

Dear Reader,

Happy new year! 2020 was interesting, to say the least. The COVID-19 pandemic took many lives around the world and disrupted everything we took for granted. Many of us have been affected one way or the other, and within our wider United Nations family we have lost friends and colleagues. An appropriate time to pause and remember, even as we look to a more hopeful 2021 ...

Travel was severely limited and that – evidently – had an impact on JCSC operations. In fact, JCSC staff travel came to a halt during the period of April to September 2020. Only one JCSC staff provided support within a mission setting (UNAMID), as imposed travel restrictions did not permit travel outside the mission area of responsibility. Notwithstanding all the obstacles, we kept serving our clients throughout the entire year and after September still managed to carry out onsite deployments in the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan and Tunisia (to support UNSMIL – the peace operation in Libya).

We also stepped up our remote support to peace operations, focusing on activities related to preventing the spread of COVID-19. Additionally, we assisted UNIOGBIS – the peace operation in Guinea-Bissau which closed on 31 December 2020 – in its rule of law transition planning, and MINUSMA – the peacekeeping mission in Mali – with developing a concept note and a draft SOP for an early warning mechanism in high-risk prisons.

We, as an integral part of the Justice and Corrections Service within the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) in the Department of Peace Operations, say thank you to all of our clients in the United Nations family for your continued trust and increased interest in JCSC expertise and services; we say thank you to UNLB/GSC Director Giovanna Ceglie and her team for hosting and continuously supporting us in Brindisi; we thank our sister capacities – the Standing Police Capacity and the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standing Capacity - for the great cooperation throughout the year; and we thank the Member States for their continued support and especially the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the generous contribution for deployments and training through the Standing Capacities Support Project.

Looking ahead, we will continue supporting transition settings, peace sustainment, conflict prevention and sustainable development. Within the peace and security framework of OROLSI as a UN-system wide service provider and the GFP, we seek to promote a holistic approach to rule of law support across the United Nations system, but with a strong focus on peace operations, especially with respect to start-ups, transitions and specific and specialized surge capacity.

We look forward to keeping up JCSC support services for the benefit of our dear clients in the interest of peace in 2021 and beyond. Thank you!

Carsten, Anna Sif, Alice, Cheikh, Myriam, Raffaella

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 UN partners, under the auspices of the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP).

ACTION
FOR PEACEKEEPING



#A4P

OVERVIEW OF DEPLOYMENTS IN 2020

• Supporting transition planning and implementation and start-up

Darfur, Sudan (UNAMID) – The JCSC Team Leader deployed to UNAMID between February and June 2020. As Senior Advisor on Transition to the Deputy Joint Special Representative (DJSR), he supported the transition into a new United Nations reconfiguration in Sudan. As part of an assessment team led by the International Security Sector Advisory Team (ISSAT), he helped capture lessons on UNAMID's transition which are summarized in the report *“UN/AU Transition in Darfur: Lessons from Assistance on Rule of Law and Human Rights through the State Liaison Functions”*.



JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber addressing IDPs in Kalma Camp, South Darfur during ISSAT/UN lesson identification on rule of law/human rights transition in Darfur. Credit: ISSAT

In the midst of the pandemic, the JCSC Team Leader also helped to define and coordinate the Mission's support to the Transitional Government for its COVID-19 response.



JCSC Team Leader, second from right, with rural court judges in North Darfur and ISSAT and UNAMID colleagues. Credit: UNAMID

This deployment was followed by remote assistance and then a second deployment which took place between September and December 2020 to support the eventual closure of UNAMID and advise the DJSR on strategic planning and the definition of a vision and strategy for future United Nations support in the area of protection of civilians, rule of law and conflict prevention. Additionally, concrete start-up support for UNITAMS, the newly established integrated political mission in Sudan, was provided through collaboration with UNITAMS and the UNCT on the design of a peacebuilding framework and coordination mechanism to support protection/rule of law activities in Darfur's hotspots post-UNAMID.



JCSC Team Leader Carsten Weber (back, second left) with UNITAMS OiC S. Koury (back, middle), UNITAMS Chief of Staff S. Siqueira (back, second right), UNAMID Chief Rule of Law F. Simard (front, left), and UNAMID Police Commissioner L. Kinteh (front, second left). Credit: UNAMID Police

Haiti (BINUH) – In mid-February 2020, a JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer ended her four-month deployment to Haiti to support BINUH's start-up and the establishment of a judicial reform team as part of the Mission's Political and Good Governance (PGG) Section. As a result, the JCSC Officer helped set up the team and integrated structures between BINUH and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT); contributed to integrated analysis and strategic planning frameworks; helped strengthen relationships with national rule of law institutions and other partners; and informed the good offices and advocacy work of BINUH. Follow-up support was provided remotely until March.



BINUH meets with High Judicial Council to explain its mandate and discuss collaboration - Left to right: Sancho Coutinho, Head of BINUH's PGG Section; Marie-Carmelle Pierre and Alice Mauske (JCSC), Judicial Affairs Officers; and President, Vice-President and Secretary of the High Judicial Council. Credit: High Judicial Council

Kinshasa and Kananga, DRC (MONUSCO)

– JCSC supported the MONUSCO Justice Support Section (JSS) remotely starting from April 2020 and deployed to the DRC from October to December 2020 to help advance the transition planning in the DRC. The support was provided in the framework of the independent strategic review and the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2502 (2019) which underscored the need to progressively transfer MONUSCO tasks to the Government of the DRC, the UNCT and other relevant stakeholders to enable the responsible and sustainable exit of MONUSCO.



Alice Mauske, Judicial Affairs Officer, co-facilitates the planning workshop in Kananga; Other people: local judicial and rule of law authorities, civil society and UN staff. Credit: UNDP

Following a broad and participatory consultation process carried out with national authorities and partners, a comprehensive proposal for a United Nations Joint Justice Reform Support Programme 2020-2024 (JJRSP) was developed together with UNDP and endorsed by the Ministry of Justice, the High Judicial Council, MONUSCO and UNDP. Validation and planning workshops were successively held in Kinshasa and Kananga in November and December 2020. The JCSC deployment helped kick-start the implementation of the JJRSP which is expected to form a key element

of the rule of law transition strategy. Based on lessons learned and good practices from joint rule of law programming, the JJRSP will be implemented at the national level as well as in three priority provinces by MONUSCO (JSS, Police, Corrections and Human Rights), UNDP and the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict.



Alice Mauske, JCSC Judicial Affairs Officer, presents the Joint Justice Reform Support Programme at a technical validation meeting organized by UNDP in Kinshasa in November 2020; Other people: Ministry of Justice and UNDP staff. Credit: MONUSCO

• Supporting prison management and security

Libya (UNSMIL) – The post-2011 continued political crisis in Libya has led to systematic human rights violations and abuses affecting at least 8000 conflict-related detainees. In this context, a JCSC Corrections Officer deployed to UNSMIL between January and February 2020 to carry out a situational assessment with concrete recommendations on short, medium and long-term measures to be taken to improve the safety and security of detainees including women and children, in accordance with applicable international standards. She also supported the Mission with the development of a results-based planning framework for the short and long-term implementation of the Mission's strategic corrections support.

Bangui, Central African Republic (MINUSCA)

– Between October and November 2020, a JCSC Corrections Officer provided on-the-ground support to MINUSCA, followed by remote assistance for the development of a Security Risk and Needs Assessment tool for prisoners, as part of the implementation of the Government's demilitarization strategy and to enhance security in prisons. The tool is envisaged to significantly contribute to the classification of prisoners and guide the prison service with the level of security risk

prisoners pose during their rehabilitation. As a result, an interagency agreement was developed and signed between UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) and MINUSCA to guide the strategic and long-term implementation of the tool and USD 70,000 were earmarked for the first step of the project implementation.



Joël-Hubert Yandobet, Ngaragba Prison Director/RCA, Anna Sif Olafsson, JCSC Corrections Officer, Dieudonné Nbolinanguera, Directeur de l'Administration Pénitentiaire (DAP)/RCA, Tiburce-François Kopplinet, Deputy Ngaragba Prison Director/RCA. Credit: MINUSCA

• Support prison reform and strategic planning

Kinshasa, DRC (MONUSCO) – A JCSC Corrections Officer deployed to MONUSCO since November 2020 to advance work on the establishment of a professional Congolese prison service in line with international standards and provide advice on strategic and transition programming and implementation. In this regard, he supported a Government-led working group with the finalization of the legal framework for the establishment of a General Directorate of prison administration within the Ministry of Justice, including the drafting of a statute for a dedicated



JCSC Corrections Officer Cheikh Basse (1st row, fourth from left) with DRC national prison directors returning from a tour study to Senegal supported by MONUSCO in the framework of the ongoing national prison reform process. Credit: MONUSCO Corrections Unit

prison corps and a prison act. Also, following the validation of the JJRSP, he supported the planning and start of the programme implementation to advance the transition of MONUSCO corrections operations to the UNCT and the Government.

• Support to COVID-19 response and prevention

During the pandemic, JCSC extended its remote assistance to field operations with a rule of law mandate within the framework of a Headquarters-led taskforce on COVID-19, focusing on activities related to the prevention of the spread of the disease. JCSC notably helped BINUH, MINUSMA, and MONUSCO develop project proposals to support the national prison administration to implement COVID-response and prevention in prison facilities, with funding from the Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law (GFP).

• Capacity-building of staff members

Because of the COVID-19 situation, training for JCSC members was limited throughout 2020. However, to strengthen the JCSC capacity in the area of prison intelligence and preventative security information (an area where the JCSC expects an increased number of requests from UN field clients), a Corrections Officer participated in a Prison Intelligence and Management of Security Threats training programme from 29 February to 15 March 2020. The training was organized by the International Corrections Management Training Center (ICMTC) in Colorado, United States, in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Corrections and the United States Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL).

CONTACT

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