



DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

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CORRECTIONS

UPDATE

# CORRECTIONS UPDATE



VOLUME 3 • SEPTEMBER 2011

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## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This is Volume 3 of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) *Corrections Update*. It gives an overview of the ongoing work that the United Nations is doing to develop and ameliorate corrections systems. The DPKO Corrections Team is located in the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) and is a part of the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS).



**Cover photo:**

*Haitian prisoners being held before trial in a jail cell at a police station in Port-au-Prince.*

*UN Photo*


### **A note about photos:**

Photographing prisoners is controversial and legal guidelines are limited. In certain situations when documenting prison conditions it can be necessary or extremely helpful in telling the story to photograph prisoners. CLJAS will not publish a photograph of a prisoner without the prisoner's informed written consent. If obtaining consent is not practically possible, features that can identify the person in the pictures, including eyes, will be obscured.



# The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons

## Foreword by Dmitry Titov

 In almost every country, in any stage of national development, there is a corrections or penitentiary system that serves as part of the criminal justice system. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has made great strides since October 2010, when the DPKO *Corrections Update* volume 2 was published, to further its projects and programmes in this area.

As Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon stated last year: “Many systems of justice entail punishment by imprisonment, but there are standards that this punishment must meet. Women and girls cannot be locked up with men. Children must be given their own facility and have access to education. And in most cases, rehabilitation should be among the goals.”

As this publication demonstrates, the amount of work that has been done in United Nations missions, the number of DPKO quick impact projects that benefit prisons, the number of Corrections Officers deployed or mandated, almost 260 today, and the keen interest that United Nations Member States increasingly pay to this issue is heartening. Only recently, prison work was considered at the organization as primarily a humanitarian or legal issue and little attention was paid to the need of expanding the national capacity to be able to professionally manage and run these facilities.

**“Today in every country where peacekeeping operations are established, there is a penitentiary system, and in every case it is a system that is in great need of re-professionalizing.”**

Today in every country where peacekeeping operations are established, there is a penitentiary system, and in every case it is a system that is in great need of re-professionalizing. Prison infrastructure is dilapidated or completely destroyed, the personnel have left or are without proper guidance, and institutional capacity is needed to ensure the proper and humane functioning of these facilities.

The fact that the United Nations Security Council includes prison management in its resolutions on peacekeeping and that United Nations Member States increasingly fulfil these needs through advice, monitoring and capacity building, demonstrates that the holistic approach to rule of law that peacekeeping has vowed to take on, is becoming a reality.

We are glad to announce the establishment of a model Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity in DPKO. The Corrections Officers in this Capacity have already been deployed — helping to establish a new Corrections Advisory Unit for the peacekeeping operation in South Sudan (UNMISS), and assisting our operation in Côte d’Ivoire where prisons bore a brunt of the most recent conflict. The United Nations Rule of Law Indicators, concentrating on police, justice and corrections performance, has also been rolled out and is being used in Liberia and will soon be



UN Photo

*Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Mr. Dmitry Titov.*



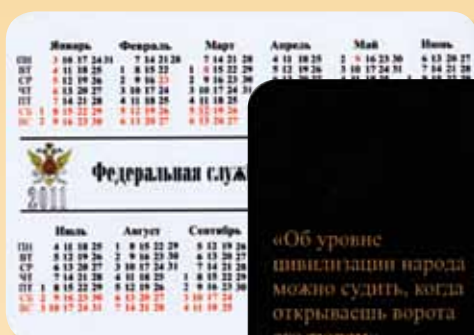
used in Haiti. These essential tools allow DPKO to quickly and coherently address all aspects of post-conflict justice systems and herald the importance of the vital work in this area.


Recognizing the need for rapidly and professionally erected prisons, DPKO is working closely with the International Corrections and Prisons Association (ICPA) on a modular approach to prison construction in peacekeeping operations. This concept was presented to the Haitian Government for possible use in May of this year, and will be shared with the Government of South Sudan in the coming months.

At the end of May this year, when I was in Moscow to discuss, among other things, the prospect of the Russian Federation's involvement in DPKO corrections work, I was reminded that it was Fyodor Dostoevsky who wrote: "The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons." This citation is printed on the official 2011 Russian Federal Penitentiary Service calendar, and it is a strong reminder that bringing international expertise and standards, resources and training to penitentiary services is an essential step for long-term development.

I would like to express gratitude to our partners inside and outside of the UN system — in particular to the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and many others — that are mentioned in these pages. I also want to recognize the United Nations Member States that have strongly supported this work and have seconded or loaned staff to the United Nations, and special thanks to our dedicated staff in the field and in New York.

**Dmitry Titov**  
*Assistant Secretary-General,  
 Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions  
 Department of Peacekeeping Operations  
 United Nations Headquarters, July 2011*



 **The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) was established in 2007 inside of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. It is responsible for developing an integrated, coherent Departmental approach to strengthening the rule of law and sustainable security sector institutions and ensuring systematic collaboration with all relevant United Nations and non-United Nations actors, including regional organizations, bilateral donors, non-governmental organizations and academia. The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, which supports judicial and corrections work in United Nations peace missions, is part of this Office.**

## More than an acronym...

- CLJAS** ..... Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service
- DPKO** ..... Department of Peacekeeping Operations
- FAO** ..... UN Food and Agricultural Organization
- ICPA** ..... International Corrections and Prisons Association
- ICPS** ..... International Centre for Prisons Studies
- ICRC** ..... International Committee of the Red Cross
- OROLSI** ..... Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions
- PBSO** ..... United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
- SGBV** ..... Sexual Gender Based Violence
- UNDP** ..... United Nations Development Programme
- UNICEF** ..... United Nations Children's Fund
- UNODC** ..... United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- UNOPS** ..... United Nations Office for Project Services

**Definitions:** United Nations Peacekeeping is an enormous enterprise, with more than 120,000 individuals deployed to 15 missions, an operating budget just under eight billion US dollars, and more than 120 different nationalities represented. The mandates of United Nations missions are constantly modified. Though there is a master plan, each mission creates its own working culture, and some nomenclature is different. In this publication "Corrections Officer", "Corrections Adviser", "Prison Affairs Officer", are all United Nations staff, either professional or loaned to the United Nations by a Member State for a specified mission and time period. The team in which these officers work are called "Corrections Component", "Corrections Unit", "Prison Advisory Unit", "Corrections Advisory Unit", "Rule of Law Unit" or "Justice Support Unit".

# The Impact of Corrections Work in Special Political Missions

(administered by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs)

## Afghanistan\*

### Overcrowding and Security

□ □ □ □ □ Makeshift tents and hanging laundry crowd the courtyard in north-eastern Afghanistan's Takhar Prison. The prison, despite a maximum capacity of 100 inmates, houses nearly 500. Thirty-four of the inmates are female, including some mothers of children who also live in the prison. Overcrowding exacerbates the poor conditions in most of Afghanistan's 34 provincial prisons and the 203 district detention centres and female and juvenile facilities.

UNAMA

According to the Central Prison Directorate (CPD), the number of prison inmates nationwide rose from 600 in 2001 to almost 20,000 by mid-2011, and is projected to reach 30,000 by 2015. The needs arising from this projected increase cannot be met by prison construction projects alone and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Rule of Law Unit is focusing on promoting the greater use of non-custodial options to alleviate prison overcrowding, which will also assist in establishing a more affordable and humane justice system and reduce opportunities for the radicalization of inmates.

As in other post-conflict settings, a substantial proportion of prison inmates are detainees. Although the law contains provisions for the use of bail, as well as pretrial sanctions, these are rarely used for a variety of cultural and other reasons. The justice system incarcerates people found guilty of relatively minor and non-violent crimes. A 2010 survey by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) found that more than half of sentenced prisoners were serving relatively short sentences (of two years or less).

#### Prisoner Rights

The UNAMA Human Rights and Rule of Law units advocate strongly for the support of the justice institutions to explain the provisions of the law in respect to alternatives to detention and custodial sentencing. The Human Rights Unit encourages, lobbies for and monitors the use of these provisions, which can benefit



The UNAMA Corrections Coordinator George Okumu visiting the Takhar Prison in northern Afghanistan

UN Photo

*\*The mission in Afghanistan is a special political mission which is led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.*



detainees and enhance the credibility of the justice system as a whole.

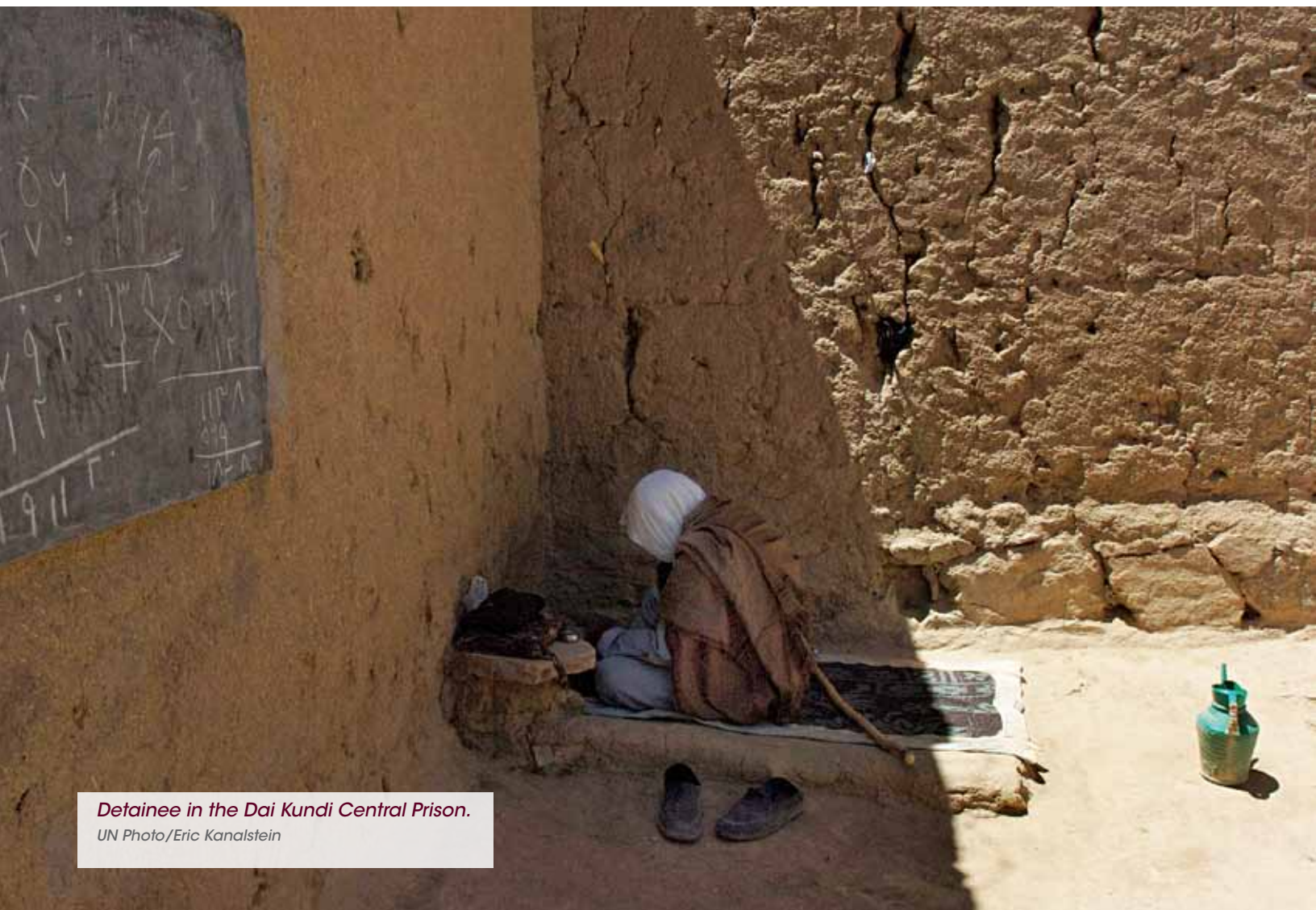
## Coordination

The Corrections Team of UNAMA within the Rule of Law Unit provides advice and assistance to the Government of Afghanistan on prison reforms. Its activities involve mostly facilitating coordination and coherent donor support. The Corrections Team acts as the secretariat for the Prison Working Group (PWG), chaired by the Deputy Minister of Justice. This is the primary forum for discussion on prison reform initiatives and is composed of various embassies based in Kabul, project implementers and UN agencies working on corrections sector reform as part of the Corrections Sector Support Project.

The Rule of Law Unit has also tried to fill the communication gap between the central Government and the provincial authorities by bringing to the attention of the PWG the problems faced by provincial prisons. Many problems that

plague the corrections institutions at the provincial level cannot be resolved at that level and are often referred to the central authorities in Kabul. These efforts have led to a greater focus on corrections within some provinces, for example the establishment of provincial corrections working groups, the establishment of committees to review detentions and the facilitation by UNAMA of a prison health workshop in one province in June 2010.

The small size of the UNAMA Corrections Team has encouraged coordination with other parts of the UN family. There is close collaboration between the Rule of Law Unit and the Human Rights Unit in UNAMA. They work on various issues relating to detention. The Human Rights Unit carried out a study on arbitrary detention in 2009 and is currently engaged in follow-up activities with the objective of reducing the number of those held unlawfully. The Rule of Law Unit has also worked closely with UNODC to provide practical support in corrections activities, particularly in supporting alternatives to incarceration. ■



*Detainee in the Dai Kundi Central Prison.*

*UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein*

# Sierra Leone: Improving the Prison System

## An Integrated and Comprehensive Approach

□ □ □ □ □ In May 2009 United Nations agencies and programmes working in Sierra Leone combined efforts and resources behind the UN Joint Vision for Sierra Leone. This initiative establishes the general framework of UN cooperation in the country. The cooperation on security sector reform or SSR efforts falls within this framework and aims at promoting synergies and avoiding duplication. Partners participating in the Joint Vision Programme 2 entitled “Access to Justice and Human Rights” include the Human Rights Section of the special political mission in Sierra Leone, UNIPSIL which represents the Office of the High

the corrections system. The goal is to promote a human rights based approach in the execution of duties, enhancing and building capacity to advocate for reforms and mounting advocacy with the relevant authorities on gaps identified in the system.

### Legal Framework

A thorough review of the existing prison laws from a human rights perspective was conducted and produced recommendations for

### UNIPSIL

amendments. Taking into account these amendments, a bill has been drafted by the Law Reform Commission geared towards effecting this change. UNIPSIL HRS and its partners have also provided technical assistance to ensure security forces, including prison officers, apply human rights standards in the discharge of their duties.

### Training

UNIPSIL HRS organized training on human rights standards and detention management for 48 prison officers in August 2010 and another 50 in June 2011. The latter was a training of trainers and included officers from the Northern, Eastern and Southern regions, including 15

women. The aim was to increase participants’ knowledge and skills in international standards of prison management and to improve the way they relate with prisoners and other stakeholders.

### Monitoring

As part of its monitoring mandate UNIPSIL HRS visits prisons and other detention facilities such as police detention cells. On many occasions UNIPSIL HRS engaged authorities



*Prison Officers attending a human rights training organized by UNIPSIL HRS.*

UN Photo

Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); the International Organization for Migration (IOM); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF). These UN agencies are joined by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Department for International Development (DFID), the German Development fund (GTZ) and BRAC-Sierra Leone.

The Human Rights Section of UNIPSIL (UNIPSIL HRS) and its partners have engaged in several interventions targeting





*Group photo of Prison Officer training in June 2011, with 15 female Officers.*

UN Photo

to take appropriate action when human rights violations were identified. Results achieved include: fast tracking of remand cases; granting bail to persons on remand or on trial, including juveniles, who were held together with convicted prisoners; ensuring medical treatment to sick prisoners and taking steps towards improving the conditions of the facilities. The recent establishment of coordination mechanisms in the area of administration of justice in different districts of the country, a project supported by UNIPSIL HRS, has provided an additional platform for justice sector stakeholders to examine the performance of justice institutions and map out strategies that will help improve the timely delivery of justice.

## Challenges

Notwithstanding these efforts, prisons in the country still face serious challenges mainly related to inadequate human and financial resources. Overcrowding, often due to a high number of suspects on remand, shortage of drinking water and food, lack of running water, poor standards of sanitation and health remain common traits of all detention facilities.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prisons Department acknowledge significant challenges in the prisons, some of which require substantial technical and financial support. In the spirit of renewing such support and establishing an up-to-date position for advocacy, policy and decision making, UNIPSIL HRS is conducting, in coordination with the Ministry

of Interior and the Prisons Department, a review of the status of prisons in the country. The outcome will be an update of a 2007 report — “Behind Walls: an Inventory and Assessment of Prisons in Sierra Leone” — jointly published by the United Nations and the Ministry of Interior. The 2007 report drew recommendations and contributed to the delivery of the UN Peacebuilding Fund intervention of \$US 1.5 million to address key perennial challenges in the corrections system. IOM was the recipient agency for this contribution. Recommendations from this report also guided the United Nations and later UNIPSIL HRS technical support and advisory services in the implementation of the project. Renewed efforts are expected to come forward based on the updated assessment and recommendations. ■

**Strengthening and ensuring that corrections systems meet minimum standards in post-conflict situations is important work and must continue to be supported by the United Nations and its Member States. Prisoners have rights and standing up for these rights is an obligation that the United Nations and its Members will continue to uphold.**

— Alain Le Roy,  
Former Under-Secretary-General, DPKO (2008-2011)



## Somalia:

# Work on Action Plan for Mogadishu Central Prison

□ □ □ □ □ In line with Security Council resolutions 1863 (2009), 1872 (2009) and 1964 (2010), the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) is mandated to assist the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) in the development of a national security strategy, including the development of justice and corrections systems.

In April of this year, following a request from UNPOS, a Corrections Officer from the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service carried out an assessment mission to Nairobi and Mogadishu to meet TFG authorities, UNPOS staff and members of the United Nations Country Team working on Somalia, to draw up an initial plan for United Nations support to prisons institutions in Mogadishu in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team.

The United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is developing a criminal justice assistance programme

**Years of conflict, mismanagement and corruption, combined with very poor infrastructure, have led to deplorable conditions at the Mogadishu Central Prison.**

in two parts of Somalia — Somaliland and Puntland — which include corrections facilities, but they have not yet begun to address the justice and corrections institutions in Mogadishu.

### Central Prison Conditions

Years of conflict, mismanagement and corruption, combined with very poor infrastructure, have led to deplorable conditions at the Mogadishu Central Prison. The

**UNPOS**



*Mary Okumu, DPKO Corrections Coordinator, with commander and staff at the Mogadishu Central Prison, Somalia.*

UN Photo

facility was constructed in 1910 by the Italians and requires significant and urgent improvement to bring it up to minimum standards required under the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (1955). The prison is characterized by major security gaps, inadequate infrastructure, little management capacity, deplorable conditions, insufficient water, food and medicine. The prison officers lack proper training on human rights, rehabilitation and reintegration as well as relevant international standards for treatment of offenders. The total staff strength was at 300 with working schedules which are military in nature and not adapted to civilian correctional practices. At the time of the DPKO visit, there were 332 prisoners in total. The breakdown was as follows: Sentenced — 137 (including 2 females); Remands — 183 (including 6 females and 1 mentally ill inmate); and Juveniles — 12 (including 2 females).

### Multilateral Action Plan

Following extensive consultations with the TFG and the visit to the Central Prison, UNPOS, DPKO Corrections and the United Nations Country Team drew up an action plan for immediate and mid-term implementation. Given the very urgent need for action on the ground, the proposed emergency requirements are divided into two phases.

Phase one — immediate interim support which includes support to improve the security perimeter, rehabilitate some buildings including the kitchen and medical ward, provide bedding, essential drugs and medical equipment, provide uniforms for the prison staff, rehabilitate or dig new water wells, donate basic equipment including communications equipment, locks and registers and as a matter of urgency address the needs of the women and children living in the prison.

Phase two — capacity building of the Ministry of Justice, Endowment and Religious Affairs to provide policy guidance, strategic oversight and accountability of the Somali police, which includes reproduction and distribution of the prison law and prison regulations; support for the functioning of a working group on justice and corrections (the Joint Security Committee Justice and Corrections Technical Working group); oversight and accountability activities; establishment of a functional Justice and Corrections Capacity Development Secretariat to support planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities.

In order to make this work possible, DPKO is seeking donor support, making plans to send a Corrections Officer to

UNPOS from the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity and working to temporarily deploy a prison design engineer from another UN peacekeeping operation. ■





# The Impact of Corrections Work in Peacekeeping Operations

UNOCI

MONUSCO

MINUSTAH

UNMIL

UNMISS

UNAMID

UNMIT

*UN Police Officer monitoring situation in the Sanniquellie Prison, Liberia.*

*UN Photo/Staton Winter*

# Côte d'Ivoire:

## Moving into High Gear after Post-Election Crisis

After the announcement of the results of the presidential election at the end of November 2010, Côte d'Ivoire experienced a severe crisis that ended in armed confrontation.

### Prisons Targeted

The Ivorian prison system was seriously disrupted during this post-election crisis. During the offensive of the Republican Forces of Côte d'Ivoire at the end of March all of the 12,000 prisoners in the 22 prisons in the southern part of the country escaped. During and after these escapes, infrastructure and equipment were looted and vandalized. Almost all prison records, administrative documents and archives disappeared or were destroyed.

### Urgent Action

The Rule of Law Section of the peacekeeping operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) responded quickly to this urgent situation. In April Corrections Officers began assessing the level of damage for each of the facilities together with the national authorities and the international non-governmental organization Prisoners Without Borders.

### Quick Impact

Basing priorities on this evaluation, and working closely with the Government authorities, the corrections team worked closely with the UNOCI Quick Impact Project committee and was able to present seven quick impact projects to support the reactivation of the prisons in Abidjan (MACA),



*Office of the Director of the Maka prison in Abidjan after the crisis.*

UN Photo



Dimbokro, Agboville, Tiassalé and Daloa, for a total of \$US 100,000. The rapid response of UNOCI to address prison conditions was based on the logic that a functioning criminal justice system is essential for the security and stabilization of the country.

## Coordination and Cooperation

In order to make available funds for all the prisons affected by the crisis, the UNOCI Rule of Law Section took the initiative to coordinate all of the stakeholders including donors to establish a comprehensive programme for future actions and planning.

The European Commission is supporting the refurbishment and provision of equipment in the prisons of Adzopé and Gagnoa, which was heavily damaged during the crisis. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire, through the Presidential Emergency Programme, has pledged approximately \$US 2.6 million to complete needed work at the main prison in Abidjan known by the acronym MACA.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a key agency working in Ivorian prisons and has expressed his willingness to provide kitchen equipment, medicine and other material to refurbish medical units inside the prisons. The ICRC also has a programme that will provide food for the prisoners in the emergency phase.

## Short-Term Solutions

In early July of this year, due to the urgent need to transfer high-profile prisoners accused of crimes related to the electoral crisis, and to ensure that Ivorian and international standards were met, the Government decided to reopen a prison in Boundiali in the former CNO zone (northern part of the country). This prison was not damaged during the crisis and was rehabilitated with funds from the German Government in 2007 and 2008. UNOCI Corrections Officers are providing assistance with the reopening and deployment of national correctional staff to this prison.

The corrections team is also working to support the reactivation of the eleven prisons in the former CNO zone, which were closed in 2002, but were rehabilitated with the German Technical Cooperation and European Union funds.

## Guidance

Another important task that the Corrections Team of the Rule of Law Section is addressing with national authorities

is developing regulations and rules for prisons, especially as concerns maintenance of prison registries and prison security as per international standards.

The UNOCI Rule of Law Section, with only five Corrections Officers, is stretched to fulfil its mandate and all of the new tasks following the crisis. A Corrections Officer from the DPKO Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity was sent to the mission to assist for a short period of time, and other solutions are being pursued by DPKO.

UNOCI

## UNOCI Quick Impact Projects for Prisons

The following seven projects were approved by the UNOCI Quick Impact Project committee. They concern the prisons in Abidjan, Agboville, Daloa, Dimbokro, Tiassalé and the Observation Centre for Minors in Abidjan (undertaken in cooperation with the UNOCI Child Protection Section).

### Projects Completed

Prison Abidjan (MACA): Rehabilitation of the administrative block. This was to refurbish or replace damaged windows, doors, ceilings, and for painting.

Prison Agboville (79 km northwest of Abidjan): Rehabilitation of the entire facility including, refurbishing or replacing damaged doors, windows, water systems, electricity and for painting.



*The refurbished Boundiali prison.*

UN Photo

### Projects in Progress

Prison Daloa (382 km Centre — West of Abidjan): Two projects are underway to refurbish or replace damaged doors, windows, water systems, electricity, sanitation, roofing and for painting.

Prison Dimbokro (242 km north — west of Abidjan): Rehabilitation of the entire facility, including refurbishing or replacing damaged doors, windows, cell roofing, water system and electricity.

### Projects in Preparation

Observation Centre for Minors (COM) Abidjan (MACA): Rehabilitation of the juvenile detention areas of the prison.

Prison Tiassalé (100 km northwest of Abidjan): Rehabilitation of the administrative block and detention areas.

# Democratic Republic of the Congo: Deserved Recognition: Making Inroads towards International Norms

On 8 July 2011 the Corrections Advisory Unit of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) held its first medal ceremony for 46 (including five female) seconded Corrections Officers. The officers honoured came from Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Madagascar, Senegal, Sweden and Tanzania. In total there are 62 seconded Corrections Officers currently working in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but in order to be considered for a UN medal one must have completed at least six months of exemplary service. Medal ceremonies are regularly held for the UN Police and military usually from a specific country. It was a great honour to recognize the noble service that these United Nations Corrections Officers have provided.

These Corrections Officers, who are provided to the United Nations by Member States, are deployed in 11 regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo providing mentoring and coaching support to Congolese prison staff.

This medal ceremony was organized in collaboration with the military battalion of Ghana and UN Police from the Indian contingent. It was attended by the Secretary General of the Congolese Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Rule of Law, Ms. Leila Zerrougui, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the contributing countries.

## Corrections Advisory Unit

MONUSCO support to the national prison system is coordinated by the Corrections Advisory Unit (CAU). It focuses on providing strategic direction and technical support to the authorities working in the Congolese Prison Administration. Its mandate is to support the establishment of durable structures that will address the root causes of instability and



*Congolese Minister of Justice cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the refurbished Makala prison.*  
UN Photo

human rights issues in prisons as well as structural reforms, capacity building and good prison management practices in conformity with international norms.

## Impact

Over the last year the Unit assessed about 100 prison facilities and begun rehabilitation projects in 20 of these. A concentration of this work is in the North Kivu and South Kivu, while consultations are ongoing for more works in the western provinces.

The Corrections Advisory Unit focuses on providing strategic direction and technical support to the authorities working in the Congolese Prison Administration.



Other important achievements include the reconstruction of the Ndolo military prison in Kinshasa, the development of a map for the prisons in the DRC, the restructuring of prisoner records systems, introduction of case review systems, ensuring the use of relevant log books and helping to modify policies and procedures.

### Co-Location

Almost all of MONUSCO Corrections Officers are co-located with Congolese prison officials. They work on a daily basis with their Congolese colleagues in Kinshasa, Bas-Congo, Katanga, South Kivu, North Kivu, Kasai Oriental, Equateur, Province Orientale, Maniema and Bandundu. Working side-by-side with Congolese prison staff they monitor the administration of the prisons, offer guidance on introducing good prison practices and help national authorities to provide sanitation, adequate nutrition and healthcare

for all inmates. They also undertake on-the-job training and coaching for national counterparts.

It has been noted that conditions in the prisons where Corrections Officers are co-located have improved. The mentoring and advisory support they give has had a positive impact on prison conditions. It has also improved the communication between prisoners and prison staff and reduced the number of escapes.

### Finding Extra Support

The CAU also reaches out to various donors including individuals and organizations in civil society to seek extra support for prisons. These efforts have improved general living conditions, including healthcare and the nutritional needs

**MONUSCO**



*MONUSCO Corrections Officer Amina Kavirondo during the Medal Ceremony.*

*UN Photo*

of prisoners and reduced the number of deaths. Food security programmes have been established in most of the central prisons through MONUSCO Quick Impact Projects and in collaboration with the United Nations Country Team. These projects address nutritional needs. Other areas of assistance include helping to revise prison rules and regulations and improve the capacity of national prison staff through prison specific training programmes.

## Challenges

The challenges faced by the prison support programme are many. These include: the lack of security, inhumane conditions due to lack of appropriate infrastructure, insufficient budgetary provisions for food and healthcare and a lack of professional staff. The CAU needs more highly

qualified French speaking officers, particularly female officers. The specialized skill sets being sought include engineering, architecture, statistics, healthcare and inmate rehabilitation.

## Appreciation

"It takes strong and motivated individuals to carry out this kind of work," explained the CAU Chief. The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Rule of Law who presided over the medal ceremony, paid tribute to the hard work, sacrifices and remarkable contribution made by these officers and the CAU. She praised the devotion of the officers and the overall impact that MONUSCO has had in building the human capacity and infrastructure required. ■

## Improving Conditions one Project at a Time: The Makala Central Prison

The Makala Central Prison was built in 1958 as a maximum security prison in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The design of the prison did not offer a space where inmates could interact and meet with visitors or legal counsel. Visits were conducted in the midst of other inmates, inside of the prison blocks and cells, with little or no supervision. Men and women moved in and out of cell blocks without restriction, which resulted in serious security incidents.

In April 2009, a proposal to build a visitors' bay in the prison was initiated by the peacekeeping operation's Corrections Advisory Unit. The goal was to facilitate communication between inmates and visitors in an appropriate setting,

prevent visitors' access to the prisoners' dormitories and to encourage the resumption of family ties to facilitate the reintegration of the inmates back into society. The project was adopted and approved for funding through MONUSCO Quick Impact Project funds.

The contract was awarded to the Association pour le Développement Integral de Lukunga (ADIL). Construction work began in December 2010 and was supervised by MONUSCO Corrections Officer Mamadou Banazaro.

The work took longer than expected, but was completed by May 2011. The Congolese Minister of Justice and Human Rights, Mr. Bambi Lessa Lusolo, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Rule of Law, Ms. Leila Zerrougui participated in the opening of the new visit facility, which was part of the activities planned by MONUSCO to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.

During his speech the Minister of Justice stated: "A person who is arrested and jailed is equally a human being whose fundamental rights must be guaranteed and respected. This project may appear insignificant for those not in jails, but for the inmates, it is a significant act, as it will serve as a bridge between them and their respective families and friends". The Minister thanked MONUSCO for building the visit hall, which will help maintain family ties with the inmates. MONUSCO is also assisting with the formulation and adoption of rules and regulations governing visits.





## Haiti:

# Two Steps Forward, One Back

MINUSTAH, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti has the largest number of Corrections Officers of any UN mission today. MINUSTAH is authorized to deploy 86 seconded officers. Today, 73 are deployed. As in other missions most of these officers are co-located and work side-by-side with their Haitian counterparts in prisons around the country. The Corrections Unit has a mandate to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Prison Administration (DAP) to provide safe, humane and secure prisons in Haiti. Corrections Officers work with the DAP on various projects including health, sanitation, and general prison administration. Here is a snapshot of some projects that are supported by MINUSTAH and other UN and non-UN partners.

The infrastructure of the penitentiary system in Haiti was poor before the 2010 earthquake and far worse afterwards.

### Rehabilitation Projects

The infrastructure of the penitentiary system in Haiti was poor before the 2010 earthquake and far worse afterwards. The United Nations, other international organizations and bilateral donors were already engaged in renovating prison facilities and this work gained a greater urgency over the past year.

The situation continues to be tenuous. Today there are 4,559 square meters of prison space available for more than six thousand prisoners, meaning that on average each prisoner has 0.7 square meters. The international standard requires 4.5 square meters per prisoner. As a result of overcrowding, health problems abound, including skin and contagious diseases such as respiratory infections, upper and lower rheumatic diseases and tuberculosis.

MINUSTAH

The Director of Prison Administration, Jean Roland Célestin, speaking during the inauguration of a renovated wing of the National Penitentiary in June



MINUSTAH Corrections Officers conducting training in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

UN Photo



*DAP Officers attending the training.*

UN Photo

stated: “Taking into account international standards, there are no prisons in Haiti.” The DAP works closely with MINUSTAH and other organizations in this rehabilitation programme.

The International Committee of the Red Cross oversaw a project to renovate a section of the National Penitentiary in Port-au-Prince that created space for 700 beds. The project was inaugurated at the end of June. A MINUSTAH Quick Impact Project was used to renovate another part of this prison, which was opened last November. The Community Violence Reduction (CVR) programme of MINUSTAH, as part of its prison rehabilitation project, is in the process of completing two blocks of eight cells, which will provide space for 200 prisoners and a multipurpose room and classrooms.

The MINUSTAH Community Violence Reduction Unit and the Corrections Unit are working on renovating prison in Les Cayes, Jacmel, Jérémie, Arcahaie, Grand River North Port-de-Paix, Cap-Haïtien, Hinche, Saint-Marc, and Carrefour. The most significant project today is the construction of a civilian prison in Croix-des-Bouquets. This project, funded by the Canadian Government, will provide a prison built to international standards with capacity for 750 inmates.

Funding from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland built new facilities for the prison of Arcahaie and a Rehabilitation Centre for Minors in Conflict located at Delmas 33. This project was inaugurated in May 2011. The Government of the United States of America has also pledged funds to help re-build and renovate prisons, as has Norway.

The overall goal of the rehabilitation and expansion programme is to increase the detention capacity for 2,000 inmates and to ameliorate the conditions in all detention facilities in Haiti.

## Helping Haitian Authorities to Professionalize Prison Registries

To correctly manage a prison it is essential that the Registrar of the prison has clear guidelines and procedures to ensure that important information and the case file of each inmate is complete. Over the last year MINUSTAH Corrections Officers have worked with the Department of Prison Administration (DAP) to update the registrar manual for use by all Registrar staff.

### Registry

The Registrar’s Office is the cornerstone of the prison system. The team of officers is responsible to collect essential information to manage a prisoner’s case while incarcerated, from admittance to release. They are the principal collector and custodian of administrative documents in the prison, namely medical, personal and financial records.

### Guidance

The registry manual was developed with input from MINUSTAH Human Rights Officers and Judicial Affairs Officers and revised to include many important standards required by the United Nations with the aim of promoting secure, safe and humane practices in Haiti prisons. As part of the development



of the manual, an assessment was made that identified the gaps in the Haiti prison administration. The 74 page manual addressed all areas of concern as expressed by the DAP, the National Police of Haiti, United Nations Police and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The manual aims to standardize registry functions in all prisons and to ensure that registry staff are aware of their obligation under the law in managing individual case files. The manual also describes the importance of proper documentation, how to clarify anomalies or errors with the proper authorities and gives staff a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities and what is expected of them in terms of a code of conduct in the execution of their duties.

The manual was widely distributed and edited to take into account the practical hurdles faced by prison staff in the country.

## Caritas in Haiti Implements a Literacy Project for 600 Prisoners

In May of this year the non-governmental organization Caritas Haiti began implementing a literacy project for 600 prisoners at the Cap-Haïtien and Grande Rivière du Nord detention centres.

Through an audio-visual teaching method, the project aims to teach detainees how to read and write and provides books for prison libraries as well as painting and sewing materials so that prisoners can learn new skills.

Approximately 550 inmates, including 20 women and 10 juvenile boys, from the prison of Cap-Haïtien benefit and some 70 inmates from the Grande Rivière du Nord facility are participating. The project was developed to enhance the skills of prisoners to facilitate their return to normal life when they leave the prison.

This project is supported by the MINUSTAH Quick Impact Project fund.

## Training

Once the manual was completed a comprehensive training course, giving basic knowledge and procedures on how to implement the guidance in the manual was developed. In May and June of this year two five-day Registrar training sessions for 63 Haitian Corrections Officers were conducted. The participants in the courses were expected to take on and manage the Registries of their respective prisons.

The training was financed by the UNDP and designed by the DAP training unit with the collaboration of MINUSTAH Corrections Officers and United Nations Police. Topics covered besides using the manual, included the Haitian judicial system, Haitian and international law regulating prison administration, confidentiality and technical skills including how to take digital fingerprints and photos.

In addition to financing the training and equipment for the training, UNDP paid for a new training facility at the DAP which was inaugurated in May and is also financing a project that will develop a national database with the files of the entire inmate population. Once this database is functioning, DAP will be able to monitor the status of the inmate population throughout the country and can collect data for analysis.

**MINUSTAH**

## Next Steps

The manual will need to be updated as new laws are enacted by the Government and new procedures are introduced by the DAP. Adequate and secure offices for Registries need to be built or renovated in a number of prisons to ensure the integrity and confidentiality of files; reliable electricity and equipment for photographing and fingerprinting need to be procured. It is also important that Registries are equipped with computers and internet access so that the DAP database can be accessed and maintained and digital and backup copies of files can be created. This will remain a challenge given the frequent power outages in Port-au-Prince.

*MINUSTAH  
Corrections Officer  
poses with  
Haitian colleague.*

*Refurbishing of  
the  
National  
Penitentiary.*

*UN Photos*



## Liberia:

# A Comprehensive Approach

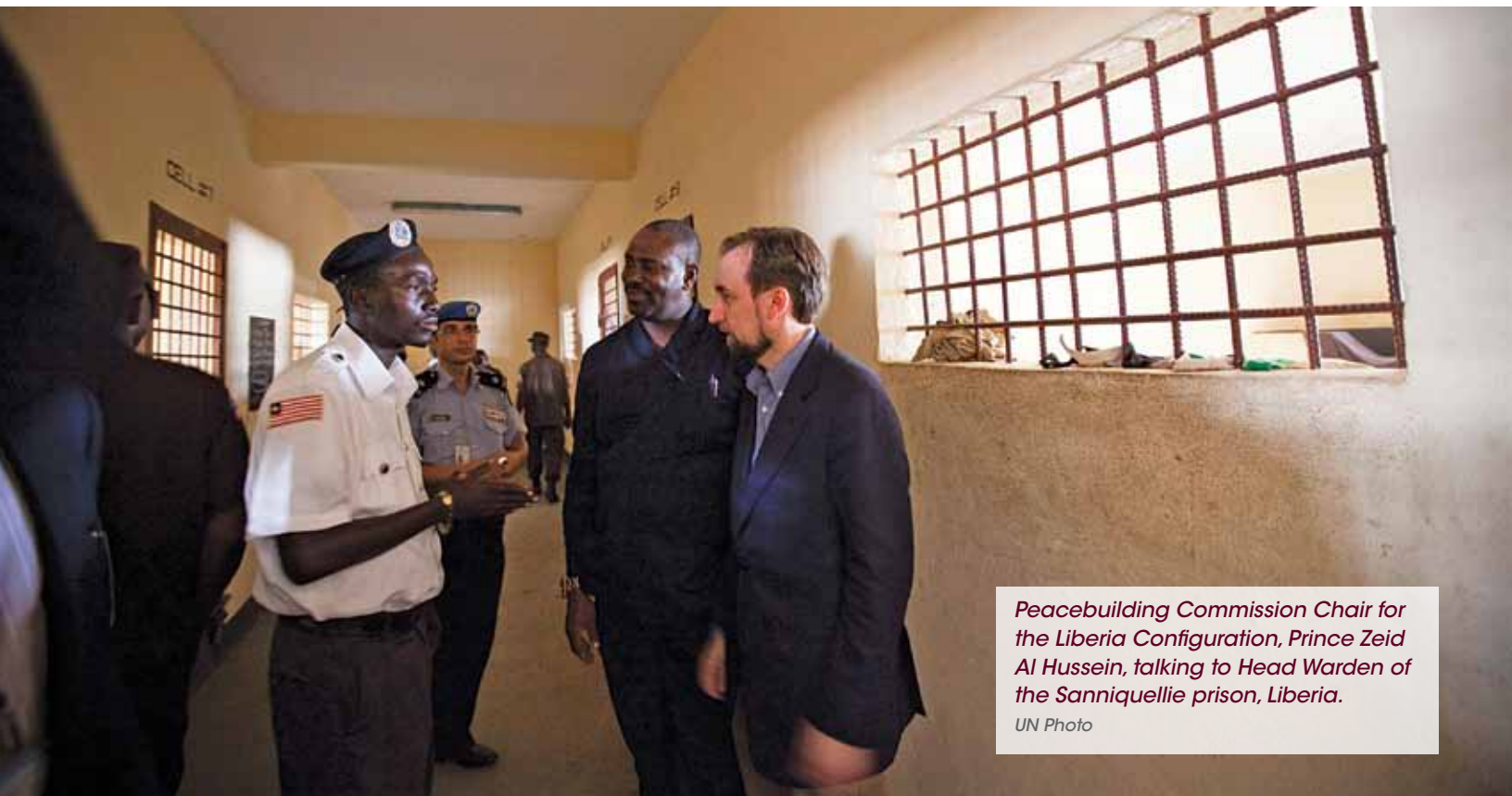
### Overview

The Corrections Advisory Unit (CAU) of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Liberia (UNMIL) has been working to assist the Government of Liberia in re-establishing its Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR) since 2004. Starting with four professional staff, 10 seconded officers and three administrative staff, when there was one small detention facility and no formal training of corrections staff had taken place in Liberia since 1979, the CAU began assessing infrastructure, developing training materials and working with different partners to help the Government re-establish a safe, secure and humane incarceration system.

Today, working with more than 40 Corrections Officers the CAU has helped the BCR to recruit, train and deploy more than 200 national staff to facilities around the country. While prison security remains a concern, staff are far better able to respond to events with the help of on-site CAU mentors. Management, training of trainers and human rights courses were developed and delivered and assistance was given to refurbish or build new detention cells or prison facilities

in 13 of the 15 counties in Liberia. The Bureau, with CAU support has also established a solid team of dependable governmental, non-governmental and agency partners for longer term assistance in sustaining gains that have been made to date.

The BCR has developed greater proficiency in seeking funding and developing funding proposals in line with the strategic plan of the Government. With adequate funding from the Peacebuilding Commission and the Justice and Security Trust Fund, the Bureau now stands on its own. As UNMIL moves into the transition phase, in coordination with the BCR, the Corrections Advisory Unit is now focusing on: measuring impact and working to ensure that good practices will be sustained following the departure of the peacekeeping operation; monitoring that the needs of vulnerable prisoners are addressed; ensuring that food supplies are supplemented through the continued cultivation of prison agriculture projects, and overseeing that staff competence and confidence is enhanced through in-service training, including training to prevent security incidents and, where necessary, in the use of non-lethal force. ■



*Peacebuilding Commission Chair for the Liberia Configuration, Prince Zeid Al Hussein, talking to Head Warden of the Sanniquellie prison, Liberia.*

UN Photo



# Construction, Training and Agriculture Projects Completed or Underway 2010-2011

## Construction

### National Palace of Correction in Grand Gedeh County:

- Sustainable food project enhanced with construction of a farm house to house rabbits and pigs for prisoners training and feeding. (Quick Impact Project UNMIL)
- Repair of the prison roof, installation of solar lighting and vehicle repairs has been supported by the Justice and Security Trust Fund administered through UNDP.

### Fishtown cells in River Cess County:

- Construction of detention cells with capacity for 15 prisoners, including a women's cell, completed in June 2011.
- ICRC project to improve water and sanitation. In progress.

### Gbarnga Prison in Bong County:

- Renovation of the prison, staff training and development of communications and case management systems sponsored by the Peacebuilding Commission. Renovations have commenced with other projects expected before the end of 2011.

### Bopolu cells in Gbarpolu County:

- Construction of detention cells with capacity for 15 prisoners, including a women's cell, completed in February 2011. (Quick Impact Project UNMIL)

### Sanniquellie Prison Nimba County:

- New 72-bed facility constructed with Peacebuilding Fund support, completed August 2010.

### Monrovia Central Prison in Montserrado County:

- Construction of a concrete inner fence to enhance security at the main gate, completed June 2010.
- Connection of the city water supply, repair of borehole and expansion of the medical clinic are in progress with the support of the ICRC.
- Separate space to hold sick prisoners (and a quarantine area). (UNMIL Quick Impact Project.)
- The SGBV joint programme is supporting the renovation of the women's unit.

### Tubmanburg Prison in Bomi County:

- Provision of a separate exercise area and kitchen for women supported by the SGBV joint programme.

### Buchanan Prison in Grand Bassa County:

- Construction of workshop area for rehabilitation of inmates and renovation of kitchen. In progress. (Quick Impact Project UNMIL)

### Harper Prison in Maryland County:

- Renovation works in buildings including plumbing, replacement of the main gate, new iron doors for 21 cells, electrical installation and painting. In progress. (Quick Impact Project UNMIL)

### Kakata Prison in Margibi County:

- Construction of a medical clinic. In progress. (Quick Impact Project UNMIL)

## Training

- An advanced training of trainers course was run for 14 national officers, 4 women and 10 men.
- With the additional trained officers, in-service training is now operating at 5 facilities nationwide where national trainers are running the programme with support from international trainers.
- With the support of the Peacebuilding Commission, planning is underway for the commencement of the latest induction training programme for 20 new officers, who will be stationed at Gbarnga Prison.
- Training in non-lethal force is currently being piloted at Monrovia Central Prison. Training modules are being developed with the intent of running a Training of Trainers course on non-lethal force in November 2011 (see article on page 20).

UNMIL

## Agriculture

- Agriculture projects are fully operational in all facilities around the country with the largest at the National Palace of Corrections consisting of 30 acres of farming along with animal husbandry and training for prisoners.
- The most innovative project, sponsored by the ICRC, is using land that is not attached to the Monrovia Central Prison (which is in a location without viable gardening land) that is cultivated by community members who are compensated for their work through produce, with the remainder being provided to prisoners at the Monrovia Central Prison.



UN Photos

# A Message from Mr. Hilary Siakor-Sirleaf, Assistant Minister of Justice for Corrections and Rehabilitation, Government of Liberia

Having returned to Liberia after more than 20 years living outside of the country, I saw different faces and nationalities working to make a difference in the lives of ordinary Liberians. They are working to empower the Government of Liberia to meet the needs of its people. This has been a unique experience. I must gratefully acknowledge the men and women working in the Corrections Advisory Unit of UNMIL for their hard work and dedication to the Liberian Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation. These men and women have been the driving force for many successful events.

It is worth noting that the Corrections Advisory Unit officers work as mentors in prisons around the country where they assist superintendents and staff in the operation of

our detention centres and prisons. They have also worked with the donor community to support prisons and they have trained and continue to train our officers in every aspect of corrections.

Although change does not come overnight, I can see how our country is recovering and changing in a positive way. These changes are because of the efforts of so many internationals, sacrificing and believing in Liberia and Liberians. The changes in Liberia that I am seeing, along with my own transition, have been a significant learning experience very much worth the sacrifice. May the Corrections Advisory Unit continue to assist us through transition and draw-down in order that we can run our own facilities in compliance with international standards and respectful of the rule of law. ■

## A Personal Account of an Innovative Approach

My name is Johan Jonasson and I am from Sweden. Since 2001 I have worked as a security inspector and tactical defence instructor in the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. I am a member of the Prison Quick Response Team in Sweden. While I was excited about being in Liberia, I also wondered what challenges awaited me.

My assignment with the UNMIL Corrections Advisory Unit, known like so many things in the United Nations by its acronym "CAU", is the first of its kind. I arrived in Liberia in early April 2011 to join a Swedish colleague Anette Larsson, also from the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. The two of us became part of a new security team that would introduce "Smart Security" using communication tools and self defence and control tactics to de-escalate prison tension using minimum force.

At the end of May, I was asked to prepare a demonstration of "Smart Security" for the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. This task was given to me and my CAU colleague James Dickerson, a National Professional Officer, who had worked as a National Trainer for the Corrections Advisory Unit for five years. Before James joined UNMIL he had been the Superintendent of Liberia's largest and busiest prison. James is well versed in prison security matters, but the concept of minimum force was a new concept.

The Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections chose staff from the Monrovia Central Prison to participate in this demonstration. James Ponpon, a Liberian trainer with a proven track record for working as part of a team and



commitment to prison work, was chosen as the team leader for the demonstration. Ponpon's initial response to the idea was not positive because, although he had been exposed to significant literature on use of force in prisons, until now, all he had seen were police defence tactics.

Once he understood the difference of what we were teaching, and that we were talking about security for officers and prisoners in the prison environment, Ponpon and the rest of the team came on board. We decided to have a parade followed by a demonstration using communication and self defence tactics to manage an aggressive prisoner with minimum force. We practiced for three hours a day, twice a week for three weeks to prepare for the demonstration. At the same time, I was gathering significant learning tools for my larger task of implementing the security concept across the Bureau. We were all very pleased with the outcome.



## Sudan:

# Decongesting Prisons in South Sudan

## A Description of a Multifaceted and Multilateral Approach

As in many post-conflict countries, the prisons in South Sudan suffer from poor infrastructure and overcrowding. Over the last three years the peace-keeping operation in Sudan, UNMIS, has addressed prison issues in what is today South Sudan, through the Corrections Advisory Unit based in Juba. Working closely with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Prisons Support Project, which is a leading partner and is co-located with UNMIS Corrections in Juba, three projects have been developed to address and ameliorate prison conditions. This is an example of the multifaceted and mul-

tilateral approach that the United Nations strives to implement in all of its work.

### Probation and Aftercare Unit

In June 2008 the UNMIS Corrections Advisory Unit and UNODC convened the first “alternatives to imprisonment” workshop with South Sudanese authorities.

Sudanese judicial, police and prison authorities were invited. The workshop was chaired by a Supreme Court Judge, highlighting the commitment to increasing linkages between the criminal justice components. One of ten recommendations from the workshop was to revive the prisons-based probation and aftercare function, which had not operated for several decades.

Following this workshop, a new probation unit was established inside of the Prison Service by the Director General. An implementation plan was developed under the UNODC programme, with operational guidelines developed in cooperation with the South Sudanese authorities. With the assistance of UNODC/UNMIS Corrections, the new unit was modelled on the Kenyan Probation and Aftercare Service and experienced officers from Kenya provided training and technical support. Fifteen officers were selected from the Prison Service and were trained as Probation Officers. This was undertaken with the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform (ICCLR), which provided trainers. The training was supplemented with practical on-the-job training in Kenya with the Kenyan Probation and Aftercare Service.

This training was organized with the support of South Sudanese criminal justice agencies and representatives of

There was a lot of pride amongst the Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections staff and senior management. According to James Ponpon this was not only because the team made a professional and appealing presentation but also because it was the first appearance of the Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections at any state function or public ceremony since the late 1980s. The Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and corrections staff have worked hard and dreamed of re-establishing a professional Corrections Service. As the tides changed in Liberia, many left the organization and for most, the dream died. Seeing the Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections participate side by side with the Armed Forces of Liberia and the Liberian National Police meant that Corrections staff can finally begin to believe again that the Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections is once again a professional service, staffed by well trained officers.

As a new arrival and Corrections Officer with the Corrections Advisory Unit, I am very proud of the success that the Liberian Bureau of Rehabilitation and Corrections team had during the Peacekeepers’ Day ceremony. It is an honour to work with professionals in the United Nations and in the Liberian Bureau and I learned so much from the fact that a demonstration of defence tactics could help to create pride in a service. While it is hard to be away from my family and home, I know that the sacrifice will be well worth it. I’m really looking forward to continuing the “Smart Security” training in the different counties around Liberia.

UNMISS

Three projects have been developed to address and ameliorate prison conditions. This is an example of the multifaceted and multilateral approach that the United Nations strives to implement in all of its work.

police, the Ministry of Legal Affairs Prosecution Office and the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare. A significant programme milestone was to encourage regional information-sharing, so South Sudanese participants would benefit from the established Kenyan expertise.

The development of the probation function continues to be implemented in stages and initially focused on addressing juvenile detention in the Juba Prison, with operations in the remaining States being progressively implemented. In addition to ongoing training, the UNODC Project has also constructed office accommodation at the Juba Prison and provided equipment and developed documentation and records management processes. Recent figures demonstrate a reduction in the number of juveniles in custody in Juba Prison, from 90 in December 2010 to 45 in March 2011.

This is largely due to the work of the Probation Unit. In order to continue monitoring the progress of this unit, UNODC/ UNMIS Corrections is assisting the Director of Probation to use monthly reports to highlight caseload trends. Further staff training is being undertaken and four new Probation Officers have been appointed to increase the Unit's activities in other prisons.

The Director-General of the Prisons Service, Abel Makoi Wol, stated that "the development of an effective Probation and Aftercare Unit is very important in reducing overcrowding in prisons and in assisting prisoners to re-enter the

**"The development of an effective Probation and Aftercare Unit is very important in reducing overcrowding in prisons and in assisting prisoners to re-enter the community."**

community. We thank our partners, UNODC and UNMIS for their support to the Prisons Service and request that this continues in the future".

### **Court Liaison Officers**

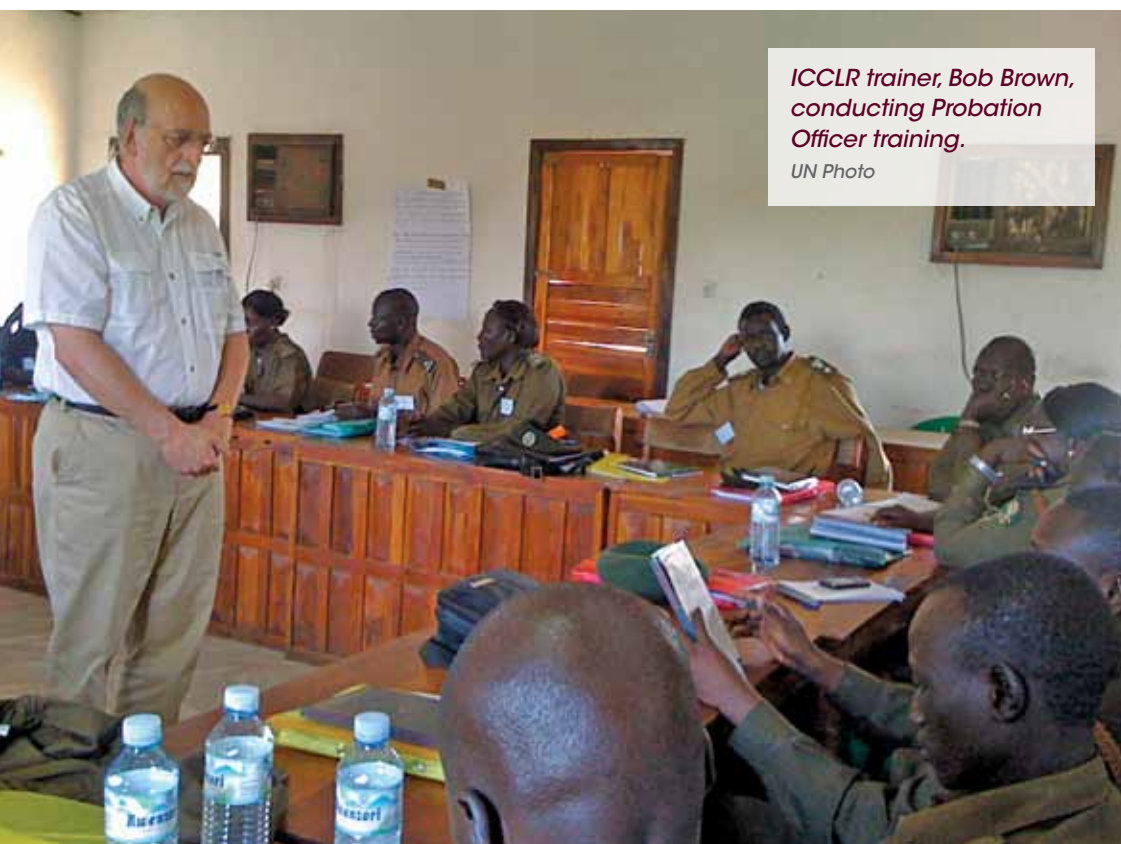
Another project developed to address overcrowding was the training of court liaison officers. UNODC trained fifteen selected prison officers as court liaison officers, whose responsibilities include bringing cases to the attention of the Courts, particularly those relating to pretrial detainees who have spent lengthy periods of time in custody. Court liaison officers were installed in all State prisons following training conducted by UNODC, UNMIS Corrections and a team of two judges, a prosecutor and two Prisons Service legal officers.

Issues of arbitrary detention are more prevalent in county areas and the UNODC programme has incorporated state-by-state training into the current phase of its project. Additionally,

UNMIS Judicial Affairs Officers posted in State centres requested that court liaison officers be used to supplement their functions in supporting rule of law activities.

### **Case Review Board**

A third key component in the programme followed a proposal by UNMIS Corrections to begin regular case file reviews of detainees. This suggestion stemmed from the fact that a review at a State prison resulted in a significant number of prisoners being released because their detention could no longer be justified. Unfortunately, this was a one-off State initiative and was not replicated in other locations.







*Prisons Service Colonel Rodento Tongun Victoria speaking at an Alternatives to Imprisonment meeting.*

UN Photo

Following discussions between UNMIS Corrections and the Legal Adviser with the Comprehensive Criminal Justice Sector Development Program (CCJSDP), a U.S. State Department Justice Programme in South Sudan, a number of meetings were arranged to assess support for implementing a regular case review process. The CCJSDP focuses on vulnerable populations in the South Sudan criminal justice system, as a way to reduce prison populations and release individuals detained without legal basis, especially children.

The concept of establishing regular prison case file reviews was first approved by the Director General and then discussed jointly with the Minister of Internal Affairs, who also approved the programme. The issue was then raised with the Attorney General's office, which approved a request to have prosecutors assigned to a Case file Review Board. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare also agreed to assign a Director to the process, as it was important to initially focus on juvenile detention and the Ministry wanted to become more involved in juvenile justice.

The final and the most politically difficult step, was seeking the cooperation of the Juba area courts. This was achieved through the work of the UNMIS Judicial Affairs Unit, which reached out to the chief justice of the Court of Appeals. He agreed to assist in the establishment of a prison juvenile detention review board and assigned a judge and a customary paramount chief, who is the highest respected community leader with authority who can adjudicate in traditional court matters, to the board.

In addition, the board includes three prosecutors and three police investigators, one from each of the three major areas in Juba. A Court Clerk will process and record proceedings. The board has held an initial coordination meeting and will conduct their first review at Juba Prison in early July and then meet every two weeks. All board members will maintain records for their own agencies and the Juba Prison Court Liaison and Probation Officers will prepare the list of juveniles to be reviewed by the board.

The goal is that once the board is established, it will expand its scope to include other vulnerable persons in detention, including pretrial detainees and persons, such as the mentally ill, who are detained but have never been convicted of a crime.

The process will then be replicated in other States.

## Birth of United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

On July 9 the Security Council in its resolution 1996 (2011), established a new Mission in South Sudan, calling upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan "to end prolonged, arbitrary detention, and establish a safe, secure and humane prison system through provision of advice and technical assistance, in cooperation with international partners", and requesting UNMISS to advise and assist the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in this regard.

UNMISS

The Security Council resolution also requested that Secretary-General co-locate appropriate mission components with the Republic of South Sudan counterparts in the interest of building national capacity, which is also applicable to the Corrections Advisory Unit.

The Corrections Advisory Unit is expected to expand its staff strength and activities to state and some county prisons and include new activities in its work such as structuring of the South Sudan Prisons Service, introduction of community service, advice on military prisons, address prison overcrowding, work to reduce pretrial detention and address incidence of illegal detentions in prisons. ■

## Sudan:

# Health Care for Darfur Prison Communities

## African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

A very important aspect of the administration of prisons in Darfur is building the capacity needed to ensure that inmates and prison staff have access to health care. Section 17 of the Prisons Organization and Treatment of Inmates Act of 2010 Revised stipulates that “the prison administration shall provide inmates with health care”. Regulations are to determine ways and means of implementing that”. In view of health care shortcomings in prisons in Darfur, the Rule of Law-Prison Advisory Unit organized a Medical Camp at Shallah and Kheir Khanaga Women Prisons in El Fasher to bring attention to this important issue.

The medical camp was organized in collaboration with North Darfur State Prisons Administration, State Ministry of Health, State Military Hospital, World Health Organization, UNAMID Force Medical Unit, UNAMID HIV/AIDS Unit and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The event took place at the end of March to mark the World Tuberculosis

**Prisons are an essential link in the rule of law chain. By developing the guidance, expertise and resources to address prison conditions, we are striving to uphold international standards across the board.**

— BAN Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

and World Health day. About 1,000 people including prison staff benefited from the camp and accessed services in blood pressure management, blood sugar management, HIV and Aids and general medical check-ups.

The medical camp facilitated an agreement between the State Government and health institutions and all stakeholders to link prison health care to the general public health care system. The State Health Ministry and WHO also provided technical advice to the prisons on health issues.

After the medical camp, the Rule of Law-Prison Advisory Unit facilitated the supply of drugs which were recommended by the Sudanese Clinical officer for adult prisoners and children accompanying their mothers to prison for the year 2011. The drugs were donated by the UNAMID Christian Fellowship in El Fasher (see page 26).

The medical camp set the stage for the development of a sustainable prison health care system in Darfur Prisons. Towards this objective, UNDP is supporting the construction of infirmaries in prisons in North Darfur with one completed in Kabkabbya Prison while others in Shallah, Kutum and Umkadadda Prisons are ongoing. UNAMID continues to work with other stakeholders to find more support. ■



*Prison in Shangle Tubaya.*

UN Photo /Albert Gonzalez Farran



## Sudan:

# Practical Solution

## Partnership between UNAMID and UN HABITAT

□ □ □ ■ □ The African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) Rule of Law-Prisons Advisory Unit in conjunction with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Sudanese

Unit learned that UN-HABITAT was promoting the use of stabilized soil blocks as an environmentally friendly alternative. This block is manufactured by compressing soil, sand and small amount of cement and is cured by sitting in the sun. One bag of cement produces 100 blocks.

UN-HABITAT was using this technology in Darfur and the Prison Advisory Unit approached UN-HABITAT with a proposal to expand this programme to prisons. In cooperation with Sudanese authorities the Prison Advisory Unit applied for assistance from the UNAMID Quick Impact Project fund and the Nyala Technical School was selected and awarded a contract to train both prisoners and staff to manufacture the stabilized soil blocks. Implementation began in December 2010.

The project is jointly supported by UN-HABITAT, which provided ten Manual Block Press Machines and UNAMID Quick Impact Project funds were used to purchase the required raw materials. The project has been

implemented in four prisons of South Darfur: Nyala Central Prison, Kass Prison, Al Deain Prison and Buram Prison. The project has a provision to supply two Press Machines to each of the four prisons at the end of the project for continuity and sustainability.

As of June 2011, almost 100 prisoners and prison officers were trained in the four prisons and 20,000 blocks were produced. The project builds on itself, the blocks produced have been used to construct workshops in the prisons, where new training takes place and other blocks are used to reinforce prisons. The trained inmates are expected to use the skills for livelihood and reintegration upon release. ■



Directorate of Prisons and Reforms are implementing an innovative and practical training project in four prisons within Southern Darfur State that offer inmates vocational skills while strengthening the prison systems in Darfur.

The need for skills training, as part of rehabilitation, is outlined in Article three (e) of the agreement between UNAMID and the Sudanese General Directorate of Prisons and Reforms and is in line with United Nations standards and Sudanese law.

Traditionally in Darfur, buildings and walls are constructed with “burnt bricks” or clay bricks that are dried and solidified in fire. Burnt bricks are used to build prisons. To fabricate these bricks a lot of firewood is needed which is detrimental to the environment. The UNAMID Prison Advisory

UNAMID

## Sudan:

# UNAMID Facilitates Humanitarian Support for Prisons in Darfur

United Nations Corrections Officers, like all peacekeepers, are deployed to implement specific Security Council mandates. United Nations Member States and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations aim to assist vulnerable populations in post-conflict environments including prisoners and detainees. As Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon stated in his introduction to the 2010 DPKO *Corrections Update*: “UN peacekeepers work to relieve overcrowding; provide sanitation, food and medical care; establish rehabilitation programmes and facilities; and help host Governments build their capacity to uphold minimum standards of incarceration.”

Often military contingents, UN Police and UN civilian staff participate in humanitarian projects to address the needs of the most vulnerable while the capacity of the host Government is developed. Peacekeepers regularly find ways to support humanitarian projects, by re-building schools, adopting an orphanage, delivering water and food, finding external partners and fundraising on their own.

The Christian Fellowship, a non-denominational congregation

for Christians working in the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, is one staff group that has taken up humanitarian causes in Darfur and abroad. It supported the victims in the wake of the Haiti earthquake, collaborated with UNAMID Police in a tree planting and cleaning exercise and most recently assisted in the payment of fees of about 300 pupils in Tawilla.

In collaboration with the Rule of Law-Prison Advisory Unit the Fellowship presented a number of items including medicine, food, bedding, cooking utensils, sleeping mats, mattresses, clothes, mosquito nets, and other practical items, to seven prisons in North Darfur. The donations were handed over to the North Darfur Director of Prisons Brigadier Babiker Ali Ahmed in a ceremony held in Kheir Khanaga Women Prison in El Fasher. Brigadier Babiker Ali Ahmed expressed appreciation to UNAMID. “It is unique because it has never happened in this magnitude before although we have received much assistance from UN agencies and UNAMID, and this is also unique because of the spirit of giving...I assure you that this will have a positive impact on the prisoners”, he added.

## Water Rollers Donated to Inmates at the Zalingei Prison

In June six water rollers were donated to inmates at the Zalingei Prison by the UNAMID Prison Advisory Unit. “We are making this donation to you so that when you are eventually discharged from the prison, you can use it to support yourself as you reintegrate into the society”, explained UNAMID Zalingei Corrections Officer, Mr. Jeduah A. Mahama. Although some of the recipients may not be discharged now, Mr. Mahama encouraged the beneficiaries to give the water rollers to their relatives to generate income and support them while serving their jail terms. The Director of Zalingei Prison thanked UNAMID, as part of its support to the Zalingei Prison, which has included renovating the prison compound, the kitchen and building drainage and sewage systems.

UN Photo / Albert Gonzalez Farran



# Timor-Leste:

## A Long and Challenging Journey

### UNMIT Prison

#### Support and Guidance

Due to the mass destruction of the entire justice support infrastructure, coupled with crippling losses of legal and justice system resources and actors, there was nothing left of the justice structure in Timor-Leste when the country began moving towards independence. The prison conditions were amongst the worst affected.

From 1999 onwards, the United Nations along with its development partners and international donors worked to re-establish the prison system in Timor-Leste. Upon independence in 2002, the Government of Timor-Leste took over the coordination of prison and corrections support in the country. In quick order three prisons were fully functional in Dili, Gleno and Baucau. The latter shut down in 2008 due to structural issues. The two remaining prisons provide safe, secure and humane services for all staff and prisoners as a result of significant prison reconstruction projects in 2008-2009, funded by the Government and with donor project funds coordinated through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Government has opened a National Training Centre for prison staff, and a National Headquarters office to coordinate the efficient and effective management and consolidate the administration operations of the prison service.

Mr. Helder Cosme, the National Director of the Timor-Leste Prison Service, has identified several areas where support from the UNMIT Corrections team is critical. UNMIT continues to regularly assess and analyse developments in the prison sector, specifically the implementation of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. UNMIT carries out joint assessment missions with the Government and is working with national authorities to map the penitentiary system. It pushes to ensure that women and juveniles have separate facilities and that all prisons have adequate medical and mental health services.

UNMIT continues to strengthen capacity in corrections operations, and conducts trainings that develop leadership, operational capacity and planning. UNMIT Corrections is also



*(Above, top) Commemoration of the Proclamation of Independence. (Above) UNMIT Commemoration of Peacekeepers' Day.*

UN Photos

advising on the format for reporting from the field, on templates for use in completing investigative reports and assisting in the development of standard operating procedures.

UNMIT continues to play an important role in strategic coordination through the UN justice working group and — to a lesser extent — through the informal discussion forum of donors involved in the justice sector. Both processes have proved crucial in coordinating support for the national prison programme. ■

UNMIT

## Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity Up and Running

□ □ □ □ □ In April 2011 the newly-established Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC) became operational. Following approval by the General Assembly in 2010, the establishment of the JCSC, to complement the Standing Police Capacity, was an important benchmark in the efforts of the United Nations to address rule of law challenges rapidly and effectively.

“United Nations peacekeepers are generally the international community’s first responders in post-conflict countries. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is helping to lead the United Nations efforts to promote justice in these societies, deploying blue helmets as well as civilian experts, including Judicial Affairs Officers who work side by side with their counterparts in the UN Police and UN Corrections to strengthen the system of justice,” explained the Secretary-General BAN Ki-moon in his foreword to the DPKO Justice Update in May 2011.

### Quick Holistic Delivery

When the Standing Police Capacity became operational in 2007, as a special unit tasked to rapidly deploy to United Nations peace operations, no similar tool existed for the other parts of the criminal justice chain. Ensuring an integrated approach to rule of law assistance, covering not only police but also justice and corrections, is critical. A police system cannot operate effectively without functional justice and corrections systems.

### Standing Police Capacity

The establishment of the Standing Police Capacity (SPC) is an innovative, concrete and successful initiative. Based at the United Nations Logistical Base (UNLB) in Brindisi, Italy, the SPC has been deployed to missions in Iraq, Liberia, Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Somalia, Afghanistan, Haiti and many other countries on behalf of the United Nations Secretariat, to provide start-up capacity and to undertake other critical short-term tasks or to address acute surge needs in times of crisis.

### The New Team

The JCSC, based at UNLB with the SPC, has an initial operational capacity of five professional posts: three Judicial Affairs Officers (David Marshall, who is the Team Leader, Mireya Pena Guzman and Eleonora Meli Messineo) and two Corrections Officers (Richard Kuuire and Franck Gorchs-Chacou) and one Team Assistant (Raffaella Spedicati).

### Core Functions

The JCSC has two core functions:

- Start-up justice and/or corrections components in new United Nations field operations (including participating in pre-mission planning); and
- Reinforce existing United Nations field operations in providing assistance and support to national authorities in the area of justice and corrections where critical and urgent gaps arise.

### Added Value

JCSC Officers will be expected to deploy at short notice upon the direction of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations and will spend up to 50% of their time in missions. During their time at UNLB, officers will debrief, develop

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JCSC Up and Running*


after-action reviews, contribute to lessons learned and best practice studies, attend the necessary training sessions and prepare for the next field assignment.

## First Deployments

On 12 July two members of the JCSC, a Senior Judicial Affairs Officer and a Corrections Officer, joined the Advanced Planning Team of SRSG Hilde Johnson of UNMISS in South Sudan for three months to undertake mission start-up issues relating to justice and corrections. Considering the volume of work in the justice area in South Sudan, the mission has requested that the other two Judicial Affairs Officers in Brindisi deploy to assist with justice start-up activities. On 25 July, a Corrections Officer undertook a first phase assistance mission deployment in ONUCI in Côte d'Ivoire.

"Although security is often the paramount issue in the first weeks and months after the end of a conflict, the sooner we can begin to work with national authorities to address the fundamental rule of law systems that need to be in place, the sooner this important work can be planned, budgeted and launched thus contributing to peacekeeping stabilization and development," explains the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions Dmitry Titov. And he continues: "The establishment of the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity that works alongside the Standing Police Capacity is another tool that can ensure faster UN deployment and immediate support for peace operations, and eventually — an earlier exit strategy."

## Delivering as One

 The United Nations aims to ensure coordination and cooperation in all of its endeavours, from eradicating poverty to addressing environmental degradation and in helping countries to develop. Wherever possible, DPKO rule of law work is coordinated with and through United Nations Country Teams.

The need to develop a common United Nations platform for action to support national authorities in the corrections sector with a view to integrating efforts to ensure a clear coordination of activities must be highlighted. This integrated approach is imperative to build synergies and maximize existing technical, financial and logistical resources and to avoid duplication of efforts. Increasingly a more comprehensive and strategic approach to corrections assistance is needed.

### Darfur, Sudan

The Prison Advisory Unit of the African Union/United Nations Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) works closely with the United Nations Country Team, UNAMID Police, Human Rights, Civil Affairs, Gender, Child Protection and the HIV& AIDS Units to support the Government of Sudan. UNDP provided \$US 1.5 million from its support fund for training and capacity building, the establishment of legal aid desks and prison infrastructure improvement, provision of office furniture and equipment and the development of vocational/skills training programmes for prisoners.

### Sudan

The Southern Sudan Prison Reform Programme is a joint project being implemented by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC),



*Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions leads 2011 Peacekeeping Day press conference at UNHQ.*

*UN Photo/ JC McIlwaine*

# Cross Cutting Corrections Business

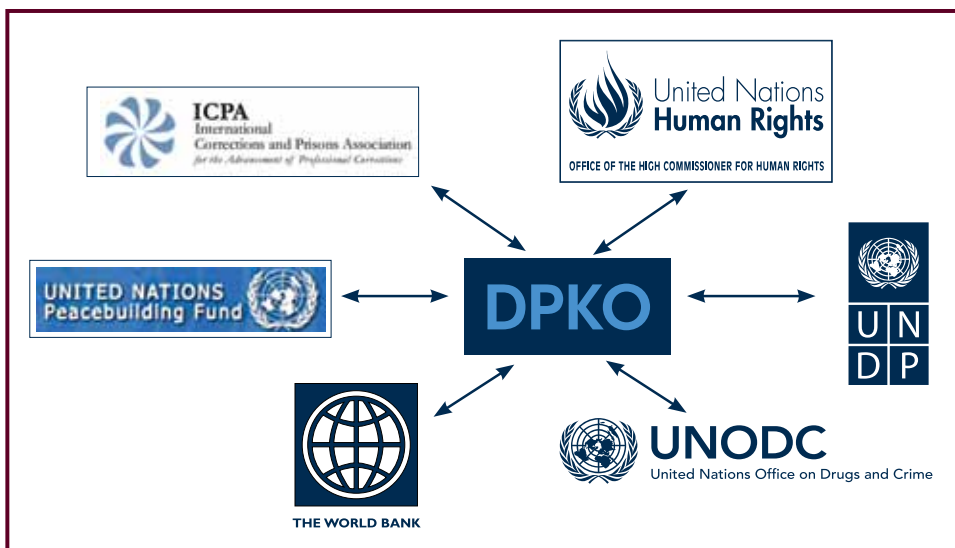
the peacekeeping operation (UNMISS) and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR & CJP). A number of activities have been carried out in the areas of capacity building, infrastructure improvement, skills and vocational training, mentoring, renovation of prisons for women and the construction of a new prison facility in Abyei.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

A joint United Nations justice programme, aimed at strengthening the integrity, accountability and capacity of the civilian and military justice system, implement prison reform and promote anti-corruption programmes has been developed between the Rule of Law Unit of the peacekeeping operation MONUSCO, bilateral donors and UN agencies.

## Afghanistan

The UNAMA Rule of Law Unit and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have worked very closely on initiatives to implement alternatives to imprisonment. The



Rule of Law Unit and the UNAMA Human Rights' Unit have forged a closer working relationship in order to reduce the number of arbitrary detentions. The Unit's Provincial Justice Coordinators act as the linkage between justice institutions at the central and the provincial level through reports to the Prison Working Group. Engagement with the United States of America Corrections Support System (CSSP), on prisoner case management and case tracking, to minimize the instances of arbitrary detentions, is important work. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is also a very important partner in the country. ■



*A joint UN donation to a prison in Sudan.*  
UN Photo



## Heads of Justice and Corrections Meeting

The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, with sponsorship from the Permanent mission of Norway to the United Nations, organized the Heads of Justice and Corrections Components Annual Meeting in New York in May. United Nations Member States participated in one part of the meeting and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Mr. Alain Le Roy, Assistant Secretaries-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions Mr. Dmitry Titov, for Legal Affairs Mr. Stephen Mathias, for the High Commissioner for Human Rights Mr. Ivan Simonovic and the UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of BCPR Mr. Jordan Ryan addressed the participants. Heads of Corrections Services in peacekeeping missions made presentations on some of the projects they have undertaken and the impact they have had in the host countries.

Officers from the field exchanged information with CLJAS staff members on how best to support each other when implementing mandates. Leading topics discussed by corrections staff included administration of seconded officers, establishing expert panels to improve recruitment and information sharing.



*Heads of Justice and Corrections at UNHQ.*

UN Photo/Frederic Fath

## Corrections Predeployment Training

### Refined and Rolled Out

In November 2010 the first regional United Nations Predeployment Course for Corrections Officers was organized in Nairobi, Kenya. This course was a joint project undertaken by the Kenya Prison Service, Swedish Prison and Probation Service, Canadian Correctional Service and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Corrections Officers from Kenya, Sweden, Uganda, Ghana, Zambia, Rwanda and Namibia participated in the training.

The course, which included a training for trainers component, was held at Humanitarian Peace Support School in Nairobi. The same course has been offered annually in Sweden by the Swedish Prison and Probation Service with collaboration from different United Nations Member States. The

United Nations Predeployment Course for Corrections Officers aims at fulfilling the Member States responsibility for predeployment training of officers who are to be seconded to UN missions. The training includes elements on “Human Rights Approach to Prison Management”, “Project Management in Peace Operations”, “Mentoring and Advising in Prison Services” as well as subjects such as security awareness, cultural awareness and the United Nations Code of Conduct. The course is delivered in a modular approach by experienced trainers.

While corrections specialists are an integral part of any peace operation where military and police are deployed, they are still a comparatively small part. The expertise that corrections personnel in a peacekeeping operation must possess is considerably broader than the skills and experience obtained as a



*Participants at the predeployment training.*

UN Photo

**"It is imperative that all of us representing corrections contributing countries work together in preparing our men and women for the challenges they will meet when deployed."**

national prison or probation officer, and it is very different from the general military or police competencies. It requires, in addition to in-depth operational and strategic knowledge of prison related issues, a well-informed and in-depth understanding of the complexities involved in strengthening national corrections institutions in a developing or post-conflict environment, cultural sensitivity and knowledge of international human rights standards.

Lars Nylén, former Director-General of the Swedish Prison and Probation Service and an initiator of the corrections predeployment course, described the Kenyan course, which he attended together with Commissioner Osugo from the Kenyan Prison Service, as a success. "It is imperative", he explained, "that all of us representing corrections contributing countries work together in preparing our men and women for the challenges they will meet when deployed."

Director-General Nylén went on to explain just what training can provide. "Last year one of my staff, Fredrik Holmgren, was taken hostage by rioting prisoners in Haiti. Having visited the prison myself just a few days prior to the riot, I could fully understand the severity of the situation and the acute stress my officer and his U.S. colleague felt during the incident. I am proud to note the fact that they — despite having been injured and held hostage themselves — chose

to re-enter the prison to ensure that unjustified force was not used against the rioting prisoners. Fredrik told me that had it not been for his training in hostage negotiation, he may not have made it through the ordeal."

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is aware that most contributing countries have solid national training for Corrections Officers, but the United Nations is committed to ensure that Corrections Officers being deployed to peace missions understand how to implement international standards and rules in a consolidated and consistent manner.

Eliud Opilo, a student who participated in the training in Kenya, made the following observations: "The general course content that was delivered was well researched and highly relevant. Pertinent and intricate issues about peacekeeping operations were demystified. For the first time clarity of purpose could be seen with respect to the role of Corrections Officers in peacekeeping operations... It was a privilege to participate. This kind of training should be administered as a matter of policy for all Corrections Officers preparing to take part in a peacekeeping operation."



*Liberian Prison Officers demonstrate their skills.*

UN Photo



## Addressing Prison Disturbances and Mass Escapes

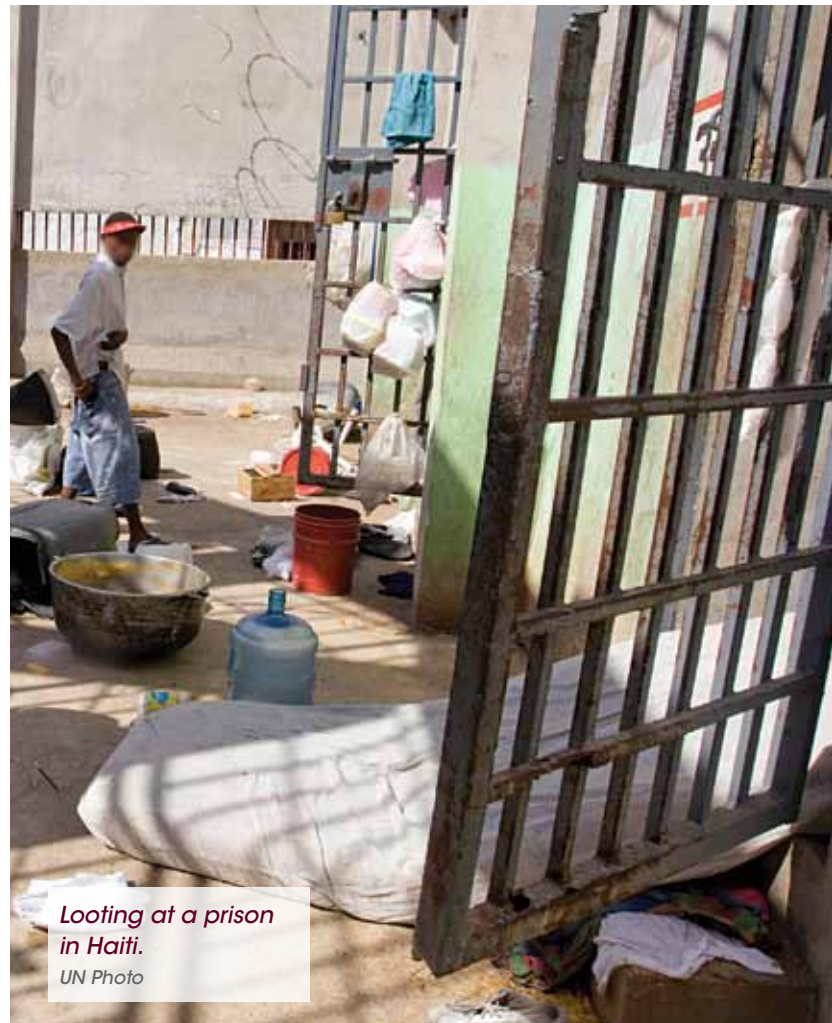
□ □ □ ■ □ The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service is reviewing the security situation of prisons in four different countries: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Liberia, and Southern Sudan. To date, a specialist on prison security has visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Southern Sudan to study the infrastructures, policies, operational procedures and practices that support effective security measures within prisons.

The results of this study, which will be finished in 2012, will assist UN Corrections Officers and their national counterparts to more easily identify circumstances that contribute to riots or mass escapes.

Operational environments, response capacities, personnel on duty and the role of police and military will be part of the study, as well as resources that prison administrators may need to reinforce security. This study is looking into how “dynamic security” — which calls for correctional staff to be present and attentive throughout the prison observing and interacting with prisoners on a daily basis — is established and used. It considers oversight capacity which refers to the positioning of staff at a distance through the use of security towers and observation posts where they are able to observe the perimeter, key security infrastructure as well as the behaviour and interactions of the inmates. It will consider staff augmentation, which involves the ability of prison staff to increase their capacity to respond to an incident beyond their regular daily on-site staffing levels by either calling on additional staff, the police, or both to assist in resolving a major incident.

These concepts can be addressed through the establishment of clear operational policies that take into account incident management, emergency response and contingency planning. The introduction of training through scenarios and role playing during training and on-site exercises is essential if capacity is to be enhanced.

The disproportionate balance of power in terms of controlling prisons that presently exists in the many prisons where DPKO works, where prisoners are relied on to a large extent to manage and control the behaviour of other prisoners,



represents a serious vulnerability in both the short and longer term for the safe and secure management of those prisons.

In these environments, prisoners are able to move freely within the prison walls, hiding and accumulating weapons and other unauthorized items, exert unreasonable control and influence over other prisoners and can organize other prisoners in ways that can compromise the security of the institution and public safety. These factors are evident in major institutional incidents, including riots and mass escapes.

The development and introduction of a number of self assessment tools that can be used on a regular basis by the national prison authorities to create a focus on key policies and practices can help provide an ongoing assessment. ■

## Contributing Countries

Seconded Corrections Officers play an important role in the peacekeeping. Currently, there are approximately 256 authorized positions for seconded Corrections Officers. A total of 22 countries are providing Officers to nine missions, eight led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and one by the United Nations Department of Political Affairs. The contributing countries

are Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tanzania, Uganda, United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The number of contributing countries has been increasing steadily since the first deployments in 1999.

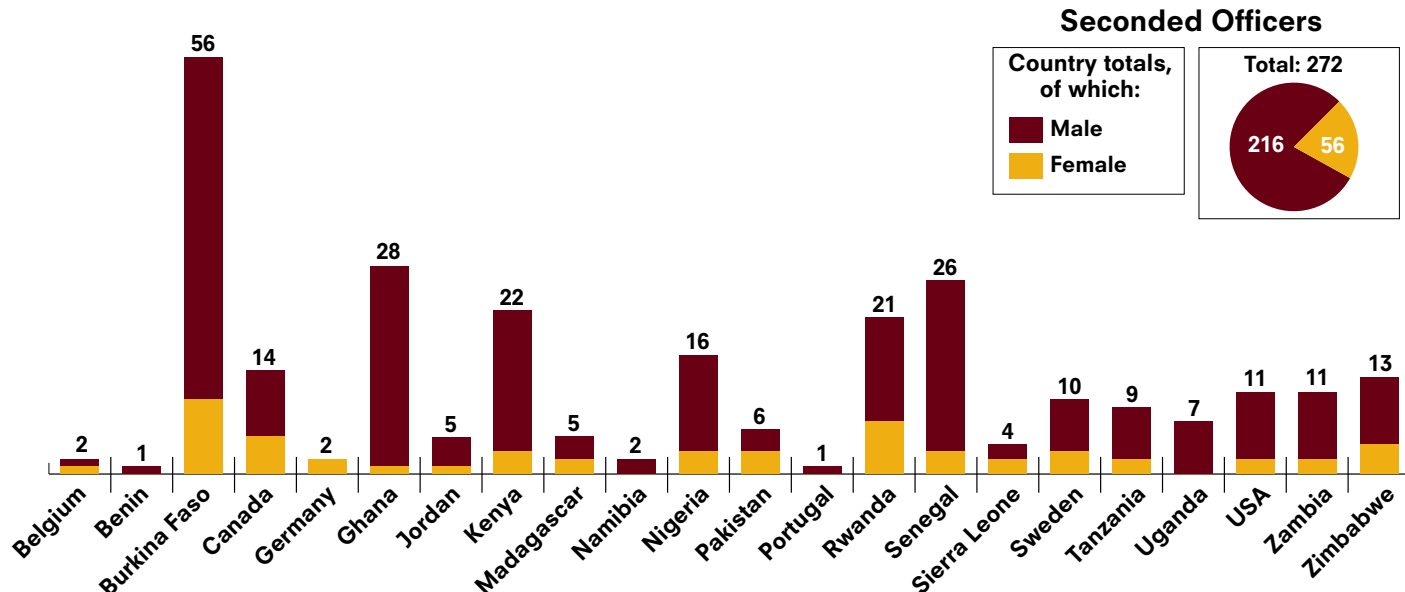
The number of seconded officers from each country varies greatly. The wider the geographical distribution of countries of origin and different professional skills the better and more useful it is to avoid the risk of imposing the corrections system of one country on the host country. Africa is the continent contributing the most officers. More female and specialized officers are also being made available.



*MONUSCO Corrections Officers hold their national flags during the medal ceremony*

UN Photo

### Contributing Countries\*



\* As of 01 June 2011

Deployed or in the process of being deployed. Seconded Corrections Officers are deployed for 6-18 months. There is a constant rotation of staff. On 1 June 2011 there were 218 seconded Corrections Officers in field missions. The other officers are in training, waiting for visas or en route to their mission.



## Ideal Profile of a Corrections Officer

□ □ □ ■ □ Working as a seconded Corrections Officer in a peace operation is a demanding task. Those considering joining a UN mission should possess certain qualifications and qualities in order to cope with the new work environment and often harsh working and living conditions.

Peace operations mainly seek officers that have a long and varied experience in corrections in their home countries and also international experience. In addition it is vital to be physically and mentally fit, and to understand the conditions in mission areas. This includes being able to understand cultural differences, being adaptive to different

circumstance and being a good communicator who can advise national counterparts on how to improve their corrections system.

The Department of Peacekeeping Operations requires that officers have at least five years of experience in their national corrections system, preferably at a superior level. Furthermore, the best officers also have at least a bachelor's degree or equivalent and a very good understanding of human rights and prisoners' rights. They must be able to implement the knowledge of such rights on the ground. Language skills are important: the ideal officer is able to communicate in both English and French. Officers must



*MONUSCO Military Commander decorates Corrections Officers during medal ceremony.*

UN Photo

also be computer literate, willing to update their technological skills and able to drive.

## Expertise Sought by DPKO

The Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is looking for the following specialities:

- Training Adviser
- Strategic Planning Adviser
- Prison Agriculture Adviser
- Mentor
- Medical and Health Adviser
- Engineering Adviser
- Gender/Juvenile Justice Adviser
- Prisoners' Education Adviser

- Psychology/Mental Health Adviser
- Prison Registry Adviser

Corrections Officers must provide strategic and operational advice (Strategic Planning Adviser) at the management level, but also be able to offer daily, hands-on assistance (Mentor) to national prison officers, sometimes in isolated and extreme hardship locations. They are called upon to improve detention conditions, ensure access to food and water, support the design and implementation of training programmes (Training Adviser) for prison services and to assist in ensuring minimum healthcare (Medical and Health Adviser) in prisons.

Prison engineers (Engineer Adviser) develop blueprints and construction designs to repair, rehabilitate and re-design existing prisons and build new infrastructure. Prison administrators (Prison Registry Adviser) are needed to work closely

## Afterword

# Sustainable Peace through Justice and Security

This publication has highlighted the dire situation facing prison systems in post-conflict settings, along with the extraordinary efforts being made by United Nations missions to address these challenges. It has also revealed a paucity of resources available to help build and run prison systems — prisons sit on the bottom rung of priorities for funding by national systems, donors and assessed peacekeeping budgets.

As illustrated within these pages, efforts to assist a host-country to develop secure and humane prisons can be a key building block of sustainable peace. In some settings this work may be a prerequisite to peace. And in all situations, a well-functioning prison system is a necessary complement to the work being done by United Nations Police (UNPOL) to rebuild, restructure and reform police services in peacekeeping settings across the globe.

In many settings, UNPOL officers are called upon to assist national police and law enforcement services to arrest or detain individuals accused of committing serious crimes. If these suspects were to be allowed to roam free, rather than being apprehended in accordance with the tenets of the applicable criminal procedure code and international standards, impunity and criminal gangs would reign. Lasting peace and security would not be possible.

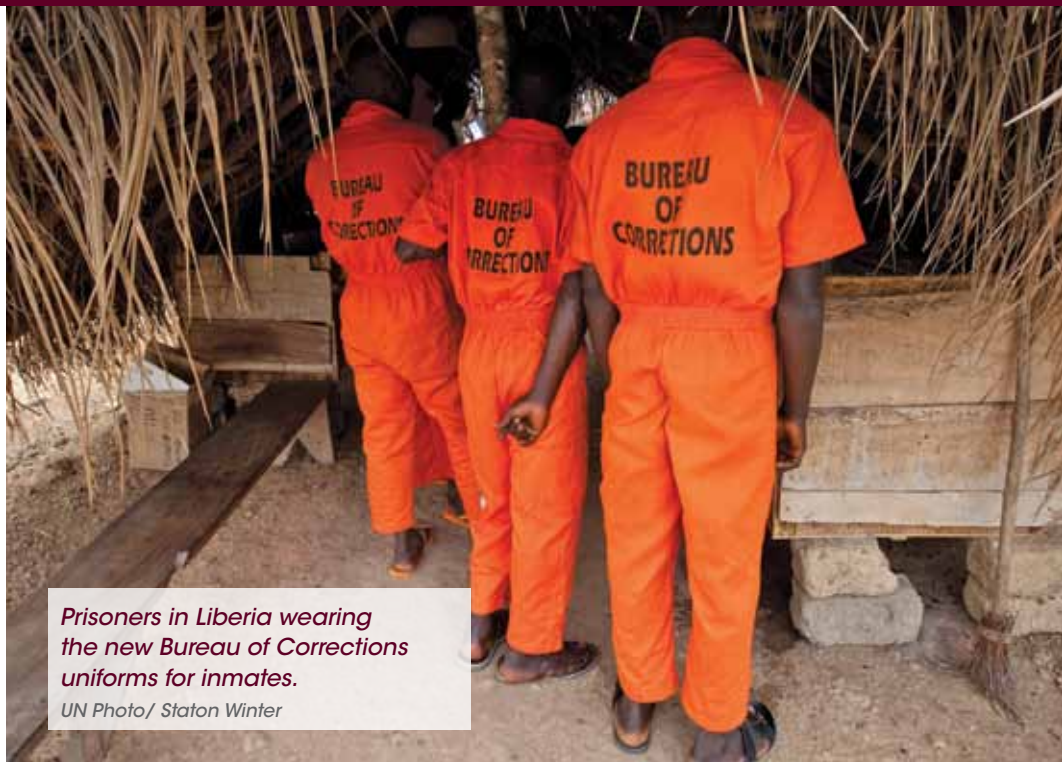
In the United Nations mission in Kosovo at the beginning of this century, United Nations Police arrested scores of criminals involved in organized crime, including human trafficking. The United Nations in this case was also responsible for the judicial and corrections systems and could guarantee that both met international standards.

In Haiti, during the devastating earthquake in January 2010, over 5,000 prisoners in the National Penitentiary fled. During the ensuing months, as the country was reeling from this massive calamity, the United Nations assisted to recapture most of the escapees. But with prisons in disrepair, inmates were placed into even smaller spaces, with an average of a little more than half of a square meter per person and only one hour per day in the prison yard. Inmates had to sleep on their feet and pass



# Cross Cutting Corrections Business

with national counterparts to establish a functioning prison registry that will ensure that no one is incarcerated without a court order and that inmates that served their sentence are released. The seconded officers build capacity in the treatment of vulnerable groups, in particular women, children (Gender/Juvenile Justice Adviser) and the mentally ill (Psychology/Mental Health Adviser). They are called on to ensure that rehabilitation programmes are in place (Prisoners' Education Adviser) and in many prisons they oversee the establishment or re-establishment of prison agricultural programmes (Prison Agriculture Adviser). ■



*Prisoners in Liberia wearing the new Bureau of Corrections uniforms for inmates.*

*UN Photo/ Staton Winter*

excrement out the windows using plastic bags. Disease was rampant. The vast majority of inmates had not been convicted and had very little chance of receiving a timely trial.

Now, similar support to re-arrest escapees might be needed in Côte d'Ivoire following its post-electoral conflict, during which over 12,000 inmates either escaped or were released across the country. And in many other settings, the United Nations is required to assist national law enforcement authorities to apprehend suspected violent lawbreakers under increasingly robust mandates to protect civilians. Such support cannot be given without some assurance that the conditions in the national detention facilities meet a basic standard of acceptability, and without some likelihood that there will be an investigation, that the suspects will have access to legal counsel and that fair trial principals will be observed. The United Nations has a responsibility to adopt these as prerequisites to its assistance.

Moreover, a lack of commitment to prisons and courts can undermine the substantial investment that the United Nations and the international community make in assisting police services globally. Where prisons are dilapidated and poorly run, escapes and mass breakouts are frequent and potentially destabilizing. Where courts and prosecutorial offices do not function or are corrupt, the most dangerous of suspects can buy their way out. Police, justice and corrections systems need to be addressed in unison and with commensurate effort, resources and political engagement.

This magazine demonstrates the efforts being taken by national partners and corrections components of peacekeeping operations and special political missions to develop humane and secure prisons in their host countries. This work is not optional: it is required. UN Police, Judicial Affairs and Corrections Officers are equally essential for the development of sustainable peace through justice and security.



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*Chief, Criminal Law and  
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United Nations Headquarters  
August 2011*



*UN Police officer keeping watch and speaking with defendants during a trial in Dili, Timor-Leste.*

*UN Photo/Martine Perret*

In every country where peacekeeping operations are established, there is a penitentiary system, and in every case it is a system that is in great need of re-professionalizing. Prison infrastructure is dilapidated or completely destroyed, the personnel have left or are without proper guidance and institutional capacity is needed to ensure the proper and humane functioning of these facilities.

**Sustainable Peace through Justice and Security**  
**[www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/ruleoflaw/](http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/ruleoflaw/)**