



The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the Correctional Service of Canada

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan

On March 28th, 2002, by its resolution 1401, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

UNAMA's mandate includes: promoting national reconciliation; fulfilling the tasks and responsibilities entrusted to the United Nations in the Bonn Agreement, including those related to human rights, the rule of law and gender issues; and, managing all UN humanitarian, relief, recovery and reconstruction activities in Afghanistan. All of these activities are conducted in coordination with the Afghan Administration.

Due to the exceptional work performed and the related results achieved through past international peace-building and reconstruction missions, the United Nations called upon the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) to help with the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Correctional Service of Canada

Since 2003, on an annual basis, a Canadian Corrections Advisor has been seconded to the UNAMA to advise authorities on the establishment of a safe, humane and progressive correctional system respectful of the rule of law and international standards and practices.

Progress made in Afghanistan through UNAMA

To date, the correctional advisors have provided expert advice, guidance and assistance to Afghan authorities. They have worked with Afghan correctional practitioners in such areas as policy and legislation, determination of capacity requirement, rehabilitation and establishment of facilities, capacity building and overall reform of the correctional service as part of the criminal justice system.

Corrections Advisors:

- Advocated for, and then supported, the decision to transfer the prison service from the Ministry of Interior to the Ministry of Justice. This was an important step towards governance, accountability and justice.
- Promoted and provided information to prison officials and prisoners on the United Nations Minimum Standard Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and their applicability.
- Participated in and provided advice to committees that led to the approval of laws on Prisons and Detention Centers, Juveniles, and the Organization and Jurisdiction of Courts in Afghanistan.
- Developed background papers which included projections for staffing and reconstructions costs for the next 5 years for presentation at the Rome Conference.
- Completed assessments of various Afghan prisons and detention centers with recommendations to the MOJ and Central Prison Department (CPD) on the work required in each facility in order to improve the living conditions for both prisoners and staff.

- Developed organizational charts and job descriptions for every prison and detention centre in the country and developing an organizational structure for CPD headquarters.
- Assisted in the development of draft prison regulations for legislative review.
- Advocated for improved health care for prisoners requiring hospital care.
- Advocated for the transfer of pregnant female detainees to a facility that is equipped to meet their unique needs.
- Lectured at training programs for prison officers on the basic aspects of corrections.
- Guided the prison administration in the development of a strategic plan for the department.
- Worked on Afghanistan government-wide administrative reform as it relates to prison administration.

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Please visit our website at <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/international/afghanistan>.