annex), to provide adequate and prompt information concerning the arrest or detention of United Nations staff members, experts and their families, and to grant the representative of the competent international organization access to them without delay;
6. Also urges Member States to allow medical teams to investigate the health of staff members, experts and their families who are being detained in order to provide them with the necessary medical assistance;
7. Calls upon Member States to allow the representative of the competent international organization to attend any hearing concerning United Nations staff members, experts and their families;
8. Requests the existing human rights mechanisms, including the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, the Special Rapporteur on the question of torture and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, to examine as appropriate the cases involving the human rights of staff members of the United Nations system and their families, as well as experts, special rapporteurs and consultants, and to transmit the relevant part of their reports to the Secretary-General for inclusion in his report to the Commission on Human Rights;
9. Welcomes the decision of the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 48/37 of 9 December 1993, to establish an ad hoc committee to elaborate an international convention dealing with the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel, with particular reference to responsibility for attacks on such personnel, and considers that the timely elaboration of such a convention will contribute to the improvement of the situation;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-first session an updated version of the report on the situation of United Nations staff members, experts and their families detained, imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will, including those cases which have been successfully settled since the presentation of the last report, as well as on the implementation of the measures referred to in the present resolution.

55th meeting
4 March 1994

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. X. - E/CN.4/1994/132]