

We regret, however, that unhindered access to East Timor by international non-governmental organizations is not yet possible. We also regret the continued allegations of human rights abuses in East Timor and elsewhere in the country, and urge Indonesia to address the problems of excessive force, arbitrary arrest and disappearances that have occurred over the last year.

The widespread abuse of fundamental rights throughout the Horn of Africa must continue to be regarded with concern by the international community. In Sudan, Ethiopia and Somalia, the continuation of internal conflict, in combination with threatening severe famines, has resulted in a situation of untold misery.

In Sudan and Somalia, governments and rebel groups have paid only lip service to serious attempts to bring about negotiated settlements to long-standing disputes, while, for the first time, we are seeing rebel groups and the Government of Ethiopia begin to cooperate in the spirit of humanitarian concern for all Ethiopians suffering from famine. Were it not for this modest success, the situation would be much bleaker than even a year ago.

In general, however, the situation in the Horn of Africa is intolerable. The international community must therefore speak with one voice in demanding that the parties in Sudan and Somalia enter negotiations in good faith, as it has done with some success in Ethiopia. Cease-fires must be declared to ensure delivery of relief to those in need, and negotiations must be undertaken to produce fair and just solutions.

In Sudan, we deplore the abolition by the government of all civil and political rights and the destruction of the rule of law. Gross abuses of fundamental rights have unfortunately continued in Somalia, despite the apparent overthrow of the ruling regime.

The Canadian Government is seriously concerned over the numerous human rights violations reported and documented in Mauritania. This is a subject of consternation for all Canadians. The Canadian Government will continue to monitor the situation and hopes that it will improve rapidly.

While there has been progress in some parts of Central and South America, there are a number of situations that still give us cause for concern.

It is with profound regret that we must again speak of the serious human rights situation in El Salvador. Over ten years of conflict have brought immense suffering and egregious violations of human rights continue. The activities of death squads, intimidation of trade unionists and peasants, and acts of violence by the armed opposition are profoundly disturbing. Acts of violence and intimidation in the national elections campaign now under way, particularly attacks against the media, are unacceptable.

The slowness or lack of judicial process in bringing human rights violators to trial is deeply disappointing, and we urge that the trial of those accused in the murder of the Jesuits in 1989 proceed expeditiously. Nevertheless, we are encouraged by the accord reached by the Government and the FMLN on human rights in July 1990. Its early implementation and a rededication to a negotiated settlement of the conflict are central to improving and strengthening respect for human rights in El Salvador.

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