

MAJOR ONGOING FLAWS

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This overall archive section on "Where is the Rule of Law?" has thus far traced many developments, struggles, and problems in the areas of UN staff rights, the UN internal justice system, and behind the scenes. This subsection seeks to wrap up this discussion somewhat before moving along to a few more important UN rule-of-law topics, and some signs, despite the present dismal picture, that there may indeed be hope for improvements in the future.

IO Watch believes that some further exploration of the major ongoing flaws in the UN's legal processes is particularly important because almost all the recent corrective actions talked of by the UN Secretariat involve only minor tinkering, but -- as the General Assembly has emphasized recently -- offer precious little analysis of the actual processes and their present problems and status.

Further, there is a danger that even revisions presently being proposed to UN internal legal processes may drag on for years before any actual reforms can be agreed to, designed and established, as has been proven by failed past efforts. Thus IO Watch wants to provide a closer focus on the damage done by the existing UN legal guidance and internal judicial processes, because the present defective situation may well drag on for a very long time.

The material in this subsection therefore explores:

(a) the dubious current status of the UN code of conduct and staff rules;

(b) the particular problems caused by attempts to maintain the old internal justice processes in an era in which many new conduct, misconduct, performance, and accountability standards, policies, and rules are being introduced;

(c) the most serious loopholes in that system.