



Afghanistan Justice Sector Support Program Update *February 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.



Student prosecutors (in jackets) and police (in vest and uniform) cooperate while using a crime scene kit during the mock investigation of the murder of a local businessman. Note the students raised their pant legs in response to an instructor's comment about the possible destruction of evidence if their pants contaminated the scene.

Regional JSSP Integrates Mock Investigations and Trials into Police Prosecution Training Program

The Nangarhar regional team concluded its Module 3 training by conducting simultaneous investigations at two mock crime scenes. Each day students undertook police and prosecutorial duties as the mock cases made their way through a simulated Afghanistan criminal justice system. Students wrote police reports, accusation letters and indictments and—acting as prosecutors and defense attorneys—prepared their cases for trial. Participation in the mock trials allowed the team to identify problems and training issues not readily observed during normal classroom discussions such as the ability to organize and present evidence and question witnesses. These inter-active exercises were very well received by the students and will inform the design of future instruction and training.

JSSP Supports Attorney General Office Reorganization

With the approval of Attorney General Sabit, JSSP initiated a priority reform and restructuring (PRR) review and evaluation process in Kabul's Eastern Zone Prosecution office. Results and recommendations from this process will be used as a model for progressive implementation in other AGO offices in Kabul and beyond. As part of this process, JSSP and representatives of the European Community's Justice Sector Reform Project conducted three trainings for six AGO human resource representatives. The trainings introduced the priority reform and restructuring project; assisted AGO representatives to draft job descriptions; and provided feedback to the representatives on the descriptions. A joint JSSP/EC working group worked with the Kabul Eastern Zone Prosecution Office to complete the work plan for drafting job descriptions for the entire office. The JSSP/EC working group will work with Adam Smith International to complete the pilot PPR process by May 2008.

Regional JSSP Addresses Gender Issues in Police Prosecution Mentoring Program

In Herat, the regional team and its students discussed several significant cases including an "honor killing", murder committed by a juvenile, conspiracy to commit murder, possession of illegal weapons, and adultery. The perpetrator of the honor killing murdered his daughter and her lover after discovering them together. He was tried, convicted, and sentenced to four months in prison. Most of the team's students believed that the punishment imposed by the court was far too lenient for the crime committed. The case of murder committed by a juvenile involved a 17-year old female who shot and killed her uncle after being sexually assaulted by him. Although represented by defense counsel and charged pursuant to the provisions of Article 398, Penal Code (honor killing), the court found her guilty of standard murder and sentenced her to five years in prison. The case is currently on appeal. These gender-based disparities in the justice system are not uncommon and the team will continue to address these disparities during the mentoring and training phases of the program.