

Report on the African Commission's Promotional Mission to Burkina Faso

(22 septembre – 02 octobre 2001).

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with its mission for the promotion and protection of human rights, the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights decided at its 26th ordinary session, held from 1st to 15th November 1999, in Kigali, Rwanda, to embark on constructive dialogue with State Parties to the Charter through promotional mission that Commissioners will be undertaking during the intersession in the countries assigned to them. The **promotional mission to Burkina Faso** falls within the framework of the decision taken in Kigali.
2. After a series of correspondences between the Secretariat of the African Commission and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso, an agreement was reached for a mission, led by **Commissioner Isaac NGUEMA** honorary Chairman of the Commission, assisted by Mr. Jules Batchono, Legal Officer in Charge of Promotion at the Secretariat of the African Commission in Banjul, be effected from 22nd September to 02nd October 2001.
3. Chairman Isaac Nguema's promotional mission was extremely successful, thanks to the support provided by the Government of Burkina Faso, members of the civil society, in particular the most important national human rights NGO, who has observer status at the commission, the Burkina be Movement for Human and Peoples' Rights (MBDHP).

II. HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE DÉMOCRATISATION PROCESS IN BURKINA FASO

4. A former French colony and Republic of Upper Volta that became Burkina Faso (homeland of the upright), since the August 1983 Revolution, this landlocked country situated in West Africa and is surrounded by Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger and Togo. It has a predominantly subsistence economy, with more than 90% out of an estimated 12 millions population engaged in agriculture, comprising mainly of the following ethnic groups:

• Mossi :	48.6%
• Peul(Fulani) :	7.8%
• Gourmantché :	7%
• Bobo :	6.8%
• Bisa-Samo :	6.5%
• Gourounsi	6%
• Dagara-Lobi :	4.3%
• Bwaba	3%
• Senoufo-Marka :	2.2%
• others :	7.8%

5. It is one of the poorest countries in the world with French as its official language whilst Moree (mossi), Dioula (variant of Bambara) and Fulbe (peulh) are the major languages spoken among sixty other local languages. According to the last UNDP human development report and estimates made by NGOs, it appears that:

* The health situation in the country is on the whole worrying and women and children in the rural areas are particularly vulnerable to numerous infectious and deadly diseases (meningitis, cholera, measles) and lack of primary health care, essential generic medicines, sufficient food unfortunately affect the health situation of mothers and children;

The education system is characterized by poor quality from primary right through high school to university with poor staffing and dilapidated infrastructure as well as high rates of illiteracy particularly among rural women, etc.;

6. Immediately after attaining independence in 1960, Burkina Faso precociously embarked on a democratization process: Indeed, pluralistic legislative elections were held in 1970, with the participation of 7 political parties and in 1975, General Lamizana, candidate for his own succession, had to run on a second ballot during Presidential elections that he nonetheless won in a transparent manner.
7. Unfortunately, the democratization process initiated in Burkina Faso was to witness major military interventions, such as the 04 August 1983 revolution that installed the National Revolutionary Council (CNR), under the leadership of Captain Thomas Sankara;
8. The overthrow of that regime on 15th October 1987 and Blaise Compaoré's takeover of power led to the renewal of the democratization process.
9. There was effectively a revival of the rule of law in Burkina on 02 June 1991 when the la constitution of the fourth Republic was adopted.
10. This constitution established presidential type government, with a National Assembly elected through direct universal suffrage and a House of Representatives whose members are nominated on one hand by

political parties, civil society organizations and on the other hand by the President of the Republic.

11. The role of the House of Representatives is to give advice on bills and laws before they are tabled before the National Assembly and adopted.
12. The constitution of Burkina Faso incorporated provisions of the African Charter on human and peoples' rights thereby rendering them a high standing in the hierarchy of legal norms within the country.
13. The organization of the judiciary at the lower levels comprises of district courts, high courts, labor tribunals, two appeal courts (in Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso) and a Supreme Court at the top comprising of a constitutional division, a judicial wing and an administrative division.
14. Parliament has already adopted a reform, which provides for a break-up of the Supreme Court through the establishment of a Constitutional Court, to ensure greater efficiency and strengthen judicial independence that is guaranteed by the constitution.
15. In addition to the civil and military legal system that is already in place, Burkina has created institutions such as the Mediator of Faso and the High Council for Information.
16. There are numerous associations, in particular human rights defenders and trade unions whose work in the field represents the only guarantee for the existence and enjoyment of democratic freedoms.
17. Many political parties are involved in the political life of the country, but the president's party forms the majority in the National Assembly where opposition nonetheless has some seats.
18. The National Assembly has certainly adopted reforms aimed at improving the opposition's presence in parliament. These reforms relate among other things to the adoption of a new electoral code, status of the opposition, financing of political parties and electoral processes.
19. The National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) comprises of the following:
 - 5 representatives from political parties backing the president;
 - 5 representatives from opposition parties;
 - 5 representatives from civil society associations.
20. This Commission is financially autonomous and its members have a mandate of 5 years, renewable once.
21. The electoral Commission is therefore permanent and has agencies at the regional, provincial and district levels.

22. The adoption of one vote represents a key element of the electoral code reform which appears to be one of the major aspects of the democratization process in Burkina Faso
23. The National Independent Electoral Commission is in charge of the electoral process, from the management of the national electoral list, revision of the voter register, preparation and issuance of voter cards, supervision of elections up to the announcement of results.
24. Burkina has ratified the African Charter on 6th July 1984 and has, in observance of article 62 of the said Charter, submitted its initial report at the 25th ordinary session of the Commission, held from 26th April to 5th May 1999, in Bujumbura, Burundi; On the basis of our note verbal ACHPR/PR/AO46 of 30th November 1995, this report combined all the reports overdue by the Burkina be Government;
25. Burkina's next periodic report should have been submitted at the 30th Ordinary Session of the Commission, in October 2001 but the said report has not yet reached at the stipulated date the Secretariat of the Commission, in Banjul. The competent authorities have, however given assurances to the mission led by Chairman Nguema on the preparation of the periodic report as well as the creation of the on-going National Human Rights Commission.
26. Burkina has ratified most of O.U.A conventions, agreements and treaties relatives to human rights, especially the additional protocol to the Charter relative to the establishment African Court for Human and Peoples' Rights, African Charter for the Rights and Welfare of the Child and a set of major international human rights instruments including major United Nations treaties.
27. Burkina Faso hosted the 19th session of the African Commission, from 26th March – 4th April 1996, in Ouagadougou and maintains a good working relationship with the African Commission as reflected in the regular participation of the Burkina be Government's delegation in the meetings of the Commission, the Government's acceptance to take measures aimed at giving effect to the decision taken by the African Commission, at its 29th Ordinary session, held from 23rd April to 07th May, 2001, in Tripoli, Libya, on the case Halidou Ouédraogo vs. Burkina Faso.
28. In Burkina Faso, the operations of institutions and holding of elections are regularly conducted whilst political parties, human rights NGOs and the civil society in general do not spare any effort in the defense of human rights as shown in the social and political crisis resulting from the assassination of the journalist Norbert Zongo and his companions, in December 1998.

II. THE OBJECTIVES AND ORGANISATION OF THE WORK OF CHAIRMAN ISAAC NGUEMA'S MISSION

A. The Objective of the promotional mission

28. The following issues fall under the scope of the terms of reference of the African Commission's mission to Burkina Faso:

- 1) The objective of the mission led by Chairman Isaac Nguema was to strengthen the dissemination and implanting of the African Charter and bringing the African Commission's support and encouragement to Burkina Faso in its search for solutions to the deepening of the democratization process.
- 2) The meetings that Chairman Isaac Nguema's delegation will hold with representatives from Government, parliament, judiciary, civil services, political parties, unions, human rights NGOs, press and other civil society actors are meant to:
 - a) Apprise itself of latest developments in the field relative to the rule of law process;
 - b) Gather in particular from the Government general information on the human rights situation in Faso and particularly on the human rights education situation and actions that the Government has taken or intends to take with a view to finding solutions to problems of human rights promotion and protection within the country;
 - c) Discuss with the Government human rights projects in which the Commission and other partners could contribute;
 - d) Draw the attention of the competent governmental authorities on one hand on the need for making the contents of the African Charter known to the population, especially through the radio, television, newspapers, seminars, workshops, etc. and on the other hand on international and regional human rights covenants that Burkina has not yet ratified, especially the Treaty setting up International Criminal Court;
 - e) Inform the Government on progress made in the formulation of the Protocol to the African Charter relative to Women Rights in Africa, and request its support to finalize the process and to sensitize the population on women rights in Africa;
 - e) Remind the Government on the need to honor its obligations under the African Charter by adopting special measures aimed at:

- Submitting at the Commission's 31st Ordinary session its periodic report that was scheduled for the 30th Ordinary session;
 - Proceeding as soon as feasible with the creation of the National Human Rights Commission of Burkina Faso;
 - Giving effect in the shortest possible time to the decision taken by the Commission at its 29th Ordinary session in Tripoli, Libya, regarding the Communication for human rights violations lodged by MBDHP and its Chairman, Mr. Halidou Ouédraogo, against the Government, a decision that the Government acknowledged;
 - Pursuing the effort in favor of Women and Children in particular through the education of girls, professional training, promotion of health care;
- f) Inform NGOs and other civil society associations on the need for a just and equitable assessment of efforts deployed by each and everyone and their participation in the dialogue with the aim of contributing to the search for finding solutions to the promotion and protection of human rights in Burkina Faso;
- g) Express the African Commission's constant desire to provide assistance to the promotion and protection of human rights in Burkina Faso;

B. Organization of the delegation's schedule

30. The delegation led by Chairman Isaac Nguema arrived around 20hrs on the night of 22 September 2001 and was received at Ouagadougou airport by a Burkina be Government delegation comprising mainly of the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary General at the Ministry of Justice and the Promotion of Human Rights and the Technical Adviser of the State Secretariat for the Promotion Human Rights; This delegation presented to Chairman Nguema a draft program for his visit.
31. The two delegations discussed briefly the draft program in the hotel room of Chairman Nguema and as suggested by the delegation from the Commission, they agreed to commence as agreed the mission as from 24th September 2001, and to convene during the same day a working session including members of the civil society, with a view to eventually making amendments to the above-mentioned draft program.
32. This working session was held in the evening on 24th September 2001, and brought together the Commission's delegation with representatives from the Government and civil society who proceeded with the amendments and the adoption of the work program for the mission from the Commission.

IV- PERSONNALITIES OR ORGANISATIONS MET AND MAJOR ISSUES DISCUSSED:

A. Personalities, Institutions or organizations met

33. The work of Chairman Isaac Nguema's team was made easier by the interest and readiness shown by the Burkina be partners thanks to effort to sensitize and inform deployed by the competent governmental Authorities and human rights NGOs especially under the leadership of MBDHP,.
34. The delegation from the Commission as such met the following personalities:

1) In Government :

- HEM Youssouf Ouédraogo, State Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- HEM Badini Boureima; Minister of Justice and the Promotion of Human Rights;
- HEM Monique Ilboudo, Secretary of State for the Promotion of Human Rights;
- HEM Kouamé Lougué, Minister of Defense;
- HEM Berbard T. Nabaré Minister of Local Government and Decentralization;
- HEM Gilbert Ouédraogo, Minister of Social Welfare and National Solidarity;
- HEM Kilimité Théodore Hien, Minister of Information, Spokesperson of the Government
- HEM Mahamoudou Ouédraogo, Minister of Arts and Culture;
- HEM Laya Sawadogo, Minister for Secondary, Higher Education and Scientific Research;

2) In State Bodies:

- HEM Ambassador Mélégué Traoré, Speaker of the National Assembly;
- HEM Moussa Sanogo, Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- HEM Antoine Komi Sambo, President of the Supreme Court;
- HEM Jean Baptiste kafando, Mediator of Faso;
- HEM Juliette Bonkougou, Chairperson of the Economic and Social Council;
- Pr. Traoré S. Alfred, Chancellor (Rector) of Ouagadougou University
- Mr. Sylvain Sawadogo, Chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission;
- Mr. Béyon Luc Adolphe Tiao, Chairman of the High Council for Information;

3) Members of political parties

- Messrs. Yarga Larba, Siméon Sawadogo, Sambaré Paléguem, Michel Ouédraogo: Congress for Democracy and Progress (C.D.P.), majority and President's party in parliament (refer to annex I);
- Halidou Oudraogo, Kambou Kassoum, Christoph Compaoré, Doctor Compaoré, Issa Tiendrébéogo, Touré Schuman, Bah Nassirou: On behalf of the Group of mass organizations and opposition parties (refer to annex i;

4) Members of the civil society;

- NGOs and Associations of Human rights defenders;
- Representative of the Bench;
- Major trade Unions;
- Lecturers of Ouagadougou University;
- Student Associations (refer to annex I);
- Religious Organizations (Catholics, Muslims, protestants) (refer to list at annex I) ;
- The Mogho Naba Bahongho(emperor of the Mossi)

5) Media houses

- 2 press conferences, on 24th September 2001, to announce the arrival of the promotional Mission and another to present provisional findings on discussions and observations made on 3 October 2001;
- Various interviews granted by Chairman Nguema to journalists, including radio and television stations, written press;
- Media coverage, especially the television and written press during certain meetings held by the promotional mission.

B. Major audiences and meetings held by the promotional mission.

1) Monday, 24th septembre

a) Curtsey call on HEM State Minister, Minister Of Foreign Affairs

35. The promotional mission to Burkina Faso held a meeting in HEM Youssouf Ouédraogo, State Minister's office to commence its official activities in the country. The Minister was assisted by two of his collaborators including the Permanent Secretary, Mr. Coté Zakalia, whilst his assistant accompanied Chairman Nguema.

36. Following the usual exchange of polite remarks, Chairman Nguema explained that Burkina had already hosted the African Commission during its 19th Ordinary session in Ouagadougou, in 1996;

37. Chairman Nguema then proceeded to explain that the promotional mission formed part of routine procedures for monitoring the situation in

the States parties to the African Charter and was aimed at assessing the implementation of the provisions of the Charter, exploring with the partners of the Commission, ways and means for strengthening the said Charter, as well as emphasizing the obligation of State parties.

38. Chairman Nguema proceeded in the same manner during all the meetings that followed and in the presence of his assistant, Mr. Jules Batchono.
39. The Minister expressed his Government's readiness to pursue its dialogue and collaboration with the Commission by explaining that if the African Commission, particularly Chairman Isaac Nguema had trained men and women who are working hard in the field to deepen the human rights process in Burkina Faso, Burkina has, in exchange, always manifested its interest and support to the Commission by providing it with competent personnel and actively participating in the activities it organizes.
40. Burkina has in fact incorporated the African Charter into its Constitution and embarked on the necessary reforms aimed at giving full effect to the provisions of the Charter. My Government, the Minister went on, wishes to express its gratitude to the African Commission for dispatching Mr. Chairman your delegation, even though time will not allow you to cover the whole territory.
41. We have nothing to hide in Faso. On the contrary, your presence is a source of joy for us because it could provide us the opportunity to know each other, by observing for yourselves that we do not have political prisoners, that we enjoy fundamental freedoms, that our Government engages in dialogue and consultations with its partners, as a means for resolving human rights issues (political parties in the opposition, civil society, international organizations). Mr. Chairman, we have as such implemented reforms that are a testimony of our desire to move forward, in spite of the paucity of our resources, the Minister ended. »
42. Chairman Nguema thanked him in particular for the role his Ministry played in enhancing the collaboration between the Commission and Burkina, before indicating how proud he felt within the Commission, as Commissioner assigned to this country because of the efforts made by the Burkina be population and that a promotional visit by the African Commission under the Charter was indeed well overdue.

b) Meeting with the Minister of Arts and Culture

43. Chairman explained that the mission was a continuation of the dialogue initiated between the African Commission and the Government of Burkina Faso, introduced the African Charter and the work of the Commission and asked questions on the right to culture, economic and social rights that are closely linked to the right to culture.

44. In the presence of the Secretary General of the Department, the Minister Mahamoudou Ouédraogo indicated first of all that Chairman Isaac Nguema, as a pioneering defender of human rights in Africa, was well known in Burkina, and consequently in Burkina they felt honored and delighted by the presence among them of a promotional mission from the African Commission led by Chairman Nguema, who has never failed to give good advice and opinion to them in Burkina.
45. He added that in Burkina, they understood at an early stage that culture is an important source of natural wealth and considered its development as a priority that is equally relevant to economic and social rights. Efforts were therefore deployed in projects such as the fight against desertification, the Pan African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), the Ouagadougou International Arts and Craft Exhibition (SIAO), the National Cultural Week (Bobo Dioulasso).
46. FESPACO and SIAO are held every two years, for a period of three weeks, within an interval of a month in Ouagadougou and attract visitors from all over the world; the National Cultural Week is held in Bobo Dioulasso and is an exhibition of all cultures in Burkina and even that of the Diaspora, especially in the neighboring countries; This Cultural Festival is held a year before the other two major African cultural events mentioned above and like them the visitors vary widely.
47. These events contribute towards the development of economic, social and cultural rights through the satisfaction that the populations derive from their participation in such events, which constitutes a source of satisfaction and encouragement for us. We are therefore planning to implement a real Arts and Culture development project at the University, sustain and strengthen assistance to the creation of community radios, cultural and artistic training centers in our regions and divisions, etc. Since our means are limited, we are counting on everybody's goodwill, including that of the O.A.U
48. Chairman Nguema expressed his appreciation for the Minister's effort and time before indicating that Burkina should be encouraged for having succeeded where other better-endowed nations never dared to venture. You have every right to expect support from the O.A.U but the O.A.U only resembles its member States. Chairman Nguema, urged nonetheless, Burkina to persevere in its efforts and have faith in Africa since the transformation of the O.A.U into African Union is full of hope for the people of our continent.

c) Working session extended to the civil society

49. This working session brought together representatives from the civil society (MBDHP), Government (Foreign Affairs and Justice and the Promotion of Human Rights) and the African Commission delegation.

50. Due to the delegation's schedule, the meeting commenced late, around 18 hours. In his preliminary remarks, Chairman Isaac Nguema underscored the important role that NGOs play in the promotion of human rights. Since the mission of NGOs is to complement the work of the Commission in the field, it was necessary to involve them in the preparation of the mission's work program.

51. In conclusion, the following points were added to the draft work program:

- Curtsey call on the Head of State and the Prime Minister,
- Press Conference, on 25th September 2001, to inform the public about the aim of the mission from the Commission,
- Press conference to debrief on the mission's provisional findings;
- Attendance at the ceremony commemorating the «mistaken departure of the Moro Naba », (prevented by his sister to go to war), which is held on every Friday, for centuries now.
- A meeting:
 - With political parties including those of the opposition
 - With University lecturers
 - With traditional and religious leaders
 - with CENI, etc.

52. Due to the schedule drawn by its partners, the amendments of the delegation's work program mainly regarding audiences with the President of Faso and the Prime Minister could not be adhered to.

2) Tuesday, 25th September

a) Meeting with the Minister of Social Welfare and National Solidarity

53. The Secretary General at the Ministry, Mrs. Korbéogo Faty assisted Minister Gilbert N. Ouédraogo when he received the mission from the Commission in his office. Chairman Isaac Nguema explained the purpose of the mission and raised a series of questions to which the Minister gave the following responses:

- Penalisation of female genital mutilation.
- Fight against child trafficking and the «prison for children » project.
- A reception program for old women driven away for reasons of «sorcery », and a resettlement project, because through sensitization, some areas do accept to welcome back victims.
- Assistance to handicapped persons particularly towards their empowerment.
- Sensitization for better protection of women rights in rural areas, through the on-going reform of the legal entity and assets code.
- Problems relating to minorities and indigenous peoples who in most cases fortunately have traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.
- Creation of special funds and sensitization on the need to reactivate or develop traditional solidarity mechanisms that often transcend the ethnic divide, for handling natural calamities and

problems of returnees from overseas, deprived and thrown out, such as it happened recently in Côte d'Ivoire.

- Fight against prostitution and homosexuality, through sensitization, etc.

54. The Minister concluded by dilating on the difficulties mainly linked to limited budgetary resources, and Chairman Nguema urged him to particularly focus on the development of traditional forms of solidarity and human rights protection which proves wrong those who claim that human rights were unknown to pre-colonial Africa.

b) Meeting with the Minister of Secondary, Higher Education and Scientific Research

55. Chairman Isaac Nguema briefly explained the purpose of the promotional mission, raised questions mainly on human rights education and the situation of the girl child.

56. The Minister seized the opportunity to express his gratitude to the Commission for dispatching a mission that is interested to know the reality on the respect for human rights in Burkina Faso where the remnants of the emergency mentality still subsist. This mentality prevents some people from appreciating efforts made by some such as the efforts made by the Head of State, who is nonetheless a product of the revolutionary situation.

57. Victims of the aftermath of the revolution tend to oppose dialogue and negotiations, in favor of an all or nothing form of extremism, violence, lack of respect for the rights and freedoms of others, which border on subversion, and led to a one year stoppage of classes and the university reform. Fortunately things are improving in spite of the material problems that are yet to be resolved.

58. Minister Laya Sawadogo concluded by explaining that human rights education was being effected at the primary and secondary level through civic education, that a specialization course on human rights was being developed at Ouagadougou University and that problems linked to girls education were significantly being addressed in some regions through sensitisation.

59. Affirmative action is generally improving the situation of girls regarding recruitments, duration in school, allocation of scholarships and educational aids. As such, with a ' levels at 25, the girl child is entitled to a scholarship whilst the boy is only entitled to it at 22years if he has a good grade at A' levels. The main constraints emanate from the State's limited resources.

60. Chairman Nguema expressed his appreciation of the Minister overview and expressed the hope that mentalities will evolve to attain a correct

understanding of the origins of human rights in Africa as the African Rights Theory Academy that he belongs to, has been striving to do.

c) First press conference held by Chairman Isaac Nguema

61. This first press conference was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with participants mainly coming from the local press (the international agencies did not respond to the invitation), in the presence of representatives from Government and the NGOs.
62. In his preliminary remarks, Chairman Nguema indicated that the press couldn't be bypassed in the promotion of human rights, which explains why the delegation from the African Commission is keen on contacting the whole press corps, so as to work towards the success of the African Charter's promotional mission to Burkina Faso.
63. The aim of the mission is to review implementation of the African Charter's provisions in Burkina Faso; it is, however, not a matter of conducting a police or judicial enquiry, nor a spying mission but a routine mission initiated by the commission, with a view to fostering dialogue, strengthening and developing cooperation between the African Commission and Governments of State parties to the Charter as well as between the Commission and NGOs operating in these countries.
64. It is therefore a mission to initiate contact, dialogue, exchange information and experiences, which is extended to the press and the population, on matters relative to the respect of the Charter's provisions, since human rights issues are part and parcel of our heritage, and contrary to the claims made by some refuting it and even arguing for development, at the expense of human rights. Without human rights therefore, there can never be sustainable human development.
65. Chairman Isaac Nguema made an overview of the African Charter, the work of the Commission, before responding satisfactorily to the questions asked by several journalists.
66. To the questions relative to the short duration of the visit and the scope of the program to be covered by the African Commission's mission, the outcome of the decision taken by the Commission in the MBDHP/Burkina Faso case, on what the Commission did and/or intends to do for resolving the crisis borne out of the assassination of Norbert Zongo, on the Commission views in relation to the positions adopted by MBDHP, human rights NGOs who formed a coalition with radical opposition political parties, Chairman Nguema responded without roundabouts as reflected in the following brief :
 - The duration will no doubt be insufficient; Faced with constraints, the mission shall focus on the essential matters.

- The MBDHP who enjoys observer status with the Commission is aware that it should preserve its independence and work in a non-partisan manner to promote human rights.
- The mission shall seize the opportunity provided by its meetings to apprise itself of the outcome of the decision taken by the Commission in MBDHP/Burkina be State, adopted by the O.A.U Heads of States Summit at the Lusaka session and which was accepted by the Burkina be Government. The Commission only awaits notification of implementation measures taken but we shall be able to better inform on 2nd October, when we will be informing you of our mission's provisional findings.
- On the Norbert Zongo case, lets us say that State parties are aware of their obligations under the African Charter, on the right to life and the fight against impunity but similarly we could provide you with the outcome of findings in due course.

67. Chairman Isaac Nguema condemned the terrorist attacks on 11th September 2001 on the United States of America by calling them acts that violate human conscience and dignity, before thanking the journalists, after more than one hour dialogue.

d) Audience with the Chairman of the House of Representatives

68. The Chairman of this Institution, Mr. Moussa Sanogo received the promotional mission in his office in the presence of three members of his staff and explained that the House of Representatives was an offshoot of the civil society that it represents in the country's parliamentary nomenclature.

69. The House of Representatives is apolitical and provides advice on legal bills and projects. In case of disagreement with the National Assembly, it can approach the executive with its report.

70. In fact, the National Assembly takes into consideration the reports of the House, which enabled it to contribute towards the adoption of the on-going reforms, especially on the revision of the electoral code: Indeed, it was the House of Representatives that suggested the inclusion of the civil society in the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI).

71. At its inception, some raised the question of the House's utility; but its work is highly appreciated by all, which earned it some moral satisfaction and even material, in that its working conditions improved.

72. Chairman Nguema thanked Mr. Sanogo for receiving them and providing them with information; He thanked the Burkina be people for its initiatives aimed at capitalizing on the positive aspects of the African heritage that were often ignored at our expense. Chairman Nguema advised for vigilance against violence that never warns before erupting.

73. After introducing the Charter and the work of the Commission, Chairman Nguema gave an interview to members of the audio-visual press on the issues discussed with his host and issues relative to the implementation of the provisions of the African Charter that are relevant to the constitution of Burkina Faso.

3) Wednesday, 26th September

a) Audience with the Chairperson of the Economic and Social Council

74. The meeting was held in the office of Mrs. Juliette Bonkougou, during which Chairman Nguema spoke on the African Charter, the work of the Commission, the objectives of the mission he was leading.

75. Mrs. Bonkougou also spoke about her Institution and the discussion mainly focused on the evolution of the democratization process in Burkina with reference to the Norbert Zongo affair, the role of the civil society in good governance, the rights of the child, the death penalty, the need for the Commission to strengthen its cooperation with State parties to the Charter for whom the Commission serves as a framework for consultations and orientation on human rights issues.

76. After advising and urging Mrs. Bonkougou to persevere in the work of its institution, Chairman Nguema proceeded to face the press.

a) Meeting with human rights organizations

77. Many NGOs and Associations working on different aspects of human rights actively took part in the meeting held in the Ministry of Justice and the Promotion of Human Rights.

78. Chairman Isaac Nguema spoke at length on the African Charter, the Commission's activities and what it expects from collaboration with NGOs, particularly those that enjoy observer status with the Commission.

79. The outcome of the discussions reflected the nature the of the attendance and was as follows:

- 61% of the population lives below the poverty line.
- The overall health situation is worrying especially for women and children in rural areas where meningitis, cholera, measles epidemics are common, a situation that is further aggravated by poor access to primary health care and lack of food self-sufficiency.
- Low level of the primary, secondary and higher education and an education system in crisis, as reflected in the closure and overhaul of the university.
- This crisis is structural in nature and shows at the political, economic and social levels.

- Corruption, the incapacity of the justice system to act on sensitive human rights cases such as the Norbert Zongo affair and impunity, among others, taint the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms.
- The situation is similar with the delays and the bad faith shown by the Government in the implementation of reforms, which led the same Government not to respect the texts, and a worrisome security situation that doesn't cater for negotiated solutions.

c) Audience with the Chancellor of Ouagadougou University

80. The delegation from the Commission met with Mr. Traoré Alfred, Chancellor of the university in the presence of two of his colleagues including the Secretary General of the university.
81. Chairman Isaac Nguema briefly spoke about the purpose of his mission, the African Charter and the activities of the Commission; Mr. Traoré first of all explained the university reform and its origin, such as for example the reign of violence that diverted the university from its natural vocation of place for expression and exchange of ideas, to become a place of intolerance and permanent contestation, and therefore childish.
82. The reform has deepened the democratic process in the management of the university, through the involvement of the students at all levels, restoration of the university's franchise, tolerance, but also budgetary constraints which led to lack of infrastructure, teaching staff, scholarships or assistance to students, etc. that partly explained the persistence of the grievances of student and lecturers even though a lot has been achieved.
83. The aim of the reform is fundamentally, to create a link between training and employment, with the objective of limiting the amount of graduates that expect everything from the State.

d) Audience with the Chairman of the Supreme Court

- 84.83. The meeting took place in the office of the Chairman, Mr. Komi Sambo Antoine who, after some exchanges on some Judicial issues including developments on the Zongo case, concluded that apart from the texts/laws, opinions that we may have on the justice system, the essential thing for him is about competence or bad faith, which is aggravated by weak staffing in terms of numbers, lack of resources for training and even for documentation.
85. The mission then met with the legal practitioners unions who requested and obtained that the meeting be deferred to enable them better prepare for it. With Chairman Nguema's agreement, the meeting was scheduled for a later date. The Chairman suggested that the role of the judge in the rule of law be chosen as the topic of discussion.

4) 27th septembre2001

a) Meeting with the CDP and the parties backing the President

86. The CDP or Congress for Democracy and Progress, President Blaise Compaoré Party, holds about 95 out of 120 seats in the National Assembly and shares power with other opposition parties known as parties behind the President. Some of these parties have seats in the National Assembly.

87. The following issues were raised by the representatives of this group:

* Constraints:

- Lack of resources and the negative effects of the international order;
- The aftermath of the revolutionary period on mentalities.
- The politicization of the judiciary at the expense of judicial procedures, such as for example the refusal by even experienced judges to accept the need to revisit the Norbert Zongo file, after the submission of the report of an independent commission of enquiry.
- The exploitation by NGOs including MBDHP of human rights violations for political capital whilst the Government rightly expect these NGOs who are its major partners to provide it with objective observations and suggestions, in the search for solutions to human rights promotion and protection issues.

* Efforts being undertaken:

- Administrative reform and payment of financial compensation to victims of «phasing-out process» (unlawful redundancies) and iniquitous (revised) judgments made during the revolution.
- On-going reforms since the commencement of the rule of law, such as those relative to the electoral code, in favor of transparency and representation of small political parties, the creation of a Constitutional Court, the status of members of the opposition whose leaders will benefit from the same status and privileges as the chairman of an institution, the financing of political parties and election campaigns by the State, etc.
- Reconciliation day and acknowledgement of violation of human rights perpetrated by the State since independence in 1960 for the compensation.
- National farmers day celebrated yearly by each region.
- Implementation of the education project «a village, a school» and «a primary health care center in each department/region», evolving each towards a regional hospital.
- Regular payment of Civil servant Salaries on the 25th of the month.
- Youth employment creation assistance programs especially for graduates and women, etc.

- Participation of women in all economic sectors including 10 in the National Assembly.
- Efforts at limiting the negative effects of privatization, particularly on employment.
- Fight against desertification and water management in favor of food self-sufficiency.
- A functioning multiparty system without any restriction and total press freedom including the public press.

b) Audience with the Speaker of the National Assembly

88. HEM. Ambassador Traoré Mélégué Maurice, Chairman of the National Assembly received in his office the delegation from the Commission and made the following remarks:

- A positive evolution in norms resulting from the reforms adopted by the National Assembly, since the restoration of the democratization process through the constitution in 1991.
- The need for mentalities to adapt to the dynamism in norms, to ensure effective democracy.
- Political stability, parliamentary diplomacy and development of human rights that should accompany sustainable human development in Burkina Faso.
- Importance of NGOs, in general the civil society, in the democratization process.
- Importance of the collaboration between the African Commission and State parties to the African Charter, especially through promotional missions that enable it to closely observe what prevails on the ground.

89. Chairman Isaac Nguema expressed his appreciation for the views and work of the National Assembly, before giving an interview to the press.

c) Meeting with the Ministers of Information and Local Government

90. The Minister of Local Government and Decentralization, Mr. Nabaré Bernard was overseeing the Ministry of State Security, on behalf of Bassolet Yipènè Djibril, who was absent and Chairman Isaac Nguema accepted to meet Ministers Nabaré and Théodore Hien Kilimité of Information, in a single audience in the office of the Minister of Local Government.

91. Following Chairman Isaac Nguema's overview on the African Charter, especially on the obligations of the State parties and the work of the Commission, the two ministers responded along the following lines:

- Freedom of association in Burkina Faso (freedom of creation of associations, political parties, unions and the possibility of subsequently applying for a legal status).
- Freedom and application to start a newspaper, as the role of the High Council of Information is to manage the media.

- Lessons on enjoyment of public liberties by the population, during the difficult periods of Norbert Zongo case.
- Reforms, especially Regionalization to deepen the democratic process and empowering the populations to take charge of the development process.

92. At the end of the meeting, Chairman Isaac Nguema continued to explain human rights issues to the members of the Press, always in the interest of the population.

d) Meeting with a group of representatives from the National Assembly

93. The delegation met with a group of representatives who were waiting for them at the Ministry of Justice, around 19 hrs 30.

94. This Group talked about the fundamental freedoms, the role of the civil society, the positive evolution in the attitude of MBDHP who in the past used to confuse limits between the defense of human rights and taking a political stand, on-going reforms, the Head of State's request for forgiveness, the importance for the mission to directly assess the human rights situation on the ground.

95. Chairman Nguema explained on the whole that it would be a good thing to win our Heads of State over to the human rights cause and there is a need for vigilance to avert violence through judicious reforms.

5) 28th September 2001

a) Audience with the emperor of the Mossi or Moro / Mogho Naba

96. Due to logistic problems, the mission was unable to attend the «ceremony of the mistaken departure of the emperor ». Chairman Isaac Nguema nonetheless seized the opportunity to explain to the emperor, in the presence of the notables, the Charter African and the activities of the Commission, as well as the role of traditional leaders.

97. The Moro Naba Bahongho (Fertility) explained that we had our own conception of human rights and it is the reason why we had our own judges, Mediators and others, well before the Europeans arrived here. Our country is making strides in the human rights field including the freedom that enables us to open to others. There is therefore need to incorporate our own conception of human rights into the universal approach which is fundamentally not very different.

98. Chairman Nguema urged the traditional authorities and in particular the Moro Naba whose views he highly appreciate, to contribute in their own manner, towards the deepening of the human rights process.

b) Meeting with the Chairman of the High Council for Information

99. Chairman Isaac Nguema emphasized the role that the media has in the promotion and protection of human rights, the independence and professionalism of its members.

100. The Chairman of the High Council for Information, Mr. Beyon Luc Adolphe Tiao, explained in the presence of three of his colleagues, that:

- The Council comprise of 12 members appointed by decree, following their nomination by:
 - The Head of State (4)
 - The Chairman of the National Assembly (2)
 - The Chairman of the House of Representatives (2)
 - Trade Associations (4) and the Chairman is appointed by the other members
- The Norbert Zongo provided the opportunity to verify whether press freedom exists and one of the objectives of the Council is to ensure that the media show greater interest in human rights.
- There are some constraints linked to the training of journalists, since everyone wants to be a journalist, corruption and manipulation, the positions often held by the international press, especially on their coverage of domestic events, insufficient State support to the private press which raises problems of distribution based on merit.

c) Meeting with legal practitioners union

101. The discussion focused on the independence and the role of the judiciary and it was agreed that significant progress has been made but that problems remain at the level of the Superior council of the bench where the civil society is not represented, on the training of judges, the revival of bench through the improvement of their living and working conditions as well as de-politicization of this corps, etc.

102. Chairman Isaac Nguema particularly insisted on the fact that the laws alone couldn't guarantee the independence necessary for judges to perform their function under the rule of law. There is need for commitment to the vocation, combined with a kind of personality imbued with a desire for independence.

d) Meeting with university lecturers and students

103. The delegation from the Commission met separately the lecturers and the students of Ouagadougou university, on 28th September and on 1st ^{October} but both sides talked about issues regarding the role played by the African Commission in certain cases such as the assassination of Norbert Zongo, Dabo Boukary and others, years of work stoppage at the

university, the conception and appreciation of human rights in Africa, the rôle of the African Academy for Legal Theory, etc.

104. It was reported that intolerance and lack of democracy previously prevailed on the campus, whilst human rights has gained momentum since the introduction of reforms, even though the enjoyment of these rights is limited by obstacles linked to the past practices, the attitude of some members of the opposition and some human rights movements whose leaders are the former comrades of those in power, which led to some settling of scores, etc. The pauperization of the population, mess-ups by Governments all hinder the enjoyment of human rights.

105. The lecturers and students admittedly participate in the management of the university; But the fundamental texts are the product of an individual and the poor working conditions and study mortgage the fruits of their participation.

106. As a matter of fact, the status of the teaching staff remains vague and, that of the students remains the same and the worrisome lack of security linked to the commitments made by Government as reflected in the manner in which the conclusions of the report following the death of Norbert Zongo were handled, all represent obstacles to the enjoyment of the benefits of the Rule of law and the deepening of the democratization process.

107. Chairman Isaac Nguema concluded by responding to the remarks and observations, with a suggestion for dialogue based on tolerance and participation, sensitization for the promotion of the African Charter.

108. Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th were not working days in Burkina Faso and the delegation from the Commission was only able to resume its official meeting on Monday 1st October.

6. 1st October 2001

a) Audience with the Chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI)

109. In receiving the African Commission's delegation in his office, the Chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission talked about the evolution of his organization: by 1991, the Commission was a simple organization and was the product of consensus built around a proposal from the opposition to create a democratization organ.

110. We have the resources needed to perform our mission, such as administrative and budgetary autonomy, permanent structures, our different constituents as well as the distribution of different agencies within the national territory especially in the provinces.

111. The assassination of Norbert Zongo had a traumatic effect on everyone. There is therefore a need for each and everyone to make an effort. The situation could be improved if the political parties correctly play their role, for example, the location of the voting booths are popularized to ensure that the parties become closer to the concerns of the electorate.

112. Chairman Isaac Nguema pointed out that the National Electoral Commission that is really Independent has an important role to play in the future democratization process in Burkina Faso and suggested that the Electoral Commission lay emphasis on sensitization for greater impact.

b) Meeting with religious groups (Christians, Catholics and Muslims)

113. The meeting was held in the Ministry of Justice and the Promotion of Human Rights. Chairman Isaac Nguema explained the purpose of the mission, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as well as the work of the Commission.

114. For catholic and protestant communities, since the human being was made from God's image, he has dignity that should be respected, especially through the right to life; Human dignity should furthermore be preserved against the vices of sin, ignorance, sickness, famine, etc. and the church makes contribution towards the fight against these scourges.

115. The church also made contributions during the dramatic events surrounding the David Ouédraogo and Norbert Zongo affair.

116. The Muslim community agreed with the church's point of view, by laying emphasis on the right to freedom that forms part of the sacred human rights.

117. It was agreed as follows:

- There is need for everyone, especially the Government to pay more attention to human rights, by making more investments in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- The on-going reforms should be accelerated, particularly in the area of Justice, which is not accessible to the public.
- There is also need for reconciliation in spite of events surrounding the Norbert Zongo and other cases that were painful for everyone.
- There is need to get rid of the after effect of past traumas, accept the existing human rights for all and sundry such as for example, grant all facilities accorded by the law to enjoy the right to go on strike, whilst acknowledging the right of others who wish so not to participate in the strike.
- There is therefore need for the State, Organizations for the defense of human rights and the civil society to make efforts aimed at safeguarding and improving progress made in the field of human rights.

7. 02nd October 2001

a) Meeting with political parties in the opposition

118. This meeting was also held in the Ministry of Justice and the promotion of Human Rights and the discussions revolved around the following issues:

- The objectives of the mission from the African Commission.
- On the content of the report submitted by the Government to the Commission under article 62 of the Charter.
- On the situation of the cases submitted to the Commission by MBDHP/ Government.
- On those who are competent to submit a report to the African Commission
- On what the Commission could do in the fight against impunity and insecurity in Burkina Faso, especially in the Norbert Zongo and Thomas Sankara cases.
- On the issue of suspects in the Norbert Zongo case who have been dying one by one.
- On the report of the eminent persons group, one of the basic document on human rights in Burkina Faso.

119. Chairman Isaac Nguema responded to all the questions posed and made recommendations for dialogue and consultation, based on the African Charter on human and peoples' rights and other basic internal documents, to enhance the democratization process and expand the promotion and protection of human rights.

b) Audience with the Mediator of Faso

120. The meeting was held in the office of the Mediator of Faso, Mr. Jean Baptiste Kafando during which Chairman Isaac Nguema explained the objectives of the mission, the African Charter and the work of the Commission.

121. Mr. Kafando also talked about the role of the Mediator of Faso and its agencies in the provinces, in the human rights protection system in Burkina Faso: Besides the courts, the Mediator of Faso is mandated to manage conflicts between the administration, its agencies, local government authorities and the citizens. The Mediator works through reconciliation and fulfils a human rights promotional mission.

122. The meeting ended with a press briefing that gave the chairman Isaac Nguema the opportunity to further explains issues relative to the promotion of the African Charter.

c) Audience with the Minister of National Defense

123. The Minister of Defense, Mr. Lougué Kouamé received in his office the délégation from the Commission and Chairman Isaac Nguema talked to him about the content of the African Charter and the Commission's work before asking questions on human rights education in the armed forces and particularly within the security forces.

124. Minister Lougué Kouamé dilated on the role of the army which among others consist of defending the national territory, providing security, ensuring that human rights are enjoyed before pointing out that teaching international humanitarian law and human rights to such an army is a necessity and that emphasis should particularly be laid on human rights education in police and military police training schools.

125. The meeting ended with advice and encouragements from Chairman Nguema..

d) Audience with the Minister of Justice and the Promotion of Human Rights

126. Minister Boureima Badini met in his office with the délégation from the African Commission in the presence of the Secretary of State for the promotion of Human Rights, Mrs. Monique Ilboudo, the Secretary General at the Ministry of Justice, Mrs. Salamata T. Sawadogo, and the Technical Adviser to the Secretary of State, Mr. Zakamé Vincent.

127. Chairman Isaac Nguema talked about the objective of the promotional mission led by him, the African Charter and the work of the Commission before raising particular questions on the following matters:

- On the level of implementation of the decision taken by the African Commission during its 29th Ordinary session, held from 23rd April to 7th may 2001 in Tripoli, Libya, regarding the communication complaint no 204/97 initiated by the Burkina be Movement for Human Rights (MBDHP) against the Government of Burkina Faso.
- The situation of the outstanding cases in the courts such as the Norbert Zongo, Tenkodogo and others.
- The situation of the reform process in the Justice system.

128. Minister Badini expressed his satisfaction with the presence of the délégation from the African Commission and equally expressed the Government's gratitude to the mission before pointing out that the mission must have undoubtedly made their own research on the human rights situation and that their findings will no doubt help Burkina Faso to move forward in its search to break away from the demons of the past with a view to achieving the best form of promoting and protecting human rights.

129. Minister Badini made particular reference to the following issues raised in the discussion:

- Burkina has accepted the decision taken by the Commission in the matter MBDHP against the Government of Burkina that was, with the agreement of Burkina, approved by the O.A.U Heads of State summit held in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001.
- This decision should be applied taking into consideration the evaluation of material damage incurred by the parties especially bearing in mind that MBDHP has exhausted all the necessary internal remedies.
- Regarding the Norbert Zongo and Tenkodogo cases, the legal process is on course after the suspects detained in N. Zongo and Tenkodogo cases were charged, nine of the traditional leaders children still remain in detention, even though their father who is the main suspect died.
- The Thomas Sankara affair was also subject of a judicial review at the Supreme Court.
- In any case, the decisions taken by the eminent persons Commission that looked into other matters besides the Norbert Zongo case, all cases of human rights violations such as the Dabo Boukari and others that are identified for the purpose of determining damages owed to victims or those entitled to it should be implemented.
- In each of these cases, a consensus is about to be reached even though each of the interested parties could still seek legal remedy.
- The desire to find satisfactory solutions for all and progress in the protection of human rights exists and the Government has made major strides.
- But, there has been a lot of speculation on the outstanding cases, which forced me to ask the civil society, including NGOs, to know whether the Government's intervention in the on-going legal proceedings was appropriate? The civil society responded in the negative to my question.
- This is to say that we are particularly concerned about the participation of the civil society in the democratization process and we could say that the independent commission of enquiry that looked into the Norbert Zongo case was chaired by a representative of the civil society.
- The Government has therefore done what it is expected of it in these cases, by creating the enabling environment for the judiciary to properly function as well as attaining negotiated solutions.
- The Government does not therefore interfere in legal processes, but freedom is a reality in Faso and some take advantage of the situation to «peddle all kinds of garbage ».

130. Minister Badini pointed out that the implementation of some reforms were already adopted such as for example, training of judges and other legal practitioners (lawyers, notary publics, court clerks, bailiffs), transformation of the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Human

Rights in the Department so as to better translate into reality the Government's desire to further invest in the field of human rights.

131. The Secretary of State for the Promotion of Human Rights and his advisers made some clarifications on the legal provisions.

132. Chairman Isaac Nguema highly appreciated the frankness shown during the discussions and emphasized the need to pay particular attention to the independence of the justice system, the expansion of the role of NGOs and close collaboration with them, the fight against the aftermath of the past mentalities so as to strengthen existing freedoms and the implementation of reforms, especially regarding the status of the opposition, the financing of political parties and elections, the High Council of the Bench, fight against poverty which hinders effective enjoyment of human rights, the creation of a National Human Rights Commission, the submission of the next periodic report of Burkina and the implementation of the decision taken by the Commission MBDHP vs. Burkina case.

7. 03rd Octobre 2001

133. The Commission's delegation held a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the afternoon before leaving Ouagadougou.

134. In conclusions, chairman Isaac Nguema pointed out that a bubbling scenario characterizes the human rights situation in Burkina Faso, which is motive for satisfaction since it is an indication of good health in the promotion and protection of human rights.

135. He thanked the press for contributing to this evolution, especially its contribution to the success of the mission from the African Commission, whilst expressing his regret with the attitude of the international press who should report to the rest of the world all aspects of the process of human rights development in African countries such as Burkina.

136. Chairman Nguema emphasized the civil society's role, especially NGOs working in the area of human rights and urged all interested parties to preserve through dialogue, compromise and cooperation, the search for consensus before expressing the hope that he will be leaving and returning during a next visit to Burkina that he hope might be effected other than under the framework of the promotional mission of the African Commission.

III. CONCLUSIONS - RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Conclusions :

137. According to the information gathered and the observations made by the African Commission's promotional mission led by Chairman Isaac Nguema, the following issues stand out:

- Burkina Faso features among the majority of least developed African countries.
- Lack of natural resources which engender poverty, an unstable international environment and the aftermath of exceptional political systems of which the last and most significant is that of the National Revolutionary Council (CNR) headed by Thomas Sankara (1983 – 1987) require us to further strive for the promotion and protection of human rights in Burkina Faso.
- Human rights are therefore a subject of great concern to everyone in this country where freedom of association and opinion as well as press freedom are being consolidated.
- The African Charter forms parts of the Constitution, and its provisions have therefore legal strength.
- Elections are held regularly at all levels and democratic institutions function properly.
- Major reforms were adopted on:
 - Strengthening transparency in elections and representation of various opinions.
 - Status of the opposition, the financing of elections and political parties.
 - The efficiency of the judicial system.
- The importance of the role of NGOs and the civil society in general is recognized in the texts and respected in reality by the Government.
- In spite of the difficulties provoked by crisis that resulted from the assassination of Norbert Zongo in December 1998, which crystallized the human rights violations committed since 1960, the Government and the civil society for have worked towards greater collaboration for the consolidation of the Rule of Law and a negotiated issue has been found to the crisis.
- Encouraging moves were taken or even implemented to compensate victims of human rights violations or their inheritors (cases of victims of redundancies based on political or other arbitrary reasons of public or private sector employees, under the revolutionary regime) and the formulation and/or adoption of similar measures are on the drawing board.
- It is a matter of pursuing these reforms (legal entities codes, Regionalization) and at the same time to fight against impunity, corruption, insecurity, unemployment engendered by the privatizations of State enterprises and especially the generalization of poverty in favor of human development.

138. The promotional mission to Burkina Faso benefited from the support of the Government and the civil society (especially MBDHP, a major NGO enjoying observer status and sharing a good working relations with the Commission.

139. The firm support provided by the partners of the Commission enabled the promotional mission to access many representatives in the field.
140. The media, through the national radio and television, private radio stations and the written press provided considerable support to the promotional mission whose message was transmitted to the entire population, in French and in the major local languages (moré, dioula, fulfudé) and other local languages.
141. Besides the briefings on press conferences held by the Commission's delegation on 25th September and on 03rd October 2001, the mission's meetings with chairmen of institutions and some personalities such as the Minister of Information and that of local Government were covered by the television and chairman Isaac Nguema gave interviews to journalists working in different areas; the mission also collected a significant amount of documentation on the human rights situation in Burkina Faso.
142. The promotional mission from the African Commission to Burkina Faso was conducted in an ideal atmosphere and the objectives were fully attained.

B. Recommendations

143. On the basis of the progress made in the area of human rights as well as the desire to pursue the consolidation of the gains made in the rule of law in Burkina Faso, the promotional mission led by Chairman Isaac Nguema made the following Recommendations:

a) For the attention of the Government of Burkina Faso

- Implement the reforms, especially in the area of Justice and ensure effective implementation of commitments made within the framework of the search for solution to problems of human rights violations.
- Make all the necessary arrangements to combat illiteracy and poverty, which hinders the enjoyment of human rights.
- Take necessary measures for the transformation of the Secretariat of State for the Promotion of Human Rights in Ministry and the creation of a National Commission for Human Rights in Burkina Faso.
- Proceed as soon as feasible with the implementation of the decision taken by the Commission during its 29th Ordinary session held from 23rd April to 7th May 2001, in Tripoli, Libya.
- Accelerate the transmission of the next periodic report of Burkina to the Secretariat of the African Commission with a view to scheduling it for submission to the Commission.
- To play fully its role as the key player in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country, especially through the diffusion of the African Charter, collaboration with the African

Commission, NGOs and by creating the enabling environment for exercising fundamental rights and freedoms.

b) For the attention of the Civil Society in Burkina Faso

- Search for dialogue, consultation and negotiation against violence.
- Provide human rights education to the population through the promotion of the African Charter, in collaboration with the Government and contribute towards the formulation and submission of reports that Burkina should submit to the oversight organs for international human rights instruments especially the African Commission.
- Further develop collaboration with the African Commission.

c) For the attention of the African Commission

- Further enhance collaboration with its partners in Burkina Faso.
- To ensure follow-up of implementation of Recommendations made by the promotional mission.
- Take necessary measures for an eventual dispatch of a technical assistance mission to Burkina Faso, upon request from any one of its partners operating in the country.

P. J. : - Annexes I and II