

HUMAN RIGHTS AND UN FIELD OPERATIONS DRAFT MODEL COURSE OUTLINE

[This outline must be tailored for the training needs of participants]

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

The course introduction will set out the legal and moral obligations for all UN staff in field operations, be they human rights monitors, military peace-keepers, CIVPOL, humanitarian or other UN operation member. In depth coverage of international human rights legal instruments or procedures will be dealt with in the section on skills, and will depend on the time available and participant's requirements. The introduction will also set out the operational benefits of incorporating human rights into the mandate and functioning of UN field operations.

The introduction will stress that the operational application of human rights in field operations is at an early stage in its evolution. Course participants particularly those who have been on peace-keeping operations, will be encouraged throughout the course to play an active role in defining human rights in field operations generally, and their particular role specifically. The whole tenor of the course should be that of participatory learning

1.1 International Human Rights Law & Law of Armed Conflict

A brief overview of key international instruments. It will show how they are applicable as international law binding the UN, binding ratifying states, and portions binding as customary law eg. genocide. Mention will be made of possible national policies and practices which provide additional guidance to national contingents or individuals provided by their country for UN operations.

1.2 International Human Rights Structures

This section will briefly outline parts of the international human rights environment or community such as:

- UN ECOSOC & the Commission on Human Rights,
- High Commissioner for Human Rights & the Centre for Human Rights,
- treaty bodies, and special procedures (special rapporteurs, working groups, etc.)
- specialized agencies, eg. UNHCR, UNCPCJB
- Secretariat, DPA, DPKO, DHA

- non-UN regional organizations,
- national governments and institutions,
- NGOs, both international and local