

use of illegal lethal force against suspected criminal elements should be included in this sub-section;

- **Forced disappearances;**
- **Torture:** Examine the use of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment at the instigation of the government or opposition groups, where applicable. Officers should also provide a general description of prison conditions;
- **Slavery and servitude:** Highlight any instances of bonded, forced or compulsory labour, (e.g. work exacted from an individual under the menace of penalty and for which the individual has not volunteered). Officers can also highlight any instances of forced labour being used for purposes of racial, social, national or religious discrimination, political coercion or education, or as punishment for holding views that are opposed to the established political, social, or economic system.
- **Arbitrary arrest, detention, exile:** Are detainees, including those for political reasons, held in official custody without charges? Are members of groups opposing government subject to external or internal exile?
- **Restrictions on the freedom of movement;**
- **Internal conflict:** In cases of significant internal conflict, reporting officers are asked to describe whether there are violations of international human rights law or humanitarian law: Are deliveries of food, medical supplies and other humanitarian aid withheld or used as a weapon? Are there any abuses perpetrated against civilians?

**b. Rule of law and due process (UDHR Art. 7, 8, 10 and 11)**

The rule of law consists of many factors: e.g. a predictable legal environment with an objective, reliable and independent judiciary; the exercise of government powers in accordance with the law; an independent court system with full constitutional rights to investigate and supervise the exercise of executive and administrative powers. **Equality before the law** implies equal opportunity for all to seek redress in the courts and equality of treatment regardless of social, ethnic, economic or other status.

In this section, officers should point out **deficiencies** in the legal system, such as lack of predictability, delays in handling court cases, and lack of enforcement of court decisions. Also, are cases dealt with expeditiously and at reasonable cost to the plaintiff? **Are citizens equal before the law? Do they receive equal protection from the law?** Identify any political, social or economic barriers to full equality before the law. Are citizens guaranteed due process, including the right to a fair hearing and the presumption of innocence?

Officers can also examine whether the judiciary is independent, free from political interference and corruption. Can it order effective remedies against human rights violations? Are trials fair and public, and are international observers allowed to attend?