

The Centre needs to start to learn from the present mission and start planning for the next¹³. Without having to identify where and when they will be mounting the next mission, they can and should be addressing such issues as:

- written policy on monitoring and operation principles
- an up to date roster of potential monitors
- written operating procedures for deployment and field administration
- create or strengthen ties with other parts of the UN who might be present
- prepare those UN staff to recognize and play their role

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should encourage the UN Centre to consult with other UN agencies such as UNHCR, UNICEF, and DPKO, as well as NGOs such as AI, and ICRC on how to best be prepared and capable of rapidly mounting emergency field missions within the space of days. This consultation should explore the possibilities of piggy-backing on possible existing UN field operations, be they peacekeeping, humanitarian, or developmental.

Commission of experts

The Rwandan Commission of Experts moved ahead much more smoothly albeit not more quickly¹⁴. This was partly because it was created first and was able to get the first choice of available experts both from outside and within the Centre. Also, it was kept small and manageable with a total of 3 commissioners and 8 others. Nevertheless despite a clear and focussed mandate to investigate serious violations of international humanitarian law during the conflict¹⁵ they arrived in Rwanda 4 months after the start of the crisis but had no files prepared for them upon which they could elect to proceed. For example, it was common knowledge that Butare had been relatively calm for the first two weeks of the crisis, and that massacres only

¹³ It was worrisome to hear comments at the Centre in Geneva that the Rwanda mission was proceeding well, and that the departure of the first five monitors had little if anything to do with Centre shortcomings. Such a fundamental mis-interpretation of how badly it has proceed to date bodes ill for them drawing the appropriate lessons. Hopefully the experienced and competent mission members will be able to get various Centre members to re-examine their apparent complacency.

¹⁴ 26 July the 3 commissioners were chosen, it began its work on August 15th with its first session 18-19 August, and its first mission took place 29 August to 17 September with a preliminary report 29 September.

¹⁵ See: 1 July SC Res 935/1994 requesting the SG to establish a Commission of Experts; the 26 July Report of the SG on the establishment of the commission of experts S/1994/879; the 27 Aug Plan of Action proposed by Commission of Experts; and the 29 Sep. Preliminary Report of the Independent Commission of Experts.