



Photo: OLE BERNT FRØSHAUG

"We have put into words some inherent rights. The work has been of outstanding value in setting before men's eyes the ideals which they must strive to reach," wrote Eleanor Roosevelt in summer 1948. She was reporting on the work of drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an historic effort which she led personally. The Declaration of Human Rights was adopted on 10 December of the same year by the Third General Assembly of the United Nations, which was held in Paris.

The fundamental basis for this work was the recognition of the value of the human being. Universal human rights are precisely about respect for the value of the human being – each and every human being. This is also the basis of the Government's policy and my own personal commitment. The obligations, and thereby the challenges, lie in ensuring the equal right of all people to life, liberty, security of person, social security and personal development.

For the first time, the Government is presenting a report on Norwegian efforts to promote and safeguard human rights. You have in your hands a document that is primarily intended to shed light, report, raise awareness; a document that is intended to inform, inspire and perhaps irritate; that is intended to challenge, investigate and develop. We therefore invite you to read it critically and use it as a source of information and a basis for debate. This document is intended to be a tool in our efforts to promote human rights.

PREAMBLE

This Human Rights Report describes some of the most important human rights challenges in 1998 and some of the areas where we should do a better job. It does not, therefore, cover every aspect of the issue but clarifies certain aspects of the current situation. It does not evaluate the situation in every country in the world but is a status report on our own involvement in 1998.

In 1948, Norway was one of the countries that most strongly emphasised that human rights were not merely an internal matter, a purely national concern. This has been a trade mark of Norwegian policy ever since. That is why the first Norwegian Human Rights Report has both a national and an international section. Efforts to promote human rights must begin at home.

The report has many messengers but only one message: let words speak and action count. This is the reason why, in spring 1999, the Government will be presenting a Human Rights Action Plan which will provide a more detailed analysis of our objectives and our use of instruments, in Norway and abroad.

"Now that we have a means of removing or lightening the burden of oppression and injustice in the world, we must learn to use it," said René Cassin, the main author of the International Declaration of Human Rights and 1968 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. Human rights must be respected and they must be used. This applies to civil and political rights as well as social, economic and cultural rights. The global poverty problem is one of the biggest human rights challenges we are facing. We have a moral obligation to act.

Use your human rights. They are yours. They apply to everyone. The Declaration of Human Rights consists of words. It provides ideals. It calls for action, for the sake of our own decency. It has to do with the value of the human being.

Hille F. Johnson
Minister of International Development and Human Rights



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INTRODUCTION

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HUMAN RIGHTS IN NORWAY

Norway, and other countries, has undertaken to fulfill international human rights conventions. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN in 1948 and laid the foundation for legally binding UN conventions.

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Human rights are not an attitude or a remote ideal. They are a set of commitments which define norms and standards that Norway and other States have undertaken to fulfill.

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Respect for all human rights is an important dimension to Norwegian foreign and development policy. Norway wishes to be active in promoting respect for human rights, with special focus on countries where basic human rights are violated.

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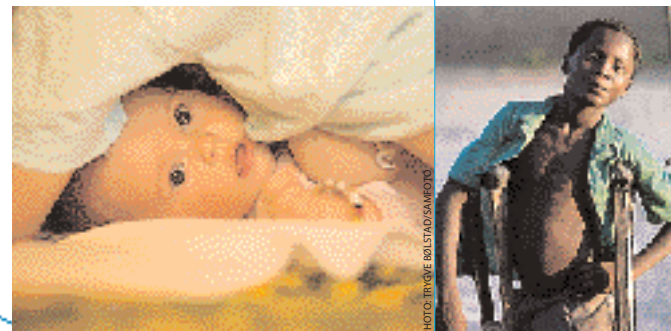
Efforts to promote human rights in international fora

The UN is the most important fora for official Norwegian criticism of human rights violations. Norway takes active part in the work of placing human rights violations on the international agenda.

Whereas recognition
of the inherent dignity
and of the equal and
inalienable rights of all

members of the human
family is the foundation of
freedom, justice and peace
in the world,

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The Annual Report for 1998 on Norway's Efforts to Promote Human Rights consists of two main parts – a Norwegian section and an international section. The main purpose of the report is to provide a picture of Norwegian human rights policy in 1998, both in Norway and abroad. These are two sides of the same coin. To strengthen the credibility of our international human rights policy, we must show that we are also taking steps to improve our national human rights policy. "Putting our own house in order" is a commonly used – and apt – expression in this connection, and this report also shows that a great deal of work remains to be done.

The first part of the report deals with the work carried out in the past year to ensure compliance with human rights obligations in Norway. It includes a list of these obligations and of certain areas where there has been particular debate as to whether Norway is fulfilling its international commitments. While some issues have been raised in international fora, most of them have been addressed in the public debate in Norway and through the Government's own choice of priorities. Two of the topics dealt with in the Norwegian section of the report is public policy on the use of remand in custody and the use of coercion in mental health care. There is also focus on compliance with human rights obligations in relation to racism and discrimination, indigenous peoples and minorities, gender equality and the rights of the child. The issues of freedom of religion and social and economic rights are also discussed. In preparing this report, emphasis has been placed on the most topical issues during the past year. In other words, the report is not exhaustive, and next year's report may well focus on entirely different topics.

The international section of the report covers Norwegian efforts to promote human rights in other countries, both through multilateral channels and in direct cooperation with individual countries. Thus the report is not a comprehensive review of the human rights situation in individual countries and as such differs from other reports on human rights. Our aim is not to voice an opinion on every situation in every country. On the other hand, the report provides an overview of the human rights issues in which we have been actively involved in 1998. It also provides an overview of the instruments at the authorities' disposal in their efforts to secure respect for human rights. This range of policy instruments will be analyzed in greater detail in the Human Rights Action Plan which the Government will present to the Storting in spring 1999. The Action Plan will also contain a broader analysis of the implementation of social and economic rights, a topic that has not been fully covered in this report.

A special section has been devoted to cooperation with the twelve countries which Norway has designated priority partners in development cooperation, and particular mention is also made of human rights issues in relation to the involvement of Norwegian enterprises in other countries.

In addition to the two main parts, the Annual Report contains a chapter on the various partners with whom the authorities work closely in promoting human rights. Importance has been attached to underscoring the key role played by non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the media and others in Norwegian efforts to promote human rights. This role is also described in the international section of the report. The report is not intended to be a comprehensive account of the work of these organizations. However, unless the contribution made

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world

in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

by these partners is included, one would not have a full picture of the efforts that are made to increase respect for human rights and human dignity.

The Annual Report is intended to reflect Norway's efforts to promote human rights in the past year, and to serve as a source of reference for all those involved in the work for human rights. The report therefore also includes a statistical section and an appendix with an index, a glossary and the addresses, including Internet addresses, of organizations working to promote human rights.

Translating words into action: ten way in which human rights have been promoted in 1998

- The Government has presented a Bill on the incorporation of the three most important human rights conventions into Norwegian law.
- To strengthen compliance with human rights obligations, Norwegian practice in connection with remand in custody has been reviewed and, in some respects, changed. This work will continue.
- Through increased allocations and new draft legislation on psychiatry, the Government has planned measures aimed at reducing the use of coercion and improving patients' legal protection.
- The Government has relaxed its policy on asylum-seekers and refugees. This work will continue.
- The Government has established an independent Centre for Combating Ethnic Discrimination and presented an Action Plan to Combat Racism and Discrimination.
- The Government has appointed a committee to strengthen and co-ordinate efforts to promote human rights. Work has begun on the Government's Human Rights Action Plan.
- The Government has established a consultative body for human rights and Norwegian economic involvement abroad.
- The Government has led the way in promoting a more holistic approach to human rights policy and awareness of the connections between human rights, development and poverty alleviation. In this respect, a conference on development and human rights was held in cooperation with the UN Development Programme and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The Government has placed special emphasis on the rights of women and children in international efforts to promote development and human rights. In this connection, Norway arranged a major international conference on child labour in autumn 1997.
- Norway has protested against human rights violations in international fora and in bilateral contacts with other countries, and the Government has urged Norwegian enterprises not to do business with or invest in Burma. Norway has cooperated on human rights issues through dialogue with countries such as China and Turkey.

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H U M A N R I G H T S



Norway

Norway, and other countries, has undertaken to fulfill international human rights conventions. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the UN in 1948 and laid the foundation for legally binding UN conventions.

Norway's human rights obligations

Human rights are not an attitude, or a more or less remote ideal, or everything that benefits mankind. Human rights are a set of commitments undertaken by Norway and many other nations, which define the norms and standards that are to apply. They concern the rights of individuals, and the State has undertaken the obligation of fulfilling and respecting those rights. The obligations are all equivalent important and form part of an inseparable whole. These obligations – human rights – are laid down in legally binding instruments, such as conventions, under the auspices of the UN, the Council of Europe or the ILO. Human rights are also reflected in political declarations, for instance by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the UN, which Norway has endorsed. The most important of these documents is undoubtedly the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the UN on 10 December 1948. The Declaration laid the foundation for subsequent work on legally binding UN conventions.

Important human rights conventions to which Norway is a State Party are:

UN system:

- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of 21 December 1965
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) of 16 December 1966 (CESCR)
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) of 16 December 1966 with optional Protocols
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) of 18 December 1979
- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) of 10 December 1984
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) of 20 November 1989

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion

against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

National implementation of Norway's human rights commitments

Article 110c of Norway's Constitution contains a general provision relating to the State's duty to respect human rights. The Constitution also contains other provisions relating to the protection of the rights of the individual, such as the rule of law, freedom of expression, the right to own property, freedom of religion and civil rights, in the sense of the right to take part in political life. The individual is also protected by the principle of legal authority and the principle of judicial power to review legislation.

By being a State Party to the international human rights conventions, Norway has undertaken to ensure that the provisions of these conventions are implemented nationally. This duty of implementation is incumbent on legislators, administrative authorities and courts. However, the conventions do not automatically become a part of Norwegian legislation. The incorporation of the conventions into legislation must be approved by the Storting (the Norwegian national assembly).

On 9 October 1998, the Government presented a Bill proposing that the three conventions forming the core of European and global protection of human rights are to apply as statutes insofar as they are binding on Norway. This applies to the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the two UN Covenants on civil and political rights (CCPR) and economic, social and cultural rights (CESCR), respectively. The Bill proposes that provisions in the incorporated conventions are to take precedence over provisions in other Norwegian legislation if they should conflict with one another.

The Act will strengthen the formal status of the incorporated conventions in Norwegian law. The most important effect of the reform will probably be the message it sends, both nationally and internationally, about the importance of human rights. This will, amongst others, help to increase Norway's credibility when Norwegian authorities raise human rights issues in other countries. The



PHOTO: BENT EDE-SAMOTO



Government gives high priority to the efforts to also incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Norwegian law.

One of the Government's primary objectives is to ensure that its focus on promoting human rights is reflected in its policy. With a view to coordinating efforts to strengthen the overall promotion of human rights, both in Norway and abroad, the Government established a special ministerial post for human rights when it took office in October 1997. It also established a special committee on human rights issues, which is headed by the Minister of International Development and Human Rights and otherwise comprises the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Trade and Industry and the Minister of Petroleum and Energy. Other ministers are convened for meetings as necessary.

International control of Norway's compliance with its human rights commitments

To ensure that states fulfil their obligations, various monitoring mechanisms have been established in the international human rights system. Within the UN system, each of the six above-mentioned UN Conventions has its own monitoring committee. These committees receive and examine periodical reports from the States Parties on the way the various conventions are being implemented, both in legislation and in practice. The committees consist of independent experts from many countries. Responsibility for collecting and coordinating contributions to the Norwegian reports lies with the individual ministries, and a draft of the report is circulated for comment to the most relevant organizations and groups of experts. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs then sends the report to the committee concerned, which reviews it before summoning Norway to an examination meeting. At this meeting, representatives of the Norwegian authorities are asked to answer questions about the report from committee members.

Non-governmental organizations have been involved in the work of preparing Norwegian reports, and their comments are evaluated and, if appropriate, incorporated into the final report. The organizations are not, and must not be, responsible for the contents of the reports. Consequently, organizations often send their comments directly to the international committee of experts, so that they can form the basis for the committee's questions to Norway's official representatives.

Norwegian reports and their processing in the past year

In June 1998 Norway submitted its second report on Norwegian compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Prior to submission to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the report was circulated for comment to certain non-governmental organizations which focus particularly on issues related to children, and the report was adjusted slightly on the basis of their comments. The report has not yet been dealt with by the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The contents of the Norwegian report are described in the chapter on the rights of the child.

Norway's third report on compliance with the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment was submitted in 1997, and in May 1998 the UN's Committee against Torture convened an examination meeting to discuss the Norwegian report. In the chapter below on remand in custody, an account is given of the criticism voiced by the committee and the subsequent follow-up.

Norway will submit its fifth report on compliance with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women at the beginning of 1999.

Visits by controlling agencies

The European Convention against Torture establishes a monitoring system under which an investigative committee visits member countries to determine whether the provisions of the Convention are being complied with, for instance in prisons and hospitals. In spring 1997 Norway was visited by this committee, which criticized Norwegian practice with regard to use of remand in custody. This criticism and its follow-up are described in greater detail in the chapter on remand in custody below.

The UN also has a number of special rapporteurs in a variety of fields such as racism, freedom of religion, violence against women, etc. None of these has visited Norway in the past few years, but all of them have what one might call a "standing invitation" to do so.

Complaints

Some conventions provide for a right of complaint for states and/or individuals or groups. This is particularly relevant since the adoption of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. From 1 November 1998, complaints will be sent directly to the European Court of Human Rights where Norwegian Judge of the Court of Appeal Hanne Sophie Greve is a judge. The following UN conventions also provide for the right of individual petition: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) of 1965, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) of 1966 and the Convention against Torture (CAT) of 1984. These complaints are dealt with by the above-mentioned monitoring committees.

In recent years, several individuals have instituted legal proceedings before international appeal bodies, alleging that Norway has violated their human rights. This applies, for instance, to petitions concerning violations of the right to freedom of expression, respect for family life and the right to a fair trial. During the period from October 1997 to October 1998, no cases were finally decided in Norway's disfavour, but the European Commission of Human Rights stated in a report presented in summer 1998 that the freedom of expression had been violated in a specific case against Norway. In the case in question, a Norwegian newspaper had been convicted of defamation after printing a report alleging breaches of the law. The petition will now be heard by the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, which will make the final decision in the case.

Other control mechanisms

In addition to the monitoring system established pursuant to the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Council of Europe has established a mechanism to monitor member states' fulfilment of the commitments they have undertaken as Council members. This is described in further detail in the chapter on the Council of Europe. In spring 1998 the legal systems of the member states were reviewed and a number of questions were raised. In the review of the Norwegian legal system, particular attention was drawn to the fact that Norway had not incorporated the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) and the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms into its national legislation.



PHOTO: NTB PLUS

National control of Norway's international human rights obligations

As a State Party to international human rights conventions, Norway has undertaken to observe and implement the provisions of the conventions in Norway. The duty to implement lies with the legislature, the public administration and the judiciary. This report focuses primarily on the work of the Government and the public administration to promote human rights, and will therefore not go into detail concerning the judiciary's involvement in human rights. Nevertheless, the judiciary, particularly the Supreme Court, plays a key role in the implementation of Norway's international human rights obligations.

The important role of the judiciary was illustrated in the Kjuus case, in which the Supreme Court concluded that some of the statements in the White Electoral Alliance's programme of principles were racist and thus criminal. This demonstrates that protection against racist statements can weigh more heavily than consideration for freedom of expression, both being rights that are embodied in international human rights conventions.

In addition to the control exercised by the judiciary, Norway has a system of parliamentary ombudsmen and three administrative ombudsmen who have been charged with enforcing various Acts. The Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Ombudsman for the Armed Forces and the Ombudsman for Civilian National Service are elected by the Storting. While the Ombudsmen are concerned with the international framework for human rights to varying degrees, all the Ombudsmen have some connection with this framework and can be regarded as independent monitoring bodies in their respective fields. The following section comprises a brief summary of the activities of the Storting's monitoring bodies, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, and the Ombudsman for the Armed Forces and the Ombudsman for the Civilian National Service, as well as those of the Commissioner for Children, the Gender Equality Ombud and the Consumer Ombudsman.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman

The Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Storting's Ombudsman for Public Administration, presented his most recent annual report to the Storting in March 1998. The Storting's Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs has commended the Parliamentary Ombudsman's focus on human rights, pointing out that this will promote greater awareness of human rights issues in the public administration.

The Parliamentary Ombudsman's latest annual report (for 1997) contains four cases involving human rights. These cases concerned the use of police cells for remand purposes, free conduct of an appeal case regarding a change in preventive measures, the principle of negative freedom of association and the basis of calculation for government grants to religious communities.

The work of the Parliamentary Ombudsman on individual cases, as described above, helps to spread knowledge and understanding of the importance of Norway's international human rights commitments. The Parliamentary Ombudsman also considers it important to provide information on his work to countries wishing to increase their protection of human rights. This is done by providing advisory services and assistance to international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the UNDP and through contacts in other countries.

The Ombudsman for the Armed Forces and the Ombudsman for the Civilian National Service

Based on the principle that soldiers and civilian national servicemen shall have equal rights while performing their compulsory national service, the Storting's policy has always been to have the two offices filled by one and the same person. The task of the Ombudsman, in the Committee of the Ombudsman, is to deal with matters of general interest. Moreover, the Ombudsman shall deal with complaints from individuals who feel that they have been dealt with unlawfully, irregularly or unreasonably by their respective administrative authorities.

Under the system of compulsory national service practised in Norway, all qualified men between the ages of 19 and 44 are obliged to perform military service or an alternative civilian service. This constitutional duty may conflict with the individual's human rights in other areas, for instance in relation to freedom of religion. It is incumbent on the Ombudsman to help reduce this conflict between right and duty.

The Ombudsman reports on 120-150 complaints from individuals each year. Between 30 and 40 per cent of these complaints results in a change of decision in the complainant's favour.

The Commissioner for Children

The Office of the Commissioner for Children was established by the Act of 6 March 1981 relating to the Commissioner for Children. In an amendment of this Act in April 1998, the mandate of the Commissioner for Children was formally expanded to also include the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which deals with children's right to express their views in matters affecting them, serves as a foundation for the work of the Commissioner for Children in all areas. The Norwegian system of public administration and national law offers children little possibility of participating in decisions affecting their own lives, a fact that the Commissioner has pointed out on several occasions.

The Commissioner for Children is continuously engaged in efforts to protect children from the negative influence of the media, while ensuring that their opinions are given greater media coverage. In autumn 1997, at the request of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Norwegian Government, the Commissioner for Children began preparations for an international workshop on children and the media related to Article 17 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Otherwise, in the past few years, the Commissioner for Children has concentrated on the way legislation is practised, the procedural rights of children in public administration and in courts of law, the constitutional rights of children in relation to, for instance, the media, the rights of children in the Education Act, children's right to a satisfactory working environment, children's rights as patients, the legal status of children who seek asylum, and the importance of taking the interests of children and young people into account in proposed new legislation and administrative practices.

In addition to enquiries from individuals in Norway, in recent years the Commissioner for Children has received a growing number of enquiries from other countries. In 1997 the Commissioner took the initiative of establishing a European Network of Commissioners for Children (ENOC), which he headed until September 1998.

The Gender Equality Ombud

The Gender Equality Ombud enforces the Gender Equality Act. The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is an



PHOTO: TOMAR OLUFSSON/INRA SANFOTO



important tool in efforts to improve the situation of women in all parts of the world. Norway has ratified this convention and the Gender Equality Act must therefore be interpreted in the light of the provisions of the Convention.

In the past year, the Gender Equality Ombud has dealt with approximately 200 written complaints concerning alleged infringements of the Gender Equality Act. The Ombud has also provided guidance and information to the public and held lectures on the subject, both in Norway and abroad. The Ombud issues a news bulletin four times a year and publishes information in English on gender equality in Norway.

In July 1998 the Gender Equality Ombud presented a proposal to the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs concerning a comprehensive revision of the Gender Equality Act with a view to developing a better tool for promoting gender equality. Among other things, the Ombud proposed making Norwegian statutory provisions relating to sexual harassment more stringent and prohibiting the stereotyped portrayal of the two sexes in marketing.

In the past year, the Gender Equality Ombud has received visits from several foreign delegations and been interviewed in foreign media. The Ombud has also participated in conferences in and delegations to other countries, for instance under the auspices of the OSCE and during the Norwegian state visit to China in October 1997. The Gender Equality Ombud is a member of the EU's Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and of the CEDAW Committee which monitors states' compliance with the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

The Consumer Ombudsman

The Consumer Ombudsman enforces the Marketing Control Act which prohibits unreasonable marketing and unreasonable contract terms. In this work, the Consumer Ombudsman has limited occasion to deal with problems related to human rights, but human rights form a framework and strengthen the foundation for enforcement of the Marketing Act. Sexist advertising is prohibited under the Marketing Control Act, and it follows that no other discriminatory or offensive advertising is allowed either. The Consumer Ombudsman also bases his activities on the principle that consumer rights fall within the scope of the "rights of others" in Article 10 of the European Convention on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms on freedom of expression.

In addition to the Marketing Control Act, the Consumer Ombudsman also enforces a special body of rules governing advertising broadcasts, including a provision in regulations that prohibits advertisements for political propaganda. During the 1997 electoral campaign, the Consumer Ombudsman therefore issued a prohibition against TV2's broadcasts of an advertisement for the Party of Progress. In an earlier case, the Parliamentary Ombudsman had questioned the legal authority for the above-mentioned provision, among other things, with reference to freedom of expression. When TV2, citing Article 10 of the European Human Rights Convention and the earlier objections of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, appealed the decision to the Market Council, the prohibition was set aside.

Use of remand in custody

The UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment prohibits such treatment as inflicts “severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental ... for such purposes as obtaining ... information or a confession, punishing him ... or intimidating or coercing him ... or for any reason based on discrimination...” (Art. 1). Similarly, Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms prohibits “torture or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment”. The Committees for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the UN and the Council of Europe (CPT) have criticized Norwegian practice as regards the use of remand in custody. This applies to the use of police cells, isolation by means of a ban on letters and visitors and the imprisonment of foreign nationals pursuant to the Immigration Act. Much of the same criticism has been expressed by the Parliamentary Ombudsman.

The use of police cells

In the Parliamentary Ombudsman’s annual report for 1997 and the report of the European CPT dated 4 July 1997, the use of police cells for remand purposes was criticized. The situation is that police cells, which in principle are intended for very brief periods of arrest – often of intoxicated persons – are used to a certain extent for the detention of persons who have been remanded in custody before they are transferred to a prison.

In the opinion of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, police cells should not be used for the detention of prisoners after a court has ordered their remand in custody, and prior to such time, police cells should only be used when urgent grounds dictate such action. The Ombudsman also criticized the lack of an effective, permanent system of supervision for police cells, and the fact that there appears to be a lack of a contingency plan for sudden, unforeseen increases in the need for remand facilities.¹

The Ministry of Justice has implemented various measures to ensure better compliance with human rights commitments. Since 1989, the Ministry of Justice has had guidelines to the effect that detention in a police cell shall be limited to no more than five days. However, in response to the involvement of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, among other things, the Ministry has now set a new objective: namely that all remand prisoners shall *be transferred to an ordinary prison within 24 hours* after a court has ordered their remand in custody.

To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Justice has encouraged better cooperation between the police and prison authorities, and has approved a lower rate of prison capacity utilization. These measures seem to be having an effect, and the new objective has now been achieved in most areas of the country.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture recommended that measures be implemented to provide remand prisoners with bedding and proper daily outdoor exercise, that no one should be held in a police cell for more than five days and that the cells should measure at least 6 m² and, as far as possible, have natural light.²

¹ Annual Report for 1997 of the Parliamentary Ombudsman, pages 38–49.
² Report of 4 July 1997 of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or degrading Treatment or Punishment (CPT), points 2, 11, 13, 15.

the promotion of
universal respect for and
observance of human
rights and fundamental
freedoms,

Whereas a common
understanding of these
rights and freedoms is of
the greatest importance
for the full realization of
this pledge,

As regards the *physical conditions in police cells*, the Ministry of Justice has issued stricter instructions that a mattress and bedding shall be provided to persons detained in a police cell for more than four hours, unless it is necessary to wait due to intoxication or for reasons of security. The Ministry of Justice has also requested that efforts be made to arrive at individual solutions for outdoor exercise. Since the objective is to reduce the use of police cells for remand prisoners, however, the Ministry has not considered it expedient to initiate major projects to rebuild police cells.

Isolation

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture has also focused attention on the problems related to the isolation that is experienced by remand prisoners who are subject to a ban on or screening of letters and visitors (hereafter called “restrictions”).

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture pointed out that prisoners who are subject to restrictions were held in their cells 23 out of 24 hours a day. This isolation resulted in serious injury to health for some persons. In the Committee’s view, the court of examination and summary jurisdiction devoted too little time during the remand hearing to assessing the need for imposing restrictions. The committee felt a need for more detailed specification as to the persons with whom the prisoners could communicate, and for an evaluation of the effects of restrictions on the physical and mental health of the person concerned.

The European Committee for the Prevention of Torture recommended that courts should give more careful consideration to restrictions and tailor them to each individual case, and that the need for restrictions should be reviewed at least every fourth week. It also recommended that detailed instructions be drawn up for the treatment of remand prisoners subject to restrictions.

The UN Committee for the Prevention of Torture has also had views on these matters and has recommended that Norway use only restrictions entailing isolation in exceptional cases, that such use be strictly regulated by law and that the process of judicial review should be stricter.³

To improve matters, the Prison Board has prepared a circular on the treatment of remand prisoners.⁴ The circular indicates a number of measures that can prevent or mitigate the harmful effects of isolation. These measures are to be given high priority by prison directors. Among other things, prison authorities are urged to communicate with the police to have restrictions relaxed or lifted when advisable or considered necessary. Moreover, remand prisoners who are excluded from the prison community must be monitored by prison officials several times a day. The health personnel and medical officer must be kept informed of the condition of the inmate. The prisoner must be examined by a medical officer if he or an official so requests. Furthermore, the health personnel must alert the prison management if the inmate’s physical or mental state warrants relaxing or lifting the restrictions.

The circular also suggests a number of measures that must be offered to prevent the prisoner from being isolated, such as work, physical exercise and contact with prison personnel and the prison chaplain. Furthermore, the prison authorities are asked to consider extending the prison visitors’ service to include remand prisoners subject to restrictions.

³ Conclusions and recommendations of the Committee against torture 06 06 98.
⁴ Circular (6/97) on “Treatment of Remand Prisoners – including special measures for remand prisoners subject to restrictions”.



The effects of this circular are currently being evaluated.

The recommendations of the UN Committee for the Prevention of Torture have also been followed up by instructions from the Director General of Public Prosecutions to the other prosecuting authorities to the effect that no petition may be made for restrictions to be imposed for more than four weeks at a time. This means that at least every four weeks a court reviews the question of whether maintaining the restrictions is a disproportionate measure.

As regards the court's *evaluation of the need for restrictions in each individual case*, section 186 of the Criminal Procedure Act gives the judge the right and duty to carry out an individual evaluation. In other words, the judge may *"tailor" the restrictions* to the circumstances of each case. Furthermore, it follows from the principle of proportionality in criminal procedure that restrictions must not be imposed if this will be a disproportionate intervention.

In the opinion of the UN Committee for the Prevention of Torture, courts of law should consider whether a person subject to restrictions should be allowed to *associate with other prisoners*. Such decisions require – out of regard for the police investigation of the case – a detailed knowledge of the identity of the other inmates in the prison at the same time. As it is difficult for the court to have an overview of such matters, the Ministry of Justice has not proposed any amendments to statutes or regulations regarding this issue.

Duration of remand period

The fact that the period of remand is sometimes very long has also been criticized. On 26 May 1998 the Ministry of Justice held a one-day symposium on the remand situation in Norway. Attention was particularly focused on the duration of the remand period. Among other things, it was pointed out that the dual-instance system of trial in criminal cases has led to a significant increase in the number of remand prisoners.

One solution that was outlined entailed the incorporation of time limits into the Criminal Procedure Act. Another possibility was to have courts monitor more closely the progress made in investigations in cases involving extensions of the remand period.

These questions are still under consideration by the Ministry of Justice, which will revert to them at a later date.

Imprisonment of foreign nationals pursuant to the Immigration Act

Criticism has also been expressed, for instance by the Parliamentary Ombudsman, of the way the rules regarding remand in custody of foreign nationals in immigration cases involving a suspicion of false identity are practiced. The fact that these foreign nationals have been detained with "ordinary" criminals has also been criticized.

Since this criticism was voiced and after measures were implemented by the Ministry of Justice, there has been a marked decline in the number of persons remanded in custody on grounds of false identity. Among other things, the Ministry of Justice has raised the issue of remand practices in meetings with the police and improved remand statistics, so as to provide a clearer picture of the situation. In the first half of 1998, only two persons were remanded in custody because they were suspected of having a false identity. Neither of them were detained for more than 12 weeks. In the light of this trend, no reason has been found to issue detailed guidelines regarding remand in custody pursuant to the Immigration Act. Should the situation change, the matter will be reconsidered. To avoid remanding persons in ordinary prisons, special places for detention pursuant to the

Immigration Act will be provided at the new transit reception centre for asylum-seekers that is to be established at Onsrud near the new international airport at Gardermoen.

Use of coercion in mental health care

Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms states that no person must be exposed to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Treatment or punishment may be degrading if the person concerned is humiliated and if the treatment or punishment is likely to create a sense of fear and inferiority. Article 3 does not prohibit all use of coercion, for instance to carry out essential psychiatric treatment. However, the treatment must have medical grounds, and shall not be for the purpose of degrading the patient in any way whatsoever. Nor does Article 3 prohibit all forms of discomfort in connection with treatment without the patient's consent, but it does prohibit the infliction of suffering that cannot be eased, unless this can be justified by the fact that the measures are absolutely essential.

Regulations regarding the use of coercion in respect of the mentally handicapped

Rules regarding the limitation and control of the use of coercion and force in respect of certain mentally handicapped persons are to come into effect as from 1 January 1999. A report to the Storting on the limitation and control of the use of coercion in mental health care (Report No. 26 (1997-98) to the Storting) has been presented, together with a draft of regulations and circulars. The regulations establish requirements in connection with voluntary measures and impose limits on the use of coercion and force, and contain measures to safeguard the rights of patients and to upgrade the expertise of care providers with a view to reducing the use of coercion.

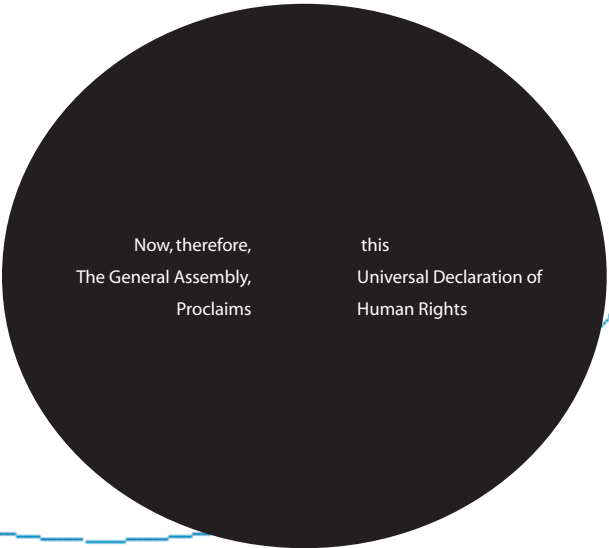
Use of coercion in psychiatric care

Use of resources: One of the most important measures to improve the situation in the psychiatric sector is the allocation of resources described in Proposition No. 63 (1997-98) to the Storting on the Plan to upgrade mental health 1999-2006), which will enable the psychiatric sector to better fulfil its responsibilities. It is important, for instance, that the psychiatric sector has sufficient resources to provide care before persons reach such a critical state that coercive mental health care is more likely to be necessary.

New Act relating to psychiatric care: The Government is concerned that the use of coercion in the Norwegian psychiatric sector is as high as it is, and will implement measures to improve the situation. It is difficult to compare the extent of the use of coercion in Norway with the extent in other countries, as the definitions of "coercion" and "administrative decision" probably vary.

In connection with a new Act on psychiatric care, which was presented to the Storting in autumn 1998, the use of coercion in the Norwegian psychiatric sector has been examined more closely. As far as committals to psychiatric hospitals and compulsory treatment are concerned, it is a weakness that no annual national data have been collected on such measures in recent years. However, a study carried out by the Norwegian Institute for Hospital Research indicates that:

- Norway has a high rate of *committals* to psychiatric hospitals.
- Six per cent of patients, i.e. just under 900 persons, received *compulsory treatment* in 1994 and that figure probably increased between then and 1997. There is little indication that the number of persons receiving compulsory treatment in Norway differs from that in other countries.





In connection with the work on a new psychiatry Act, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs evaluated the various provisions in relation to human rights, in particular Article 3 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. In addition to imposing narrow limitations on the right to make use of coercive measures, the proposed new Act also contains general provisions relating to requirements for treatment and care in the mental health care sector and stipulating that restrictions and coercion shall be limited to what is strictly necessary.

The purpose of the new Act is to ensure that mental health care is established and implemented in a proper manner and in accordance with the principles of the rule of law. The purpose is also to ensure that the measures described in the Act are based on the needs of the patient and respect for human dignity. Introducing requirements as regards administrative decisions and rules of appeal will strengthen the rights of patients.

The rights of asylum-seekers

The right to apply for and enjoy asylum is set out in Article 14 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and internationally regulated by legislation such as the UN Convention of 28 July 1951 relating to the status of refugees, with protocol. In the Government's view, the Immigration Act must be practiced humanely and fairly and ensure that Norway assumes its share of responsibility for people fleeing their own countries. As of October 1998, the following measures were being prepared or implemented to ensure humane and just compliance with human rights commitments:

- Introduction of new criteria for asylum
- Transfer of responsibility for the interview with the asylum-seeker from the police to the Directorate of Immigration
- Review of the status of children in asylum procedures
- Introduction of a special appeals board

Introduction of new criteria for asylum

The percentage of asylum-seekers who are granted protection in the form of a residence permit has been relatively high in Norway. However, in the vast majority of cases, protection has been granted in the form of a residence permit based on humanitarian grounds, while relatively few asylum-seekers have been recognized as convention refugees and thereby granted asylum. In October 1995 the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) expressed concern regarding the low Norwegian figures for persons granted asylum compared to those granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. The Norwegian Government has therefore carried out a review and evaluation of Norwegian practice with a view to a softer approach. New guidelines for asylum criteria came into force on 15 January 1998, in keeping with the Government's inaugural address. The new guidelines entail that:

- the requirement that the risk of persecution as a ground for asylum must be shown to be probable is to be relaxed,
- not only the lack of *will* of the home country to protect the asylum-seeker against persecution can constitute grounds for asylum, but also the *ability* of the home country to provide such protection (from persecution by persons other than the authorities of the home country),
- asylum will be granted in the event of risk of *gender-related* persecution,
- asylum will be granted in the event of risk of persecution due to *homosexual persuasion*,
- the *rule of the first country of asylum* will be practiced more flexibly.

Children in asylum cases

A working group consisting of representatives of the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional

Development and the Directorate of Immigration has presented proposals as to how the views and needs of children who come to Norway with their asylum-seeking parents can be heard more clearly and directly than is the case at present. This also includes an assessment of the need for, and possible use of, persons qualified to deal with children and the way this should be organized. The proposal and further action is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Justice.

In the past few years, a number of people have sought refuge in Norwegian churches after their applications for political asylum were rejected by the Norwegian authorities. The most important rights of the child which are embodied in Norwegian legislation also apply to the children who have sought asylum in churches. This applies, for instance, to rights pursuant to the Municipal Health Care Act and the Act relating to Child Welfare Services.

Children have a statutory right to primary and lower secondary education if the child is likely to stay in Norway for more than three months. This right applies irrespective of whether the parents are lawfully resident in Norway, and also applies to children in asylum in churches. The duty to attend primary or lower secondary school begins when the child has been in Norway for three months.

Some of the children who come to Norway as refugees have no families. The goal is that unaccompanied refugees under the age of 18 should have a normal life situation as soon as possible. At the earliest possible moment, they are transferred from the refugee reception centre and placed in a municipality. However, the rate of resettlement is slow at present because municipalities find the funding for this purpose inadequate. The Government has therefore proposed increasing its allocations to municipalities.

Transfer of responsibility for the interview with the asylum-seeker from the police to the Directorate of Immigration

Under the current system, both the registration of asylum-seekers upon arrival in Norway and the interview with the asylum-seekers are carried out by the police. In December 1997, the Government decided that responsibility for the interview was to be transferred to the Directorate of Immigration. Since then, a working group has evaluated the way tasks are divided between the Directorate of Immigration and the police under the new interview system. The group's proposal is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Justice. The main reason for the new system is to strengthen the rights of asylum-seekers.

Appeals board

The Ministry of Justice has solicited consultative comments on the proposal to transfer responsibility for dealing with appeals from the Ministry of Justice to a special appeals board. This proposal was also prompted by a wish to strengthen the rights of asylum-seekers, and essentially gives asylum-seekers the right to appear in person before the body that is to decide the appeal and in principle make the final decision in their case. The proposal also entails giving the appeals body a broader composition. If established, the board would be headed by a person with judicial qualifications and would otherwise consist of members appointed by both the authorities and humanitarian organizations.

Relaxation of criteria for residence on humanitarian grounds

The reversal of decisions in individual cases in 1998 constituted a relaxation of the criteria for granting a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. The Ministry of Justice is currently reviewing practice to evaluate the criteria for residence on humanitarian grounds. In the first half of 1998, 929 persons were granted a residence permit on humanitarian grounds. The corresponding figure for all of 1997 was 726.

The social and economic rights of asylum-seekers

The state reception apparatus for asylum-seekers and refugees aims at ensuring that everyone receives modest, but acceptable housing. As a general rule, asylum-seekers live in government reception centres while their applications are being processed.

All those who live in reception centres are offered the opportunity to take part in an information programme, which includes Norwegian language instruction. The programme is designed to enable residents to manage their own lives while living in the reception centre and prepare for their possible return to their home country or for taking up residence in Norway.

The municipality is responsible for making arrangements for primary and lower secondary schooling for school-age children. There are also special measures for



asylum-seeking, unaccompanied minors in reception centres. A guardian must be appointed for all unaccompanied minors. Emphasis is also placed on ensuring that unaccompanied minors live in state reception centres for as short a time as possible and the processing of their applications for asylum therefore have priority.

The goal is for every person who has been given a residence permit to be settled in a municipality within six months after the permit has been granted.

Through its current implementation of the rules relating to foreign nationals, Norway fulfils its international legal obligations regarding the rights of asylum-seekers.

The rights of indigenous peoples

The basis for official Norwegian policy in respect of the Sami peoples is set out in Section 110 a of the Constitution of Norway and in the Sami Act. Norway has also endorsed several international sets of rules that are of importance for the Sami people. At present, ILO Convention No. 169 concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries is the only modern international instrument relating to the rights of indigenous peoples, but the Council of Europe's Charter on National and Regional Languages, the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are all important in relation to the Sami people.

National policy and measures in respect of the Sami people

An important principle in Norwegian legislation, which regulates the authorities' obligations towards the Sami population, is ensuring that the Sami people play an active role in matters affecting Sami interests. This is also in accordance with the provisions of ILO Convention No. 169.

This entails the following main obligations for the authorities:

- Make provision, through legislation and measures, for the Sami people themselves to play the active role in safeguarding and developing Sami languages, culture and social life.
- Allocate sufficient funds to the Sami Assembly so that they themselves can determine priorities in matters concerning the Sami people.
- Establish routines for cooperation between the Government and the Sami Assembly on the formulation of Norwegian Sami policy, the budget of the Sami Assembly and the development of general policy areas that will establish a framework for the Sami community.

Every four years, a report on the main principles of Norwegian Sami policy is submitted to the Storting. The Government supports the implementation as from 1999 of a system which will give the Sami Assembly a freer budgetary position by transferring all of the Assembly's allocation to one budget item. Regular meetings have been established at the political level between the Sami Assembly, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development and the various ministries to discuss the Sami Assembly's priorities for the following year's budget.

In spring 1998 the Storting debated Proposition No. 46 (1997-98) to the Odelsting on the Act relating to Primary and Lower Secondary Schools and Upper Secondary Education. On that occasion the Storting supported the proposal to transfer authority and functions in the education sector to the Sami Assembly. The Sami Assembly therefore has authority to determine the study programme for Sami language subjects, the special Sami subjects in upper secondary school and the "Sami pillars" of the Norwegian National Curriculum for the ten years of primary and lower secondary education. Furthermore, the Sami Assembly is to prepare proposals for the other Sami study programmes at primary and secondary school level. The Sami Education Council will be transferred to the Sami Assembly to carry out the Assembly's tasks in the field of education policy. The Sami people's right to special language training was strengthened by the new Education Act. A number of grants are provided to ensure that there are qualified Sami language teachers.

With regard to the Government's responsibility for securing the Sami Assembly's role in defining the basic premises for Norwegian Sami policy, emphasis is placed on ensuring that the Sami Assembly participates in the policy-formulation process at as early a stage as possible. This is done, for instance, at meetings between the political heads of the respective ministries and the leadership of the Sami Assembly. There is also contact at the administrative level between the ministries and the Sami Assembly on the follow-up of Sami issues in the various policy areas.

In autumn 1997, a special state secretary for Sami issues was appointed in the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development. The state secretary stays in regular contact with the Sami Assembly's political leadership by means of meetings with the Sami Assembly and by attending sessions of the Sami Assembly.

In spring 1998, a special committee of state secretaries for Sami issues was established to improve cooperation on and coordination of the development of Sami policy in the ministries. The committee of state secretaries has had a meeting with the Sami Assembly, at which members of the Sami Assembly presented several priorities.

Sami water and land rights

In 1980, the Government appointed the Sami Rights Council, charging it with studying and presenting a proposal on the land and water rights of the Sami people in their traditional settlement areas. The Council presented its second main report in January 1997 on the natural resource base for Sami culture (NOU 1997:4).

The report contains a proposal for a new system of management for land and natural resources in Finnmark and new procedural rules for dealing with encroachment on the natural environment in Finnmark and other areas used by the Sami people. In the view of the Council majority, the proposed system of management will give the Sami people such strong influence on management of the ownership and use of land and natural resources in their settlement areas that it will be in accordance with the international legal obligations undertaken by Norway.

The Council also proposes that the administration of most of the renewable resources in Finnmark be located in municipalities and rural districts.

The second report of the Sami Rights Council has been circulated for consultative comment. The time limit for submitting comments has been greatly extended and expires on 1 March 1999.

The rights of minorities

Article 27 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 16 December 1966 has been a key element of international protection of minorities. The Article reads as follows:

"In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right, in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practise their own religion, or to use their own language." The OSCE has also led the way in promoting protection of minorities, as has been clearly reflected in several political declarations, particularly Part IV of the Copenhagen Document of 29 June 1990. The general protection of human rights, as well as the protection of vulnerable groups such as children, applies to "every person", i.e. also to those belonging to various minority groups.

In recent years, instruments of international law have been developed to provide further protection for special groups who are assumed to be at risk. The Council of Europe's Framework Convention on the Protection of National Minorities of 1 February 1995 is the first legally binding, multilateral agreement on the protection of national minorities in general. The Government believes this convention to be a valuable supplement to existing norms in this field and therefore, in June 1998, presented a proposition (No. 80 1997-98) to obtain the Storting's consent to ratification of the framework convention. In this context, it is proposed that the term "national minorities" encompass the Sami people, the Finnish minority in northern Norway (Kvener), the Finnish minority in southern Norway (Skogfinner), the Roma (gypsies), the Romany people (travellers) and Jews.

Funds for awareness-raising information activities

In the fiscal budget for 1998, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development established a grant scheme for "awareness-raising activities and projects aimed at preventing discrimination against established minorities", cf. Proposition No. 1 (1997-98) to the Storting. Organizations that have their basis in a national minority may apply for funds from the grant scheme. In 1998, funds have been allocated for various information projects such as seminars for the press and publishing sector, reports on the history of minorities and the current situation seen from the minority's point of view, an instructional booklet and special theme days at schools. Funds have also been allocated to encourage minority groups to



form their own organizations. The Ministry also has a grant scheme for the Association of Norwegian Kvens.

Coordination of policy towards national minorities

The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development has headed a working group which has examined and reported on the need to coordinate policies towards national minorities and the question of where responsibility for coordination, if relevant, should be placed. Several ministries participated in the working group which submitted its report on 2 June 1998. It was decided that from 1 January 1999 responsibility for coordination is to be placed with the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

Apology for abuses against the Romany people (travellers)

At a meeting with representatives of the Romany people on 11 February 1998, the Minister of Local Government and Regional Development apologized on behalf of the Norwegian authorities for the abuses to which the Romany people (travellers) have been subjected. The reason for the apology was the recognition that for centuries the Norwegian authorities have treated the Romany people unjustly and have been responsible, directly or indirectly, for injustices against individuals, both children and adults.

Instruction for linguistic minorities

A grant is provided from the budget of the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs for instruction for linguistic minorities in primary and lower secondary schools. This applies to instruction both in Norwegian as a second language and in the mother tongue. The Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs is preparing a new report on mother tongue instruction, which will be submitted to the Storting in late 1998/early 1999.

The new Education Act secures the right of pupils of Kven-Finnish origin to instruction in Finnish if at least three pupils of Kven-Finnish origin in a primary or lower secondary school in Troms or Finnmark request it.

From 1 January 1998 the Government has offered linguistic minorities up to a maximum of 850 hours of language training based on their level of proficiency.

A sub-project on ethnic minorities was initiated in connection with a comprehensive evaluation of Reform 94 for secondary schools.

Racism and discrimination on grounds of race, colour, religion, national or ethnic origin

The States Parties to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 21 December 1965, including Norway, have undertaken to pursue a policy aimed at eliminating all forms of racial discrimination. In addition, there are several other international provisions under which Norway has an obligation to prevent and eliminate this and other forms of discrimination. Nevertheless, racism and discrimination exist and it is therefore necessary to make an active, continuous effort to combat them, so that every person, regardless of background, has equal rights, opportunities and obligations to participate in society and utilize his or her resources. In the past year, the Government has implemented the following measures:

Action plan to prevent racism and discrimination

In June 1998, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development presented the Government's Action Plan for 1998-2001 to Prevent Racism and Dis-



PHOTO: ULLANT FRAYVA BIELNEBERG

crimination. The plan seeks to promote a focused, coherent campaign against racism and discrimination.

The Action Plan is based on the situation of persons with an immigrant background, but is also relevant for other minorities who experience discrimination on grounds of religion, race, colour or national or ethnic origin. The plan covers the period from 1998 to 2001.

The Action Plan focuses on seven target areas:

- legal assistance for persons who are exposed to discrimination, efforts to monitor the nature and extent of discrimination, establishment of a Centre for the Prevention of Ethnic Discrimination
- measures targeting the police and the judiciary with particular focus on building trust and preventing discrimination in restaurants, bars and nightclubs
- measures targeting the labour market with a view to ensuring equal opportunities for employment, promotion and protection against wrongful dismissal
- measures targeting the housing market to ensure equal opportunities for those seeking housing
- measures targeting primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools to ensure that the educational authorities promote equal opportunities for all pupils and actively combat racism and discrimination
- measures to reinforce an understanding of multicultural issues in key sectors to ensure that focus on the provision of services in a multicultural society is incorporated into the ordinary primary, lower secondary and upper secondary education of various occupational groups.
- measures targeting local neighbourhoods to strengthen local activities to eliminate racism and discrimination and provide information on the way racism and discrimination can be prevented and combated.

The Action Plan indicates the parties responsible for the various measures in accordance with the principle of sectoral responsibility. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development will have the overriding responsibility for following up and evaluating the Action Plan.

Establishment of a Centre for the Prevention of Ethnic Discrimination

In September 1998 the King in Council approved the terms of reference for the Centre for the Prevention of Ethnic Discrimination and appointed the Board of Directors of the Centre. The task of the Centre, which is to function autonomously, is to help monitor developments as regards the nature and extent of discrimination and provide legal aid to persons who are exposed to discrimination on grounds of religion, race, colour or national or ethnic origin. The Centre will prepare annual reports and propose measures to prevent ethnic discrimination in society.

The Centre will cover all of Norway, but will have its head office in Oslo. Initially, the Centre will be established for a trial period of five years from 1998 to 2002.

The Board of Directors has the overall responsibility for the Centre. Only the King in Council can issue instructions to the Board of Directors concerning the activities of the Centre.

The Storting allocates funds for the Centre through the budget of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development.

The educational system

One of the educational system's foremost tasks is to promote equal opportunities

for all and combat discriminatory attitudes. This goal is clearly reflected in the study programmes for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools, which are based on the assumption that efforts to combat discriminatory and racist attitudes are an integral part of ordinary school activities.

In the new framework plans for teacher training, which were drawn up in 1998, emphasis is placed on the fact that the work of teaching in a multicultural society entails new challenges for teachers and administrative personnel at all levels of the educational system. Migration policy and efforts to combat racism and discrimination in a multicultural school environment and society are therefore an obligatory part of the new framework plans.

In 1998 the Information Centre for International Education strengthened its efforts related to the recognition of foreign education. The brochure entitled "Recognition of Foreign Education in Norway" was updated as of June 1998. Guidelines were also drawn up in 1998 for the practical documentation and testing of vocational training in other countries which cannot automatically be substantiated by means of a diploma or similar document.

Labour market policy for immigrants

The expansion of the labour market in the last few years has resulted in a significant decline in unemployment for immigrants as well. However, the unemployment rate among immigrants is considerably higher than the unemployment rate in the rest of the population. At the end of May 1998, the unemployment rate for immigrants was 7.1 per cent, 2.7 percentage points lower than at the same time in 1997. The unemployment rate for the population as a whole was 2.2 per cent at the end of May 1998.

To reduce unemployment among immigrants, the labour market authorities have attached particular importance to placing immigrants in ordinary jobs. When necessary, the labour market authorities have adapted programmes to the special needs of immigrants. At the end of May 1998, immigrants accounted for approximately 27 per cent of all participants in ordinary public sector job creation programmes.

The labour market authorities have worked closely with the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry, the Federation of Norwegian Commercial and Service Enterprises and the Norwegian Federation of Trade Unions on a sponsorship scheme to improve labour market opportunities for immigrants in all areas of Norway. The labour market authorities have established internal training programmes aimed at giving their employees greater insight into and knowledge of the qualifications, needs and opportunities of immigrants in relation to the Norwegian labour market.

In July 1998 the Ministry of Labour and Government Administration presented its Action Plan to Recruit Persons with Immigrant Backgrounds to the Public Sector – 1998-2001. The objective is to increase the recruitment of persons with immigrant backgrounds to the public sector by raising the awareness and upgrading the skills of the employment authorities, reducing the obstacles inherent in current regulations and expanding the base for public sector recruitment by providing the means for acquiring relevant qualifications and experience. The plan encompasses 20 different measures that will be implemented during the period from 1998-2001. These include formulating recruitment guidelines which focus on the recommendation and employment of immigrant candidates and improvement of the systems for recognition of foreign education.

Ethnic discrimination in the labour market was prohibited as of 30 April 1998. The



PHOTO: KINE LIEBEND/SAMFOTO

new provision in the Working Environment Act prohibits discrimination in employment on the ground of the applicant's race, colour or national or ethnic origin. The provision was prompted by the Government's goal of equal opportunities for all to participate in society and the fact that Norway's international commitments make it necessary to take steps to eliminate discrimination.

In 1998 the Ministry of Defence, in cooperation with the Headquarters Defence Command Norway, has prepared an action plan for the recruitment and improved integration of persons of immigrant background in the Defence Forces. In this plan, which was presented in October 1998, the Government endorses the use of quotas to ensure that more persons of immigrant background are admitted to basic training programmes for non-commissioned officers.

The rights of persons with disabilities

While protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is not expressed in separate conventions, all human rights also apply, of course, to persons with disabilities. In many cases, this makes extra demands on states. Furthermore, the UN has adopted standard rules for persons with disabilities which deal with ways of ensuring the fulfilment of human rights for such persons. In the past year, efforts have been focused on complying with the UN standard rules for persons with disabilities, particularly in areas where Report No. 34 (1996-97) to the Storting on the Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities revealed a large gap between the standard rules and current Norwegian policy.

- Awareness-raising regarding the rights, needs and opportunities of persons with disabilities (Standard Rules 1 and 19)
- Participation (Standard Rule 18)
- Coherent policy-making and planning (Standard Rule 14)
- Accessibility (Standard Rule 5)
- Focus on persons with disabilities in Norwegian policy (Standard Rule 20)

These areas have been followed up in the Government's Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities (1998-2001), which was presented in autumn 1998. During the period covered by the plan, statutes and regulations will be reviewed to evaluate whether the rights of persons with disabilities are safeguarded well enough, including in relation to the human rights conventions. The Action Plan comprises measures in a number of areas, of which education and employment are among the most important.

Educational facilities

Persons with special needs receive special instruction based on a professional evaluation of each individual. Under the new Education Act, children with disabilities are entitled to attend the school closest to their home. One of the measures in the Government's Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities 1998-2001 is a project aimed at adapting upper secondary schooling to the needs of young people with disabilities.

The right of primary and lower secondary school pupils with impaired hearing to education in sign language is laid down in the new Education Act. Sign language is considered a language of equal status to Norwegian and Sami.

Labour market policy for persons with disabilities

Organizations for persons with disabilities in Norway have maintained that public efforts to ensure the occupational rehabilitation of persons with disabilities are inadequate. Persons with physical, mental or social disabilities have limited possibilities of finding a job. Such persons are registered as occupationally handicapped job seekers requiring special assistance. It is the Government's goal that as many dis-

abled and occupationally handicapped persons as possible shall have an opportunity to participate in the labour market.

The labour market authorities have many different measures to provide the occupationally handicapped with training and labour market qualifications. These measures are tailored to the needs and level of function of the users. One of the measures of the Action Plan focuses on developing methods and ways of working that can help to reinforce the job-seekers' role as active users of job creation programmes. Importance is therefore attached to encouraging the active participation of users in order to better realize the goal of obtaining a job.



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PHOTO: NTB PLUS

Gender equality

Preventing discrimination on grounds of gender and promoting equal status between women and men are key elements in human rights efforts. The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is an important international instrument in the efforts to strengthen the human rights of women. States Parties are bound to implement the Convention at national level and to report on implementation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) every four years. Norway's next report will be sent at the end of 1998. The efforts to promote gender equality and prevent discrimination between men and women are in pursuance of the Act of 9 June 1978 on Gender Equality, which also provides the legal authority for the enforcement agency, the Gender Equality Ombud.

In a purely legal sense, there is gender equality in Norway. Direct discrimination no longer takes place very often. But more deeply rooted power structures and attitudes are not changed so easily. This means that the actual situation as regards gender equality is not all that one might wish.

To strengthen the promotion of gender equality, a committee of state secretaries for gender equality has been established and a special position for a political adviser with responsibility for gender equality issues has been created at the Office of the Prime Minister. A liaison committee for gender equality has also been established with a view to reinforcing contacts between women's and gender equality organizations and the minister responsible for gender equality.

Gender equality in working life

Norway has still not succeeded in establishing the principle of equal pay in practice, and women are not as well represented as men in important decision-making fora, in either the private or the public sector. Work is in progress on amending the Gender Equality Act to increase the effectiveness of the Act in working life. The labour market authorities make active use of the range of policy instruments available to promote gender equality in the labour market.

Violence and sexual abuse

Violence and sexual abuse against women and children are among the most serious violations of human dignity and a major obstacle to gender equality. Sex-related violence can only be combated by focusing on both victims and perpetrators. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs provides annual grants for the operation of refuges, centres for incest victims and telephone helplines; in 1997 funding was provided for more than 70 projects. The government grant covers half of the expenses of the project.

Another objective is to increase the general level of skills among those working with the victims of violence. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs jointly provide funding to cover the operating costs of the Norwegian Resource Centre for Information and Studies on Violence. The goal of the centre is to produce and disseminate knowledge of the problem of violence and to improve public services and treatment for victims of violence.

The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Justice will cooperate on developing measures for perpetrators and victims. Joint efforts on a plan to reduce violence against women began in autumn 1998.

Prostitution and trafficking in women and children constitute a gross violation of human dignity. In Norway, the issue has acquired new relevance due to the growing cross-border traffic between Norway (particularly Finnmark) and Russia. The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs have begun to collect information as a basis for evaluating potential measures to reduce prostitution and trafficking in women and children.

Gender equality in the educational system

The work of the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs to promote gender equality in the educational system is coordinated by a special Gender Equality Secretariat at the Ministry. The secretariat provides speakers and lecturers in numerous fora, and works closely with various national and international institutions to strengthen the rights of girls and women in education.



The rights of the child

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 20 November 1989 focuses on rights that particularly apply to children and young people under the age of 18. In this way, the child is given special protection in addition to the protection offered all persons, including children, in the general human rights conventions. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is an important foundation for efforts to promote the rights of the child in legislation, programmes and schemes. In June 1998, Norway submitted its second report on the follow-up of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Prior to that, in spring 1998, the Commissioner for Children issued an invitation, on behalf of the National Coalition for the Convention of the Rights of the Child, to a national "hearing" on the rights of the child in Norway. At the hearing, the political leadership of the ministries most closely concerned was asked questions by various organizations which work to promote the rights of the child. The report on the hearing will be published. Norway's report on the follow-up to the Convention on the Rights of the Child contains information and descriptions of measures in fields such as health and social welfare, family affairs and care, education and special protective measures. A few important measures are described below.

Children's health

The public health authorities in Norway ensure that treatment and rehabilitation are available to all, based on medical needs. It is the task of the municipal primary health care services to ensure that all children receive necessary medical assistance. Because a number of groups are at risk and have special needs, it has been necessary to initiate special measures in various fields to reduce child mortality, strengthen mental health care for children and young people, reduce eating disorders and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Children's right to contact with their parents

Approximately 13 per cent of all children aged 0-15 lives in families headed by a single parent. Special attention is focused on the right of the child to have contact with both parents and parents' right to have access to their children. Applications from both children and parents regarding family reunification in immigrant families are given high priority.

Child welfare

The child welfare authorities provide services for between two and three per cent of all children in Norway. The Government has followed up the Action Plan for Children and Young People with Serious Behavioural Problems, which was presented in August 1997. Emergency child welfare units have been organized in a number of municipalities, and anonymous telephone services have been established to enable children to ask questions about various forms of abuse and neglect. A national parental guidance programme aimed at strengthening the role of parents in their children's upbringing was launched in 1995 and is still in progress. An evaluation of the programme began in 1998.

Sexual abuse of children

The Norwegian authorities work in close cooperation with organizations and professionals to develop measures to prevent the commercial sexual exploitation of children nationally, regionally and globally. A Norwegian plan is currently being prepared to follow up the International Conference on Prevention of the Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm in 1996. One measure was introduced in the new Education Act which provides that persons seeking employment in primary and lower secondary schools must present a police certificate showing whether the person in question has been charged with, indicted for or convicted of the sexual abuse of children. Persons who have been convicted of sexual abuse of children may not be employed in primary or lower secondary schools.



PHOTO: KESSELMÖLLER HANSEN/VALENTIN



Projects have also been carried out to test measures for children accompanying their mothers who seek refuge at an emergency centre. In autumn 1998, a conference was held to discuss this issue; one of the objectives was to provide a stronger foundation for the work of the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs on an action plan for children in emergency centres.

Freedom of religion

“Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.” This freedom is embodied in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in Article 18 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 9 of the European Human Rights Convention and Article 2 of the Convention’s first supplementary protocol also contain provisions on freedom of religion. With effect from 1 January 1998, administrative responsibility for the Act relating to religious communities and the Act relating to belief communities was transferred from the Ministry of Justice to the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs. Pursuant to these statutes, religious and belief communities are entitled to receive annual grants from the central and municipal government based on the number of members.

Christian knowledge and religious and moral education

Christian knowledge and religious and moral education was introduced as a new subject in primary and lower secondary schools as from 1 August 1998. There is a limited right to exemption from parts of this subject. Regulations and guidelines have been established to ensure that the subject is taught in accordance with the obligation to promote freedom of religion.

Various steps have been taken to provide information on the new subject and the way it will be taught in practice. For instance, information has been distributed in twelve different languages to all parents with children in primary and lower secondary schools. A number of information meetings have been held with school administrators and an information programme on the subject has been produced in cooperation with the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation.

The introduction of the subject Christian knowledge and religious and moral education has met with criticism, and the Islamic Council and the Norwegian Humanist Association have brought a case against the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs before the Oslo City Court to clarify the subject’s relationship to freedom of religion and belief and to the right to private life. The relationship to Norway’s international human rights commitments will play a key role in this connection.

Approval of a private Muslim upper secondary school

In 1998 the Ministry of Education, Research and Church Affairs approved a private Muslim upper secondary school with the right to funding pursuant to the Act relating to Private Schools. In dealing with the school’s application, the Ministry has attached importance to international conventions and the rules of administrative law regarding unfair or unreasonable differential treatment.

The Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief

The Government contributed to the funding of an international conference on freedom of religion and belief in Oslo in August 1998. The conference resulted in the establishment of an international “Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion and Belief” in support of Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 18 of the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. This article deals with religious freedom and what it implies.

The right to social security and health

Pursuant to Article 9 of the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, every person has a right to social security, including social insurance. Every person living in Norway who is not specifically exempted, is a member of the national insurance scheme, the purpose of which is to provide economic security by assuring income and wholly or partially covering expenses relating to special needs. The National Insurance scheme, in combination with the child benefit scheme, fulfils the Covenant's goal of social security for all. This also includes social benefits in connection with childbirth, parental leave and adoption and for single parents.

Pursuant to Article 12 of the European Social Charter, the States Parties shall have a system of social security which meets the minimum standards of ILO Convention No. 102 and must seek to improve social insurance over and above these standards, including ILO Convention No. 128 (old age, disability and survivors' pensions) and ILO Convention No. 130 (sickness benefit). Norway meets these standards, and fulfils the requirements of several ILO conventions which set stricter minimum requirements. Article 12 of the Social Charter also requires that steps be taken to ensure the granting, maintenance and resumption of social security rights by combining the period of insurance in all States Parties. To secure individuals' social security rights, Norway has entered into a number of bilateral and multilateral social security agreements, for instance through the EEA Agreement and Nordic agreements. In 1998 social security agreements were entered into with Chile and complementary agreements were entered into with Luxembourg and Austria.

Article 12 of the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states that the "States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for ... the creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness." This constitutes legal protection ensuring that fundamental needs will be met.

In the Bill regarding the rights of patients presented to the Storting in autumn 1998, the Government proposed that the right to assessment, the right to renewed assessment and the right to choose hospitals be given statute form. Other wise, the "right to the highest attainable standard of health" is deemed to be safeguarded by section 2-1 of the Act relating to Municipal Health Care Services.

The right to education

Article 13 of the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights states: "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education." While the Government considers that the right to education is safeguarded in current Norwegian legislation, it has proposed that programmes for adults who lack primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schooling be strengthened. Instruction must be based on the qualifications and skills of each individual. The Government has also proposed to promote the adoption of legislation that ensures individuals the right to leave for educational purposes.

Discrimination on the basis of sexual persuasion

International protection against discrimination on the grounds of sexual persuasion has not made as much progress as Norway would have liked. Some people maintain that the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights may be interpreted as

providing such protection, but this is not a generally accepted view. However, the European Court of Human Rights has ruled that the criminal prosecution of persons on the grounds of their sexual persuasion is contrary to Article 8 of the European Human Rights Convention regarding the right to privacy. A ruling on a case concerning whether it is lawful for a state to have different ages of sexual consent for heterosexuals and homosexuals is expected to be made by the Court in the course of 1999.

On 30 April 1998 a provision was adopted in the Working Environment Act which prohibits discrimination on the grounds of homosexual persuasion or homosexual cohabitation. The reason for this prohibition was a strong need for explicit protection against discrimination for homosexuals applying for jobs. In the case of homosexual cohabitants, the prohibition does not apply to positions in religious communities, such as the Church of Norway. The reason for this is the right to freedom of religion.

A project relating to living conditions and quality of life for lesbian women and homosexual men in Norway was started in 1997 and will run for about two years.

The reason for the project was assumptions that these population groups may be exposed to special difficulties, particularly arising from attitudes towards homosexuality, problems in accepting their own homosexuality and, in the case of men, the danger of HIV infection.

Four subsidiary reports will be prepared. Subsidiary Report 1, which was presented in June 1998, examines Norwegian, Swedish and Danish research in this field. It deals with topics such as people's attitudes towards homosexuality, discrimination and mental health. Living conditions and quality of life are compared with the main trends as regards the living conditions of the population in general.

Other measures to strengthen human rights in Norway

A number of other measures were implemented in 1998 to help improve Norway's compliance with its human rights obligations.

Among other things:

- The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs has financed a report on forced and arranged marriages between immigrants. A conference on the topic was held in April 1998. An Action Plan to combat coercive marriages is expected to be presented in December 1998.
- The Government has appointed a committee to examine and report on the need for and, if relevant, prepare draft legislation and rules to protect the right to environmental information.
- The authorities have contributed to the development of teaching aids on human rights and information on this subject, and have cooperated with the Human Rights Festival Dugnad '98, the UN Association and other organizations.
- Support was provided for a project to teach Bosnian children in Oslo and Akershus about human rights, democracy, conflict resolution, etc.
- An international conference, organized by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Council of Europe in September 1998, was held to examine how official policy can help to promote freedom of expression in the cultural field.
- Financial support was provided for the work of the Institute of Human Rights on a collection of summaries of judgments handed down by the European Court of Human Rights.
- The Storting has prohibited the production of genetically identical individuals (cloning). This prohibition has been included in the Act relating to the Use of Biotechnology in Medicine which came into force on 27 March 1998.



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EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA

- The United Nations
- UN Specialized Agencies, funds and programmes
- The Bretton Woods institutions
- The Council of Europe
- The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
- Regional Councils
- Efforts to promote new, stricter standards (rules)

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Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

INTER-NATIONALLY

Respect for all human rights is an important dimension to Norwegian foreign and development policy. Norway wishes to be active in promoting respect for human rights, with special focus on countries where basic human rights and fundamental freedoms are violated. Increased focus on the social, economic and cultural rights will contribute to closer cooperation on human rights issues between North and South.



On 10 December 1948, when the UN General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it introduced the resolution by proclaiming that the declaration is *“a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance...”* Subsequent human rights commitments express in even clearer terms the conviction that human rights are not a matter of internal affairs; that the nations of the world have a right and duty to promote greater respect for human rights in their own country and elsewhere in the world.

This conviction also forms the basis for Norwegian foreign policy – not because Norway wishes to be a kind of “world conscience” or particularly nosy busybody, but because respect for human rights is an important goal of foreign and development policy. Consequently, measures that promote such respect are also an important instrument of foreign and development cooperation policy.

Today we are well aware of the important role that human rights can play for peace and justice. A prerequisite for this key role is the adoption of a holistic approach to human rights. Only through a concerted effort to promote social and economic, civil and political as well as cultural rights can this effort make a maximum impact. On the basis of this type of holistic approach, the Government has pursued an aggressive human rights policy in 1998, both in international fora and in cooperation with other countries and with voluntary organizations.

Human rights and peace

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights begins by stating that *“the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.”* In other words, the Declaration establishes that respect for human rights is a prerequisite for peace. This recognition was very clear to those who wrote and signed the Universal Declaration, just a few years after the end of the most brutal war in world history. This fundamental truth is still being confirmed negatively wherever there is conflict and unrest in the world. However, it is also confirmed positively where efforts to create peace and reconciliation are successful. In peace-making and peace-keeping operations and during the reconstruction phase following a war, the parties' will and ability to respect and observe human rights are essential to the creation of lasting peace. The same will and ability are necessary if societies that are free from strife today are to be able to preserve stability and ensure good living standards for their populations. It may be useful to recall that this does not only apply to the right to life, or to freedom from torture or arbitrary imprisonment, but also to the right to freedom from fear and hardship.



Efforts to promote human rights in international fora

The United Nations (UN)

In the field of human rights, the UN acts as a mouthpiece and a setter and implementer of standards. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's proposal for a UN reform was adopted at the 52nd session of the General Assembly in autumn 1997. This reform confirmed that efforts to promote human rights were to be a fundamental aspect of all UN activities and that these efforts were to be anchored in the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The UN is the most important forum for official Norwegian criticism of breaches of human rights. During debates on resolutions, the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights express the international community's views on the situation in a country. Norway takes active part in such debates to help focus attention on human rights violations.

The Third Committee of the UN General Assembly

At the UN General Assembly, work in the field of human rights takes place in the Third Committee. At the autumn sessions in 1997 and 1998, Norway differed from several Western countries in that it was unable to give its full support to the draft resolution on the situation in Burma (Myanmar). This was because Norway found the criticism expressed in the resolution to be too weak. In the main intervention in the Third Committee in autumn 1998, Norway emphasized the need for resources, coordination, strengthened mechanisms and a holistic approach to the concept of human rights. Moreover, Norway raised the issue of the human rights situation in Afghanistan, Algeria, Burma (Myanmar), China, Colombia, East-Timor, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria, DR Congo, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Turkey and the former Yugoslavia. Norway otherwise took part in negotiations on a number of thematic resolutions, for instance on the right to development. Traditionally, there are strong differences of opinion between North and South as regards this topic, arising from the Western nations' emphasis on civil and political rights and the importance attached by developing countries to economic, social and cultural rights. Norway's view is, and has been, that all human rights are equally important and that development and human rights are two sides of the same coin.

Fifty-fourth session of the UN Commission on Human Rights

Norway was elected as a member of the UN Commission on Human Rights at ECOSOC in summer 1998. Norway's membership commences on 1 January 1999 and lasts for three years. Even though Norway was not a member of the Commission in 1998, we took active part in the Commission's work as an observer.

Norway was very pleased that the Commission on Human Rights adopted the *Draft Declaration on Human Rights Defenders* in April 1998. Thirteen years of preparation, in the past five years under the leadership of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Special Adviser Jan Helgesen, lie behind this draft. The Draft Declaration will be presented during the UN General Assembly in autumn 1998. The adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly will be an appropriate way of marking the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In other respects, Norway has attached great importance to ensuring that the Com-

mission's resolutions are implemented. Norway could not accept attempts to weaken the mandates of the numerous special rapporteurs, special delegations and working groups. Norway also emphasized the link between development and human rights, and sought to ensure that an acceptable resolution regarding the *right to development* was negotiated. During the 54th session, Norway was the first country to advocate the appointment of a special rapporteur on the *right to education*, a proposal that was supported.

The situation of *indigenous peoples* was also a priority topic for Norway and the Nordic countries. This year's session showed once again that this issue has relatively weak support at the UN. Despite considerable scepticism about establishing a permanent UN forum for indigenous peoples, efforts to establish a working group to prepare further work on such a forum were successful. (See below for information on efforts to introduce new, stronger standards.)

Another issue emphasized by Norway was *the rights of the child*. The Norwegian intervention on the rights of the child focused on the situation of child victims of war and conflict, child labour, sexual abuse, prostitution and traffic in children.

There was also emphasis on the issue of *freedom of religion* at the 54th session. Norway participated actively in this work, partly in the light of the Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief, which was to be held in August 1998. Norway also focused on the efforts to incorporate the *women's perspective* into all relevant human rights issues. At the invitation of the Commission, representatives of the Commission on the Status of Women participated in a special meeting on women and human rights. Norway took advantage of the opportunity to underscore the importance of adopting a gender perspective in all efforts to promote human rights, whether economic, social, cultural, political or civil. The Commission on Human Rights also resolved to establish a special item dealing with the human rights of women on the agenda of next year's session.

Work against the death penalty continued. The right to life is a fundamental human right, and Norway has therefore ratified the international instruments prohibiting the death penalty (Sixth Protocol to the European Human Rights Convention and Second Optional Protocol to the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). Furthermore, Norway has for years clearly demonstrated its opposition to the death penalty, among other things by supporting a number of resolutions in various fora such as the UN, the Council of Europe and the OSCE which denounce the use of the death penalty.

In addition to the resolution on human rights defenders, Norway submitted a draft resolution on *the status of the 1966 Covenants on human rights* and on *fundamental standards of humanity*. The former asked the Secretariat to update its report on the status of the Covenants for the next session. In the resolution on fundamental standards of humanity, the Secretary General was asked to prepare a new report on this topic for the Commission's next session with a view to examining and reporting on topics where this year's report indicates a need for further clarification.

In her main intervention, the Minister of International Development and Human Rights emphasized the importance of a coherent approach to human rights, as well as topics such as freedom of religion and child labour. Norway also presented interventions on the following topics:

- The occupied Arab territories and the right to self-determination
- Economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development
- Freedom from torture, freedom of expression, etc.
- The human rights of women

- The status as regards the 1966 human rights Covenants and implementation of monitoring mechanisms
- Minorities
- Religious intolerance
- Human rights defenders
- Indigenous peoples

and participated in the following Nordic interventions:

- Migration
- Fundamental standards of humanity
- Minorities

Norway was also involved in efforts related to the situation in a number of specific countries. Among the most important of these was the human rights situation in Algeria, where Norway was the only country to bring up the possibility of establishing a special rapporteur for Algeria. Norway endorsed an EU intervention which regretted the lack of will on the part of the Algerian authorities to cooperate with the mechanisms of the Commission. In addition to Algeria, Norway presented an intervention on the human rights situation in the following 17 countries and regions: Colombia, Rwanda, Great Lakes, Sudan, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, China, Burma, East Timor, Iran, Irak, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the former Yugoslavia, East Slavonia, Kosovo and Sandzak.

In connection with the negotiations on resolutions relating to specific countries, Norway placed emphasis on not responding too precipitately to the improvement in the human rights situation in Iran. Norway took active part in the negotiations on resolutions expressing strong dissatisfaction with the human rights situation in Burma and Nigeria. In the resolution on Afghanistan, Norway particularly emphasized the importance of including reference to the situation of women. Agreement was reached on satisfactory chairman's statements with regard to Afghanistan and East Timor. Norway was co-sponsor of a draft resolution on the human rights situation in Cuba.

The Norwegian delegation had extensive contact with non-governmental organizations. There was regular contact with Amnesty International, the Association for the Prevention of Torture, the International Commission of Jurists, Human Rights Watch, the Quakers, Article 19, Human Rights Internet, the International Service for Human Rights, representatives of Tibet and Iranians in exile. Contact with representatives of Norwegian NGOs (from the Anti-Racist Centre, the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, the Preparatory Committee for the Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion and Belief and the Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations) was good, but limited due to the large number of Commission meetings.

Forty-second session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women

Norway is a member of the UN Commission on the Status of Women for the period from 1996 to 1999. During the last (42nd) session in spring 1998, discussions focused on violence against women, genital mutilation, immigration and asylum policy and women in conflict situations. Norway and other member countries have previously advocated closer cooperation between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. This cooperation was clearly strengthened in 1998, for instance through an effort not to schedule meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women at times that conflict with meetings of the Commission on Human Rights. Norway underscored the importance of incorporating a gender perspective in all efforts to promote human rights. Norway also pointed out the close connection between human rights and development and urged countries with extensive reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to withdraw them.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to

equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.



PHOTO: AM HARTISAMFOTO



PHOTO: TRIGG BOLTJESAMFOTO

The establishment of a permanent forum on issues relating to indigenous peoples in the UN system

In the view of Norway and several other countries, the UN lacks mechanisms to satisfactorily safeguard the interests of indigenous peoples. This has resulted in a proposal to establish a Permanent Forum in the UN system that will focus on issues relating to indigenous peoples. In May 1998, the Human Rights Commission decided that this matter should be submitted to an ad hoc working group which will consider the mandate, constitution and place of the Forum within the UN system. Norway supported the proposal for an ad hoc working group in the hope that some progress will be made in this area.

Human rights and democracy

Article 21 (3) of the Universal Declaration states that *“the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.”* Another word for popular government is democracy, and in democratic systems, where there is transparency and room for public criticism, the authorities are held accountable for their actions to a far greater extent than in undemocratic societies. This has a positive effect on political, social and economic development. Democracy offers a greater chance of corrupt conduct being exposed and punished – in the courts or at the polls. In a democracy there is freedom of expression, one of the fundamental human rights, which puts greater pressure on authorities to distribute benefits, although the degree to which they are distributed varies significantly from one democratic country to another. It is in itself remarkable that there has never been a famine in a democratic country with a relatively free press. Nor have democratic countries ever waged war upon one another. Of course, democracy does not solve every problem and does not in itself ensure stability and prosperity. However, democracy, in the sense of the right to co-determination, is in itself one of the central human rights. Respect for this right leads to better conditions for observance of the other rights as well.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

budget. In 1998, Norway has pressed for an increase in this percentage. In addition to the voluntary contributions provided by Norway for several years, such as support for various funds for indigenous peoples, the prevention of torture, etc., Norway has allocated an extra NOK 10 million in 1998 for the work of the High Commissioner to be used for purposes such as strengthening the right to freedom of religion.

One of the issues on which the High Commissioner has concentrated in 1998 is a greater focus on economic, social and cultural rights, and Norway has worked closely with the High Commissioner to promote this objective.

The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Norway has long been an instigator of efforts to ensure that the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child form the foundation for the work of UNICEF. Together with a focus on ensuring that development aid reaches the poorest people, the fundamental needs of individuals have therefore been given high priority. Norway has particularly supported the view that UNICEF should strengthen recipient countries’ follow-up of the CEDAW and the CRC by building capacity. Besides being a human right in itself, education plays a vital role for a person’s possibility of asserting his other rights. Norway has decided to contribute approximately NOK 150 million (1996-99), of which about NOK 36 million was disbursed in 1998, to 18 countries in Africa for girls’ education. Earmarked funds have also been provided for measures to eliminate child labour and other measures to promote the rights of the child. Norway supports UNICEF projects to combat child labour in the Philippines and Nicaragua. In 1998, Norway contributed NOK 50 million for broad cooperation with UNICEF on a global programme to combat child labour. Norway hosted an international follow-up seminar in 1998 to further accelerate international efforts to abolish child labour.

The UN Development Programme (UNDP)

In 1998, Norway has supported the work of the UNDP to strengthen and focus efforts to integrate human rights into its development-oriented measures. This means that growing emphasis has been placed on the rights of the individual in efforts to promote sustainable development. In this connection, “good governance” has been identified as a key principle, and “good administration” as a key sector. Norway has actively supported this reorientation of the UNDP’s development policy strategy and has contributed NOK 95 million to the UNDP’s Trust Fund to finance measures aimed at strengthening public administration. Norway’s contribution is particularly targeted at Africa.

In March 1998 the UNDP entered into cooperation with the High Commissioner for Human Rights. To support the agencies’ efforts in this field, Norway hosted a seminar on the link between human rights and development in October 1998 in Oslo.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

Norway has actively supported the UNHCR’s mandate to protect refugees, among other things through greater focus on the connection between human rights and the possibility of finding lasting solutions to refugee situations. This cooperation has particular significance for efforts in countries of origin aimed at ensuring that refugees can return home safely and with dignity. Respect for human rights also plays an important role in preventing streams of refugees.

The UN Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO)

In 1998 Norway supported the work of UNESCO in the field of human rights, particularly in education and research. In 1997 UNESCO drew up a Universal Declara-





tion on the Human Genome and Human Rights, which was adopted by UNESCO's member states, including Norway, on 11 November 1997. The Declaration emphasizes that research on the human genome must respect human dignity, fundamental freedoms and human rights both as regards the individual and groups of people. The Declaration also covers the rights of persons engaged in genetic research.

The International Labour Organization (ILO)

During the ILO's annual conference on labour, Norway took part in negotiations on the formulation of a convention on the worst forms of child labour. The convention is scheduled to be adopted next year (see further details below on efforts to adopt new, more stringent standards). The conference adopted a declaration on fundamental labour rights. The Declaration establishes the right of every person to freedom of association and negotiation, and demands the abolition of all forms of forced labour, child labour and discrimination in working life. The Declaration provides for follow-up mechanisms, under which all member states are bound to report on implementation of the Declaration. Norway has been engaged in efforts to achieve a stronger link between the ILO's normative and operational activities, particularly as regards the follow-up to the Declaration on fundamental labour rights and, not least, the efforts to combat child labour.

Norway has contributed NOK 66 million over a four-year period to measures to eliminate child labour. In this connection, Norway has emphasized the need for the ILO to adopt an integrated approach and to coordinate efforts with UNICEF and the World Bank. The Norwegian authorities hosted and co-arranged the International Conference on Child Labour in October 1997 in Oslo. At the conference, a number of countries pledged to take part in the fight against child labour through the implementation of specific measures. Since the Oslo Conference, an attempt has been made to focus on three main areas, namely legislation, implementation and practical application, basic education and the broad mobilization of civil society.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

The UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

Norway is the second largest contributor to UNIFEM, which seeks to ensure that the human rights of women are fulfilled. Among other things, UNIFEM seeks to prevent violence against women and disseminate information on the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The right to sufficient safe and nutritious food for a healthy, active life was established as a human right in the Declaration from the World Food Summit organized by the FAO in Rome in 1996. Norway led the way in efforts to have this right included in the Declaration and the Plan of Action that was adopted at the Summit. This right entails that people shall have access to sufficient means either to buy food or to produce their own food. The right to food is therefore closely related to other fundamental human rights. In the Plan of Action adopted at the Summit, governments pledge to make efforts to achieve food security for their populations, and to halve the number of undernourished persons in the world by the year 2015. The FAO's Food Security Committee is responsible for monitoring implementation of this Plan of Action. The Norwegian authorities have actively supported the efforts of Norwegian and international human rights institutions to follow up the Summit's Declaration on the right to food.

World Health Organization (WHO)

Norway has emphasized equal access to health care services and stressed that the distribution of the WHO's support for developing countries should be based on need, thereby giving priority to the poorest countries. Norway has supported two

health programmes which particularly target human reproduction and women's health. Among the issues on which the women's health programme has concentrated are health problems related to violence against women. In both these programmes, Norway has emphasized that women's health and reproductive health must be analyzed in a broader social perspective. Support was also provided for a programme designed to better enable the WHO to safeguard the gender perspective in its programmes.

UN Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

Norway provides a general contribution to the UNFPA and takes part in the agency's executive bodies. In 1998, the agency held a round-table conference on reproductive rights in Uganda, in which Norwegian delegates participated. The issue of reproductive rights also involves the question of making quality reproductive health care services available to women and of protecting them against abuse. This has been the UNFPA's main priority since the Cairo Conference in 1994. Norway has been one of the advocates on the executive committee of increased focus on young people and on efforts to eliminate female circumcision. Norway also provides substantial support for the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), which has played a particularly active role in promoting reproductive rights.

Human rights and development

Poverty alleviation and development are largely bound up with the realization of fundamental human rights. Norwegian authorities hold annual consultations on development cooperation with the authorities of Norway's priority partner countries. On these occasions, general questions concerning human rights are raised and considered in the light of the basic parameters for development. Another important channel for a development strategy driven by human rights are the multi-lateral organizations, which receive a large proportion of Norwegian aid funding. Poverty-oriented development strengthens economic, social and cultural rights. Increased respect for civil and political rights reduces tension in society and stimulates economic development. The connection between civil and political rights on the one hand and social, economic and cultural rights on the other is tightened and reinforced in the general effort now being made to gain recognition for "the right to development". Development has been defined by the UN Development Programme as a process that expands people's choices: that gives people an opportunity to choose an education, to choose to give birth to their children in safe conditions, to choose to drink clean water. The right to development is actually a right to make such choices, and to take part in the political process that makes such choices possible. In this sense, development and human rights are two sides of the same issue. If individuals do not know that as human beings they have rights, they cannot participate in shaping their own future, or realize their own potential.

The Bretton Woods institutions (World Bank and the regional development banks)

The statutes of the Bretton Woods institutions have traditionally been interpreted as apolitical in the sense that the institutions' mandate has been linked to economic and social development. In recent years, there has been a trend towards a clearer correlation between human rights and economic and social development. This must be viewed in the context of greater emphasis on issues such as the legitimization of the power of the state and national ownership of the development process. In 1998, in connection with the 50th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the World Bank presented a report entitled "Development and Human

Rights: The Role of the World Bank". The report has not yet been dealt with by the Bank's executive bodies, but is in itself an indication that greater attention will be devoted to human rights issues in the years ahead.

The most active bank in the field of human rights is the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). Through its membership of the bank, Norway has been able to follow and support the bank's efforts to promote human rights – such as its participation in peace processes and measures to prevent violence, programmes to reform/modernize the state (legal reforms, anti-corruption measures, etc.) and efforts to encourage greater participation by civil society.

For many years Norway has provided support for measures implemented by the development banks to elucidate the connection between economic and social development and factors such as poverty, gender equality, the environment, the rights of the child and investments in education and health. Among new measures initiated in 1998, mention may be made of the fact that Norway is the largest contributor to a World Bank programme targeting public administrations, in which the Bank works closely with local NGOs and the media in borrower countries to prevent corruption.

The Council of Europe

By monitoring member countries' fulfilment of their membership obligations and by providing practical assistance, the Council of Europe plays a key role in efforts to consolidate democracy in Europe. Norway's aim has been to contribute towards an efficient, focused Council of Europe, capable of carrying out its central tasks as constructively as possible. With this in mind, support has been provided for the reorganization of the system charged with administering the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. As from 1 November 1998, the European Commission of Human Rights and the European Court of Human Rights was replaced by one permanent court with a judge from each member country. Hanne Sophie Greve is the Norwegian judge. In this connection, Norway has made active efforts to ensure that the new Court has satisfactory resources and working conditions. Similarly, in the Committee of Ministers Norway has sought to ensure that the judgments handed down by the Court are respected and followed up by member countries.

Under the previous Government, the Council of Europe's second summit meeting was held in Strasbourg on 10-11 October 1997. The meeting culminated in a political declaration and an action plan to strengthen democratic stability in member countries.

Norway put particular emphasis on further developing the Committee of Ministers' monitoring mechanism to verify that all countries observe the obligations that follow from membership of the organization. Norway also won support for its proposal to strengthen specific Council of Europe human rights projects in member countries and to view them in relation to the problems revealed through the work of the monitoring agency. On the initiative of Norway, a decision was made to establish an all-European exchange programme for school pupils in the action plan. Norway also gained support for its proposal that the political declaration should include mention of the problems of refugees and asylum-seekers and the need to strengthen cooperation with the EU and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In cooperation with Sweden, Norway succeeded in having a proposal included to the effect that the Council of Europe should draw up a programme to promote the rights of the child and, with the active participation of Norway, the programme has already been developed and implemented.



At the Committee of Ministers' meeting on 6 November 1997, the current Government took the initiative of proposing closer cooperation between the respective mechanisms of the Committee of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly to monitor compliance with member countries' commitments as regards democracy, human rights and the principle of rule of law. Norway has advocated that a greater proportion of the Council of Europe's resources be used for operative programmes. Moreover, in the past year Norway has made a number of voluntary contributions to projects under the auspices of the Council of Europe to support normative efforts.

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

The member states of the OSCE have taken upon themselves a large number of commitments relating to the human dimension, ranging from basic human rights and freedoms to principles of the rule of law and democratic governance. Issues relating to the human dimension constitute a very important part of OSCE cooperation and are also an important component of the extended security concept. Norway has given high priority to this area of OSCE cooperation. Funds are channelled to various projects to provide technical assistance and consultancy services. In 1997-98, Norway provided financial aid for the implementation of projects in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Another substantial and important element of the OSCE's efforts to assist member states in the transition to a democratic system takes place under the auspices of the OSCE legations and other groups of OSCE experts who are posted to various parts of the OSCE region. In the last year, Norway has seconded experts on human rights issues and democratization to OSCE legations in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. Norway has also financed relevant projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Moreover, Norway has seconded personnel with special responsibility for human rights issues to legations in Georgia and Tadzhikistan and has sent an expert to the OSCE's Liaison Office for Central Asia in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) to be responsible for following up ODIHR projects.

At the weekly meetings of the OSCE's Permanent Council in Vienna, Norway has repeatedly raised questions relating to the human dimension. A wide range of issues have been addressed, such as election monitoring, the human rights situation in Croatia and the integration of Russian-speaking population groups in Latvia and Estonia. Norway has attempted to give the human dimension a more prominent role in the work of the OSCE, not least by convening special meetings in Vienna on topical issues and problems. Moreover, under the Polish chairmanship, Norway has been given the responsibility for contacts between the OSCE and non-governmental organizations.

At the OSCE's implementation meeting on the human dimension on 12-28 November 1997, Norway presented interventions on freedom of religion, freedom of expression, minimum humanitarian standards, tolerance and non-discrimination, national minorities, Roma/Sinti (gypsies), democratic institutions, the implementation of principles and commitments relating to the human dimension and cooperation between the OSCE and other international organizations. Moreover, joint Nordic interventions were presented on the role of non-governmental organizations in OSCE cooperation, on human rights defenders and on children in armed conflicts.

In January 1998, Norway took the initiative of organizing an informal meeting in Vienna where representatives of the Helsinki Federation and the Norwegian Helsinki Committee reported, among other things, on the current human rights situation in Kosovo/the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. On the initiative of Denmark and

Norway, on 29 April 1998, the Polish OSCE Chairman convened an informal meeting of the Council in Vienna on gender equality issues in the OSCE. This was part of the follow-up to the recommendations of an ODIHR seminar in October 1997 concerning the promotion of participation of women in society. A large number of NGOs and representatives of other international organizations took part.

In May 1998, Norway initiated and chaired an informal meeting in Vienna on issues relating to freedom of the media in the OSCE region at which the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media, Freimut Duve, reported on the situation. A large number of member states and representatives of other relevant international and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting.

Regional councils

The Council of the Baltic Sea States

Norway took part in a round table conference on democracy and human rights arranged by the Council of the Baltic Sea States' Commissioner for democratic institutions and human rights in Copenhagen in February 1998. Norway has provided financial assistance for the follow-up to the Council of the Baltic Sea States' report on the sexual exploitation of children for commercial purposes in the Baltic Sea region.

The Nordic Council of Ministers

The Nordic Council of Ministers places particular emphasis on promoting human rights in neighbouring regions. Neighbouring regions are defined as the Baltic countries, North-West Russia and Kaliningrad. Priority themes include women's and children's rights. Norway has advocated building up and strengthening the presence and activities of non-governmental organizations in neighbouring regions. Like the other members of the Council, at the Nordic Council of Ministers Norway has otherwise been concerned about racism, discrimination and the situation and rights of refugees.

Efforts to promote new, stricter standards (rules)

In 1998, Norway has taken part in several working groups at the UN, the Council of Europe and the ILO who are preparing new, stricter or more detailed rules in the human rights area. Norway primarily focuses on strengthening the implementation of existing commitments rather than establishing new ones.

The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Draft UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been the subject of negotiations for several years. The draft contains numerous provisions concerning the rights of indigenous peoples with respect to language, religion, culture and education, and more controversial proposals concerning the right to self-determination and land and water rights. The draft was prepared by the UN Working Group on a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples after ten years of negotiations between member states, representatives of indigenous peoples and other organizations. Further negotiations on the draft are now in progress. In October 1997, tentative agreement was reached on some of the articles, but several political problems remain to be solved and the negotiations may go on for several years before agreement on a declaration is reached.

A Nordic Sami Convention

During the Nordic Council's session in Reykjavik in February 1995, a resolution was passed to establish a working group consisting of representatives of the ministries in Norway, Sweden and Finland and the three countries' Sami Assemblies

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved

guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.



PHOTO: E. GUENIN/INTRA MEDIA, BILDERBERG

with a mandate to investigate the need and basis for a Nordic Sami Convention. The working group presented its report in June 1998. In the report, a unanimous working group confirmed that work on a Nordic Sami Convention is important and that it should continue.

The report concludes that it is desirable to cooperate at the Nordic level through appropriate mechanisms for negotiation and consultation on Sami issues and proposes that cooperation be established at two levels:

1. An annual meeting between Ministers and Presidents of the Sami Assemblies
2. The establishment of a permanent group of officials/civil servants from the governments and Sami Assemblies, who would meet more frequently.

It also proposes that committees of experts be established, to meet as and when required.

In cooperation with the ministries responsible for Sami issues in Sweden and Finland and the three countries' Sami Assemblies, the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development will follow up the recommendations of the working group.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child contains certain provisions concerning the prohibition of sexual exploitation of children, but it is generally accepted that there is a need for more detailed international regulations in this area. On this basis, in 1994 the UN established a working group to prepare a supplementary protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. The Protocol will include penalty clauses and rules relating to jurisdiction and the extradition of criminals. Provisions concerning preventive measures, including information, and assistance for children who are the victims of sexual abuse, will be important elements of the protocol.

Norway, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been actively involved since the negotiations began. Although progress was made during the negotiations in 1998, it is uncertain whether the goal of completing negotiations on the Protocol before the year 2000, which is the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, will be achieved.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child prohibits the recruitment and use of child soldiers under the age of 15, but several nations believe that the age-limit should be raised to 18. A working group established by the UN Human Rights Commission has held four sessions since 1994 to discuss a draft supplementary protocol which attempts to regulate this. The main impression from these sessions is that it is difficult to agree on new rules. Several countries have serious problems with an 18 year age-limit and it is difficult to reach compromises. Norway, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is participating actively in this process.

A large number of non-governmental organizations have joined forces in a coalition that has taken several initiatives to accelerate the process. The coalition has prepared an alternative protocol text and intends to arrange a number of regional meetings to focus more attention on the recruitment and use of child soldiers. Norway supports the work of the coalition and has, like other countries, including Sweden, provided financial assistance.

ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour

At the ILO, work is in progress to formulate a convention on the worst forms of child labour which, according to plan, will be completed at the ILO conference in June 1999. Norway has participated actively in this effort. All states that ratify the future convention will commit themselves to eliminating all extreme forms of child labour. This effort is also related to other processes to set standards (cf. above, the work being done on the two supplementary protocols to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child).

At the negotiations in June 1998, Norway was represented by the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) and the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO). Norway played an active role and emphasized, among other things, that basic education is decisively important, both to prevent child labour and to help children out of working life.

New Declaration of Principle on Basic Rights in Working Life

At its conference in June 1998, the ILO adopted a new declaration of principle on basic rights in working life. The declaration lays down that all member states, by virtue of their membership of the ILO and their adoption of the ILO Constitution, are committed to respecting, promoting and implementing the basic rights laid down in the ILO's basic conventions. They concern: freedom of organization and the right to collective negotiations, the abolition of all forms of forced labour, the effective abolition of child labour and the abolition of discrimination in working life. Norway has played an active role in work on the Declaration.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

There is currently no appeals procedure in connection with CEDAW. An appeals procedure will be a useful instrument to enforce women's human rights and on this basis, in 1996, the UN appointed a working group under the Commission on the Status of Women to prepare a draft for a voluntary supplementary protocol to CEDAW relating to individual right of appeal and investigation procedures. Significant progress was made during the negotiations in 1997 and 1998, but many points are still outstanding. Norway has been actively involved since the beginning of the negotiations. The Nordic countries cooperate closely on the work of preparing a supplementary protocol.

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)

A working group was established in 1994 to prepare a supplementary protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (CAT). The intention is to establish a sub-committee under the Committee against Torture which will have wider investigative powers than the Committee against Torture. The current Committee against Torture can investigate certain matters on its own authority, but the investigative procedure has several weaknesses.

The intention is for the Sub-Committee to have the authority to visit member states and inspect prisons and other institutions and speak with all relevant persons, including prisoners, patients, etc. In this connection, the sub-committee will investigate whether torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment takes place. Norway, represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has participated actively in this process, most recently at the end of September 1998 at the seventh session of the working group.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law,

at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.



Optional Protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms concerning discrimination

At the Council of Europe, work has been in progress in recent years to strengthen legal protection against discrimination by preparing a supplementary protocol to the European Human Rights Convention of 1950. In March 1998, it was decided that the Council of Europe's Steering Committee for Human Rights (CDDH) should discuss this further with a view to completing a draft protocol by 31 December 1998 at the latest. Norway, represented by the Ministry of Justice, has participated actively in these negotiations.

Declaration on Human Rights Defenders

In 1985, the UN Human Rights Commission established a working group to prepare a declaration that would strengthen the rights of human rights defenders. In 1996, the Norwegian Chairman, Jan Helgesen, was given a mandate to undertake informal consultations with member states to accelerate the process. After more than twelve years of negotiations, the parties finally reached agreement and at the Human Rights Commission in 1998 a draft declaration on human rights defenders was adopted by consensus. The draft declaration will be submitted to the UN General Assembly in autumn 1998. A final resolution at the UN would be regarded as a worthy celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Fundamental Standards of Humanity

Experience has shown that several of the provisions of human rights conventions are frequently set aside by member states when internal unrest occurs and, at the initiative of the Nordic countries, work is in progress in the UN system to focus attention on the fact that certain minimum humanitarian standards apply to all member states in all situations. This work is entitled "Fundamental Standards of Humanity" and at the Human Rights Commission in 1997 it was decided that the UN Secretary General would carry out an analytical study on this topic. The analytical study has now been completed and at the Human Rights Commission in 1998, pursuant to a Norwegian proposal, a resolution was adopted to prepare a follow-up report to the study.

Economic, social and cultural rights

There have been discussions as to whether a supplementary protocol should be attached to the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which provides for individual appeal for contraventions of the provisions of the Covenant. A draft supplementary protocol prepared by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was distributed for consultation in 1997, but it had a lukewarm reception. The matter was discussed at the Human Rights Commission in 1998, but no working group has so far been established to do further work on this matter.

The Permanent International Criminal Court

The statutes of the International Criminal Court were adopted in Rome on 17 July 1998. Norway was one of the prime movers in this effort, both during the negotiations in Rome and also at regional and bilateral meetings beforehand. The result of the negotiations is regarded as historic because the idea of a permanent, international criminal court of this nature has existed at the UN since 1948. The Court will have the power to prosecute and sentence individuals who have committed serious international crimes, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. The tribunal is therefore not a human rights tribunal. It is intended to be an important contribution towards democratization, the rule of law and peace-building after armed conflicts. The statutes were signed by Norway on 28 August 1998 and preparations for Norwegian ratification have begun. During this period, Norway has also supported the UN's two ad hoc tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda.

Increasing internationalization is taking Norwegian companies to a growing number of countries and regions. The private sector is also becoming increasingly involved through the establishment of new enterprises, acquisitions and joint ventures rather than merely through trade. Moreover, consumers have become more concerned about where products are produced. They expect Norwegian companies to be aware of their social responsibilities whether they invest in Norway or, for example, in poor countries in Africa. Among the companies themselves and their organizations, there is a growing awareness of ethical issues in general and human rights in particular. The human rights situation is increasingly important when assessing the political stability of a country, and thereby the risk of interruptions in economic activity.

Human rights in relation to the private sector are high on the Norwegian government's agenda. The Government expects Norwegian companies to maintain the same high standards as regards labour rights, the environment and related issues abroad as they do in Norway.

There is broad agreement between the authorities and the private sector that UN sanctions against countries that contravene human rights in a particularly brutal manner must be enforced. The Government also requests Norwegian companies to be cautious about investing in countries where human rights abuse is particularly grave. This especially applies when there are no possibilities for dialogue on improving the situation. Today, Burma comes into this category, and the Government has therefore explicitly requested companies to avoid contacts with this regime. However, the situation in Iran, and even more in Nigeria, appears to be moving in a positive direction and - if the improvement continues - this should have consequences for the restrictions that are imposed on relations with these countries.

In certain other cases where the Government wishes to influence the situation by exerting economic and political pressure, it may be necessary to withhold aid funds or export guarantees. For example, this was Norway's reaction to India's and Pakistan's nuclear tests earlier this year. Boycotts and other negative instruments are used when there do not appear to be other effective channels of influence and where it is possible to achieve broad international support for sanctions. However, this type of reaction must not be a goal in itself. We shall therefore constantly have to undertake individual assessments in each case of what will achieve the best results, the "whip" or the "carrot", i.e. negative or positive instruments. It is the results for the victims of human rights violations that count.

In summer 1998, the Government initiated an overall review of the use of instruments in the human rights field in which the question of under what circumstances the "whip" or the "carrot" has the best effect played an important role. The review will provide part of the basis for the Government's Human Rights Action Plan, due to be published in spring 1999.

It is a common challenge for the Norwegian authorities, business and industry, the trade union movement and non-governmental organizations to make more use of the opportunities created by their presence in countries with serious human rights problems. That is why it is gratifying to note that business organisations are already actively involved in human rights issues. Among other things, in cooperation with the Norwegian branch of Amnesty International, the Confederation of Norwe-

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to

attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.



PHOTO: RIGER BERTANDINTRA MEDIA BILDERRA

gian Business and Industry (NHO) has prepared a check-list for companies considering establishing business abroad. The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) has long been concerned about human rights, the main focus naturally being on labour rights. Trade union organizations have been particularly active in connection with child labour and the formulation of stricter international standards in this area.

The Norwegian Trade Council has initiated efforts to draw up internal guidelines on human rights issues and to raise the awareness of its employees regarding such issues. The Trade Council provides companies with advice based on official assessments of human rights and environmental issues. In connection with the establishment of a Norwegian Trade Council office in Turkey in 1997, meetings were arranged between human rights organizations and prominent Turkish businessmen.

KOMpakt

In order to further increase awareness relating to the private sector and human rights, in December 1997 the Government appointed The Consultative Body for Human Rights and Norwegian Economic Involvement Abroad, abbreviated to KOMpakt. This body comprises representatives of the Confederation of Norwegian Business and Industry (NHO), the Federation of Norwegian Commercial and Service Enterprises (HSH), the Norwegian Trade Council, the oil companies' organization (INTSOK), the Norwegian Shipowners Association, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Vocational Unions (YS), Amnesty International, the Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression, the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations, the Forum for Development and Environment, Redd Barna (Norwegian Save the Children), the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights, the Chr. Michelsen Institute, the Centre for Development and Environment as well as representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

The purpose of KOMpakt is to contribute towards the development of thinking and action in the interface between Norway's overall economic involvement abroad and human rights. This applies to both where and how Norway is involved. Views on strategies and instruments will often differ. The intention is therefore not to achieve agreement, but to gain increased insight into the various parties' views and know-how. Consequently, it is hardly realistic, at least in the short term, to expect to arrive at common, binding human rights guidelines for economic activities abroad. However, it is desirable to arrive at the broadest possible consensus concerning how various human rights issues can and should be handled. The Government's hope and expectation is that, through KOMpakt, companies will have a more robust basis for their internationalization strategies and practical investments. At the same time, human rights organizations will have improved insights into the problems and considerations companies have to deal with when they consider investing abroad, and greater opportunities for influencing them.

Parallel with the plenary sessions of KOMpakt, three working groups have been established to work on normative, commercial and political challenges in this area. The groups are chaired by representatives of business and industry, the trade union movement and non-governmental organizations, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as rapporteur. Seminars are arranged on topical issues. At the end of November 1998, KOMpakt arranged an open meeting on the opportunities and limitations of using the boycott as an instrument of human rights policy.

The Norwegian Government Petroleum Fund

The Government is currently working to supplement the guidelines for the management of the Norwegian Government Petroleum Fund with a view to achieving greater focus on human rights and the environment. The Government's goal has been to find practical solutions that make such changes possible while at the same time taking into account important considerations relating to risk spreading and risk management. The Government will revert to the question of environmental guidelines for the management of the Petroleum Fund in the revised fiscal budget for 1999. As regards the guidelines for ethics and human rights, the Government has considered several alternatives. In the course of 1998, no ways have been found of doing this which meet the necessary requirements as regards clarity, consistency and practicality, and which can therefore be recommended to the Storting. Work in this area will have to continue in 1999. Supplementary guidelines for the Petroleum Fund which take into account human rights and environmental considerations will be the main theme of the fifth plenary session of KOMpakt in mid-December 1998.

The Norwegian Government Petroleum Fund may only be invested in shares listed on stock exchanges in countries that have well-functioning, liquid financial markets and adequate company, stock exchange and securities legislation, and in bonds issued by such countries. In the regulations for the management of the Fund, twenty-one such countries have been listed. In the Government's opinion, it will be natural to review the list with a view to extending the number of countries in which the Petroleum Fund may be invested. Countries that may come under consideration include South Africa and certain countries in Eastern Europe, South America and Asia. Any change in the list of countries can be implemented from 1 January 2000.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.
2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Human rights in cooperation with other countries

Norway is widely involved in efforts to promote human rights in other countries. A broad range of instruments is available for a focused human rights policy adapted to the situation in each individual country. Each country's situation is unique and the use of instruments must reflect this if we are to achieve the best possible results - in the sense of improved rights for vulnerable individuals and groups. This is a demanding, ambitious goal which requires expertise and the will to become actively involved. In ranking priorities between countries, we must also consider where we have the best opportunities of achieving results. At the same time, Norway makes its views known in all cases of human rights abuse. The range of instruments covers political, economic, development aid and multilateral measures and combinations of all of these. The use of instruments is also viewed in conjunction with what other countries do, and various channels for using these instruments are also considered.

Political instruments include political efforts in many international fora, for example at the UN, and political talks with the leaders of other countries. The Norwegian authorities may choose to visit - or not to visit - a country, to have talks at high or low level, to address - or not address - human rights issues. In political talks it is possible to address both general problems and individual cases. To this may be added the Norwegian authorities' contacts with opposition movements, human rights organizations and other non-governmental organizations and, for example, contacts in the field of sport.

Economic instruments are intended to influence trade with and investments in other countries. A full economic boycott has seldom been used and is only relevant when the UN Security Council adopts binding sanctions. The Security Council may only pass a resolution to introduce a boycott in situations that threaten international peace and security. Norway is bound by international law to conform to such resolutions. On the other hand, Norway has been careful about introducing unilateral Norwegian measures.

In certain cases, the Norwegian authorities have requested Norwegian companies to avoid becoming involved in a country because of the human rights situation. Norway has also proposed international boycotts of countries. Moreover, Norway has possibilities of using - or not using - instruments intended to promote trade and investment, for example the General System of Preferences.

Development aid for developing countries helps to promote economic, social and cultural rights by contributing towards improving the income base, social welfare and education. Some development aid has also been provided for measures to promote democracy, improve the human rights situation and strengthen elements of civil society, either through official channels or through non-governmental organizations. Moreover, as a human rights policy instrument, development aid can be reduced, the focus can be changed, or Norway can cease to provide aid. However, these measures have drastic consequences.

The purpose of working in multilateral fora is to influence countries to conform to existing commitments and to further develop international regulations through new conventions and supplementary provisions. The UN, the OSCE and the Council of Europe are the most important multilateral fora in the human rights area. The ILO has mechanisms for monitoring standards in working life.

Dialogue on human rights with a regime that violates human rights means that Norway addresses both issues of principle and individual cases, expresses critical views and offers guidance, and often cooperation on projects, to improve the situation. A dialogue also includes cooperation with and between non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and others. Under a broad definition of the term, human rights dialogue might be said to mean involvement in human rights issues in a country above and beyond expressing disapproval in international fora. In committed dialogue with a country, Norway has a better foundation for expressing criticism without its motives being suspect. Dialogue does not mean that Norway is reserved and evasive, quite the contrary. A dialogue requires a partner who is willing to listen and respond.

In addition to direct cooperation with the authorities of other countries, the Norwegian authorities work closely with Norwegian, local and international non-governmental organizations in the human rights field and, as described above, with multilateral agencies. Non-governmental organizations engage in broad cooperation and have a network of contacts in other countries. In many countries, local human rights activists work at personal risk and under difficult conditions to strengthen freedom of expression, trade union rights and other rights. They deserve our respect and support and, with this type of support from Norway, they can also act as channels for Norwegian involvement in human rights issues.

The efforts of many Norwegian NGOs play a vital role in providing technical assistance, financial contributions and political support for individuals, sister organizations and human rights organizations in many parts of the world. Non-governmental organizations often have the opportunity to establish contacts and provide assis-

tance in ways that the authorities are unable to do. In Norway, we have a basic belief that strong NGOs are a positive force in building a society with democratic institutions and involving the participation of large parts of the population at all levels.

In many countries, organizations that are critical are regarded as a threat and accused of anti-social behaviour. The authorities of such countries also disapprove of foreign financing of such organizations, particularly by the authorities of other countries. Norway has provided various forms of financial support for human rights measures implemented by Norwegian and international organizations. Norwegian assistance has also been provided for local NGOs, both directly and through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund, which was established by the major humanitarian organizations. Moreover, Norwegian assistance has been provided for organizations that collect and disseminate information about human rights abuse, provide assistance for the victims of such abuse, run training courses for teachers, lawyers, journalists, doctors and other groups, organize measures to strengthen freedom of expression etc.

Substantial assistance has also been provided for independent media, including newspapers and radio broadcasts. This is not only an expression of support for freedom of expression but also a possible spur to mobilization and motivation for further human rights efforts in countries where serious human rights abuses occur. Freedom of expression is a vital factor in efforts to safeguard other human rights. Free media are extremely important for social development. In countries where the authorities largely control and manipulate the media, assistance from external donors may help to make alternative information available.

Respect for human rights has been the foundation of all relations with other countries. The Norwegian authorities' challenge is, and has been, to find a combination of the most suitable instruments in a given situation. The following is a description of the use of such instruments vis-à-vis other countries in the last year. Special reference is made to Norway's priority partner countries in development cooperation in the next chapter.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Some of the countries in this region are suffering from war, hunger and hardship. In situations like these, human rights are particularly vulnerable and measures in the human rights area are affected. In emergency situations, the primary obligation must be to meet basic needs and thereafter to consider how Norway can contribute towards the fulfilment of and respect for all human rights. However, in many countries the human rights challenges are different and fulfilment of and respect for human rights, or the lack of such fulfilment and respect, are part of a more long-term trend.

One important objective of Norwegian involvement in the **Great Lakes Region**, both political and humanitarian, is to support peace and reconciliation processes that may contribute towards regional and national political stability. It is based on the premise that political stability in the region can only be secured by measures that help to promote peace, reconciliation, democratic development and respect for human rights.

Norway's strategy for the Great Lakes Region focuses on measures to increase the region's capacity in the field of conflict resolution, reconciliation and peace-keeping activities. In accordance with this strategy, Norway has provided assistance for the efforts of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to develop capacity and expertise in this area. Assistance has also been provided for the OAU's "Panel of Eminent Personalities" to investigate the genocide in Rwanda.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.



PHOTO: NOEL QUIDININTRA MEDIA BILDERRA

Assistance has been provided for measures that can help to reduce the danger of violent conflicts in the area, such as the demobilization of soldiers in Rwanda through the UNDP and practical measures such as a seminar on practical disarmament measures under the auspices of the UN. Assistance has also been provided for the international investigative commission for Rwanda.

In **Rwanda**, Norway has supported various types of reconciliation and trust-building measures at both national and local level, partly through the UN system and the Red Cross and partly through Norwegian non-governmental organizations.

- Up until the time it had to withdraw from Rwanda, the Human Rights Field Operation for Rwanda (HRFOR) received both financial contributions and personnel.
- The International Tribunal for Rwanda has received both personnel and equipment. This ended with the phasing out of all seconded personnel, and the last Norwegian investigator left the tribunal around February 1998. The Norwegian judge Erik Møse was elected to the International Tribunal for Rwanda in November 1998.
- Assistance has been provided for the development of the judicial system through the International Red Cross and Norwegian People's Aid.

During the visit of the Minister of International Development and Human Rights to Rwanda in January 1998, the talks focused on human rights and the security situation.

In **Burundi**, Norway has provided assistance for regional arbitration efforts led by Tanzania's former President Nyerere, and for the St. Egidio Foundation's arbitration activities. Moreover, assistance was provided for:

- The work of the Human Rights Field Operation in Burundi (HRFOB).
- The current programme under the auspices of the Nordic Africa Institute for the exchange of parliamentarians between the Nordic countries and Burundi.

The human rights situation in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** gives cause for concern. In the last year, Norway has supported the following:

- The Human Rights Office in Kinshasa, which is to investigate allegations of massacres of Rwandan refugees.
- The UN-appointed investigative commission, with personnel, equipment and direct financial contributions.
- Democracy measures through Norwegian humanitarian organizations, such as voter education through the Pentecostal Mission of Norway.

In the **Sudan**, serious human rights violations have been taking place for many years, among other things due to the long civil war. The war is also one of the main reasons for the serious famine in parts of southern Sudan in the last year. As a consequence of the famine, Norway has substantially increased emergency relief to the Sudan and has actively contributed towards supporting the effort to find a peaceful solution. The Minister of International Development and Human Rights visited the Sudan in May 1998 and at that time expressed serious concern about the human rights situation in the country, both to the government and to the rebel movement SPLM/SPLA. She is currently acting head of the IGAD Partners Forum, which is the donor countries' organization to support the peace process.

The human rights situation in **Angola** gives cause for concern. Through UNICEF, Norway has provided assistance for the Angolan Ministry of Justice's campaign to issue identity cards to children. Norwegian assistance has also been provided for:

- Independent media and the independent teachers' union,
- Local organizations and religious congregations as spokesmen for civil society.

The Minister of International Development and Human Rights discussed the human rights situation with the Angolan authorities during her visit to Angola in February 1998.

In the **Ivory Coast** in the last year, Norway has supported the effort to achieve a moratorium on hand guns in the region, which also includes the **Gambia, Guinea, Burkina Faso** and **Senegal**. Assistance has been provided for basic human rights by providing emergency relief to **Sierra Leone** and **Liberia**.

In **Mali**, Norwegian assistance is provided for human rights education in schools. Norwegian NGOs are running several projects aimed at promoting the rights and participation of women. Norwegian assistance is also provided for the peace process in northern Mali.

After the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, Norway's involvement in human rights in **Kenya** in the last year has been concentrated on the rights of women and the role of women in the current process of constitutional change. Norwegian assistance has been provided for a project to provide medical treatment for and rehabilitate newly-released prisoners who have been abused in prisons.

During her visit to Kenya in May 1998, the Minister of International Development and Human Rights raised the issue of human rights violations in Kenya. She also paved the way for future Norwegian contributions in this area.

In **Namibia**, Norway has provided support for a media institute run by a group of independent journalists and others working for a free press. Norwegian aid has also been provided for a voter education programme under the auspices of the Namibian Prime Minister. Much of the development assistance that focuses on women and social development has a human rights element. The Norwegian authorities have raised the issue of Himba rights in connection with planned development of the Kunene River.

The human rights situation in **Nigeria** has been giving cause for extreme concern for several years, not least under the former military regime of General Abacha. Norway has provided substantial aid for Nigerian human rights and democracy groups, both in Nigeria and in exile. Norwegian assistance for organizations that have been active inside Nigeria has largely been channelled through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund. Dialogue has taken place with Statoil concerning the company's involvement in Nigeria and the human rights situation.

After the death of General Abacha in June this year, there has been a remarkable improvement in the human rights situation and preparations are now under way for free elections and a transition to civilian, democratic government by the end of May 1999. In future, due to the new situation, Norway will be able to use quite different instruments than before to support human rights and democratization measures in Nigeria.

Norwegian assistance for human rights measures in **South Africa** are based on the solidarity efforts that were established in the anti-Apartheid era. Substantial assistance has been provided through Norwegian and local NGOs. In the last year, mention might also be made of the following:

- Technical and financial assistance for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, whose report was presented at the end of October 1998, including assistance for nation-wide radio broadcasts in all the local languages from the Commission's hearings.
- Assistance for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) regional conference on violence against women.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.



PHOTO: SONIA KUNZ/MAUSWITZ



PHOTO: OLE BERNT FRØSHOLG/SAMFOTO

- Assistance for regional investigations into the abuse of children in war, for various conferences and for a centre for torture victims.
- Assistance to different democracy projects, including support for AWEPA, support for the South African parliament and support for local democracy development.

In the last year, a total of more than NOK 55 million has been disbursed for human rights measures in South Africa. The Norwegian and South African authorities have otherwise kept in close touch about international human rights problems, particularly at the last meeting of the Human Rights Commission, and these matters were also discussed at political talks during the state visit to South Africa in February 1998. There has been very close cooperation with South Africa on the formulation and implementation of the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines.

Through its support for Penal Reform International, Norway has funded a special rapporteur on prison conditions in **Africa on a regional** basis for a two-year period. So far, the special rapporteur has completed a number of study tours, including visits to Zimbabwe, Mali, Mozambique and Madagascar. During these visits, the special rapporteur had meetings with prisoners, national authorities and non-governmental organizations. Problems and abuses have been documented, and in some cases the visit has led to improved prison conditions.

Asia and Oceania

Like other western countries, Norway has strongly criticised the Taliban regime's discrimination against women in **Afghanistan**, including the lack of access of girls and women to education and employment outside the home. The Norwegian authorities have addressed the situation of Afghan women with the Taliban on a bilateral basis and through support for UN resolutions and EU statements and in interventions at the UN. Norway has clearly stated that discrimination on the basis of gender, race or religion is unacceptable. Norway has offered to finance 10-12 separate schools for girls. Women's issues in Afghanistan have also been in focus on the agenda of the Afghanistan Donor Support Group, where Norway plays a leading role. In this case, Norway took the initiative for the démarche of the donor countries vis-à-vis the Taliban régime and submitted a joint statement on behalf of the Group to the Kabul authorities in August 1998.

Norway has made it clear to the recipients of Norwegian financial aid for projects in Afghanistan that projects containing elements of discrimination against women will be stopped.

Norwegian funds have been provided for human rights efforts in **Bhutan** through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund, mainly to promote the rights of women and children.

The situation in **Burma** is being closely followed by Norwegian public opinion and by many non-governmental organizations, and an active group of exiles is monitoring the situation in Burma. Parliamentarians are also making efforts to increase political pressure on the military regime by participating in PD Burma, the international network that was headed by Kjell Magne Bondevik until he became Prime Minister.

The death of the Honorary Consul General in Rangoon for Norway, Denmark, Finland and Switzerland, James Leander Nichols, in a Burmese prison in 1996 has led to increased Norwegian and international pressure on the regime. This case has been followed up with the Burmese authorities, through the UN system and in cooperation with the other countries for which Nichols was Consul. Norway again raised this mat-

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as

to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

ter with the Burmese authorities at a meeting at the Burmese Foreign Office in April 1998, but received a dismissive response. In the UN Human Rights Commission's resolution on Burma of April 1998, the Burmese authorities are requested to investigate the circumstances of Nichols' death and prosecute those responsible. As a follow-up to this resolution, in May 1998 Norway applied to the Human Rights Commission's Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, the Special Rapporteur on torture and the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights requesting that measures be implemented to investigate the circumstances around Nichols' death. The matter was also addressed in August 1998 in contacts with the UN Secretary General's special envoy to Burma.

Norway was co-sponsor of the resolution on Burma at the session of the UN Human Rights Commission in April 1998. Foreign Minister Knut Vollebæk also expressed serious concern about the Burmese authorities' suppression of the opposition in a letter to the UN Deputy Secretary General for political affairs dated 11 August 1998. Norway has also supported EU declarations on the situation in Burma and, like the EU member countries, introduced visa restrictions on visits from Burma, restrictions on visits to Burma and an arms embargo and excepted Burma from the Generalized System of Preferences for developing countries (GSP).

In the case of political measures, Norway has stayed in close touch with the democratic movement in Burma and with the Burmese exile government and associated organizations. Norway has protested against the Burmese authorities' treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi, particularly in connection with her attempts to travel in Burma. Norway has also brought up the situation in Burma with the authorities of other countries, among other things through requests to the authorities in the ASEAN capitals to use their influence in Rangoon to persuade the regime to initiate a reconciliation and democratization process, including dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi.

Substantial financial assistance has been provided for the Burmese opposition, including through the Norwegian Cooperative Committee for Burma. Norway has provided support for the living expenses of Burmese refugees in Thailand. In addition to aid for refugees and other humanitarian aid, in 1997 and 1998 increasing amounts of assistance have been allocated to support Burmese democratic forces, both politically and organizationally.

The Norwegian Government has requested Norwegian companies not to trade with or invest in Burma. This is a follow-up to the democratic opposition's request for a boycott of the country and a consequence of the fact that the Burmese authorities have so far been unwilling to enter into a dialogue on human rights issues. Norwegian companies appear to have largely acceded to this request .

Norway's efforts in the **Philippines** have been focused on supporting peace and democracy in Mindanao, among other things by supporting a UNDP project to integrate former Muslim soldiers in civil society. Assistance has also been provided for a study on the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front. The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions has initiated various projects to strengthen trade union rights in the Philippines. Assistance has also been provided for NGOs working to improve the living conditions of children.

The main focus of Norwegian efforts to support human rights in **India** have been related to four comprehensive child labour projects. Assistance has also been provided for studies on peace and good governance and the refugee problem, the presence and work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kashmir and various NGOs, through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund.



As a consequence of India's nuclear tests in May 1998, Norway has decided not to enter into any new government-to-government agreements, such as aid projects, unless they are poverty-oriented or likely to improve the human rights situation.

Assistance for Tibetan exiles is channelled through India, see below.

At both political and official level, the Norwegian authorities have on numerous occasions expressed their concern about the human rights situation in **Indonesia** to the Indonesian authorities. Foreign Minister Vollebæk discussed the human rights situation, including East Timor, with his colleague Ali Alatas at a meeting in New York in September and expressed his hope that the new Indonesian government will take the initiative to implement political and economic reforms that ensure respect for human rights. The Indonesian authorities have prepared a national human rights action plan and have entered into a memorandum of understanding with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning assistance for this plan. Norway has offered the Indonesian authorities its support for measures under the action plan.

Indonesian organizations have received assistance to follow up the conference on child labour in Oslo. Norway has also followed up the case of formerly imprisoned trade union leader Muchtar Pakpahans by attending the trial, visiting him in hospital and raising his case with the Indonesian authorities. Mr. Pakpahans was released after Mr. Habibie became President in May 1998. The Norwegian authorities have taken part in several conferences and meetings on human rights in Indonesia and have been in regular contact with Indonesian human rights groups.

The Norwegian authorities have been closely following the human rights situation in Indonesia and on **East Timor**. Caritas is the main channel of aid for East Timor, where the Church plays an active role in social development and supports democratic processes. Caritas focuses on health and education. Another important channel for aid to East Timor is the Red Cross, which works in the field of prison visiting, the protection of individuals, tracing missing persons and health activities. Moreover, in the human rights area, the Norwegian Students' and Academics' International Assistance Fund has in 1997 and 1998 been a channel of aid for Ramos Horta's East Timor International Support Center.

As regards the human rights situation in **Cambodia**, Norway has expressed its support for the King's and the opposition parties' efforts to re-establish democracy and ensure peaceful development. After the takeover of power in Cambodia in summer 1997, new Norwegian aid will only be provided for projects that promote democratic development and human rights. Support has been provided for UN agencies and for several Cambodian NGOs working in the field of human rights. Humanitarian projects under the auspices of Norwegian NGOs have also included human rights components. Norway financed election observers in connection with the July 1998 elections and contributed funds to the UN in connection with the election itself. At the request of the UNHCR, Norwegian embassy personnel have acted as observers several times in connection with the repatriation of exile politicians and refugees from Thailand to Cambodia.

In recent years, Norway has made active efforts to involve the Chinese authorities in a genuine political dialogue on human rights. Part of this dialogue is the current Round Table Conference on the rule of law and human rights, the second round of which took place in Beijing in June 1998. The Norwegian delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Vollebæk and included the Director General of Public Prosecutions and representatives of the Supreme Court, the Norwegian Bar Association, the Confederation of

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and

is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Norwegian Business and Industry, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions and the University of Oslo. At the round table conference there was an open, fruitful discussion on the human rights situation in **China**.

During the round table conference, bilateral meetings also took place between Foreign Minister Vollebæk and the Chinese Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen and Justice Minister Gao Changli where individual cases were raised and possible cooperative projects were discussed.

During the state visit to China in October 1997 several human rights-related activities took place. Human rights were discussed with President Jiang Zemin and Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen. Bilateral meetings were also arranged for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Parliamentary Ombudsman, the Gender Equality Ombud and the Director of the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights, where human rights issues were addressed.

Otherwise the Director General of Public Prosecutions visited China in June 1998, spoke on the basic principles for the work of the prosecuting authority in Norway and expressed his views on Chinese practices. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Special Adviser on Human Rights visited China in January 1998 and raised the human rights situation with the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the prosecuting authority and the police department, and with the China Society for Human Rights, a government-sanctioned non-governmental organization.

Human rights dialogue has been put into practice in several cooperative projects:

- The Norwegian Institute for Human Rights cooperates with Chinese universities on the development of curricula and courses for human rights education and a research project on the rule of law principles. The Institute for Human Rights has also arranged several seminars on relevant human rights themes for Chinese bureaucrats and academics.
- Grants have been provided for students in Kunming, Yunnan Province, to promote the right of minorities to higher education, and Chinese students have been invited to participate at the University of Oslo Summer School.
- Norway has proposed a project for training medical staff in the police, prison and judicial services, in cooperation with the Norwegian Medical Association. Norwegian assistance will also be provided for a project proposed by the Chinese to promote social, economic and cultural rights in Yunnan Province.

Norway's interventions on human rights at the UN General Assembly in autumn 1997 and the UN Human Rights Commission in spring 1998 reflected, in addition to the matters addressed in the dialogue, criticism of the human rights situation in China in general.

Human rights dialogue with China has also given Norway the opportunity to address the issue of **Tibet** at top level. The human rights situation in Tibet has been a central theme during most political talks between representatives of the Norwegian and Chinese authorities. There was strong focus on the Tibetans' situation, both internationally and in Norwegian political debate, in connection with the hunger strike of exile Tibetans in Dharamsala, northern India, in April-May 1998. Their situation was most recently raised by Foreign Minister Vollebæk during talks with China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in New York at the end of September 1998. The Norwegian authorities have been urging the authorities in Beijing to initiate a dialogue with the Dalai Lama for several years. Moreover, Norway has emphasized the importance of freedom of religion, the preservation of cultural traditions and the right to receive education in their mother tongue in Tibet. Individual cases have also been raised.

Norway has provided financial support for activities under the auspices of the Dalai Lama and Tibetan exile groups and for seminars on human rights and democracy at the Tibetan centre for human rights in Dharamsala. A network for cooperation between universities in Tibet and Norway, established in 1994, has received assistance for projects to preserve Tibetan culture and identity by increasing the expertise of Tibetan researchers.

In **Laos**, Norway is supporting a project to strengthen the capacity of the Laotian national assembly. The project contains important elements that are intended to promote democratic development and institution-building.

Norway has requested **Malaysia** to accede to the UN's two basic human rights conventions, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR) of 1966 and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). Norway has expressed its concern about the handling of the case against former Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim and the use of the Internal Security Act. Norway has also raised the situation in Burma with the Malaysian authorities.

In the last year, Norway has provided substantial humanitarian aid to **North Korea**. In the light of systematic, widespread human rights abuse in the country, Norway has pointed out that it expects aid to be administered according to internationally recognized principles. To the North Korean authorities, Norway has also pointed to the need for reforms, including democratization, openness and respect for human rights, most recently in a letter from Acting Prime Minister Anne Inger Lahnstein to Kim Jong Il in September 1998.

Within the framework of bilateral cooperation between Norway and **Pakistan**, efforts to strengthen human rights are a very important element. The rights of women and children are particularly important. Norwegian assistance is channelled to important national non-governmental organizations, including assistance for efforts to promote the rights of women and children and gather evidence of human rights violations. In the last year, cooperation has also been established with the Pakistani authorities, both through multilateral agencies (UNDP and ILO) and directly.

Financial assistance has been provided for the Pakistani authorities' human rights programme, focusing on the rights of women and children and the training of civil servants. Assistance has also been provided for a project under the auspices of the ILO which aims to build up expertise on human rights in public institutions, employers' and employees' organizations and a limited number of NGOs. The rights of women and children, including child labour, are an important element of this project. A project under the auspices of the UNDP supported by Norway aims to foster greater, more democratic participation in political processes.

Respect for human rights, including focus on child labour, is also an integral part of other types of project.

In spring 1998, Norway supported an EU appeal that was made in reaction to a death sentence under Pakistan's blasphemy laws. Norway has raised the issue of human rights violations, including the situation of the Ahmadiyya Muslims, with the Pakistani authorities and is otherwise closely following the political situation in connection with the introduction of the Koran etc. as overriding legislation.

As a result of Pakistan's nuclear tests in May 1998, Norway has decided not to en-

ter into any new government-to-government agreements on aid projects until further notice, unless they are poverty-oriented or likely to improve the human rights situation.

The human rights situation in **South Korea** has improved considerably in the last decade, but human rights violations still occur. In the last year, Norway has raised with the South Korean authorities the case of a political prisoner who was subsequently released, and discussed the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines.

In connection with Prime Minister Bondevik's official visit to **Thailand** in February 1998, the Norwegian government offered support to the Thai government for the strengthening of human rights legislation. In autumn 1997, the Norwegian authorities were consulted in connection with the preparation of a new, more democratic constitution in Thailand and the Norwegian constitution was partly used as a model. In 1998, Norwegian assistance has been provided for a distance learning programme on the new constitution for local and regional government.

State Secretary Leiv Lunde took part in a conference on human rights and business ethics in Bangkok in October 1998. Norway has supported Thailand's initiative to promote a more open foreign policy in ASEAN countries and ASEAN's attitude to Cambodia.

Norwegian assistance has been provided to cover the living expenses of Burmese and Cambodian refugees in Thailand.

Vietnam is affected by a lack of democracy and transparency. Norway wishes to develop a human rights dialogue with Vietnam and discussed this matter at civil servant level in April 1998. A seminar for officials from the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs that was held in Norway covered topics such as democracy and government administration. Norway is considering extending the seminar programme to include officials from other areas of the government administration. In the field of human rights, Norway has also provided financial support for:

- A project to reform central and local government in Ninh Binh Province.
- A project to develop legislation for non-governmental organizations.
- Primary education for bilingual ethnic minorities.

Norway has been following the situation for political prisoners in Vietnam and has raised the case of one prisoner in particular, among other things through a joint Nordic appeal to the Vietnamese authorities in July this year. The prisoner concerned was released shortly afterwards. The Minister of International Development and Human Rights raised human rights issues, including those relating to ethnic minorities, the rights of children and the follow-up to international human rights conventions, during her visit to Vietnam in October 1998. The Vietnamese responses to a proposal for cooperation on the rule of law were also positive.

America

Norway has been strongly involved in work on human rights, peace and democratization issues in **Guatemala**. As an important participant in the Guatemalan peace process, Norway has established a broad network of contacts among politicians, in the armed forces and in the government administration. This network has frequently been used to raise human rights issues. Foreign Minister Vollebæk visited Guatemala in autumn 1997. At that time he discussed human rights issues with President Arzú and Foreign Minister Stein. To the Truth Commission, he underscored the significance of its work and the importance of addressing the injustices

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.



PHOTO: ALVARO DE LEIVA/AGEFOTO/STOCK/KNIPS



PHOTO: HARALD BRAKER/NORWATCH



of the past. The same was done during President Arzú's visit to Norway in October 1998.

Aid has been used as an important instrument in supporting the peace process in Guatemala. Immediately after the peace agreement was signed, Norway provided NOK 23 million for demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration measures. Approximately 80 per cent of Norwegian aid, which amounts to some NOK 100 million per year, has subsequently been spent on measures to promote peace, respect for human rights, democracy and good governance. Substantial Norwegian funding has also been provided for the UN verification legation that is monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement (MINUGUA). Moreover, Norway has been one of the most important contributors to the work of the Truth Commission.

The Norwegian authorities have emphasized to the Guatemalan authorities the importance of investigating the murder of Bishop Gerardi, one of Guatemala's most prominent human rights activists.

The internal conflict in **Colombia**, which has lasted for nearly forty years, primarily affects civil society. In recent years Colombia has received more humanitarian aid from Norway than any other country in Latin America. Aid is mainly channelled through the Norwegian Red Cross, to the International Committee of the Red Cross and through the Norwegian Refugee Council. Norwegian assistance comprises efforts to promote respect for international humanitarian law and human rights, work with internally displaced persons and support for umbrella organizations in civil society. Assistance has also been provided for the national reconciliation commission which is working to find a negotiated solution to the conflict in Colombia.

In 1998, the Norwegian authorities have been involved in political dialogue with **Cuba** and human rights violations was one of the topics that was addressed. In this connection, during State Secretary Janne Haaland Matlary's visit to Cuba in September 1998, a press seminar was held in Havana for journalists from Norway and Cuba.

The Norwegian authorities have brought up the human rights situations in Chiapas, **Mexico**, several times in the last year. The conflict in Chiapas was discussed with the Mexican authorities during State Secretary Harriet Berg's visit in December 1997 and during talks between State Secretary Matlary and Deputy Minister Moreno in Oslo in July 1998. In connection with the deportation of three Norwegians from Mexico in April 1998, the Norwegian authorities expressed their concern about the situation in Chiapas. Norwegian financial assistance has been provided for projects through the Norwegian Human Rights Fund.

In **El Salvador**, Norwegian aid has particularly focused on human rights-related measures such as legal aid, education in citizens' rights and assistance for studies in connection with the follow-up to the peace agreement. With representatives of Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, Norway has also participated in the Salvadoran Human Rights Ombudsman's "Group of Friends", which is supporting the activities and position of the Ombudsman's office. In **Honduras**, all aid has been channelled to supporting the Human Rights Ombudsman.

In **Venezuela**, Norway has provided support for the training of neighbourhood police in Caracas on human rights issues and for information on human rights targeting young people. Both projects are being implemented under the auspices of a Venezuelan human rights organization.

Assistance has also been provided for the work of regional and national human

rights organizations such as the Inter-American human rights organization IIDH, ALDHU and FASIC in **Ecuador**, **Chile** and elsewhere.

The Fund for Indigenous Peoples works to promote the rights of indigenous peoples on the basis of ILO Convention No. 169. The Fund channels money through non-governmental organizations and indigenous groups in **Guatemala**, **Brazil**, **Peru**, **Paraguay** and **Chile**. The Fund is administered by the Norwegian Trade Union Centre for Social Science and Research (FAFO).

Norway finds it unfortunate that the **USA** has a reservation concerning the article on the death penalty in the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR). This matter has been raised by Foreign Minister Vollebæk and the Minister of International Development and Human Rights Hilde F. Johnson in their talks with American authorities.

In May 1998, Norway entered into cooperation with **Canada** (the Lysøen Declaration) on international issues. In this connection, the two countries will cooperate particularly in the field of human rights, including themes such as children affected by war, child soldiers and child labour.

North Africa and the Middle East

The human rights situation in **Algeria** is extremely complex and unclear. With respect to attacks on the civilian population and the Algerian authorities' responsibility for protecting their citizens, Norway has pointed out that efforts to combat terrorism must be based on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

Foreign Minister Vollebæk has expressed his concern about the human rights situation in the country at meetings with Algeria's Foreign Minister and has requested Algeria to invite the UN's Special Rapporteurs on Summary or Arbitrary Executions and on Torture.

In order to enter into a dialogue on the situation, the Government has made efforts to strengthen its contacts with the Algerian authorities. An official delegation visited Algeria in January 1998 and raised several aspects of the situation with the Algerian authorities.

Among other things, Norway advised the Algerian authorities to facilitate transparency and international cooperation. Norway has provided support for a UNICEF project aimed at upgrading the Algerian health authorities' capacity for treating traumatized children in Algeria. Partly out of consideration for the safety of recipients, it has not been appropriate to support human rights projects in the country. However, assistance has been provided for seminars on the situation which have included delegates from Algeria.

The Palestinian Administered Areas are not an independent state and can therefore not be a party to international legal instruments such as the human rights conventions. Nevertheless, Norway expects the Palestinian authorities to conform to international legal custom with respect to the treatment of prisoners, freedom of expression etc. Human rights issues have been addressed as a matter of principle with the Palestinian authorities several times in the last year, among other things by Foreign Minister Vollebæk and State Secretary Lunde during their respective visits to the Palestinian Administered Areas. Norwegian Minister of International Development and Human Rights Hilde F. Johnson has received Palestinian human rights activists and raised the issue of human rights violations with members of the Palestinian government.

The Norwegian authorities have raised individual cases of human rights violations

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and

freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.



PHOTO: ASAKA RHUS/AMFOTO

with the Palestinian authorities, including political detentions. Norway protested against the Palestinian authorities for the first time carrying out two executions in August 1998 and also expressed its concern about the legal process prior to the executions. Several individual cases were followed up after claims of systematic persecution of Christian Palestinians, and Norway contributed to the investigation of the case by an independent Palestinian human rights organization. The persecution claims were not confirmed.

Norwegian financial assistance was provided for a comprehensive project to secure women's rights in new legislation that is currently being adopted, and for the establishment of a forensic laboratory. Financial assistance was also provided for several non-governmental organizations, both Palestinian and Israeli, involved in monitoring and gathering evidence of human rights violations in the Palestinian Administered Areas.

Israeli human rights organizations, the UN Committee against Torture and the International Committee of the Red Cross have all pointed out that human rights violations are taking place in **Israel**.



During Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Oslo in March 1998, Prime Minister Bondevik brought up the issue of the prison conditions of Mordechai Vanunu, who has been convicted of spying. Vanunu was moved from solitary confinement, where he had been since 1986, shortly afterwards. Prime Minister Bondevik also expressed his concern about the proposals for legislation to prohibit the work of missionaries and the limitations on freedom of expression and freedom of religion it entails. This matter has subsequently been followed up in writing. Within the framework of the AHLC/LACC, Norway regularly raised human rights issues with Israel, including the closing of borders which prevent the free movement of Palestinians. The case of a Lebanese prisoner in administrative detention was also addressed.

The fatwa against Salman Rushdie and those associated with his work has been the most important individual issue in relations with **Iran**. In protest against the Iranian government's attitude to this matter, in 1995 a number of unilateral measures were initiated against Iran; diplomatic representation was reduced and schemes to promote economic development were phased out. These measures were still in force in November 1998.

In the last year, Norway has also been actively involved in human rights in Iran on a more general level. In the UN's human rights bodies, Norway has worked vigorously to put these topics on the agenda and, apart from the fatwa, has particularly

focused on the situation of the Baháí community and certain other religious minorities. Financial support was provided for Norwegian and international organizations that have been actively protesting against the fatwa and have made general efforts to promote fulfilment of and respect for human rights.

Norway has several times pointed to the need for improved respect for basic human rights in **Iraq**. In this connection Norway has participated actively in the drafting of resolutions and declarations in the UN human rights bodies.

Foreign Minister Vollebæk has expressed concern about the human rights situation in **Libya** and has requested Norwegian companies to be cautious about entering into industrial or commercial cooperation with Libyan partners.

Norway's involvement in promoting human rights in **Yemen** in the last year have been concentrated on efforts to secure the release of the jailed author Mansur Rajih. Mansur Rajih was adopted as a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International, and the international PEN Club also became involved in the case. Norway was involved at an early stage, both diplomatically and financially, and Mansur Rajih was received as a free man by the Norwegian Minister of International Development and Human Rights, Hilde F. Johnson, in Stavanger in January 1998.

Norway has in 1998, through the UN, questioned **Saudi Arabia's** and **Oman's** general reservations to the UN International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Minister of International Development and Human Rights has also addressed the human rights situation in **Tunisia** with the Tunisian Foreign Minister and the head of the Tunisian Human Rights Commission.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek,

Europe

Norway has given high priority to human rights issues in the **Baltic countries**. Integration of the Russian-speaking population in Estonia and Latvia is an important element in the development of democracy and political stability in the Baltic region. Active assistance for Latvian enforcement of international standards in relation to human rights and citizenship issues has also contributed towards Latvia's inclusion in western cooperative structures. Norway has provided support for a wide range of integration measures and educational programmes, with particular emphasis on teaching Estonian and Latvian languages to Russian-speakers.

Norway has supported various bilateral and language projects under the auspices of the UNDP and the OSCE in the last year. Norwegian financial assistance has also been provided for the preparation of an action plan to combat poverty in Latvia (UNDP), the repatriation of illegal immigrants in Lithuania (IOM), the transfer of expertise relating to immigration and a project for social training of prisoners in the Jekabpils prison in Latvia.

In a series of bilateral talks with Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, Norway has addressed the issue of the signing and ratification of the Sixth Protocol to the European Convention on Human Rights concerning the Abolition of the Death Penalty. Norway has requested these countries to abolish this type of punishment. Estonia ratified the Sixth Protocol in spring 1998, Latvia signed in June, while Lithuania has so far neither signed nor ratified it.

Norway supports human rights efforts in **Albania** through several channels, both through bilateral aid and by supporting the work of the OSCE and the Council of Europe in Albania. With respect to bilateral measures, Norway supports the Alban-



ian centre for human rights. Assistance has also been provided for an NGO Centre in Gironkastrë and for a conference on minority issues. Human rights are otherwise high on the agendas of the OSCE and the Council of Europe in connection with their respective programmes in Albania.

The situation regarding respect for human rights in **Bosnia-Herzegovina** is still difficult, although noticeable improvements are taking place. One of the positive factors is that local human rights groups are increasingly better organized and their activity is increasing. The return of refugees and internally displaced persons to the minority area is still extremely slow due to repeated attacks and a lack of protection from the local authorities. Norway has helped local human rights organizations to gain a better foothold, among other things by providing financial assistance. Norway has made substantial financial contributions to the Bosnian Helsinki Committee and has also taken the initiative for the establishment of a Human Rights House in Sarajevo. The Human Rights House, which was officially opened by State Secretary Janne Haaland Matlary on 18 September 1998, provides office space for eight local human rights organizations. In autumn 1997, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs financed a series of seminars on human rights for lawyers, journalists and teachers. This project was carried out by the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights in four Bosnian towns. Norway has strongly emphasized the role of the OSCE and the Council of Europe in promoting human rights in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Through the OSCE, Norway has made an active contribution by providing personnel with special responsibility for following up human rights issues.

The ethnic Serbian minority is particularly vulnerable in **Croatia**. Norway has raised the question of the situation of the ethnic Serbian population on a number of occasions at OSCE Council meetings in Vienna, and this issue has also been addressed in bilateral talks with the Croatian authorities. Moreover, Norway has criticized weaknesses in Croatia's legislation and practice in connection with the Council of Europe's in-depth hearings. Norway has supported a legal aid project in **East Slavonia** which is run under the auspices of the Norwegian Refugee Council. The project assists ethnic Serbians in their relations with the Croatian authorities, among other things by helping them to obtain various types of Croatian documents, such as proof of citizenship, identity cards, property deeds, etc.

There is increasing tension between ethnic Albanians and the Slav population in **Macedonia**. The complex of problems has been addressed in bilateral talks, most recently during Foreign Minister Vollebæk's visit to Macedonia in April 1998. The OSCE legation monitors the inter-ethnic situation in the country, while the Council of Europe's in-depth hearings have also addressed elements of legislation and practice where there appear to be ethnic disparities. Norway has participated in the in-depth hearings and criticized discriminatory measures.

The human rights situation is difficult in all parts of **the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia**, but it is particularly problematic in **Kosovo**. Norway has supported human rights efforts, among other things by supporting measures at the Human Rights House in Belgrade, and through a number of projects under the auspices of the Norwegian Helsinki Committee. The latter included support for independent media. Assistance has also been provided through the Norwegian Refugee Council for two legal aid projects in Vojvodina and Kosovo respectively. Human rights issues have been an integral part of the themes addressed in bilateral political talks. In October 1998, Norway initiated the establishment of a Verification Mission in Kosovo under the auspices of the OSCE. In addition to its primary political tasks, the Mission will also be responsible for coordinating the efforts of a number of other international organizations in Kosovo. In this connection, monitoring human rights ef-

receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

forts will be an important task. On several occasions in 1998, Norway has expressed its serious concern about the human rights situation in Kosovo and the rest of Serbia.

Foreign Minister Vollebæk raised the situation for homosexuals in **Romania** in talks with the Rumanian Foreign Minister in Oslo on 29 October 1998.

Norwegian involvement in human rights issues in **Turkey** has been based on bilateral dialogue with the Turkish authorities and supporting the work of non-governmental organizations.

In mid-September 1998, the Norwegian Minister of International Development and Human Rights, Hilde F. Johnson, was in Ankara, Diyarbakir and Istanbul at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit. During her visit, she met representatives of government, parliament and local authorities in the south-east and a large number of non-governmental organizations. Human rights issues were raised on a broad basis with Deputy Prime Minister Ecevit, Human Rights Minister Sami Türk and Interior Minister Aktas. During the visit, Human Rights Minister Sami Türk was invited to visit Norway. Dialogue on human rights was established at senior official level after State Secretary Bjerke's visit to Turkey in April 1997. The dialogue continued at political level at the Minister of International Development and Human Rights' talks in Oslo with Deputy Prime Minister Ecevit in autumn 1997 and with Foreign Minister Cem in May 1998. Hilde F. Johnson met her Turkish colleague Sami Türk at the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in April 1998. The dialogue on human rights is regarded as one element of a broader political dialogue with Turkey.

The current Turkish government has had a positive attitude to the dialogue. The Turkish authorities have drawn a clear line between inter-governmental cooperation and contacts between non-governmental organizations.

A Turkish delegation visited Norway last spring and a Norwegian delegation went to Turkey in October to assess the possibility of cooperation between prison services that may help to strengthen respect for human rights in Turkey. Norway has also decided to support a Council of Europe project to strengthen respect for human rights in the Turkish police force. During her visit in September, the Minister of International Development and Human Rights suggested child labour and the rights of children as possible new themes for dialogue.

Norway has regarded the increasingly frequent contacts between Norwegian and Turkish NGOs as a necessary and valuable part of dialogue between the two countries. In addition to ongoing contacts with Turkish organizations such as the Human Rights Foundation, the Human Rights Association and TOSAV (with Norwegian partners such as the Forum for Freedom of expression, the Helsinki Committee, the Norwegian Bar Association and the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)), the Norwegian Medical Association has this year arranged a joint seminar with the Turkish Medical Association. A human rights conference arranged by Amnesty International and the Turkish Bar Association is also being planned, with Norwegian support.

The theme of human rights dialogue has primarily been related to freedom of expression, the rule of law, torture and disappearances, the situation of human rights defenders and Kurdish policy. Turkey does not regard the latter theme as being a human rights issue since it does not recognize the Kurds as a minority group.

Norway addressed the human rights situation in Turkey both at the 54th session of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva in April 1998 and at the OSCE implementation meeting for the human dimension in November 1998.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.
2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.



PHOTO: GUNNAR PETERSEN/REUTERS/SAFARI

Norway's priority partner countries

A poverty-oriented development policy is human rights policy at its best. The essence of poverty is the lack of choice, that people are subject to forces over which they have no control and that their most fundamental needs are not met. Efforts to combat poverty are human rights issues on a par with the efforts to promote civil and political rights. The most effective development policy seeks to integrate measures to support economic, social and cultural rights with measures to improve political and civil rights. We might call this a rights-based development policy. This is a central objective of Norway's long-term government-to-government cooperation with, in all, twelve of the poorest countries in the world (in Africa: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe; in Asia: Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka; and in Central America: Nicaragua).

There are two important reasons for this objective. Firstly, human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent. In efforts to support human rights and in efforts to promote development, we must always be aware that this is a matter of fulfilling and respecting all human rights. Secondly, increasing evidence and research indicate that there is a positive correlation between efforts to promote economic and social development and efforts to improve the protection of political and civil rights. Better results are achieved by adopting a coherent approach.

Development cooperation therefore includes efforts in all the areas to which human rights are linked. Although human rights concern the State's obligations to its citizens, we also have an obligation to help these poor countries to meet their obligations. As a donor country, we can contribute resources and expertise. Conditions in individual countries provide the background for dialogue and practical cooperation to promote human rights on a broad basis. Most of the resources available for Norwegian development cooperation are spent on measures to improve economic and social rights, with particular emphasis on ensuring that aid benefits the weakest and poorest people. For a detailed review, the reader is referred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' annual publication "Focus on Norwegian Development Cooperation", which includes all Norway's priority partner countries. In the present annual report, the focus is on civil and political rights in partner countries and the role played by Norwegian development cooperation in this context.

Eritrea:

In Eritrea, work on the legislation that is intended to secure the population's rights as laid down in the Constitution is proceeding slowly. Eritrea still has no electoral legislation and there is a great deal of uncertainty about when presidential and parliamentary elections will be held. The situation for civil society is difficult. Of the main human rights conventions, Eritrea has acceded to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Norway has previously supported the work of the commission that wrote the new constitution, and strengthening the democratic process has been a priority area for Norwegian development cooperation with Eritrea. However, it has so far been difficult to agree on practical cooperative projects, among other things because the implementation of the new constitution has been delayed. There has nevertheless been ongoing dialogue with the authorities on the human rights situation in Eritrea.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia has acceded to all the main human rights conventions. In ongoing dia-

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

logue with the Ethiopian authorities, Norway has expressed concern about the human rights situation, including the deportation of Eritreans from Ethiopia. The embassy in Addis Abeba has also participated in a human rights working group with representatives of the embassies of several countries and has in this connection contributed to a report on human rights issues which will provide a basis for initiatives vis-à-vis the Ethiopian authorities. Norway wrote the part of the report that concerned the current status of the judicial system. In addition to contacts and dialogue on human rights with the Ethiopian authorities, the embassy has contacts with a broad range of Ethiopian NGOs and opposition parties and groups. These contacts can often provide support and protection in a difficult situation.

Against the background of the situation after the fall of the Mengistu regime in 1991 and the democratic reforms that have taken place, Norwegian efforts to promote human rights in Ethiopia have largely been related to strengthening the rule of law and supporting the development of a stronger judicial system. In 1998, about 7.6 per cent of total Norwegian aid was spent on human rights measures. Assistance has been provided for the following projects and initiatives:

- Grass-roots instruction in the international human rights conventions and Ethiopian law and how they can be applied to people's daily lives; education on democratic issues.
- Free legal aid for women who have been the victims of abuse; research and education on women's issues.
- Observation and analysis of the legal process after the end of the Mengistu regime, including an analysis of the Ethiopian judicial system with a view to possible future assistance.
- A symposium and study of civil society, including the establishment of a Human Rights Commission and an Ombudsman system.
- Cooperation between the University of Addis Abeba and the University of Oslo (Norwegian Institute for Human Rights) on research into "Contemporary Political Development in Ethiopia".

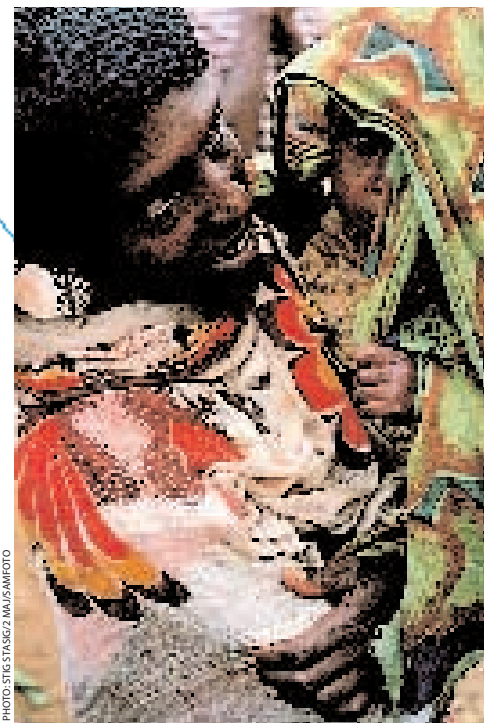
Malawi

The human rights situation in Malawi has significantly improved since the first multi-party elections took place in 1994. The country now has a popularly elected President and a national assembly consisting of representatives of the three largest parties. Malawi has acceded to all the main human rights conventions. Norway cooperates with the UNDP on support for Malawi's programme for democratic development. Total aid for human rights measures in the civil and political area in 1998 accounted for 23.5 per cent of total Norwegian bilateral aid for Malawi. Assistance has been provided for the following purposes:

- Preparations for presidential and parliamentary elections in May 1999, including training for members of parliament and popular educational and awareness-raising measures relating to the elections and the electoral process (UNDP).
- Assistance for a research project on living and working conditions on the tobacco plantations, which includes child labour.

Mozambique

Mozambique now has a democratically elected President and a national assembly consisting of representatives of several parties. Mozambique has acceded to all the main human rights conventions except the UN Convention against Torture (CAT). In ongoing dialogue between the authorities in Norway and Mozambique, there has been particular focus on human rights issues such as child labour and gender equality. Norway has also focused on Mozambique's weak judicial system and is prepared to provide assistance to strengthen it. The embassy in Maputo has participated actively in groups of donor countries on the issue of "good governance and democracy".



In all, 8.8 per cent of total Norwegian bilateral aid was spent on human rights measures in the civil and political area in Mozambique in 1998. Cooperation on human rights with Mozambique has been channelled through the following contributions:

- Civil rights education, legal assistance, improved prison conditions and the establishment of a data base of human rights violations.
- Training activities and technical assistance for members and employees of parliament, among other things related to preparatory work on legislation. Increased dissemination of information on parliamentary affairs.
- Assistance for a legal thesis defence contest for law students from a number of African countries.
- Assistance for the implementation of the first local elections, including voter education and information activities.

Tanzania

Tanzania has acceded to all the main human rights conventions, except for the UN Convention against Torture (CAT). Tanzania introduced democratic multi-party elections in 1994. The human rights situation is regarded as being relatively satisfactory. In two areas Norway has, however, expressed concern:

This has firstly to do with Tanzanian authorities' desire to limit the activities of the women's organization BAWATA. Norway has been one of the main contributors to BAWATA. The Minister of International Development and Human Rights also raised the question of human rights violations and the situation on Zanzibar with the Tanzanian authorities during her visit to Tanzania in February 1998 and again during the visit of the Tanzanian President to Norway in August 1998.

Norway has supported work on the democratization process, among other things by providing assistance for training in political activity in a multi-party system. Moreover, assistance for reform of the civil service has played a central role, including assistance for organizational reviews of several ministries. Norway's objective is to contribute towards the development of an effective administration that supplies high quality public services and is characterized by transparency and reliability. In the development cooperation accounts, this assistance is classified as assistance for democratic development rather than assistance to strengthen human rights.

On Zanzibar the human rights situation has given cause for concern since the 1995 elections. As a result of this, Norway has not entered into any new agreements on aid for Zanzibar. After the imprisonment of eighteen opposition politicians, Norway and the EU were the only international observers present at the remand hearings.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has acceded to all the main human rights conventions except the UN Convention against Torture (CAT).

In its ongoing dialogue with the Zimbabwean authorities, Norway has expressed its concern about the human rights situation and the consequences of the social and economic situation in the country. At the large land reform conference in Zimbabwe, Norway expressed its support for the proposal to improve land distribution in order to combat poverty. Norway emphasized the necessity of transparency, and of all parties being involved in the process. Norway has also expressed its concern about certain human rights issues, such as tendencies towards a lack of dissent in the media and a lack of respect for the rights of homosexuals.

Norwegian efforts in the civil and political human rights field in Zimbabwe have largely been concentrated on the rights of women and children. In 1998, 13.6 per cent of total bilateral aid to Zimbabwe was spent on measures to promote civil and political rights. Assistance has been provided for the following projects:

- A popular education programme and assistance for research and education on women's rights, assistance for health education for women, and support for NGO consultations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Norway has also provided assistance for an educational programme relating to the civil rights of women and children under the auspices of the national association of women lawyers.
- A contribution to a research fund on children's rights, assistance for an organization that is working to strengthen the rights of street children and assistance for a regional project on children's rights.
- Other Norwegian aid has been provided for Zimbabwe's largest trade union, for legal advice and for research and a study on human rights issues.

Uganda

Uganda has acceded to all the main human rights conventions. Elections are free, but political parties are not permitted to run for election and the candidates run individually. A referendum is to be held concerning whether political parties will be allowed to participate in elections.

Human rights issues were raised at the political level during the visit of the Minister of International Development and Human Rights in February 1998 and at last year's consultations on development cooperation, with particular reference to the situation in the northern areas of Uganda.

Due to the situation in the unstable northern parts of the country, Norway wishes to support development projects in these areas. The main focus of efforts to promote civil and political rights in Uganda in the last year has been on children and women, and on preparations for and the implementation of local elections. Human rights contributions were equivalent to 5.7 per cent of all bilateral aid to Uganda in 1998. During this period, Norwegian funds have been spent on the following projects:

- Assistance for preparations for and the implementation of local elections, including popular education and civil rights programmes run by non-governmental organizations.
- Assistance for UNICEF's work with kidnapped children from North Uganda, including a centre for traumatized children who have fled from the rebel group Lords Resistance Army.
- Assistance for the work of the UNFPA and a Ugandan organization to change attitudes towards the circumcision of women.

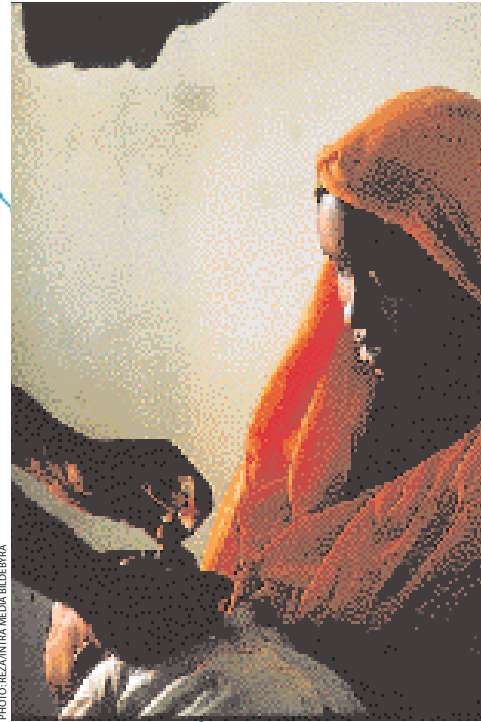
Zambia

Zambia has acceded to all the main human rights conventions except the UN Convention against Torture (CAT). In 1997, Norway and Zambia agreed to reinforce their cooperation in the field of human rights and democracy, and in December 1997 a framework agreement was signed concerning assistance for the development of democracy, human rights and good governance.

Two events in particular affected the human rights situation in the civil and political area in Zambia in the last year. In August 1997, shots were fired against former President Kenneth Kaunda and opposition leader Rodger Chongwe as they were taking part in a political rally arranged by the opposition. Both survived the incident and suffered only minor injuries. As of October 1998, no report on the incident had

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections

which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.



been published. On 28 October 1997, a group of soldiers attempted a coup, which was rebuffed in the course of a few hours. A state of emergency was declared and Kenneth Kaunda, opposition leader Dean Mungomba and eighty soldiers were arrested. Mr. Kaunda was subsequently released and the state of emergency ended in March 1998. During the state of emergency, there were reports of repeated human rights violations, including torture of the detainees.

The Norwegian authorities issued an official statement after the arrests which included the following: "It is the responsibility of the government to make sure that the human rights of the detainees are protected and that they are treated in accordance with Zambian law and internationally accepted standards. We are therefore deeply worried about the reports that some of the detainees have been tortured." Norway has pursued a policy of engaging in dialogue with the authorities on human rights issues, both formally, for example during the meeting of donor countries in May 1998 and informally in ongoing contacts with the authorities. Norway has emphasized the following:

- that the state of emergency must be brief
- conformity to international human rights commitments during the state of emergency and afterwards, with reference to the concern of national and international human rights organizations about the human rights situation in Zambia.
- rapid prosecution or release of the detainees and the importance of open, fair and rapid legal process for the accused after the attempted coup.
- investigation and follow-up of the torture accusations,
- requesting the government to sign the UN Convention against Torture (CAT),
- the re-establishment of genuine dialogue between the government and the opposition.

In 1998, more than NOK 12 million was disbursed for human rights measures in Zambia, equivalent to 13 per cent of bilateral aid. Assistance was provided for the following measures and initiatives:

- Strengthening the judicial system
- The independent Zambian human rights commission.
- Independent media, in the form of the Zambian college of journalism and a media fund administered by Zambian media organizations.
- Assistance for and technical cooperation with the Zambian ombudsman's office.

There are several thousand non-governmental organizations in Zambia and the formalities in connection with the establishment of an organization are simple, even if the organization should be controversial. Norwegian assistance was therefore provided for several Zambian NGOs working in a wide range of fields to strengthen respect for and observance of human rights in Zambia.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh has a multi-party system and holds elections regularly. Of the main human rights conventions, Bangladesh has acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In ongoing dialogue with the authorities and during the bilateral consultations in 1998, Norway expressed its concern about the human rights situation, with particular emphasis on freedom of expression and the situation of author Taslima Nasreen, child labour and trade in children.

Due to the particularly difficult situation for women in Bangladesh, Norwegian aid has largely been concentrated on the effort to promote women's rights. In 1998,

assistance for civil and political human rights measures accounted for 8 per cent of all bilateral aid. Assistance has been provided for the following measures and initiatives:

- Several non-governmental organizations involved in educational programmes relating to women's rights and the promotion and protection of women's rights, including those relating to sale, sexual abuse and violence, and free legal aid for women.
- NGOs monitoring local elections in December 1997 and organizations running educational programmes on democracy and human rights.
- A magazine for people who have recently learned to read which includes information on human rights and democracy
- A comprehensive debate on national issues among 20,000 university students in Dhaka.
- An organization for persons with disabilities.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with



Nepal

Nepal has a multi-party system and holds elections regularly. Nepal has acceded to all the main human rights conventions. Human rights issues, particularly child labour and trade in children, have been raised in contacts with the authorities, among other things in connection with bilateral consultations on development co-operation.

The objectives of Norwegian aid for Nepal are to strengthen local self-government, civil society, NGOs and gender equality. In 1998, 11.8 per cent of total bilateral aid was spent on human rights projects in the civil and political area. Assistance has been provided for the following measures and initiatives:

- The publication of a Nepalese yearbook on the human rights situation in Nepal
- A cooperative project with the UNDP to strengthen the democratization process in rural areas
- Legal advice for women and free legal aid
- Human resource development.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka has acceded to all the main human rights conventions. The country has a multi-party system and holds elections regularly. A broad range of human rights issues have been raised with the Sri Lankan authorities, among other things at the annual bilateral consultations, most recently in January 1998, and at the meeting of donor countries organized by the World Bank in June 1998. Norway has emphasized the need for all parties to the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka to respect human rights and observe humanitarian law. Norway has criticized the use of violence, harassment and random killing and emphasized the necessity of meeting the basic needs of the population.

The violations of civil and political rights at the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, the state of emergency in the country as a result of the ongoing conflict, repeated violations of humanitarian law and the fact that many Sri Lankans have applied for asylum in Norway have led to Norway focusing considerable attention on the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

In 1998, 13.2 per cent of total bilateral aid was spent on measures to promote civil and political rights. Assistance has been provided for the following measures and initiatives:

- A national programme to promote integration and reconciliation between population groups.
- The UNDP's humanitarian adviser, who monitors and reports on the human rights situation.
- A programme for monitoring human rights coverage in the media, under the auspices of an independent academic institution.
- A large number of non-governmental organizations involved in monitoring human rights violations, education relating to the legal system and free legal aid, children's rights, and a comparative study on electoral issues. Assistance has also been provided for the work of various women's organizations relating to research and education and the publication of legal literature.

Nicaragua

Nicaragua has a multi-party system, has held elections regularly and has acceded to all the main human rights conventions. Human rights issues were addressed by the Norwegian authorities during the most recent consultations on development cooperation and in the Norwegian intervention at the meeting of donor countries in April this year. Human rights issues were also raised by the Norwegian Storting's Standing Committee on Scrutiny and Constitutional Affairs on its visit to Nicaragua in February 1998. In 1998, 29 per cent of all bilateral aid was spent on measures to promote civil and political rights. Assistance has been provided for the following measures and initiatives:

- Several projects relating to the rights of women and children, including assistance for a nation-wide programme for women and children exposed to violence, assistance for the preparation of new legislation relating to children and for the establishment of an ombudsman for children.
- Efforts to appoint a human rights ombudsman, a stronger, independent Auditor General's office and the work of the so-called "Supreme Election Council".
- Several local human rights organizations





PHOTO: MARIANNE GRONDAHL/MIIRA/SAMFOTO

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

PARTNERS

I N H U M A N R I G H T S A C T I V I T I E S

Norwegian authorities cooperates closely with organizations that are involved in promoting human rights. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also cooperates with research institutions in order to strengthen human resource development.

Norway has chosen to seek the closest possible cooperation with all the forces working to promote human rights. Human rights organizations, humanitarian and special-interest organizations, trade unions and employers' organizations and academic institutions are among the many who are involved in various types of activity to increase respect for human rights. This Annual Report on Norwegian Efforts to Promote Human Rights focuses on the efforts of the authorities. However, the authorities are dependent on good contacts and close cooperation with other groups working in the human rights field. The authorities' partners in efforts to promote human rights can do things that the authorities cannot or do not have the capacity to do and their network of contacts is invaluable in producing information and ensuring that measures are implemented.

There are widespread contacts between the various groups working to promote human rights and between these groups and the authorities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Advisory Committee on Human Rights and the Consultative Body for Human Rights and Norwegian Economic Involvement Abroad are two of the formalized structures for cooperation that have been established on the basis of this partnership.

Non-governmental organizations

In Norway, a broad range of NGOs are involved in human rights, from trade unions through development and humanitarian organizations to special interest groups and human rights organizations. Academic institutions, the media and political groups are also strongly involved. There are a large number of players working to promote development and social and economic rights. The following is a presentation of the organizations and committees that have been most concerned with civil and political rights.

The Advisory Committee on Human Rights

In order to utilize all this knowledge and commitment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has established an Advisory Committee on Human Rights. The Committee consists of thirty representatives of non-governmental organizations, aid organizations, political parties and academic institutions and meets about four times a year to discuss topical human rights issues. The Committee has established sub-committees on Human Rights Education, Human Rights in Norway and Norway's Participation in Multilateral Human Rights Bodies. The sub-committees meet more frequently. The Committee has existed for several years, but its mandate and constitution were revised in autumn 1998.

One new element is that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Advisory Committee on Human Rights can discuss and provide advice on human rights in Norway as well as on international themes. This is a result of the emphasis the Government places on following up human rights commitments in Norway and reflects also on our credibility as an active international promoter of human rights.

The Sub-committee on Human Rights Education has existed for several years. It is headed by the UN Association and in 1998 has particularly concentrated on events in the educational system in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The group has also started considering the role of human rights education in teacher training.

The Norwegian Human Rights Fund

One of the channels for supporting international human rights measures is the Norwegian Human Rights Fund. The Fund was established in 1988 by Norwegian NGOs to promote respect for and compliance with human rights commitments world-wide. The Fund has provided assistance for organizations and groups in countries outside

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented,

if necessary, by other means of social protection.
4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Europe and North America in the form of non-recurring allocations for projects that do not come under other Norwegian governmental or non-governmental aid programmes. The Fund is therefore intended to supplement the work of member organizations in the development aid field, and to provide more "venture capital" for small human rights projects. The current members of the Fund are: the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights, Norwegian Church Aid, the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions, the Church of Norway Council on Foreign Relations, the Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian People's Aid and Redd Barna (Norwegian Save the Children). In 1998, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed two thirds of the Fund's financing.

NORDEM

NORDEM is the Norwegian resource bank of experts specializing in democracy and human rights and enables Norway to provide rapid technical assistance to countries undergoing complicated democratization processes. NORDEM is administered by the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights and for operational purposes is divided into the NORDEM emergency force and the NORDEM resource base. The



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PHOTO: KIM MATHIASSEN

emergency force is run in cooperation with the Norwegian Refugee Council and consists of experts who are able to travel at one to three weeks' notice to participate in the implementation and observance of elections, monitor human rights and investigate human rights violations. The resource base responds to requests for expertise in a broad range of fields: elections, democratic organizations, the media, conflict management, the protection of minorities, constitutional issues and legal protection, independent tribunals, gender equality, local administration, good governance and political accountability, political pluralism and human rights education.

In 1998 (up to October), NORDEM carried out thirty assignments in various countries with the help of 179 individuals. Most of the assignments and most individual postings were in connection with observing elections and providing electoral guidance, but there have also been assignments relating to human rights monitoring and democracy. In 1998 NORDEM personnel were present in the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Kenya, Latvia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Slovakia, South Africa, Tadzhikistan and Ukraine.



The Human Rights Festival "Dugnad 98"

"Dugnad 98" has been established by a number of organizations, institutes of higher education and cultural institutions in Norway to mark the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It also focuses on the UN Decade of Human Rights Education. The Human Rights Festival will take place from 10 to 13 December 1998.

The Festival will consist of debates and hearings for adults and children, a film festival, art exhibitions, theatre performances, concerts and a number of other events on the theme of human rights. The Festival will largely target children and adolescents – the human rights activists of tomorrow.

The Government wishes to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in conjunction with "Dugnad 98". Financial support has been provided by several ministries and members of the cabinet will participate in events in De-



cember. The celebrations in schools began in spring 1998 when Ministers Hilde F. Johnson and Jon Lilletun distributed the first package of teaching aids on human rights to the head teacher and leaders of the pupils' council at Lindeberg School in Oslo. Similar packages were subsequently sent to all primary, lower secondary and upper secondary schools, universities and teacher training colleges.

Cooperation with research institutions

In 1998 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs strengthened its long-term cooperation with the Research Council of Norway on assistance for development and aid-related research in Norway. The objective is to contribute towards long-term human resource development which may serve as a basis for the formulation of a coherent Norwegian South policy and the planning and monitoring of Norwegian multilateral and bilateral assistance. Assistance for research has played an important role in building up specialized expertise which the administration can draw on and purchase as paid services when particular issues are to be investigated.

In the case of human rights, in cooperation with the Research Council of Norway, the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided assistance for the development of expertise in women's law at the Department of Public and International Law at the University of Oslo. In-depth topics have included women's right to own land, women and democratization processes, the protection of women's reproductive health, law and religion, and the enforcement of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Such assistance and other financing from the Research Council have contributed to a doctorate on "Women's human rights and traditional laws in a changing world". The initiative has also enabled NORAD to draw on the University's expertise when planning courses on women's law at universities in developing countries.

Moreover, in 1998 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contributed towards "Political development, Democracy and Human Rights" becoming one of several topics of research under a new, long-term, inter-disciplinary research programme called "Globalization and marginalization: roads to development in the South". In this connection there has been particular emphasis on promoting research into the rights of indigenous populations and children. This programme seeks to focus more on the connections between various themes, such as political, economic and social development, in contrast to the formerly more thematically delimited programmes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NORAD cooperate closely with the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights at the University of Oslo on special projects. The "China Project" is one example, where the Institute has acted as adviser to the Ministry on the development of human rights dialogue with China, as well as running special projects in connection with this dialogue. In 1998, consultancy services have been purchased from the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights and others. Through the Research Council of Norway, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also contributed towards basic financing for the Chr. Michelsen Institute. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has provided support for the publication of the 1998 edition of the "Human Rights in Development Yearbook". The yearbook is being edited by the Chr. Michelsen Institute in 1997-1999, with contributions from the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights and foreign human rights institutes.

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has entered into an agreement with the Norwegian Institute for Human Rights whereby the Institute will provide assistance for the implementation of projects relating to human rights and democracy. The agreement covers technical assistance for NORAD and institutions in developing countries in connection with the implementation of projects supported by Norway.

Strengthening human resources in developing countries

In addition to strengthening human resources in Norway in important fields such as human rights as an important basis for policy planning, Norway is particularly concerned to strengthen human resources in developing countries. Through the National Committee for Development-related Research and Education (NUFU) programme for research cooperation between universities in Norway and the South, administered by the Council of Norwegian Universities, and through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' special allocation for research cooperation in the institutional and higher education sector, Norway seeks to strengthen the research capacity of developing countries in a variety of fields, including human rights. Furthermore, participation in this type of research cooperation may indirectly support democratic development and respect for human rights by enabling researchers in the South to make international academic contacts, develop critical and social-related research, participate in the national debate and contribute towards ensuring that the knowledge arising from research has broader application in developing countries. NORAD also finances more direct assistance for human resource development in the national and regional research institutions of developing countries in order to strengthen recipient countries' own ability to develop expertise in important areas





FOTO: OMBERT FROSHALUGAMOTO

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right
to a standard of living
adequate for the health
and well-being of
himself and of his

family, including food,
clothing, housing and
medical care and
necessary social services,
and the right to security
in the event of un-
employment,

Accounts & Statistics

Presentation of accounts and statistics for Norwegian
bilateral assistance for peace, democracy and human
rights. In addition to the main figures, the statistics
are also presented by type of recipient organization.

Norwegian bilateral assistance for peace, democracy and human rights in 1997 by country and recipient organization (NOK 1000)

Country	Non-NGO*	Norwegian NGO*	Local NGO*	Regional NGO*	Global NGO*	Research-foundation	Total amount
Afghanistan	11000	0	0	0	0	0	11000
Africa unspecified	3062	544	0	0	587	500	4693
Albania	207	107	0	0	142	300	756
Algeria	214	109	0	0	0	0	323
America unspecified	4099	2598	0	15	0	0	6712
Angola	17000	24543	0	0	0	0	41543
Armenia	982	503	0	0	0	0	1485
Asia unspecified	1916	1204	0	0	423	0	3543
Bangladesh	1802	0	3820	240	0	0	5862
Benin	1100	0	0	0	0	0	1100
Bosnia-Herzegovina	20339	25134	0	0	0	4269	49742
Botswana	126	85	961	0	0	0	1172
Brazil	0	1564	0	0	0	0	1564
Burma	0	188	0	0	0	0	188
Burundi	2003	0	0	3919	650	0	6572
Cambodia	3068	0	358	0	0	0	3426
Central America unspec	2390	0	0	0	0	0	2390
Chile	27	224	200	0	0	0	451
China	694	0	96	0	0	4872	5662
Colombia	2531	1839	0	0	0	0	4370
Congo	0	262	0	0	0	0	262
Congo (Dem Rep)	282	100	0	0	0	0	382
Croatia	21367	4582	0	0	0	0	25949
Cuba	0	144	0	0	0	0	144
El Salvador	2321	592	2700	0	0	0	5613
Eritrea	0	84	0	0	0	0	84
Ethiopia	42	956	0	0	0	523	1521
Former Yugoslavia unspec.	2403	3181	0	0	0	4117	9701
Georgia	0	899	0	0	0	0	899
Global unspecified	59716	19619	0	0	14153	4966	98454
Guatemala	44222	14575	0	2203	100	0	61100
Haiti	1776	900	0	0	0	0	2676
Honduras	275	0	0	0	0	0	275
India	0	1530	655	0	0	0	2185
Indonesia	113	1805	0	0	0	0	1918
Iran	11	220	0	0	0	0	231
Jordan	0	96	0	0	0	1632	1728
Kenya	480	841	54	0	300	400	2075
Laos	7829	1500	0	0	0	0	9329
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	460	460
Liberia	0	211	0	0	0	0	211
Madagascar	0	40	0	0	0	0	40
Malaysia	439	0	0	0	0	0	439
Mali	0	328	0	0	0	400	728
Mexico	0	0	0	0	126	0	126
Middle East unspec.	283	2595	1584	130	0	1711	6303
Mongolia	0	419	0	0	0	0	419
Mozambique	10902	15672	-5	0	0	66	26635
Namibia	1636	254	87	0	0	0	1977
Nepal	406	689	556	0	0	0	1651
Nicaragua	3732	1847	2545	0	0	0	8124
Nigeria	0	45	0	0	1724	0	1769
Pakistan	5268	0	3305	0	0	224	8797
Palestinian Admin. Areas	4370	12679	1243	0	150	1377	19819
Paraguay	0	170	0	0	0	0	170
Peru	0	122	0	0	0	0	122
Philippines	729	0	0	0	0	0	729
Rwanda	2000	49	0	0	0	0	2049
Sub-Saharan Africa unspec.	5241	0	0	466	0	0	5707
Serbia & Montenegro	990	3843	0	0	0	865	5698
Sierra Leone	0	54	0	0	0	0	54
Sri Lanka	8298	177	399	0	1008	96	9978
Sudan	1656	0	0	0	0	126	1782
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	1607	1607
South Africa	13587	34711	14	0	0	0	48312
Tanzania	5832	0	36	0	0	2	5870
Tunisia	200	0	0	0	0	0	200
Turkey	268	2345	0	0	0	930	3543
Uganda	6000	1203	0	0	0	0	7203
Venezuela	624	0	0	0	0	0	624
Yemen	315	151	0	0	0	0	466
Zambia	13312	0	4710	0	0	0	18022
Zimbabwe	3296	941	1151	1250	0	0	6638
Total	302781	189073	24469	8223	19363	29443	573352

*NGO = non-governmental organisation

Norwegian bilateral assistance for peace, democracy and human rights in 1997 by country, region and recipient organization (NOK 1000)

AFRICA	Non-NGO*	Norwegian NGO*	Local NGO*	Regional NGO*	Global NGO*	Research-foundation	Total amount
Africa unspecified	3062	544	0	0	587	500	4693
Algeria	214	109	0	0	0	0	323
Angola	17000	24543	0	0	0	0	41543
Benin	1100	0	0	0	0	0	1100
Botswana	126	85	961	0	0	0	1172
Burundi	2003	0	0	3919	650	0	6572
Congo	0	262	0	0	0	0	262
Congo (Dem Rep)	282	100	0	0	0	0	382
Eritrea	0	84	0	0	0	0	84
Ethiopia	42	956	0	0	0	523	1521
Kenya	480	841	54	0	300	400	2075
Liberia	0	211	0	0	0	0	211
Madagascar	0	40	0	0	0	0	40
Mali	0	328	0	0	0	400	728
Mozambique	10902	15672	-5	0	0	66	26635
Namibia	1636	254	87	0	0	0	1977
Nigeria	0	45	0	0	1724	0	1769
Rwanda	2000	49	0	0	0	0	2049
Sub-Saharan Africa unspec.	5241	0	0	466	0	0	5707
Sierra Leone	0	54	0	0	0	0	54
Sudan	1656	0	0	0	0	126	1782
South Africa	13587	34711	14	0	0	0	48312
Tanzania	5832	0	36	0	0	2	5870
Tunisia	200	0	0	0	0	0	200
Uganda	6000	1203	0	0	0	0	7203
Zambia	13312	0	4710	0	0	0	18022
Zimbabwe	3296	941	1151	1250	0	0	6638
AFRICA Total	87971	81032	7008	5635	3261	2017	186924
ASIA	Non-NGO*	Norwegian NGO*	Local NGO*	Regional NGO*	Global NGO*	Research-foundation	Total amount
Afghanistan	11000	0	0	0	0	0	11000
Armenia	982	503	0	0	0	0	1485
Asia unspecified	1916	1204	0	0	423	0	3543
Bangladesh	1802	0	3820	240	0	0	5862
Burma	0	188	0	0	0	0	188
Cambodia	3068	0	358	0	0	0	3426
China	694	0	96	0	0	4872	5662
Georgia	0	899	0	0	0	0	899
India	0	1530	655	0	0	0	2185
Indonesia	113	1805	0	0	0	0	1918
Iran	11	220	0	0	0	0	231
Jordan	0	96	0	0	0	1632	1728
Laos	7829	1500	0	0	0	0	9329
Lebanon	0	0	0	0	0	460	460
Malaysia	439	0	0	0	0	0	439
Middle East unspec.	283	2595	1584	130	0	1711	6303
Mongolia	0	419	0	0	0	0	419
Nepal	406	689	556	0	0	0	1651
Pakistan	5268	0	3305	0	0	224	8797
Palestinian Admin. Areas	4370	12679	1243	0	150	1377	19819
Philippines	729	0	0	0	0	0	729
Sri Lanka	8298	177	399	0	1008	96	9978
Syria	0	0	0	0	0	1607	1607
Yemen	315	151	0	0	0	0	466
ASIA Total	47523	24655	12016	370	1581	11979	98124
EUROPE	Non-NGO*	Norwegian NGO*	Local NGO*	Regional NGO*	Global NGO*	Research-foundation	Total amount
Albania	207	107	0	0	142	300	756
Bosnia-Herzegovina	20339	25134	0	0	0	4269	49742
Croatia	21367	4582	0	0	0	0	25949
Former Yugoslavia unspec.	2403	3181	0	0	0	4117	9701
Serbia & Montenegro	990	3843	0	0	0	865	5698
Turkey	268	2345	0	0	0	930	3543
EUROPE Total	45574	39192	0	0	142	10481	95389

*Non NGO = public institutions, individuals, companies and multilateral organisations

	Non-NGO*	Norwegian NGO*	Local NGO*	Regional NGO*	Global NGO*	Resresearch-foundation	Total amount
GLOBAL Measures							
Global Unspecified	59716	19619	0	0	14153	4966	98454
GLOBAL Total	59716	19619	0	0	14153	4966	98454
	Non-NGO*	Norwegian NGO*	Local NGO*	Regional NGO*	Global NGO*	Resresearch-foundation	Total amount
LATIN-AMERICA							
America unspecified	4099	2598	0	15	0	0	6712
Brazil	0	1564	0	0	0	0	1564
Central America unspec	2390	0	0	0	0	0	2390
Chile	27	224	200	0	0	0	451
Colombia	2531	1839	0	0	0	0	4370
Cuba	0	144	0	0	0	0	144
El Salvador	2321	592	2700	0	0	0	5613
Guatemala	44222	14575	0	2203	100	0	61100
Haiti	1776	900	0	0	0	0	2676
Honduras	275	0	0	0	0	0	275
Mexico	0	0	0	0	126	0	126
Nicaragua	3732	1847	2545	0	0	0	8124
Paraguay	0	170	0	0	0	0	170
Peru	0	122	0	0	0	0	122
Venezuela	624	0	0	0	0	0	624
LATIN AMERICA Total	61997	24575	5445	2218	226	0	94461
Total	302781	189073	24469	8223	19363	29443	573352
	1	3					

Norwegian bilateral assistance for peace, democracy and human rights in 1997 by country, specifying multi-bilateral aid (NOK 1000) (Multi-bilateral aid=project assistance administered by multilateral organisations)

	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral	Total amount	
Afghanistan	0	11000	11000	the full development of
Africa unspecified	1708	2985	4693	the human personality
Albania	756	0	756	
Algeria	109	214	323	and to the strengthening
America unspecified	3215	3497	6712	
Angola	24543	17000	41543	of respect for human
Armenia	503	982	1485	
Asia unspecified	3543	0	3543	rights and funda-
Bangladesh	5752	110	5862	
Benin	0	1100	1100	mental fre-
Bosnia-Herzegovina	45842	3900	49742	
Botswana	1172	0	1172	
Brazil	1564	0	1564	
Burma	188	0	188	
Burundi	6572	0	6572	
Cambodia	2286	1140	3426	
Central America unspec	2390	0	2390	
Chile	451	0	451	
China	5662	0	5662	
Croatia	25949	0	25949	
Colombia	1870	2500	4370	
Congo	262	0	262	
Congo (Dem Rep)	100	282	382	
Cuba	144	0	144	
El Salvador	4837	776	5613	
Eritrea	84	0	84	
Ethiopia	1521	0	1521	
Former Yugoslavia unspec.	9350	351	9701	
Georgia	899	0	899	
Global unspecified	55629	42825	98454	
Guatemala	25812	35288	61100	
Haiti	900	1776	2676	
Honduras	0	275	275	
India	2185	0	2185	
Indonesia	1818	100	1918	
Iran	231	0	231	
Jordan	1728	0	1728	
Kenya	2075	0	2075	
Laos	1500	7829	9329	
Lebanon	460	0	460	
Liberia	211	0	211	
Madagascar	40	0	40	
Malaysia	0	439	439	
Mali	728	0	728	

Country	Bilateral bistand	Multi-bi bistand	Til sammen
Mexico	126	0	126
Middle East unspec.	6303	0	6303
Mongolia	419	0	419
Mozambique	16109	10526	26635
Namibia	1977	0	1977
Nepal	1651	0	1651
Nicaragua	5715	2409	8124
Nigeria	1769	0	1769
Pakistan	4626	4171	8797
Palestinian Admin. Areas	19819	0	19819
Paraguay	170	0	170
Peru	122	0	122
Philippines	0	729	729
Rwanda	49	2000	2049
Sub-Saharan Africa unspec.	5268	439	5707
Serbia & Montenegro	4998	700	5698
Sierra Leone	54	0	54
Sri Lanka	9978	0	9978
Sudan	905	877	1782
Syria	1607	0	1607
South Africa	48312	0	48312
Tanzania	5519	351	5870
Tunisia	0	200	200
Turkey	3284	259	3543
Uganda	1203	6000	7203
Venezuela	624	0	624
Yemen	187	279	466
Zambia	18022	0	18022
Zimbabwe	6638	0	6638
Total	410043	163309	573352

doms. It shall

promote understand-

ing, tolerance and friend-

ship among all nations,

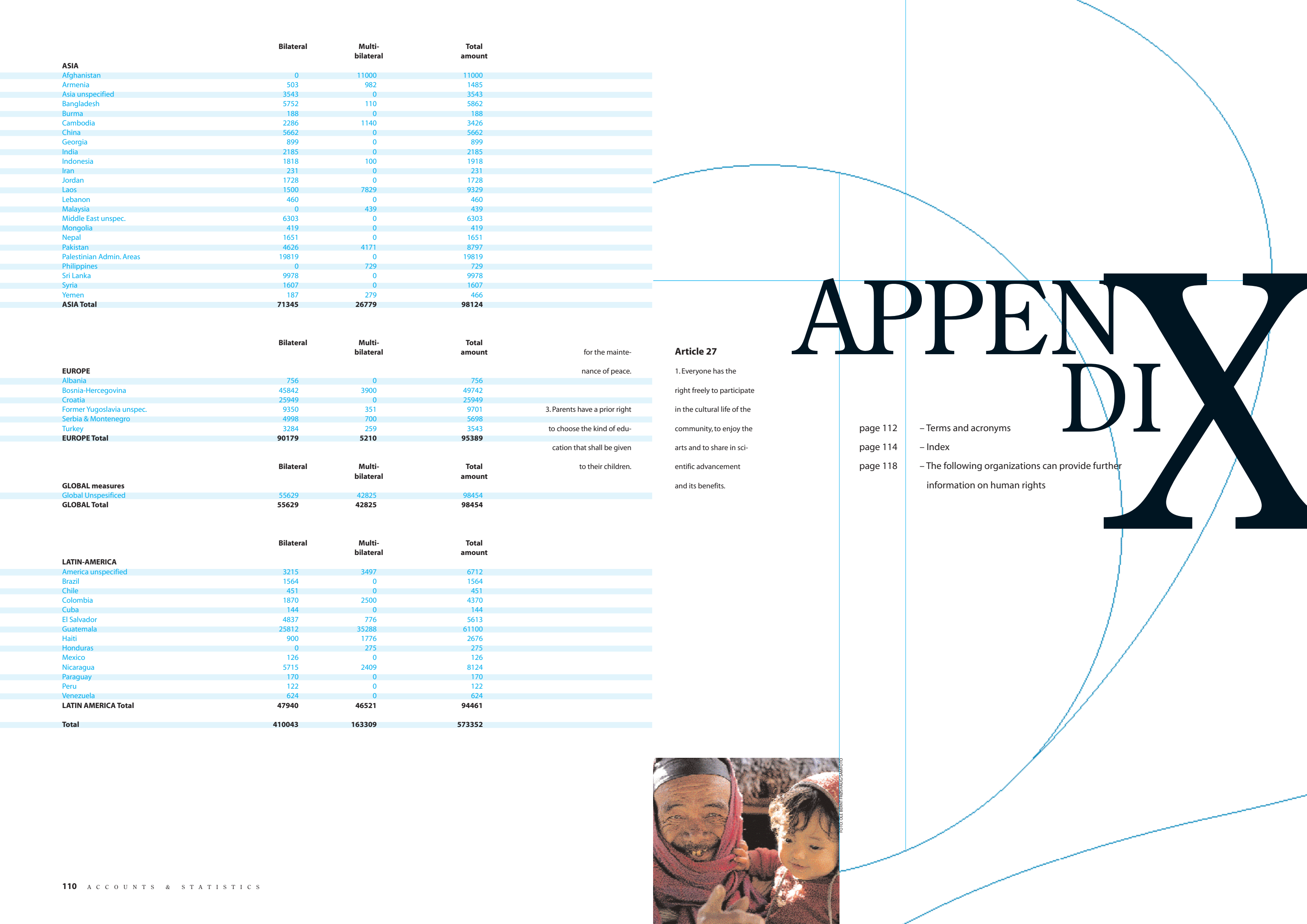
racial or religious groups,

and shall further the

activities of the

United Nations

		Bilateral	Multi-bilateral	Total amount
racial or religious groups,	AFRICA			
	Africa unspecified	1708	2985	4693
and shall further the	Algeria	109	214	323
	Angola	24543	17000	41543
activities of the	Benin	0	1100	1100
	Botswana	1172	0	1172
United Nations	Burundi	6572	0	6572
	Congo	262	0	262
	Congo (Dem Rep)	100	282	382
	Eritrea	84	0	84
	Ethiopia	1521	0	1521
	Kenya	2075	0	2075
	Liberia	211	0	211
	Madagascar	40	0	40
	Mali	728	0	728
	Mozambique	16109	10526	26635
	Namibia	1977	0	1977
	Nigeria	1769	0	1769
	Rwanda	49	2000	2049
	Sub-Saharan Africa unspec.	5268	439	5707
	Sierra Leone	54	0	54
	Sudan	905	877	1782
	South Africa	48312	0	48312
	Tanzania	5519	351	5870
	Tunisia	0	200	200
	Uganda	1203	6000	7203
	Zambia	18022	0	18022
	Zimbabwe	6638	0	6638
	AFRICA Total	144950	41974	186924



	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral	Total amount
ASIA			
Afghanistan	0	11000	11000
Armenia	503	982	1485
Asia unspecified	3543	0	3543
Bangladesh	5752	110	5862
Burma	188	0	188
Cambodia	2286	1140	3426
China	5662	0	5662
Georgia	899	0	899
India	2185	0	2185
Indonesia	1818	100	1918
Iran	231	0	231
Jordan	1728	0	1728
Laos	1500	7829	9329
Lebanon	460	0	460
Malaysia	0	439	439
Middle East unspec.	6303	0	6303
Mongolia	419	0	419
Nepal	1651	0	1651
Pakistan	4626	4171	8797
Palestinian Admin. Areas	19819	0	19819
Philippines	0	729	729
Sri Lanka	9978	0	9978
Syria	1607	0	1607
Yemen	187	279	466
ASIA Total	71345	26779	98124

	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral	Total amount	
EUROPE				
Albania	756	0	756	
Bosnia-Herzegovina	45842	3900	49742	
Croatia	25949	0	25949	
Former Yugoslavia unspec.	9350	351	9701	3. Parents have a prior right
Serbia & Montenegro	4998	700	5698	
Turkey	3284	259	3543	to choose the kind of edu-
EUROPE Total	90179	5210	95389	cation that shall be given

	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral	Total amount	
GLOBAL measures				
Global Unspecified	55629	42825	98454	
GLOBAL Total	55629	42825	98454	

	Bilateral	Multi-bilateral	Total amount	
LATIN-AMERICA				
America unspecified	3215	3497	6712	
Brazil	1564	0	1564	
Chile	451	0	451	
Colombia	1870	2500	4370	
Cuba	144	0	144	
El Salvador	4837	776	5613	
Guatemala	25812	35288	61100	
Haiti	900	1776	2676	
Honduras	0	275	275	
Mexico	126	0	126	
Nicaragua	5715	2409	8124	
Paraguay	170	0	170	
Peru	122	0	122	
Venezuela	624	0	624	
LATIN AMERICA Total	47940	46521	94461	

Total	410043	163309	573352	
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Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

APPENDIX

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– Terms and acronyms

– Index

– The following organizations can provide further information on human rights



FOTO GLEBERT FRISTANG/SNIPOTO

Terms and acronyms

AHLC
Adhoc Liaison Committe
Donor-group for the Palestinian people

ALDHU
Asociación Latinamericano de Derechos Humanos
Latin American human rights association

BAWATA
Tanzanian women’s organisation

CAT
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

CCPR
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

CEDAW
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CERD
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

CESC
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

CRC
Convention on the Rights of the Child

FAFO
The Norwegian Trade Union Centre for Social Science and Research

FASIC
The Latin American Christian Church’s foundation for social assistance

HRFOB
Human Rights Field Operation for Burundi

HRFOR
Human Rights Field Operation for Rwanda

IGAD
Inter-governmental Authority on Development

IIDH
Instituto Interamericano de Derechos Humanos
The Inter American Human Rights Institute

ILO
International Labour Organisation

IPPF
International Planned Parenthood Federation

KOMpakt
The Consultative Body for Human Rights and Norwegian Economic Involvement Abroad

MINUGUA
United Nations verification team for the implementation of the Guatemalan peace agreement

Multi-bilateral assistance
Earmarked assistance for projects administered by multilateral organizations

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

NGO
Non-governmental organisation

non- NGO
In the development cooperation accounts, assistance for public institutions, individuals, companies and multilateral organizations

NORAD
Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

NORDEM
The Norwegian Resource Bank for Democracy and Human Rights

NUFU
The Norwegian Council of Universities’ National Committee for Development- related Research and Education

Article 28
Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

OAU
Organisation of African Unity

PRIO
International Peace Research Institute Oslo

SADC
Southern Africa Development Community
American human rights institute

TOSAV
Center for the study of societal problems
Turkish research organization

UNDP
United Nations Development Programme

UNESCO
United Nations Educational, Scientife and Cultural Organisation

UNFPA
United Nations Fund for Population Activities

UNHCHR
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UNHCR
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF
United Nations Children’s Fund

UNIFEM
United Nations Developmen Fund for Women

WHO
World Health Organisation

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Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose

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recognition and respect
for the rights and
freedoms of others
and of meeting

the just
requirements of morality,
public order and the
general welfare
in a democratic society.

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E-mail: linloekken@antirasistisk-senter.no

FOKUS Forum for Women and Development
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N-0184 OSLO
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Global Information – the Free Churches in Norway
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Norwegian People’s Aid
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The Human Rights Committee of the Norwegian Association of Judges
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The Human Rights House Foundation
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The National Centre for Educational Resources
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The Norwegian Committee for UNICEF
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The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions
Youngsgt. 11
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Fax: +47 22 03 11 00

The Norwegian Directorate for Development Co-operation (NORAD)
P.O. Box 8034, Dep.
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Fax:+47 22 31 44 01
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The Norwegian Federation of Organizations of Disabled People
P.O. Box 4568, Torshov
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Fax:+47 22 79 91 99

The Norwegian Forum for Freedom of Expression Menneskerettighetshuset
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The Norwegian Institute for Human Rights
Universitetsgaten 22/24
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The Norwegian Medical Association’s Committee on Human Rights
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The Norwegian National Commission for UN-ESCO
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The Norwegian Red Cross
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The Norwegian Refugee Council
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E-mail: nrc-no@online.no

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30
Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to

The Norwegian Tibet Committee

Menneskerettighetshuset
Urtegt. 50
N-0187 OSLO
Tel.: +47 22 68 88 89
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The Norwegian Union of Teachers

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The Norwegian Women and Family Association

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The Norwegian Youth Council

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The Oslo Coalition for Freedom of Religion and Belief

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The Student Parliament in Oslo

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The Teachers’ Union, Norway

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UNHCR

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Fax: +41 22 73 97 352
E-mail: mcnamara@unhcr.ch

**Some relevant
Internett-addresses:**

Amnesty International, Norway:

<http://www.amnesty.no>

Human Rights Internet:

<http://www.hri.ca>

Institute for Human Rights:

<http://www.humanrights.uio.no/>

Norwegian Ministries:

<http://odin.dep.no>

NORAD:

<http://www.norad.no>

Redd Barna:

<http://www.reddbarna.no>

UN:

<http://www.un.org>

UN Association of Norway:

<http://www.fn-sambandet.no>

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights:

[http:// www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)

...here you will find links to other relevant addresses... A search for the word “human rights” found 18 840 different home pages...

engage in any
activity or to perform
any act aimed at the
destruction of any of the
rights and freedoms set
forth herein.

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