

disciplinary Security Assessment Teams, possessing a range of security related skills. The importance of being able to **identify and work with credible local leadership** was also stressed. The challenge is to identify leaders within the refugee community without reinforcing inappropriate power relationships, criminal activities, or ethnic strife. If the host state concurs, it may be possible for the refugees to deal with minor offences themselves, utilizing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms or drawing upon traditional practices where they conform to international human rights standards. The need to **avoid creating tensions with local host communities** was also underscored. Opening up some services available in the camps (i.e. health) to the local host community population was identified as one possible strategy.

- The importance of establishing **agreed parameters for political activism** in the camps. Some participants noted that certain political actions by segments of a refugee population, particularly those aimed at the violent overthrow of the country of origin, including military training, can seriously undermine the civilian and humanitarian character of a camp. It was suggested that parameters for political organization and planning could be established, ideally in cooperation with resident refugee leaders and/or elders. It was also noted that the absence of programs geared to youth could contribute to their being drawn into activities which could undermine camp security and that special attention should be accorded to this area.
- Consideration should be given to the establishment of "**neighborhood watch organizations**", open to all members of the refugee community and with the concurrence of the host country. Such a program would provide refugees with an opportunity to participate in camp management, instill a sense of control over their situation, and provide skills for repatriation. A number of participants suggested some patrollers could be selected by camp managers (eg. UNHCR) and might receive a small stipend, while other noted that patrol leaders should be selected by the community and that concerted efforts to include women should be advocated. Duties may include observing interior perimeter areas, unarmed patrolling with radios and flashlights, staffing a report centre and providing, through the foregoing activities, an early warning system for camp management to forestall destabilizing activities. These duties would need to be clearly understood by camp inhabitants, and camp managers would need to provide patrollers with the tools and training to do the job. It was noted however, that refugees may be reluctant to report on political and military activity in the camp and thus, other policing services would be required.
- The need to address **information and disinformation** within refugee camp environments. In this regard, some participants emphasized the importance of undertaking neutral and credible information campaigns on refugee rights and information about the country of origin. Meetings with elected leaders, plays or the use of radio broadcasts were highlighted as possible tools.
- **Collecting, maintaining and analyzing data on crimes committed in refugee camps.** Some participants felt that insufficient attention was given to the maintenance and dissemination of statistics on various crimes committed in camps. Such information could increase understanding of the nature of the threats encountered in refugee camp