

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada believes that only a negotiated settlement among all parties in the former Yugoslavia will bring a lasting peace, alleviate the suffering of civilians, and restore respect for internationally-agreed norms of humanitarian law. Canada has, therefore, supported all efforts to achieve a negotiated peace, while providing humanitarian assistance.

Canada has consistently led international efforts to investigate and prosecute war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. In March 1993, Canada sponsored an international experts' meeting to consider the establishment of an international criminal court as well as an International War Crimes Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. A Canadian specialist in international humanitarian law is a member of the UN Commission of Experts (UNCOE) that investigates alleged war crimes and other violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and is the Commission's Rapporteur for on-site investigations.

Canada was the first country to support the UNCOE trust fund, with a contribution of \$300,000. Canada has also provided several teams of investigators who have travelled to the former Yugoslavia to assist UNCOE in its on-site investigations. In September 1993, a Canadian (Judge Jules Déschênes) was elected to the International Tribunal for Crimes Committed in the Former Yugoslavia.

Canada established a position for an Information Co-ordinator to receive information on alleged violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia and has submitted two reports on alleged war crimes to the UN Security Council.

Special Canadian immigration measures were announced in July 1992, permitting Canadians to sponsor their relatives from overseas under relaxed selection criteria. To date, more than 10,000 people have applied under the program. In December 1992, Canada responded to an appeal from the UNHCR to resettle Bosnians whose release from detention camps had been negotiated by the Red Cross. Close to 600 ex-detainees and their family members have been brought to Canada under that program.

Canada's total contribution in humanitarian assistance for the victims of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia since the autumn of 1991 now approaches \$50 million, including \$1.75 million designated specifically for victims of sexual violence. Canadian military aircraft have flown more than 1,000 relief flights to Sarajevo as part of the international airbridge to the city, delivering more than 14,000 metric tons of food and medical supplies.

Canada has contributed the third largest UNPROFOR contingent: approximately 2,000 Canadian troops now monitor the UNPAs in Croatia, and provide protection for relief convoys and refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are providing 44 police monitors to UNPROFOR and a further 12 Canadian Forces personnel serve with the European Union Monitoring Mission in the former Yugoslavia.

Canada will continue to support strongly all efforts of the CHR and other institutions and organizations to improve the human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia.