

# SÜDWIND

Entwicklungspolitik

Suedwind notes with regret the reluctance of Kuwait to bolster its record relating to the protection of human rights by declining to support recommendations urging it to subscribe to a broad range of optional protocols to human rights treaties. Furthermore, special procedures need to be regularly invoked in order to ensure impartial control and provide for informed advice.

Positive developments in the field of international criminal justice and the rights of stateless persons are laudable. Their implementation is eagerly awaited. Reform is a long and difficult process, yet a number of measures could be swiftly expedited in the national interest.

At least a moratorium on the death penalty should be considered. The death sentence is a cruel form of punishment and in times of peace an excessive and unusual practice. Experience and studies have shown that the death penalty is ineffective in terms of preventing crime. On the contrary, capital punishment invariably engenders more violence; it leads to a dramatic increase in the cost of judicial procedures. Often individuals are wrongly sentenced to death; the evidence suggests the driving forces are motives of blind revenge, politics, and financial greed. Suedwind urges Kuwait and other states to reconsider their opposition to ending this regrettable waste of individual lives as well as the dissipation of state and private resources.

The inequality of women is especially troubling. It deprives future generations of opportunities for economic growth and social justice. This holds true for women in Kuwait and their career aspirations. It also holds for the numerous migrant women working as domestics there. All too often they are deprived of a free life and even the wages they have been promised. The situation in regard to human trafficking is similar to the prevailing system of discrimination and abuse. The horror experienced is most inhuman; all states must put an end to trafficking and the attendant suffering.