



news release

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SECOND MISSION OF CANADIAN WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION TEAM TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Perrin Beatty and National Defence Minister Tom Siddon today announced that Canada has sent the Canadian War Crimes Investigation Team on a second mission to the former Yugoslavia to assist the United Nations Commission of Experts (UNCOE) in gathering evidence of war crimes.

"War crimes offenders and those responsible for the destruction of cultural property must be punished. Canada will continue its efforts to ensure that human rights are not violated," said Mr. Beatty.

"By collecting physical evidence on site and working to ensure its admissibility before the International Tribunal, the Canadian team's work will greatly assist in the prosecution and conviction of offenders," said Mr. Siddon.

The Canadian team of five Canadian forces lawyers and police investigators is led by Major Joe Holland of the Office of the Judge Advocate General. The team arrived in Croatia on October 16 to develop and implement rules and procedures for collecting physical evidence of war crimes, to ensure the admissibility of evidence to the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

Canadian military lawyer Lieutenant-Colonel Dominic McAlea was also sent to head a civilian and military team of Canadian, French and Norwegian members who will investigate incidents involving the deliberate targeting of civilians and cultural objects during the battle of Dubrovnik.