

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS

Human Rights Advisers are experts deployed by OHCHR to the field to support UN Country Teams following the request of UN Resident Coordinators. They follow up and analyze the human rights situation in the country in which they serve and advise the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team as a whole on strategies to build or strengthen States' capacities and institutions in promoting and protecting human rights. They also engage with national actors (governments and civil society) on how to best promote and implement human rights standards. As of September 2008, OHCHR had Advisers in Ecuador, Guinea, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Nicaragua, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Senegal, South Caucasus, Sri Lanka; and national staff in Country Teams in FYR Macedonia, Russia, and Serbia.

RAPID RESPONSE TO EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS CRISES

In addition to engaging countries through field presences, OHCHR's Rapid Response Unit supports the work of OHCHR to swiftly deploy personnel to the field. In order to anticipate and respond to deteriorating human rights situations across the globe, OHCHR is often requested to conduct or support fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry that investigate serious allegations of human rights abuses. Since its inception in 2006, the Rapid Response Unit supported the establishment and work of fact finding missions or commissions of inquiry in countries such as Timor-Leste and Lebanon, mandated by the Human Rights Council.

Over the years, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has increased its presence in the field, reaching out more and more and giving a voice to the people who need it the most. OHCHR presences away from headquarters are a strategic entry point for promoting and protecting human rights at the country level; preventing and reducing human rights violations; helping to strengthen national institutions and civil society; and mainstreaming human rights, that is, integrating a human rights perspective into the work of the UN Country Teams, and the political and peacekeeping missions.

There are a number of ways in which OHCHR field presences assist in efforts to make human rights a reality; not only do they monitor the human rights situation in countries, but they also assist in building the capacity at the country level to address human rights issues. The following are OHCHR's field presences:

10 COUNTRY OFFICES

In establishing country or stand-alone offices, OHCHR agrees with the host government a mandate that includes both human rights protection and promotion. Offices have been established in Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Togo, and Uganda, as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Kosovo (Serbia).

Activities by country offices include monitoring, public reporting, provision of technical assistance, and the monitoring and development of long-term national capacities to address human rights issues.



OHCHR officers raising awareness on human rights in Nepal

Missions with four priorities: ensuring justice and accountability in peace processes; preventing and redressing human rights violations; building capacities and strengthening national institutions; and mainstreaming human rights in all UN programmes.



Peacekeeping operations in Haiti

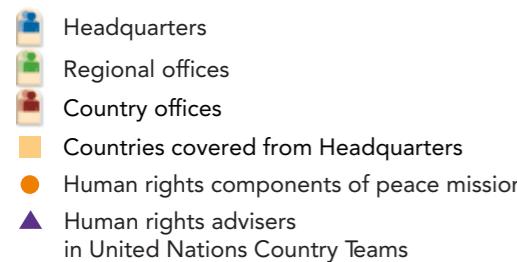
As of September 2008, OHCHR supported, through 420 international human rights officers and national staff, the human rights components of 16 Peace Missions in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Central African Republic/Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia/Abkhazia, Guinea Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan (Khartoum and El Fasher, Darfur), and Timor-Leste.

8 REGIONAL OFFICES

OHCHR has eight regional offices covering East Africa (Addis Ababa), Southern Africa (Pretoria), West Africa (Dakar), Latin America (Panama City), South East Asia (Bangkok), the Middle East (Beirut), and the Pacific (Suva). OHCHR also has a Regional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy for Central Africa in Yaoundé, Cameroon and a liaison office for South America in Santiago, Chile. In the near future, further regional presences are planned.

Regional offices have a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights in countries of their region, including by working with regional bodies, such as the African Union.

OHCHR AT A GLANCE



Countries covered from Regional Offices

Africa

- East Africa - from Addis Ababa
- Southern Africa - from Pretoria
- Central Africa - from Yaoundé:
Sub-regional centre on human rights
- West Africa - from Dakar

Asia-Pacific

- Southeast Asia - from Bangkok
- Pacific - from Suva
- South and West Asia - to be covered from new regional office planned for 2008 - options for location being considered

Middle-East, North Africa

- Middle East - from Beirut
- North Africa - to be covered from new regional office planned for 2008-options fdro c a t i o n being considered

Europe, North America, Central Asia

■ Central Asia - from Bishkek
(Currently works with a Regional Representative. Regional Office planned for 2008)

Latin America, Caribbean

Latin America - from Panama

As of December 2008