The **political crisis** that has lasted since the resignation of Prime Minister Rosny Smarth in June 1997 significantly limits government activity and seriously undermines efforts to protect and promote human rights in Haiti. Furthermore, the political crisis is considerably slowing down the electoral process.

Haiti will continue to benefit from the support of the international community through the **UN Civilian Police Mission (MIPONUH)**, which has had its mandate renewed until November 1999, and a Human Rights and Justice Assistance Mission formed jointly by the UN and the Organization of American States (MICIVIH), which has had its mandate renewed until December 1999.

In 1998, the **Commission on Human Rights and the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly** adopted resolutions on the human rights situation in Haiti. The independent expert, Adama Dieng, presented a report to the United Nations General Assembly on the human rights situation in Haiti. The Secretary General of the United Nations produced a report on the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti, and the Haitian government invited the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women to visit Haiti.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada strongly supported the return of democracy to Haiti, and is **contributing to the MIPONUH and the MICIVIH**. We have repeatedly expressed our concerns regarding inhumane detention conditions, the importance of institutional cooperation in the area of human rights and the need to actively proceed with thorough judicial reform.

The **assistance program in Haiti** is our largest one of its kind in North and South America; it has an important bilateral component focussing on professional training of police and support for reform of the justice system.

We are **closely following developments** in Haiti and have raised our concerns on many occasions with members of the Government, including President Préval, regarding the political impasse and our hope that fair and transparent elections will be held as soon as possible.