

those abducted and the burning of the bodies in a makeshift crematorium; and, the mass killing of civilians, with some bodies showing signs of mutilation.

Statement by the President

In August 1998 the President made a statement on behalf of the Security Council (S/PRST/1998/25) in which the Council, *inter alia*: expressed grave concern about the intense fighting in Kosovo, the devastating impact on the civilian population, and the greatly increased number of refugees and displaced persons; expressed concern that the increasing numbers of displaced persons, coupled with the approaching winter, could develop into an even greater humanitarian disaster; affirmed the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes; emphasized the importance of unhindered and continuous access of humanitarian organizations to the affected population; expressed concern over reports of increasing violations of international humanitarian law; called for an immediate ceasefire; reaffirmed the commitment of all states to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the FRY; and, welcomed the announcement by the leader of the Kosovo Albanian community of the formation of a negotiating team to represent the interests of the Kosovo Albanian community.

Resolutions of the Security Council

In the September 1998 resolution on the situation in Kosovo (S/RES/1199) the Council, *inter alia*: noted the opinion of the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) (7 July 1998) that the situation in Kosovo represented an armed conflict within the terms of the mandate of the Tribunal; expressed grave concern at the intense fighting in Kosovo and in particular the excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Serbian security forces and the Yugoslav Army which resulted in numerous civilian casualties and displacement; expressed deep concern over the flow of refugees into northern Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and other European countries as a result of the use of force in Kosovo, as well as the increasing numbers of displaced persons within Kosovo, and other parts of FRY; reaffirmed the right of all refugees and displaced persons to return to their homes in safety; condemned all acts of violence by any party, as well as terrorism in pursuit of political goals by any group or individual, and all external support for such activities in Kosovo; expressed deep concern at the rapid deterioration in the humanitarian situation and alarm at the impending humanitarian catastrophe, as well as at reports of increasing violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law; demanded that all parties, groups and individuals immediately cease hostilities, maintain a ceasefire in Kosovo, and take immediate steps to improve the humanitarian situation and to avert the impending humanitarian catastrophe; demanded that the FRY (a) cease all action by the security forces affecting the civilian population and order the withdrawal of security units used for civilian repression, (b) enable effective and continuous international monitoring in Kosovo, (c) facilitate, in agreement with the UNHCR and the International Committee of the

Red Cross (ICRC), the safe return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and allow free and unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations and supplies to Kosovo, (d) make rapid progress to a clear timetable aimed at agreeing to confidence-building measures and finding a political solution to the problems of Kosovo; noted and called for implementation of the commitments of the President of the FRY (a) to resolve existing problems by political means on the basis of equality for all citizens and ethnic communities in Kosovo, (b) not to carry out any repressive actions against the peaceful population, (c) to provide full freedom of movement for, and ensure that there will be no restrictions on, representatives of foreign states and international institutions accredited to the FRY monitoring the situation in Kosovo, (d) to ensure full and unimpeded access for humanitarian organizations and delivery of humanitarian supplies, and (e) to facilitate the unimpeded return of refugees and displaced persons; insisted that the Kosovo Albanian leadership condemn all terrorist action and emphasized that all elements in the Kosovo Albanian community should pursue their goals by peaceful means only; called upon the FRY authorities, the leaders of the Kosovo Albanian community and all others concerned to cooperate fully with the Prosecutor of the ICTY in the investigation of possible violations within the jurisdiction of the Tribunal; underlined the need for the FRY authorities to bring to justice those members of the security forces who were involved in the mistreatment of civilians and the deliberate destruction of property.

The October 1998 resolution (S/RES/1203) reiterated a number of points from the September resolution and, *inter alia*: welcomed and endorsed agreements related to ending the conflict and the establishment of a political process to determine the status of Kosovo within the FRY; expressed deep concern at the closure by the authorities of the FRY of independent media outlets in the country and emphasized the need for these outlets to be allowed freely to resume their operations, called for prompt and complete investigation, including international supervision and participation, of all atrocities committed against civilians and full cooperation with the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, including compliance with its orders, requests for information and investigations.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The OHCHR was established in 1993 and was originally intended to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights. The legal authority for the OHCHR presence is based on annual resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights extending the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and calling on the Secretary-General to support the Special Rapporteur by maintaining a field presence. The OHCHR is negotiating a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the government which will regularize the office's presence in the FRY. The headquarters is located in New Belgrade. Barbara Davis, Head of Office, UN Office of the