



news release

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CANADIAN WAR CRIMES INVESTIGATION TEAM TO TRAVEL TO THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall and the Minister of National Defence and Minister of Veterans Affairs, Kim Campbell, today announced that Canada will send a War Crimes Investigation Team to Sarajevo to assist the United Nations Commission of Experts in gathering evidence of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

The team of seven Canadian Forces 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 arrive in Sarajevo later this week to investigate cases of rape for prosecution as war crimes, and to review incidents involving the deliberate targeting of civilians and their property during the battle of Sarajevo.

"Those who have committed rape, those who have ordered it, and those who have failed to prevent it must not go unpunished," said Mrs. McDougall. "Canada will remain at the forefront of efforts to ensure that international humanitarian law is not violated."

"By investigating specific incidents and identifying perpetrators, the Canadian military team will make a critical contribution to bringing offenders to justice," said Ms. Campbell. "This War Crimes Investigation Team will greatly assist the UN Commission of Experts in its work."

Commander William Fenrick, Rapporteur for On-Site Investigations for the UN Commission of Experts, will accompany the team.

Cmdr. Fenrick and Lt.-Col. Carter travelled to Vukovar, Croatia in March for a preliminary investigation of a mass grave site uncovered there.

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