

able to return to their homes. The situation is worse for those wishing to return to areas where the majority of the population is from another ethnic community. There is indication that all three communities are using the issue of refugee return to extend the areas under their control.

In areas under the control of each of the three communities, members of other communities continue to be threatened, harassed, evicted and, in some cases, even killed. Authorities in the two Entities continue to authorize occupations of houses or apartments without due regard for property rights or the relevant annexes of the GFAP. While numbers are decreasing, there are still reports of people being detained in Bosnia and Herzegovina without just cause, and under various pretexts, including simply crossing the demarcation line between Entities.

The Special Representative of the United Nations condemned the fact that there are "silent victims" of the war. For instance, there are numerous cases of people having suffered serious psychological trauma, and the centres where these people are sheltered are often unfit for habitation. This category also includes many victims of rape, of both sexes, including children. Many such victims find themselves without protection and without psychological support. Children are often the most affected; many have lost their families, and legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina basically prohibits adoption by foreigners. These children, and those whose families have been left utterly destitute by the war, have very little social support.

At the 52nd session of the Commission on Human Rights, an omnibus resolution was passed by consensus, with Canadian co-sponsorship, which addressed the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. At the 51st session of the UN General Assembly, the equivalent resolution was brought to a vote, 131 for, 1 against (Russia) and 20 abstentions. A second resolution, again co-sponsored by Canada, focussed largely on the rape and abuse of women in Bosnia and Herzegovina and was adopted by consensus.

CANADIAN POSITION

Canada is fully committed to ensuring that the parties to the Bosnia Peace Agreement live up to their commitment to protect human rights. Minister Axworthy has confirmed that Canada's reconstruction assistance to Bosnia will take into account the compliance of Bosnian authorities with the peace agreement.

Special attention has been paid by Canada to support for the ICTY. Canada has contributed over \$1.2 million toward the work of the Tribunal, particularly through the voluntary fund for ICTY. Canadian Judge Jules Deschenes sits on the Appellate Chamber of the Tribunal; and, Madame Justice Louise Arbour is the Tribunal's Chief Prosecutor.

Since the conflict began, Canada has contributed over \$90 million in humanitarian and reconstruction assistance in the former Yugoslavia. In 1996, as a contribution to the Bosnian peace process, Canada pledged a total of up to \$40 million toward reconstruction. Major areas of focus for Canadian assistance have been democratic development, humanitarian assistance, and social and economic reconstruction.

Canada's assistance included the provision of senior personnel to the OSCE in Bosnia. We