

UN to hear HK delegation's report on children's rights

A seven-member Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG) team will attend a United Nations (UN) hearing under the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Geneva on Monday, (September 19).

The team, led by the Deputy Secretary for Home Affairs, Mr Stephen Fisher, will attend the hearing as part of the Chinese delegation to explain to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child the contents of the HKSAR's report under the Convention of the Rights of the Child and provide information on the latest developments in Hong Kong.

"The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child is concerned with the implementation of the Convention in HKSAR and the progress made since October 1996, when the last report on Hong Kong was examined," a government spokesman said today (September 16).

The HKSAR's report under the Convention of the Rights of the Child was submitted as part of China's second report under the Convention in 2003. It details the measures adopted by the HKSARG that give effect to the rights recognised in the Convention.

In accordance with past practice, the HKSARG invited the Chairman and Country Rapporteur of the Committee to visit Hong Kong in April 2005 to see for themselves how the Convention was implemented here. They met with government officials, Legislative Council members, and representatives of non-governmental organisations to discuss issues related to the Convention.

The Committee then followed up in June with a list of questions, to which the HKSARG has responded. "We expect that the upcoming hearing will focus on those questions," said the spokesman.

The list of questions, together with the Government's response, can be found on the Home Affairs Bureau's homepage at http://www.hab.gov.hk/en/publications_and_press_releases/reports.htm.

In addition to Mr Stephen Fisher, members of the Hong Kong delegation to the hearing include Deputy Solicitor General, Mr Stephen Wong; Senior Government Counsel, Mr Godfrey Kan; Deputy Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food (Family and Women), Ms Linda Lai; Principal Education Officer, Mrs Michelle Wong; Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs, Ms Amy Yeung; and Principal Information Officer (Home Affairs), Ms Cynthia Tong.

The Convention is one of the six major human right treaties that apply to Hong Kong.

Ends/Friday, September 16, 2005

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