

Afghanistan Justice Sector Support Program Update *May 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.

JSSP Supports Afghan Police Women



JSSP Afghan Legal Consultant Angeella Barekzai lectures policewomen at the Afghan Police Women's Development Conference on May 6. Over 100 policewomen from throughout the country attended the one week conference at the Kabul Police Academy.

JSSP and two attorneys from the Legal Aid Organization of Afghanistan (LAOA), under the supervision of JSSP's Gender Justice Advisor, conducted training at the Afghan Police Women's Development Conference on May 6. JSSP taught the officers about the law on compulsory marriage in addition to issues on violence against women, illegal arrest and detention, accidental murder by beating, and compulsion as a defense against rape.

JSSP releases case management and tracking system

JSSP released the first version of a simple but secure integrated case management and tracking system. Five AGO data entry operators will use the system to enter the completed case information for 88 female inmates from the Women's Rehabilitation Center (Women's Prison) as well as the case information gathered from the 3011 inmates at

Pol-i-Charkhi Prison. The operators will enter the data from the case registries at Kabul Eastern Zone Prosecution Office, Parwan Prosecution Office, and the Central Investigation Department.

Support for the Establishment of the Independent Afghan Bar Association

JSSP convened the weekly meeting of the Internal Ministry of Justice Committee for the establishment of the Independent Afghan Bar Association (IABA). Discussions focused on preparing election procedures for the General Assembly to meet international standards and distribution of draft by-laws and questionnaires to all registered lawyers. The airing of the INL-funded Public Service Announcements (PSAs) about the establishment of the IABA were conducted through local radios in provinces throughout the country on behalf of the MOJ.

Regional JSSP encourages police prosecution coordination

In Balkh, JSSP Afghan legal consultants taught a class on forensic evidence and led three student working groups through exercises designed to harmonize the memoranda of understanding and standard operating procedures (MOU/SOP).



A group of Year 2 police and prosecutor students discusses how to best merge their three MOU/SOP documents into a single, unified proposal intended to enhance cooperation between police and prosecutors.