



news release

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CANADA TO PROVIDE WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION TEAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and the Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, the Honourable Kim Campbell, today announced that Canada will provide a War Crimes Investigation Team to the United Nations Commission of Experts on War Crimes in the former republics of Yugoslavia.

The team of Canadian military lawyers and police investigators will be led by Lt.-Col. Kim Sandra Carter of the Office of the Judge Advocate General. She and the team will travel to sites chosen by the Commission, starting with the Vukovar area of Croatia, to investigate reports of violations of international humanitarian law.

"Those responsible for war crimes in the former Yugoslavia must be brought to justice," said Mrs. McDougall. "This Canadian initiative of providing a War Crimes Investigation Team will allow the UN Commission of Experts to accelerate its work in amassing forensic evidence and testimony from witnesses and survivors."

"By specifically investigating incidents and determining responsibility, the Canadian Forces team of lawyers and investigators going to Vukovar will be making a vital contribution to the Commission's work," said Ms. Campbell. "I am extremely pleased with the choice of Lt.-Col. Kim Carter as team leader, given her experience with criminal and international humanitarian law."

A Canadian Forces officer, Commander William Fenrick, appointed by the UN Secretary-General as one of the five members of the Commission, has been named as Special Rapporteur for In Situ Investigations. Commander Fenrick and Lt.-Col. Carter will travel to the Vukovar area in March with forensic experts from the organization Physicians for Human Rights to extend the investigation into a mass grave uncovered there. The Canadian team will also pursue other investigations in Vukovar.

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