

protection of civilians. The humanitarian mission of UNPROFOR and of relief agencies has been repeatedly obstructed by all parties to the conflict, in violation of applicable principles of international humanitarian law. Recent Bosnian Serb obstruction has led to the suspension of the Sarajevo airlift and made it increasingly difficult to supply many Muslim areas, such as Bihac.

In Serbia, minority groups such as the Hungarians of Vojvodina, the Muslims of the Sandzak region and the Albanians of Kosovo feel at risk from the Serbian majority. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) established long-term missions in each of these areas, focusing on preventive diplomacy and conflict prevention. Regrettably, Belgrade refused to renew the mandate of the missions and they had to withdraw from Serbia in July 1993. There is evidence that the human rights situation in Kosovo and the other regions has deteriorated since the departure of the CSCE missions.

Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, has submitted seven reports on the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia. In his most recent report of October 31, 1994, he focuses on the increase in ethnic cleansing in Bosnia-Herzegovina and other serious violations of international humanitarian law, notably the deliberate shelling of civilian installations by the Bosnian Serbs. He noted that the Bosnian Serb authorities refuse to allow an investigation of the human rights situation in areas under their control. Although the Muslim-Croat Federation itself is cooperative, there is evidence that at local levels, violations of freedom of movement and the blocking of the return of refugees continue.

In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia/Montenegro), Mr. Mazowiecki concluded that the situation of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities continues to deteriorate. He noted an increase in human rights violations, including arbitrary arrest and torture by police, particularly in Kosovo and Sandzak. The fairness of trials of Muslims in Kosovo is questionable due to the lengthy delay between their arrest and the beginning of court proceedings, and the use of intimidation and torture to extract confessions and testimony.

In Croatia, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern that the policy of illegal evictions of Croatian Serbs, mainly former Yugoslav army officers, from apartments and homes continues. In his view, the failure of the Croatian government to stop the evictions undermines the trust and confidence required if peace is to be restored to Croatia.

In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr. Mazowiecki noted a lack of institutional progress on human rights, but believes that according to initial reports, the October elections were relatively free and fair.

Slovenia was spared much of the fighting that has taken place in Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and, blessed with few ethnic tensions, has been able to build a positive human rights record. It is seeking to become a market-oriented democracy in the Western tradition with ties to the international community, particularly to the European Union.