

**Justice Rapid Response**

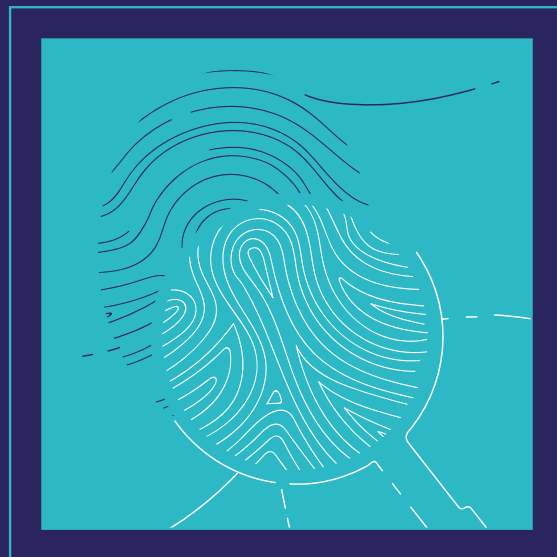
# 2017 REPORT

## Executive Summary



**JUSTICE  
RAPID  
RESPONSE**

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## Letter from the

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Justice Rapid Response 2017 Report.

In 2017, JRR continued to be the international community's "go-to" facility for rapidly deployable professionals, specifically trained to help investigate and address core international crimes and human rights violations.

The service we provide is a vital one, because proper investigation is the necessary foundation for any accountability process to be credible. And if properly conducted, it can give affected populations the confidence to believe that the rule of law is a viable alternative to recurring cycles of violence.

As you will see in the report, in 2017 JRR provided experts for 32 missions in more than 20 countries. We have also been able to demonstrate the positive impact of having qualified experts on the ground – not just on the outcome of the accountability, but also on the lives of survivors. In this respect, the report this year highlights the work of JRR experts in Mali, Iraq and Syria.

The rapid availability of experts also responds to the growing challenge of exponentially increasing documentation in the absence of accountability mechanisms that would have provided the guidance of rules of procedures and evidence. And such experts are also providing mentoring support to organizations conducting documentation of human rights violations, to help ensure evidence collected can be used for future accountability mechanisms.

JRR's work goes beyond supporting individual situations. It includes raising the quality of investigations and thus the standard of accountability for the worst crimes known to humanity. Thank you for visiting JRR's 2017 Report. I hope that you will find your journey through our work inspiring.

**Andras Vamos-Goldman**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

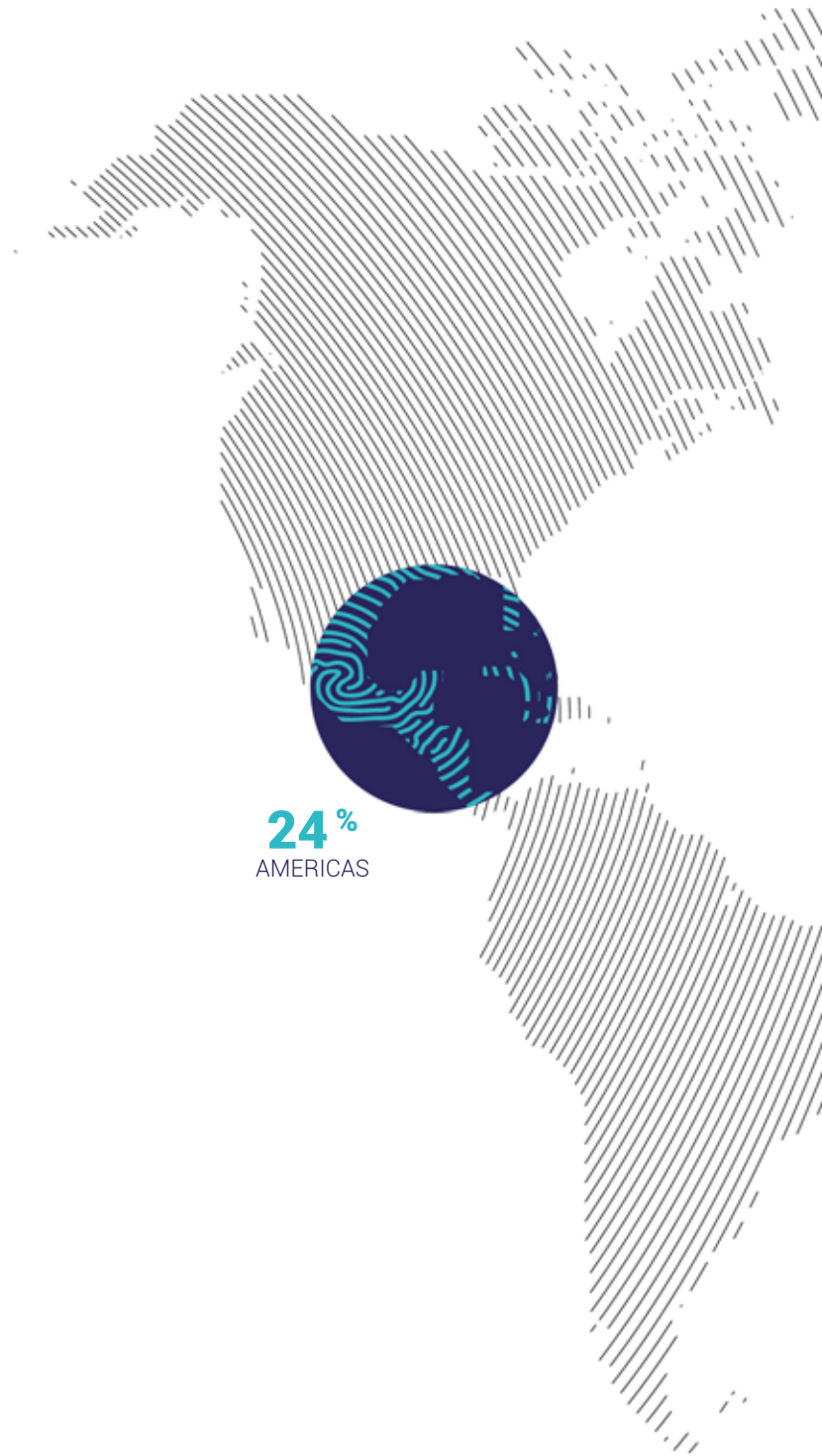
## The JRR

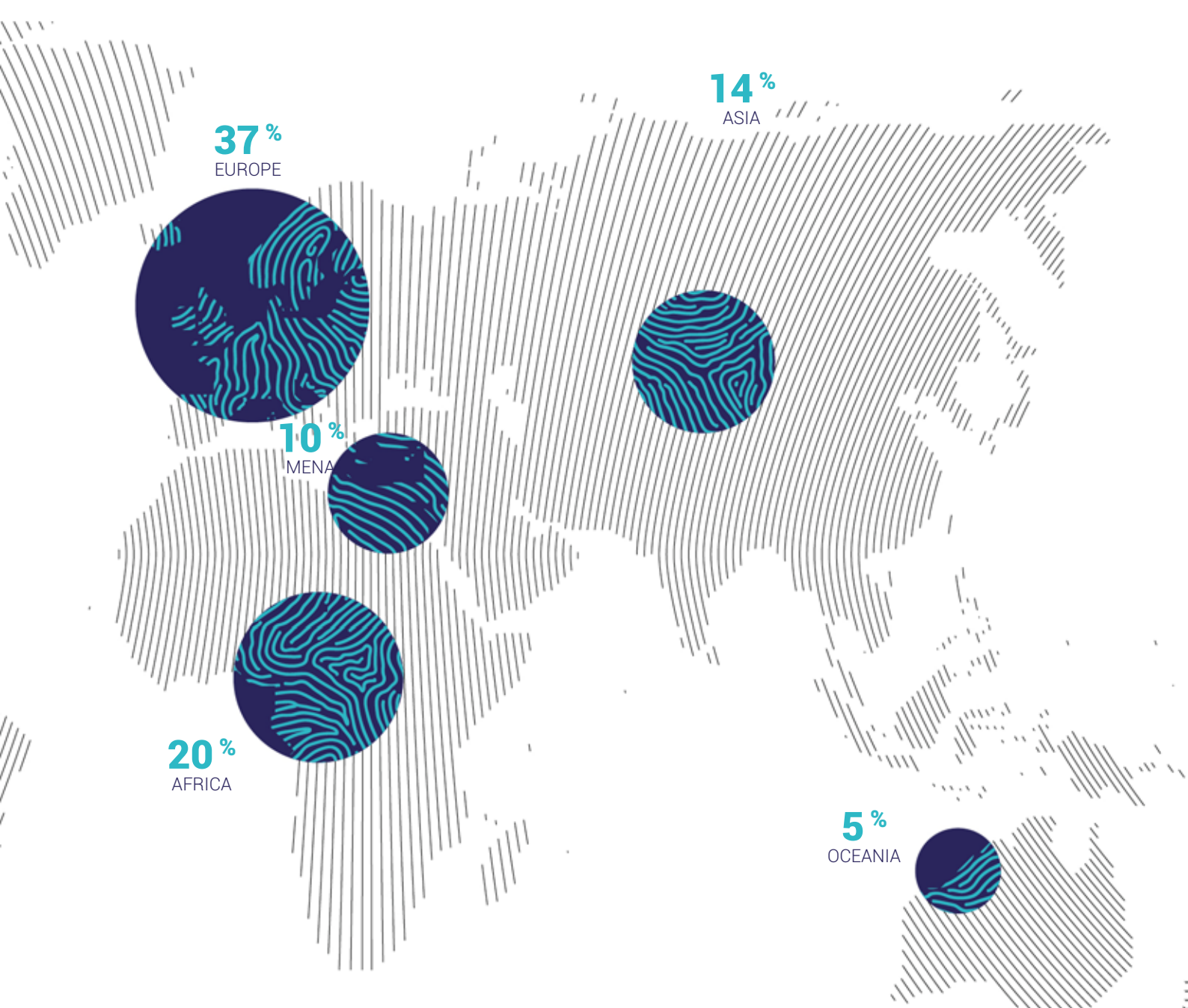
# EXPERT ROSTER

At the heart of JRR is our Expert Roster. Through a competitive selection process, we recruit high-quality experts with a diverse range of investigative expertise from around the world. We've built a pool of professionals who can bring the highest level of skills, knowledge and professionalism to an investigation or inquiry. They come from both the public and private sectors, and are trained to be productive members of international teams that often have to work in difficult circumstances. The JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster is comprised of approximately 220 experts and is maintained within the broader 600+ JRR Expert Roster.

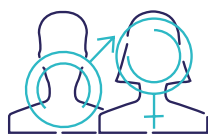
**"You will not find any roster like JRR's. The difference is not just that these active duty professionals are actually rapidly deployable. It is also because they represent almost 50 disciplines like crime scene investigators, a wide variety of forensics experts, witness protection specialists, military analysts, and psycho-social trauma counsellors. They also come from more than 100 countries and every region of the world."**

– ANDRAS VAMOS-GOLDMAN





**683**  
Number of Experts  
on JRR Roster



**57%**  
of Experts on the  
JRR Roster are women



**43%**  
of JRR Experts are  
from the Global South



**95**  
Languages spoken, from  
109 different countries

2017

## MISSIONS

In 2017, JRR Experts worked to investigate, document, and strengthen accountability for human rights violations and serious crimes committed in dozens of conflict or post-conflict situations, including situations and locations listed below.

Situation / Location	Requesting entity	Mechanism	Expertise deployed
<b>CAMBODIA</b>	Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)	Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC)	Criminal Investigator*
<b>SYRIA</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic	One SGBV Investigator; one Gender Adviser; one Interpreter/Translator*
<b>SOUTH SUDAN</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	South Sudan Human Rights Commission	SGBV/Gender Adviser*
<b>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</b>	Department of Peacekeeping Operations (UN DPKO)	MONUSCO Rule of Law Office	Criminal Investigator*
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Office of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG SVC)	UN Department of Political Affairs	International Law Expert*
<b>GUINEA</b>	Confidential	Confidential	Justice Adviser*
<b>LIBYA</b>	Office of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG SVC)	United Nations Support Mission in Libya	SGBV Expert*
<b>NEW YORK</b>	UN Women	Confidential	SGBV Investigator*
<b>IRAQ</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Civil Society Organizations and National authorities, Iraq	One Conflict-related SGBV Mental Health Psychosocial Support Expert; one SGBV Justice Expert; one Arabic/Kurdish to English Translator

\*Mission began in 2016

Situation / Location	Requesting entity	Mechanism	Expertise deployed
<b>IRAQ</b>	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	National Authorities, Iraq	SGBV Psychosocial/Trauma Expert
<b>THE HAGUE</b>	UN Women	International Criminal Court (ICC)	Gender Adviser
<b>DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA</b>	UN Women	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) - Seoul	Gender Adviser
<b>IRAQ</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Civil Society Organization and National Authorities, Iraq	One SGBV Justice Expert; one Arabic/Kurdish to English Translator
<b>BURUNDI</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Commission of Inquiry on Burundi	Gender Adviser/SGBV Investigator
<b>MALI</b>	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Mali (CVJR)	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Mali (CVJR)	Investigations and Analysis/ Transitional Justice Expert
<b>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	Confidential Mission	Forensic Pathologist
<b>GENEVA</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Systematizing Gender Integration in Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions	Gender Adviser
<b>UKRAINE</b>	International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC)	International Investigation in Ukraine	Forensic Pathologist
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala	Prosecution Adviser
<b>IRAQ</b>	UNICEF	Civil Society Organizations, Iraq	SGBV Psychosocial Counselor
<b>MYANMAR</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Independent International Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar	Gender Adviser
<b>MALI</b>	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Mali (CVJR)	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Mali (CVJR)	Investigations and Analysis/ Transitional Justice Expert
<b>IRAQ</b>	Civil Society Organization, Iraq	Civil Society Organization, Iraq	One SGBV Justice Expert; one Arabic/Kurdish to English Translator
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala	Prosecutions Adviser

Situation / Location	Requesting entity	Mechanism	Expertise deployed
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	UN Women	International Criminal Court (ICC)	SGBV Investigator
<b>IRAQ</b>	Hogan Lovells	Hogan Lovells - Civil Litigation Case	Investigator
<b>YEMEN</b>	Civil Society Organization, Yemen	Civil Society Organization, Yemen	One SGBV Justice Expert; one Arabic to English Translator
<b>SOUTH SUDAN</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan	Three SGBV Investigators/ Gender Advisers
<b>IRAQ</b>	Hogan Lovells	Hogan Lovells - Civil Litigation Case	Investigator
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala	Prosecutions Adviser
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala – Capacity Building	One Military Analyst; one Prosecutor; one Investigator; one Local Administrative Support
<b>IRAQ</b>	Civil Society Organization, Iraq	Civil Society Organization, Iraq	SGBV Justice Expert
<b>DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO</b>	United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA)	Follow-on mechanism (Kasai, DRC)	Three Investigators
<b>GUATEMALA</b>	United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	Public Prosecutor's Office of Guatemala – Capacity Building	One Military Analyst; one Prosecutor; one Investigator; one Local Administrative Support
<b>CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC</b>	Judicial Authorities of the Central African Republic	National Judicial Authorities	Prosecutions Adviser
<b>MYANMAR</b>	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)	Independent International Fact Finding Mission on Myanmar	Military Analyst
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	Confidential	Internal Investigation for International NGO (confidential)	Investigator of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)
<b>BURUNDI</b>	UN Women in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Commission of Inquiry on Burundi	SGBV Investigator/Gender Adviser
<b>MALI</b>	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Mali (CVJR)	Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission of Mali (CVJR)	Transitional Justice Expert
<b>KOSOVO</b>	UN Women	Kosovo - Assistance to national judicial authorities	One SGBV Prosecution Expert; one Victim Advocacy Expert



## OUR IMPACT



### CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Central African Republic (CAR) is currently at an important crossroads on the road to accountability for crimes committed during the conflict which has been active in recent years. In 2016, a mass grave was discovered near a peacekeeping base in Boali; the remains were of 12 people, including women and children, identified as individuals detained by peacekeepers in March 2014.

**To assist national authorities, in 2017 JRR deployed a prosecutions expert to help gather additional evidence to strengthen prospects for justice.** Today, the alleged perpetrators, who were serving as part of a peacekeeping force deployed to CAR, are currently awaiting trial in their home country. The evidence gathered in this context will be instrumental when the case is brought to justice.



### GUATEMALA

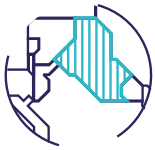
Guatemala continues to deal with the legacy of a 36-year internal armed conflict, which saw massive human rights violations committed by military forces against indigenous populations, including extra-judicial killings and widespread sexual violence. After the conflict, victims' associations and civil society groups laid the groundwork for accountability by leading

investigations and advocating for justice to be served. Today, the Public Prosecutor's Office continues to work with a variety of partners, to ensure serious crimes of the past are professionally investigated and brought to a court of law.

In collaboration with UNDP and under its Transitional Justice Accompaniment

Program (PAJUST), **JRR deployed an international legal expert to provide technical support to the work of the Public Prosecutor's Office.** Moreover, as a way to reinforce the technical work realized by the international legal expert, **JRR deployed three additional**

**experts with extensive experience working for international criminal tribunals** to further increase the capacities of the Human Rights Section's staff of the Public Prosecutor's Office in the area of investigation and prosecution of international crimes



## IRAQ

The conflict in Iraq has had devastating consequences on civilians, with a disproportional impact on the many minority groups in Iraq who have been persecuted on the grounds of their religion and ethnicity. The Yazidi community in particular has been targeted by ISIL; men and boys have been systematically killed, and women and girls have been victims of abductions, rape, sexual slavery and killings.

**In 2017, JRR deployed a SGBV Justice Expert to Yazda, a civil society organization providing humanitarian assistance to Yazidi survivors**

**and supporting legal efforts for accountability.**

The JRR expert has provided mentoring to the organization's staff on SGBV under international law, interview techniques and storage of information, as well as on the different avenues for criminal justice that may be available to survivors. Thanks to this ongoing mentorship, Yazda staff conducting documentation have an understanding of the legal definitions of SGBV, forms of liability under international law, and proof requirements in regards to those crimes, all of which are fundamental building blocks in Yazda's ongoing work to secure accountability.



## MYANMAR

A widespread human rights and humanitarian crisis escalated in Myanmar in 2017 with the military's targeting of the Rohingya Muslim population in Rakhine

State in what is being called a campaign of ethnic cleansing. In March 2017, the UN Human Rights Council established a Fact-Finding Mission to establish the facts

and circumstances of the alleged recent human rights violations by military and security forces in Myanmar, in particular in Rakhine State. Briefings and statements from the Fact-Finding Mission point at human rights violations of the most serious kind, in all likelihood amounting to crimes under international law, with corroborated information on sexual and gender-based violence.

**JRR deployed a SGBV investigator to the Fact-Finding Mission—through UN Women and in support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)—to assist with the documentation of gender-based violence, as well as a military analyst, to support the Mission with gathering of information and analysis of structures of involved armed groups.** The findings of the Mission will be reported to the Human Rights Council in September 2018.



## UKRAINE


The recent conflict in eastern Ukraine has resulted in thousands of deaths, including those of civilians, as well as widespread displacement. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special Monitoring Mission (SMM) to Ukraine monitors and reports on developments on the ground throughout Ukraine, including the implementation of the Minsk Agreements. In April 2017, an armored OSCE vehicle was struck by an explosion in the non-government controlled area of Ukraine near Pryshyb, killing one paramedic and injuring two monitors from the SMM. In response to the event, the OSCE requested

the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission to assemble and deploy an Independent Forensic Investigation team.

JRR provided a forensic pathologist to assist in this first mission conducted by the IHFFC. A summary of the results of the investigation's findings was made public in September, which determined that it was unlikely that the SMM had been the intended target of an attack. The findings further determined that the laying of this anti-vehicle mine was indiscriminate, and thus constituted a violation of international humanitarian law.

2017

## SPOTLIGHTS


 INVESTIGATING  
SEXUAL AND  
GENDER-BASED  
VIOLENCE:  
**IRAQ AND SYRIA**

Since 2009, Justice Rapid Response and UN Women have partnered to provide the international community with expertise to investigate and prosecute sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The goal of the partnership is to end impunity for these crimes, ultimately preventing their re-occurrence. The training and deployment of SGBV experts through the JRR-UN Women partnership has catalyzed the ability of international and national mechanisms to secure accountability for these crimes.

In 2017, we released the short documentary Evidence of Hope, which features two sexual violence investigators on the Justice Rapid Response-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster who were deployed to the UN's investigations in Syria and Iraq, and four survivor-witnesses they met during their work. The film is featured in a digital interactive presentation Justice Now, which was nominated for a prestigious Webby Award.

**"UN Women is happy to partner with Justice Rapid Response, because together, we make a formidable team."**

– UN WOMEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PHUMZILE MLAMBO-NGCUKA

In 2017, JRR deployed a total of 25 experts to 17 SGBV missions to enhance accountability for SGBV as international crimes. These included the provision of gender advisers, interpreters and investigators who shed light on SGBV violations in countries such as Burundi, Myanmar, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Kosovo, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In 2017, the JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster continued to be recognized as a critical tool to address SGBV in conflict. For example, the 2017 UN Secretary-General's Report on Women, Peace and Security (S/2017/861) mentions the SGBV roster and the deployment of experts to investigations and accountability processes as a notable contribution towards ending impunity for SGBV as an international crime. As well, on 15 May 2017, during the UN Security Council Annual Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the work of JRR was mentioned as a concrete tool to end impunity for SGBV crimes by 12 Member States. In December, JRR's contribution to securing justice for SGBV was recognized by Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice as part of their Legacy Wall Initiative.



## SEEKING THE TRUTH IN MALI

When Mali created a commission to address decades of conflict, it soon required specialized expertise. JRR deployed a transitional justice expert to assist with its strategy for collecting statements from victims of conflict. Working together, the truth commission now has the tools it needs to bring together victims and gather truth, with method that is uniquely their own. The truth commission is just a start for a country to face its past, but it is a chance to take charge of its own history, and, with time, perhaps its future, too. In 2017, our longform article “As the Red Dust Settles” went behind the scenes with the JRR expert on the ground in Bamako.

**“We are thankful to JRR for sending Hernando to us. Because of what we have learned, our office can now offer training to others on truth-seeking techniques.”**

– MS. DIOP DJÈNÈBA MARIKO, HEAD OF BAMAKO REGIONAL OFFICE OF MALI’S TRUTH, JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

JRR’s Complementarity Programme provides, flexible and cost-effective assistance to States wishing to hold perpetrators accountable or address past crimes through transitional justice processes, but needing the support of professional expertise from the international community to do so. JRR’s approach empowers national actors to design and implement credible, thorough investigations. Tailored mentoring received by national authorities builds confidence of these increasing the odds for justice to be done for crimes of the past. In 2017, JRR continued to support State-led investigations and accountability processes, including the Ministerio Público in Guatemala through a project under UNDP’s PAJUST framework programme. It also responded to a request from local authorities in Central African Republic (CAR) in view of supporting them on a specific case involving the 2014 massacre of civilians, including women and children.

## ROSTER

# RECRUITMENT

In 2017, JRR held two recruitment courses in collaboration with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI). These courses resulted in the training of 40 professionals, 32 of which were certified onto the JRR roster, including 20 as part of the JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster.

### COURSE ON INVESTIGATING CASES OF **SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AS INTERNATIONAL CRIMES**

*Seoul, Republic of Korea (17 – 27 April 2017)*

This course, specifically designed to train and certify experts on investigating conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, was held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, at the invitation of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and in partnership with UN Women and the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI). This course enabled JRR to certify 21 successful experts onto the JRR roster/JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster.

**“The course has enhanced my technical, legal, and investigative capacity, and furthermore provided critical knowledge on risk mitigation during field deployments. It was a very privileged space with a diverse mix of cultures, age, and professional backgrounds. It was thus not only a professional experience but also a deeply human and humanistic one, which will be essential in my future international work.”**

– SEOUL COURSE PARTICIPANT

### ADVANCED COURSE ON THE INVESTIGATION OF **CRIMES AND VIOLATIONS INVOLVING CHILDREN**

*The Hague, Netherlands (4 – 8 December 2017)*

This advanced course was held in The Hague, Netherlands, in collaboration with IICI. The course enabled the certification of 11 successful experts to the JRR Roster. Thanks to this course, JRR increased the availability of rapidly deployable experts trained in investigating international crimes and serious human rights violations involving children.

**“The course was an excellent, practical blend of theory and practice to be applied in the field. Not only were the instructors real experts, each of my fellow students was an inspiration as well. A valuable experience for anyone hoping to investigate international crimes involving children.”**

– AICVIC COURSE PARTICIPANT

## MESSAGE FROM THE

# CHAIR OF THE JRR EXECUTIVE BOARD

Having followed closely the work of Justice Rapid Response (JRR) over the past four years, I am happy to say that JRR is well on its way to becoming the organization of reference for international criminal and human rights investigative expertise: a unique brand that is widely recognized and appreciated.

Since it became operational in 2009, JRR has contributed crucial expertise to mechanisms which have achieved milestones of criminal justice, such as the conviction of former President of Chad Hissène Habré in the Extraordinary African Chambers in Senegal, and the confirmation, by a unanimous panel of judges, of all charges related to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) as war crimes and crimes against humanity against Bosco Ntaganda at the International Criminal Court.

JRR has played an instrumental role in raising the standard of international investigations in general and, through its partnership with UN Women, in relation to SGBV. Ensuring that gender advisers and experts are part of the core team of investigators in Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Missions has been reflected in an increasingly high standard of gender analysis in the Commission of Inquiry and Fact-Finding Mission reports. Investigation

of SGBV crimes is an important part of JRR's work and one in which JRR's expertise, professionalism and compliance with highest standards of duty of care are essential.

Virtually every new investigative mechanism set up in 2017 has turned to JRR for support. JRR experts have been deployed to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on international crimes committed in the Syrian Arab Republic (IIIM), and have helped the first mission ever conducted by the International Humanitarian Fact-Finding Commission (IHFFC) to Ukraine. JRR's experts were also called upon to assist the follow-on mechanism established by the UN Secretary-General to assist the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with its investigation into the killing of two UN investigators and four Congolese nationals in Kasai.

JRR has also deployed tailored support to mechanisms documenting the plight of the Rohingya minority in Myanmar. In 2017, JRR completed several deployments to the Human Rights Commission on South Sudan and Syria Commission of Inquiry.

The JRR Complementarity Programme is unique in that it provides tailored mentoring assistance. Last year, several States have asked JRR for specialized expertise

for the first time, including the Central African Republic and The Gambia. National authorities in Mali and Guatemala have continued to rely on JRR's support as they strengthen their own domestic efforts for truth and justice.

It is also notable that almost every State, international institution or organization that has made use of experts from the JRR roster, or the JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts roster, has come back to JRR more than once, demonstrating JRR's ability to rapidly deliver professional expertise, when and where it is needed the most. All these developments show that in 2017, after less than ten years of activities, JRR has become the "go-

to" organization for support to sensitive international investigations.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those—States, international institutions and organizations, private actors and individuals—who have relied on JRR and made its success possible.

**Ambassador Marja Lehto**

CHAIR, JRR EXECUTIVE BOARD



# FINANCIALS

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT:

### STATES

**Australia** – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Canada** – Global Affairs Canada, Peace and Stabilisation Operations Program (PSOPs)

**Denmark** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Permanent Mission of Denmark to the UN in Geneva

**Finland** - Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**Ireland** - Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Republic of Korea** - Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

**Liechtenstein** - Office for Foreign Affairs

**Luxembourg** - Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

**The Netherlands** - Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Switzerland** - Swiss Expert Pool for Civilian Peacebuilding and the Human Security Division, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

### FOUNDATIONS, INSTITUTES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Draper Richards Kaplan Foundation

The Greenbaum Foundation

Hogan Lovells

Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI)

UNDP Guatemala Programa de Acompañamiento a la Justicia de Transición (PAJUST)

UN Women

### OTHER PARTNERS

JRR would also like to thank its partners for contributing to JRR's activities through support to events, but also support to deployments and trainings. These include: The Netherlands, Canada, UN Women, Finland and Uganda.

### JRR EXECUTIVE BOARD



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**JUSTICE  
RAPID  
RESPONSE**