VI RODRIGUES

70. A visit was made to Rodrigues in September 2002 to receive complaints and to further the educational role of the NHRC.

71. Complaints received in Rodrigues were mostly directed against the Police. In one instance in late 2001, a suspect arrested for drugs-dealing allegedly jumped through the window from the first floor of Port Mathurin Police Station. He was seriously injured and stayed in hospital in Mauritius for more than a year before passing away. As he was in coma no statement could be taken from him. There was no evidence of brutality or other wrongdoing in the case. The case will proceed by way of Judicial Enquiry before the District Magistrate.

72. The NHRC is organizing an Essay Competition among Sixth formers in Rodrigues to increase awareness of human rights issues, more specifically on the human rights situation in Africa. Competitions on similar lines will be organized for secondary schools in Mauritius.