

workers; and called upon all parties to clear the area immediately of all landmines and booby-traps and to work with the relevant international bodies to this end.

The GA also called upon the government, *inter alia*, to: establish a local police force in Kosovo under local or communal direction, which will be representative of the local population; abide by the principle that no person will be prosecuted in state courts for crimes related to the conflict in Kosovo, except for crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes covered by international law; allow complete, unimpeded access for the International Tribunal and its forensic experts to Kosovo to examine the alleged atrocities against civilians; mitigate the punishments of, and where appropriate to amnesty, the ethnic Albanians in Kosovo sentenced for criminal offences motivated by political aims; respect fully all the rights of individuals in Kosovo, whatever their ethnic, cultural or religious backgrounds; open to public observation all trials or criminal prosecutions against all those charged in relation to the conflict in Kosovo; make possible the establishment of genuine democratic self-governance in Kosovo, through a negotiated political settlement with representatives of the ethnic Albanian community; grant access to and free and unaccompanied movement within Kosovo for all humanitarian aid workers and international monitors; promote and respect fully the freedom of expression and the freedom of the press, without discrimination; repeal legal measures used to discriminate against ethnic Albanians, including repressive laws on universities; investigate and prosecute in all cases where so warranted, notably those cases concerning its personnel, anyone suspected of torture and ill treatment of persons held in detention; release all political prisoners, allow unimpeded access by NGOs and international observers to those prisoners who remain in detention, and cease the persecution of political leaders and members of local human rights organizations; and fulfil the commitment to provide financial and material assistance to those residents of Kosovo whose homes have been damaged.

The GA also, *inter alia*: called upon the FRY authorities and armed Albanian groups to refrain from any harassment and intimidation of journalists; called upon the FRY authorities and ethnic Albanian leaders to allow for, and facilitate, the free and unhindered return to their homes of all internally displaced persons and refugees; called on the government and all others to guarantee the unrestricted access of humanitarian organizations and OHCHR to Kosovo and ensure the safety and security of humanitarian, diplomatic and other affected personnel; supported an enhanced status for Kosovo, which would include a substantially greater degree of autonomy; encouraged the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal to continue investigations at all levels on serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in Kosovo and reaffirmed that such crimes fall within its jurisdiction; and demanded that the FRY authorities, the Kosovo Albanian leadership, and all others concerned cooperate fully with the Tribunal, *inter alia*, by providing full and free access to Kosovo for the Tribunal's investigators.

SECURITY COUNCIL

Reports of the Secretary-General

The reports of the Secretary-General on the situation in Kosovo (S/1998/361, April 1998; S/1998/470, June 1998; S/1998/608, July 1998; S/1998/712, August 1998; S/1998/834, September 1998; S/1998/912, October 1998) recall the decision of the Security Council, in resolution 1160/1998 of 31 March 1998, to impose sanctions and prohibit the sale or supply to FRY, including Kosovo, of arms and related materiel, as well as to prohibit arming and training for terrorist activities. The Council established a Committee to monitor implementation of, and compliance with, the sanctions imposed. Given that the UN had no political presence in Kosovo, assessments of the situation by the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are included as annexes to some reports, as well as information provided by Russia, the Danube Commission and the North Atlantic Treaty Organizations (NATO).

Bearing in mind the evolving situation in Kosovo, the reports reflect conditions at the time of their preparation and note, *inter alia*: almost daily violent clashes along the borders with Albania and in other parts of Kosovo, the associated increase in civilian casualties, and the use of heavy weapons against non-combatants; attacks and threats against police, military and civilians by the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA); a rise in the number of incidents involving civilians attacking other civilians for ethnically motivated reasons; a steady increase in the number of internally displaced persons and an influx of refugees to Albania because of the escalation of violence on both sides; the burning and destruction of houses; illegal border crossings and violations of airspace; restrictions on access to Kosovo for foreign diplomats and journalists; the blockade of some humanitarian relief assistance, including food; the excessive use of force by the Serbian police; the use of violence to suppress political dissent or in pursuit of political goals; a slowdown in local food production and the possibility of food shortages; reports that some returnees, mostly young men, were taken by police for "informative talks"; actions by police to prevent returnees from harvesting crops; a shortage of essential drugs and the collapse of basic health services.

The reports cite information provided by the OHCHR related to, *inter alia*: arbitrary arrest for questioning; pre-trial detention for periods well beyond the legal time limit; indications that some persons were being held in unacknowledged detention; a growing number of cases in which Kosovo Albanian political activists, lawyers, humanitarian workers and medical personnel were being arrested and interrogated by the police; torture and ill treatment during pre-trial detention and at least four alleged cases of death in custody; in politically sensitive trials, serious concerns regarding the independence of the courts and defendants' access to legal counsel; abductions by Kosovo Albanians — believed to be KLA members — of Serb, Kosovo Albanian and Roma civilians, as well as Serbian police officers; the murder of some of