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## Correspondence for the Trust Fund for the Commission of Experts

M. Cherif Bassiouni 1937-2017

Chicago Tribune

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10 Section 1 Chicago Tribune, Friday, October 22, 1993

## Nation/World

# Venezuelan on war crimes panel

## Tribunal will probe atrocities in former Yugoslavia

FROM TRIBUNE WIRES

NEW YORK—The United Nations Security Council on Thursday appointed Venezuelan Atty. Gen. Ramon Escovar Salom, who spearheaded corruption charges against his own country's president, to prosecute people accused of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia.

A resolution adopted without a vote at a brief council meeting named the former foreign minister and justice minister to the key post of prosecutor on a UN war crimes tribunal established earlier this year.

The General Assembly last month elected the 11 judges to serve on the court, located at The Hague. But the tribunal's work has been delayed because two previous candidates for prosecutor nominated by Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali failed to

win the endorsement of all Security Council members.

They were Cherif Bassiouni, an Egyptian-born law professor at DePaul University, and former Indian Atty. Gen. Solijehangir Sorabjee.

Escovar Salome, as attorney general, played a leading role in pressing corruption charges against Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, who was suspended from office earlier this year.

The international tribunal will try those accused of war crimes—such as murder, torture, rape and ethnic cleansing—committed in the former Yugoslavia since the Balkan federation began to disintegrate in 1991. It may not impose the death penalty but can hand down prison terms, to be served in countries offering penal facilities.

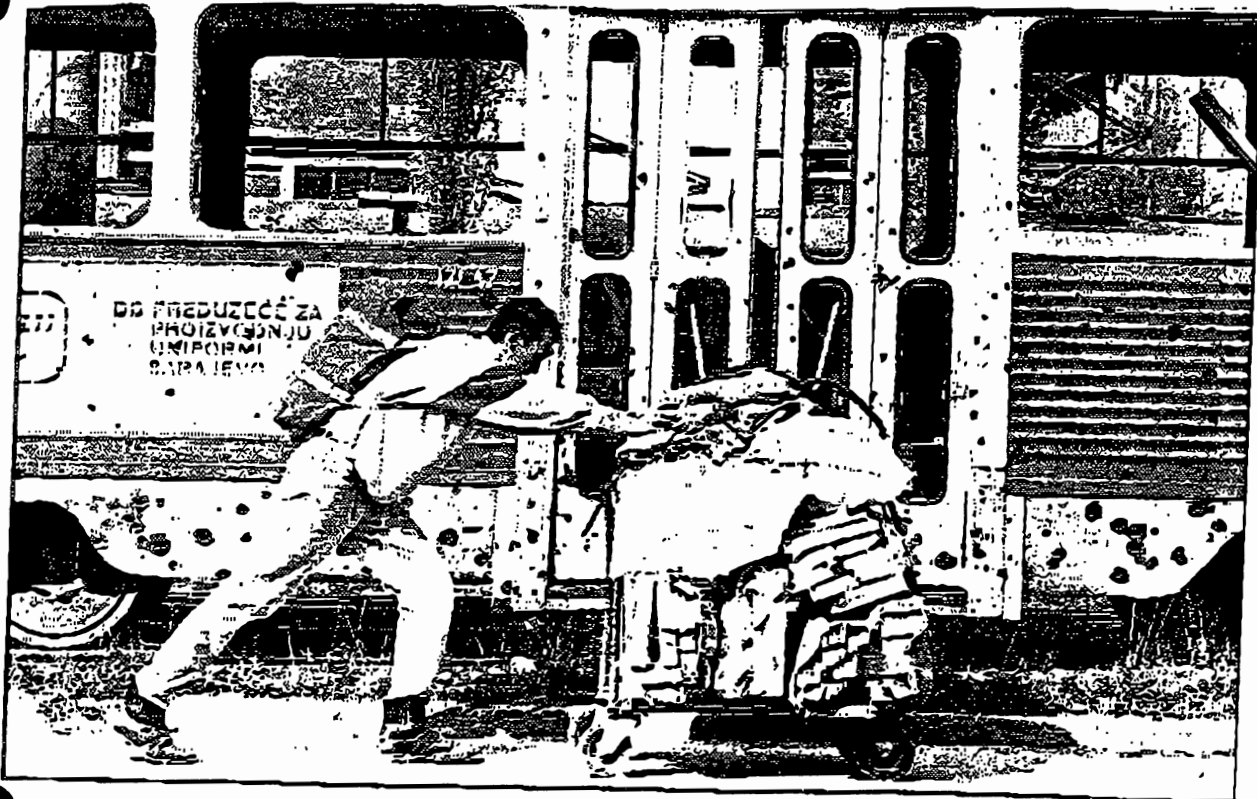
In a related development Thurs-

day, the United Nations announced a change in the five-member UN war crimes commission set up a year ago to collect and analyze evidence of atrocities in the former Yugoslavia.

Bassiouni, a member of the commission since its inception, was named chairman, succeeding Frits Kalshoven of the Netherlands, who resigned for health reasons.

In Croatia, meanwhile, a relief convoy set out for Maglaj on Thursday amid reports that at least six hungry people trapped in the Muslim enclave had died in a desperate search for food.

The 75-ton UN aid convoy left Zagreb, the Croatian capital, early Thursday for the government-held town. If the trucks do arrive, they will be the first to reach Maglaj since June 1, when another convoy came under shell fire that killed three aid workers.



AP photo

A Sarajevo man pushes firewood through the streets of the Bosnian capital Thursday, passing the wreckage of a tram. Workers are starting to fix the power system for the city's public transportation.