

# News Release

Secretary of  
State for  
External Affairs



# Communiqué

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## CANADA PROVIDES ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Barbara McDougall, today announced an initial Canadian contribution of \$250,000 for women victims of violence and sexual abuse in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Like other Canadians, I have been horrified by reports of mass rapes and sexual abuse in Bosnia-Herzegovina," said Mrs. McDougall. "These vicious and repulsive attacks against women and children are despicable crimes and the victims clearly need our help and support. Canada strongly believes that those responsible must be brought to account before the international community."

The Minister announced this special Canadian contribution following a meeting with Mrs. Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in Geneva where Mrs. McDougall is attending the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia chaired jointly by the United Nations and the European Community.

Canada will work closely with UN and other humanitarian agencies and with the special European Community delegation, headed by Dame Anne Warburton, which is investigating the situation on an urgent basis. The Minister said that Canada is prepared to provide further assistance for victims of sexual abuse, including support for Canadian groups, when more details on specific humanitarian needs become available.

- 30 -

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