

citizens are respected. By the reference to the threat to international peace and security, this resolution represented an unprecedented Security Council involvement in the area of human rights, reflecting the extraordinary situation within Iraq. It also served notice that Iraq must improve its human rights performance as part of its international rehabilitation and as a prerequisite for suspending U.N. sanctions which continue in place.

Previous efforts to condemn Iraqi human rights practices by the UNCHR were frustrated by procedural motions. However, in the aftermath of the Gulf war, resolution 1991/74 of 6 March, 1991 was passed; this provided for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to make a thorough study of human rights practices of the Government of Iraq. The resulting interim report was reviewed at UNGA and will be the basis of a final report to the Commission at its 49th session in 1993.

At the 47th UNGA, a resolution, co-sponsored by Canada, condemned the massive and continuing violation of human rights in Iraq including summary and arbitrary executions, political killings, particularly in the northern region and in the southern Shia region, systematic torture including torture of children, enforced or involuntary disappearances and suppression of freedom of thought. It further condemned Iraq's non-cooperation with Security Council resolutions, its failure to provide proper food and health care to the population, and expressed alarm at the treatment of Kurds, Shiites and Marsh Arabs. It called for compliance by Iraq with its human rights obligations and provided for the continuing examination of the human rights situation in that country.

#### CANADIAN POSITION

Canada is very concerned about the human rights situation in Iraq and has undertaken numerous initiatives to demonstrate its opposition to the abuses. Canada supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 688 and the decisions of the Security Council to maintain sanctions until Iraq satisfies all the relevant UN requirements. Canada strongly supports humanitarian assistance programs in Iraq (contributing approximately \$25 million). As noted above, Canada co-sponsored a resolution condemning human rights abuses in Iraq and the Canadian statement on human rights before the Third Committee at UNGA 47 also commented critically on the situation in Iraq.

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