

## **Peace and Security (PS)**

Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights, including in situations of conflict and insecurity



### CONFLICT PREVENTION, EARLY WARNING AND ACCOUNTABILITY



#### Emergency deployments

**13** staff deployed

(in 7 countries with deteriorating human rights situations)



#### Emergency Response Teams (ERTs)

**6** teams established (in Central Africa, South Africa, West Africa, Central America, South America and South-East Asia. Three additional ERTs to be established in East Africa, Central Asia and Pacific in 2022)



#### Humanitarian-Development nexus

**2** UN Humanitarian Country Teams supported

(in Chad and Niger to reach collective outcomes and the long-term realization of all human rights)



#### Investigations

**11** Investigative and accountability mandates supported

(8 independent investigations by commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Libya, the State of Palestine,\* South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela and Yemen; and 3 OHCHR examination and accountability projects on Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka)

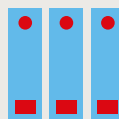
### PEACE OPERATIONS



#### Role of human rights components

**1** comprehensive study/strategic document

(analysing how to further strengthen the support they provide to the implementation of the mandates of UN peace operations)



#### Public reporting

**14** reports by human rights components



#### Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP)

**32** UNCTs,

**13** UN peace operations

and **3** regional offices supported



#### Guidance and technical support

Human rights integrated into

**26** DPPA-DPO-DOS policy and guidance documents for UN peace missions

\* All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

## Victims of sexual torture seek justice in Uruguay

“That was the first time he raped me,” said Ana Amorós, now 72, about the day she was taken to her prison barracks by a colonel after she refused to answer his questions. Amorós is one of a group of 28 women who are former political prisoners pursuing justice for torture and sexual offences that were perpetrated by the military regime that controlled Uruguay between 1973 and 1985.

UN Human Rights has documented numerous human rights violations committed during the Uruguayan dictatorship, including torture, killings and enforced disappearances. Many of the victims were women.

The Uruguayan dictatorship banned all political parties and unions and anyone belonging to a rival group could be detained. Amorós was imprisoned for being a member of an anarchist group. She was stripped naked, tortured with a riding crop and raped. She was blindfolded, but could sense that there were men in the room.

“I always thought that...that if one day that happened, I would bite him,” Amorós said. “I would scratch him. I would hit him in the genitals. I thought I could defend myself. I did nothing. Nothing.”

After the regime fell in 1985, the 1986 Expiry Law was adopted, preventing victims from holding perpetrators accountable. The Law provided complete impunity to military, police personnel and civilians who had committed systematic human rights violations during the dictatorship. The Inter-American Court of Human Rights repealed the Law in 2011.

As a result, the Law could no longer be used as a shield to stop investigations of past crimes.

Twenty-five years later, victims were finally free to seek justice. In 2011, they filed a criminal complaint with Uruguay’s courts against more than 100 people for sexual violence and rape. UN Human Rights met with and listened to the women and raised awareness about the issue, including with the human rights treaty bodies.

In March 2021, the women finally had the opportunity to present their case to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. “This is a case of 28 courageous women who denounced the human rights violations they suffered for being women,” said Jan Jarab, UN Human Rights Regional Representative for South

America. “It’s a clear example of why a gender perspective is urgently needed in the investigation of such crimes, past and present.”

UN Human Rights provided the women with support during the public hearings and followed up with authorities. “Immediately after the hearing, there were signs of progress in the case. These were the first signs of activity in years. We need to ensure that the attention of the entire human rights community, not just UN Human Rights, remains focused on further developments,” he said.

Jarab notes that the case is a starting point for the Government to address other human rights violations that occurred during the dictatorship. He also hopes that victims of the dictatorship will be inspired to come forward.



Thousands of Uruguayans took part in the Marcha del Silencio, in Montevideo, Uruguay, which takes place every 20 May to remember the victims of the military dictatorship and to combat human rights violations. © EPA

# Highlights of pillar results

## Peace and Security (PS)

The United Nations Charter identified international peace and security as one of the founding pillars of the United Nations system. Situations of conflict and insecurity invariably lead to violations of human rights, which are among the root causes of conflict and insecurity. UN Human Rights has a global mandate to promote and protect human rights and

a specific responsibility to mainstream human rights throughout the work of the UN. When violence and conflict occur, the promotion and protection of human rights is not only essential for the protection of rights-holders, especially civilians, it is also essential to rebuilding peace in accordance with the rule of law and preventing reoccurrence. Human rights are a

powerful tool for conflict prevention and provide a sound basis for addressing issues of concern, which, if left unaddressed, can result in conflict. International, regional and national human rights mechanisms can support early warning and accountability and inform UN peace and security efforts.

### PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

#### PS1 – PROTECTION of CIVILIANS, CONFLICT and PEACE

Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.



### RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS



In **CAR**, UN Human Rights provided financial and technical support to civil society, early warning networks, local human rights forums and the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. The objective was to develop a **national capacity for monitoring and data collection of human rights violations and abuses**, contribute to early warning alerts on the protection of civilians and establish platforms for human rights dialogue at national and local levels. UN Human Rights supported 77 workshops and trainings on human rights and international humanitarian law, reaching 13,972 people, including 6,075 women, and undertook 30 field missions to NHRIs. This enabled the identification and establishment of focal points in field locations to provide early warning alerts on human rights violations and the protection of civilians.

In 2021, the MINUSMA Human Rights and Protection Division (HRPD) published two notes on trends of human rights violations and abuses that were committed in **Mali**, which documented violations and abuses of international human rights law or violations of international humanitarian law. The HRPD brought documented cases to the attention of relevant authorities and actors, along with recommendations on actions to address them. Other issues discussed included contemporary forms of slavery in the Kayes region, the lack of effectiveness of the formal judicial system in the northern regions and the consequential negative human rights impacts. Following these discussions, the Minister issued a **directive to Prosecutors at the Courts of Appeal**, in Mali, on 11 November, to undertake “all necessary measures” to bring to justice any persons accused or suspected of involvement in acts linked to descent-based slavery, within the framework of existing laws, especially the Penal Code. The Minister also noted that the protection of victims of slavery should be given utmost consideration during the judicial processing of each slavery-related case.

In **Yemen**, between January and September, UN Human Rights referred 208 victims to protection partners for assistance, including legal aid, medical assistance, access to shelter, non-food items, psychosocial support and financial support. From January to November, UN Human Rights documented a total of 1,420 human rights violations and 643 incidents, including 883 civilian casualties, 290 cases of arbitrary detention, six cases of enforced disappearance, 29 violations of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, 24 cases of gender-based violence and 188 attacks against civilian objects.

## PS2 – Counter-TERRORISM and preventing VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.



The **G5 Sahel Joint Force's** response to allegations of sexual violence by the Chadian Battalion in Téra, Niger, in March and April, was in accordance with the requirements of the Compliance Framework. In cooperation with the NHRI of Niger, UN Human Rights quickly collected information on the allegations and shared it with the Project Team in Bamako. The G5 Sahel Team shared information about the allegations with the Force Commander and advised on a course of action. This included the establishment of an internal commission of inquiry; the deployment of a delegation that was led by the Commander of Sector Centre to instruct the troops in Téra and meet with departmental authorities and community leaders to reassure the local population; and the issuance of a press release confirming the reports of sexual violence and announcing a series of measures, including the opening of an investigation into the involvement of Force members and any subsequent disciplinary and legal action. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chad issued a press statement noting that immediate action had been taken to **investigate and hold Chadian soldiers accountable**.

Largely due to the strategic engagement of UN Human Rights during the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Office significantly increased its engagement and normative leadership role in relation to counter-terrorism and human rights among Member States and within the UN counter-terrorism system. This resulted in the **inclusion of strengthened language on civic space, the rights of the child, women's rights and gender equality**. OHCHR also informed the development of various thematic initiatives launched by UN entities, including strategies for prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration for terrorist suspects; model legal provisions on victims of terrorism; and the global framework for repatriation of third country nationals held in Iraq and in the Syrian Arab Republic. OHCHR was the lead author of the Secretary-General's report on terrorism and human rights, which provides Member States with **authoritative guidance on an HRBA to counter-terrorism**.

## PS3 – HUMAN RIGHTS protection in PREVENTION/RESPONSE

Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.



In **Libya**, technical support provided by UN Human Rights to the human rights component of the United Nations Support Mission led to the establishment of the **Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA)**. This is one of the structures set up by the Security Council through resolution 1960 (2010) to ensure the timely documentation of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), to better coordinate UN responses and ultimately inform the actions of the Security Council.

In the context of the general elections that were held in **Honduras**, in November, UN Human Rights implemented a strategy that contributed to achieving an overall peaceful and participatory election. This was partially due to the deployment of teams, in cooperation with over 40 NGOs, security forces and the NHRI, to monitor the human rights situation on the ground and identify trends that informed early warning and advocacy actions. In addition, the Office provided technical assistance to electoral institutions and the Attorney General's Office. This resulted in the nationwide deployment of more than 400 prosecutors to **prevent and prosecute electoral crimes**, including the use of excessive force by security agents.

UN Human Rights participated in the mandate renewal of 11 **peace operations to strengthen and preserve human rights language** in relevant resolutions and to **increase human rights impacts** across mission contexts. This was primarily accomplished by coordinating with human rights components and responsible departments and strengthening engagement with Security Council members and penholders. For instance, strong human rights language on the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms was included in Security Council resolution 2621 on MONUSCO's mandate, which was adopted on 20 December. Further, UN Human Rights reviewed and provided inputs to 26 guidance documents for UN peace missions, including on: conducting peacekeeping training needs assessments that were issued in October; planning and coordination considerations related to improvised explosive device threat mitigation in missions context that were issued in August; and standard operating procedures for the review and appraisal of performance of UN individual police officers that were issued in November.

UN Human Rights continued to work with EU stakeholders on the **integration of human rights into the EU's engagement on peace and security**. In 2021, political buy-in was secured in the key areas of tripartite engagement (African Union-UN-EU) on compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law and the integration of human rights actions into the UN-EU priorities for 2022-2024, which were developed under the UN-EU Partnership on conflict and crisis management. This political buy-in will be critical to future work. Engagement with non-traditional partners, including the EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) directorates at the European External Action Service (EEAS), the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE) and the European Commission's Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), was established or strengthened. This engagement will be key to sustaining concrete policy and programmatic developments.

## PS4 – Transitional JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY

Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.



In **Colombia**, the Constitutional Court extended the mandate of the **Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-recurrence (CEV)** until August 2022 to enable the widespread dissemination of its final report, which will be published in June 2022. UN Human Rights contributed to strengthening the capacities of the CEV to ensure it incorporated international standards into its final recommendations, including in relation to security, justice, extrajudicial executions, education and culture, State presence, corruption, victims and land. UN Human Rights also increased the understanding of regional and national officials of the CEV about human rights violations, with a territorial perspective, by facilitating 35 technical assistance sessions on international norms and standards. In addition, UN Human Rights provided technical assistance to the CEV to facilitate the organization of regional truth-seeking dialogues and consultations with communities and victims. The CEV undertook 1,750 dialogues and consultations, including with individuals and groups. As a result, the views and perspectives of 4,554 people were heard.

In the **Central African Republic**, MINUSCA and UN Human Rights supported the Government in taking an important step towards **the operationalization of the Truth, Justice, Reparations and Reconciliation Commission (CVJRR)** with the appointment of 11 commissioners. A retreat was organized to begin drafting the CVJRR's internal rules of procedures. A second strategic retreat was held to focus on substantive matters to enable the CVJRR to implement its mandate, including operationalization, communications, investigations, public hearings, reparations, complementarity with the special criminal court and gender issues. The second retreat was co-facilitated and attended by commissioners and experts from the Gambia, Libya, Mali, Peru, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia. A third retreat was held to finalize the CVJRR's internal regulations and organigram.

In **Maldives**, following UN Human Rights' engagement with the Attorney General's Office, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Maldives Police Service and the Maldives Correctional Service, an important milestone was reached on accountability with the **adoption of the Transitional Justice Act** and the formation of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Transitional Justice (OTJ). UN Human Rights is providing technical assistance and capacity-building, including on transitional justice and investigation methodologies to the OTJ and the Attorney General's Office.

In **Sudan**, UN Human Rights offered technical advice to the Ministry of Justice on the draft **law establishing the Transitional Justice Commission (TJC)**. During a series of eight working sessions, UN Human Rights assisted the Ministry in compiling the consultation outcomes and integrating relevant concerns and recommendations of the CSOs into the final draft. The technical advice focused on ensuring minimum guarantees for the independence and autonomy of the TJC, strong civil society representation and a minimum representation of at least 40 per cent women on its Board. The TJC legislation was adopted on 24 April and outlined the TJC's clear mandate to lead consultations on defining transitional justice approaches for the Sudan.

### PS5 – INFORMATION and EARLY WARNING

Human rights information and analyses are integrated into early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.



With support from UN Human Rights, the UNCT adopted a **Prevention Strategy for Jordan**, in May, to preserve its stability and meet its commitments under the 2030 Agenda. The Prevention Strategy is aligned with the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and seeks to strengthen the UNCT's initiatives on social and economic inclusion, particularly for youth and women. The Strategy includes 11 action points to accelerate preventive action. A number of practical steps were taken during the reporting period to implement the Strategy. For example, risk assessments related to the Common Country Analysis were updated and a Regional Monthly Review was conducted in October, which emphasized the importance of an HRBA to achieving stability and inclusion.

In **Nicaragua**, UN Human Rights' **early warning activities** focused international attention on the political repression that occurred in the context of the elections, including the detention of 39 HRDs, political opponents and journalists. In its report to the Human Rights Council and the oral updates it delivered in June, September and December, UN Human Rights warned that an increasing number of human rights violations were inhibiting the free exercise of civil and political rights during the electoral process. Following these reports, the international community responded with sanctions and statements issued by Member States and international organizations that condemned the Government's actions and demanded the liberation of imprisoned social and political leaders. Through its analysis and public statements, UN Human Rights served as an early warning voice for the international community on the deteriorating human rights situation in Nicaragua. It also prepared daily internal reports with a particular emphasis on the electoral process.

In Southern Africa, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) provided technical support to UNCTs in **Botswana, Eswatini and Zambia** in the development of their respective **Common Country Analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Compliance Frameworks**. The ERT contributed to an LNOB analysis of Zambia's CCA, provided inputs on civil and political rights-related risks and concerns and developed a multidimensional risk analysis framework/matrix. Further, the ERT produced three human rights analytical updates on human rights concerns and key issues to watch, including during the electoral period, as well as on socio-economic risks due to COVID-19, which were widely disseminated by the Resident Coordinator to relevant stakeholders. The ERT produced two country risk assessment and timelines of events for Angola and Eswatini and nine media monitoring reports of the situation in Eswatini were produced for OHCHR's internal use. The ERT also contributed to the UN Operations and Crisis Centre's (UNOCC) enhanced monitoring before and after the elections in Zambia.

In 2021, UN Human Rights doubled the number of Emergency Response Teams (from three to six), which **strengthened the capacity** of some of its regional offices (in Bangkok, Dakar, Panama City, Pretoria, Santiago de Chile and Yaoundé) **to undertake early warning and analysis** and to incorporate a stronger prevention component into their support on SDG implementation and LNOB. In 2022, OHCHR aims to establish additional ERTs in Addis Ababa, Bishkek and Suva.

UN Human Rights advocated for the access of humanitarian agencies to places of detention and prison facilities, called for the return of humanitarian agencies into the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)** and emphasized the importance of reversing the DPRK's isolation. In September, UN Human Rights organized a panel discussion on the human rights-humanitarian-development nexus at the Korean Global Forum for Peace, during which it presented its discussion paper entitled *Implications of the right to development for the DPRK and other Member States*. The Office was subsequently invited to deliver presentations about the human rights-humanitarian-development nexus at different forums, including those organized by humanitarian agencies. This enabled UN Human Rights to **advocate for the improved integration of human rights into humanitarian action** in the DPRK.

In **Honduras**, UN Human Rights conducted 190 field missions, including 92 onsite missions to verify the human rights situation and 98 missions to places of detention. This enabled the Office to **strengthen and adapt its monitoring system** to provide real-time information and an accurate analysis of the human rights situation in various locations. UN Human Rights also adopted and implemented innovative digital tools to register collected quantitative and qualitative information, which ensured that it was better prepared to promptly respond to and address human rights challenges.

## PS6 – HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY

United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).



In collaboration with the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF), UN Human Rights developed and conducted a pilot training project to **strengthen the capacities of NHRIs in the region to protect human rights in the context of humanitarian action**. This is particularly important as the Asia-Pacific region is facing increasing risks of humanitarian crises due to disasters, climate change, disease and situations of violence. As national actors, NHRIs are uniquely placed to protect human rights through their mandates to, for example, address complaints and violations, provide advice to governments and strengthen participatory approaches and public information. The training content was delivered using a mobile phone app and was supplemented by live webinars.

UN Human Rights continued to raise awareness about and strengthen the **implementation of the HRDDP** in countries and regions where UN support to non-UN security forces significantly contributed to advancing the peace and security agenda. In 2021, UN Human Rights' technical cooperation resulted in the gradual establishment of "light" HRDDP mechanisms in missions that did not have them, including UNAMA, UNAMI and UNMIK. UN Human Rights also participated in DPPA/DPO-led assessments of MINUSMA's support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the UN's support options to the Joint Force, thereby ensuring a thorough review of the application of the HRDDP, in close coordination with DPPA/DPO and DOS.



Staff of the Legal Aid Service of Georgia participate in training on international standards on torture prevention, in Batumi, Georgia. © OHCHR