

threatening to carry out more strikes against persons who "collaborated with the Serbian authorities"; that no concrete steps have been taken to implement the agreement signed in September 1996 on the normalization of education; and cases of discrimination against Albanians and the Turkish minority in Prizren, related to property rights. Referring to the situation of minorities in the Sandzak, the report notes: the order from the government of Serbia to dissolve the town administration and assembly and bring the functions of local administration under the control of a new municipal council composed of the local branches of the Socialist Party (SPS) and the Yugoslav Left (JUL)-the ruling government coalition in Serbia; the banning of a congress of the coalition List for the Sandzak, by order of the Serbian Ministry of Interior; violent attacks against Muslims, including bombings and vandalism; and failure of the Serbian authorities to take adequate measures to ensure the safe return of internally displaced persons.

The report describes the humanitarian situation as including, *inter alia*: delays in payments of salaries and wages to educational, health and other public sector staff as well as private sector workers; delays in payments of pensions and social benefits; a sharp deterioration in basic health care; lack of funding to provide adequate food aid to refugees; no substantive progress on issues such as the free and safe return of refugees and the return of their property or a just compensation; and, ongoing security concerns and lack of adequate housing, affecting the return of refugees.

The Special Rapporteur recommended that the government of Serbia permit all major political parties proper access to state-run television and provide balanced reporting of their activities and that the federal government:

- ▶ review and implement the recommendations in previous reports, notably to take measures to strengthen legal and other guarantees for the protection of human rights and ratify the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
- ▶ create an accessible, independent and impartial supervisory institution like an ombudsman and, if such a body cannot immediately be created at the federal level, it could first be established by one of the Republics, such as Montenegro;
- ▶ remove from the draft media law broadly phrased formulations that can be used to inhibit legitimate criticism or scrutiny of the conduct of public persons, as well as other provisions that could limit enjoyment of the right to freedom of expression;
- ▶ establish a programme of human rights education in schools, academic and legal institutions as well as in police training institutions; encourage wider and deeper knowledge of the human rights treaties to which Yugoslavia is a party as well as their direct application in court proceedings; and undertake to translate, into Serbian and Albanian, and distribute widely those human rights treaties as well as other relevant UN standards;
- ▶ take prompt steps to eliminate the discrepancies between the human rights standards provided in the ICCPR and those of the Federal and republican Constitutions, as well as the Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure, with particular attention to the areas of judicial supervision of police detention and prompt access of arrested persons to lawyers and the right to life;
- ▶ create an effective mechanism to ensure that procedural requirements in criminal and administrative law are enforced and that breaches of the rules by responsible officers are met with appropriate sanctions;
- ▶ ensure that those responsible for torturing or ill-treating persons in custody and those who ordered or participated in the use of force against peaceful demonstrators in early 1997 are brought to justice;
- ▶ take immediate steps to end continuing police abuse and ill-treatment in Kosovo; order an impartial investigation into the deaths of the two men who died in the custody of police in Kosovo during 1997; and end discrimination against ethnic Albanians in the fields of education and employment, among others;
- ▶ take immediate steps to investigate acts of violence or vandalism directed against the Muslim community in the Sandzak and ensure full respect for democratic principles and other human rights in its relations with the local political leadership in the Sandzak; and,
- ▶ take all necessary measures to create conditions for the free and safe return of refugees.

The General Assembly adopted an omnibus resolution on the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) (A/C.3/52/L.69/Rev.1). In text related to Yugoslavia, the GA, *inter alia*: called on the government to undertake substantially greater efforts to institute democratic norms, especially in regard to the promotion and protection of free and independent media; called on the government to ensure the speedy and consistent investigation of acts of discrimination and violence against refugees, and to ensure the arrest and punishment of those responsible for those acts; called on the government to allow for the return of FRY citizens and refugees currently outside its territory; demanded that the authorities take immediate action to put an end to the repression of, and prevent violence against, non-Serb populations in Kosovo, including acts of harassment, beatings, torture, warrantless searches, arbitrary detention and unfair trials, and also to respect the rights of persons belonging to minority groups in the Sandjak and Vojvodina and of persons belonging to the Bulgarian minority; called on the government to act immediately to allow freedom of expression and assembly and full and free participation by all residents in Kosovo in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the region; urged the government to revoke all discriminatory legislation, apply all other legislation without discrimination and take urgent action to prevent arbitrary evictions and dismissals and discrimination against any ethnic or national, religious or linguistic group; called on the government to undertake a consistent border regime with all neighbouring countries; and, strongly condemned the continuing refusal of the authorities to arrest and surrender indicted war criminals known to be present in their territories.

The General Assembly also adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights Kosovo (A/C.3/52/L.61) in which the GA, *inter alia*: called for full and immediate implementation of the memorandum of understanding on the education