

On the issue of missing persons the report states: the exact number of persons missing is unknown; there are approximately 400 mass graves in Bosnia and Herzegovina; the main obstacle regarding exhumations has been the lack of access by authorities of one entity to exhumation sites in territories controlled by the other; and allegations of "secret" or "hidden" detention continue to concern organizations dealing with missing persons although, in a vast majority of cases, the allegations are not well-founded. No evidence has been provided to substantiate claims that large numbers of missing persons are held in secret detention centres although there remains a need for an effective mechanism to respond to such allegations.

The report recommends that:

- ▶ the demining process be accelerated and become a part of the planning process in return projects and that mine information campaigns, specifically designed to different target groups, like children and returnees, receive additional support;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in the RS and the Federation undertake without delay legislative measures to eliminate provisions of the criminal codes providing for pronouncement and application of the death sentence;
- ▶ the relevant judicial authorities repeal all death sentences pronounced in the RS and the Federation;
- ▶ the relevant authorities comply with recommendations made by the International Police Task Force (IPTF) and, in particular, that prosecutorial offices, and the courts carry out their duty to prosecute and try police officials who, after impartial investigation, are believed to be responsible for abuses;
- ▶ the Security Council consider further strengthening of the IPTF mandate to expand its authority to impose sanctions for non-compliance with IPTF recommendations;
- ▶ the relevant authorities comply with the rules agreed upon in the Rome Agreement, the so-called "rules of the road";
- ▶ every individual detained without legal grounds be released immediately;
- ▶ noting that the right to a fair trial has not been satisfactorily observed and implemented, the relevant authorities comply with recommendations concerning trials where international observers have concluded that the rights of the defendant(s) were violated and order retrials where appropriate;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities ensure that those indicted for war crimes by the International Tribunal, in particular those belonging to their own ethnic group, be arrested and extradited to The Hague;
- ▶ the International Stabilization Force (SFOR), acting in accordance with its mandate, intensify its efforts to apprehend those indicted;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities cease all practices that limit freedom of movement, such as the imposition of illegal fees or taxes, illegal requests for visas and other documents, and arbitrary arrests;

- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities adopt a uniform car registration system for use throughout the country, as stipulated in the Sintra Declaration;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities abide by their obligations under the Dayton Agreement to facilitate returns on as large a scale as possible;
- ▶ international agencies persevere with their programmes to facilitate returns, such as the UNHCR Open City project, which are starting to bear positive results;
- ▶ international donors make financial aid conditional on the implementation of minority returns;
- ▶ countries that are hosting refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with UNHCR's recommendations not pursue forced repatriation at the present time;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities amend their property laws as proposed by the Office of the High Representative to enable pre-war occupants to reclaim their properties;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities put an end to various forms of pressure exerted on media and that they take steps to promote pluralism and independent voices in the channels of public communication;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities broaden telecommunications links between the entities and take other measures to increase inter-entity exchange of information;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities adopt an approach to the issue of missing persons based on cooperation with authorities of the other entity or other national backgrounds;
- ▶ the international community provide more support, both financial and in the form of expertise and equipment, to conduct exhumations and identifications;
- ▶ international agencies establish an efficient and transparent mechanism to respond systematically to allegations of "secret" detention and that the relevant authorities in both entities establish strict control of the prisons;
- ▶ where outstanding issues remain in the cantons of the Federation, the relevant authorities resolve them promptly so that a restructured police force can start functioning efficiently;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in the RS enter into an agreement on the restructuring of the police force with IPTF without further delay;
- ▶ the relevant authorities in both entities offer their full and unequivocal support to the human rights institutions and comply fully with their findings and recommendations; and
- ▶ the authorities in the RS consider the establishment of an ombudsman's office for that entity.

Report of the Secretary-General (A/52/497)

The report of the Secretary-General on the rape and abuse of women during the armed conflict in the former Yugoslavia refers to the resolution adopted at the 1997 session of the CHR and notes comments by the Special Rapporteur that, in situations of systematic rape, sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during periods of armed conflict, reasons for reluctance to report wartime rape may include shame and social