



Covering events from January - December 2000

MALAWI

Republic of Malawi

Head of state and government: Bakili Muluzi

B Lilongwe

Population: 10.4 million

Official languages: Chichewa, English

Death penalty: retentionist

2000 treaty ratifications/signatures:

Optional Protocol to the UN Children's Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict; Optional Protocol to the UN Women's Convention



There were reports of torture and ill-treatment by police officers. Prison conditions were harsh. The death penalty continued to be imposed, but no executions were carried out.

Torture/ill-treatment

Torture/ill-treatment

There were reports of torture and ill-treatment by police during arrest and interrogation. At the end of 2000 local non-governmental organizations were pursuing at least three cases of alleged torture of criminal suspects through the courts.


Prison conditions

Prison conditions were poor and in some cases there were concerns that they could constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. There were particular concerns about juvenile offenders who were held in youth wings of adult prisons. A report by a non-governmental organization, commissioned in 1999 by the commissioner of prisons, documented cases of sexual violence against juveniles by adult prisoners, sometimes with the involvement of prison wardens.

Death penalty

At least 53 people were sentenced to death in 2000. No prisoners were known to have been executed since 1994. President Bakili Muluzi, who had publicly stated his opposition to the death penalty, had so far commuted all death sentences.

AI country reports

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- End sexual violence against children in custody in Malawi (AI Index: [ACT 76/007/2000](#))
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