

and indication of early ratification and hope that it will be followed by similar action on the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Canada is also encouraged by the willingness of the Chinese government to discuss human rights issues frankly and constructively.

We also welcome Indonesia's readiness to discuss human rights with us: this past October, our governments co-hosted a Human Rights Colloquium in Jakarta; and we are encouraged by the continuing cooperation between our national human rights commissions. However, continuing infringements upon freedom of association and freedom of expression remain of concern. In East Timor, we call on the authorities to fully respect due process and human rights, and we urge all parties to exercise restraint in face of the increased level of violence. We are hopeful that with the necessary political will by all concerned, a just, lasting and internationally-acceptable solution can be reached.

Human rights and democracy are mutually reinforcing concepts. If a regime is not fully representative, if genuine and periodic elections are not held, the only sure route to maintain power is through force. A government which is truly the expression of the will of the people has no need to resort to force and intimidation to maintain itself in power.

In Sierra Leone, the violent overthrow of the government of Ahmad Tejan Kabbah has led to a breakdown of law and order and to widespread human rights abuses. We fully support the efforts of ECOWAS, the United Nations and others to bring about the reinstatement of the legitimate government and restore a climate of peace.

The violent conflict which took place in Congo-Brazzaville and the consequent loss of life trouble Canada deeply. We find it unacceptable that a democratically elected president has been overthrown by force, and deplore the intervention of foreign forces in Congo-Brazzaville. Canada calls for constructive and inclusive dialogue, and for full respect of human rights obligations by the new regime.

Canada is also gravely concerned by the persistent conflict in Burundi and by the human rights situation in that country. We call for the "camps de regroupement" to be closed immediately, and for those in the camps to be reintegrated into their original communities. We urge all parties involved to engage in a genuine dialogue, and support the efforts of countries in the region to contribute to a peaceful solution.

Canada calls on the Democratic Republic of Congo to respect fully all human rights and humanitarian norms. We are pleased by the initial steps taken by the government to renew Congolese democratic institutions. We regret the forced repatriation of refugees, but are encouraged by the current negotiations between