

dence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms taking place; called for the full and consistent implementation of the Peace Agreement and the Basic Agreement by all parties to them; stressed the crucial role of human rights in the successful implementation of the Peace Agreement; underlined the obligations of the parties under the Agreement to secure for all persons within their jurisdiction the highest level of international norms and standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms; stressed the need to focus international human rights efforts in the region on the core issues of the lack of full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals without distinction, the rule of law and effective administration of justice at all levels of government, the freedom and independence of the media, and freedom of expression, association, religion and movement; stressed the need for enhanced international human rights efforts to foster and effect the prompt and voluntary return of displaced persons and refugees in safety and dignity; called upon all parties and states in the region to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights and effective functioning democratic institutions will be central elements in the new civilian structures; and called upon all states and all parties to the Peace Agreement that have not done so to meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia.

With regard to Bosnia and Herzegovina specifically (Section I), the GA, *inter alia*: welcomed the September 1998 elections and the progress made in some areas in implementation of the Peace Agreement and improvement in respect for human rights; expressed serious concern about continuing human rights violations and delays in the full implementation of the human rights provisions of the Peace Agreement, notably in bringing legislation into compliance with the human rights provisions of the national Constitution, and in implementing that legislation; called upon the Commission on Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina (the "Commission") to intensify its activities concerning alleged or apparent discrimination or violations of human rights of any kind; called on all authorities to cooperate fully with the Commission, and specifically called upon the Republika Srpska to increase its cooperation with the Commission; strongly condemned the complicity by local governments in the perpetration of violence against minority refugees and internally displaced persons returning to their homes and called for the immediate arrest and bringing to justice of those responsible for such actions; urged all parties immediately to create conditions conducive to the voluntary return, in safety and dignity, of refugees and internally displaced persons to their homes, with equal emphasis on minorities; called for the establishment, without delay in the Republika Srpska, of institutions for the protection of human rights, in particular a human rights ombudsman; and reiterated its call to bring to justice the perpetrators of rape, notably where it was used as a weapon of war, and for adequate assistance and protection for victims and witnesses of rape.

## FIELD OPERATIONS

Roman Wieruszewski, Head of Office, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 71210 Ilidza, P.O. Box 56, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Phone: (387-71) 496-402; Fax: (387-71) 496-438; e-mail: [dedic@un.org](mailto:dedic@un.org).

The OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) was established in 1993, with headquarters in Sarajevo, to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur (SR) on the former Yugoslavia. The legal authority for the OHCHR presence is based on annual resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights which have extended the mandate of the SR and called on the Secretary-General to support the SR by maintaining a field presence.

The office carries out activities in support of the mandates of both the SR and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. After the signing of the Dayton Agreement in 1995, the High Commissioner announced that the office, in addition to supporting the SR, would conduct human rights training programmes for international police monitors, and would provide human rights expertise to the Office of the High Representative in B&H. The human rights training programme for police, which was renewed in 1998, is conducted as a project under the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation.

The main activities carried out by the Office as of August 1998 included: preparing weekly and monthly reports on human rights developments for the OHCHR; providing regular information and briefings to the SR and assisting with the drafting of reports to the Commission on Human Rights; liaison work with the government, the OHCHR, and the UN human rights mechanisms; providing information to the government and to elements of civil society, notably NGOs, on aspects of the UN's human rights programme; and organizing workshops and training sessions with NGOs, academic institutions and others.

## Reports of the Human Rights Field Operation

Public distribution of the periodic reports prepared by the Field Operation was discontinued in June 1998 on the basis that the reports contained confidential information. In 1998, five reports were made publicly available prior to that decision (30 January 1998, February 1998, April 1998, 30 April 1998 and 29 May 1998).

The reports address such human rights issues as: additional arrests of alleged war criminals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia; conviction and sentencing by a national court of a person accused of crimes against the civilian population, noting that proceedings apparently contravened international standards and that the defendant has the right to appeal to the Supreme Court; continuing difficulties in implementing the results of the September 1997 municipal elections in the eastern part of the Republika Srpska (RS); refusal of the authorities in the Banja Luka