

Generally, police guidelines for the use of force (similar to military rules of engagement or ROEs) are based on local laws. This is appropriate since the main function of international police is to ensure that local police enforce the local laws. In situations where there is some local police capacity, functioning local judicial and penal authorities, and where the security situation is reasonably calm, there is time to establish such guidelines. However, some missions now require peacekeepers to move in immediately where conflict has led to the collapse of local institutions. In these cases, where the international police will be called upon to ensure public security, the UN is considering developing guidelines for the use of force for limited executive activities which are applicable to all missions with an executive policing mandate. If Haiti is used as a model, these guidelines would give international police the power to detain people committing serious criminal acts (e.g. homicide, aggravated assault, rape, robbery). Once local laws have been verified and an interim or new police service is in place, these powers would be ceded to the local police and the international police would return to their monitoring and mentoring role.

**RECENT APPROACHES TO CAMP SECURITY AND POTENTIAL ROLES FOR INTERNATIONAL POLICE:** The issue of insecurity in refugee camps and settlements has been of concern since the 1970s. However, events in the Great Lakes region of Africa in the mid-1990s precipitated renewed international concern and reinforced the urgency of identifying methods for addressing circumstances which may go beyond the capacities of international humanitarian organizations. Here, the presence of combatants among large numbers of refugees undermined the neutral and civilian nature of camps and increased tensions within host states and among regional actors.

In refugee camps, the primary responsibility for ensuring the physical security of refugees rests with the host government, in accordance with relevant international law and regional instruments. It has been recognized, however, that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other UN system actors, other states, NGOs and the refugees themselves may also have a role to play in creating conditions which minimize the threats within refugee camps and settlements.

In response to the Secretary General's April 1998 Report on "the Causes of Conflict and the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa" (S/1998/318), the Security Council passed a resolution on the "Security of Refugee camps" in November 1998 (S/RES/1208). This resolution noted that there are instances where host states may require assistance to ensure the security, civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps and settlements, including in the areas of:

- law enforcement; disarmament of armed elements; curtailment of the flow of arms; separation of refugees from persons who do not qualify for international protection (OP6)

Measures suggested to do this included:

- training; logistical and technical advice and assistance; financial support; enhancement of national law enforcement mechanisms; provision or supervision of security guards; and deployment, in accordance with the Charter, of international police and military forces (OP 7)

UNHCR (in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations) contributed to the Council's discussions on this subject and has been examining the possible role of the international community, including peacekeeping troops and international police, in the separation of combatants within camps. From a policy perspective, these ideas have been advanced through the development of the "*ladder of options*" concept, in which the role of international police is considered within the "middle-range" of