

Performance & legitimacy:

national human rights institutions

CONTENTS

page

Acknowledgements
Foreword

Introduction **1**

The Paris Principles 1
Types of national institution 3
The research questions 5
Methodology 6
Structure of this report **6**

One:Ghana **9**

Structure 11
Complaints procedure 12
Use of enforcement powers 13
Nature of cases 14
Suo Motu investigations 15
Prison visits 16
Cultural practices 16
Corruption 17
Conditions of service 17
Education 18
Work with NGOs 19
Media 19
Conclusion **19**

Two:Indonesia **21**

Structure 23
Complaints 24
Accessibility outside Java 29
Education 33
International instruments 34
Conclusion **34**

Three:Mexico **37**

Structure 37
Complaints 39
The CNDH and the army 43
The indigenous population 45
Prisons 47
Disappearances 48
Education 50
The Human Rights Commission of the Federal District 50
The State Human Rights Commission of Jalisco 51
Conclusion 54

Four: Legitimacy	57
Autonomous national institutions	57
Political context	58
National human rights institutions in new democracies	59
National human rights institutions as an answer to critics	62
National human rights institutions in stable democracies	64
Mandate	67
Accountability	70
Complaints driven?	71
Economic, social and cultural rights	74
Members and staff	77
Education and training	79
Five: Accessibility	83
Devolved structures	83
Location	86
Vulnerable groups	87
Six: Links with other institutions	91
Enforcement: links with the judiciary	91
Specialised human rights tribunals	94
Media and public perceptions	95
Links with NGOs	97
International links	99
Seven: Beyond the Paris Principles	105
The Paris Principles revisited?	107
Eight: Recommendations	111
Civil society involvement	111
Legal basis and mandate	111
Economic, social and cultural rights	112
Membership and staffing	112
Complaints investigation <i>and patterns of violations</i>	113
Enforcement	114
Education	114
Accessibility	114
Budget	115
Planning and evaluation	115
International links	115
Relations with other institutions	116
List of those who commented on an earlier draft of this document	117
Appendix - The Paris Principles	121
Further reading	125