



## OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



### Systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices

#### Sub-Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/29

*The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 2001/20 of 16 August 2001 and 2002/5 of 17 August 2002,

*Recalling also* the reports of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflicts (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/20 and E/CN.4/Sub.2/2001/29),

*Taking into consideration* resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the elimination of violence against women, including its resolution 2002/52 of 23 April 2002, and the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session (E/CN.4/2002/83 and Add.1-3),

*Mindful* of the adoption of its resolution 2002/5 in which the Sub-Commission, emphasized the historic responsibility of the relevant Powers for slavery and colonialism and requested all countries concerned to take initiatives, notably through debate on the basis of accurate information, in the raising of public awareness of the disastrous consequences of periods of slavery and colonialism,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices, and takes note with appreciation of her report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/28);

2. *Deeply concerned* that systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices are still being used to humiliate civilians and military personnel, to destroy society and diminish prospects for a peaceful resolution of conflicts and that the resulting severe physical and psychological trauma endanger not only personal recovery but post-conflict reconstruction of the whole society, as pointed out in the above-mentioned report;

3. *Considers* that the latest verdicts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda acknowledging that rape, and more recently, sexual enslavement are crimes against humanity, and the special recognition in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that sexual violence and sexual slavery committed in the context of either an internal or an international armed conflict may constitute crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide falling within the jurisdiction of the Court, represent a significant step in the protection of women's human rights as they challenge widespread acceptance that torture, rape and violence against women are an integral part of war and conflict and hold the perpetrators of such crimes accountable;

4. *Reiterates* that States should provide effective criminal penalties and compensation for unremedied violations in order to end the cycle of impunity with regard to sexual violence committed during armed conflicts;

5. *Encourages* States to promote human rights education on the issues of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflicts, ensuring the accuracy of accounts of historical events in an effort to prevent the recurrence of such violations and to encourage better understanding between all peoples;

6. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report to the Sub-Commission at its fifty-fifth session on the issues of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during armed conflicts;

7. *Decides* to consider the issue under the same agenda item at its fifty-fifth session.

*22nd meeting  
14 August 2002*

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