



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS**



**Systematic rape and sexual slavery during periods of armed conflict**

**Sub-Commission resolution 1996/11**

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Recalling its resolution 1995/14 of 18 August 1995, in which the Sub-Commission decided to appoint Ms. Linda Chavez as Special Rapporteur to undertake an in-depth study of the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of armed conflict and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit a preliminary report to the Sub-Commission at its forth-eighth session and a final report at its forty-ninth session,

Noting Commission on Human Rights decision 1996/107 of 19 April 1996, in which the Commission endorsed the decision of the Sub-Commission to appoint Ms. Chavez as Special Rapporteur,

Noting also Economic and Social Council decision 1996/291 of 24 July 1996, in which the Council approved the Commission's endorsement of the decision to appoint Ms. Chavez as Special Rapporteur,

Taking note of the report by the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences (E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1 and 2),

Aware of the serious human rights violations against women occurring in countries such as the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, as reported by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (E/CN.4/1996/63) and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Rwanda (E/CN.4/1996/68),

Guided by the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Slavery Convention of 1926, the 1949 Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and other relevant human rights instruments, as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I and II thereto of 1977,

1. Welcomes the preliminary report of Ms. Linda Chavez, Special Rapporteur on the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of conflict, including internal armed conflict (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/26), summarizing the purpose and scope of the study, the history of systematic rape as an instrument of policy, relevant international norms, issues of responsibility and liability, forums with jurisdiction to try perpetrators, possible sanctions against violators and possible forms of reparation;
2. Requests the Special Rapporteur to submit her final report to the Sub-Commission at its forty-ninth session in conformity with the plan contained in her working paper (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/38);
3. Decides to consider the situation of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of armed conflict at its forty-ninth session under the agenda item on contemporary forms of slavery.

27th meeting

23 August 1996

[Adopted without a vote.]