



Special Report **Logar Provincial Justice Training-Police & Prosecutor Cooperation** **23-24 AUGUST 2008**

JSSP's Access to Justice and Integration Section (AJIS), in cooperation with the Logar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), which includes representatives of the U.S. and Czechoslovakian military, successfully facilitated a two-day Provincial Justice Training (PJT) in Pole Alam, Logar province, Afghanistan on 23-24 August 2008. Attendees included 25 senior police officers and prosecutors from throughout Logar province specially selected by the Provincial Chief Prosecutor Abdullah Sufi Zada and Chief of Police Ghulam Mustafa. These attendees were drawn from various police and prosecutors offices, including the Criminal Investigative Division (CID), Primary Prosecutors, Security Police, and Investigative Prosecutors. While invited, Governor Alhaj Abdullah Wardak, the Provincial Chief Prosecutor, and the Chief of Police were unfortunately unable to attend.

The PJT was hosted by the Logar PRT, which provided housing for JSSP staff, training facilities, and other essential support. The PJT was administered by JSSP's Provincial Justice Advisor Chris Engels, Justice Advisor Justin Boland, Afghan Legal Consultant (ALC) Massoud Mokhlis, and Legal Interpreters Najeeb Habib and Mustafa Subhan.

The primary focus of the Logar PJT was to encourage increased cooperation between the police and prosecutors of Logar province. Instructional units focused on this topic in response to requests made by local justice actors in Logar who noticed that there appeared to be poor communication and cooperation between the two groups.

This goal of enhanced cooperation was achieved by outlining and emphasizing the portions of Afghan law, which mandate the cooperation between the police and prosecution organs. In addition, an examination of Afghan criminal justice system with an emphasis on the division of duties took place and was later followed up with discussion in which the responsibilities of each group were debated and examined. The clarification on the individual duties of each group was very revealing and insightful to many of the participants.

During small group breakout sessions, police and prosecutor attendees were mixed together and encouraged to work collaboratively on hypothetical case studies involving crimes that they encounter in the normal course of their duties. These hypothetical cases incorporated fact patterns that encouraged the application of the Afghan Constitution and Interim Criminal Procedure Code using legal texts provided by JSSP¹.

¹ The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded Afghanistan Rule of Law Project (ARoLP), as part of its programmatic mandate, provided JSSP with trace sheets and electronic data for its Judicial Reference Sets. JSSP was then able to fund the reproduction of 2500 copies of the criminal law portion of the Judicial Reference Sets. JSSP, through a variety of channels, is in the process of distributing the sets to all Afghan saranwal and to other justice actors that participate in JSSP trainings.

During other small group breakout sessions, groups of prosecutor attendees were instructed to investigate a hypothetical case as a police officer would, and the police attendees were instructed to prosecute a hypothetical case as a prosecutor would. Attendees indicated that doing these exercises helped them to better understand the job and duties of their colleagues. The attendees were able to use the criminal law reference sets provided by JSSP during the hypothetical exercises to help reinforce the legal basis for cooperation. The attendees uniformly expressed gratitude for the texts distributed by JSSP. Several remarked that it was particularly helpful to have multiple laws and codes consolidated in a few books.

During discussions, both the police and prosecutors said that it was rare for them to sit down and coordinate their efforts, and remarked that doing so allowed them to understand the jobs each of them performed on a daily basis. The attendees further stated that such understanding was valuable because it allowed them to focus better their own efforts in delivering the most efficient and streamlined cases and investigations to their contemporaries. The attendees suggested that they could benefit from additional future training of Afghan counternarcotics law and a trial practice seminar.

At the close of the two-day Logar PJT, it was determined that a schedule of meetings between the police and prosecutors of Logar would take place and that a contact information database would be established to encourage future coordination and cooperation between the two groups. Future trips to Logar to provide further instruction and support are being planned, but are subject to security considerations, which are becoming increasingly restrictive.



Police and Prosecutors from Logar province meet and discuss new coordination strategies.



Police and Prosecutors from Logar province examine the Afghan legal textbooks distributed by JSSP.



Police from Logar province separate into a breakout group to discuss the justice sector challenges they face in the districts they work in.