

Afghanistan Update *June 2007*

Justice Sector Support Program Regional Training and Mentoring

JSSP's three Regional teams each have completed the second training module for 60 investigators and 30 prosecutors in Herat, Balkh and Nangarhar provinces. Afghan investigators and prosecutors are undergoing the fourth module of the 9-month program, focused on practical mentoring and police-prosecutor coordination. The JSSP is establishing a fourth provincial program in Konduz this summer.



Police investigator Mohammad Hanif simulates using a magnifying glass to examine the hands of a decedent, while others look on. Trainees have been taught to look for evidence of defensive

wounds, and for tissue under the fingernails of a decedent.

JSSP supports Gender Justice

A recent addition to the team, JSSP's Gender Advisor has begun assessing gender issues within the criminal justice system. Focusing on technical guidance to Family Response Units and to the Attorney General's Office (AGO) on cases of gender-based violence, this month JSSP's Gender Advisor, in coordination with other international organizations worked with the Attorney General's Office on the creation of a Special Victim's Unit (SVU) as part of the new AGO organization and strategy.

Rome Conference Preparation

In preparation for the July 2007 Rome donors conference, JSSP provided key technical support to the Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Office in addition to the Afghanistan National Development Strategy Institutions Working Group. In addition to helping the Ministry of Justice complete their 5-year justice strategy, JSSP also helped finalize the Government of Afghanistan's Priorities Paper.

Bamiyan Provincial Justice Training

JSSP conducted the Bamiyan Provincial Justice Training at Bamiyan University for 60 justice sector actors. Participants included the Chief Prosecutor, the Chief of Police, the Chief Judge, the Head of the Provincial Council, and the Warden of the Bamiyan Prison. The training focused on practical application of the Interim Criminal Procedure Code and cooperation between the different groups in attendance. Human rights and the role of the defense were also covered. Both of these topics sparked a significant amount of debate and demonstrated the need for further training in this area. The Governor of Bamiyan, Habiba Surabi, addressed the attendees and congratulated JSSP and the participants on an excellent conference.

Provincial Justice Advisor Chris Engels speaks with Bamiyan Governor Habiba Surabi at the Bamiyan Justice Training.

Gov. Sarabi, appointed in 2005, is Afghanistan's first and only female governor.

