

In **Sudan**, violations of human rights and humanitarian law continue unabated, especially in the context of the civil conflict in Southern Sudan. Canada, however, is encouraged that the Special Rapporteur was able to visit Sudan to observe the situation first-hand.

In **Burundi**, the situation has further deteriorated. Canada condemns the violence and terror directed against civilians and innocent victims. Such tactics, practiced by both parties to the conflict, violate every norm of international humanitarian law.

In the former **Yugoslavia**, there are unacceptable delays in bringing to justice war criminals responsible for massive human rights abuses. Respect for minority rights is weak. Refugees and displaced persons are still unable to return to their homes. Canada will continue to assist but only the governments in the region can make the peace process work.

In **Cuba**, we were able last year to note some positive steps the government had taken to improve its human rights record. Unfortunately, this year we can only point to such negative developments as the repressive measures against the Concilio Cubano. We continue to urge Cuba to match its achievements in the area of social and economic rights with a genuine opening in the area of civil and political rights. And once again we ask Cuba to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and the thematic rapporteurs.

Madam Chairman,

Some governments maintain that human rights are a luxury that only wealthy countries can afford. That is not so. Repression is not the price to be paid for development. Human rights and fundamental freedoms are inalienable for rich and poor alike. And they are the only sure foundation for stability and long-term economic development.

Canada welcomes **China's** achievements in improving standards of living through economic reform, as well as China's commitment to modernizing its legal system. We are also encouraged by our bilateral dialogue on human rights and other subjects. We are, however, deeply disturbed by continued intolerance for freedom of speech, and the harsh sentences meted out to dissidents. Constraints on freedom of association and freedom of religion, as well as apparent distortions of the justice system in the "strike hard" anti-crime campaign, are also causes for concern.