

has deteriorated since Belgrade forced the departure of the long-term missions of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, now OSCE).

The Special Rapporteur of the UN Commission on Human Rights, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki, resigned in August 1995 and was replaced by Ms. Elisabeth Rehn in October. Since taking up her duties, Ms. Rehn has submitted a report focusing on the Krajina situation and has undertaken extensive consultations with the parties in an attempt to improve their respect for human rights.

With the December 14 signing of a peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia (also on behalf of the Bosnian Serbs), the human rights situation is expected to improve. The UN has authorized NATO to lead an international force (IFOR) to implement the military aspects of the agreement, and to restore security and stability to that country.

The peace agreement commits the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to respect the highest level of internationally recognized human rights standards, to grant human rights monitors unrestricted access to their territory, to cooperate with the ICRC in the search for missing persons, and to release all persons detained as a result of the conflict. The parties met the first deadlines in this regard in handing over lists of detained persons to the ICRC, though not all prisoners were released in conformity with the provisions of the Dayton agreement.

The parties agreed to create a Human Rights Commission made up of two parts: an independent Human Rights Ombudsman, with the authority to investigate and to act upon human rights violations; and a Human Rights Chamber of 14 judges, of whom 8 will be foreigners named by the Council of Europe. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) was given the role of coordinating the monitoring of human rights, including the establishment of the conditions for free and fair elections to be held by September, 1996.

Full freedom of movement and the right of refugees to return to their homes is guaranteed in the agreement. A Commission for Refugees and Displaced Persons will determine the lawful ownership of property and adjudicate claims for compensation. IFOR has been authorized to use military force at its discretion to prevent interference with the free movement of civilians, and to respond appropriately to violence against them.

The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia has indicted 52 people so far on charges of war crimes; in addition, Bosnian Serb president Karadzic and General Mladic have been charged with genocide. The peace agreement obligates the parties to cooperate with the Tribunal and bars indicted war criminals from holding public office in Bosnia and Herzegovina.