



JCSC News

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF
PEACE
OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF RULE
OF LAW AND
SECURITY
INSTITUTIONS

JUSTICE AND
CORRECTIONS
SERVICE

JUSTICE AND
CORRECTIONS
STANDING
CAPACITY (JCSC)

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 other United Nations partners including those of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP)

The year 2021 marked a milestone for the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC). On 1 April 2021, we celebrated *ten years* of operations in an online event moderated by the Assistant Director of the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)/Head of Department of DCAF's International Security Sector Advisory Team. Former and current clients from UNAMID, UNSOM, MINUSMA, MONUSCO and UNDP as well as Member States (Germany and Sweden) discussed the achievements of the JCSC and its vision for the coming ten years. The event was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations, the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, the Director of the United Nations Global Service Centre and a senior representative of the Italian Government.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, the JCSC is proud to have strengthened its support to peace operations with respect to: the prosecution of destabilizing crime; the Women, Peace and Security agenda with a focus on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV); prison security, especially in relation to high-risk prisoners; as well as strategic rule of law planning. For the first time, we deployed to United Nations Regional Offices to support conflict prevention efforts and inform political rule of law analysis and engagement. The JCSC also continued to deploy to non-mission settings in coordination with partners of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP).

The JCSC is amazed by the overwhelming support to, and ongoing demand for our small team, and would like to express a heartfelt thank you to clients, partners and the United Nations Global Service Centre management alike! Our special thanks go to Germany for its continuous support to the Standing Capacities that has contributed to a number of the achievements highlighted in this Newsletter. We also thank Sweden for the production of JCSC promotional materials on the ten-year anniversary.

Below is a summary of our 2021 operations. We look forward to continuing full steam ahead in the coming year and beyond. We wish you all a very happy 2022!

From the JCSC team,

Carsten, Myriam, Moussa, Alice, Oscar and Raffaella

JCSC achievements in 2021

SUPPORT TO THE PROSECUTION OF CRIME FUELLING CONFLICT/DESTABILIZING CRIME

MINUSMA:

CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY/PROSECUTORIAL STRATEGY AND SUPPORT TO MILITARY JUSTICE REFORM

This deployment (May - August 2021) advanced the development of a prosecutorial strategy for serious conflict-related crimes, including sexual violence in conflict, and paved the way for MINUSMA and other partners to concretely support nationally-owned prosecutions through technical, operational, and strategic support. It also allowed for the launch of the military justice reform process in Mali.

MINUSMA:

STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO FIGHTING IMPUNITY FOR CONFLICT- RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (CRSV)

Following a previous deployment, this engagement (November - December 2021) advanced progress on four priority CRSV cases relating to crimes committed during 2012-2013, which involved 146 victims. Technical, operational, and strategic support was provided to Malian magistrates to sustain momentum, promote coordination, and maximize resources for the cases, which are currently pending before Malian courts.



Bamako. JCSC Rule of Law Officer Myriam Raymond-Jetté (standing) presenting during a workshop on the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence committed in the armed conflict in Northern Mali in 2012-2013 with magistrates, lawyers and civil society representatives of Timbuktu, Gao and Bamako involved in the prosecution of these cases

MONUSCO:

SUPPORT TO THE PROSECUTION SUPPORT CELLS (PSC) PROGRAMME; JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO CRSV AND WORKSHOP ON LESSONS LEARNED

During this deployment to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (September – November 2021), options were developed for the maintenance of support to the fight against impunity beyond the transition of MONUSCO. Complemented by the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, the deployment also resulted in an assessment of the judicial response to CRSV cases for the period of 2015-2021, to be used as a reference tool in the adjudication of pending cases. The assessment has already been used to inform a workshop with national counterparts on lessons learned from the "Sheka" case and priority CRSV cases.



Kananga. JCSC Rule of Law Officer Myriam Raymond-Jetté (middle) attending a military justice trial with military justice actors and stakeholders; the assessment led to the development of options for the PSC programme in relation to the overall transition of MONUSCO. Credit: UN



Kinshasa. Workshop conducted on the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence and lessons learned from the case against Ntibo Ntiberi (alias Sheka) et al. JCSC Rule of Law Officer Myriam Raymond-Jetté (standing) with military judges and prosecutors of the High Military Court and Auditorat Général, lawyers and civil society representatives involved in the judicial response to conflict-related sexual violence in Eastern DRC and Kananga.

SUPPORT TO PRISON SECURITY

MINUSMA:

DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY WARNING MECHANISMS IN PRISONS

This deployment to Mali (March – April 2021) furthered the development of an early warning mechanism to improve prison security and prevent radicalisation in prisons, including through the management of high-risk inmates such as those held on terrorism and related charges. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) were developed and a capacity-building workshop was held for prison personnel in Bamako and Koulikoro. Following the workshop, a national monitoring committee was established to monitor the implementation of recommendations.



Koulikoro. JCSC Corrections Officer Cheikh Basse during a visit to Koulikoro prison holding high risk prisoners and a working session with the prison director. Credit: MINUSMA



Ouagadougou. JCSC Officer Cheikh Basse (right) briefs former Resident Coordinator Metsi Makhetha on his evaluation and classification of high-risk prisoners detained for terrorism related crimes that was carried out at Ouagadougou High Security Prison to assist national authorities in Burkina Faso

BURKINA FASO RESIDENT COORDINATOR:

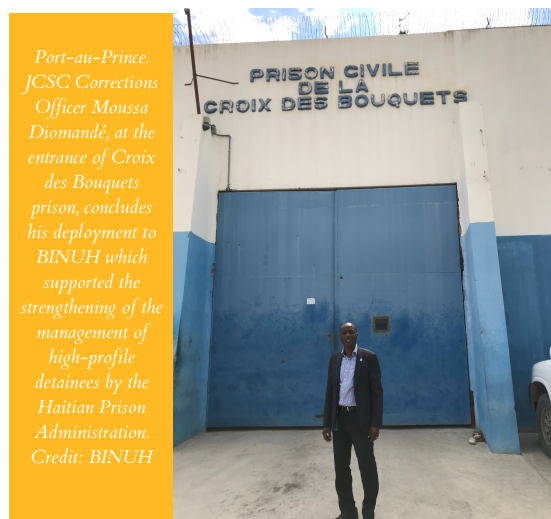
ASSESSMENT OF PRISON CONDITIONS

This deployment (June – July 2021) led to a comprehensive nationally-owned assessment of conditions in the high security prison in Ouagadougou as well as the creation of a classification tool for high-risk inmates, terrorism suspects etc., to be used by the national prison service, which will facilitate processing through the criminal justice system.

BINUH:

STRATEGIC SURGE CAPACITY

This JCSC deployment to Haiti (September – October 2021) provided strategic surge capacity to oversee BINUH's Corrections Section and its support to the Haitian prison administration, including strengthening the management of high-profile detainees to reduce prison security incidents. The deployment also advanced the development of a guidance manual on the management of high-risk offenders for use by the Haitian Prison Administration.



Port-au-Prince. JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé, at the entrance of Croix des Bouquets prison, concludes his deployment to BINUH which supported the strengthening of the management of high-profile detainees by the Haitian Prison Administration. Credit: BINUH

MINUSCA:

TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRISON DEMILITARIZATION STRATEGY

This deployment (October – December 2021) to the Central African Republic (CAR) led to the validation and dissemination of the National Prisoner Classification Manual, including a Security Risk Assessment tool that was conceptualized during a previous deployment. The nationally-owned instrument will allow CAR prison authorities to properly measure the security risk level of prisoners and classify them accordingly. This allows the correct type of housing and opportunities for rehabilitation to be provided to reduce recidivism. Additionally, alongside UNDP, JCSC advanced the review of the computerized inmate records management project to be implemented as a pilot project in three CAR prisons. Lastly, the training curricula for prison personnel was reviewed and two training programmes were drafted for the initial training of prison managers.



Bangui. JCSC Corrections Officer Moussa Diomandé (fourth from left) sharing lessons learned on joint UN efforts to support to inmate records management in Haiti, during a working session with JCS MINUSCA and UNDP/CAR. From left to right: Nelly Opio, JCS MINUSCA; Leila Ben Othman, JCS MINUSCA; Ozlem Guluzar Celebi, UNDP; Moussa Diomandé, JCSC Corrections Officer; Luc Sogo Zina, OIC Corrections/JCS MINUSCA; Janvier Ledoux, UNDP; Matigo Alfred, UNDP and Tchiro Ye, JCS MINUSCA. Credit: MINUSCA



Bangui. JCSC and UNDP briefed national authorities on the computerized inmate records management project. From left to right: Tchiro Ye, JCS MINUSCA; Nelly Opio, JCS MINUSCA; Pamphile Oradimo General Director of Penitentiary Services/CAR; Luc Sogo Zina, OIC Corrections/JCS MINUSCA; Moussa Diomandé, JCSC Corrections Officer; Ozlem Celebi, UNDP; Janvier Ledoux Akouvo, UNDP. Credit: UNDP/CAR

STRATEGIC RULE OF LAW PLANNING

BINUH:

STRATEGIC AND TECHNICAL ADVICE TO THE SRSG AND SURGE CAPACITY

This deployment to Haiti (January – February remotely, followed by an on-site deployment until April 2021) informed the good offices of the SRSG on justice-related priorities, as well as BINUH's messaging on the constitutional reform process. With JCSC support, a United Nations system-wide coordination mechanism on justice issues was established and a joint UNDP-BINUH programme proposal was developed. The deployment also led to significant progress towards the establishment of the Board of the National Legal Assistance Council.

UNMISS: SUPPORT TO RULE OF LAW COORDINATION AND PROGRAMMING

In line with the recent UNMISS mandate, this deployment to South Sudan (July – September 2021) provided UNMISS with conceptual and strategic assistance for the rollout of an integrated rule of law field structure, aiming to ameliorate accountability through enhancing the criminal justice chain in priority geographic areas.



Malakal. Visit to Malakal Central Prison to conceptualize and rollout the integrated rule of law field structure to strengthen the criminal justice chain in priority geographic areas. JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber (fifth from left) with UNMISS RoL team, Police Commissioner of Malakal Police Station, Malakal Central Prison Director and County Court Judge. Credit: UNMISS



Mogadishu. JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber with UNSOM DSRSG Anita Kiki Gheho during his deployment to provide strategic advice on political and rule of law joint UN programming in Somalia. Credit: UNSOM

UNSOM: STRATEGIC RULE OF LAW SUPPORT TO THE DSRSG

This deployment to Somalia (September – November 2021) aimed at ensuring that joint United Nations rule of law and security programming is aligned with, and complements, the Mission's political objectives, especially in relation to constitutional reform, the separation of powers/judicial independence and the development of a federated system of governance. The deployment also supported the Mission to strengthen structures for coordination and delivery of these objectives.

UNOCA: ASSESSMENT OF RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY NEEDS

The JCSC joined a scoping mission to UNOCA in Gabon (May – June 2021) with the Standing Police Capacity and the OROLSI Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Section. In partnership with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, the deployment strengthened the engagement of OROLSI on conflict prevention, including at the regional level. An assessment report was produced identifying key areas requiring rule of law and security support in the Central African region including: democratic and electoral governance; security governance; climate change/security; as well as country-specific challenges and opportunities for OROLSI support through UNOCA in Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The report included concrete recommendations to UNOCA for short, medium and long-term support.



Libreville. The OROLSI scoping mission identified concrete areas of support on rule of law and security institutions needed or requested by UNOCA, ECCAS, and United Nations Resident Coordinators (RCs) in Central Africa. Credit: UNOCA

UNOWAS: SUPPORT ON JUDICIAL GOVERNANCE

This JCSC deployment (June – August 2021, followed by remote support) produced a research paper on judicial governance in West Africa and the Sahel, highlighting trends related to the instrumentalization of the judiciary and including an assessment of judicial independence in the sub-region. The analysis was based on broad consultations with national rule of law, regional/sub-regional and civil society actors. In addition to Senegal, field trips were undertaken to Ghana, Benin and Côte d'Ivoire. The deployment identified recommendations that will inform the political/rule of law engagement of UNOWAS on judicial governance. It further strengthened UNOWAS cooperation with the West African Bar Association and identified recommendations for its revitalisation.

This deployment was followed by a short mission to Accra, Ghana, in December 2021, in support of UNOWAS. JCSC participated in a High-Level Consultative Experts Meeting on modalities for a Forum of Ministers of Justice of West Africa. The meeting brought together senior officials of a number of Ministries of Justice, under the Chairmanship of Ghana and in cooperation with ECOWAS and the United Nations System. The Forum is expected to serve as a strategic platform to bring judicial governance related issues to the political agenda and further commitments made under the 2018 Niamey Declaration on Impunity, Access to Justice and Human Rights.



Accra. From front left to right: Malamine Tamba, UNOWAS Human right Officer, Ministry of Justice staff (two people); Alice Mauske, JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer; Godfred Yeboah Dame, Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of Ghana; William Lifongo, UNOWAS Political Affairs Officer and Human Rights Advisor; Benjamin Hounton, Deputy Representative of OHCHR Regional Officer in Dakar. Credit: Ministry of Justice of Ghana



Cotonou. From left to right: Amadou Sow, UN Peace and Development Advisor; Alice Mauske, JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer; Etienne Fidatis, President of the Administrative Chamber of the Supreme Court; Onésime Gérard Madode, Public Prosecutor of the Supreme Court; Michèle Carrena spouse Adossou, President of the Judicial Chamber; Isaac Fayomi, Chief Director; and Rodrigue Aboua, Director of Documentation and Studies. Credit: Supreme Court of Benin

REMOTE SUPPORT

The ongoing pandemic necessitated an upsurge in remote support. In particular, GFP assessment/review missions took place virtually. The JCSC participated in a remote mission to Libya in April 2021 to review challenges and opportunities for United Nations support, and formulate a new UNSMIL-UNDP joint rule of law/security sector programme document. As a result, future rule of law and security support will be strategically focused on the ongoing peace process and closely aligned with the Mission's political priorities.

TRAINING

To better respond to the demands of clients, the JCSC continued to undergo relevant training courses. For instance, the JCSC participated in the training programme '*Gender Dimensions and Women's Rights in Terrorism and Counter-terrorism*' held in Florence, Italy, from 20 to 24 September 2021. The JCSC also took part in the '*Winter School on Environmental Crimes*' course organised by UNICRI in December 2021, which strengthened JCSC capacities to consider environmental issues in rule of law assessments, conflict analysis and joint programming.



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