

PART 3 HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD SKILLS

Part 3 will introduce many of the skills required for various human rights tasks. Each section must be customised (or omitted) to meet audience needs and time constraints. This skills training is possibly the most critical part of the course. Once individuals are convinced as to their obligations and roles, they will need these tools to actually carry out their tasks. The more practical the course, the more participants will end up implementing human rights promotion and protection.

3.1 International Human Rights Law and Law of Armed Conflict

Normally this section should be relatively short so as not to intimidate or tranquillize

- international human rights structures/mechanism
- international human rights instruments and their implementation
- law of armed conflict
- regional human rights instruments/procedures
- the operation country's constitution, human rights laws and practices

3.2 Observing

- what to look for
- use of sources, and their protection
- prison visits
- demonstrations

3.3 Reporting and Recording

- key elements including who, why, where, when,...

3.4 Investigation

- how to carry out investigations, basic forensic training
- how not to destroy evidence

3.5 Mediation and Negotiation (passive intervention)

- how and when to intervene with local authorities (military, police, justice, hospitals, etc.)

3.6 Active Intervention

- triggered by violations so severe that they are prima facie gross violations of international legal norms and as such require intervention by UN personnel.

3.7 Local Cultural & Legal & Political Environment

- understanding the written and unwritten rules of behaviour of the local society
- understanding the political dynamics of the society

3.8 Media Relations

- the why, how and when of going public
- a UN radio station?

3.9 Public Relations

- making sure that the public are kept informed of how human rights are being dealt with
- operational codes of conduct, eg. ranging from transparency, to speeding or rudeness