JUSTICE RAPID RESPONSE

Rapid Investigative Expertise, Where it’s Needed Most

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 specialized expertise 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.

Our vision

JRR’s goal is to ensure that timely, professional, impartial investigations of core international crimes contribute to creating credible deterrence, 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 has partnered with its long-standing partner, the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, and the Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative to improve the quality of fact-finding and investigations of conflict-related violations involving children.

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.

Above: Mass grave excavation in Mali, 2013
JRR Missions

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.

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.

To date, the Roster is comprised of over 600 rapidly deployable experts, of over 100 nationalities, speaking over 90 languages. More than half of the Roster is comprised of women, and over 40% are from the Global South. These experts represent 50 professional categories, including: criminal and human rights investigators; prosecutors; forensic specialists; police and military analysts; witness protection and management specialists; intelligence analysts; and interpreters. They are deployed upon request to investigate sexual and gender-based violence, monitor grave violations against children, support national accountability processes dealing with core international crimes, and provide mentoring to humanitarian responders.