



2009

**Justice Rapid Response  
Policy Group Meeting**

**19 November 2009**

*World Forum Convention Center, The Hague*

**MEETING REPORT**

The Interim JRR Secretariat is run by  
No Peace Without Justice



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**Canada**

## REPORT FROM THE THIRD JRR POLICY GROUP MEETING

The Third Justice Rapid Response Policy Group<sup>1</sup> Meeting took place at the World Forum Convention Centre in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 19 November 2009, in the margins of the Assembly of States Parties of the International Criminal Court, with the financial support of the Governments of Canada and Finland and the European Union. The meeting was attended by 52<sup>2</sup> representatives of States, international institutions and civil society. The JRR Policy Group meeting was convened to discuss and adopt the recommendations developed by the JRR Coordinating Group since November 2008, to approve the plan of action for the coming 12 months and to expand membership in the JRR Policy Group, which remains open for all interested States and organisations.

The meeting provided the opportunity to recall the main features and objectives of the JRR mechanism and to present its recent steps forward, in particular the JRR Pilot Training Course held in Berlin in May 2009,<sup>3</sup> the first JRR Certification Workshop held in Brussels in September 2009<sup>4</sup> and the first request for deployment received from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to provide expertise to assist the International Commission of Inquiry for Guinea.

The JRR Policy Group approved the Plan of Action for 2010 and the Call for Nominations for upcoming JRR training courses, as recommended by the JRR Coordinating Group at its meeting the previous day. The Plan of Action includes holding two JRR Training Courses in May and October 2010; two JRR Certification workshops in February and July 2010; and moving forward with JRR-related outreach to end-users and other stakeholders. Three JRR Coordinating Group meetings are also planned for March, September and November, and the Annual JRR Policy Group meeting is planned for November 2010.

### Development of the JRR Mechanism, 2008-2009

The JRR Coordinator on behalf of Canada, Chair of the Justice Rapid Response mechanism (JRR), summarised the concept and purpose of JRR before moving on to brief participants about the development of the mechanism during 2008-2009 since the last Policy Group meeting.

#### *Background to JRR*

The JRR Coordinator reiterated that JRR is a multinational standby facility of experts, available at short notice for a short period of time, available at the request of States or international organisations with jurisdiction, such as the ICC and various United Nations Agencies and Bodies. When a request for assistance is received, each JRR Participant can decide whether or not they wish to participate in a particular deployment by making available their experts who are on the JRR Roster. JRR experts are deployed in order to identify, collect and preserve especially the most perishable information about crimes under international law and human rights violations committed in conflict and post-conflict situations. Following their deployment, these experts report back on their findings and make recommendations on the basis of the gathered information. The JRR mechanism provides a number of practical advantages: it is able to deploy rapidly professional presence on the field; it helps to preserve perishable information; and in so doing provides a useful tool for justice and accountability, conflict resolution and peace building. The JRR serves existing international criminal justice and human rights mechanisms, both international and domestic, rather than competing with them.

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<sup>1</sup> The JRR Policy Group was formally established in November 2007, along with the JRR Coordinating Group, and is comprised of all States and entities participating in JRR. It is responsible for decision-making for the JRR, including setting the broader policy framework and identifying specific areas of work for the JRR Coordinating Group and Interim JRR Secretariat.

<sup>2</sup> See annex 1 for the list of participants.

<sup>3</sup> The Pilot Training Course Report from May 2009 is available from [http://www.justicerapidresponse.org/jrr\\_PTC\\_Berlin\\_May09.htm](http://www.justicerapidresponse.org/jrr_PTC_Berlin_May09.htm).

<sup>4</sup> The Certification Workshop Report from September 2009 is available on [http://www.justicerapidresponse.org/jrr\\_CW\\_Brusels\\_September09.htm](http://www.justicerapidresponse.org/jrr_CW_Brusels_September09.htm)

People from all over the world with experience in their field are taking part in the JRR mechanism through the JRR Policy and Coordinating Groups and as experts certified to the JRR Roster. Furthermore, the JRR mechanism has a linguistic and gender balance and is very cost-effective. The Government of Germany chaired the JRR mechanism from 2004 to 2007; since 2007, the Government of Canada has been the Chair of JRR and, in addition to providing direction and momentum, has also provided substantial financial resources. Since 2006, No Peace Without Justice has acted as the JRR Secretariat, at the request of participating States at the JRR Conference in June 2006 in Venice.

#### *Developments in 2008-2009*

In February 2009, the JRR Coordinating Group met in Wakefield, Canada, to select the participants for the JRR Pilot Training Course, held in Berlin in May 2009. Twenty participants were chosen from over 40 nominations based on their experience and expertise, also taking into account the need to ensure geographical and gender balance for the course. The Pilot Training Course, which lasted six and a half days, covered a range of issues related to international criminal investigations, including sessions on financial, forensic and criminal law and investigations, military matters and security and risk management issues and exercises related to possible deployment scenarios through field-simulations. Participants and observers gave very good feedback on how to improve future Training Courses and provided useful feedback on the JRR mechanism itself. Following the Pilot Training Course, a shorter Certification Workshop was held for participants who had already undertaken training or who had substantial expertise in international criminal investigations in September at the NPWJ offices in Brussels. As a result of these two events, 34 experts from every region of the world have been certified to the JRR Roster.

During the last year, there has been a transition from a developmental JRR mechanism to a fully operative JRR mechanism, with additional financial and human resources being provided by Canada and NPWJ. Within the first month of operationality, JRR was able to respond to a request from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to deploy assistance to the International Commission of Inquiry into Guinea, set up to investigate the attack in September 2009 on unarmed protesters which left many dead or injured.

JRR is now launching a new call for nominations for the next training course, scheduled for early May 2010. As with the Pilot Training Course, the JRR Coordinating Group will review all nominations and select participants for the next training course, also taking into account the need to ensure geographical and gender balance. The location of the training course will be in Latin America, in order to promote regional participation in the JRR and to engage experts in Latin America, with a view to diversifying further the skill-set available through the JRR Roster. The standards of the trainings will be shared with other regional training institutions all over the world with a view to engaging more training institutions to be involved with providing training courses on the JRR.

#### **Proposed plan of action for the Justice Rapid Response**

The next steps foreseen for the year 2010, as the roster of experts has become deployment-ready, is for the JRR mechanism to focus on three main areas: a review of the training curriculum based on experiences from conducting the course and feedback from participants, observers and end-users; an increased focus on outreach, to engage new participants and to alert those States and international organisations with jurisdiction that the JRR is ready to respond to requests for assistance; and an increased focus on developing a roster management system that meets the needs of the JRR. The roster management system must be sufficiently detailed and sufficiently broad to allow for a large enough number of experts from which to select a team for rapid deployment. A great deal of work has gone into this issue already, but decisions still need to be taken about which model would meet the JRR's specific needs.

### *Plan of Action for 2010*

#### JRR Certification workshop, 5-8 February 2010

This three day Certification Workshop will be conducted at the NPWJ Offices in Brussels, engaging up to 16 experts from a range of countries. The objective of the Certification Workshop is to certify to the JRR Roster experts who are sent by States and international organisations who are already trained for international criminal justice-related deployment. These experts will learn how to apply their expertise to JRR situations. The Certification Workshop is a means to ensure that experts who may be deployed on behalf of JRR have the necessary skills and level of familiarity with the JRR mechanism to facilitate rapid and effective deployment.

#### JRR Coordinating Group meeting, March 2010

The Coordinating Group will continue work on a number of areas for JRR. This will include the selection of a roster management mechanism, development of an outreach strategy; more detailed operational guidelines; training; and selection of participants for the May 2010 training course.<sup>5</sup>

#### JRR Full training course: May 2010

The course will involve a maximum of 20 participants and five observers and consist of six and a half days of training, including a one-day field simulation. The course will increase the number of trained people ready to deploy as core members of a team within the framework of the JRR mechanism. The course will use the JRR training curricula, as revised on the base of the results and feedback from previous courses. JRR participants wishing to nominate experts for the course will be asked to provide funding for their participation. Successful participants from the course will be added to the pool of trained people ready to deploy as core members of a team within the framework of the JRR mechanism. The training course will ensure that the skills and profile of experts who may be deployed by JRR are of a sufficiently high level and are sufficiently standardised to facilitate rapid and effective deployment of JRR personnel. The location of the Course is currently under consultation but is likely to be somewhere in Latin America. The results of the Course will be presented to delegates at the Review Conference in Kampala in May-June 2010.

#### JRR Certification Workshop: July 2010

This three day Certification Workshop will be conducted in Europe, at a location to be determined, engaging up to 16 experts from a range of countries. The objective of the Certification Workshop is to certify to the JRR Roster experts sent by States and international organisations who are already trained for international criminal justice-related deployment. These experts will learn how to apply their expertise to JRR situations. The Certification Workshop is a means to ensure that experts who may be deployed on behalf of JRR have the necessary skills and level of familiarity with the JRR mechanism to facilitate rapid and effective deployment.

#### JRR Coordinating Group meeting: September 2010

The Coordinating Group will continue work on a number of areas for JRR. This will include the development of an outreach strategy; more detailed operational guidelines; rosters and training; and finalising preparations for the JRR training course in October, including the selection of participants.

#### JRR Full training course: October 2010

Like the course held in May 2010, the October training course will increase the number of trained people ready to deploy as core members of a team within the framework of the JRR mechanism. The course will involve a maximum of 20 participants and five observers and consist of six and a half days of training including a one-day field simulation. The course will use the JRR training curricula developed on the basis of results and feedback from previous courses. JRR participants wishing to nominate experts for the course will be asked to provide funding for their participation. Successful

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<sup>5</sup> See annex II for the updated Call for Nominations for the second JRR Training Course.

participants from the course will be added to the pool of trained people ready to deploy as core members of a team within the framework of the JRR mechanism. The training course will ensure that the skills and profile of experts who may be deployed by JRR are of a sufficiently high level and are sufficiently standardised to facilitate rapid and effective deployment of JRR personnel. The location of the Course is currently under consultation, but is likely to be somewhere in the Middle East.

#### Meetings of the JRR Coordinating Group and JRR Policy Group, November 2010

The Coordinating Group will undertake an assessment of the training courses and certification workshops held in 2010 and approve a plan of action for 2011. The Policy Group meeting will adopt documents recommended by the JRR Coordinating Group and approve priority areas and the plan of action for the coming 12 months.

#### **General discussion about the Justice Rapid Response Mechanism**

There was a general discussion during the JRR Policy Group meeting, which gave participants the opportunity to underscore the importance of the JRR, raise pertinent issues and seek clarifications on some of its fundamental aspects. Participants generally expressed their support for JRR, their intention to participate in it and their appreciation that the mechanism has now become operational. They underscored that the fact that JRR has now had its first deployment is very impressive and demonstrated the practical utility of JRR. In addition, the representative of the ICC expressed her support and appreciation for the JRR mechanism and the first deployment and her interest in having a closer association between the JRR mechanism and the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC in the future.

Questions were asked about which specific criteria are used to determine to which situations JRR will deploy and how the JRR mechanism will work in the longer-term. It was clarified that while an initial assessment is done of the request, including whether the requesting entity has the legal jurisdiction to make such a request, it is for each JRR Participant to decide, on a case by case basis, whether they will participate in any given deployment. For the longer-term, the main purpose of the JRR mechanism is to facilitate the work of previously existing structures and providing expertise in full agreement with the host-State, by taking into due account the relevant norms of international law, the purpose and the legitimacy of the request, the situation investigated, the need for a secure environment and appropriate means available). People deployed through the JRR mechanism can either go to the field as part of an existing team, such as was the case with JRR's first deployment, or as part of a new investigation team assembled by the JRR mechanism. By putting trained-professionals on the ground as soon as possible and taking into account any future intervention of the international community, the JRR mechanism is designed also to ensure assistance is provided both to the requesting entity and be available for other entities that may be involved in the future.

Every step of the deployment was reported in order to have a lesson learned. The roster members deployed provided a pre-deployment Report and will be de-briefed after their return and share their experience with the next experts to be certified to the JRR Roster.

## Annex I – List of Participants

1. Argentina (Mr. Martin Mainero)
2. Belgium (Ms. Julie de Hulst)
3. Canada (Ms. Valerie Oosterveld, Mr. Andras Vamos-Goldman)
4. Colombia (Mr. Julian Guerrero)
5. Denmark (Mr. Martin Mennecke)
6. Finland (Ms. Sari Makela)
7. Hungary (Mr. István Gezelyes)
8. Iran (Mr. Bahram Heidari)
9. Italy (Mr. Roberto Bellelli, Mr. Salvatore Zappalà)
10. Kenya (Mr. Anthony Kuria)
11. Netherlands (Ms. Chantal Joubert)
12. Poland (Ms. Beata Ziokieiscr)
13. Samoa (Mr. Roger Clark)
14. Sierra Leone (Mr. Allieu I. Kanu)
15. Slovenia (Ms. Simona Drenik)
16. South Africa (Mr. Theunis Kotze)
17. Sweden (Mr. Erik Wennerstrom)
18. UK (Mr. Hugo Ellis)
19. USA (Ms. Diane Orentlicher)
20. Afghanistan Watch (Mr. Ibrahim Niamat)
21. Amnesty International (Mr. Christopher Hall)
22. ASP/ICC (Ms. Heloisa Estellita)
23. Entishar Charity Society (Dr. Emad Abdeen)
24. CICC Secretariat (Ms. Luisa Mascia, Mr. Bill Pace)
25. DPICO/OPOLSI (Mr. Woodyear)
26. European Commission (Mr. Michal Golabek)
27. Human Rights Law Centre, Nottingham University (Ms. Olympia Bekou, Ms. Annika Jones)
28. ICC (Ms. Cecilia Balteanu, Mr. Phakiso Mochochoko)
29. ICCSN (Ms. Margaret Anne Gansner, Ms. Marian Thunaes)
30. ICCS-NTUA Consortium (Ms. Milica Cubrilo)
31. IICI (Mr. John Ralston)
32. Institute for International Criminal Investigations (Ms. Anna Couloris)
33. Justice Without Frontiers (Lebanon) (Ms. Brigitte Chelebian)
34. No Peace Without Justice (Mr. Niccolo Figa-Talamanca)
35. OTP-ICC (Ms. Miriam Spittler)
36. Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) (Mr. Herman von Hebel)
37. UCLA (Ms. Emily Keehn, Ms. Stephanie A. Montano)
38. War Crimes Research Office (WCRO) (Ms. Susana Sacouto)
39. NPWJ-Interim JRR Secretariat (Ms. Niamh Gibbons, Ms. Alison Smith)



### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE SECOND JRR TRAINING COURSE

The purpose of this call is to invite nominations of criminal justice and related experts for the Second Justice Rapid Response Training course to be held in May 2010.

#### **Background**

The Justice Rapid Response (JRR) is a multilateral stand-by facility to deploy rapidly criminal justice and related professionals, trained for international investigations and at the service of States and international institutions. It allows the international community to provide much needed support for and compliance with the effective enforcement of international criminal justice, thus helping to make justice an integral and constructive part of conflict resolution and post-conflict peace-building. At the request of a State or international institution with jurisdiction, JRR experts can deploy quickly to identify, collect and preserve especially the most perishable information about crimes under international law and massive human rights violations, and reporting back to the requesting authority would be in a position, if requested, to make recommendations as to the most appropriate remedies under the circumstance. To qualify for inclusion on the JRR Roster, experts in a variety of fields are nominated by the State or institution for which they work to attend a JRR Training Course, designed to ensure that their technical expertise is matched by their knowledge of international investigations and deployment, in order to provide a consistently high-quality roster.

The Second JRR Training Course for experts to be included on the JRR roster builds on the work, experience and lessons learned from the Pilot Training Course held in May 2009 in Berlin. A debt of gratitude is owed to the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, the German Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) and the Folke Bernadette Academy as well as trainers from the Argentine Forensic Anthropology Team, the ICC, ICTY, Special Court for Sierra Leone and the Irish Centre for Human Rights who, working in close cooperation with the Government of Canada as Chair of JRR, the Interim JRR Secretariat (NPWJ) and the JRR Coordinating Group have developed and are helping to shape the course syllabus and training.

#### **Nominations Package**

All JRR participants are invited to nominate experts to participate in the Second JRR Training Course, to be held on **8-16 May 2010** (dates to be confirmed) in **Buenos Aires, Argentina**. Interested JRR participants are requested to propose criminal justice and related professionals who are willing and could be made available for short-term international deployment at short notice. Nominations must contain a complete application package, available from the JRR website, which includes a personal history form of the candidate; a statement of the candidate's willingness to be deployed; and a statement from the nominating entity indicating their willingness to release the expert for short term deployment in the event that entity decides to participate in any given mission.

## **Expertise sought**

Given that the Pilot Training Course focused primarily on the core expertise of criminal investigation and prosecution, it is important to broaden the scope of expertise available in the JRR roster. Thus the ideal candidate for nomination would be an active-duty professional with field experience in one of the various aspects of criminal investigations, including:

- Forensic investigations –all areas of forensics but especially documentary investigations and forensic anthropology and physiology; skills should include both evidence gathering and preservation and analysis.
- Human rights – skills should include monitoring; investigations; legal analysis; and reporting.
- Gender violence specialists – skills should include investigation and/or prosecution of sexual violence and related abuse especially but not exclusively in conflict situations.
- Military/Police specialists – skills needed include military law; military and police organization and operations; crowd control; and weaponry and tactics.
- Logistics and Security – field safety and security; risk analysis; risk management.
- Interaction with victims and witnesses – skills should include knowledge of protection and security; witness support; vulnerable witnesses (such as children or sexual violence victims); interviewing techniques; and psycho-social support.

Nominations of International law specialists and practitioners knowledgeable in human rights, international criminal and international humanitarian law; as well as other criminal law specialists working in investigations, prosecutions, defence, analysis, and policing (preferably with experience with mass crimes and conflict settings) are also welcome.

## **Course Modalities**

The Second JRR Training Course will consist of six and a half days of training, including field simulations, with a maximum of 20-25 participants and up to 5 observers.

While the cost of the course itself will be covered by the organisers, JRR participants wishing to nominate experts for the course are asked to fund the travel, room and board of their candidates. JRR participants with the ability to do so are encouraged to provide assistance for experts from JRR participants that may require financial assistance. JRR participants in a position to do so are requested to inform the Interim JRR Secretariat as soon as possible on [jrr@npwj.org](mailto:jrr@npwj.org).

The **deadline** for nominations is **19 March 2010**

Nominations can be sent by email to [jrr@npwj.org](mailto:jrr@npwj.org) or by fax to +32-2-511-8100

Course participants will again be chosen by the Coordinating Group from among the nominees on the basis of the expertise identified for this course and the qualifications and experience of the nominees.

The need to have a roster reflecting as broad a geographic representation as possible and gender balance will also be taken into consideration.

Details on the Pilot Training Course, on which this course is being modelled, is available from:

[http://www.justicerapidresponse.org/jrr\\_PTC\\_Berlin\\_May09.htm](http://www.justicerapidresponse.org/jrr_PTC_Berlin_May09.htm)

**The application package is available from <http://www.justicerapidresponse.org>**

**The nominating entity should fill in the Sponsorship Form**

**The nominated expert should fill in the Personal History Form**