



## Afghanistan Justice Sector Support Program Update September 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 Effective Delivery of Justice Services



*Kunduz Justice Advisor Dave Akulian presents a set of legal texts to the deputy chief prosecutor of Baghlan province.*

Over the last several months, JSSP provided the Attorney General's Office with over 1,600 sets of legal reference books – one for each prosecutor in Afghanistan. The U.S. Ambassador presented a set to Attorney General Aloko during their first meeting to commemorate the donation. Each set consisted of the following items:

- Afghanistan's Constitution and selected human rights documents;
- Afghanistan's organic laws;
- Civil Code and Civil Procedure Code; and
- Afghanistan's Penal and Criminal Procedure Code, and Juvenile Code.

The reference books were developed in response to feedback obtained during JSSP trainings that prosecutors were unable to properly apply or cite the law because they did not have access to the appropriate legal texts.

### Building the AGO's Capacity to Investigate and Prosecute Corruption Crimes

In Afghanistan, guilty verdicts are delivered in the majority of corruption cases, although the courts tend to impose unusually light sentences. Younger prosecutors do not have the expertise or experience to properly investigate and prosecute corruption. In addition, low salaries hinder the work of prosecutors and increase the likelihood of corruption. Since its establishment, JSSP has:

- Designed a focused anti-corruption curriculum and training program for anti-corruption prosecutors at all levels; and
- Trained eight AGO corruption prosecutors on financial crimes and corruption prosecution. This training included use of approved international banking and investigation methods.

Together with other international organizations, JSSP has also developed a strategy to establish a new Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) within the AGO. On October 9, 2008, Attorney General Aloko provided JSSP with the names of 30 prosecutors who will eventually form the core of a new Unit. JSSP, in coordination with other organizations, is providing training, equipment, and mentoring for the new Unit.



*JSSP delivers legal texts to General Yunis at Kabul Police Headquarters.*