

have been arrested by peacekeeping troops within the former Yugoslavia. "This is significant because it shows we have other means to achieve detentions," Arbour said. "People who might have believed that they were outside the reach of international justice are being brought into custody. There should be a lot of very worried people now." (Marlise Simons, *The New York Times*, 26 Aug 99).

Source: <http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/archive/UNWIRE990826.cfm> (30 Aug 99)

### ■ AGENCY ■

#### The International Criminal Court (ICC) <<http://www.un.org/icc>>

On 17 July 1998 in Rome, 160 nations decided to establish a permanent "International Criminal Court" to try individuals for the most serious offences of global concern, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity...recently, the horrific events in the...former Yugoslavia and Rwanda spurred international interest in the need for a permanent mechanism to prosecute mass murderers and war criminals. A permanent court would be able to act more quickly than ad hoc bodies, and would serve as a stronger deterrent. Crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court are genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, such as widespread or systematic extermination of civilians, enslavement, torture, rape, forced pregnancy, persecution on political, racial, ethnic or religious grounds, and enforced disappearances. Under the principle of "complementarity," the International Criminal Court will act only when national courts are unable or unwilling. The International Court of Justice deals only with disputes between states, not criminal acts by individuals. ■

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### PEACE EFFORTS MUST ADDRESS REFUGEES — UNIFIL (UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON)



Israel will not secure peace along its northern border unless the plight of 350,000 Palestinian refugees

in Lebanon is addressed, said Timur Goskel, spokesperson for the Peacekeeping mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In an interview published Monday in Lebanon, Goskel said: "There are many frustrated and angry youngsters in the population here and a growing religious influence among them. If you leave them here, unchecked, uncontrolled and unwanted by the Lebanese, it's not going to contribute to the security along the borders. They could be a problem that the Lebanese and others will find difficult to control." The *Tel Aviv Ha'aretz Daily* reported that Israeli defense experts share Goskel's view, noting that if Israel

unilaterally withdraws from southern Lebanon, Palestinian groups backed by Iran and Syria "may take the opportunity to conduct terror attacks." Goskel "stressed that opponents of people in Lebanon will have no difficulty recruiting mercenaries to carry out attacks against Israel to disrupt" peace talks. (Daniel Sobelman, 17 Aug 99)

Source: [http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/archives/UNWIRE\(30 Aug 99\)](http://www.unfoundation.org/unwire/archives/UNWIRE(30 Aug 99))

### ■ AGENCY ■

#### United Nations High Commission For Refugees (UNHCR) <<http://www.unhcr.ch>>

The United Nations refugee organization is mandated by the United Nations to lead and coordinate international action for the worldwide protection of refugees and the resolution of refugee problems. UNHCR's primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. UNHCR strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another state, and to return home voluntarily. By assisting refugees to return to their own country or to settle in another country, UNHCR also seeks lasting solutions to their plight. ■

### ACTIVITY

Have students evaluate the following quotation: "Most people in the developed world rarely think of their human rights. Many people in the developing world are probably not even aware that they have any." (Refugees, Spring, 1998)

Consider the statement from the perspective of the "angry youngsters" in Lebanon. What do they have to look forward to regarding education, jobs, home life and family security? Refugees often face even more dire conditions than those described above. Refugees forced to flee from Kosovo during that conflict often were forced out of their country without any belongings, and sometimes without any identification papers—becoming stateless persons dependent on others for their lives. Place students in several groups and have them brainstorm all of the ways in which their own identity could be taken away: personal, familial, national, etc., and then have them suggest ways by which that sort of loss might be avoided, i.e., photographs, photocopies in an internationally safe place, etc.

### ACTIVITY

What kinds of evidence will an impartial member of the International Criminal Court need in order to convict Momir Talic? In small groups have the students draw up a list of such evidence and be able to defend their choices. When the class has agreed on the evidence (and with any additional critique by the teacher), have the class think about the ways in which the United Nations might bring pressure against nations to prevent unnecessary injury to civilian populations. (Remind students of already existing prohibitions against genocide and murder.) Will the existence of this new court discourage soldiers and their commanders from such acts of horror?