

WILLIAM G. O'NEILL

**United Nations Independent Expert
on Haiti**

April 2023- Present

**Independent Consultant
Brooklyn, NY**

April 2018- Current

Sample projects include:

- *Conducting projects for a variety of clients focusing on human rights, rule of law, UN Peace Operations and conflict prevention (clients include: International Crisis Group, Human Rights First, Norwegian Refugee Council)
- *Directing research project on the worst forms of child labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and the Central African Republic for the Thomson/Reuters Foundation
- *Member of International Advisory Board of the “Exiting Violence” project of the *Fondation Maison des Sciences* (Paris) which focuses on analyzing radicalization and extreme violence and multidimensional approaches to end violence by examining case studies from Europe, Latin America and the Middle East
- *Creating and teaching classes on human rights, humanitarian and refugee law for the civilian members of the Government of Norway’s peace operations roster and for Master’s degree programs in Italian and Austrian universities
- *Researching and writing chapters for books on national security and human rights, measuring the effectiveness of human rights work in UN Peace Operations and how to prevent torture and insure fair treatment of prisoners
- *Volunteer work interviewing asylum applicants in a detention center in Folkston, GA for the Southern Poverty Law Center

Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum
Director
Social Science Research Council
New York, NY 11201

August 2008-March 2018

- *Direct a multi-national team of researchers/analysts which provides the United Nations with external expertise and strategies relating to peace operations, sustainable development, security sector reform, human rights, rule of law and humanitarian action
- *At the request of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, spent eight weeks in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake to help the UN Mission resume its work, helped trouble-shoot and formulate a new strategic plan for the mission
- *At request of The UN Secretary-General’s office, chaired a working group on human rights and the rule of law as part of the planning exercise for the UN Support Mission in Libya (2011); the group included fifteen lawyers and human rights experts from UN agencies, funds and departments
- *Delivered presentations on human rights, rule of law and the International Criminal Court in the UN Senior Mission Leaders' courses
- *Taught an annual one week course on human rights in peace operations at the UN Staff College in Turin

SELECTED UN PEACE OPERATIONS EXPERIENCE

United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo**Aug.1999-March 2000**

Pristina

Senior Advisor on Human Rights to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

- *Collaborated with UN agencies, UN Police and NATO forces to identify human rights priorities and then insure appropriate protection action

- *Wrote periodic reports on the human rights situation, contributed to weekly reports to UN headquarters and to reports by the Secretary-General to the Security Council

- *Conducted on-site visits to investigate human rights conditions in all parts of Kosovo; worked closely with UN Police and NATO to assess security needs and design protection strategies; met with local representatives of human rights organizations and civil society groups

- *Briefed visiting senior government delegations on the human rights situation and recommended policy initiatives to address concerns

- *Participation in the Commission on the Detainees and Missing, a group comprising both Albanians and Serbs, working on the question of detainees in Serbia proper and the missing from the conflict and post-conflict periods

- *Helped create the curriculum and gave courses on international human rights law at the new Kosovo Police School and briefed arriving UN Police on the human rights situation; also trained UN Volunteers on human rights issues

United Nations Human Rights Field Operation in Rwanda**Chief of Mission (1997) and Consultant (1995-6)**

- * As Chief of Mission, was responsible for managing a 140-person multi-national team headquartered in Kigali with field offices in all prefectures; mission members came from over 30 states

- *Met regularly with senior officials of Rwandese government and military to discuss human rights issues; briefed diplomatic corps in Rwanda on the human rights situation and held periodic press conferences for local and international journalists

- *Edited and approved all public reports and internal communications with the UN Human Rights Centre in Geneva and UN headquarters in New York

- *Briefed visiting delegations from UN agencies, governments and humanitarian agencies

- *Wrote strategy paper for the High Commissioner for Human Rights on priorities and programs for the Mission

- * As consultant to the Mission (1996), evaluated the state of the Rwandese justice system and the new police

- *Designed new strategy and guidelines for Mission field officers for case investigations, reporting and monitoring the justice system, police and prisons

- *Met with Minister of Justice, prosecutors and other justice officials to analyze and plan legal reform projects

- *Conferred with principal aid donors (Belgium, Canada, Germany, Holland, U.S.) and international agencies (UNDP) to coordinate assistance to the courts, prisons and police

- *Conducted training session for Rwandese army officers on international human rights

- * Supervised a five-member team and was principal drafter of a 25-page report on the state of the Rwandese justice system for a round-table meeting of donors in Geneva.

United Nations/Organization of American States International Civilian Mission in Haiti**1993-1995**

Port-au-Prince

Director, Legal Department (1993-94)

Legal Consultant (1995)

- *Led Mission's Legal Department and was member of senior mission management team; participated in strategic planning and implementation of the Mission's mandate
- *Provided legal advice to the Mission's Executive Director and the Director of the Human Rights Division on international human rights law and to human rights officers
- *Managed a team of lawyers from around the world; directed an analysis of the Haitian justice system with over 40 recommendations to improve the administration of justice
- *Initiated and led discussions with Haitian lawyers on reforming the justice system and improving the protection of human rights
- *Trained over 100 Mission observers from 50 countries in international human rights law, investigating techniques in human rights cases and writing reports
- *Planned, designed and implemented a legal aid program using Haitian lawyers for victims of rights violations
- *Investigated violations of human rights and raised cases with Haitian judicial authorities and senior military officers

SELECTED RELATED PEACE OPERATIONS EXPERIENCE

UNDP/South Sudan

Jan. - March 2006

Juba, South Sudan

- *Designed a rule of law program for the United Nations Development Program in South Sudan; conducted field research and interviewed government, UN and NGO representatives

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Jan.-March 2005

Khartoum and Darfur, The Sudan

- *Designed and delivered three trainings sessions for UN Human Rights Officers working in Darfur

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

May-July 2005

Kabul

- * At the request of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, conducted a fact-finding mission to assess UN rule of law reform efforts; advised the UN on how best UN Mission in Afghanistan could contribute to these efforts
- * Met with Minister of Justice and the Attorney General of Afghanistan, along lawyers' organizations and human rights groups

United Nations

May-Sept. 2004

New York, NY

- *Chaired a Task Force on the Rule of Law in Peace Operations created by the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), comprised of 11 UN departments and agencies
- *Principal drafter of the report submitted to the ECPS with recommendations on how to improve the UN's capacity to create strategies for the rule of law in peace operations; presented interim findings and the final report to the ECPS which approved it in full. This report was the genesis of UN rule of law focal points

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

**Oct.-Nov. 2004, Jan.-April 1999
March-July 2000**

Bosnia-Herzegovina

- * Assessed the OSCE's human rights department in Bosnia/Herzegovina. Met with Head of OSCE mission, members of UN agencies, international and national NGOs and government officials and

submitted a report with numerous recommendations on how to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the human rights department

* Asked by the OSCE to return to Bosnia in 2000 to assess training needs for the Human Rights Division and to design and deliver training for national and international human rights officers

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights May-July 1998

Consultant on mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan

*Led mission to assess the feasibility of mounting an investigation into alleged killings in northern Afghanistan; visited mass grave sites, interviewed military and political leaders, eyewitnesses, survivors of attacks, relatives of victims and UN agency officials

*Wrote a 25-page report with recommendations to the High Commissioner for deploying an investigative mission

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- University of Nottingham School of Law: *"Guiding Principles for Human Rights Field Officers"* which have been adopted by the UN, OSCE and EU and are used widely by UN and other field personnel
- UNIFEM/UNDP/DPKO: *"Guidelines for Integrating Gender Perspectives in National Police and Law Enforcement Agencies"* which was published by DPKO
- The Brookings Institution: Co-authored a study of the African Union's peacekeeping operation in Darfur, "Protecting Two Million Internally Displaced: The Successes and Shortcomings of the African Union in Darfur (Nov. 2005) and assessed the performance of peacekeeping troops in protecting the internally displaced in a report, *"A New Challenge for Peacekeepers: The Internally Displaced"*
- UNDP: Reviewed and assessed police reform projects in a dozen post-conflict countries; wrote report identifying good practices and recommendations to improve UN efforts in police reform
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: *Rule of Law Tools for Post-Conflict States: Mapping the Justice Sector*
- UN Department of Peace Operations: wrote chapters on human rights and the rule of law (the judiciary, police and prisons) in peace operations for a UN manual on peacekeeping operations
- International Peace Academy: Received an individual grant from the Ford Foundation to write a book on human rights and security challenges in Kosovo book *Kosovo: An Unfinished Peace*. Also for IPA I wrote a study on the place of human rights field operations in modern peacekeeping and methods of assessing these mission's effectiveness. This paper appears as a chapter in *Civilians in War* (Lynne Rienner Press 2001).
- Lawyers Committee for Human Rights: two articles on African refugees for the *International Journal of Refugee Law* (Oxford University Press, v. 12 (2000))
- Aspen Institute: contributed to the publication *Honoring Human Rights: From Peace to Justice* (November 1998); wrote *"Building/Reforming a Modern Police Force: Some Lessons from UN Peacekeeping Operations"* published in *"Building Justice: A Conference Commemorating the Fifth Anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights"*
- Brown University: contributing author to *"Haiti Held Hostage: International Responses to the Quest for Nationhood 1986-1996"* and author of *"A Humanitarian Practitioner's Guide to International Human Rights Law."*

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lawyers Committee for Human Rights

Jan. 1989-June 1993

Deputy Director

- Managed Human Rights Program, supervising a multinational team of lawyers
- Led fact-finding missions to Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Tunisia and Israel and the Occupied Territories.
- Represented the Lawyers Committee at numerous fora, including the UN Human Rights Commission (Geneva), UN Crime Congress (Havana) and the UN Conference on National Human Rights Commissions
- Co-authored a book on the justice system in Haiti, *Paper Laws, Steel Bayonets: The Breakdown of the Rule of Law in Haiti* (1990)

KELLEY DRYE & WARREN, New York

Corporate Lawyer (1986-89)

ROGERS & WELLS, New York

Litigation and Corporate Lawyer (1982-86)

GERMANTOWN FRIENDS SCHOOL,

Philadelphia

Teacher, History and French (1974-76)

EDUCATION

New York University School of Law

J.D. 1982

Stanford University

M.A., History 1978

The London School Of Economics

M.Sc., International Relations 1977

Haverford College

B.A., History, Honors 1973

AWARDS

Haverford Award

Given to an alumnus/a who "best reflects Haverford's concern with the uses to which its students put their knowledge, humanity, initiative and individuality" (1998)

Lawrence Forman Award, Haverford College

Given to an alumnus/a who has worked for the public good (1992)

Thomas Watson Fellowship

Examined the influence of French colonial policy on educational systems in former

French colonies in West and North Africa and the Caribbean ; independent research conducted for one year (1973)

LANGUAGES

Fluent in French, working knowledge of Spanish, Italian, German and Haitian Creole