

16. Notes with satisfaction the publication of the first volumes of the official public records of the Human Rights Committee and looks forward to the early publication of further volumes;

17. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-fourth session, a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, including all reservations and declarations, and to include in that report information on the work of the Economic and Social Council and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

18. Decides to consider at its forty-fourth session an agenda item entitled "Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights".

54th meeting
10 March 1987

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XVIII.]

1987/27. Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

The Commission on Human Rights,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 33/173 of 20 December 1978, in which the Assembly requested the Commission on Human Rights to consider the question of disappeared persons with a view to making appropriate recommendations, and all other United Nations resolutions concerning missing or disappeared persons,

Convinced of the need to continue the implementation of the provisions of General Assembly resolution 33/173 and of the other United Nations resolutions on the question of enforced or involuntary disappearances,

Recalling its resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, by which it decided to establish a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacity, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances, and its resolution 1986/55 of 13 March 1986,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 41/145 of 4 December 1986, in which the Assembly welcomed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to extend for two years, on an experimental basis, the term of the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, while maintaining the principle of annual reporting by the Group,

Profoundly concerned at the fact that the practice of enforced or involuntary disappearances continues in various regions of the world, and at the fact that the families of disappeared persons often suffer intimidation and ill-treatment,

Having considered the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/1987/15 and Corr.1 and Add.1),

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances for the way in which it has done its work, and thanks it for submitting to the Commission at its forty-third session a report in accordance with its resolution 1986/55;

2. Requests the Working Group to submit to the Commission, at its forty-fourth session, a report on its work, together with its conclusions and recommendations, and to bear in mind the obligation to discharge its mandate with discretion, so as, inter alia, to protect persons providing information or to limit the dissemination of information provided by Governments;

3. Requests the Working Group, in its efforts to help eliminate the practice of enforced or involuntary disappearances, to present to the Commission all appropriate information it deems necessary and all concrete suggestions and recommendations regarding the fulfilment of its task;

4. Reminds the Working Group of the need to observe, in its humanitarian task, United Nations standards and practices regarding the receipt of communications, their consideration, their transmittal to Governments and their evaluation;

5. Urges the Governments concerned, in particular those which have not yet responded to communications transmitted to them by the Working Group, to co-operate with and assist the Working Group so that it may carry out its mandate effectively, and in particular to answer expeditiously requests for information addressed to them by the Working Group;

6. Urges the Governments concerned to take steps to protect the families of disappeared persons against any intimidation or ill-treatment to which they might be subject;

7. Renews its request to the Secretary-General to invite the Governments of countries in which there are numerous cases of disappearance to envisage the establishment of a national body to investigate reports of disappeared persons;

8. Encourages Governments which might receive such a request to consider with special attention the wish of the Working Group, when such a wish is expressed, to visit their country, thus enabling the Working Group to fulfil its mandate even more effectively;

9. Thanks the Governments which have invited the Working Group;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the Working Group receives all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources it requires to perform its functions, in particular in carrying out missions or holding sessions in countries which would be prepared to receive them;

11. Decides to consider this question at its forty-fourth session in accordance with its resolution 1986/55, under a sub-item of the agenda entitled "Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances".

54th meeting
10 March 1987

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. X.]

1987/28. Hostage-taking

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling its resolution 27 (XXXVII) of 11 March 1981, in which it affirmed that the taking of hostages constituted a grave violation of human rights, exposing the hostages to privation, hardship, anguish and danger to life and health,

Recalling its resolution 1986/49 of 12 March 1986, in which it condemned the taking of any person hostage,

Bearing in mind, among other things, Security Council resolution 579 (1985) of 18 December 1985 on hostage-taking, as well as the statement made by the President of the Security Council on 28 January 1987 (S/18641), again condemning all cases of hostage-taking,

Considering that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security and that hostage-taking is a serious violation of fundamental rights and of the dignity of the human being,

Considering that arbitrary detention of persons is an unquestionable violation of human rights,

Alarmed by the growing number of cases of hostage-taking throughout the world, some of which have been going on for a long time, and by the odious practice they constitute,

Noting with concern the increasing number of instances of hostage-taking, more and more often involving nationals of States chosen in order to put pressure on those States or on third parties,

Expressing its distress at these unacceptable displays of violence towards innocent victims and at the anxiety and suffering of the families concerned,

1. Strongly condemns, whoever those responsible and whatever the circumstances, the taking of any person hostage, whether or not he is chosen at random and whatever is his nationality;
2. Censures the actions of all persons responsible for taking hostages, whatever their motives, and demands that they should immediately release those they are holding;