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Press Release HR/1268
14 September 1982

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE ADOPTS VIEWS UNDER THE OPTIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

(The following is to be released simultaneously in Geneva and New York)

Under the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights individuals, who claim that any of their rights enumerated in the Covenant have been violated and who have exhausted all available domestic remedies, may submit written communications to the Human Rights Committee for consideration. Twenty-eight of the 71 States which have acceded to or ratified the Covenant have accepted the competence of the Committee for dealing with individual complaints by ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol. These States are Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, Iceland, Italy, Jamaica, Madagascar, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Saint-Vicent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Suriname, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Venezuela and Zaire. No communication can be received by the Committee if it concerns a State party to the Covenant which is not also a party to the Optional Protocol. Consideration of communications under the Optional Protocol takes place in closed meetings.

At its sixteenth session held from 12 to 30 July 1982 the Human Rights Committee examined a number of communications submitted to it under the Optional Protocol. It concluded consideration of two cases by adopting its views thereon. These are cases nos.: R.6/25 (Carmen Améndola Massiotti and Graciela Baritussio v. Uruguay) and R.11/46 (Orlando Fals Borda et al v. Colombia). The views of the Human Rights Committee in the above-mentioned cases are available upon request.

The Human Rights Committee also decided to make public one decision declaring a communication inadmissible under the Optional Protocol (R.26/121, A.M. v. Denmark). This decision is also available upon request.

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