

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 human rights practices by the Commission on Human Rights 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 HR practices of the Government of Iraq. The Special Rapporteur has produced numerous reports on the human rights situation, most recently a highly negative assessment of the human rights situation was issued at UNGA 48.

At UNGA 47, and again this year at UNGA 48, Canada co-sponsored a resolution condemning the "massive violations of human rights of the gravest nature" including: "summary and arbitrary executions, orchestrated mass executions and burials, extrajudicial killings including political killings, in particular in the northern region of Iraq and in the southern Shia centres and in the southern marches". It further condemned "the widespread routine practice of systematic torture in its most cruel forms; enforced or involuntary disappearances, routinely practiced arbitrary arrest and detention, including women, the elderly and children...and suppression of freedom of thought". It further condemned Iraq's non-cooperation with Security Council resolutions, its failure to provide proper food and health care to the population, and expressed alarm at the treatment of Kurds, Shias and Marsh Arabs. It called for compliance by Iraq with its human rights obligations and provided for the continuing examination of the human rights situation in that country. The General Assembly also reiterated a call for Iraq to accept the stationing of human rights monitors throughout the country.

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 Security Council resolution 688 and the decisions of the Security Council to maintain sanctions until Iraq satisfies all the relevant UN requirements. Canada strongly supports humanitarian assistance programs in/for Iraq (contributing approximately \$27 million). At UNGA 48, as noted above, Canada co-sponsored the resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iraq, and in her address to the Third Committee, the Canadian Permanent Representative commented critically on the situation in Iraq.

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