

There are many "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.

Cooperation in the arrest of indicted war crimes suspects and their transfer to the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia remains patchy at best. With the recent transfer of Bosnian Croats to the Hague, the Republika Srpska is now conspicuous as the least cooperative on this issue. It is clear that until war crimes indictees are brought to justice, reconciliation in Bosnia will be difficult.

The human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is addressed in the omnibus resolutions on Former Yugoslavia adopted at both the Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly 3rd Committee, which Canada traditionally co-sponsors. At the 53rd session of the Commission on Human Rights, this was adopted by 44 votes to none, with 7 abstentions. Canada co-sponsored the resolution, which renewed the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Former Yugoslavia. However, for CHR54, concerned States have suggested that resolution should be adopted on each individual country.

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.

Canada has made several financial and personnel contributions to international organizations promoting human rights in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia. These include: a grant to the operations of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, including the Special Rapporteur for human rights in the former Yugoslavia; providing the Senior Deputy for Human Rights in the OSCE mission in Sarajevo; providing the Deputy to the national Ombudsperson; and, providing personnel for the Human Rights Coordinating Centre in the Office of the High Representative. In addition, Canada has made financial contributions to the International Commission of the Red Cross to support its work on detainees and missing persons, to the Bosnian Human Rights Commission (Ombudsperson and Human Rights Chamber), and to the Commission for Real Property Claims for Refugees and Displaced Persons which operate under the principles of the Dayton agreement and the European Convention on Human Rights. Canada believes that there can be no lasting peace and reconciliation in Bosnia without justice; and therefore the arrest and prosecution of indicted war crimes suspects must be a priority. In December 1997, the Canadian Government approved a \$600,000 contribution to the ICTY as part of a package which includes increased funding for exhumations, an additional courtroom at the Hague, investigators from the RCMP, and a bilateral agreement on witness relocation.