

ignore. An increased lobbying capacity does not require many more staff, although 3 or 4 human rights political officers would be needed.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should strongly recommend that the senior position at the Centre for Human Rights New York office be a D2 or higher so as to provide whomever fills it with sufficient political clout to advocate for human rights

In further recognition that most of the peacekeeping and peacemaking initiatives occur in NY, there should be a human rights desk officer in each of the critical departments of DPKO, DHA, and DPA. Their job would be to actively liaise with the UN Centre and the larger human rights community. As integral parts of their particular department, they would have the task of interjecting human rights factors and objectives into the design and delivery of departmental missions and programs. Quite apart from the obvious goal of protecting against human rights violations by governments and other national entities, they would work to ensure that UN missions themselves did not violate human rights²².

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should encourage the Departments of DPKO, DHA, and DPA to each create a separate desk officer for human rights.

The Human Rights Centre has not proven effective in marketing the human rights information that is available from within the UN or even the Centre itself. The term marketing has been judiciously chosen over the word public information or dissemination. Dissemination often has been interpreted or at least implemented by putting out poorly printed crowded texts that are daunting to avid human rights activists and mind numbing for the rest who invariably file them unread. Without getting into the details of marketing, the objective must always be to have your message heard which might not necessarily but hopefully will include being read.

One need only look at human rights documents from NGOs such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, or even the tiny office of the International Service for Human Rights to understand what can be done with very little. Attractive cover pages, concise summaries for those who do not have the time to read the whole document, variable and

²² International humanitarian and human rights standards must be consciously applied to UN operations particularly where missions involve more than merely monitoring or observing. The mandate of UNOSOM II in Somalia included making arrests, holding people in detention, and ensuring judicial prosecutions. A failure to sufficiently train and provide field direction to UN forces on how to function in such circumstances, predictably resulted in troops continuing to operate as trained for military combat with rather dire results including torture and murder.