

Rwanda faces enormous challenges as it comes to grips with the desperate need for national reconciliation, while simultaneously dealing with external threats to its security. Arrest and prosecution of those suspected of crimes against humanity, based on sufficient evidence and with full regard for due process, is imperative. Human and financial assistance is needed to strengthen the system for the administration of justice in Rwanda and we fully support the Human Rights Field Operation there and its programmes of technical assistance. We stress that urgent steps must be taken to alleviate the appalling conditions in places of detention in Rwanda, and to accelerate the processing of the 58,000 persons now in prison.

The Zairian and Tanzanian people have faced a heavy burden since taking in the massive influx of refugees from Rwanda and Burundi and the international community must be appreciative. Recently in Cairo, the Government of Rwanda reiterated its commitment to facilitate the return of refugees. We also welcome the pledge made in Cairo by President Mobutu to reduce violence and intimidation in the camps in Zaire. The rapid, orderly and voluntary repatriation of refugees to Rwanda is essential to stability in the Great Lakes region.

Canada strongly condemns violence, terrorism and human rights violations in Algeria. We encourage all parties to come to a political solution of the crisis and respect the democratic aspirations of the Algerian people as demonstrated during the recent presidential elections.

Mr. Chairman,

Threats to international peace and security are not confined to any one continent. In Europe, extreme abuses of human rights have been the hallmark of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia. With the peace settlement, the international community must now turn its attention to assisting the countries of the former Yugoslavia to build and sustain a culture of respect for human rights. To maintain stability and peace, the OSCE, the UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and other international bodies must work together to monitor human rights in the former Yugoslavia and assist in building human rights institutions.

In Asia, Canada remains concerned about the human rights situation in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly acts of violence, including the bombing of public places and the kidnapping and murdering of tourists by militants. We continue to urge a negotiated solution of the Kashmir issue with due regard for the rights of all concerned.