

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Algeria

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

Treaty Body Concluding Observations

CRC/C/15/Add.269 40th session
12 October 2005

8. The Committee notes with satisfaction that several of its concerns expressed and recommendations (CRC/C/15/Add.76) made upon the consideration of the State party's initial report (CRC/C/28/Add.4) have been addressed through legislative measures and policies.

However, some of its concerns and recommendations regarding, inter alia, the State party's interpretative declarations; the unclear legal framework in the field of children's rights; non-discrimination, ill-treatment and abuse of children within the family; employment of minors in the private and agricultural sectors; and the status of nomadic and refugee children have not been sufficiently addressed.

26. While noting that the Algerian Constitution and domestic laws are based on the principle of non-discrimination, the Committee expresses its concern at the lack of concrete implementation measures, policies and programmes to promote equality and tolerance in society. The Committee is concerned at the persistent de facto discrimination faced by girls, children with disabilities, children living in poverty, children born out of wedlock, children in conflict with the law, street children, children living in rural areas and Western Saharan refugee children.

72. The Committee is deeply concerned about the difficult situation and living conditions of Western Saharan refugee children living in refugee camps in the State party. As regards food and water distribution and other basic services, the Committee notes with concern that these refugee children are completely dependent upon aid agencies and that despite the continuous efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Programme (WFP) and other agencies, there have been difficulties in providing them with adequate assistance. The Committee welcomes the joint programme of family visits between refugees in camps in Algeria and the refugees' communities of origin in Western Sahara launched by the State party, the Government of Morocco and the Frente POLISARIO and conducted by UNHCR and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara.

73. In light of article 22 and other relevant provisions of the Convention, the Committee recommends that the State party take all feasible measures to ensure full protection and care, as well as access to health and social services and to education, of Western Saharan refugee children living in refugee camps in Algeria, and in this respect continue its cooperation with, among others, UNHCR and WFP.

- End of excerpts -

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19 November 2007**