



Afghanistan Justice Sector Support Program Update *April 2008*

U.S. DOS/INL's JSSP program seeks to increase the capacity of the Afghan Government and Afghan legal practitioners to deliver fair and transparent criminal justice and rule of law services to the people of Afghanistan. To that end, JSSP advisors work with the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Justice on a wide range of initiatives. In addition, JSSP conducts police/prosecutor training in four provinces and works to promote Afghans' access to justice services by implementing provincial justice conferences, training and mentoring of defense lawyers, and working on a range of other projects.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher visits with JSSP in Mazar-e-Sharif



JSSP Advisor Jake Rambo and the Balkh CSSP Team stand during a question and answer session with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher.

On April 13, Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher visited the Regional Training Center in Mazar-e-Sharif as part of his tour of Balkh Province. During his visit, the team engaged in dialogue with Assistant Secretary Boucher on the structure of the JSSP program in northern Afghanistan, the regional JSSP training mission, and the challenges facing prosecutors in Balkh Province.

JSSP Supports Gender Justice

In April JSSP Gender Advisor met with Anou Borrey from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to discuss the provision of victim advocacy training for Kabul-based paralegals and employees of the Ministry of Women's Affairs/Ministry of Interior's referral centers in Jalalabad and Parwan. The proposed training would focus on teaching victim advocates the law relating to domestic violence cases and help victims navigate through

the court system. JSSP Gender Justice Advisor also met with the Corrections System Support Program (CSSP) and women's section of the Legal Aid Organization of Afghanistan (LAOA) to design a project for the new Kabul Women's Detention Center. The project, a collaborative effort between CSSP, JSSP, LAOA and the Central Prison Directorate (CPD), will facilitate LAOA's access to the correctional center to educate women on their rights in the criminal justice system.

JSSP launches Focused District Development law training

On April 5, 2008, the JSSP team in Nangarhar successfully began the Focused District Development Law Pilot Program (FDD-Law). FDD-Law offers legal training to Afghan prosecutors, as a complement to the Focused District Development (FDD) training for police offered by the Afghan Ministry of the Interior and the U.S. Military. The program is particularly intended to target prosecutors from provinces and districts distant from Kabul, who otherwise have limited training opportunities. FDD-Law in Nangarhar has enrolled 22 students, and is offering more than 100 hours of classroom instruction across a range of subject areas. It extensively uses Afghan instructors, largely trained through JSSP, as part of the JSSP mission to build capacity within the Afghan justice sector.



JSSP-R Regional Section Leader Ray Micklewright (center) welcomes prosecutors to FDD Law training in Nangarhar Province on April 8, 2008.