United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Argentina

We would like to bring your attention to the following excerpts of Treaty Body Concluding Observations and Special Procedure reports relating to issues of interest and concern to UNHCR with regards to Argentina.

Treaty Body Concluding Observations

CERD/C/65/CO/1 10 December 2004

13. While taking note with satisfaction of the assurances given by the State party regarding its plan to intensify the human rights training of border and immigration officials, the Committee is concerned about reported cases of refoulement of refugees and allegedly unfair refugee status determination procedures. In this connection, the Committee observes that, while the State party generally endeavours to follow the standards of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, but within a more limited legislative framework, there is no comprehensive law dealing with the protection of refugees. Furthermore, the Committee takes note that no information has been provided on the existence of policies and programmes to facilitate the socio-economic integration of refugees and asylum-seekers in the State party.

The Committee calls upon the State party to increase its efforts to fully respect article 5 (b) of the Convention and the principle of non-refoulement and improve refugee protection conditions and safeguards, including interpretation facilities, particularly at airports and other border points. It also urges the State party to ensure that new legislation is adopted that addresses eligibility for refugee status and the rights of refugees and specifies the refugee status determination procedures and rights of review. The Committee recommends that the State party provide further information in this regard in its next periodic report.

14. The Committee is disturbed by reports of trafficking of migrants, particularly migrant women exploited as sexual workers.

The Committee urges the State party to develop comprehensive policies and allocate adequate resources to prevent, investigate and punish these crimes, as well as to provide assistance and support to victims, and recommends that the State party provide further information on the vulnerable situation of migrants and indigenous women in its next periodic report.

- End of excerpts -

Protection Operation and Legal Advice Section Division of International Protection Services UNHCR 19 November 2007