

Security Council has called on member states to collect evidence of war crimes and to submit this evidence to a UN-established Committee of Experts for collation and assessment.

In August and December 1992, extraordinary sessions of the CHR were convened to deal with the tragic human rights situation in the former Yugoslavia. The CHR appointed former Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki as Special Rapporteur, with a mandate to undertake on-site investigations. In his three reports filed to date, Mr. Mazowiecki has detailed flagrant abuses of human rights and humanitarian law, perpetrated under the despicable practice of "ethnic cleansing", which involve not only the forced removal of people, but also death threats, torture, arbitrary detention, the destruction of houses, the desecration of places of worship, and the murder of political, religious and intellectual leaders. These acts are being perpetrated systematically by the militia and other Serb irregular units in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Other heinous activities that have come to light are the systematic use of rape as a means to achieve strategic aims. After months of allegations and rumours, there is now a body of evidence that supports these charges. The most damning reports so far have been "leaked" from the EC-organized investigation led by Dame Anne Warburton. It has, apparently, not been proven that the Serbian or other forces are undertaking a systematic program of rape on instruction from higher authorities. It is clear, however, that rape has become "an instrument and not a by product of war".

Crimes of violence against the person are not the only incidents of the violation of human rights within the region of the former Yugoslavia. In Serbia and Montenegro, the recent parliamentary and presidential elections gave evidence of fraud, gerrymandering and intimidation on the part of the victorious Serbian socialist/nationalists. The media, particularly the state controlled television outside of the capital Belgrade, was so heavily influenced by the nationalists that it has been described as "biased and one sided".

Yet, with regard to human rights, everything in the area of the former Yugoslavia is not gloomy. The Republic of Slovenia, blessed by a homogenous population and after only a short period of conflict, has been able to disengage itself from the problems plaguing other regions. Official and private energies have been directed toward becoming a functioning and viable state with ties to the international community.

The former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia has been isolated internationally by its lack of international diplomatic recognition and sorely affected by the "ripples" from the economic sanctions being applied to Serbia and Montenegro. It also faces the threat posed by a population bifurcated into Macedonian and Albanian communities. Yet, despite a few incidents that have failed to spark the volatile situation, the human rights situation is good and the government is struggling to improve the situation.