

situation continues to deteriorate, so too will the rights of employees and unions. The Yugoslav Government's poor record in terms of War Crimes deserves mention. Although it has shown signs of openness towards the ICTY, for example by allowing an ICTY office to open in Belgrade, it continues to harbour indicted war criminals including the occasional visits of the most notorious suspects, Radovan Karadzic and Radko Mladic. Until these individuals are extradited to the Hague, the FRY record on this issue will justifiably be considered poor. In addition, the Government shows no inclination to prosecute those responsible for severe human rights violations on FRY territory in the past several years, including the murder, abduction and ethnic cleansing of Sandjak Muslims.

Minorities in FRY continue to lead a difficult existence. Admittedly, there is a tradition of broad social tolerance of minorities in Serbia, and the Government does permit linguistic, ethnic and religious diversity. However, minorities face significant education and employment discrimination, and there is a tendency towards the marginalization of minorities in all spheres. Ethnic Albanians, a majority in Kosovo, face systematic political, economic and cultural persecution by Serb authorities. The Muslims of Sandjak are more threatened, as they face generalized economic, political and cultural discrimination from Serb authorities, but have few resources to counter this pressure and lack the population superiority as in the case of the Kosovo Albanians. The situation for Hungarians, Croats and other minorities in Vojvodina is better, but they too encounter obstacles, particularly in employment and schooling.

Pro-active measures in support of the rights of women and children are undeveloped, largely as this is a patriarchal society; and homosexuality and disability remain taboo subjects.

The human rights situation in FRY is addressed in the omnibus resolutions on Former Yugoslavia adopted at both the Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly 3rd Committee, which Canada traditionally co-sponsors. At the 53rd session of the Commission on Human Rights, this was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 7 abstentions. Canada co-sponsored the resolution, which renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Former Yugoslavia. However, for CHR54, concerned States have suggested that resolution should be adopted on each individual country. In addition, a separate resolution on human rights in Kosovo was adopted last December by the UN General Assembly 3rd Committee.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada supports the full implementation of the Dayton Peace Agreement by all the signatories, including the FRY. The Embassy maintains close contacts with human rights groups, journalists, representatives of refugees and members of national minorities, and travels regularly to areas of concern, notably Kosovo. The Embassy supports small scale projects in the areas of human rights/civic society, national minorities, refugees, and free media through the Canada Fund. When demonstrations in Belgrade and in Kosovo were violently quashed by Government security forces, the Canadian Ambassador personally raised Canada's concerns with President Milosevic. The FRY Government was reminded that Canada will continue to strictly apply its policy of making bilateral relations conditional upon the pace and scope of progress made by the FRY on human rights, democratic development, the peaceful resolution of the Kosovo issue, and implementation of the Dayton agreement.