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United Nations

*Building Institutional
Police Capacity in
Post-Conflict Environments*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword

by Mark Kroeker, UN Police Adviser

Blue Beret Policing: To Protect and Serve Abroad 1

In The News

by Brian Hansford, UN News Service

Low Numbers, High Impact: Women in United Nations
Police Operations 2

India pledges to send 125 female police officers for
UN peacekeeping 4

UN Police: Georgian Policewomen’s Initiative is a Model
for the Region 5

Consolidating Security Through Police Work: The Growing
Role of Specialized Units 6

UN Peacekeeping Reaps ‘Return On Investment’ as
Post-Conflict Countries Contribute Police 7

UN Police Strive for Quality Over Quantity as
Role Changes 8

Role of UN Police Evolves From Observing to
Coaching 10

With New Government in Place, Future of
Liberia’s Police Looking Up 11

DR Congo: UN-trained police provide security for
landmark elections 12

UN fully takes over policing role in Timor Leste
after agreement with Government 13

Kosovo police lauded for major operation; assume
increasingly important role – UN 14

Figures

Summary of Contributors of United Nations
Police Personnel (as of 5 December 2006) 16



Blue Beret Policing: To Protect and Serve Abroad

By **Mark Kroeker**
UN Police Adviser

In more than four decades of police work dealing with everything from gang violence in Los Angeles to ethnic strife in the Balkans, I've had plenty of opportunities to doubt the efficacy of efforts to uphold the rule of law. But then there are the occasions when I'm reminded of just how sacred this task is.

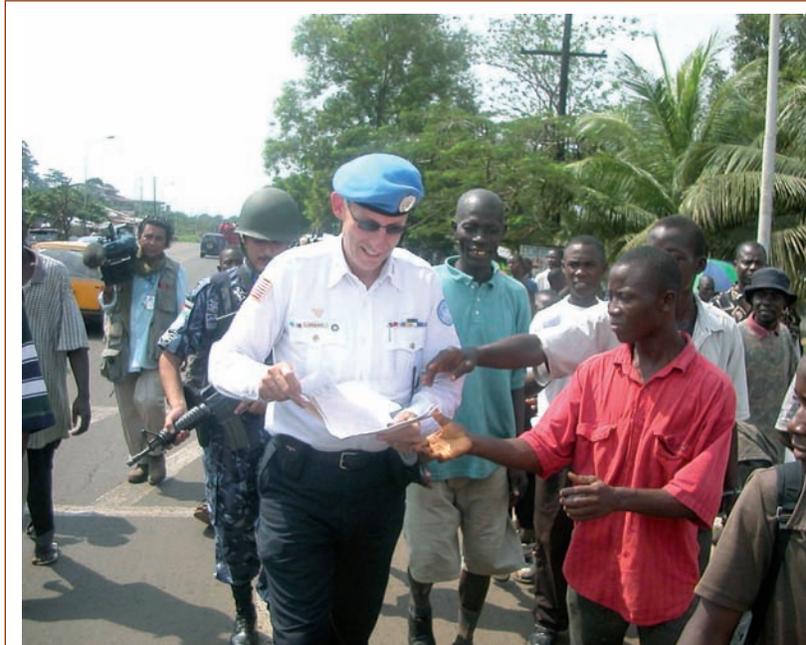
In the wake of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, while serving as a consultant with the United States Justice Department, I spoke to a Tutsi major in the national police as he stood in front of a holding cell where hundreds of Hutu suspects were being detained. "What was your experience, Major?" I asked.

His reply was solemn. "They're all gone – my parents, my wife and my children." Gently, I pointed out that some of the very people behind him might have been responsible for their deaths. "How do you feel about that?" He was unhesitating in his answer: "All I have now is the law, and I have to depend on the law to take its course. I have nothing left but the law."

I often think of that major as I seek to navigate my current duties as the United Nations Police Adviser. Currently, over 7,500 police officers from more than 80 countries are deployed in over a dozen UN peace operations serving in some of the most difficult environments imaginable like Sudan, Haiti, Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In war-ravaged countries where those with guns are more likely to be thugs than officers, establishing the rule of law is essential to achieving sustainable peace, and police-support activities are central to this effort.

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Mark Kroeker (left), Police Commissioner of UNMIL, hands out a message on crime prevention, Monrovia, Liberia, 5 December 2003. (UN Photo/Astrid-Helene Meister)

this effort. For elections to be free, people must be able to vote without fear. For refugees to return, their communities must be safe. For economies to recover, streets cannot be ruled by criminals.

Police reform must include broad rebuilding – redesigning police structures, vetting and training future police leaders, and imparting special skills. And we cannot expect to simply provide advice without concurrently making desperately needed improvements, providing crime labs, police cars, communications systems and other basic needs.

This process takes time. We can not suddenly "stand up a local police force" in pursuit of some hasty "exit strategy." Rebuilding an indigenous police service, in some cases from scratch – as the UN did in Kosovo – is a complex, delicate and long-term activity requiring qualified international personnel and dedicated resources. In essence, international police officers must provide their local counterparts with the knowledge and resources that were destroyed, looted or were never there in the



first place. Haiti, where the UN is now managing its fifth operation, supports this point most vividly.

In both times of peace and conflict, the roles of the police and the military must remain distinct. One of the first activities in international policing is to “let the local police, police” – insulating them from armed services while ensuring public accountability.

All police must also “uphold the code.” Many national police services, especially during and immediately after conflicts, have sick, corrupted concepts of service and accountability. Regardless of the setting, the international policing ideals of integrity, respect, compassion and competence must trump local dynamics and be championed as immutable standards.

Public trust requires that men and women from all communities feel represented by their local police. The UN has worked against the odds to foster multiethnic police forces in places torn by sectarian strife, like Bosnia and Herzegovina, where formerly warring groups now serve side-by-side. The UN has also worked to increase the presence of female officers in countries where women have traditionally been under-represented in law enforcement, such as Liberia and Georgia.

For police reform to take hold, it must be undertaken in the larger context of judicial, prison and leg-

islative reform. A corrupt court can easily defeat the efforts of the most upright police force. But working in tandem, law enforcement and judicial authorities can defeat those who would undermine stability.

Experience has shown that if the international community moves on before establishing a functioning, apolitical and non-sectarian police service, countries can slide back into violence with tragic consequences. This leaves the international community to return to finish a job that had not been completed the first time around, often at great expense in terms of financial cost and lives lost.

When the United Nations deployed a mission to Liberia in 2003, the police there had only two vehicles for the whole country until donors stepped in and redressed a situation where officers had been reduced to hitchhiking to crime scenes. The international community already invests heavily in building sustainable peace in fragile post-conflict situations. Donor support to strengthen and build effective policing will help us all cash in on this most critical investment.

Just as one Rwandan major was able to take a long-range view of recovery after his family was decimated by genocide, so too must the international community respond to traumatized societies within our midst by eschewing short-term gratification for the more difficult – but ultimately more rewarding – imperative of establishing the rule of law. ■

In the News...

Low Numbers, High Impact: Women in United Nations Police Operations

Given the special contributions that women can make to police components of peacekeeping operations, a United Nations-backed conference has called for more female officers in the world body's ranks.

Specifically, a two-day meeting held in New York in March, 2006 urged a doubling every year for the next few years of the current levels, saying this

would not only improve the efficiency of peacekeeping but also its credibility.

Gender disparity is evident in the numbers: women make up just 1 per cent of United Nations military personnel overall and 4 per cent of police.

As of mid-2006, women constituted only 746 military personnel, compared with 63,862 male peace-



keepers, and count just 314 of the 7,408 police personnel worldwide.

We are asking Member States to double the numbers of women being deployed every year for the next few years.

“We are asking Member States to double the numbers of women being deployed every year for the next few years, and that they also as a monitoring mechanism disaggregate: we want to make sure that in all reporting that we do that the statistics on women and men deployed are disaggregated, because right now we don’t say how many women are actually deployed,” said Comfort Lamptey, the Gender Adviser in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The meeting, which brought together troop- and police-contributing countries, was the first United Nations gathering devoted to the gender disparity problem in peacekeeping. This fact, said co-chair Ambassador Nana Effah-Apenteng of Ghana, demonstrated that the issue “had not been given much priority by Member States.”

“It is clear that we cannot afford to do business as usual as it is undermining both our credibility and our efficiency in the field,” he said, adding that as peacekeeping operations become more multi-dimensional so “greater representation of women is necessary to strengthen the implementation of mission mandates.”

Greater representation of women is necessary to strengthen the implementation of mission mandates.



Members of the Chinese Formed Police Unit arrive in Port Au Prince, Haiti, 17 October 2004. (UN Photo by Sophia Paris)

Antero Lopes, the Deputy UN Police Adviser, also acknowledged the gender disparity in global police operations, but he said that some progress had been made toward redressing the situation.

“In the local police services which are being reformed by the UN police in Sierra Leone and Timor Leste, we have both 25 per cent of female representation; in Liberia, we have a little bit lower; in UNMIK (UN Mission in Kosovo) the current figure is 14 per cent,” he told reporters at a news conference held in conjunction with the conference.

In order to redress the problem, the United Nations Police Adviser has been undertaking various advocacy initiatives to engage an increasing number of Member States. ■

(UN News Service)

Personal Qualities of a UN Police Officer

- ◆ Good judgment, supported by a common-sense approach to problem-solving;
- ◆ Objective attitude, displaying tact and impartiality;
- ◆ Polite demeanor, combined with a firm but flexible and honest approach;
- ◆ Considerable self-discipline and patience;
- ◆ A friendly, open approach to other nationalities and a ready sense of humor;
- ◆ Ability to influence others, resulting from imagination and persuasiveness; and
- ◆ Demonstrable leadership skills.



India pledges to send 125 female police officers for UN peacekeeping

India's landmark decision to send 125 female police officers, one complete specialized unit, to assist United Nations peacekeeping operations in Liberia is an "unprecedented" move that sends a message not only to other post-conflict countries about the importance of having women officers, but also to police contributing nations, senior UN officials said.

"This is an unprecedented move by India to deploy these female officers in policing and we applaud it and think that it is extremely timely and extremely relevant to the policing needs in the years ahead," Police Adviser Mark Kroeker said in an interview.



Members of the all female Indian Formed Police Unit receive a rousing send off before leaving for Liberia. (UN Photo)

"We think it's a breakthrough that India has expressed its willingness and it's also good for our Liberia mission because it brings to that police operation these officers who are trained, who are capable, who are women and who can bring the best of what the UN police is to the component there."

The 125 officers, who are currently undergoing the final stages of their training in India, will make up a specialized unit, known as a Formed Police Unit (FPU). The UN has had increasing success with such

units over the past few years as a means of bridging the gap between regular and lightly-armed police and fully-armed blue helmets.

Details of what exact role the all-female FPU will play as part of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) are currently being worked out, said Noor Gabow, Acting Mission Management Coordinator at the UN Police Division. However he added these specialized units have traditionally been employed as a rapid reaction force, trained in crowd control and better armed than regular police, as well as playing a strong training role for local officers.

"This Indian women's contingent are made up solely of volunteers who have decided that they'd like to be a part of peace operations and that they can play an effective, credible role which we know they can," said Mr. Gabow.

This Indian women's contingent are made up solely of volunteers who have decided that they'd like to be a part of peace operations and that they can play an effective, credible role which we know they can.

India currently contributes almost 400 police officers to UN missions worldwide, one of the top 10 police-contributing countries, but only 15 of these personnel are female officers, something which the introduction of the 125 women officers will dramatically change and which UN officials say will also send a powerful message for change to other contributing countries.

"This decision is extremely timely because as we look at our deployment of women in UN police components around the world, we still retain an unacceptably small number of three or four per cent, compared to up to 25 per cent of women officers in an acceptable police organization," said Mr. Kroeker.

"It enhances our access to vulnerable populations by having women in UN missions and also sends a message to the post-conflict societies where we work



that women officers can have any position and play any role in a police organization, including that of commissioner, or deputy-commissioner or chief of regions or whatever.”

The all-female Indian unit will join other FPUs currently serving in Liberia, where the concept was first tried out although its success there and in other operations has led to calls for increasing deployment.

UN officials also highlight that FPUs are cheaper to deploy than regular military units, noting that it costs around \$5 million to set up a specialized police formation while a military battalion can cost up \$30 million. In addition, the deployment of FPUs sends a message to the populations of post-conflict countries that the UN is demilitarizing, while maintaining a credible force that at the same time is helping build local police capacity. ■

(UN News Service)

UN Police: Georgian Policewomen’s Initiative is a Model for the Region

United Nations police officials hope a recent initiative in Georgia to set up the country’s first policewomen’s association will become a model for other post-conflict countries and allow policing to become more representative of wider society.

Peacekeepers serving with the UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) have been in the country since 1993 to monitor peace agreements between the Government and Abkhaz separatists and a police component – which consists of 12 officers – was added to contribute to conditions conducive to the safe and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons.

To try and balance the traditionally male-dominated police service in Georgia, UNOMIG’s Senior Police Adviser, Colonel Jozsef Boda, a Hungarian police officer, initiated the idea of setting up the first policewomen’s association which was inaugurated last November when 47 female police officers gathered in a town in the northwest of the country.

“This is a monumental step for Georgia and could be a model for other countries, especially for those in this region,” Grethe Stornes, a Norwegian police officer currently assigned as a Mission Management and Support Officer for UNOMIG of the Police Division said in an interview.

Echoing this view, Angela Joseph, a police officer from Switzerland assigned to the police component of UNOMIG and the person responsible for imple-

menting the project, said that in their advisory role to the Georgian police one of the UN recommendations had been that they should have a policing institution representative of society.

Ms. Stornes said that the UN’s Police Division was also working with Member States to have more female police officers in their components, adding that associations such as the new Georgian policewomen’s group could then develop links with other female police officer associations worldwide.



Civilian Police (CivPol) Officer Capt. Michele Andre (Switzerland) with IDP from Abkhazia (Breakaway Republic of Georgia), May 2004. (UNOMIG Photo by Justyna Melnikiewicz)



Both officials also said that encouraging more female police officers into police services around the world would strengthen the approach of the police services in dealing with certain crimes, particularly those related to domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assaults.

We have to have gender balance in the police but we also need to gender mainstream to ensure that female victims of crimes are treated in the appropriate manner.

“We have to have gender balance in the police but we also need to gender mainstream to ensure that female victims of crimes are treated in the appropriate manner and they have to have confidence in the police that they will be treated fairly,” Ms. Stornes added.

While praising the initiative for policewomen, both officials acknowledged the wider political difficulties that UNOMIG faced in Georgia, namely that the Mission was currently caught in the middle of a dispute between the Georgian authorities and the Abkhaz side. ■

(UN News Service)

Consolidating Security Through Police Work: The Growing Role of Specialized Units

Specialized police units, armoured and made up of 125 officers from a single country, are increasingly being pushed by the United Nations as an efficient, cost-effective way of bridging the gap between the military component in UN missions and the often nascent, traumatized national police forces of post-conflict countries.

Formed Police Units (FPUs) were used for the first time as part of the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), but their success there and in other operations has led to calls for increasing deployment, including in a recent letter by the Secretary-General to the Security Council calling for three FPUs to enhance the capacity of the United Nations mission in Côte d'Ivoire “to protect itself and to effectively support the implementation of the remaining tasks under the peace agreements.”

The Council subsequently approved that request and the units were deployed.

Formed police units bridge the “gap between the military component in UN missions and the capacity of the local police forces.

The use of FPUs evolved in response to a growing need for innovative approaches to community security.

“There is a gap between the military component in UN missions and the capacity of the local police forces and so we needed something that is not military and obviously the local police can't do it, so we came up with the concept of FPUs, something that has worked very well,” explained United Nations Police Adviser Mark Kroeker in an interview.

“These are a rapid reaction force if you like, trained for example in crowd control and other specializations, better armed than regular UN police and will provide a shield for the main component of regular UN police work, which is building the capacity of the national forces,” he said.

Highlighting the increasing importance attached to the specialized units, in March, 2006 the United Nations gathered all the FPU commanders, representing five peacekeeping operations, for a seminar to hammer out uniform rules of engagement, training needs and other pressing strategic and tactical concerns.

The seminar also brought together not only various UN officials but also interested parties from outside the world body, including NATO officers, and one of



the measures it recommended was for countries contributing police officers to send their personnel to a dedicated international training centre, set up under the auspices of the G-8.

Located in Vicenza, Italy, the Center of Excellence for Stability Police Units aims to provide technical and financial assistance in order to increase global capacity for sustaining peace support operations, with an emphasis on African countries.

Training there “will ensure uniform standards and build on what was achieved at the March seminar,” said Ata Yenigun, UN Police Mission Management Coordinator.

He said that one of the main concerns to emerge at the seminar centred on the need for a standard training manual for FPU, although other issues, including the need for a uniform code of conduct and how to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, were also key topics of discussion.

The increasing role likely to be played by FPUs in UN global peacekeeping will also send a strong message to the populations of post-conflict societies that they are getting back to normal, said Gerard Beekman, UN Police Chief of Staff, a point also emphasized by Mr. Kroeker who added that the cost advantages of these units was also a major advantage. ■

(UN News Service)

UN Peacekeeping Reaps ‘Return On Investment’ as Post-Conflict Countries Contribute Police

United Nations peacekeeping operations are reaping a “return on their investment” as countries which in the past hosted them are now in turn contributing police to other missions.

Timor-Leste and Croatia became new contributors in 2005, while Bosnia and Herzegovina upped the number of officers it is providing and El Salvador increased its police deployment seven-fold over 2004.

Collectively, these four countries – all of which once hosted UN peacekeeping operations – last year contributed 67 of the 7,258 police officers deployed in 15 operations worldwide. While that represents a small portion of the overall force, UN officials say the significance goes beyond the numbers.

“Governments in countries where the UN was once deployed to keep peace are now showing their appreciation for the stability we have cultivated by sending their own officers out to other hotspots,” said Police Adviser Mark Kroeker. “It is a vote of confidence for United Nations peacekeeping from those who know best how we operate.”

Governments in countries where the UN was once deployed to keep peace are now showing their appreciation for the stability we have cultivated by sending their own officers out to other hotspots.

The addition of new police contributors in 2005 is part of a trend that Mr. Kroeker intends to expand. Last year, 81 countries provided police; his target for this year is 100. “This is an ambitious goal but I believe we can meet it,” he said. “And by adding more States we can further diversify our contingents.”

Mr. Kroeker is aiming not only to extend the geographic base of contributors but also to encourage greater participation by women. “Female representation currently stands at 3 per cent, which I consider shameful,” he stated. “Female officers have a distinct and important role to play, and I strongly urge more police contributing countries to provide women to our operations.”

Recently, the small and remote Pacific island nation of Palau provided its first contribution, sending two



UN Police in Western Sahara. (UN Photo)

female officers that were trained in Greece to serve in Timor-Leste.

Other countries have significantly increased their deployments, such as Guinea, which contributed 3 officers in 2004 and 96 in 2005, and Senegal, which went from 155 in 2004 to 417 in 2005.

UN Police play a crucial role in peacekeeping operations and other field missions, patrolling, providing training, advising local police services, helping to ensure compliance with human rights standards and assisting in a wide range of other areas. In so doing, they help to foster a safer environment where communities will be better protected and criminal activities will be prevented, disrupted and deterred. ■

(UN News Service)

UN Police Strive for Quality Over Quantity as Role Changes

As the role of UN police on peacekeeping missions evolves towards capacity building for local forces and away from strictly monitoring and observing, the need to recruit better quality officers becomes paramount, says the United Nations Police Adviser, citing this as one of the main challenges the division faces.

While noting progress over the past five years in moving the UN police to embrace this new “capacity-building” mission, Mr. Kroeker acknowledges there is still work to do in changing the mindset of all officers as well as the people living in the post-conflict communities where they operate.

“The two big challenges that we face are both human. One is to find quality people -- quality advisers, quality leaders, quality trainers and men-

tors who can pass on their skills,” he said, contrasting this with an emphasis on quantity of staff in the past for the more traditional UN police role.

“The other challenge is communication, because as much as we believe in the new mission in our division here so that we know where we stand, the challenge is to get this message out to the societies we operate in and more so to our own ranks,” Mr. Kroeker added in an interview.

“Leadership without communication is something you can't even call leadership,” he pointed out.

As to how to attract quality, Mr. Kroeker said the division was trying a variety of means, including a more professional and demanding recruitment

From Insecurity to Stabilizing Force - Countries that Hosted Peacekeeping Missions Now Contribute Police: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Namibia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, El Salvador, the Central African Republic, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.





process and screening to get the best candidates – a tactic he also said is being used to encourage more women officers to join the force.

Despite the bureaucratic inertia of any organization that is trying to change, and even more so for one representing 192 States, the Police Adviser said the role of UN police has to adapt to the increased demands of peacekeeping operations and he was pleased the idea of a more hands-on force is slowly catching on.

“The conviction that is spreading, is that since the police are the most visible sign of government and since security is the most important, fundamental need coming out of conflict, we need to build good police so that the people can be secure,” said Mr. Kroeker.

Coming out of conflict, we need to build good police so that the people can be secure.

Acknowledging the challenges faced in post-conflict countries where local police forces are politicized or under the control of the military or simply made impotent – or, worse, through lack of funds and cor-



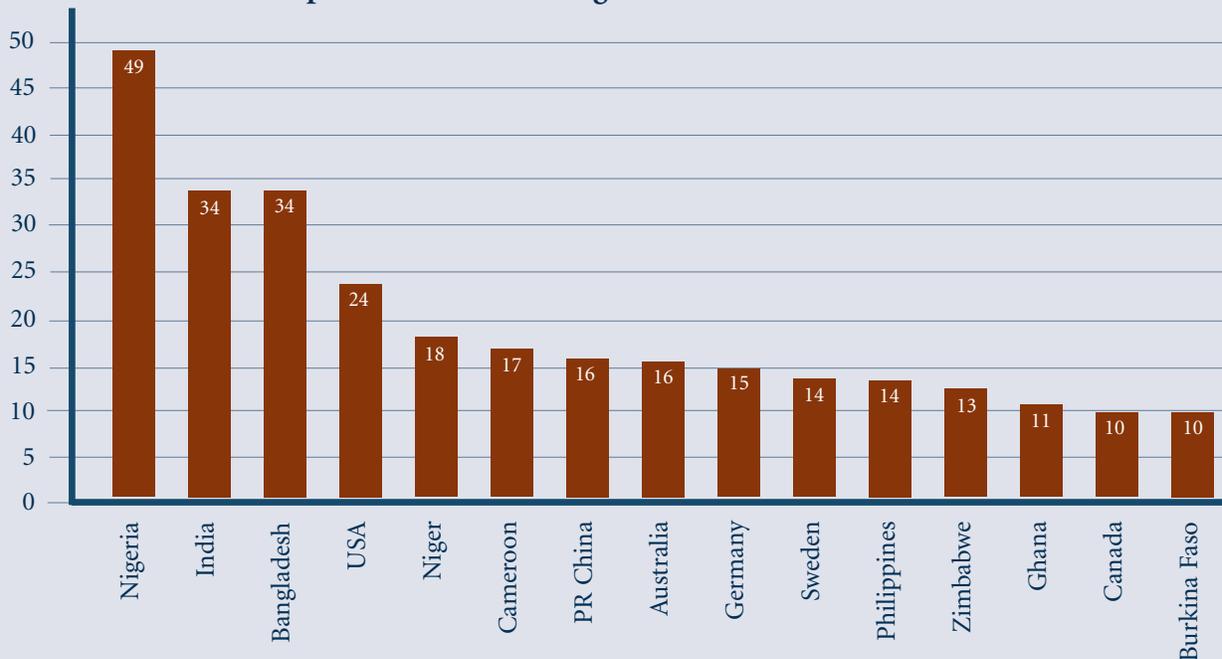
An officer of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) civilian police giving instructions in firearms handling to a recruit; one of a class of 788 potential police men and women at the Police Academy in Frere being trained by 25 MINUSTAH civilian police, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, 2 August 2005. (UN Photo/Sophia Paris)

ruption – Mr. Kroeker remains convinced that the UN police are on the right track in a battle they have to win.

“Police have to be accountable to the people.” ■

(UN News Service)

Top Female Contributing Countries - December 2006





Role of UN Police Evolves From Observing to Coaching

United Nations police must change from their traditional role as observers and monitors in peacekeeping operations to building capacity and skills among local forces so they are able to engage more effectively with the community.

Mr. Kroeker said in the past police working on peacekeeping missions have been mainly involved in “monitoring, observing and recording” but a quiet revolution has been underway since 2000 moving the force to play a more direct, hands-on role.

The fundamental purpose of police in missions now, all of us, is to build institutional capacity in post-conflict environments.

“The fundamental purpose of police in missions now, all of us, is to build institutional capacity in post-conflict environments. We believe this is the principle function,” Mr. Kroeker said in an interview.

“The new police officer is a coach, the old police officer was a watcher. And this new role involves such

things as building police academies, reinstating crime labs, designing and helping to implement traffic systems for cities or indeed building forces where none existed, as in Kosovo and Timor,” he added.

Another recent success, said Mr. Kroeker, was in Liberia where with donor assistance the UN police unit had helped the local force build up and train its own crowd-control capacity.

He added that the more traditional monitoring role of the police has not been dropped completely. Rather, it has been transformed based on the understanding that for a fully effective UN police force to cope with the increased demands of UN operations in the 21st century, there had to be a change in focus.

The new police officer is a coach, the old police officer was a watcher.

“The traditional police officer was up there on the wall of the garrison looking at everything and reporting but the new one is getting off the wall, getting down there with the people to help make things right,” Mr. Kroeker explained. ■

(UN News Service)

Top Contributing Countries - December 2006





With New Government in Place, Future of Liberia's Police Looking Up

Successful recent elections in Liberia and the inauguration in January of a new president bode well for the rebuilding of the West African nation's police force, a senior United Nations law enforcement official said earlier this year.

Ingrid Dagestad, Deputy Police Commissioner with the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), said the country's force still has a long way to go in dealing with the effects of more than a decade of brutal civil war but voiced confidence that it is on the right track towards reform.

The UN police supports our local counterparts to identify possible projects, approach possible donors, develop technical specifications and follow up implementation of projects.

“With a newly elected Government we are optimistic and believe we'll see changes,” Ms. Dagestad said in a phone interview from Monrovia.

But she acknowledged that challenges remain, especially coping with the legacy of the previous regime's inability to demobilize non-qualified police officers.

To remedy this situation, UNMIL's police component runs one of the largest training programmes ever conducted by a peacekeeping mission. Ms. Dagestad said more than 1,300 Liberian officers had graduated from the UN-assisted Police Academy and are now deployed into service.

The Deputy Police Commissioner observed that a lack of funding, including from donors, has been a problem in reform of the police but said she expects increased global support following the recent positive political developments in Liberia.

“I'm optimistic that the international community will give stronger support this year with the new Government in place. The UN police supports our local counterparts to identify possible projects,

approach possible donors, develop technical specifications and follow up implementation of projects.”

Since its establishment in 2003, UNMIL's police component, which now numbers almost 1,100 officers, has worked closely with its Liberian counterparts and is now gradually changing strategy and handing over “local ownership of all policing functions,” Ms. Dagestad said.

“The whole UN police mission has to shift focus where each and every one of us will have a stronger advisory role at the strategic, tactical and operational level, and in a mission-wide perspective, have an integrated approach in communities around the country.”

In Liberia, which has been ravaged by the twin scourges of war and poverty, outside assistance is essential. “To be able to achieve our objectives, we need stronger bilateral support to build up police facilities, provide basic equipment and vehicles to the police, and, not least, to dress the new Liberian



Ingrid Dagestad, Deputy Police Commissioner in Liberia. (UN Photo)



police force with new uniforms with a civilian rank structure so the population can see the reform process in action,” she added.

In a similar vein, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Liberia recently emphasized that the eventual reduction in UNMIL depends on

developing the capacity of the country’s security apparatus.

Stressing the importance of stability in Liberia, Alan Doss said that “security sector reform is a major priority for the Government and the international community.” ■

(UN News Service)

DR Congo: UN-trained police provide security for landmark elections

As the United Nations prepared for this year's elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the largest and most challenging it has ever helped organize, the UN mission trained thousands of police to provide security for a vote aimed at cementing the country's transition from a disastrous civil war.

Companies of the National Congolese Police (PNC) completed their training under the auspices of the UN mission in the DRC (MONUC) in collaboration with the Japanese Cooperation Agency (JCA).

These results are the fruit of the willingness to cooperate and the partnership that has been strengthened over the previous months.

“These results did not come about by accident. They are the fruit of a number of factors - the willingness to cooperate and the partnership that has been strengthened over the previous months,” Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s Special Representative William Swing told the graduation ceremony in Kinshasa, the capital.

With the help of the international community, a total of over 73,000 police officers were mobilized for the elections, including around 43,000 trained by MONUC. The rest were trained by partners such as South Africa, Angola, France, the European Union and Japan.

UN Police through the years

1960-1964: Concept of UN Civilian Police (CIVPOL) first introduced in the UN Operation in Congo (ONUC).

1992: UN police fully deployed in Cambodia, with 21 police units in provinces and 200 police stations at the district level

1994: Average of 1,677 UN civilian police officers deployed in peacekeeping missions per month

1998: UN police become an increasingly important element of UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding, helping war-torn societies restore conditions conducive to social, economic and political stability

2000: Average of 5,840 UN civilian police officers deployed in peacekeeping missions per month

2002: More than 4,500 local police officers are graduated and serve alongside police from the UN Interim Administration in Kosovo (UNMIK), which has the first UN international police tasked with law enforcement

2006: Over 8,200 UN police from 92 countries are deployed in 17 missions worldwide



This contributed little by little to changing the image of the police, which in the past has been “one of a collection of disparate elements from diverse backgrounds, sometimes without any understanding of security, or without any professional qualifications, and this diminished the ability of the force to operate

at even the most basic levels of effectiveness,” he said. The six-year civil war cost 4 million lives through fighting and attendant hunger and disease, widely considered the most lethal conflict in the world since World War II. ■

(UN News Service)

UN fully takes over policing role in Timor Leste after agreement with Government

In a further effort to reduce lawlessness in Timor Leste, particularly after two people were killed recently in the capital, the United Nations will now have prime responsibility for police operations throughout the small and impoverished South-East Asian nation, after signing an agreement in December with the Government.

This is the first ever such arrangement between a sovereign nation and the UN, and details the operational arrangements and command and control procedures through which the police

component of the UN Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) will take responsibility as the interim law enforcement agency, the mission said.

“UNMIT is delighted with the signing of this document, which provides the men and women of UN Police (UNPOL) with an appropriate legal framework to continue doing their job,” said Eric Tan Huck Gim, the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Security Sector Reform Rule of Law in Timor-Leste.

Principles of Democratic Policing

Representative policing ensures that:

- ◆ Police personnel sufficiently represent the community they serve;
- ◆ Minority groups and women are adequately represented through fair and non-discriminatory recruitment policies in police services; and
- ◆ The human rights of all people are protected, promoted and respected.

Responsive policing ensures that:

- ◆ Police are responsive to public needs and expectations, especially in preventing and detecting crime and maintaining public order;
- ◆ Policing objectives are attained both lawfully and humanely
- ◆ Police understand the needs and expectations of the public they serve; and
- ◆ Police actions are responsive to public opinion and wishes.

Accountable policing is achieved in three ways:

- ◆ Legally: police are accountable to the law, as are all individuals and institutions in States;
- ◆ Politically: police are accountable to the public through the democratic and political institutions of government as well as through police and citizen liaison groups; and
- ◆ Economically: police are accountable for the way they use resources allocated to them.



“That job is to restore and maintain public security to the people of Timor-Leste and to assist with the reform, restructuring and rebuilding of the Timorese National Police, and the strengthening of the Ministry of the Interior.”

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The Security Council created UNMIT in August to help restore order after deadly violence, attributed to differences between eastern and western regions, broke out in April and May in the country that the UN shepherded to independence from Indonesia just four years ago.

One of its key aspects has been bringing in UN police officers to rebuild and support the local force as well as enforcing law and order, particularly in the capital Dili, which remains beset by

tensions following this year’s violence that led to the deaths of at least 37 people and forced about 155,000 people – or 15 per cent of the population – to flee their homes.

The arrangement “will allow UNPOL to work hand in hand with the PNTL (the national police force) to ensure public security for all individuals and communities and help to restore the rule of law in Timor-Leste,” Antero Lopes, the UN’s Acting Police Commissioner, said.

“The agreement guarantees the Timorese can secure the support and leadership of UNPOL in policing operations as well as the long term reform of restructuring and rebuilding the PNTL under a common integrated framework.”

Council resolution 1704 calls for a robust police presence of up to 1,608 qualified UNPOL officers coming from various nations to help Timor-Leste improve all aspects of policing operations including leadership, community-policing, investigations, traffic, public order and administration. There are currently nearly 1,000 UNPOL officers in Timor-Leste. ■

(UN News Service)

Kosovo police lauded for major operation; assume increasingly important role – UN

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) is playing an increasing role in all aspects of law enforcement in the province, senior United Nations officials have said, highlighting an operation earlier this year that was the largest domestic police effort since 1999, and one which brought widespread praise for the efficiency of the reconstituted force.

Officials from the police component of the UN mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) said that all security and crowd-control measures for January’s funeral of the province’s President had been handled by local police units, based on the training that they had received from international officers.

“This is being considered the most successful operation conducted in Kosovo post 1999 even though it was unfortunate that the first occasion for the KPS to prove themselves to this degree was one of such sadness at the loss of their President,” said Kai Vittrup, UNMIK Police Commissioner.

“It has been the largest single operation that has ever been completed in Kosovo, and it was led and run by KPS, albeit with some guidance, although no international officers were involved at the street level and only mentoring and advice was given at the command level,” he added.



The force received similar praise in February when the senior UN envoy to Kosovo told the Security Council that he felt “bound to salute the performance” of the 3,500 Kosovo police officers on duty at the funeral for their “professionalism and sensitivity.”

“In Pristina, there were officers from the North part of Mitrovica, from Gračanica and Strpce. Neither one was differentiated from the others but all were officers performing to the highest-level of professionalism in this dignified ceremony,” said KPS chief Colonel Behar Selimi, himself an ethnic Albanian, referring to Serb majority areas. (The bold can be used as a pull quote)

But UN police officials say that the success of the funeral operation is only the latest example in the rebirth of a force built up since the United Nations took over the running of Kosovo in 1999 when NATO drove out Yugoslav troops amid human rights abuses in fighting between Serbs and Albanians.

Paul Hutchings, UNMIK’s Deputy Police Commissioner for Operations, said that the UN police component has now handed over most of the responsibilities for policing operations in the province to the KPS.

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Mr. Hutchings stressed the extensive training that the UN police had provided to their Kosovo counterparts, noting in particular that almost 2,000 local officers had now been trained in the latest and most effective methods of riot control, while local minority police officers had been assigned to villages that had felt neglected by the force.



*Commissioner Vittrup and KPS Colonel Selimi.
(UN Photo)*

Turning to the specific crime-fighting role in the province, UNMIK’s Deputy Police Commissioner for Crime, Bob Morrison, also said that the local force had become more directly involved in this aspect of policing.

In particular, Mr. Morrison said that Regional Crime Squads were now under KPS control, while the total number of local officers involved directly or indirectly in investigations throughout Kosovo had also increased over the past year.

UNMIK Police Commissioner Vittrup acknowledged that the UN police still has work to do in Kosovo but he said that the success of local officers in mounting the funeral operation, in addition to their other achievements, showed that despite the difficulties things were on the right track.

“Our mandate at the beginning of the mission was to provide for the safety and security of the residents of Kosovo and to create and train a Kosovo Police Service, which I’m proud to say is well on its way to developing into a respected, professional law enforcement body,” said Mr. Vittrup. ■

(UN News Service)



Summary of Contributors of UN Police Personnel

- As of 5 December 2006 -

COUNTRIES	TOTAL	UNMIK	UNMIT	UNIOSIL	UNFICYP	ONUB	MINURSO	UNMIS	UNAMA	UNMIL	UNOMIG	ONUCI	MONUC	MINUSTAH
1 Argentina	40	7			4			11		8		4	2	4
2 Australia	73		49		14			10						
3 Austria	22	22												
4 Bangladesh	788	30	193					32		29		254	250	
5 Benin	71					1						32	8	30
6 Bosnia & Herzeg.	13							2		11				
7 Brazil	6	2	1					3						
8 Bulgaria	47	47												
9 Burkina Faso	106					2							52	52
10 Cameroon	152					2						59	48	43
11 Canada	84							2				2		80
12 Central Africa Republic	14											7	7	
13 Chad	15											5	2	8
14 Chile	10													10
15 Colombia	2													2
16 Cote D'Ivoire	1												1	
17 Croatia	12	9	1		2									
18 Czech Republic	16	11								5				
19 Denmark	26	24						2						
20 Djibouti	39											39		
21 Egypt	40	17					2	1					13	7
22 El Salvador	26		6		8		2	6		2				2
23 Fiji	37							7		30				
24 Finland	5	3						2						
25 France	151	53										10	10	78
26 FYROM -Macedonia	1									1				
27 Gambia	51			1				18		32				
28 Germany	184	170						5		5	4			
29 Ghana	100	15		2				41		41	1			
30 Greece	10	10												
31 Grenada	1													1
32 Guinea	117												52	65
33 Hungary	5	5												
34 India	343	54		1	7			28				3	250	
35 Ireland	18				18									
36 Italy	29	25			4									
37 Jamaica	13							5		8				
38 Jordan	894	58	1					21		140		379	3	292
39 Kenya	65	16		1				21		27				
40 Kyrgystan	8	4						1		3				
41 Lebanon	0													
42 Lithuania	6	6												
43 Madagascar	15					1						6	7	1
44 Malawi	19									19				
45 Malaysia	177	2	164	1				10						
46 Mali	48					4							20	24

COUNTRIES	TOTAL	UNMIK	UNMIT	UNIOSIL	UNFICYP	ONUB	MINURSO	UNMIS	UNAMA	UNMIL	UNOMIG	ONUCI	MONUC	MINUSTAH
47 Mauritius	2													2
48 Morocco	0													
49 Mozambique	0													
50 Namibia	7							1		6				
51 Nepal	484	17	22	1				56	1	256				131
52 Netherlands	19	1			7			11						
53 New Zealand	24		24											
54 Niger	153					4						71	41	37
55 Nigeria	369	20		3				49	1	162		9		125
56 Norway	34	19		1				4		10				
57 Pakistan	511	155	35					42		28		2		249
58 Palau	0													
59 People's Rep of China	180	18						9		23				130
60 Philippines	325	46	149					47	1	35		6		41
61 Poland	127	122								3	2			
62 Portugal	195	7	187	1										
63 Republic of Korea	5		5											
64 Romania	181	170											1	10
65 Russia	70	33	1					12		11	2		3	8
66 Rwanda	64							24		15		14		11
67 Samoa	50		17					17		16				
68 Senegal	467											57	286	124
69 Serbia	7									7				
70 Sierra Leone	2													2
71 Singapore	21		21											
72 Slovenia	15	15												
73 Spain	69	13	10											46
74 Sri-Lanka	35							24		11				
75 Sweden	63	35		2				10		13			3	
76 Switzerland	11	6									3	2		
77 Tanzania	2							2						
78 Thailand	31		31											
79 Timor-Leste	10	10												
80 Togo	10											1		9
81 Tunisia	0													
82 Turkey	231	121	9	1				28		33		21	10	8
83 Uganda	40							20		20				
84 UK	60	58		2										
85 Ukraine	223	183						24		13			3	
86 Uruguay	14		2					2		3		3		4
87 USA	292	217	4					11		10				50
88 Vanuatu	26		11					6				4	2	3
89 Yemen	13							3		4		2	1	3
90 Zambia	56	9						21		26				
91 Zimbabwe	84	18	6					29		31				
Total:	8,482	1,883	949	17	64	14	4	680	3	1,097	12	992	1,075	1692



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