

There are many "silent victims" of the war. For instance, there are numerous cases of people having suffered serious psychological trauma, and the centres where these people are sheltered are often unfit for habitation. This category also includes many victims of rape, of both sexes, including children. Many such victims find themselves without protection and without psychological support. Children are often the most affected; many have lost their families, and legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina basically prohibits adoption by foreigners. These children, and those whose families have been left destitute by the war, have very little social support. The war also left many people physically disabled (for example, land mine victims); the disabled do not always have access to adequate medical and social services.

Cooperation in the arrest of indicted war crimes suspects and their transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia, although essential to reconciliation in Bosnia, remains patchy at best. Progress is being made in apprehending indictees, although Entity governments are still doing little to help. The "Rules of the Road" process is being used more now, meaning local and Entity governments are seeking clearance from the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) to carry out their own war crimes investigations, in line with international standards of justice and due process.

The human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is addressed in omnibus resolutions on Former Yugoslavia, which Canada traditionally co-sponsors, adopted at both the Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly 3rd Committee. At the 54th session of the Commission on Human Rights, this was adopted by 41 votes to none, with 12 abstentions. The resolution renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Former Yugoslavia. At UNGA53, the section of the resolution on Bosnia expressed serious concern about continuing human rights violations and delays in the full implementation of the human rights provisions of the GFAP.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada is fully committed to ensuring that the parties to the Bosnia Peace Agreement live up to their commitment to protect human rights. Canada's reconstruction assistance to Bosnia takes into account the compliance of Bosnian authorities with the peace agreement.

Canada has made several financial and personnel contributions to international organizations promoting human rights in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia over the last few years. Canada believes that there can be no lasting peace and reconciliation in Bosnia without justice and therefore the arrest and prosecution of indicted war crimes suspects must be a priority. In December 1997, the Canadian government approved a \$600 000 contribution to the ICTY as part of a package which includes increased funding for exhumations, an additional courtroom at the Hague, investigators from the RCMP, and a bilateral agreement on witness relocation. Canada has also supported the "Rules of the Road" office. We provided technical expertise to help better focus and target social programmes to benefit most vulnerable groups (through assistance to the Social Policy Task Force), and funded a programme of assistance to collective centre occupants in Republika Srpska. In addition, Canada is funding a journalism training programme to begin soon in support of independent media and the OBN. A pilot project on conflict resolution mechanisms was carried out in Banja Luka and Mostar, with Canadian support. Through the Canada fund, the Canadian Embassy in Sarajevo also supports several local NGOs focusing on human rights issues.