

undertake vigilante justice, as happened with the new police in El Salvador.²⁰³ Similarly in Somalia, donors were reluctant to put monies into prison infrastructure, which not only perpetuated violations of prisoners rights, but engendered a sense of frustration by the police who needed a functioning prison system.

In security force reform, the HRO should give priority to involving and using relevant UN field partners, eg. CIVPOL in the training and monitoring of police. Various CIVPOL operations already conduct general police training, but an HRO can play a role in encouraging them to increase the human rights component of that training. Where CIVPOL are uncertain as to how this should be done, or lack the resources to do so, an HRO can quickly step in to advise and facilitate. Similarly, UN military should be involved when and where appropriate to imbue local militaries with new attitudes to the law of armed conflict, human rights, and their role in civil society. Particularly in the context of military or para-military organizations (eg. most police forces), training by fellow military or para-military is particularly effective. Invariably they are far more open to training by colleagues even if these colleagues are distinctly foreign, and commensurately they are less open to training by civilians, even if these civilians are compatriots.

Recommendation #59

It is recommended that HROs actively involve appropriate UN CIVPOL and military peace-keepers in human rights awareness and human rights capacity building for police, prison guards, the military, and other security forces.

9.2.2 Legal reform, judicial system, legal aid & other judicial access tools

Human rights legal capacity building includes creating both a legal basis for those attempting to protect human rights or redress violations, and sufficient legal procedures and mechanisms to do so. Enhancing the capacity of the judicial system includes changing judicial attitudes, and building judicial capacity to effectively interpret and apply human rights laws.

As an example, ONUSAL had a mandate to "offer its support to the judicial authorities of El Salvador in order to help improve the judicial procedures for the protection of human rights and increase respect for the rules of due process of law"²⁰⁴ The HRO recognized that most senior courts, including the Supreme Court, were unprepared to find against those responsible for grave violations of human rights, and quietly lobbied for their removal. In the interim,

²⁰³ See the recent report on such policing issues by the Washington Office on Latin America, *Demilitarizing Public Order*, Nov. 1995.

²⁰⁴ UN document S/21541, 16 August 1990, p.5