

executive summary

This executive summary is a synopsis of chapters and their key recommendations.
The full set of recommendations can be found in Annex I.

PART 1 - WHY human rights in UN field operations

□ Chapter 1 - Introduction: Human Rights in Complex Emergencies

The increase in ethnic conflict and complex emergencies is provoking a re-assessment of the objectives and modes of operation of UN field operations. This change in the ethical, legal and operational imperatives facing UN field operations has resulted in a greater role for human rights and the emergence of distinct human rights operations (HROs). It is recommended that every UN field operation automatically include senior human rights staff, and that every major UN field operation have a distinct human rights operation (HRO), eg. a human rights division (*Recommendation #1*).

□ Chapter 2 - Operational Imperative

The causal relationship of human rights violations is inherent in conflict situations, from their initiation and escalation, to their long term resolution. It is recommended that the UN give priority to human rights as a fundamental factor in understanding complex emergencies, and that human rights operations (HROs) be seen as an additional UN tool for the strategic analysis of causes, and the devising of solutions for such conflicts (*Recommendation #2*). The UN needs to consider human rights intelligence and human rights operations, as key contributors to operational and tactical decisions by all components of a UN field operation, including military peace-keepers, CIVPOL, and political negotiators (*Recommendation #3*).

The operational benefit from addressing underlying human rights issues is enhanced success in peace-keeping, peace-making, or other UN field operations. It is recommended that UN member states and senior UN officials clearly set out UN human rights field policy, and state unequivocally that UN action in promoting and protecting human rights will be even handed and consistent so as to be impartial and neutral (*Recommendation #5*).

□ Chapter 3 - Legal Imperative

All international human rights law, and the law of armed conflict, bind the UN on how it mandates and conducts field operations (*Recommendation #7*), and bind the conduct of all UN field personnel (*Recommendation #8*). The UN needs an ombuds mechanism to receive and act upon allegations of violations by UN personnel of both international human rights law and the law of armed conflict (*Recommendation #9*).

PART 2 - WHO does human rights in UN field operations

□ Chapter 4 - UN Human Rights Operations

It is recommended that human rights operations be an integral component of any larger UN field operation, and that they report directly to the head of operation (*Recommendation #10*). In doing so,