

BACKGROUND NOTE: International Police and possible roles in Camp Security:
*Potential guidance based on past experience, existing legal frameworks
and resources available to police*

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BACKGROUND: The Security Council considers that in operations mandated by the Security Council or General Assembly, international police perform indispensable functions in monitoring and training national police forces and can play a major role through assistance to local police forces in restoring civil order, supporting the rule of law and fostering civil reconciliation. It sees an increasingly important role for civilian police, among others, in contributing to building confidence and security between parties and among local populations in order to prevent conflict, to contain conflict or to build peace in the aftermath of conflict.

International police have proven to be valued contributors to peace support operations, particularly in carrying out their two principal functions:

- overseeing the maintenance of public security by monitoring, mentoring and advising local police forces; and
- reforming police organizations, including necessary training.

Within this mandate, police have also played important roles in:

- ensuring neutral environments during post-conflict electoral campaigns;
- monitoring the disarmament and demobilization of police and security forces;
- carrying out human rights investigations linked to the conflict;
- overseeing the security and human rights of returned refugees and displaced persons;
- acting as a liaison between factions, NGOs, and UN agencies; and
- assisting with humanitarian activities.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK: Operating on the principle of consent of the host country, and under the guidelines provided by relevant Security Council and General Assembly mandates, international police have been instrumental in building the capacity of local police to uphold the rule of law. Normally, international police do not enforce national legislation, as this responsibility lies with the local police.

However, there are times when exceptions have been made and executive policing authority has been assumed because of a lack of local capacity to carry out such functions. To date, there have been only three such instances: Haiti, Kosovo and East Timor.

- **Haiti:** Police accompanied the Interim Public Security Force (interim police drawn mainly from former army members who had been vetted for human rights abuses and criminal activities) at the request of the Haitian government. Although the IPSF had primary responsibility for law enforcement, the international police were armed and had authority to conduct limited law and order functions under some circumstances.
- **Kosovo/East Timor:** In these instances, international police are working in a transitional authority under the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG). The Security Council mandates establishing those missions give the international police responsibility for law enforcement and establishment of a new local police service.