

- ♦ the role of the media in promoting tolerance be strengthened, and there be active involvement of all religious communities to ensure harmonious inter-ethnic relations;
- ♦ representatives of civil society, NGOs, and youth movements be included in the work of the PoC;
- ♦ developmental, socio-economic, and humanitarian projects aimed at breaking down barriers between groups be implemented;
- ♦ emphasis be placed on mine-awareness training programmes that disseminate information more effectively and target, primarily the most vulnerable part of the population, including children and returning refugees;
- ♦ the health, educational and social situation of children continue to be addressed to create a sound basis for the future; and
- ♦ the programme of technical cooperation devised by the OHCHR late in 1996 be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity, focussing on human rights education programmes, training of government officials in reporting obligations, expertise to develop human rights curricula in the schools, and creation of a human rights documentation centre.

Resolution of the Commission on Human Rights

The Commission adopted by roll call vote an omnibus resolution on the human rights situation in the territory of the former Yugoslavia (1998/79). The sections related to Croatia included the following:

In Section I of a general nature, the Commission stressed the need to focus international human rights efforts on the lack of full respect for the human rights of all individuals without distinction, the return of refugees and displaced persons, capacity-building in the areas of the rule of law and the administration of justice, the freedom and independence of the media, inadequate cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal and missing persons.

In Section III on Croatia, the CHR: welcomed the successful completion of the mandate of the UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and measures taken by the government in terms of joining the European human rights regime; called on the High Commissioner for Human Rights to begin at the earliest possible opportunity projects emphasizing human rights training for professionals involved in law enforcement and rule of law, as well as human rights education; called on the government to accelerate the implementation of its Programme for Confidence-Building and the normalization of life in the war-affected regions; called on the government to respect human rights, including property rights for all and, in particular, ethnic Serbs, and enable the restoration of the multi-ethnic character of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium; called on the government

to end harassment of displaced Serbs and looting and physical attacks against them, and to put an end to the involvement of Croatian military and police officials in such incidents; called on the government to guarantee freedom of association and the press and respect the right of non-governmental organizations to operate without restrictions; called on the government to implement the Amnesty Law fully and fairly; and, called on the international community to support the UN Civilian Police remaining in the field in 1998 and the involvement of the OHCHR in human rights monitoring in the region of Eastern Slavonia.

Section V on the International Criminal Tribunal called on all states to cooperate fully with the Tribunal and called on the government to apprehend and surrender for prosecution all persons indicted by the Tribunal.

Section VI on missing persons: called on all parties to treat the subject of missing persons as an urgent humanitarian problem, make full disclosure of available information to the Working Group on Missing Persons (chaired by the ICRC) and abandon the principle of reciprocity in dealing with the question; and called on the government to turn over all relevant material on missing persons and specifically to transfer relevant documentation on its actions relating to its 1995 "Flash" and "Storm" operations to the ICRC and the International Commission on Missing Persons.

The resolution also renewed the mandate of the SR for a further year, maintained Croatia as one of the three countries of focus and requested the SR to carry out missions to Croatia, including Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 41 in favour, none opposed, 12 abstentions.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights

Disappearances, Working Group on enforced or involuntary: (E/CN.4/1998/43, paras. 21–22)

The report recalls that the special process on missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia was discontinued at the 1997 session of the Commission on Human Rights. As a consequence, the Working Group (WG) referred all cases in its records which occurred in Croatia prior to 14 December 1997 — the date of entry into force of the Dayton Peace Agreement — to the CHR Special Rapporteur on the former Yugoslavia for inclusion in a joint process. This initiative involves the Expert Group on Exhumations and Missing Persons of the Office of the High Representative, the Working Group on Missing Persons chaired by the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Commission on Missing Persons. Cases which occurred after 14 December 1995 will be examined by the WG in accordance with its methods of work.