SPC assists UNSMIL in developing a strategy for supporting the reform of Libyan police

Standing Police Capacity (SPC) Police Reform Officer Mr. George-Paul Albu and SPC Planning Officer Ms. Alice Holmes returned to Brindisi from a six-month deployment to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL).

Mr. Albu and Ms. Holmes were deployed in August 2012 to complement UNSMIL Police efforts in assisting the Libyan Government towards identifying a national strategy to develop a capable and accountable police service, and in advising on policing issues befitting Libyan needs.

Throughout their mission, Mr. Albu and Ms. Holmes assisted the UNSMIL Police Component in drafting strategic documents, organizing workshops, and facilitating consultations and cooperation between the national authorities, the Mission’s senior management and the international stakeholders who provide assistance to the Libyan Ministry of Interior (MoI).

UNSMIL, with support from the SPC team, developed a draft Terms of Reference for a proposed High Committee for Police Reform and Development, which would design a long term vision for a distinct Libyan Police Service within the MoI and propose a time bound strategy, an implementation plan and a methodological approach for the reform and restructuring of the existing police forces into a modern and professional institution.

A concept and implementation mechanism was developed for the organization of and participation in the International Coordination Meeting on Policing (ICMP), a working group to facilitate the exchange of information and coordination of international advice and assistance to the MoI, with a particular focus on the Libyan Police Service.

"The Mission has made significant progress in the efforts to support national authorities in strategic decision making progress and embracing long-lasting commitment to fundamental norms and values. The Paris documents outline the main objectives, principles and priorities for a national police development process," said Mr. Albu. "They also set the framework for the development of wider national security architecture and planning, coordination and monitoring mechanisms."

With the support from the SPC Remote Assistance Team in Brindisi, Mr. Albu and Ms. Holmes supported UNSMIL in drafting a wide range of documents including, among others, concept papers for Central Security Forces, a new Department of Operations and a Diplomatic Protection Unit, a proposal for strengthening MoI strategic planning capacities, as well as the UNSMIL Police Operational Plan, CONOPS, and job descriptions for the vacant positions in the UNSMIL Police Component.

“Supporting the Libyan MoI in developing reform and strategic planning capacities during our mission in Libya was very intensive,” said Ms. Holmes. “It was also a rewarding undertaking for me, Mr. Albu, as well as rest of the SPC Team in Brindisi, in having assisted UNSMIL in laying the groundwork for a comprehensive approach to the police development process in Libya.”
SPC Legal Adviser supports UNMISS in the implementation of the MOU on assistance to and cooperation with the South Sudan National Police Service

SPC Legal Adviser Mr. Jeffrey Buenger completed his three-month assignment to the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS), during which he focused on providing legal and other assistance to the Police component in the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Mission and the Government of the Republic of South Sudan on assistance to and cooperation with the South Sudan National Police Service (SSNPS).

The SPC Legal Adviser was significantly involved in drafting a number of documents for the UNMISS Police Component, including a strategic chapeau and various actions plans for implementation of the MOU, notably on prolonged, arbitrary detention, the Diplomatic Protection Unit, and increased cross-OROLSI component coordination.

Other documents produced for UNMISS included the UNPOL SOP on the Implementation of Funded, Budgeted Training and a draft UNDSS/UNPOL SOP on interaction with the SSNPS Diplomatic Protection Unit (DPU).

In addition, the SPC Legal Adviser contributed to the draft DPKO/DFS Guidelines for UNPOL related to Protection of Civilians (POC), and the UNMISS SOP on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) Assessments.

Mr. Buenger also supported the conceptual design to expand UNPOL presence at the central SSNPS training facility located at Rajaf. The focus on Rajaf is part of the overarching SSNPS transformation efforts, which are reflected in the work of UNPOL across the board as set forth in SCRs 1996 and 2057 as well as the MOU, the SSNPS Strategic and Action Plans, and other mission strategic documents.

“Aside from drafting various documents, I was privileged to participate actively in various cross-mission component activities including the HRDDP Task Force and the Working Group on Prolonged, Arbitrary Detention, and to work with the POC Advisers on increased UNPOL support to POC in line with the policing-related aspects of the mandate,” Mr. Buenger underscored.

During his mission, the SPC Legal Adviser also provided significant drafting and liaison support to the completion and submission of a project proposal on Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) investigations which would provide in-kind support to the ten State Special Protection Units (SPU), training for 500 SPU officers in SGBV investigations, T-o-T for 100 of the 500 to further disseminate the expertise, and seminars in each of the ten states on SGBV including SSNPS leadership, prosecutors, judges, and traditional/customary leaders.

SPC Team Leader contributes to re-establishing Somali Police Force

SPC Team Leader Mr. Mohammad Azim Arshad completed his assignment as Acting Senior Police Advisor (SPA) with the Security Sector Development Office (SSDO) of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) on 13 February 2013.

Shortly after his initial assignment as Acting SPA to UNPOS-SSDO from 29 April to 25 October 2012, Mr. Arshad was recalled to assist UNPOS with the strategic review of the UN role in Somalia, which took place from 18 to 30 November 2012. Mr. Arshad continued his assignment to provide assistance to UNPOS in re-establishing the Somali Police Force (SPF) and implementing other security sector initiatives.

The SPC Team Leader provided support to UNPOS in preparing a Strategic Development Plan (2013-2016) for the SPF in consultation with and with support from SPF, UNDP, AMISOM and the SPC Remote Assistance Team. The Strategic Development Plan is supported by an Action Plan for SPF consisting of 42 projects with an approximate cost of fifty million USD, to be implemented in a phased manner over a period of four years.

Mr. Arshad co-chaired the Police Technical Working Group (PTWG) meetings with delivery driven agendas, motivating stakeholders to participate in its meetings and rendering it an effective body for coordinating all policing activities in Somalia in an organized, cohesive, and coherent manner. Through the PTWG, vetting of 625 former SPF was initiated, a biometric registration project was completed, and various other initiatives for improving capacity and capability of SPF were coordinated and implemented. The PTWG meetings are now well attended by representatives from the Embassies of the United States, Japan and Turkey, and international organizations including EU, UNODC, UNDP, EUCAP NESTOR, AMISOM, UNPOS, as well as the Somali Police Commissioner.
In addition, the SPC Team Leader, in support of the Mission, managed the Security Sector Trust Fund, developed projects to improve administrative capacity of ten police stations and the police headquarters, and accelerated various procurement projects including rehabilitation of four police stations in Mogadishu. In an attempt to improve SPF institutional capacity, Mr. Arshad provided support to UNPOS in developing a fleet management system for the police and organized trainings of SPF in relevant areas.

Throughout the assignment, the SPC Team Leader maintained effective liaison with the SPF leadership, the Somalia Ministry of Interior and National Security, AMISOM Police, bilateral and multilateral donors and representatives from various UN agencies, funds and programmes. He also contributed extensively to wider security sector and rule of law activities of the mission by participating in various workshops and contributing to strategic and policy documents.

The Director SSDO complemented his work, stating that Mr. Arshad had “been a catalyst of success for the SSDO team as well as a proactive leader in developing the capacity of the SPF in concert with AMISOM and our international partners….His greatest success was developing the conceptual framework and drafting of the SPF Strategic Development Plan and consensual dialogue with our development partners and the Government of Somalia.” Similar views were expressed by other UNPOS staff, including the Deputy SRSG, Mr. Peter De Clercq.

SPC Team in the field

SPC expands support to UNDP Chad

SPC Public Order Adviser Mr. Paolo Bonanno arrived in N’Djamena on 8 February to support UNDP Chad in conducting a Train-the-Trainers refresher programme.

While on mission, Mr. Bonanno will be assisting the ongoing development of the Détachement Intégré de Sécurité (DIS) in Chad. Among other tasks, Mr. Bonanno will be supporting the establishment of a sustainable training centre in Abéché. He will also be reviewing the existing training programmes for DIS.
SPC gives back

As part of its commitment to build relationships with the Puglie community, on 13 February the SPC welcomed approximately 25 children from Casa di Accoglienza per Minori di Oria (a children’s home) for a tour of the United Nations Logistics Base/Global Service Centre (UNLB/GSC) in Brindisi.

During the tour of the UNLB/GSC, the children were given the chance to explore the central warehouse, satellite farm, and network control centre. The children were also given an introduction to the work of the UNLB/GSC and the United Nations in general.

The tour was a follow up activity to the SPC members’ Christmas gift giving activity for Casa di Accoglienza per Minori di Oria which took place on 6 December 2012.

With a hope to sustain the support to the children’s home, the SPC Team, led by Chief SPC Mr. Generaal Du Toit will organize a visit every two months to celebrate the birthdays of the children at Casa di Accoglienza per Minori di Oria.

Casa di Accoglienza per Minori di Oria is home to some 40 children from 7 to 17 years old.