

resolution represented an unprecedented Security Council involvement in the area of human rights, reflecting the extraordinary situation within Iraq. It also served notice that Iraq must improve its human rights performance as part of its international rehabilitation and as a prerequisite for suspending UN sanctions which continue in place.

Previous efforts to condemn Iraqi practices by the CHR were frustrated by procedural motions. However, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, resolution 1991/74 of 6 March, 1991 was passed; this provided for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to make a thorough study of human rights practices of the Government of Iraq. It resulted in numerous interim reports providing a highly negative assessment of the human rights situation in Iraq.

Again this year, at the 49th UNGA, Canada co-sponsored a resolution expressing deep concern for the deterioration of the overall situation and "grave violations of human rights by the Government of Iraq" including: "summary and arbitrary executions, torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment"; "the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians ... as well as the fact that tens of thousands of displaced Kurds have had to take refuge in camps and shelters in the north of Iraq"; "the increasingly severe and grave violations of human rights ... against the civilian population in southern Iraq, in particular in the southern marshes". It further condemned "mutilation as a penalty for certain offenses" and "the unwillingness of the Government of Iraq to honour its responsibilities ... especially with regard to the rights to food and health." It deplores the refusal of Iraq to cooperate in the implementation of Security Council (SC) Resolution 706 and 712, which provide for the sale of oil in return for humanitarian aid, resulting in Iraq's failure to provide the population with access to adequate food and health care. It also called upon Iraq to resolve the cases of disappearances of Kuwaitis and nationals of other States.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada deplores the human rights situation in Iraq and has undertaken numerous initiatives to demonstrate its opposition to the abuses. Canada supports the implementation of SC Resolution 688 and the decisions of the SC to maintain sanctions until Iraq satisfies all the relevant UN requirements. Canada strongly supports humanitarian assistance programs for Iraq (contributing approximately \$27 million). Canada co-sponsored a resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iraq and the Canadian statement before Third Committee at the 49th UNGA also commented critically on the situation in Iraq. Canada also regrets that by its unjustifiable decision to initiate movement of troops at its borders with Kuwait, Iraq has obstructed further the possibility of early suspension of the SC sanctions.