





# JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE

## Justice Rapid Response: Helping to Fulfil the Promise of Ending Impunity ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

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### About Justice Rapid Response

**Justice Rapid Response** (JRR) was set up by States, from both the global South and North, to address a capacity gap in the conduct of investigations of international crimes.

**JRR's vision is for the worst crimes known to humanity to be investigated as professionally and promptly as any ordinary crime under domestic jurisdiction.** JRR therefore works to enable prompt, thorough, professional and impartial investigations to be conducted in every situation where international crimes and serious human rights violations are perpetrated. JRR contributes to this through the continuous development of its expert roster and through a mechanism that enables it to rapidly deploy these experts. In so doing, JRR also helps to establish the standard for international investigations.

Strategic direction and oversight is provided by an Executive Board composed primarily of States. In 2016, current State members are Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Finland (Chair), The Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Switzerland (Vice-Chair) and Uganda, joined by the Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation and UN Women. JRR has more than 100 States, institutions and organizations participating in its activities.

# The JRR Expert Roster

To be certified on the JRR Expert Roster, criminal justice professionals are nominated by their employers and go through a thorough selection process and must successfully complete a course carried out in collaboration with JRR's long-standing partner, the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI). Professionals selected come from every region of the world and represent a wide range of investigative expertise.

## At a Glance:

- Over 600 rapidly deployable experts
- Over 100 nationalities
- Over 90 languages
- Over 40% from the Global South
- Over 50% women

Since becoming operational in 2009, 34 courses have been delivered, on all continents. The diverse range of 50 professional categories on the roster includes criminal and human rights investigators, legal advisers and prosecutors, forensic specialists, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) experts, interpreters, military analysts and witness protection specialists.

In order to [strengthen accountability for SGBV crimes](#), JRR has partnered with UN Women and IICI to create a mechanism to train, recruit and deploy experts to assist SGBV investigations. These experts are part of the [JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster](#).

## JRR-UN Women SGBV partnership:

- 7 successful courses
- 170 experts on the SGBV roster
- 47 missions (66 total experts deployed)

# JRR Deployments to Date

Since becoming operational in 2009, JRR has assisted in more than 100 fact-finding missions, inquiries and investigations conducted by States as well as institutions and organizations with appropriate jurisdiction.



# 2016 | Summary of Activities

**JRR has continued to help raise the quality of international investigations through the development and provision of professional, impartial, diverse and timely expert assistance to the international community.**

**Missions:** In 2016, JRR has so far deployed experts to assist 22 missions, reaching a milestone with its **100th mission in October 2016**. In the course of this work, experts have been deployed to support investigations, other accountability and human rights monitoring mechanisms, as well as mentoring those dealing with survivors of conflict violence. For example:

- **Fourteen experts** were deployed to document and investigate **conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)**. This expertise was essential to ensure both the quality and integrity of these investigations and the well-being and dignity of survivors. The work of these experts has reinforced the inclusion of these crimes in all fact-finding related to conflict violence, setting new standards in this sector;
- **Three experts** have been deployed to help investigate **conflict-related violations involving children**. This is a new programme created by JRR and its partners to strengthen the international community's capacity in this field. Investigating violations involving children requires the involvement of professionals who are specifically trained to deal with children (see below);
- **Six experts** were deployed in the MENA region to **mentor humanitarian responders**. Their work helped these organizations recognize, safeguard and channel relevant information to accountability mechanisms, while minimizing the dangers to survivors;
- **Two experts** were deployed to support **national accountability processes** in two countries to assist the investigation and prosecution of international crimes. These missions are examples of JRR's practical implementation of the principle of complementarity, to support national justice systems in directly holding perpetrators to account for core international crimes.

**Recruitment and Certification:** In 2016, 26 experts have thus far been certified to the roster and a further 50 will be certified by the end of the year. JRR conducted two certification exercises in partnership with IICI: a **Monitoring and Investigating Conflict-related Violations Involving Children (MICVIC) Course**, in Amman, Jordan (August 21-31); and an **International Criminal Investigations Course** in Helsinki, Finland (October 10-20). A **SGBV Investigations Course** will be held in Bangkok, Thailand (December 5-11, 2016).

**Roster Management:** 2016 saw the introduction of **J-Force**, JRR's state-of-the-art roster and deployment management tool, developed with Salesforce.



## Who Used JRR Experts?

Country situations in which JRR experts provided assistance in 2016 include **Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Eritrea, Guatemala, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, Mali, South Sudan, and Syria**. Examples of entities that requested experts from the JRR roster in 2016 include:

- The African Union (AU)
- The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)
- The International Criminal Court (ICC)
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- The Republic of Guatemala
- United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA)
- United Nations Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC)
- UN Women
- United States Department of State

# 2017 | Planned Activities

In 2017, JRR will continue to support accountability efforts for core international crimes everywhere:

•**Missions:** JRR will continue to provide [surge capacity](#) to both international and regional institutions, direct assistance to States, specialized technical capacity in the investigation of crimes related to SGBV or international crimes involving children, investigative and/or forensic support, as well as mentoring of humanitarian responders;

•**Recruitment and roster management:** JRR will continue to increase the diversity and depth of its roster by through [targeted recruitment and certification of new experts](#). JRR will also continue to manage a diverse and gender-balanced roster of human rights and international criminal justice professionals, using J-Force;

•**Partnerships:** JRR will continue to develop partnerships with institutions requiring external expertise to investigate and prosecute core international crimes. An emphasis will be placed on increasing opportunities for accountability;

•**Resource mobilization:** JRR will work to secure the financial means necessary to ensure that JRR is able to [support investigations whenever needed and without delay](#). The International Investigations Development Fund was established last year for this purpose.



SPOTLIGHT:

## Conflict-related Violations Involving Children

Recognizing the need for highly specialized expertise in this area, JRR, the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative and IICI forged a new partnership to ensure that international crimes involving children are addressed appropriately and systematically in the context of monitoring, fact-finding and investigative mechanisms. The first Monitoring and Investigating Conflict-related Violations involving Children (MICVIC) course was held in August 2016 in Amman, Jordan. Of 113 applicants, 17 experts were certified to the JRR roster. They join a growing pool of experts available to strengthen the capacity of the international community to address crimes and serious human rights violations involving children. More course planned in the coming years will ensure the increased availability of this expertise.

## Support JRR

States, individuals and institutions can support JRR in the following ways:

- [Refer inquiries to JRR](#) whenever there is a need for expertise to conduct investigation;
- [Provide sponsorships](#) to enable experts from the Global South to demonstrate their qualifications for inclusion on the JRR roster;
- Contribute to the JRR [International Investigations Deployment Fund](#);
- [Support JRR directly](#), and help improve the quality of international investigations everywhere.

## Contact Us

Participation in JRR's activities is intended to be easy and flexible and only requires the designation of an official focal point. Please contact the JRR Secretariat to designate or confirm your focal point.

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