



news release

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OUELLET WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF A UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON RWANDA

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet today welcomed the appointment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur to investigate the human rights situation in Rwanda. The decision was taken at an emergency session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, which was convened at Canada's request.

"Canada fully supports the Human Rights Commission's action to help bring an end to the suffering of the Rwandan people. Determined action by the international community is essential to bring an end to this tragedy. We also need to put on notice the perpetrators of the horrible crimes in Rwanda that they will be held accountable by the international community," said Mr. Ouellet.

The Commission has appointed as Special Rapporteur Mr. René Degni Segui, Dean of Law at the University of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Mr. Segui will travel to Rwanda immediately to gather first-hand information on human rights violations and report to the UN Secretary General, the Security Council and the Human Rights Commission, within four weeks, with recommendations for bringing violations to an end and for preventing future abuses.

The Special Rapporteur will be assisted by a team of human rights field officers acting in close co-operation with the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR). The Commission also requested its human rights experts on executions, torture, internally-displaced persons, disappearances and arbitrary detentions to give urgent attention to the situation in Rwanda.

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For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
(613) 995-1874