



JUSTICE AND CORRECTIONS STANDING CAPACITY (JCSC)

JCSC News



JANUARY 2019

Introduction

2018 was another busy year for the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC). In the absence of any new start-up missions, JCSC focused on supporting existing United Nations peace operations according to its mandate. Assistance from JCSC was in particular demand to advance rule of law transition planning, implementation and lessons learned studies in Darfur, Haiti and Liberia. JCSC also provided specific expertise in substantive areas, such as the investigation and prosecution of destabilizing crimes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Mali; anti-corruption in Afghanistan; and prison security, with a specific focus on prison intelligence and information in the DRC. JCSC was also requested to strengthen planning capacities for the successful implementation of projects funded with assessed funds (programmatic funding) in Mali. And for the first time, under the auspices of the Global Focal Point arrangement for Police, Justice and Corrections (GFP), JCSC supported the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Central African Republic (CAR), including to advance MINUSCA mandate delivery through one of the joint United Nations rule of law programmes in CAR. In another first, JCSC deployments to United Nations peace operations were partly funded by other UN actors – UNDP funded deployments in DRC and Darfur, and a deployment to Haiti was funded by the GFP in conjunction with the DPO/UNDP Transition Project.



From left to right: Bilal Waqad (UNAMA Rule of Law Officer, Political Affairs Service), Alice Mauske (JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer), Mr. Abdul Raziq (General Director of Social Protection and Social Security, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled). Credit: UNAMA staff



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Erica Bussey (first from right) takes part in a mission to MONUSCO to assess and provide support to the Prosecution Support Cell programme. Pictured here with Goma Prosecution Support Cell Team Leader Zoe Ouedraogo and Congolese military justice official at the courtroom for the Sheka trial. Credit: MONUSCO staff

Overview of deployments in 2018

Supporting transitions (planning, implementation, lessons learned)

Liberia (UNMIL) - Until January 2018, the JCSC Team Leader continued his deployment to Liberia to coordinate the finalization of a comprehensive lessons identification study, covering the entire 14 years lifespan of the Mission. The study, undertaken by the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT), along with colleagues from UNMIL, the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) within the Department of Peace Operations and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), was finalized in March 2018 and contains lessons with respect to future transitions of peace operations. Moreover, he assisted with the closure of the Mission's Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG)/Rule of Law through the preparation of legacy documents, including briefs for the then newly-elected incoming Government of Liberia.



Darfur/Sudan (UNAMID) - The recent mandate for UNAMID foresaw a new and unique transition concept through the establishment of state liaison functions (SLF) in four of the five Darfuri states, covering four mandated priority areas deemed critical to avoid a relapse into conflict, including the rule of law. *Between October and December 2018*, the JCSC Team Leader deployed to Darfur to assist the Mission and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) with the operationalization of the concept, to agree on joint operations to be undertaken until June 2020 in relation to the rule of law and to finalize budget proposals for the consideration of the General Assembly.

Picture: JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber chairing meeting with UNAMID and UNCT staff on new transition concept.
Credit: Moses Simon, UNAMID

Haiti (MINUJUSTH) - As the Mission is expected to close in October 2019, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer has been deployed to MINUJUSTH *since November 2018* to work with the Mission's Justice and Corrections Section, other Mission components and the UNCT to advance and advise on the transition planning process and support a smooth handover of tasks to the Government of Haiti and the UNCT. So far, the Rule of Law Officer has carried out extensive consultations with relevant Mission components and Agencies, Funds and Programmes to determine areas of continued rule of law support by the UNCT post-MINUJUSTH, potential gaps and transitional arrangements. She has also helped develop and implement a joint financing strategy action plan.

Afghanistan (UNAMA) - Although the Mission is not yet transitioning, the recent Strategic Review resulted in a merger of the Rule of Law Unit (ROLU) with the Political Affairs Section and a closure of the presence of ROLU in the field. In this context, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer deployed to UNAMA *between April and July 2018* to lead the monitoring of the implementation of the new Afghan Penal Code in all regions of the country and to help the ROLU finalize the transitional arrangements for a handover of field activities to other partners, including the Government and UNCT. The monitoring report is expected to inform future rule of law interventions by the Government, UNCT and bilateral partners.

JCSC is part of the Justice and Corrections Service (JCS), Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI), United Nations Department of Peace Operations (DPO). JCSC is based at the United Nations Global Service Centre in Brindisi, Italy. It is a rapid response team that deploys to support United Nations peace operations and GFP partners. JCSC has three core functions: (1) starting up justice and corrections components in peace operations; (2) reinforcing existing peace operations in the areas of justice and corrections by providing time-limited and targeted support; and (3) conducting needs assessments and reviews in the areas of justice and corrections. Currently, it has a staffing strength of seven posts: one Team Leader, two Corrections Officers, two Judicial Affairs Officers, one Rule of Law Officer and one Administrative Assistant.

Supporting the investigation and prosecution of destabilizing crime/transitional justice

Mali (MINUSMA) - The JCSC Team Leader deployed to MINUSMA *between February and April 2018* to assist the Justice and Corrections Section (JCS) with the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to support the *Pôle Judiciaire Spécialisé en matière de lutte contre le terrorisme et la criminalité transnationale organisée* (PJS). The PJS is the national institution exclusively responsible for the investigation and prosecution of terrorism and transnational organized crime cases, and is therefore critical for the fight against impunity, the implementation of the peace agreement in Mali, and the protection of civilians. The MoU has been finalized and implementation has commenced. The Team Leader also assisted the Chief of MINUSMA JCS with the Strategic Review of the Mission in May 2018, which resulted in a stronger and more explicit rule of law mandate.

DRC (MONUSCO) - *Between October and November 2018*, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, supported by a JCS colleague, was deployed to the DRC to assist the Justice Support Section (JSS) with an evaluation of the Mission's Prosecution Support Cells (PSCs) and to make recommendations for the next phases of the programme. The review will be shared with relevant stakeholders and is expected to inform the structure and capacity needs of the PSC programme going forward. The PSCs remain one of the Mission's most effective tools in combatting impunity and supporting the protection of civilians.



JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Erica Bussey (centre) takes part in a mission to MONUSCO to assess and provide support to the Prosecution Support Cell programme. Pictured here with Goma Prosecution Support Cell Investigation Advisor Fatoumata Bagayoko and North Kivu Congolese military justice officials, Goma, North Kivu. Credit: MONUSCO staff



Picture: JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer Erica Bussey (first from right) takes part in a mission to MINUSCA on transitional justice, pictured here with the Minister of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation, Virginie Baïkoua, and the other members of the delegation: Priscilla Hayner, Transitional Justice Expert, Mediation Standby Unit, and Maia Trujillo, Political Affairs Officer, IOT-CAR. Credit: Ministry staff

CAR (MINUSCA) - In August 2018, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, along with an expert from the Mediation Standby Team of the then United Nations Department of Political Affairs, deployed to CAR to provide concrete suggestions for a transitional justice roadmap for the country and to advise on related legal aspects. This deployment built upon previous JCSC support to MINUSCA on the fight against impunity, including support to the operationalization of the Special Criminal Court, which is an important mechanism in CAR's current and future transitional justice landscape.

Supporting prison security

DRC (MONUSCO) - In two deployments between June and July 2018 and October 2018, a JCSC Corrections Officer supported the review and further development of prison intelligence cells in several priority prisons in the country's trouble-ridden east, where escapes and attacks on prisons are common and pose significant challenges with respect to the protection of civilians. As part of the deployment, he developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on Prison Intelligence Cells, contributing to better functioning and inclusive national prison intelligence cells in Goma, Beni, Bukavu and Kananga and reduction of security incidents.

JCSC Corrections Officer Cheikh Basse (on the right) together with MONUSCO Corrections Officer (on the left) after a meeting with the Minister of Justice of North Kivu (in the middle/front) and her Chief of Staff



Supporting anti-corruption

Afghanistan (UNAMA) - Between February and May 2018, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer deployed to UNAMA to draft the Mission's annual anti-corruption report, which was published on 15 May 2018. She also co-presented the report at a press conference chaired by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA. The report represents a key tool for the Mission's anti-corruption work, analyzing reform trends and provides concrete policy recommendations.

Picture: JCSC Rule of Law Officer Romana Schweiger (first from left) in a meeting with Afghanistan's Chief Justice, Sayed Yousuf Halim, Kabul, discussing his cooperation in providing data to the UNAMA Anti-Corruption Report. Credit: UNAMA staff



Programmatic support

Mali (MINUSMA) - Following up on the deployment to MINUSMA between February and April 2018, a JCSC Rule of Law Officer assisted MINUSMA between June and July 2018 to implement a project to support traditional justice mechanisms in northern Mali (financed with USD 300,000 of programmatic funding). She provided project management capacity which enabled the Mission to fully implement the project within the 2017/2018 financial year.

Picture: JCSC Rule of Law Officer Romana Schweiger (centre) with participants of a workshop on traditional justice. Credit: MINUSMA staff



CAR (MINUSCA/UNDP) - Between August and September 2018, a Rule of Law Officer carried out the first JCSC deployment to UNDP (in CAR) under the GFP umbrella. She provided project management capacity in order to advance mandate delivery by the Justice and Corrections Section of MINUSCA through a joint United Nations (MINUSCA/UNDP/UN Women) rule of law programme. She mobilized continuous funding for the programme and initiated the consultation process on the national justice reform strategy.

Training

In **May 2018**, JCSC, together with the Standing Police Capacity (SPC), organized a two-day workshop on Counter Terrorism/Countering Violent Extremism (CT-CVE) which was facilitated by ISSAT, with participation from the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (TPB-UNODC), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), and the Swedish Prison and Probation Service (SPPS). Through the workshop, JCSC solidified its knowledge of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant Security Council resolutions and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and is now better prepared to deploy in support of peace operations in relation to CT-CVE.



JCSC and SPC Chiefs Carsten Weber and Christoph Buik opening CT-CVE workshop in Brindisi



JCSC Corrections Officer Cheikh Basse speaking at JCSC/SPC CPAS training in Brindisi

In **November 2018**, JCSC and SPC together with United Nations staff from four peacekeeping missions took part in an advanced training course on the Peacekeeping Comprehensive Performance Assessment System (CPAS), which is currently being developed. The course was led by the Division for Policy, Evaluation and Training (DPET) in the then Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support (DPKO and DFS, respectively). SPC and JCSC will soon deploy to three pilot missions (MINUSCA, UNMISS and UNIFIL) to support the roll-out of the first phase of its implementation.



Looking ahead: Year one within the new structure ...

As of 1 January 2019, JCSC - as part of JCS/OROLSI - belongs to the newly created Department of Peace Operations. It will therefore continue to serve rule of law components that are administered by the Department. At the same time, JCSC - through OROLSI's new role as system-wide service provider (as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the proposed budget for the support account for peacekeeping operations for 2018/2019 (A72/772)) - will support operations administered by the newly created Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and increasingly engage under the GFP umbrella with United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes, especially to strengthen their capacities to ensure successful transitions of United Nations peace operations in the rule of law area. Furthermore, and in line with the Secretary-General's vision and focus on conflict prevention, JCSC will, along with the SPC and GFP partners, offer its expertise where it has comparative advantages and where rapid deployment is essential to the prevention of conflict or violence.

CONTACT

Carsten Weber, Team Leader

Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity
United Nations Global Service Centre
Piazza del Vento, 1
72100 Brindisi - Italy

weberc@un.org

+39 0831 05 6305 (office)

+ 39 345 582 1790 (mobile)

 peacekeeping.un.org

Connect with UN Peacekeeping on social media:

