



# CANADA'S PERIODICAL ON REFUGEES REFUGEE

Volume 15

Number 3

## SPECIAL ISSUE ON INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION

### International Intervention in Refugee Crises

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In 1978, there were 4.6 million refugees worldwide. Just fifteen years later, at the end of 1993, that figure climbed to 19.7 million. That same year, there were also 24 million internally displaced persons scattered among many conflict zones. That is, one out of every 130 people in the world was displaced as a result of persecution, violence, or natural disaster.<sup>1</sup> In the following two years, the number of refugees declined somewhat as refugees repatriated as conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Ethiopia, and Mozambique came to a close. At the same time, the numbers of the internally displaced rose.<sup>2</sup> The displaced have fled human rights abuses, ethnic conflict, and generalized violence. In addition, there are many others who have left their home voluntarily in search of work or basic subsistence.<sup>3</sup> Taking into account documented and undocumented labour immigrants, there are about 80-100 million people living outside of their countries of origin, or perhaps 1.5 percent of the entire population of the world.<sup>4</sup> There has been increased attention on the effects refugees, the in-

ternally displaced, and other migrants are having on host countries, both economically and from a security perspective.<sup>5</sup> Governments have felt increasing pressure, as a result of public backlash against immigration, to curb the influx of people.

Concurrent with these developments, there has been a resurgence of international interest in varying humanitarian crises and communal conflicts and a renewed focus on collective security, made possible by the end of the cold war. In fact, since 1989 there

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