Suriname

Suriname is a Member State of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the United Nations (UN), and has human rights obligations at both the regional and universal levels.

Regional: Inter-American System

As a Member of the OAS, Suriname is held to the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man and its human rights policies and practices are monitored by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The Commission may decide complaints against the State and may also hold hearings or issue reports on the human rights situation there. Suriname has accepted the jurisdiction of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, which may issue binding judgments concerning alleged abuses.

Individuals and groups have submitted complaints of human rights violations committed by Suriname to the Inter-American human rights system. For example, the Commission declared Suriname had violated multiple rights when Edward Darmburg was tortured and extrajudicially killed by members of the Army of Suriname. See IACHR, Report No. 19/89, Case 10.117, Edward M. Darmburg (Suriname), September 27, 1989. In Gangaram-Panday v. Suriname, the Court found that an illegal detention by the Military Police violated Gangaram Panday’s right to personal liberty. See I/A Court H.R., Gangaram Panday v. Suriname. Merits, Reparations, and Costs. Judgment of January 21, 1994. Series C No. 16.

Additionally, the Commission has issued precautionary measures to protect people in urgent situations of risk in Suriname.

Suriname has ratified the following regional human rights treaties:

- American Convention on Human Rights
- Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (“Convention of Belem do Pará”)

http://www.ijrcenter.org/country-factsheets/
United Nations System

As a UN Member State, Suriname is subject to the oversight of various UN human rights bodies, including the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review and thematic special procedures. As a party to specific universal human rights treaties, Suriname’s policies and practices are monitored by UN treaty bodies. It has accepted the complaints procedure of one treaty body.

Suriname has ratified the following UN human rights treaties:
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Suriname has submitted a reservation, declaration or understanding that modifies its obligations under the following treaties: ICCPR and CRPD.

Suriname has ratified the Optional Protocol to the CRC addressing the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Suriname has a duty to submit State reports to each UN treaty body associated with the treaties Suriname has ratified. These reports must be submitted on a periodic basis, and describe the steps Suriname has taken to implement the treaty provisions.

Suriname has also ratified the Optional Protocol allowing individuals to submit complaints against the State alleging violations of the ICCPR. While certain UN treaties include inquiry procedures, which allow the UN treaty body to consider allegations of grave or systematic human rights violations, Suriname has not accepted any inquiry procedures.

Suriname has not extended a standing invitation to UN special procedures, which means they must seek specific invitations from Suriname to conduct a visit within the State. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples went on a mission to Suriname in March 2011 and published a report in August 2011.

For more information on Suriname’s engagement with UN human rights bodies, visit http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/LACRegion/Pages/SRIndex.aspx.

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