

crimes against humanity are promptly brought to justice; reiterated its strong condemnation of genocide as a crime against humanity and all other violations of human rights that were perpetrated in Rwanda in 1994, and expressed concern at the alleged continuation of human rights violations; urged all states to cooperate fully, without delay, with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; reaffirmed that all persons who committed or authorized acts of genocide or other grave violations of international humanitarian law and those who are responsible for grave violations of human rights are individually responsible and accountable for those violations; expressed concern at the continued suffering experienced by the survivors of the genocide and massacres and urged the government and the international community to provide them with the necessary assistance; welcomed the restructuring of the judicial system and the start of prosecution of those suspected of having committed the crime of genocide and the massacres; also welcomed the improvement in prison conditions; affirmed the need to expedite the provision of the dossiers of the detainees in accordance with law; expressed grave concern at the killings of civilians, including elderly women and children, during attacks on genocide survivors, witnesses and other innocent people by militias and insurgents opposed to the government; reaffirmed that ending impunity for acts of genocide and violations of human rights and international humanitarian law is an essential step towards reconstruction and reconciliation; noted the government's commitment to investigate alleged judicial executions committed by some members of the security forces and called on the competent national authorities to conduct these investigations promptly and with all due rigour; welcomed the ongoing trials of those suspected of genocide and crimes against humanity and the improvements in the trial process that have taken place; welcomed the government's commitment to strengthen further fair trial guarantees and access to legal representation; encouraged dialogue on human rights issues between the UN Field Operation and the appropriate authorities at the level of the commune and prefecture; condemned in the strongest terms any acts of violence or intimidation against the staff of the UN or any other international staff serving in Rwanda; and, appealed to the international community to contribute further financial and technical support to the government for the strengthening of the judicial system and the reconstruction of the human rights infrastructure.

### FIELD OPERATIONS

The Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda (HRFOR) was established in 1994. Its headquarters are in Kigali. Officer-in-Charge: Mr. William G. O'Neill, B. P. 445, Kigali, Rwanda; Fax: (New York) (1-212) 963-9908; Tel: (Kigali) (250) 72-892 & 73-722; (New York) (1-212) 963-9906/07 or 26-399-11209, ext. 6403. As at 1 July 1997, there were 72 members of HRFOR, which include 43 fixed-term UN staff, 24 UN Volunteers and five additional staff on special service agreements.

The objectives and functions of HRFOR are defined as: (a) carrying out investigations into violations of human rights and humanitarian law, including possible acts of genocide; (b) monitoring the ongoing human rights situation and helping to prevent such violations through the presence of human

rights field officers; (c) cooperating with other international agencies to re-establish confidence and facilitate the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and the rebuilding of civil society; and (d) implementing programmes of technical cooperation in the field of human rights, particularly in the area of the administration of justice, to help Rwanda rebuild its shattered judiciary and to provide human rights education to all levels of society.

The report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1997/52) on the Field Operation reviews the main human rights issues surrounding the mass return movement, the start of the genocide trials, attacks on expatriates, including members of HRFOR, security measures in response to the deterioration of the security situation, HRFOR's activities in the areas of the administration of justice and institution-building, the genocide response and vulnerable groups, and human rights education and promotion.

The report focuses on the problems created and difficulties encountered between 15 November and 31 December 1996 when more than 1 million Rwandans returned from camps in the Congo and Tanzania. This mass return movement is noted as having led to a number of human rights violations that included increased attacks against genocide survivors — particularly with regard to known or suspected collaborators in the genocide — and attacks against, and killings and ill-treatment of, returnees. The Field Operation responded to these and other phenomena by intensifying its programme on the situation of returnees and increased its field presence in receiving communes. Field Operation staff were assigned to: establish communal committees and informal local institutions in order to enhance local capacity to address justice and reconciliation concerns; assist the authorities in securing the security and other needs of returnees and other groups; monitor the movement of returnees from transit centres to communes of origin and arrival at communal offices; monitor the arrest and detention of returnees through regular visits to local detention centres; gather statistics on detained returnees; monitor reintegration of returnees; investigate alleged incidents involving returnees, particularly those relating to the right to life, right to security, liberty of movement and the right to integrity of person; follow-up with local and national authorities on incidents of violations; promote confidence among returnees, the population at large and local authorities; participate in crisis meetings at the communal and prefectural levels; and facilitate the flow of information to relevant officials and organizations.

The report notes that the agreement between the High Commissioner and the government was amended following the High Commissioner's visit to Rwanda in February 1997. The aim of the change was to increase assistance to the government in its effort to rebuild the justice system and defined the principal future projects to be undertaken by the Field Operation as development and provision of: a training programme for judges and clerks of the specialized chambers of the courts of first instance, to facilitate the genocide trial process; a mentor programme involving the attachment of experienced foreign judges and prosecutors to help guide judges and prosecutors of the specialized chambers in the first year of genocide trials; the setting up of free legal aid services to provide counsel for the accused and to assist civil claimants