

Commission. Also, despite the appointment of a UN Special Expert to advise the Equatorial authorities on human rights issues, no improvement has been forthcoming.

**CANADIAN POSITION**

Canada is accredited to Equatorial Guinea through our mission in Gabon but on-site visits are rare. Information is difficult to obtain and impossible to verify. Nevertheless, Canada deplores the culture of political persecution and oppression which has stunted the development of this unfortunate country. Although our influence in Equatorial Guinea is minimal, Canada does take all appropriate occasions to bring its views on democratic development and good governance to the attention of Equatorial authorities.