SPC provides Public Order expertise during the Pope’s visit to Central African Republic

Pope Francis visited Bangui, Central African Republic from 29 to 30 November. The Papal visit to CAR was considered a “very high” to “extreme” level of risk in the Security Risk Assessment conducted by UNDSS.

SPC Public Order Adviser, Mr. Paolo Bonanno, was deployed to MINUSCA initially to assist in the security planning of the Pope’s visit and subsequently to provide training for targeted operations and electoral preparations.

In the days leading to, and during, the actual visit of Pope Francis, Mr. Bonanno actively participated in the development of a security plan; provided competent tactical direction and supervision during rehearsals and during the actual operation, he provided firm tactical direction on the ground, thoroughly briefing the site and ground commanders. This included liaison with Vatican security, UNDSS and MINUSCA Peacekeeping forces.

Pope Francis was able to complete his entire two day program and the overall visit was a huge success for the people of the Central African Republic as well as for the United Nations. PD’s engagements related to the Pope’s visit not only generated valuable lessons for the UN uniformed personnel but likewise provided local security forces with a rare opportunity to test their capability to handle security of a major event – touted by many as a potential security nightmare.

The Pope’s Chief of Security, Brigadier Général Domenico Giani, was so impressed with Mr. Bonanno’s contribution and professionalism that he asked Pope Francis to personally thank him for a job well done.
Project Management Training for DPKO
Standing Capacities in Brindisi

In January 2016, the SPC and the Justice and Corrections Standing Capacity (JCSC) completed a 12 day Project Management Training, conducted in Brindisi and funded by the Swedish Police.

Participants were challenged to use the knowledge, skills and tools for case studies based on peace operations settings. “Giving the participants chance to design their own problem tree, objective tree, log frame matrix, and monitoring plan based on real case scenarios, gave them a valuable understanding of how to advance rule of law objectives through sound project management techniques” stated one of the trainers, Karin Delin.

“This training provides a step-by-step approach using easily adapted tools, making the projects we support more integrated and successful” emphasized a participant.

With this training, SPC and JCSC staff members have enlarged their knowledge, skill and tool box to assist UN Missions’ Police and Rule of Law components to achieve better results with the often limited resources at their disposal.” Ms. Maria Appelblom, SPC Chief said. Mr. Carsten Weber, JCSC Team Leader added that the training is one of several initiatives to reinforce the collaboration between the two Standing Capacities for them to further increase quality delivery for the benefit of UN peace operations.

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Human Rights Training,
UNAMI

The SPC Police Reform adviser, Jane Rhodes, supported the UNAMI Human Rights office to deliver training to strengthen the capacity of police officers to investigate crimes of violence against women in response to a request from the Kurdistan Regional Government’s Directorate for Combatting Violence against Women (DCVAW). The training was given to approximately 20 police investigators from the DCVAW and the SPC adviser assisted in the design and delivery of the training and the application of practical policing expertise throughout.

The training was facilitated by the UNAMI Human Rights office, supported by the SPC adviser. Further training needs were identified as a result of the interaction during the training sessions.

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SPC Senior Police Adviser,
UNMIK

In November 2015, SPC deployed one of its Public Order Advisers, Mr. Giorgio Giaimo, to act as Senior Police Adviser in UNMIK. Mr. Giorgio Giaimo is providing strategic advice on law enforcement issues across Kosovo and analyzing emerging law enforcement issues. He is also supervising the UNMIK Interpol Unit and monitors incidents that could affect the overall security in the area. This included a protest in Pristina in Jan 2016 attended by approximately 8.000 people, with the deployment of about 1000 Kosovo Police officers. He is facilitating cooperation between Kosovo Police and Serbian Ministry of Internal Affairs and has regular meetings with international stakeholders and the Diplomatic Community.

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UNDP & SPC in Sierra Leone

As part of the Global Focal Point initiative, the SPC Community Policing adviser, Mona Nordberg and SPC Police Reform adviser Godfrey Aropet are currently deployed to UNDP in Sierra Leone. The Community Policing project launch was covered by national media following the development of a Community Policing curriculum, training for Community Policing officers including TOT and development of a school safety outreach curriculum on SGBV, Law & Order and Anti-social behavior.

The SPC advisers initiated and implemented, with the British Council, an innovative project aimed at improving key English language skills in the SLP. An assessment of literacy skills and organizational needs enabled English skills training to be completed utilizing local teachers. The project will be evaluated and is projected to be vital to enhance SLP’s performance within the criminal justice system and therefore improving security and increasing trust and confidence in policing.

Since the last edition of the SPC Newsletter, the following colleagues have joined the SPC. They are now part of the SPC team, available to provide support to DPKO and DPA missions as well as other assignments through the Global Focal Point Arrangement.

Benigno Durana
Team Leader

Jean-Claude Nkurunziza
Gender Affairs Officer

Olivier Belcourt
Investigations Adviser

Servillen Nitunga
Planning Officer

Nedal Rashdan
Public Order Officer