

In **Indonesia**, Canadians were encouraged by the independence and initiative displayed by the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission in investigating the disturbing violence and destruction that accompanied the dispute over the leadership of an opposition political party in July. We hope the Indonesian Government will seriously address the issues raised by the Commission.

There has, unfortunately, been no change in the situation in **East Timor**, and this remains a matter of continuing concern. Canada urges **Indonesia** and **Portugal** to persist in their efforts to find an internationally acceptable solution in their talks under the sponsorship of the UN Secretary General. Canada also supports the All-Inclusive Intra-Timorese Dialogue.

Madam Chairman,

Human rights abuses are committed not only by States but also by guerilla or rebel forces or paramilitary organizations. Difficult internal situations, however, do not absolve States of their responsibility to comply with human rights standards. On the contrary, it is the duty of States to break destructive cycles of violence and to foster a climate of respect for human rights.

In **Sri Lanka**, Canada welcomes the decision of the government to set up a permanent Human Rights Commission, and continues to urge the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam to show respect for human life and human rights, and to join the government in seeking a lasting, peaceful solution.

Canada welcomes efforts to reach a lasting peace in **Chechnya**. We call upon all parties to abide by international human rights standards, and to continue discussions towards a permanent solution to the conflict.

Canada remains concerned about human rights abuses in **Colombia** and urges the government to cooperate fully with the U.N. Human Rights Office that we trust will be opened as soon as possible in Bogota. In **Guatemala**, problems remain but Canada welcomes recent progress towards a final peace agreement and the efforts of the government to eliminate corruption and impunity. In **Peru**, Canada hopes that the Special Measures will soon be lifted as the country continues its progress in building democratic structures.

In **Rwanda**, Canada welcomes the government's cooperation with the Human Rights Field Operation, and efforts to bring the perpetrators of genocide to justice. Recent reports, however, indicate a disturbing increase in human rights abuses. We are also deeply troubled by the current humanitarian crisis in **Rwanda** and **Zaire**. Canada urges the governments concerned to make a particular effort to protect the rights of all non-combatants.