



# JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE

NEW YORK 2007

COORDINATING GROUP MEETING  
UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2007  
NEW YORK

## MEETING REPORT

Pursuant to the Outcome Document adopted at the Meeting on the Justice Rapid Response (JRR) on 28 November 2007 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, the Interim JRR Secretariat, No Peace Without Justice (NPWJ), convened the first meeting of those members of the Coordinating Group present in New York at 10:00am on Thursday, 29 November 2007.

The Coordinating Group had been formed the previous day on a self-selection basis, comprised of the following: Canada, Colombia, Finland, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the European Commission, and a number of specialised partner NGOs, including the Al-Kawakibi Democracy Transition Centre, the Entishar Charity Society, the Humanitarian Law Centre, the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, Justice Without Frontiers, Moroccan Association of Human Rights and No Peace Without Justice.<sup>1</sup> It was further agreed that Canada will notify all JRR participants of the constitution of the Coordinating Group and the fact that membership remains open, requesting they notify the Interim JRR Secretariat if they have an interest in participating in the Coordinating Group.

Nominations for meeting chair were opened and Finland nominated Canada to be Chair of the first Coordinating Group meeting. Canada accepted the nomination and the meeting continued with Canada as the Chair.

The Coordinating Group had initially been tasked with developing an outreach strategy; continuing to review the documents adopted by the Policy Group on 28 November 2007 with a view to presenting proposals for developing more detailed Guidelines on Cooperation and Deployment; working towards the development of common criteria for rosters and to contact training institutions and possible end users for training syllabus with the assistance of the Interim JRR Secretariat; seeking technical expertise through technical focal points that can contribute to the development of training curricula and standard operating procedures; developing terms of reference for and identifying possible organisations to serve as the permanent Secretariat for JRR; and designing a pilot deployment.

Having identified those tasks, they were assigned to willing States and non-State actors present at the meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the participants indicated their participation is ad referendum

It was decided that the outreach strategy should focus on raising awareness about the JRR mechanism among potential recipients and the international community and to ensure both the Policy and Coordinating Groups are as inclusive and diverse as possible. To that end, a basic range of background documents or an 'information kit' will be prepared in a number of languages, initially in English, Spanish, French and Arabic. The Interim JRR Secretariat was tasked with compiling 'talking points' of around 3-4 pages that JRR participants and partners could use when meeting with other organisations and States. The deadline for the compilation of the information kit was set for the end of December 2007. Canada agreed to cover the costs of translation and the organisation "Justice Without Frontiers" (from Lebanon) also offered assistance in the translation of documents from English to Arabic. In addition, a letter will be prepared by the Secretariat to be sent by Canada on behalf of the Coordinating Group to certain UN officials informing them about the JRR, to ensure that the information is disseminated widely throughout relevant UN agencies and seeking that they appoint focal points, to facilitate the exchange of information related to JRR.

The issues of rosters and training were considered together and the Institute for International Criminal Investigations accepted responsibility for preparing a draft background paper. They will collaborate on this task with the European Commission, the Folke Bernadotte Academy and the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, all of which have extensive experience in both rosters and training, with the assistance of the Interim JRR Secretariat. Once the initial background document is prepared, it will be circulated to various organisations that might use the JRR mechanism for their input on rosters and training before being circulated to the Policy Group for their consideration.

Canada and No Peace Without Justice, as the Interim JRR Secretariat, agreed to work together to produce terms of reference for seeking a permanent Secretariat. The draft terms of reference will be circulated to the Policy Group and, once approved, to potentially interested organisations, with a view to soliciting proposals from them in order to identify those most appropriate to act as the JRR Secretariat, which will be selected by the Policy Group. The draft terms of reference will be produced by the end of February 2008, in order to circulate them among the Policy Group, receive feedback and finalise the terms of reference by the end of March 2008. It was also decided that Canada and No Peace Without Justice, as the Interim JRR Secretariat, would prepare Terms of Reference for the Coordinating Group, which will be circulated to members of the Coordinating Group before wider circulation among the Policy Group.

A deadline was also set for the proposal for a JRR pilot mission, which Sweden accepted responsibility for preparing, which should be prepared and circulated in the Spring of 2008.

The Outcome Document was reviewed according to the proposals, comments and suggestions made from the floor at the end of the Justice Rapid Response meeting of 28 November 2007. This draft will be circulated to members of the Policy Group via email for final review, to ensure all proposals and suggestions have been incorporated.<sup>2</sup> A meeting report of the Coordinating Group will also be prepared and circulated within the Coordinating Group. Once both documents are finalised, they will be distributed to the Policy Group in both English and French.

The Coordinating Group will meet again in 2008, on a date to be proposed by the Interim JRR Secretariat, with April 2008 already being noted as a possible date. The venue is yet to be decided and will be discussed via email in the coming weeks.

As there was no other business, the meeting closed at 12:00.

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<sup>2</sup> The draft Outcome Document was in fact circulated by the Interim JRR Secretariat on 1 December 2007.