

peacekeepers themselves need to discuss and understand that peacekeeping and certainly peace enforcement will invariably involve deaths. Most certainly the humanitarian agencies have for some time been aware of the inherent dangers of what they do. Although even they are having to revise their procedures and educate themselves to the growing dangers of various humanitarian initiatives, notably the Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should encourage debate both within Canada and within the UN so as to educate the public and policy makers as to the very real likelihood of peacekeepers and humanitarian workers being killed in the line of duty. Only then can informed decisions be taken to engage and stay engaged when the inevitable happens.

In a similar vein, the Rules of Engagement (RoEs) for peacekeepers need to be clarified with regard to attacks on peacekeepers. The perception amongst groups such as the RGF in Rwanda that they can get away with terrorizing or killing peacekeepers or humanitarian workers will only serve to put peacekeepers and others at even greater risk. This is not to call for a knee-jerk reaction as in Somalia where the peacekeeping force attempted to hunt down General Aidid. What is needed is a broad range of deliberate options going from immediate armed retaliation to eventual arrest and international trials of those responsible.

In a broader sense, present RoEs are extremely ad hoc and open textured in that they are open to many interpretations. There was lengthy debate during the Rwandan crisis as to whether self defense was part of RoEs under Chapter VI operations. There is an obvious need to work out clear RoEs.

RECOMMENDATION

Canada should encourage the holding of working meeting of UN troop contributing nations, humanitarian agencies , and human rights agencies (UN and NGO), to create standard operating procedures and model Rules of Engagement for UN peacekeeping and humanitarian missions. This should feed into similar processes for 'RoEs' for UN humanitarian assistance or human rights mission members .

UN peacekeeping procedures and mechanisms must include a human rights component. Traditional peacekeepers, like traditional diplomats, tend to see human rights as an irritant and hindrance in achieving their task of keeping the peace. By now it should be increasingly evident that in the 1990's peace which is built upon or accepting of human rights abuses is rather ephemeral. In truth, human rights observance must be seen for what it is, the firm underpinnings of a durable peace. The peacekeepers and peacemakers must be convinced of the need to incorporate human rights into the process from the very start.