



Administrative instruction

Authority of United Nations security officers

The Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance, pursuant to section 4.2 of Secretary-General's bulletin [ST/SGB/2009/4](#), hereby promulgates the following:

1. United Nations security officers of the Division of Headquarters Security and Safety Services, Department of Safety and Security, function as agents of the Secretary-General and are authorized to preserve order and to protect persons on all United Nations premises, including temporary premises, and to protect the property of the United Nations.
2. Within United Nations premises, security officers are authorized:
 - (a) To search persons, vehicles, including, but not limited to, cars, bicycles and scooters, and items being carried by persons, including handbags, briefcases or packages. They may also seize property if they have reason to believe that a person is carrying an unauthorized weapon, explosives or other dangerous or proscribed material, or that property of the United Nations is being removed from the premises without authorization;
 - (b) To temporarily detain persons on United Nations premises if they believe that such persons pose a threat to the safety and security of persons or property.
3. Security officers operating both within United Nations premises, or outside United Nations premises in coordination with a relevant host country authority, shall exercise their functions with courtesy, professionalism and respect and in conformity with the applicable regulations, rules, policies and procedures of the Department of Safety and Security.
4. All persons within United Nations premises are required to comply with directions issued by security officers in the exercise of their functions. Refusal to comply may result in temporary detention or removal from or denial of access to the premises.
5. Compliance with and application of the present administrative instruction in no way prejudices the duties, obligations and privileges of staff members.
6. The present administrative instruction shall enter into force on the date of issuance. It supersedes administrative instruction [ST/AI/2018/8](#) of 9 July 2018, which is hereby abolished.

(Signed) Catherine Pollard
Under-Secretary-General for Management Strategy,
Policy and Compliance

