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COMMISSION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME
Cinquante-cinquième session
Point 9 de l'ordre du jour

QUESTION DE LA VIOLATION DES DROITS DE L'HOMME ET DES LIBERTÉS
FONDAMENTALES, OU QU'ELLE SE PRODUISE DANS LE MONDE

Lettre datée du 23 avril 1999, adressée à la Présidente de la
Commission des droits de l'homme par le Chargé d'affaires par
intérim de la Mission permanente de la République fédérale de
Yougoslavie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint* une lettre que
l'Ambassadeur, Chargé d'affaires par intérim de la Mission permanente de la
République fédérale de Yougoslavie auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à
Genève, a adressée à S.E. Mme Sadako Ogata, Haut-Commissaire des Nations Unies
pour les réfugiés. Je vous serais reconnaissant de bien vouloir en faire
distribuer le texte comme document officiel de la Commission des droits de
l'homme à sa cinquante-cinquième session, au titre du point 9 de l'ordre
du jour.

L'Ambassadeur,
Chargé d'affaires par intérim
(Signé) Branko BRANKOVIC

* L'annexe est reproduite telle quelle, dans la langue dans laquelle
elle a été reçue.

Geneva, 23 April 1999

Mrs. Ogata,

I am addressing you upon instruction of His Excellency, Mr. Zivadin Jovanovic, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia concerning the dramatic evolution of the situation in the FR of Yugoslavia as a result of the barbarian bombardment by NATO forces.

I would like to inform you and to draw your attention that refugee camps in Vojvodina, central Serbia and Kosovo and Metohija (Kula, Kursumlija, etc.) are being attacked ever more frequently by NATO aggressors.

In addition to the killing of 75 and wounding of 25 civilians, ethnic Albanians who were returning to their homes, another crime occurred on 21 April in Djakovica. Namely, on that very day, NATO aggressors attacked with several missiles the refugee camp accommodating Serbian refugees from Knin, killing 5 refugees, amongst which 2 children, and injuring 6 refugees.

For several days already, NATO forces are attacking only civilian facilities, including centers for supply of the Yugoslav Red Cross and of the Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia who are providing humanitarian relief. Taking into account the fact that bridges, railways and roads have been uninterruptedly attacked by NATO forces from the very onset of the aggression, the supply of refugee camps with basic humanitarian relief and the securing of humanitarian relief to the ever increasing number of newly arrived displaced persons from Kosovo and Metohija is being seriously endangered.

The Government of the FR of Yugoslavia expects from you to condemn in the strongest terms the attacks perpetrated on refugee camps and supply centers of the Yugoslav Red Cross and Commissioner for Refugees of the Republic of Serbia. These attacks represent a crime against humanity. Their victims are refugees who were driven to leave their homes in Croatia several years ago as a result of brutal force of Croatian soldatesque. These refugees are once again subjected to genocide.

Please accept, Mrs. Ogata, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Branko Brankovic
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Her Excellency
Mrs. Sadako OGATA
UN High Commissioner for Refugees
Geneva