



# JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE

## FACT SHEET

### What is Justice Rapid Response?

Justice Rapid Response (JRR) is an innovative initiative established by States to improve the ability of the international community to end impunity for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and serious human rights violations. JRR provides a flexible, rapid, and cost-effective means to access relevant, highly specialized investigative expertise in order to assist with fact-finding, inquiries and investigations in situations where violations of international criminal law and serious human rights violations may have occurred.

To do this, JRR has created a geographically diverse and gender balanced roster of experts in a wide range of criminal justice and related fields who have completed specialized training in the conduct of international investigations. The experts on the JRR roster can be made rapidly available at the request of States, as well as international institutions with appropriate jurisdiction such as UN entities or the International Criminal Court (ICC).

### The JRR Roster

Certification to the JRR roster requires the completion of specialized training on international investigations offered in collaboration with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), JRR's training partner. Thirty one training courses have been delivered to date, in all regions of the world. Training participants are selected through a call for nominations process under which professionals wishing to be considered are nominated by their government or institution. The diverse composition and broad range of expertise of its roster allows JRR to provide the international community with experts who can meet specialized needs and also possess the experience, language and cross-cultural management skills which are essential to working effectively in high-pressure international contexts.

Below is a snapshot of the current composition of the JRR roster:

- 564 rapidly deployable experts
- 104 nationalities
- 91 languages
- Over 40% from global South
- Over 50% women

Range of specialized expertise, including:

- criminal and human rights investigators
- legal experts including prosecutors
- international humanitarian law specialists
- forensic specialists (e.g. forensic doctors, pathologists, odontologists and archeologists, chemists, document analysts, visual image analysts, forensic ballisticians).
- police and military analysts
- sexual and gender based violence investigators
- witness protection and management specialists
- intelligence analysts
- interpreters

**Partnership with UN Women on SGBV investigations:** In order to strengthen accountability for crimes of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), JRR has partnered with UN Women and IICI to create a pool of trained SGBV investigations experts available to the international community. These rapidly deployable professionals are able to lead and participate in investigations, prosecutions, and victim recovery in situations of conflict-related gender-based crimes. Thanks to seven specialized training courses delivered in The Hague (2), Doha, Pretoria, Bogota, Amman and Senegal the JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster, within the broader JRR roster counts 171 experts. SGBV investigations courses continue to be offered every year. So far, the SGBV investigations roster has been used to facilitate 53 missions.

**Enabling rapid deployment:** JRR first assesses each request to ensure that it can be responded to safely and in conformity with international law. It then assists the entity requesting assistance in identifying the most appropriate expert(s) for the mission. JRR is able to achieve a high short-notice dispatch rate thanks to prior flexible arrangements with the experts' respective employers. JRR also works with the entities that request expertise in order to identify flexible solutions to execute deployments as quickly as possible.

**Deployments to date:** Since October 2009 the JRR facility has successfully deployed **141** experts to support a total of **90 missions**, including:

- International Commissions of Inquiry (including those on Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, DPRK/North Korea, Libya, Syria, CAR, Eritrea and for the Occupied Palestinians Territories including East-Jerusalem), through OHCHR and through UN Women
- OHCHR Fact-Finding Missions in Central African Republic, on Iraq, on Boko Haram Affected Countries and on Libya, through UN Women
- Joint Haiti - UN Commission of Inquiry into the events at Les Cayes Prison, through UN DPA
- Kyrgyzstan Commission of Inquiry, Government of Kyrgyzstan
- ICC Office of the Prosecutor (OTP), Legal Counsel and Investigator surge capacity support as well as an expert deployed through UN Women
- UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (MONUSCO), Prosecution Support Cells, through UN Rule of Law and Sexual Violence Team of Experts (TOE) in the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- National support, Colombia, through UN Women
- Extraordinary African Chambers, Senegal, including with the support of Canada and Switzerland
- Government of Mali, for a national investigation, with the support of USAID, as well as through the JRR Complementarity Pilot Program
- National support, Guatemala, through UN Women and under the JRR Complementarity Program
- Support to a regional organization, through UN Women
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)
- Bahrain's Prosecution Office, through UNDP
- Government of Guatemala, national support through UN Women and JRR Complementarity Program
- Investigative and research support to an internal investigation by an international organisation
- UN Women Country Office in Kosovo, to support the Commission for the Verification of Survivors of Sexual Violence
- OHCHR South Sudan Assessment Mission, through UN Women
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) for Children and Armed Conflict
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict

**Our vision:** JRR's goal is to ensure that timely, professional, impartial investigations of international crimes of serious concern contribute to creating a credible deterrent, thus helping post conflict societies avoid sliding back into conflict. In addition to constantly improving the depth, breadth and quality of its roster, JRR and its partners are expanding expertise in areas where investigations of these crimes can be improved. For example, JRR is working with its training partner IICI to develop a training program to ensure that asset recovery becomes an effective part of international investigations. This could contribute to addressing the issue of victim compensation. JRR is also currently undertaking a pilot initiative to establish capacity to provide assistance directly to States that have jurisdiction and the willingness to investigate and address mass atrocity crimes and serious human rights violations, but need additional technical support from the international community, in the light of the growing interest for this type of expert deployments.

**Governance:** JRR was created through an intergovernmental forum. Oversight and strategic direction for the work of the JRR facility is provided by an Executive Board that currently consists of ten States – Argentina; Canada; Colombia; Finland (Chair); the Netherlands; Sierra Leone; Republic of Korea; Sweden; Switzerland (Vice-Chair) and Uganda – as well as the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation and UN Women.

**Where to find us:** JRR has a small Secretariat based in Geneva, Switzerland, as well as liaison offices in New York and The Hague. For more information please visit the JRR website at [www.justicerapidresponse.org](http://www.justicerapidresponse.org) or contact the Justice Rapid Response Secretariat at [secretariat@justicerapidresponse.org](mailto:secretariat@justicerapidresponse.org) or by phone: +41 22 544 29 00.