

Teams of Canadian investigators have travelled to the former Yugoslavia to assist UNCOE in its work. Their work has included investigations into mass grave sites, cases of rapes as potential war crimes, the deliberate targeting of civilians and their property, and the deliberate destruction of cultural and historical sites.

In May 1993, the UN Security Council established an International War Crimes Tribunal to prosecute those responsible for violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. This followed a Canadian-sponsored international meeting of experts in Vancouver on the means of prosecuting such violations. In September the Canadian candidate, Justice Jules Deschênes, was one of 11 judges elected by the UN General Assembly.

Canada subsequently submitted a report to the UN Secretary-General on evidentiary rules and procedures for the Tribunal focusing on sexual assault cases and witness protection. In March and June 1993, Canada also submitted two reports on alleged war crimes to the UN Security Council,

At the last two sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Canada successfully worked for the adoption of resolutions condemning all violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia. The Commission requested that a group of experts investigate the systematic sexual assault of women as a weapon of war. Canada helped draft the Declaration on the Protection of Victims of War Crimes, which included specific references on the sexual assault of women during times of armed conflict. In 1993 Canada chaired the Drafting Committee of the International Conference on the Protection of War Victims in Geneva.

Special Immigration Measures

Special measures were introduced in July 1992 to help citizens from the former Yugoslavia join their relatives in Canada.

In December 1992, Canada responded to an appeal from the UNHCR to resettle Bosnians released by Serb authorities into transit camps in Croatia. Close to 600 ex-detainees and dependants who could be easily relocated and processed came to Canada under this program in 1993.

Canada also continues to select a number of deserving Convention refugee cases, under both government-assisted and privately-sponsored programs. Since January 1993, more than 3300 refugees have been admitted into Canada under these programs.

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