

Peace Agreement; underlined the obligations of the parties under the Agreement to secure for all persons within their jurisdiction the highest level of international norms and standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms; stressed the need to focus international human rights efforts in the region on the core issues of the lack of full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals without distinction, the rule of law and effective administration of justice at all levels of government, the freedom and independence of the media, and freedom of expression, association, religion and movement; called for an immediate end to illegal and/or hidden detention; stressed the need for enhanced international human rights efforts to foster and effect the prompt and voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees in safety and dignity; called upon all parties and states in the region to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights and effective and functioning democratic institutions will be central elements in the new civilian structures; called upon all states and all parties to the Peace Agreement that have not done so to meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia; and strongly condemned the continuing refusal of the authorities in the FR Yugoslavia to comply with their obligation to arrest and transfer to the custody of the Tribunal those indicted and known to be present in the territory under the government's control.

With regard to FR Yugoslavia specifically (Section III), the GA, *inter alia*: called on the authorities to end any torture and other ill treatment of persons in detention and to bring those responsible to justice; strongly urged the government to institutionalize democratic norms, especially in regard to respect for the principle of free and fair elections, the rule of law, the administration of justice, and the promotion and protection of free and independent media; called for the repeal of repressive laws on universities and the media; urged all parties, groups and individuals to act with full respect for human rights, to refrain from all acts of violence, and to act with respect for the rights and dignity of all persons belonging to minority groups; strongly urged the government to immediately bring to justice any persons, in particular those of its personnel, who have engaged in or authorized human rights abuses against the civilian population; and reminded the government of its obligations to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal and the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The GA called on the government, *inter alia*, to: revoke all discriminatory legislation and apply all other legislation without discrimination; ensure the speedy and consistent investigation of acts of discrimination and violence against refugees and internally displaced persons; ensure the arrest and punishment of those responsible for acts of discrimination and violence; respect the rights of all persons belonging to minority groups and of persons belonging to the Bulgarian minority; respect the democratic process and act immediately to make possible the establishment of genuine democratic self-governance in Kosovo; cease all restrictions on freedom of expression

or assembly in Kosovo and ensure that all the residents of the region are guaranteed equal treatment and protection regardless of ethnic affiliation; and cooperate fully with the UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations to alleviate the suffering of refugees and internally displaced persons and assist in their unimpeded return to their homes.

The General Assembly also noted the government's agreement to allow international verifiers into Kosovo and the establishment of a sub-office of the OHCHR in Pristina in the context of the UN Field Operation in the Former Yugoslavia.

Situation of human rights in Kosovo

The General Assembly adopted by recorded vote a resolution on the situation in Kosovo (A/C.3/53/L.61). The resolution was adopted with 115 in favour, 3 opposed, 34 abstentions. The GA, *inter alia*: acknowledged the regional dimensions of the crisis in Kosovo, particularly with regard to the human rights and the humanitarian situation; expressed concern about the systematic terrorization of ethnic Albanians and reports of violence committed by armed ethnic Albanian groups against non-combatants and illegal detention of individuals, primarily ethnic Serbs, by those groups; referred to the lack of due process in the trials of those ethnic Albanians who have been detained, charged or brought to trial in relation to the crisis in Kosovo; expressed concern over the grave infringements upon freedom of expression in the FR Yugoslavia; welcomed the commitment of the government to address the conflict and the ongoing human rights violations in Kosovo as well as the withdrawal and return to garrison of a number of military and police units; called on all parties to cooperate fully with the OSCE Kosovo Verification Mission and ensure the protection, freedom of movement and unrestricted access within Kosovo of its personnel; welcomed the agreement with the High Commissioner for Human Rights related to the establishment of an office in Pristina and the deployment of additional human rights officers in Kosovo; called on the government to respect fully all human rights and fundamental freedoms and to abide by democratic norms; called on the FR Yugoslavia authorities and the ethnic Albanian leadership in Kosovo to condemn acts of terrorism, denounce and refrain from all acts of violence, encourage the pursuit of goals through peaceful means, and respect international humanitarian law and international human rights standards; urged the FR Yugoslavia authorities and the Kosovo Albanian leadership to enter immediately into a meaningful dialogue to end the crisis and arrive at a negotiated political settlement on the issue of Kosovo; strongly condemned the overwhelming number of human rights violations committed by the FR Yugoslavia authorities and the police and military authorities in Kosovo; also condemned the violence by armed ethnic Albanian groups, in particular against non-combatants; strongly condemned the denial of appropriate access to Kosovo of NGOs, the manipulation and denial of relief and basic foodstuffs, and the denial of medical care to wounded civilians; called on the government to eliminate immediately these unacceptable practices; deplored the killing of humanitarian aid