



DEPARTMENT OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE PEACE THROUGH JUSTICE AND SECURITY



# CORRECTIONS

U P D A T E



VOLUME 4 2012

# CORRECTIONS

## UPDATE

### VOLUME 4 • December 2012

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#### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This is Volume 4 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).

#### 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.

Cover: UN Photo



# Effective Partnerships, Effective Corrections Systems

Foreword by **Dmitry Titov**

UN Photo

**F**air and effective corrections systems are a basis for just societies, a measure of their humanity and an important element of a safe and secure environment. When founded on respect for international human rights norms and standards, corrections systems reinforce the rule of law. All this is at the core of United Nations activities. By rehabilitating and reintegrating past offenders and protecting communities from violent crime, effective corrections systems contribute to the stabilization of post-conflict societies. Strengthening corrections systems is therefore an integral part of sustainable, nationally-owned peacebuilding efforts and an important building block in the recovery from conflict. It can be essential for reconciliation and preventing relapse into conflict.

Recently the Secretary-General of the United Nations, speaking to the Security Council, stated: “For societies traumatized by years of fighting and gross violations of human rights, nothing is more critical than establishing the rule of law... When the guns fall silent, the United Nations is often the first organization on the ground helping fractured countries to start building peace and strengthening key institutions.”

Peacekeepers are first responders and early peacebuilders. Today, they bring assistance to the entire range of rule of law institutions, including the police, justice and corrections systems. Such assistance can encompass a wide range of measures in various sectors of a corrections system, including staff training, medical and health services, prison industries, agriculture and vocational training and prison infrastructure. Enhancing the cooperation with other parts of the criminal justice chain and legal aid providers can be a critical intervention to address arbitrary detention.

Increasingly, the United Nations stresses the importance of accountable national corrections systems. The Security Council calls frequently on Member States to end arbitrary detention, including prolonged pretrial detention, and establish a safe, secure and humane prison system. In doing so, the Security Council stresses, Member States should draw upon the advice and technical assistance from the United Nations. This language sends a clear message that a practical, integrated approach to strengthening the rule of law is essential to building peace.

The Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is the largest United Nations assistance provider for strengthening police, justice and corrections systems. In implementing corrections-related Security Council mandates, DPKO deploys 45 international professional, 10 national professional, almost 350 government-provided corrections personnel (contributed by over 30 countries), UN Volunteers and administrative staff to 11 peace operations throughout the world. Effective assistance would, however, not be possible without our primary partners – including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Committee of the Red Cross – whose experts form an integral part of the United Nations response in support of the rule of law.

To assist the work of the United Nations and raise awareness of the link between corrections systems and sustainable peace as well as the needs of corrections systems in post-conflict countries, Member States established the “Group of Friends of Corrections”. It provides a unique platform for critical stakeholders – Member States, United Nations entities, professional organizations and international non-governmental organizations – to discuss and agree on strategic priorities. It allows us to jointly assess, plan and garner support.

# Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections

In September 2012, the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the Global Focal Point for the Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-conflict and other Crisis Situations. The Secretary-General has prioritized “delivery as one” by the United Nations in crisis and conflict settings. The Global Focal Point arrangement will strengthen the United Nations ability to fill critical civilian capacity gaps in the aftermath of conflict. To facilitate the provision of joint support, both organizations have agreed to co-locate a portion of their respective rule of law teams from early 2013 in a single location at United Nations Headquarters.

## What are the objectives of the Global Focal Point?

- To ensure the United Nations is central to international efforts to strengthen the rule of law in crisis-affected contexts.
- To support the system in delivering police, justice and corrections assistance to peacekeeping and political mission settings and other crisis situations, and to assist United Nations country teams and United Nations missions to develop and implement common rule of law, justice and security strategies and programmes.
- To provide timely and high-quality technical assistance in response to requests from the country level.
- To support fundraising efforts for comprehensive sector-wide programmes in crisis and conflict contexts.
- To enable the United Nations to fill capacity gaps in terms of people, skills, knowledge and policy in crisis and conflict contexts.
- To strengthen the United Nations outreach and partnerships with and between Member States, NGOs and think-tanks, with a particular focus on strengthening South-South cooperation.

## What support can the Global Focal Point seek to mobilize in response to requests

## from United Nations field presences in crisis and post-conflict settings?

- Rapidly deploy police, justice and corrections advisers.
- Expand expert rosters for more flexible deployments.
- Conducts joint assessment, planning and design of police, justice and corrections assistance.
- Support fundraising efforts for police, justice and corrections programmes at the country level.
- Develop guidance, training and policy tools where gaps exist.
- Evaluate the assistance provided and the United Nations impact on rule of law at the country level.
- Convene relevant United Nations entities to provide coordinated support.

## How are responsibilities assigned across UNDP and DPKO at Headquarters and in the field?

The Policy Committee Decision, which was adopted in September 2012, replaces previous decisions in this area and laid out a “two-tier” structure for UN support to police, justice and corrections.

### At the Country level:

The senior UN official in-country, the Special Representatives or Executive Representatives of the Secretary-General or, in non-mission settings, Resident Coordinators, should be responsible and accountable for guiding and overseeing UN rule of law strategies, for resolving political obstacles and for coordinating UN country support on the rule of law, without prejudice to the specialized roles and specific mandates of UN entities in-country. UN entities working at country level should be responsible and accountable for the provision of legal and technical advice related to the rule of law, and the technical design and implementation of rule of law related programmes.

### At HQ level:

DPKO and UNDP will be responsible and accountable for responding to country-level requests, channeled through UN entities on the ground, with timely and quality police, justice and corrections assistance including facilitating access to global knowledge and people, and providing advice on assessments, planning, funding and partnerships. They will also commit to transparent country-driven measurement of this service. The Global Focal Point arrangement will be applicable to peacekeeping, special political mission and non-mission countries. The Global Focal Point should draw upon expertise from UN entities, Member States, NGOs, think tanks, etc., and make them available to colleagues in the field.

Dmitry Titov  
ASG, DPKO

Jordan Ryan  
ASG, UNDP

Jordan Ryan  
ASG, UNDP

Justice Shrestha  
Supreme Court Nepal

Christina Tah  
Min. Justice Liberia

Helen Clark  
Administrator,  
UNDP

Hervé Ladsous  
USG, DPKO





## New Partnerships Reinforce UN Prison Work

The Fourth United Nations International Conference on Corrections in Peacekeeping, hosted and sponsored by the German Government and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), took place in Berlin on 20-21 June. It was the largest corrections conference that the United Nations organized to date, bringing together more than 150 participants from 46 countries. The conference provided a forum where representatives from countries that contribute corrections officers to United Nations peace operations and practitioners gathered to consider ways to enhance support to strengthening corrections systems in post-conflict and developmental settings.

The theme of the conference was “Improving the Impact of International Assistance”. It aimed at developing and reinforcing partnerships in the penitentiary field. Member States and United Nations entities, as well as NGOs and other experts in corrections reform, came together to construct a mutually reinforcing network of capacity to support corrections systems.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, both Ina Lepel, Deputy Director-General for Global Issues in the German Foreign Office and Assistant Secretary-General Dmitry Titov stressed that a society should be measured by how it treats its most vulnerable citizens, including those behind bars.

Several experienced practitioners from the field discussed best practices and lessons learned in prison reform. Mr. William Durch, Senior Associate of the Stimson Center, presented a recent study of his institution on the impact of justice and corrections assistance in post-conflict settings. The Special Rapporteur on Prisons and Conditions of Detention of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, Mr. Med Kaggwa, discussed efforts underway to improve detention conditions in Africa. DPKO stressed the importance of contributing countries identifying and nominating experienced, highly-qualified and specialized prison officers for service in United Nations peace operations.

A video of the work of the MINUSTAH Corrections Advisory Section in strengthening psychological support to prisoners in

Haiti, demonstrated the value of mental healthcare for inmates.

The participants of this conference agreed that measuring the impact of rule of law interventions is critical and welcomed the recent development of relevant tools in this respect, including the United Nations Rule of Law Indicators. Several participants stressed the importance of retaining institutional knowledge in peace operations. It was agreed that end-of-assignment and handover reports should be prepared by all officers serving in peace operations.

The participants welcomed the recently established Global Focal Point for the justice, police and corrections areas in the rule of law in post-conflict and crisis situations as an important step to delivering as “One UN”. Many voices expressed the hope that this agreement will further strengthen Headquarters support to corrections operations at the field level.

The conference served to further raise awareness about the importance of corrections issues in post-conflict settings, a critical but often neglected building block on the road to stability and security. During the closing ceremony, Mr. Robert Pulver, Chief of the DPKO Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service, stressed that the nexus between effective, transparent and accountable rule of law institutions and peace, stability and security is now widely acknowledged in the peacekeeping and peacebuilding expert community. The conference served as both a way to bring attention to the important work that the United Nations is doing to strengthen corrections systems and to reinforce partnerships with organizations and countries engaged in promoting the rule of law in post-conflict and developmental settings. At the conference a number of countries pledged to offer additional support for this work.

The Group of Friends of Corrections in Peacekeeping also held a meeting at this time in Berlin. Members of the Group agreed to strengthen their cooperation in the area of predeployment training and organize training courses in Africa, bringing together experts from several countries from the region and implementing the training-of-trainers courses developed by DPKO and its partners.



Left to right: UN Photo

## Fifth Annual Meeting of Heads of Corrections Components

The Heads of Corrections Components working in peacekeeping operations and special political missions held their sixth annual meeting just before the Fourth International United Nations Corrections Conference. This event was also sponsored by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and co-organized by the CLJAS and the Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF).

The purpose of this annual event is to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices from different mission settings and to discuss achievements, challenges and developments of the last year. It further aims at fostering relationships among field colleagues and with Headquarters and partnerships with other United Nations entities and external partners. For the first time this year, and upon request by the Heads of Corrections Components, several sessions were presented by partners external to the United Nations.

Several United Nations entities, including the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS), attended this event as well as external partners, including Penal Reform International, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Health Through Walls and Prisoner Rehabilitation and Welfare Action. The meeting resulted in many constructive recommendations including the need to evaluate field co-location of UNDP, UNODC and other UN agencies (in line with the DPKO/UNDP Global Focal Point initiative), the need to strengthen collaboration with justice components to advocate for, and provide advice and technical assistance on, the development of alternatives to imprisonment and to address arbitrary detention.

Continued from: "Effective Partnerships, Effective Corrections Systems"

I must express my deepest gratitude to Member States for their strong support of our work. In contributing experienced personnel and supporting us financially and with equipment, they enable the United Nations to assist peacekeeping host-countries to move ahead towards sustainable peace and security.

We are committed to work towards greater efficiency. In June of this year, DPKO and UNDP announced that both entities will assume responsibility as the United Nations Global Focal Point in the areas of justice, police and corrections in the rule of law in post-conflict countries and other crisis situations. We are committed to identify and operationalize synergies and enhance the effectiveness of support to the field. We will base our combined efforts on joint assessments. Both organizations will mobilize resources together to jointly plan for and enable sustainable support across a range of contexts, providing coherence and continuity in the implementation of United Nations mandates.

Finally, I would like to offer a special thanks to our outstanding and very dedicated staff on the ground, working under the most difficult conditions to improve the situation in the most challenging rule of law field. Let us together make the world safer, more secure and more just.

**Dmitry Titov** | Assistant Secretary-General  
Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions | Department of Peacekeeping Operations

# Primary Partners: United Nations Member States

**T**he modality of specialist personnel provided by Member States to United Nations peace operations has proved to be one of the most effective ways of strengthening prison work in post-conflict settings. Using the expertise of Member States helps the UN to find the right skills and relevant professional experiences quickly. These officers could come from a similar cultural background or be familiar with local languages, which can be critical.

Over the past decade the hard work of corrections officers provided by governments resulted in a critical improvement of corrections systems in post-conflict countries around the world, in particular in terms of safety, security and humane detention conditions. Officers assisted the national authorities in securing clean water and food for inmates, often through the development and implementation of comprehensive agricultural projects. The installation of septic tanks and proper sanitation facilities resulted in a considerable improvement of the sanitary conditions and prevented infectious diseases. Training in non-lethal riot control resulted in better security and less fatal incidents.

This recruitment and deployment arrangement, introduced by the General Assembly in 1990, was first used to deploy corrections experts to Kosovo in 1999. Since then, the number of government-provided personnel (officers provided to the United Nations for a fixed period of time) and the countries that contribute such capacity has been increasing; alongside the growing recognition that functioning corrections systems are a critical building block towards stability and peace in a post-conflict country. In the last three years alone, the number of government-provided corrections officers has increased from 152 deployed to five missions in 2009 to 344 deployed to eight missions in 2012. Government-provided personnel currently constitute over 80 per cent of all substantive corrections officers in United Nations peace operations.

## Increased Number of Member States

Thirty-one countries currently provide such personnel (compared to 16 in 2009), these are: Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Fiji, Jordan, Italy, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Netherlands, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, USA, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The number of government-provided personnel from each country varies. Africa is the continent contributing the most officers at present. The United Nations always strives to increase the number of countries providing specialists to its missions.

## Experience Required

Most corrections experts are co-located with officers of the corrections service of the host-country. They mentor their counterparts and provide on-the-job operational training, for example on the daily treatment of inmates and human rights in prisons, and also on how to respond to major prison incidents such as riots, disturbances and mass breakouts. Prior mentoring experience or work experience in an international environment, ideally in a developmental or post-conflict setting, is a distinct advantage. A balance of male and female officers is also essential. The senior government-provided personnel provide strategic advice to prison directors and staff at prison headquarters in the capitals. They help develop policy and standard operating procedures and advise on recruitment, training and professional development programmes. High-ranking officers with mentoring and strategic planning experience are most suited for these positions. All officers deployed to peace operations are required



to understand cultural differences and to be adaptive to challenging circumstances. They need to possess the necessary language and solid driving skills and be good communicators.

## Recruitment Procedure

The recruitment and deployment process for government-provided officers is very different from the process for other United Nations personnel. Depending on needs in the mission, the United Nations Secretariat sends a diplomatic note to Member States requesting nominations and attaching job descriptions for the required specialized capacity. The DPKO Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS) screens and interviews nominated candidates, often assisted by staff in peace operations. Successful candidates are placed on a list of pre-cleared candidates for future deployment to missions where their expertise is needed, currently comprising of over 200 officers. This system ensures that CLJAS can respond to mission requests for specialized personnel in a timely manner.



## The Experience of the Prisons Service of Ghana

Since the 1960s, when Ghana first contributed military troops to the United Nations mission in the former Congo Leopoldville, now the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the country's engagement has grown over the years both in terms of numbers and substantive areas in which Ghana is involved. Today, Ghanaian military, police and prison personnel serve in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations all around the globe. Over the years, lessons learned have underscored the crucial importance of functioning prison systems to the re-establishment of fair and effective rule of law and security institutions in post-conflict areas.



Michael Kofi Bansah,  
Director General of Prisons

The Ghana Prisons Service first deployed prison officers to United Nations peacekeeping operations in 2004. Three experienced officers provided mentoring and advisory support to their Liberian peers as part of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). Since then, over 90 corrections officers have served in various UN Missions in Chad (MINURCAT), Cote D'Ivoire (UNOCI) Darfur, Sudan (UNAMID), the Democratic

Continued from: "Primary Partners: United Nations Member States"

### Deployment Conditions

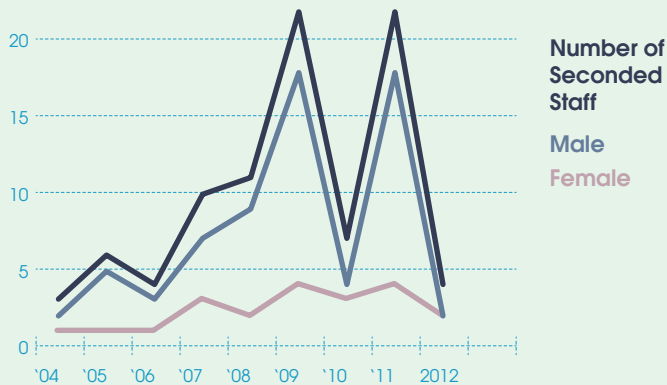
The initial duration of deployment is 12 months with a possibility of a six or 12 month extension, depending on the work performance and operational needs in the mission. Officers retain the salary from their home institution during their assignment in the mission area and receive a mission subsistence allowance (MSA) for their living costs in the mission area. Travel to and from the mission and medical insurance are covered by the United Nations.

### Skills Sought

DPKO is looking for nominations of highly qualified officers with specialized expertise in: corrections sector assessments; strategic planning; policy development; training development; prison agriculture; mentoring in prison security and the treatment of inmates; nutrition and health in prisons; prison architecture and engineering; gender; juveniles in conflict with the law; prisoners education; psychiatry/mental health; prison registries; rehabilitation/reintegration programmes; alternatives to imprisonment; probation and parole; resource mobilization; and administrative systems. For more information on this issue, please contact Hans Sachs at [sachs@un.org](mailto:sachs@un.org) or +1 917 367 2854.

Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Haiti (MINUSTAH), Sudan (UNMIS) and South Sudan (UNMISS). From 2007-2011, Ghana also seconded a senior corrections specialist to the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS) at Headquarters in New York. The graphic chart indicates the numbers of staff deployed to date (male and female) since the initial deployment in 2004.





## Major Reforms

Some major reforms have been introduced to the Ghana Prisons Service by officers that served in UN peace operations thanks to their exposure to different approaches to corrections reform and programmes implemented worldwide.

## Interagency Partnership and Networking

The collaborative spirit cultivated in peacekeeping operations has been the backbone for more effective partnerships between the Ghana Prisons Service and other rule of law and security services in Ghana.

## Study Tour of Ghana Prisons Service

Following the positive impression that Ghanaian Corrections officers have made in UN missions, senior management of correctional services from other countries, including Liberia, Burundi, Nigeria and Chad, have undertaken study tours to Ghana. The most recent study tour, sponsored by the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC), brought 15 South Sudanese Prisons Training Academy Instructors to Ghana for one week in November 2011.

## Personal Development of Officers

Ghanaian corrections officers are motivated by the perspective of working in a UN mission and hence pursue further studies in academic and proficiency courses to meet the qualifications required for deployment. This has made a positive impact on the Ghanaian Service.

## Post-Conflict Experience

Corrections officers deployed to missions are witness to the ravages that wars and conflicts have caused host countries. In some cases, the destruction of lives and property are beyond human imagination. Officers, upon their return home, have become advocates of peace.

## Appreciation of Cultural Diversity and Gender Issues

Ghanaian corrections officers deployed to UN mission learn to effectively work side-by-side with corrections officers from different geographical, ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Understanding cultural sensitivities is a prerequisite for successful collaboration. In addition, the United Nations emphasizes gender equality and strives to deploy as many female corrections officers as possible. This blend of male and female expertise deployed increases the understanding of gender perspectives in corrections reform and positively impacts on the performance of officers when they return to Ghana.

UN mission work is very beneficial to the Ghana Prisons Service and we are committed to continuing and strengthening our collaboration with DPKO, including in the area of predeployment training. The Ghana Prisons Service appreciates the trust it has earned from DPKO and will continue to be an active partner in the years to come.

## Functions and Duties

Ghanaian officers have excelled in all missions in several functions, including as corrections advisers on strategic planning and training development and as mentors in correctional management and day-to-day operations. Some of our officers with specialist expertise are engaged in areas such as prison agriculture, prison architecture and engineering and the development of regulatory and legislative frameworks.

## Current Deployment Statistics

Currently, the Ghanaian Prisons Service contributes 29 officers to various missions:

MISSION	MALE	FEMALE OFFICER	TOTAL
UNMIL	6	1	7
UNMISS	10	3	13
UNAMID	4	-	4
MONUSCO	3	2	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>29</b>

As of September 2012, thirty other officers successfully completed the screening process and were placed on the list of pre-cleared candidates for deployment in the future.

## Benefits

The deployment of staff of the Ghana Prisons Service to UN peace operations has impacted positively on our prison system at home. Some of these benefits are summarized below.

### International Recognition

The Ghana Prisons Service, by committing its human resources to peace operations and contributing to the development of corrections systems in post-conflict settings, has enhanced its visibility and image around the world.

### Enhanced Professionalism

The involvement of Ghanaian officers in training and capacity building programmes in UN missions has provided them with skills that can be applied to our prison service at home. The rich experience acquired by these officers contributes to improving our own training curriculum.

# The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations collaborate closely on a number of projects. This cooperation ranges from policing work as part of the West African Coast Initiative in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, to initiatives to reform and strengthen corrections systems in host-countries of peace operations and policy and guidance development at the Headquarters level. Based on the principle of shared responsibility, UNODC and DPKO have established a solid partnership addressing corrections.

Several joint initiatives are currently being implemented at the field level. Following United Nations Security Council resolution 1925, in which the Council mandated MONUSCO to “Develop and implement, in close consultation with the Congolese authorities and in accordance with the Congolese strategy for justice reform, a multi-year joint United Nations justice support programme in order to develop the criminal justice chain, the police, the judiciary and prisons in conflict-affected areas and a strategic programmatic support at the central level in Kinshasa”, DPKO, MONUSCO, UNDP and UNODC agreed in March 2010 to develop such a programme, based on priorities identified by the national authorities. A preliminary draft of the programme was completed by UN stakeholders and national prison authorities and is awaiting adoption by the Ministry of Justice.

The most expansive partnership between UNODC and DPKO so far has been in South Sudan, where both entities respond to a request by the prison service leadership assistance in capacity development of its staff. In line with paragraph 14 of Security Council resolution 1996 of 2011, which mandates UNMISS to assist the government of the Republic of South Sudan to end arbitrary detention and to establish a safe, secure and humane prison system, and building upon several years of an award-winning collaboration between UNODC and DPKO, both entities organized a set of train-the-trainer courses for prison officials to establish a core of tutors for the prison training academy.

Fifteen prison staff that graduated from this programme will be teaching staff at the Prisons Academy in Lologo, Juba, South Sudan. They were given additional advanced tutor training by the UNMISS Corrections Advisory Section and exposed to the Ghana Prisons Service Training College during a regional study tour. This tour was funded with support from UNODC and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR). The first assignment for the graduates was to conduct the first Middle Level Managers Training for thirty-five prison officers drawn from across 10 states in South Sudan. This one-month course took place in March and April 2012 at the Prison Training Academy in Juba. Today, this first generation of tutors for the Prisons Service of South Sudan are training mobile teams that will deploy to all 10 states in South Sudan to build the capacity of staff working in the state and county prisons. The UNMISS Corrections Advisory will provide technical assistance to this process.

In Timor-Leste UNODC and DPKO have collaborated closely to ensure sustained long-term prison support will be available once UNMIT leaves the country. UNODC is collecting alternative views of prison stakeholders, in a process coordinated and facilitated by DPKO, to produce options for on-going support for the host country consideration. This informal evaluation process will contribute to the development of prisons after DPKO leaves the country, by providing constructive recommendations and suggestions for the prison sector.

At the Headquarters level, this partnership recently manifested itself in DPKO participating in the Inter Expert Governmental Meeting on the Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs) and UNODC participating in the Fourth United Nations International Conference on Corrections in Peacekeeping and the Annual Heads of Corrections Components Meeting in Berlin. DPKO and UNODC are jointly developing a tool to assess corrections systems compliance with the SMRs and are planning several other joint policy and guidance initiatives.

Photo / UNODC



During my first days in New York in March 2008 I was taken to meet Assistant Secretary-General Dmitry Titov, who heads the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, to discuss plans for what became the DPKO/DFS Interim Standard Operating Procedure on Detention in Peace Operations. This led me to the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS). Thus began more than four years of productive and enjoyable interaction with the talented and motivated UN officials at CLJAS, including of course the corrections specialists.

"At first, our interaction was mainly technical (on policy and some legal matters). But this led to some exchanges on urgent operational matters, such as the health crisis in a major prison in Africa where our two organizations were both active. Working together and with our respective experts, we were able to help find solutions in cooperation with local corrections authorities. I am proud to say that we made a difference."

"An 'operational dialogue' of our field missions with DPKO missions has been established several years ago and has intensified as peacekeeping missions become more complex. My colleague Tamara Al-Rifai here in NY is doing a great job further developing this operational dialogue at the Headquarters level with DPKO in New York, which allows the ICRC to better understand the needs of affected populations."

### Robert M. Young

Deputy Permanent Observer & Legal Adviser  
International Committee of the Red Cross



Above: Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon ( left ) with Peter Maurer, President, International Committee of the Red Cross ( ICRC ).

Effective penitentiary systems are a basis for just societies, a measure of their humanity, as well as an important element of the security environment and the peacebuilding dimension. Their purpose is to enforce accountability to laws that are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. Penitentiary systems should also reintegrate and rehabilitate past offenders. In this way, they also help build human safety and security.

To support this work at the United Nations, we established the Group of Friends of Corrections. It provides a unique platform for Member States, the United Nations and other partners to discuss and agree on common strategic priorities. It allows us to jointly assess, plan and garner support. Today there are 31 countries that contribute corrections officers to peacekeeping efforts and international awareness of the conditions in prison systems in post-conflict countries has grown".

### Hervé Ladsous

Under-Secretary-General  
Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Robert M. Young  
FranceONU/Martin Loper



Hervé Ladsous  
UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras



# A Strong Partnership: Kenya and DPKO

**Isaiah M. Osugo**, CBS Commissioner of Prisons, Kenya Prison Service

## Introduction

The Prisons Service of Kenya and the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) have collaborated for several years to enhance correctional services globally. Since 2005, Kenya has contributed 63 highly-qualified corrections officers as government-provided personnel to United Nations missions. Currently, 26 Kenyan officers are serving in Darfur, Sudan (UNAMID), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Liberia (UNMIL) and South Sudan (UNMISS). In addition, eight Kenyan officers currently work as UN staff in missions and at the United Nations Headquarters.

The Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations in New York maintains a strong relationship with DPKO and ensures an excellent partnership and effective communication with the Kenya Prisons Service with regard to the nomination, selection and deployment of Kenyan officers. The Kenya Prisons Service also collaborates with DPKO to conduct predeployment training, ensure peer review and information sharing and hold medal parades.

## Training

The Kenya Prisons Service and DPKO collaborate to offer pre-deployment training to officers scheduled for deployment to UN missions. Kenyan officers have undergone a train-the-trainers course organized by DPKO and the Kenya Prisons Service conducts predeployment training courses on a regular basis. Since one of the United Nations International Training Centres is in Nairobi, Kenyan officers who have served in UN missions are regularly accorded an opportunity by DPKO to share their mission experiences during these trainings.

## Peer Review

DPKO organizes an annual international conference bringing together countries that contribute corrections officers and other stakeholders, including other United Nations entities. This conference is a forum for participating countries to share their experiences and expertise with a view to improving correctional services globally. This annual event also serves as a forum for peer review and helps identify best practices in strengthening corrections systems. Kenyan representatives attended all four UN International Corrections Conferences and have thus benefitted from the deliberations, some of which have formed the basis for benchmarking correctional services in the country.



## Knowledge and Skills Enhancement

Government-provided personnel in UN missions have contributed immensely to knowledge and skills enhancement in the countries in which the officers serve. They serve as trainers, advisers and mentors. These officers have benefitted a great deal as they acquired additional knowledge and skills during their deployment. The DPKO approach to geographical balance offers Kenyan officers an opportunity to learn from their colleagues from other parts of the world. Officers return from a mission with a greater understanding of international best practices in correctional management. This knowledge is shared with other officers and improves the service.

## Medal Parades

DPKO, through its field operations, gives senior officers from the Kenya Prisons Service an opportunity to attend medal parades in mission areas. This not only fosters collaboration between DPKO and the service, but also offers an opportunity for the officers to experience first-hand what it entails to serve in a UN mission. This has resulted in considerable appreciation by the Prisons Service senior management, setting the ground for intensifying the collaboration with the United Nations.

## Sharing information

The Kenya Prisons Service and DPKO continue to share information on corrections management. DPKO, through the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the United Nations, seeks and receives information from the Kenya Prisons Service on how best to partner and collaborate with other stakeholders. DPKO also shares with the Kenya Prisons Service copies of the annual Corrections Update magazine which describes the activities being carried out globally with the support of Member States.

The existing partnership and collaboration between the Kenya Prisons Service and DPKO has come far and contributed considerably to enhancing correctional services globally. Kenya appreciates the gains made so far through this collaboration and stands ready to fortify its engagement and enhance its partnership with DPKO for the better management of corrections in the world.

# Partnership in Action in peacekeeping operations

## United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA\*) Advocacy, Advice and Technical Assistance

### The Central Prison Directorate

In 2003, the Central Prison Directorate (CPD) of Afghanistan was transferred from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. This was a result of the perceived need to remove the Directorate from a militarized ministry facing human rights concerns to a civilian ministry. The transfer also aimed at strengthening the coordination and cooperation with judicial actors. Following this move, significant improvements were made to the management of penal institutions in Afghanistan, and the treatment of inmates improved towards compliance with international standards. However, several incidents suggested that the Ministry of Justice does not have sufficient resources to operate the prisons in Afghanistan in an effective, secure and safe manner; between 2008 and 2011, over 1,000 high-risk prisoners escaped. As a result, President Karzai ordered in May 2011 to transfer the CPD back to the Ministry of the Interior which took effect in December 2011. Within the CPD itself, many officers supported this decision, as they believed they would benefit from the greater resources of the Ministry of the Interior. Only the juvenile rehabilitation centres remain under the Ministry of Justice.

### UNAMA as Coordinator of International Engagement

The UNAMA Rule of Law Unit has been integrally involved in corrections issues for almost 10 years, identifying issues of strategic and operational concern and coordinating international assistance providers with national institutions to address these. As the Secretariat of the Prison Working Group, the Unit is strategically positioned to lead the international community's response to the transfer of the CPD and to the concerns raised about its independence within the structure of the Ministry of Interior as well as about an increased risk of human rights violations should Afghan National Police officers obtain easy access to prisons and detention centres, for example for interrogations. Immediately after being informed of the decision to transfer the CPD back to the Ministry of Interior, the Unit set up a series of meetings to discuss these concerns. In the first of these meetings, the Minister of Justice briefed the international community on the reasons for the transfer and on the required legislative changes.



UN Photo

Initial drafts of the new legislation raised concerns about the lack of clear separation between the prison and the police administration within the Ministry of Interior. Another concern was the reduced emphasis on rehabilitating prisoners as the primary objective of imprisonment. In addition, there was a lack of clarity within the CPD and within provincial police administrations as to whether prison directors would report to the local police chiefs. In some provinces, the UNAMA corrections field teams, who were monitoring the situation, reported that Provincial Governors were making statements to this effect and some prison directors appeared to act in concurrence with such new reporting lines. The UNAMA Rule of Law Unit, together with other UN agencies, advocated with the Afghan Government for these concerns to be addressed, in particular that appropriate internal structures were put in place to ensure that the prison system remains independent from the police administration, and provided advice on an internal directive on reporting lines and administrative structures for the CPD. The Minister of Interior is fully aware of these concerns and shares the view of the UNAMA Rule of Law Unit. The CPD is therefore hopeful that its independence will remain. UNAMA and its partners will do their utmost to support the CPD in this effort.

\*UNAMA is a Political Mission administered by DPKO.

# The United Nations Operations in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

## Post-electoral Crisis

During the post-electoral crisis in 2010 and 2011, the Ivorian prisons system collapsed. All of the thirty-three prisons in the southern part of the country were damaged and looted, and over 12,000 detainees escaped. This had severe consequences on security and the administration of justice in Côte d'Ivoire.

## Coordination

UNOCI took the lead in mobilizing and coordinating donor funds for the refurbishment and re-equipment of Ivorian prisons and in building a strong partnership between the UN peacekeeping mission, the United States Government (USAID), the European Union, the German Government (GIZ), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the non-governmental organization "Prisoners without Borders". This partnership was very effective in supporting the Government to respond to this crisis. The steadfast and continuous efforts resulted in the re-opening of 29 of the 33 affected prisons this year. UNOCI mobilized a total of \$ US 655,223 from international donors and Mission quick impact project funding. Of this, \$ US 337,554 were used for infrastructure refurbishment and \$ US 317,669 for equipment.

## Registries

At the same time, the peacekeeping operation, with support from the DPKO Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity, assisted the national authorities in developing and implementing a project to establish new prison registries to ensure comprehensive and homogenous record-keeping across the country. These registers are now in use and will improve local and central prison management. They will also contribute to the timely judicial review of detainees and help reduce prolonged pretrial and other arbitrary detention. These new registers required the creation of an individual file for each detainee, including fingerprint information. With support from UNOCI and GIZ, equipment necessary to take fingerprints was provided to all functioning prisons, complemented by nationwide training for prison clerks on the use of the new registers. In addition, UNOCI assisted the Ivorian authorities in the development of a re-capturing programme for the detainees who escaped during the post-electoral violence. This has included preparing individual sheets providing details for 4,300 priority escapees from the Abidjan Central Prison.



UN Photo

## Reinforcement

Security Council resolution 2000 (2011) expanded the scope of the prison work of UNOCI to include collocation and mentoring support to national prison authorities through government-provided corrections personnel. The total number of authorized staff increased from 10 to 41, permitting the operation to deploy corrections officers to all 33 affected prisons.

## Co-location and Mentoring

UNOCI continues to assist the national authorities in the humane management of the prison system through capacity building and technical assistance. A co-location and mentoring programme within Ivorian prisons is being developed, in close collaboration with the national authorities. To gather the information necessary to design of this programme, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Human Rights have recently begun a series of visits to prisons around the country.

### Prison Security

Following a recent series of mass prison breaks in Côte d'Ivoire, UNOCI mobilized Ivorian authorities to address prison security issues. Advocacy in this regard has been conducted at the highest level with two meetings held between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Ivorian Prime Minister. At the request of national authorities, UNOCI provided 11,000 meters of barbed wire to secure 33 prisons across the country. In addition, UNOCI is in the process of acquiring and distributing a variety of equipment including batons, high-frequency radios and whistles.

# The African Union and United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID)

## Rehabilitation Programmes for Prisoners in South Darfur

In February 2010, UNAMID and the Government of Sudan signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing the partnership between the mission, the National Prisons Development Committee and the State Development Committees to work together to develop strategies and programmes to ameliorate prison conditions in Darfur.

Rehabilitation programmes for prisoners serving short-term sentences are a particular challenge. The PAU, in collaboration with the Prisons Administration in South Darfur, developed a pilot project for short-term prisoners.

In collaboration with the Government of Sudan, the UNAMID Prison Advisory Unit (PAU) is prioritizing the development of rehabilitation programmes. Prisoners need to be empowered to earn an honest living, which helps to fend off a relapse into criminal activity, homelessness and in some cases abuse of family members. Successfully reintegrating released prisoners into society benefits the entire community.

### Shoemaking in South Darfur

In South Darfur, the PAU collaborated with the non-governmental organization, *Zakia*, to organize a five-day training workshop in shoemaking at the Al Deain Prison. The workshop was held in October 2011 and trained 15 prisoners. Also included in the training were prison staff who could help lead future courses. Similar workshops continue to be held.

### Singita Prison Farm – A Step in the Right Direction

At the Singita prison farm, located in the Kass locality 25 kilometres south of Kass town, the PAU introduced vegetable production to provide the inmates with agricultural skills. Various partners are engaged, including the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the State Ministry of Agriculture and the PODR a regional organization that supports development in South Darfur.

Singita Prison, which covers 2,000 acres, was established in 1962. When it was founded it was mainly used for cereal crop production and relied solely on rain fed agriculture. In early November 2011, the PAU and its partners started a four-acre vegetable production project using furrow irrigation. Forty prisoners participated in



UN Photo

pilot training project. FAO and PAU provided tomato, cucumber, watermelon and carrot seeds and donated two motorized water pumps with piping. Prison authorities rehabilitated a well as a source of water. FAO and PAU conduct regular field visits to monitor progress and offer technical advice. PODR plays an important role in the training of prisoners and in developing community support for the project from the population that lives near the prison.

The positive results of the initial project motivated the prison administration to cultivate land throughout the year. The prison is now self-sufficient in vegetable production and the surplus produce of cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes and watermelons is being sold at the local Kass market. PAU has assisted with procedures for selling and reinvesting the revenue into the project. Prisoners are acquiring valuable agricultural skills that will allow them to find work when released from the prison.

PAU has also developed a UNAMID Quick Impact Project proposal to make an additional water source for the prison and build a reservoir allowing the prison to establish a tree and fruit nursery. This project is an excellent example of what can be achieved with effective partnerships.

### Bringing Together Partners

During a Crop Production Working Group meeting at FAO in February 2012, PAU brought attention to the lack of water in the Billeil prison camp and the need for urgent attention. The Billeil prison is not connected to the main water supply and, due to its remote location, does not have fresh water during the dry

season. The Billeil prison camp is an annex of the Nyala central prison. It is located 20 kilometers Southeast of Nyala town and accommodates 62 prisoners who are serving sentences of less than two years. During the rainy season the inmates make bricks and farm.

PAU reached out to the international non-governmental organization Human Appeal International (HAI) which agreed to address this issue. PAU introduced HAI to the State Director of Prisons. After an assessment visit to Billeil prison it was estimated that 18,000 Sudanese Pounds (SDG) or \$ US 6,300 would suffice to dig a new well and supply water to Billeil year round. The NGO offered to fund 70 per cent and the Government agreed to finance the remaining 30 per cent. A fully equipped well was commissioned in May 2012. Today the 62 inmates and the 17 prison staff at Billeil have access to fresh water.

## Strengthening UNAMID and UNDP Cooperation

In May 2012, UNAMID, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and El Fasher University jointly implemented four Quick Impact Projects in the female section of the Shallah Federal Prison. The Projects paid for the construction or refurbishing of the prisoners' accommodation block, a kitchen, an office block, sanitary facilities and an underground water tank. UNDP also sponsored a six-month training-of-trainers course for prison staff, to enable them to deliver vocational training on electrical works, welding, auto mechanics and masonry. UNDP also funded the procurement of tools, equipment and materials to be used for the training and paid for the construction of workshops. The Government of Sudan has expressed its appreciation for the support received from UNAMID PAU on several occasions and repeatedly stressed the importance of this support for local communities.

## The United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)

### Addressing Overcrowding

The prison system in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) faces a considerable number of challenges. One important challenge in the focus of the support of the MONUSCO Corrections Advisory Unit (CAU) is overcrowding, exacerbated by an increase in petty crime, a growing number of convictions, the increased detention of military and police personnel and a lack of legal representation for both remand and convicted prisoners. The judicial process is slow, and the vast majority of prisoners are pretrial detainees, constituting 70 to 80 per cent of the total prison population.

CAU helps the Congolese authorities address this challenge in many ways. CAU staff assist the prison authorities to develop and maintain proper prison registries. CAU officers monitor individual cases and systematically notify prison directors and the appropriate judicial authorities about cases that are prolonged or with pending appeals to ensure that their status is being reviewed in a timely manner. MONUSCO pursues a multi-sector approach, encouraging players in the criminal justice system, including judges, to frequently visit the detention facilities to raise awareness of the high rate of pretrial detention and the sometimes very problematic detention conditions. CAU advocates with courts to regularly hold extraordinary sessions to review prisoners' cases contribute to the reduction of over-crowding. Upon an initiative launched by MONUSCO, mobile courts hold sessions in prisons to bring cases of expired or inadequate arrest warrants to the



Photo MONUSCO

attention of the General Prosecutor or the responsible court. This regularly results in the release of prisoners.

CAU, in partnership with various MONUSCO sections, UN agencies and other stakeholders, also engages in training programmes for national prison staff. A series of seminars and workshops on basic prison duties, record keeping, inspection of warrants from the courts and the development of systems for tracking and following-up on pending and undetermined cases were conducted for Congolese prison personnel.



### Important Benchmarks:

- In the last 6 months of 2011 over 1,500 cases were reviewed, approximately 200 inmates were released from arbitrary detention and 150 cases were adjudicated resulting in inmates being sentenced.
- A better scheme of recordkeeping, improved case tracking procedures and an improved system of documentation exists.
- The number of complaints by detainees decreased.

### Challenges and Priorities in 2012 - 2013

- Increasing the number and capacity of magistrates and judges working in the criminal justice system.
- Improving accessibility to remote prisons and facilitating visits by judicial authorities.
- Increasing the number of adequately trained prison clerks.
- Supporting Congolese National Police to follow-up on cases.

## United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

# Addressing Mental Health in the Prison Population of Haiti

This is a personal account from Michaela Stiepel, a Psychologist/Corrections Officer from Germany who is working for the MINUSTAH Corrections Advisory Unit. Ms. Stiepel was made available as part of the “government-provided personnel” programme. She advises the Haitian Direction de l’Administration Pénitencière (DAP) on mental health issues in prisons.

### Survey

When I first arrived in Haiti, I was tasked with reviewing mental health issues affecting inmates in Haitian prisons across the country. I found that, although there are very few cases of mentally-ill inmates in Haitian prisons as compared to prisons in Canada, the USA or Europe, those that are behind bars are of a critical nature, needing immediate attention. The law in Haiti states that mentally-ill offenders are not to be kept in a prison.

### Typical Mental Health Issues in Prisons

There are different types of mental illness that are frequently encountered in prisons. There are restless inmates who are constantly in motion, talking or singing all day and night. These inmates are often not capable of maintaining a normal conversation with other prisoners. They normally face great difficulties coping with the social environment of a prison and are often unable to adapt to prison conditions. This condition can be easily recognized by staff who may seek help for this person.

Other inmates stop talking and communicating entirely are often apathetic and lay almost motionless on the ground or cower in a corner for most of the day. They sometimes stop eating and/or drinking or consume very little. The reason is in most cases major depression. Two inmates died of this condition in Haiti in June 2010 to March 2012. A third inmate was saved when his case was brought to the attention of the Medical Director of the Prison Administration of Haiti who authorized the indicated treatment from a Haitian psychiatrist.



UN Photo

### Current Initiatives

Haiti has only two psychiatric institutions: The *Mars and Kline Hospital* located in Port-au-Prince, and the *Defilé de Bedet Hospital* in the district of Croix-Des-Bouquets. I learned of approximately 20 psychiatrists in Haiti, with only five working in the public health system. The others are in private practice. There are no neurology specialists but there are 194 psychologists in Haiti.

The only book published on psychiatry with a specialization in Haitian ethno psychiatry dates back to 1961 and was written by the doyen of Haitian Psychiatry, Dr. Legrand Bijoux. It is considered as the main source of information for psychiatry in Haiti. In 2008, Haitian psychiatrists who had immigrated to Canada spearheaded an initiative to raise awareness of psychiatric issues in their homeland. Interest in psychological and psychiatric topics gained more prominence following the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010, bringing attention to those suffering from psycho trauma.

According to the website of the World Health Organization (WHO), the year 2011 was dedicated to bringing attention to mental health issues. The WHO published and distributed a book called *mhGAP-Intervention Guide* which advocated that developing countries work on introducing mental health issues into primary health care. Currently, there is a psychologist at the WHO/PAHO office in Port-au-Prince doing this type of work at the level of the *Ministère de la Santé et de la Population* (MSPP).

Important work on mental health issues in Haiti is done by a group coordinated by psychologist Zohra Abaakouk from the WHO/PAHO. The group is constituted of representatives of the MSPP, the Directors of the two psychiatric institutions in Haiti, national and international non-governmental organizations and experts from abroad (mainly Haitian psychiatrists who emigrated and are working in the USA or Canada). The group coordinates assistance given to those with mental-health issues and prepared a workshop to develop a mental health plan for Haiti which took place in June 2011. As a result of input from the MINUSTAH Corrections Advisory Unit, mental health in the prison system was included in this plan.

The organization International Medical Corp (IMC) provided inmates with mental health problems at the women's prison in Pétionville psychotropic second generation drugs which have almost no negative side effects. The treated inmates improved their ability to cope with prison conditions and made some

progress in the area of social skills. Three women in pretrial detention were released after being treated. As a result of the work done at Pétionville, there was a positive shift in the attitude of prison staff towards mental illness. The project was considered a great success. However, it ended in June 2011 and left a void. With the consent of the Deputy Medical Director of the DAP, the Haitian psychiatrist that worked with the IMC continues to attend the prison twice a week to follow up with the female inmates receiving medication and to speak to other inmates who claim to have problems. It would be wonderful if this successful project could continue with voluntary donor funding.

## The Way Ahead

Mentally-ill persons in prisons and outside remain a vulnerable group in the Haitian society. The MINUSTAH Corrections Advisory Unit has worked with the DAP to include a chapter on mental health in a DAP policy document on health and nutrition. This is a big step in acknowledging the need for adequate mental health care services in prisons in Haiti. Another milestone this year was the delivery of the very first educational awareness session on mental health issues in the prison system, presented to prison nurses from across the country. The next project is to conduct a review of prisoners with mental health problems at the *Pénitencier National*, the main prison in Port-au-Prince. The MINUSTAH Corrections Advisory Unit will continue to work closely with the DAP on mental health issues. Only continuous education and awareness-raising can bring about change.

## United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

# UNMIL Partners to Improve Detention Conditions in Liberia

When the first UNMIL Corrections Advisory Unit (CAU) staff arrived in Liberia in February 2004, there were two organizations engaged in corrections reform that immediately established contact: the Prison Fellowship Liberia (PFL, a member of the organization Prison Fellowship International) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The ICRC had been in Liberia throughout the conflict. During this period, its priority was the protection of persons detained by the various sides in the conflict. Following the Peace Agreement of 2003, ICRC continued many of its activities in the immediate post-conflict period - including monitoring places of detention under the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR). ICRC also started immediately working on reconstructing and refurbishing the Monrovia Central Prison to relieve the conditions of inmates held in custody at the inadequate National Police Headquarters by transferring them to this prison.



Mother Logan  
UN Photo/Staton Winter

The leadership of PFL had also been in Liberia throughout the conflict but was unable during this period to continue the work that the organization had set out to do when founded in 1986. When CAU representatives first met the leadership, Mother Comfort Nimineh-Logan and Reverend Francis Kollie, the scars of war were apparent, both literally and figuratively. Despite facing considerable challenges themselves, they approached CAU to ask: “how can we help you?” That was the beginning of a very productive working relationship that continues today, as well as the partnership with ICRC. Each organization works independently and answers to separate entities. But through consultation and information sharing, we are each able to expand our reach and the value of our interventions through complementary project development and implementation.

Programme activities for inmates must be nationally driven and owned. Therefore CAU looked to prison fellowship to take a leading role in initiating activities. PFL provides help and healing for prisoners throughout the country. PFL is also involved in coordinating support for medical and educational services for inmates. Most notably, PFL was instrumental in ensuring that inmates benefitted from services provided by the NGO Mercyships during their stay in Liberia from 2005 through 2008. Not only were medical and dental services provided, PFL ensured that volunteers from the organization also completed small construction projects and visited inmates. Currently they are involved in farming, tailoring, carpentry, and shoe and soap making.

PF Liberia is also very active in raising awareness and working to reduce pretrial detention through restorative justice programmes, mentoring and legal assistance. It is one of the leading organizations in the prison legal educators (paralegal) programme initially sponsored by UNODC. In addition, PFL is active and successful in seeking the release of pretrial detainees in Liberia through its mediation programme run in partnership with East-West Management Institute.

## The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a specific mandate under international law to provide protection and assistance to victims of armed conflict and other situations of armed violence. ICRC lays a special emphasis on working with persons deprived of their freedom. ICRC’s approach – neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian action – is critical to its detention-related work, where the organization maintains a dialogue of confidence with authorities, especially on issues concerning the protection of individual detainees.

Today, Liberia is a transitional environment where ICRC detention work aims primarily at improving conditions of detention in close partnership with the Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation (BCR). A major focus is on capacity building and structural support to individual prisons, as well as to the penitentiary system



Mother Logan  
UN Photo/Staton Winter

as a whole. ICRC concentrates on those areas where it has a developed expertise – healthcare, nutrition, hygiene and water/sanitation – complementing the work of other organizations.

Coordination among the several actors engaged in strengthening the corrections system is critical to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximise the outcome resulting from financial and technical inputs. It is against such a background that regular dialogue and information exchange between the ICRC and the UNMIL CAU has proven not only useful, but also essential. This is especially important, as the CAU has a key role in mentoring and training BCR personnel, as well as in assisting BCR in planning, and needs to take all existing initiatives into consideration in doing so.

It has proved to be extremely useful to associate CAU personnel to ICRC seminars and workshops for BCR prison staff on healthcare, nutrition and food supply issues. This allows CAU advisors to better understand issues of humanitarian concern and, consequently, to support necessary changes or improvements in prisons where they have daily interaction with prison staff. Likewise, the ICRC is invited to participate at CAU events, where ICRC staff has an opportunity to provide speciality input on such matters as prison healthcare and water/sanitation, as well as to explain the specific ICRC role and mandate in detention.

Over the years, interaction between the UNMIL CAU and its partners ICRC and PFL has been extremely effective. This is thanks to maintaining an open dialogue and mutual respect for the specific mandates and approaches of each institution, in particular for the ICRC principle of confidentiality. Each has come to recognize the strengths and added value of the other. Cooperation is essential, but acknowledging the limitations to effective collaboration is almost equally important.

# The United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)

## Prison Work on a Front Line

### Caught in the Line of Fire

Another morning, another day in the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) compound of Bentiu; while some of the staff are having their morning breakfast, others are getting ready, putting on their uniforms and setting their ranks on the shoulders in order to reach those who happen to be the most neglected segments of the newly born nation of South Sudan: the prisoners in the prisons of Unity State.

Amidst the morning's hustle and bustle, there comes a frightening roar of jets from the north, bringing the message of death. A loud explosion follows and after a few minutes news spreads of yet another killing in the town. The attack was aimed at destroying the bridge connecting the town of Rubkona to Bentiu City. An innocent child is also a victim. This is the capital of Unity State of the Republic of South Sudan, where some of the seconded Corrections officers are deployed to reach out to the unreachable.

Security Council resolution 1996 (2011) mandates UNMISS to establish among other things the rule of law, and strengthen the security and justice sectors. It calls upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) to end prolonged and arbitrary detention, and to establish a safe, secure and humane prison system. In furtherance to the ideals of the mandate, the Corrections Advisory Section (CAS) was established in the Mission under the Rule of Law and Security Institutions Support Office (ROLSISO).

In July of this year, the Security Council resolution 2057 (2012) called upon the Government of the Republic of South Sudan, "to end prolonged, arbitrary detention, and establish a safe, secure and humane prison system, drawing on advice and technical assistance from and in cooperation with international partners" and it called on UNMISS, with other UN actors, to "advise and assist".

### Corrections Advisory Section

Between October and December 2011, 60 seconded corrections officers arrived in the mission area and were deployed after going through induction training. Among the seconded officers there are mentors, trainers and professionals of diverse backgrounds covering 10 South Sudanese states and more than 40 local prisons. Guided by the Security Council mandate and the CAS workplan, the seconded officers began working.



### Action

The newly deployed officers using their experience and following the "South Sudan Prisons Standing Orders, Prison Policy and Procedures", the "United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners" and international human rights instruments have made inroads into professionalizing the prison service. Some positive contributions include: establishing adult literacy classes to improve the ability of staff to communicate in view of the language change in the country from Arabic to English; establishing gardens/farms in and around prisons to inculcate farming skills to the prisoners and increase food supply and initiating projects with partners to improve the living and working conditions of both prisoners and staff. Some corrections officers have gone a step further and made personal donations from their Mission Subsistence Allowance to address some outstanding issues.

### Results

The GPPs in UNMISS are doing a tremendous job to fulfil the mandate of the mission even at grave personal discomfort. They see the improvement in the South Sudan Prisons Service as a very important task that. In doing this, they get involved in every area of the prison, mentoring and coaching the staff, advising the senior echelon on policy issues.

# Construction of South Sudan Prison Service Training Academy Underway

A plaque unveiling ceremony was performed at the South Sudan Prisons Training Academy in Juba on 16 August by the United States Ambassador to the Republic of South Sudan and a representative of the Government of Canada who were assisted by the Director General of Prisons in South Sudan, Gen. Abel Makoi Wol. The ceremony marked the construction of two accommodation blocks funded by the US and Canadian Governments through the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The idea of the construction of a Prisons Training Academy for South Sudan was conceived and planned in 2009. Earlier, prison training was conducted under trees. The present training facility is the only prison training facility in both Sudan and South Sudan. The earlier Prisons College in Khartoum was closed down in 1989 after the amalgamation of the prison service into the Unified Police Service. The Academy presently has 4 classrooms, toilets, bathrooms and a kitchen. Some of the construction of these facilities was funded by the Government of South Sudan itself. The planning for the Training Academy was to provide professional prison training and capacity building to members of the South Sudan Prisons Service and to serve as a centre of excellence for prison systems in Africa. The structures being constructed consist of two dormitories which has a maximum capacity for 128 trainees at a time. The project is being funded by the Government of the United States and Canada at the cost of \$ US 1,150,600 – UNODC contracted UNOPS to design the buildings and provide technical supervision during construction. Most of the funding for the Academy was mobilized by UNODC while UNDP also provided part of the funding. The Government of South Sudan has also constructed a kitchen and dining hall in the site.

Since 2008, UNODC has been assisting the process of prison reform in South Sudan and is developing a new programme involving continuing of the prison reform, anti-corruption, police forensics, juvenile justice and border management. Training prison officers have always been done jointly by UNMISS Corrections Advisory Unit and experts from UNODC.

In his keynote address, General Abel Makoi Wol, Director General of Prisons praised the assistance the South Sudan Prisons Service has received from the United Nations, bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations. General Wol stressed that the development of human resources in a sustainable manner was the surest way to professionalize the Prisons Service and

enable it to meet international standards. He acknowledged the many training programmes already conducted by UNMISS and UNODC and said that the construction of the training facility will build on what was being done under a not-too-conducive environment. General Wol acknowledged that enormous challenges lie ahead and asked the international community to do more for the prison system which will improve human rights situation in the prisons. He underlined that the Prison Service in South Sudan would not restrict visits to the prisons by human rights groups, as the open policy would attract resources to support and improve upon the otherwise unsatisfactory situation in the prisons. He appealed to the international community to help develop the needed infrastructure of the prison system to measure up to international standards.



## A landmark achievement

### Prison Training Academy

The prison leadership in the Republic of South Sudan and UNMISS agree that the cornerstones for establishing and sustaining a safe, secure and humane prison system is by developing the capacity of the national staff. In line with article 14 of Security Council resolution 1996 of 2011, which stipulates assistance to the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to end prolonged arbitrary detention and to establish a safe, secure and humane prison system, the UNMISS Corrections Advisory Unit, amongst its various support programmes, organized a set of train-the-trainer courses for prison officials in collaboration with UNODC to establish a core of tutors for the prison training academy.

Fifteen prison staff, from the first set of the train-the-trainers programmes were given additional advanced tutoring training by the UNMISS Corrections Advisory Unit and were exposed to best practices in staff training in a regional study tour to the Ghana Prisons Service Training College. This study tour was supported by UNODC and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR). This core group is now ready to teach staff at the Prisons Academy in Lologo, Juba.



UN Photo

The first assignment for these core tutors after their training was to conduct the first Middle Level Managers course for 35 prison officers drawn from 10 states of South Sudan. The one-month course which took place in the Prison Training Academy, Lologo, Juba in March and April 2012 was facilitated by the prison tutors. According to the Director-General of the Prisons Service, General Abel Makoi Wol, it is a landmark achievement that South Sudan tutors facilitated the Middle Level Managers course.

This first generation tutors for the Prison Service of South Sudan will be supporting the training of mobile training teams in all 10 States with the technical assistance of UNMISS CAU. The mobile training teams will be engaged in future training and capacity development activities in the states and county prisons.

## UNMISS Trains Local Prison Recruits in Administration and Human Rights in Western Equatoria State

In an effort to upgrade skills and knowledge of prison officials in basic rights and treatment of inmates and to improve the prison administration across the state, the UNMISS CAU, in close collaboration with the Mission's Human Right Unit in Yambio, continues training local prison recruits at the Yambio prison training center. The last training was attended by 291 local prison recruits drawn from the 10 counties.

Charles Kamwengo, an UNMISS government-provided corrections officer from Zambia and one of the trainers, revealed that the training was part of a capacity building process among prison staff to improve the situational performance of the prison administration on the part of the recruit and serving officers across the state. "The objective of this training is to ensure that they understand the management of the prison system before they are deployed"

he explained. "This is in line with the support to the government of the Republic of South Sudan to strengthening state capacity in the areas of Rule of Law, security and justice system".

Training topics include among others: the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, human rights and treatment of inmates, the South Sudan Prisons Act and other relevant regulations.

Brigadier Khamis Alhaj, Director of the Central Prison of Western Equatoria state said that the main purpose of the training was to equip prison recruits with basic knowledge on the issues of human rights and the treatment of prisoners. "This is one of the most important trainings we have had so far, because it will help our staff to acquire standard knowledge on the meaning and definition of prison administration and inmate rights," Brigadier Alhaj said. He acknowledged that the recruits have been trained on practical prison administration, security, human rights, office routine, hygiene in prisons and the laws and regulations governing the administration of corrections institutions in South Sudan.

One of the participants of the training, Abraham Malith Buldit said: "It is a significant training because we understood the importance of human rights. Every human shall have equal rights and dignity inside as well as outside prison facilities. We have learned many things on how to administer prison facilities."

Robert Bati Benjamin, another participant, said that he managed to understand many important aspects including how to escort prison inmates and how to ensure their security all the time. He further commented: "I learned that inmates have the right to make contact with the outside world which I did not know before".

Brigadier Alhaj, acknowledged the role of UNMISS contributions in training his staff members as significant. He urged more training in the areas of public relations, psychology, sociology and farming management.

Sergeant Major Wilson Abui, office manager of the Yambio prison training centre, disclosed that the centre had 291 prison recruits who had been attending their one-year course since January 2011 and graduated in February 2012. This has to be viewed as an important step on the road to improving prison safety and security and the treatment of prisoners in South Sudan.



UN Photo

## Coordinating the Work of UN Prison Projects in Timor-Leste

For the past 10 years, many UN agencies have played significant roles in providing assistance and support to the Government of Timor-Leste in the corrections sector. Over the course of several UN peacekeeping missions, the key to ensuring efficient provision of UN support has been continuous communication and effective coordination among the different entities. Ensuring this lies at the core of mandate of the UNMIT Administration of Justice Support Unit (AJSU). In implementing this mandate, in 2009 AJSU facilitated the establishment of a Sub-Working Group on Corrections (SWGCG) as part of the UN Justice Working Group. The SWGCG is chaired by AJSU, which also acts as the Secretariat for the group. Permanent members of the group include relevant UNMIT sections (AJSU, Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section, HIV/AIDS, Gender Affairs) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Several other entities join the Group on an ad-hoc basis to coordinate the implementation of specific projects. Over the past four years, this has included staff from the Timor-Leste Ministry of Justice and the Prison Service, other UNMIT sections (UNPOL, Democratic Governance Support Unit, Communications and Public Information Office) and UN agencies, programmes and funds (FAO, UN Women) and local and international non-governmental organizations such as Caritas Australia and Psychosocial Recovery & Development in East Timor (PRADET).

The objective of the SWGCG, as agreed by its members, is: *“To promote fair and humane treatment for incarcerated persons, to support programmes that effectively prepare them for their eventual return to their homes and families and seek to ensure that all forms of detention and imprisonment are part of the National agenda and comply with relevant international legal and human rights standards.”* The Sub-Working Group ensures effective coordination among the prison and detention programmes of all assistance providers by bringing together representatives of all engaged institutions on a regular basis.

### The Sub-Working Group on Corrections

The SWGCG fulfils its coordinating mandate also through monitoring, assessing and reporting on prison conditions and prison programme development in Timor-Leste. This includes:

- Examining draft policies, reports and findings to maintain up-to-date information on the status of the corrections system and current initiatives.

- Visiting detention centres and prison facilities in Timor-Leste on a regular basis and drafting reports with recommendations to UN managers and the Timor-Leste Ministry of Justice.
- Reporting to the UN Justice Working Group with findings and recommendations on strategies and actions.
- Producing public information and outreach materials and initiating awareness raising initiatives on challenges and needs within the Timor-Leste criminal justice system.
- Upon request from the National Prison Service Director, reviewing draft penal legislation and prison staff training initiatives under development.

### Outputs and Achievements

The work of the SWGCG has resulted in many innovative projects being designed and delivered within the Timor-Leste prison service for the benefit of staff and prisoners. Many projects launched since 2010 were implemented in support of the Government's *Justice Sector Strategic Plan for Timor-Leste 2011-2030*. The following are some examples of recent outcomes the SWGCG:

**March 2012:** The UNMIT Democratic Governance Support Unit confirmed in its recently published *Compendium of the 2012 Elections* that those individuals who possess an up-to-date voter's card and find themselves held in penitentiary institutions are entitled to vote through the mobile voting process. The question of whether prisoners in Timor-Leste retain their conferred right to vote was first raised with the electoral authorities of Timor-Leste by the SWGCG in 2009 following local elections that had not included prisoners in the vote. Ever since, the SWGCG has successfully advocated for not restricting the prisoners' constitutional rights in this regard.

**February 2012:** Following SWGCG advocacy efforts to address several urgent issues surrounding the detention of juvenile offenders at Becora Prison, the Government budgeted for the construction of a new juvenile centre. A suitable site was found in Tibar, a town near Dili, and the construction of a 40-bed facility is nearing completion. As an interim measure, juvenile detainees were transferred to Gleno Prison. UNMIT works very closely with UNDP on this project.

**January 2012:** AJSU, UNFPA and the local non-governmental organization PRADET responded to a request from female prisoners at Gleno Prison which asked for the addition of a meditation component to an on-going anger management course delivered by UNFPA. This programme, coordinated through the

SWGCG, is supported by the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality, the Ministry of Justice National Prison Service and UNFPA. Since the programme began in mid-2011, a total of 40 prisoners at Gleno Prison and 50 prisoners at Becora Prison have been trained in temper control and anger management techniques. Of the 90 prisoners who received training, eight are women. More courses are planned for both prisons in the course of 2012. The programme is delivered in conjunction combined with the ongoing education, technical and vocational training programmes offered in prisons. It makes a significant contribution to preparing prisoners for their eventual release back to their families as productive and contributing members of their communities.

**December 2011:** Following a detailed review by the SWGCG of the draft *Estatuto Da Garda Prisional* (Statute for Prison Guards), AJSU met with the Director of the Ministry of Justice Directorate for Legal Advice and Legislation to provide technical legal assistance and advice on the operational implications of this critical piece of draft legislation. Key thematic issues on which SWGCG provided advice included adequate female representation among guards, screening criteria for applicants, languages/dialects considerations, fundamental human resources considerations such as accountability and promotions, and the use of force and consequences of arming prison staff in crisis or high-risk situations. The Director noted these points for further consideration. During these meetings, the participants also agreed on the importance of strategically coordinating funding proposals in the area of corrections support. It was also agreed that more needs to be done to secure funding for such projects.

**December 2011:** A joint project of AJSU, FAO, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries to facilitate the training of prisoners and prison staff on vegetable growing operations, self-sufficiency through garden management and food production was implemented at Gleno Prison.

**July 2011:** An ASWGCG initiative resulted in a cooperative agreement between the SWGCG, Caritas Australia and the National Prison Service to enhance vocational training for prisoners through one additional vocational instructor and a plan to establish a retail store for the sale of the produce to the communities. The revenue generation will benefit the sustainability of this prison industry. At the same time, this project will provide prisoners with skills that will improve their chances to find work upon release, facilitating their reintegration into society. The Sub-Working Group also provides advice and guidance on a regulation governing prisoner work programmes that the National Prison Service is developing upon request by the Minister of Justice.

**August 2010:** In response to a request for assistance from UNDP, an AJSU assessment on the construction of a new prison in Suai was completed and presented to the SWGCG for review and comments. This project, completed in 2010, has resulted in the design of a 70-bed prison. UNDP has secured an engineering project manager and the construction will be completed by the end of 2012.

**May 2009:** Prisoners from Becora Prison and Gleno Prison received funding for HIV/AIDS/STI programmes from UNFPA. The project, coordinated by the SWGCG and implemented by the local NGO *Sharis Haburas Comunidade*, provided the prisoners with quality services and knowledge on HIV/AIDS/STI. Also, the programme provided contacts and continuity of service for prisoners upon their release from prison. The project is implemented in close collaboration with the faith-based organization Holy Spirit Sisters, the Ministries of Health and Justice, the Bureau of Prisons, the National AIDS Commission and UNMIT HIV/AIDS and AJSU.

## Conclusion

There is an obvious need for the various organizations involved in corrections and prison sectors in post-conflict countries to work together, conscious of their varying roles and mandates. Effective coordination among the prison and detention institutions, the UN and other service agencies, through the SWGCG, offers a forum for collaboration on research, information gathering, developing policies and capacity building, utilizing synergies, avoiding overlap and gaps and ensuring an integrated and coherent approach.

It is important for Timor-Leste to have a forum where relevant stakeholders can discuss problems and potential solutions relating to prison issues and strategic initiatives and their implementation. The work of the SWGCG continues with a particular focus on the Joint Transition Plan signed by the Government and the UN in 2011. As the Mission draws down in 2012, the SWGCG strives to keep the key remaining challenges in the focus of national and international stakeholders. These include maintaining adequate levels of funding for the corrections sector in the national budget, ensuring continuous political commitment to prison development and reform, and commitment to ensure continuous and sustainable capacity building of the National Prison Service, in particular the senior management.

As UNMIT prepares to transition out of the country, the partnering agencies and organizations will have to take on a larger share of providing assistance. Such assistance is likely to focus on the drafting of a manual that contains a set of standard operating procedures for prison operations, a third and final gap analysis of the National Prison Service towards compliance with international standards, and developing and improving human rights monitoring by independent observers.

There is an identified need to sustain the work of the SWGCG. As part of our transition plans, AJSU is working with the National Prison Service and other ministries to build a community-based Corrections Working Group. Such a group will be instrumental for facilitating effective collaboration and coordination among all corrections stakeholders remaining in Timor-Leste to ensure the maximum use of resources that are likely to decrease in the future. This is viewed by AJSU as an imperative step, as the Mission prepares to leave. It is important to forge new relationships, building on the past accomplishments and the momentum that the SWGCG was able to create and form a new working group that is prepared to carry this work into the future.



# Partnership in Action in Special Political Missions

## The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA)

### Strengthening Partnership with Civil Society through Volunteerism

The prison system in Central African Republic (CAR) suffers from a complete lack of resources. This is partly a result of the prolonged political instability. The resources allocated by the Government to the justice system as a whole are less than one per cent of the country's annual budget. This deficiency explains why the prison system is seriously understaffed and almost the entire infrastructure is dilapidated. Many additional challenges stem from the fact that the corrections system is placed under the authority of the Ministry of Defense. Since independence, CAR has suffered from the absence of a comprehensive legal framework designed and suited to protect the rights of persons in detention. In an attempt to help address this gap, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) supported the Government in drafting a law governing the corrections sector.

The *Law on the Principles of Prison Administration* came into force on 12 April 2012. This law explicitly states that the objective of imprisonment is the rehabilitation of the prisoner through productive activities and reintegration programmes. It also mandates the civilianization and the professionalization of the prison staff. This implies that the military and the special forces should be replaced by a body of trained and competent civilian personnel. While this will not happen overnight, in particular in light of the lack of resources and institutional and human capacity, this provision in the prison law has to be regarded as a major step in the right direction.

BINUCA has established a partnership with the Ministry of Justice and the Committee on Justice and Peace (*Commission de Justice*

*et Paix*), a local non-governmental organization, to embark on transforming the corrections sector in CAR towards an institution that facilitates the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. In doing so, the partners also rely on volunteerism. BINUCA organized, as a pilot programme, the training of 25 volunteers selected from all administrative districts of Bangui and Bimbo in June 2012. The volunteers will assist the judicial authorities in the development and delivery of correctional programmes and organize social and cultural activities intended to facilitate the reintegration of prisoners into their respective communities. The 25 volunteers bring a wealth of experience and knowledge that can be transferred to the prisoners. They will engage in a variety of prison programmes and activities including health care, recreation activities, classroom and workshop instruction, social events and cultural activities. If this pilot project is successful, the volunteerism programme will be expanded throughout the country.

Worldwide academic research and studies show that volunteers help to bridge the gap between a prison community and the communities to which prisoners return upon their release. Equally important, volunteers from the community provide a means of effective communication among prison authorities and local communities, thereby helping the public to maintain a positive attitude towards the criminal justice system. Volunteers also bring the community into the penitentiary environment and therefore enable communication and mutual understanding through prison walls. In this respect, this initiative in CAR steps on new ground and may inspire similar initiatives in other countries in the world.



# The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS)

## A Holistic Approach to Improve the Penitentiary System

A fair and accessible justice system is one of the pillars on which any democratic state rests. Access to justice is particularly important for marginalized groups and the most vulnerable, including those behind bars. Security Council resolution 1876 (2009) mandates the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) to support national authorities to establish effective and efficient police and law enforcement and criminal justice systems.

In the course of 2011 and 2012, UNIOGBIS and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) supported the Government of Guinea-Bissau in an inclusive security sector reform process and a well-coordinated reform of the justice and corrections sectors. The main principle of all such efforts is national ownership and leadership.

From a country which had its sole prisons destroyed in the 1998-99 civil war Guinea-Bissau has come a long way. In 2011, the first two purpose-built secure penitentiaries of the country, in Bafatá and Mansoa, were inaugurated by the national Government. The new facilities allow for the secure housing of prisoners in line with international human rights standards. The assistance of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in the construction of the premises was critical.

It is the human capacity that gives adequate infrastructure its value. UNODC and UNIOGBIS therefore also concentrated their efforts on building the capacity of the corrections service, in particular on data management and the managing prisoners in line with international standards. A partnership is being established with UNDP Human Rights Department, UNODC, UNIOGBIS, of civil society organizations to implement a specialized training programme in human rights for corrections officers and inmates. UNODC and the Brazilian Federal Police supported the establishment of the Training Center for the Security Forces of Guinea-Bissau and developed its first training courses for Public Order Police Officers, Judicial Police Inspectors and State Intelligence Services elements.

UNIOGBIS and UNODC further facilitated and supported bilateral initiatives. This included the training of 78 corrections officers, the two directors of the prisons in Mansoa and Bafatá and the Director General of Prison Services by the Portuguese Ministry of Justice. The Portuguese Government also provided uniforms and equipment and trained 140 judicial police elements in international investigation and criminal assessment standards. The Brazilian Government hosted complementary training for the judicial police inspectors and agents.



Due to the sustained advocacy by UNIOGBIS and UNCT, the Government of Guinea-Bissau has opened up to new strategies of reducing the potential for conflict and promoting good governance (in particular at the local level), including strengthening the rule of law and access to justice. In doing so, there has been a shift in paradigms from focusing on the service provider, i.e. (central) government institutions to empowering the user of the justice system, i.e. enabling effective access to justice, legal aid and the decentralization of services. This is also reflected in the Government's strategic priorities in this sector. In a country that is characterized by the predominance of informal justice systems, new Government strategies aim at establishing an interface between formal and informal justice systems.

UNIOGBIS further undertakes court monitoring, focusing on the implementation of provisions of the law which can benefit detainees and enhance the credibility of the justice system as a whole. UNIOGBIS coordinates the newly created Multi-disciplinary Committee to Support Prisons and Detention Centers. This joint task force comprises of representatives of the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women, the Office of the General Prosecutor, the Judicial Police, the Justice Administration, National Human Rights Commission, the

Bar Association, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the European Union. By facilitating coordination and cooperation among key partners, UNIOGBIS supports the national authorities in the establishment of a penitentiary system in a coherent and well-coordinated manner, in accordance with international standards.

Since April 2012, a Protection Team was created. This team comprises members from UNODC, the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNDP, UNIOGBIS, the European Union and the non-governmental organizations Manitesse, Comissão Justiça e Paz and Plan International to identify the most pressing problems and coordinate interventions in prisons and detention centers, with a special focus on overcrowding, legal limitations to detentions, food, water and health.

Much has been achieved in Guinea-Bissau, despite considerable challenges. The political instability has hindered effective reforms and the Government's capacity to put into effect policy changes. This has also resulted in a certain degree of reticence in the donor community. The coup d'état of 12 April 2012 has negatively impacted on implementing reforms. However, UNIOGBIS and the UNCT strive to keep channels of communication open with all stakeholders and partners, with a view to effectively implement their respective mandates.

## The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL)

# A Comprehensive Assessment of the Corrections Sector

Supporting improvements in the corrections system is part of the mandate of the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL HRS). The Section has established a positive cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Prisons Department. Under the agreed framework of assistance, UNIPSIL HRS conducts periodic monitoring of prisons and other detention facilities such as police cells and cells at the local courts where customary law is administered. The findings and recommendations of this activity have informed the Section's engagement with local authorities and its advocacy efforts to take appropriate action when human rights violations are identified. Also, UNIPSIL HRS periodically organizes training on human rights standards and detention management for corrections officers. Technical assistance has been provided towards the establishment of a library at the Pademba Road Prison in Freetown, the largest of the country.

### Monitoring, Analysis and Public Reporting

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Prisons Department acknowledge significant challenges, some of which require

## Working with UNODC in Guinea-Bissau

The overall objective of the UNODC engagement in Guinea-Bissau in the rule of law sector is to make the criminal justice system more accessible, accountable, effective, fair, humane and efficient. Strengthening the corrections system is an integral part of UNODC strategy.

The funds made available under this programme allowed the rehabilitation of two regional prisons, one in Mansoa and one in Bafatá, that were refurbished in line with international standards. A proper data management system was established for the two prisons and for the General-Directorate of the Bissau-Guinean Prison Services in the Ministry of Justice. With the new system, the corrections service in Guinea-Bissau is now empowered to keep up-to-date and accurate records of all relevant information regarding the prison population, thereby reducing prolonged pretrial and other arbitrary detention. UNODC also provided assistance in the recruitment of senior penitentiary staff and provided training with special focus on the management of the data files as well as a human-rights-based approach to prison management. The excellent partnership between UNODC, UNIOGBIS, UNDP, the EU delegation in Guinea-Bissau and the Portuguese Government made this project a successful one.

substantial technical and financial support. In order to highlight these and related issues, UNIPSIL HRS has embarked in a systematic review of the status of detention in Sierra Leone in the first half of 2012 with the objective to assist the Government and development partners in designing more sustainable and impact-oriented interventions. The results of this analysis will be summarized in a joint public report by UNIPSIL and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) which will be available shortly.

### Methodology

The study builds on a 2007 report with the title *"Behind Walls: An Inventory and Assessment of Prisons in Sierra Leone"* by the Human Rights and Rule of Law Section of UNIOSIL, the former United Nations mission in Sierra Leone. The report made recommendations which resulted in an intervention to address key perennial challenges in the correction system. This programme was financed by the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund and amounted to \$ US 1.5 million. The new report assesses the extent of the implementation of the recommendations and the progress made by past capacity building interventions. The

scope of the current analysis is wider and includes other detention facilities, notably police cells and local court cells, which were not covered by the 2007 report. The main objective of the study is to establish the current status of detention in Sierra Leone in order to identify areas for further support and to provide up-to-date and accurate information to inform policy and decision making in the corrections sector and for the administration of justice.

The report reviews the legal and institutional framework of Sierra Leone in the light of the country's obligations under international human rights standards. It analyses access to justice and justice reform issues within the correction system and examines organizational reform measures, gaps and human rights implications. The study also provides an objective assessment of the state of infrastructure and conditions of detention, based on systematic monitoring conducted by UNIPSIL HRS in March and April 2012. Human rights officers visited all the 16 prisons of the country, the three correctional centers for juveniles and a number of police cells and local court cells in all the regions and conducted interviews with inmates, corrections officers and heads of the institutions. Preliminary findings were shared with justice sector authorities, other relevant ministries and development partners and their views are reflected in the final report.

## Piracy in Somalia

The UNODC Counter-Piracy Programme (CPP) began in May 2009 with a mandate to help Kenya deal with an increase of attacks by Somali pirates. UNODC CPP is now working in six countries with coastlines at the Indian Ocean and has proved effective in supporting efforts to detain and prosecute persons suspected of piracy, in accordance with international standards of rule of law and respect for human rights. UNODC CPP and its partners have had considerable success across the criminal justice sector. Kenya is currently prosecuting 80 suspects, 67 have already been convicted. Furthermore, the Seychelles, despite its size, has undertaken 90 prosecutions and 67 persons have already been sentenced. Mauritius has declared that it too will assist in the prosecution of pirates. These countries, as well as Tanzania and Maldives, continue to be assisted by UNODC through judicial, prosecutorial, police and prison capacity building programmes. With the support of the European Union (EU), UNODC has provided assistance ranging from provision of equipment such as vehicles, computers, uniforms and police radios, to construction of courts and prison blocks as well as training and learning exchanges for staff from all four areas of the criminal justice system. Expert advice has been provided to assist with legal reform. During trials, UNODC CPP has ensured the attendance of witnesses, interpretation, transcription and support to defense counsels.

### Findings and Recommendations

Poor infrastructure and inadequate maintenance make the prisons, and more often the police cells, largely unfit to meet international standards. Lack of lighting, furniture, beds, sanitary and medical facilities are more often the rule rather than the exception. The conditions of detention are therefore extremely harsh. Access to food and drinking water is often inadequate, poor hygiene negatively impacts on the health of the prisoners and medical care is limited. Different categories of prisoners are often held together, while superficial age assessment procedures sometimes cause juveniles to be mixed with adults.

The prisons management has a degree of responsibility for these shortcomings and has expressed its commitment to address both immediate and long term challenges. However, sustainable solutions of many of these problems can only come by looking at the corrections system as part of the whole criminal justice process, from arrest to sentencing. The largest part of the population in prison is detained for minor offences, such as traffic offences, loitering, or false pretence, thus contributing to overcrowding the facilities and adding a burden on the limited resources allocated to the prison services. In addition, limited access to bail, the absence of magistrates and the irregularity of court sittings make those on remand wait often more than a year to appear before the court. Crucial recommendations of the report are therefore directed to tackling the perennial malfunctioning in the administration of justice and introducing alternatives to imprisonment.



Two recent tangible results of UNODC CPP successful partnerships with other United Nations agencies, Member States and national partners are the training activities conducted in the Seychelles and the opening and operational assistance provided to Hargeisa Prison in Somaliland.

**The Seychelles Prison Learning Exchange:** For four days prison staff from Tanzania, Mauritius, Kenya and the Seychelles attended a prison learning exchange held in the Seychelles. The learning exchange was conducted from 19 to 22 March 2012 by Norwegian and United Kingdom prisons officers with funding



**Kenyan Forces in Kismayo, South Somalia.**  
UN Photo/Stuart Price

support from UNODC and the EU. The training focused on several important issues such as communication, ethics, remand prisoners, vulnerable groups (in particular juveniles), as well as practical issues such as cell and inmate searches. Prison staff also had the opportunity to tour the new wing of the Seychelles Montaigne Posse Prison built for suspected piracy prisoners. The new wing includes 60 beds and was built with funding and design assistance from UNODC.

Whether it was during classroom sessions, the tour through the prison, or evening gatherings, trainers and participants collaborated on envisioning the tools and training necessary to achieve “the perfect prison” — one that minimized resource usage and prioritized ethics, high standards, professionalism and the humane treatment of prisoners. Mie Eek-Larsen, Director of the Seychelles Prison learning exchange comments: “A prison learning exchange is not only about the classes, but also about meeting up with colleagues from other countries and services to share common experiences and learn from each other’s challenges and successes”.

**Hargeisa Prison, Somaliland:** The Piracy Prisoner Transfer Programme (PPTP) was developed by UNODC in response to calls from prosecuting states for a long-term imprisonment solution for those pirates convicted in their courts. For countries in the region, particularly the smaller ones such as the Seychelles, prison capacity is scarce. UNODC firmly believes that prisoners should, wherever possible and subject to human rights considerations, serve their prison sentences in their own country. This principle applies equally to Somali pirates, although prison conditions across most of the Somali regions currently fall well short of international standards, causing many states to stop prisoner transfers to Somalia.

The PPTP proposed the building of two prisons, one in Puntland and one in Somaliland, with a full assistance package from UNODC. This package includes assistance with design, construction, staff training, associated law reform and prison operation. UNODC has already completed refurbishing work on Hargeisa Prison and it was officially handed over to the authorities of Somaliland by UNODC Executive Director Yury Fedotov in March 2011. The Hargeisa Prison, built by the United Nations Development Programme and UNODC, was opened as the international community looks for ways to solve the problem of repatriating more than 1,000 pirates from prisons around the world. In March 2012, the first set of 17 piracy prisoners were repatriated from the Seychelles to Somaliland to serve the remainder of their sentences in Hargeisa Prison. UNODC has also provided extensive expert training to the 210 prison officers at Hargeisa, as well as providing equipment and material for prisoner and staff uniforms. UNODC Counter Piracy Programme Coordinator Alan Cole explains: “Hargeisa prison is the first new prison to be opened in Somalia for many years and clearly demonstrates that Somaliland is committed to improving its prison sector. UNODC is going to continue to work in Somaliland and Puntland in collaboration with the authorities to ensure that they are properly supported in the fight against piracy”.

## Interning in the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service

Internship with the United Nations is one of the best ways to get a taste of what working for the Organization is like. Those who are selected to intern with the United Nations will open new frontiers of knowledge and gain a unique experience of working in a multicultural atmosphere, where one ought to forget the interests of the country of their nationality and work for the benefit of humanity.

Interns play an important role in the work of the Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service (CLJAS). They are responsible for routine but time-consuming tasks which are critical. Interns participate in screening and conducting interviews with

government-provided personnel; assisting in their deployment to the United Nations peacekeeping missions; taking notes and drafting reports on meetings, workshops and seminars; preparing mission-specific briefing packages; assisting in the development of project proposals and many other interesting tasks. CLJAS provides an excellent opportunity for interns to take an active part in developing the work of the Service by preparing projects that would be beneficial to them and to CLJAS. Simarpreet Bhangu, after completing his internship with the corrections team of CLJAS, shared his experience: “I was part of creating, planning, and implementing new projects that were tailored to my interests

[...] Watching one of my projects come together left a feeling of pride and accomplishment that I still carry with me”.

All who have undertaken internships or worked in CLJAS share a common view that it has left an important mark in their life. One of the Interns, Kirill Vilnin, who was one of the most recent interns with CLJAS, noted: “For me interning in CLJAS is among the most significant milestones, where I realized that I am ready to dedicate my life to working in the United Nations. I have gained invaluable experience in a friendly environment, learning from the best professionals and experts”.



CCJAS Corrections team with Vilnin.  
UN Photo

## Standard Minimum Rules Re-visited

### What's new with the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners?

Pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 65/230 on crime prevention and criminal justice in 2010, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) established “an open-ended intergovernmental expert group to exchange information on best practices, as well as national legislation and existing international law, and on the revision of existing United Nations standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners so that they reflect recent advances in correctional science and best practices, with a view to making recommendations to the Commission on possible steps.”

#### Expert group

The first open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting, hosted by UNODC and attended by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service), took place in Vienna at the end of January 2012. A full review of existing international documentation and a series of initiatives to gather information, including a direct request to all United Nations Member States on best practices and recommendations on ways to improve the Standard Minimum Rules (SMR) for the treatment of prisoners, was conducted.

#### Options

On the basis this information, four specific options for adjusting the SMR were identified for consideration by the open-ended intergovernmental expert group. The first option was to negotiate a binding instrument guaranteeing certain standards in places of detention and establishing a system of mutual evaluation for State Parties. The second option was a complete restructuring and substantive redrafting of the SMR to reflect the

numerous developments since their adoption. The third option acknowledged the complexity involved in a complete revision of the SMR and the risk of lowering some of the standards enshrined in the SMR. The fourth and last option recognized the validity of the SMR and proposed the addition of a preamble referring to relevant human rights and criminal justice instruments, with a commentary added to the SMR that would highlight major implications in terms of modern thinking and good practice, as well as renewed efforts to more effectively implement the SMR and to monitor their application.

After a dynamic discussion, the Intergovernmental Expert Group agreed that the SMR had stood the test of time and were universally acknowledged as the minimum standards for the detention of prisoners. Further, there was a consensus that any changes to the SMR must not lower any of the existing standards.

Bearing this in mind, the Intergovernmental Expert Group recognized the need for reviewing certain areas of the SMR. It identified several preliminary areas for possible consideration. The twenty-first session of the CCPCJ (Vienna, 23 – 27 April 2012) considered the recommendations by the Intergovernmental Expert Group and recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly. The draft resolution (E/CN.15/2012/L.4/Rev.2), inter alia, recognized that some areas of the Rules could be reviewed, “provided that any changes to the Rules would not lower any existing standards” and took note of the preliminary areas for possible consideration identified by the Intergovernmental Expert Group. It also authorized the Intergovernmental Expert Group to continue its work within its mandate. The Government of Argentina has generously offered to host the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Expert Group.

# Unstoppable & Unending Campaigns

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Political campaigns for the Presidential & Legislative Elections come and go and end on schedule, but campaigns that will improve the livelihood of every Liberian, develop and modernize Liberia have no deadline, have no cut off point, these campaigns remain unending;

The campaign to stir up more nationalistic and patriotic spirit in every Liberian continues

The campaign to eradicate or minimize corruption flows on

The campaign to reconcile and love each other, bury the hurts and hatred remains unending,

The campaign where the rule of law, fair-play, good governance & Justice is rooted in policies plan continues

The campaign where our children will be taught that indeed "the pen is mightier than the sword" and the court system should be preferred to violence is undefeatable

The campaign where sycophancy, lies, undermining and deceit will be vetoed, giving way to sincerity, honesty and frankness.

The campaign where our teenage daughters will take delight in education, empower themselves and say no to early sex and unplanned and unwanted pregnancies.

The campaign that no Liberian should be judged based on past/present political affiliations, ambitions, family ties, tribal link, but rather on his character remains unabated.

The campaign to decentralize and make available and accessible basic human needs to every Liberian in each locality remains unwavering and unbiased.

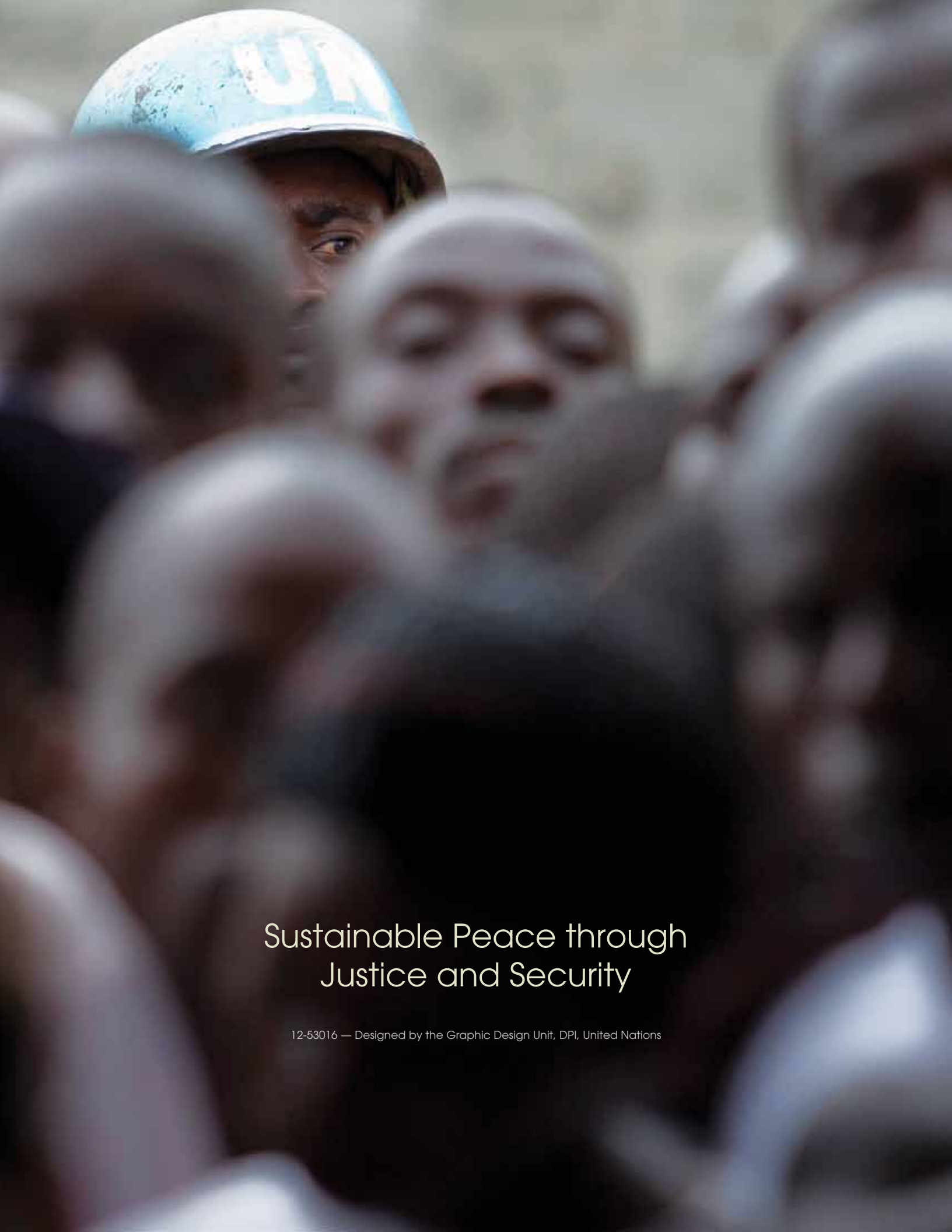
The campaign that every man is equal in God's sight and under the law and his dignity should be respected remains unbowed

The campaign of "let no gun shots be heard within our borders, no more bloodshed, no more child soldiers, no more rebels, no more shelling, no more bombs, no more grenades, no more "might makes right", no more war machineries, no more ill gotten wealth, no more rape, no more arm robberies, no more violence is crushed to the ground, never to rise again.

All hail Liberia hail!!!

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# Sustainable Peace through Justice and Security

12-53016 — Designed by the Graphic Design Unit, DPI, United Nations