

Positive Milestones Ahead

This spring, the Mission welcomes several positive milestones.

Our current Mandate expires on 30 June and we anticipate the Council of the European Union to extend it, thus enabling us to utilize the new Mission headquarters, to which we have moved earlier this month.

Right now we are finishing the final details in our new offices, from where we will continue our efforts to support the Palestinian Civil Police and the Criminal Justice Institutions. We plan the official inauguration ceremony for counterparts, partners and friends for later this month.

Our new headquarters is situated a stone's throw away from our previous office, which due to spatial constraints, was located in two buildings. The new headquarters has reunited all our sections under one roof and advanced our "one mission, one team" approach. As part of this, we have implemented ways to further optimize our work routines and increase our operational efficiency.

And finally, we look forward to welcoming several new Mission Members to the Mission, arriving in the near future.

MEET OUR MISSION MEMBERS

"We are building an accountable Palestinian Police force"



"Community Policing has been one of the key priorities for the Police Advisory Section. I am very pleased with the new Strategic Concept for Community Policing, which was kicked-off in March", says Simon O'Connor.

Simon O'Connor, Head of the Mission's Police Advisory Section

With experience from two international police missions and 39 years of professional service in the Irish Police, Acting Chief Superintendent (Ret.) Simon O'Connor joined the Mission in 2015. After 30 months as Head of the Mission's Police Advisory Section, he looks back at a significant step forward for the Palestinian Civil Police.

As Head of the Police Advisory Section, Simon O'Connor supervises a team of 28 uniformed Police Advisers from the European Union Member States and Canada, as well as five civilian Palestinian nationals. "Our task is to advise and mentor the Palestinian Civil Police to enable their 8,500 officers to provide safety, public order and professional law enforcement throughout the West Bank. Our team focus on establishing internationally recognized police standards, practices and methods but also on developing a service minded ap-

proach towards the Palestinian public", says Simon O'Connor.

Significant progress

"Transparency and accountability is an essential cross cutting priority in all aspects of our work. The public's rights, knowledge of their rights and mechanisms to address these rights must be exercised to become an accountable civilian police force – and this is what we are committed to build. It is therefore a great pleasure to observe our counterpart's significant progress during the past years", states Simon. ➔

Bringing the sides together

The Section has been successful in re-establishing dialog between the Palestinian Civil Police and the Israeli National Police. “When I arrived, the dialog between the sides was not working. We saw an advantage for the sides to come together to discuss police issues. So, we reached out and asked what they wanted to talk about. This effort has proved exceptionally fruitful and since then we facilitate, when conditions allow, joint workshops dealing with practical topics of mutual interest, such as drug crimes, arson, forensic investigations and road traffic safety.

Effective policing concepts

Intelligence Led Policing is an example of a concept, the Mission has introduced here. It implicates transformation of information, through analysis, to intelligence. “A department for Intelligence Led Policing has been established within the police and our Section has drafted the Manual currently in use. As a result, a number of so-called hot spot areas have been pinned down. These are areas where a certain crime types are overrepresented, e.g. drug crimes, property crimes or violence, concludes Simon O’Connor, who returned to Ireland in April this year.



Kicking off Community Policing in Palestine

With advice and mentoring from the Mission and supported by the International Community Policing Coordination Group, the Palestinian Civil Police has established a Community Policing Coordination Unit and developed a Strategic Concept for Community Policing.

Implementing the new Strategic Concept

In Mid-March members of the Mission participated in a 2-day workshop to kick-off the implementation of the Strategic Concept for Community Policing. The workshop was chaired by the Head of the Community Policing Coordination Unit, Lieutenant Colonel Farid Ladedwa. It took place at the Palestinian College for Police Sciences in Jericho with the purpose to brief key individuals about the concept and its implementation. ➔

What is Community Policing?

Community Policing is a concept of personalized policing, where the same Police Officers, on a permanent basis, patrol and work in the same area to identify and solve problems in partnership with its citizens. The objective of Community Policing is to build relationships between the Palestinian Police and the communities through interaction with residents and local authorities.



Workshop participants from most of the Police Districts on the West Bank gathered in front of the Administrative Building of the Palestinian College for Police Sciences in Jericho with the Chief of the College, Colonel Zaher Sabbah (in camouflage uniform).

Field Team to support the implementation

The launch and implementation of the Strategic Concept will be supported by an Action Plan with the possible establishment of a Field Team. The purpose and role of a Field Team was discussed intensely by the workshop's participants.

The Field Team is envisioned to be responsible for planning, conducting and coordinating Community Policing training. The aim of this will be to introduce all Palestinian Police Officers to the Strategic Concept for Community Policing and debate how it is integrated into their daily police work. The necessity for a thorough Stakeholder Analysis was also discussed. This will help in identifying challenges and define levels of service delivery to the public.

Police Adviser Veijo Alavaikko underlined the importance of backing the implementation with a comprehensive Communication Strategy, determining target audiences, including colleagues

in the security sector, communication channels and key messages.

Lively debates and constructive comments

The workshop also included group work for the participants. The debates and discussions in the group sessions were lively and lots of constructive comments were made. Through this method, Lieutenant Colonel Farid Ladedwa and the Project Management Department received lots of ideas and recommendations to be utilized when establishing the Field Team during the coming weeks.

"The purpose of this workshop has been to ensure that the ideas of the Strategic Concept become reality. In the end, there should be no difference between the Strategic Concept and how frontline Police Officers behave and serve the Palestinian people", concluded Veijo Alavaikko when closing the successful workshop.



The Head of the Community Policing Coordination Unit, Lieutenant Colonel Farid Ladedwa (sitting) listening to workshop participants discussing the role of the Field Teams, envisioned to be responsible for planning, conducting and coordinating Community Policing training. Lieutenant Colonel Ladedwa chaired the workshop and observed the discussions.

Mission accomplishments in 2017

Activities, achievements and practical support to our Palestinian counterparts

The EU 'Common Security and Defence Policy' (CSDP) Annual Report includes examples of how the Mission, in 2017, worked on reform and development of the Palestinian Ministry of Interior, the Civil Police and the Criminal Justice Institutions, with a focus on police-prosecution cooperation through training, mentoring and strategic level advice.



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Palestinians were trained in 25 workshops or training sessions. 187 of these were women. The topics covered included media relations (journalist safety, freedom of expression), firearms investigation, Code of Conduct, public order, and the right to a fair trial.

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Senior Palestinian officials were mentored at the strategic level to facilitate improved co-operation between the Palestinian Security Forces and the Palestinian Civil Police.

65,000

Euros worth of equipment was donated to our Palestinian partners. The equipment included cameras, printers, case-management software, uniform usage software, tactical vests, and handcuffs.

500

Copies of the 360-page bilingual (English/Arabic) manual for judges were distributed to judges, prosecutors, courts and prosecution offices.

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Policies, including the Justice Sector Strategy 2017-2022, the legislative planning process within the Ministry of Interior, and the Palestinian police strategy to reduce road traffic accidents were reviewed or advised on.



In March, the Mission facilitated a workshop in which the structure and model for an Operational Prison Plan was introduced to 16 Palestinian officers.

Working to improve prisoner's standards

Since 2007 EUPOL COPPS has been supporting the Palestinian Correction and Rehabilitation Centre Department in reforming, developing and improving the penitentiary system to meet international minimum standards.

Holistic support through a holistic approach

“To enable our counterparts to deal with the complexities and multitude of tasks of modern prison management, our support is applied through a holistic approach. This comprises strategic advice as well as the development of systems and methods, enabling prison management to provide both security and rehabilitation measures in their operational planning and conduct. It also includes capacity building through training of the manage-

ment and instructors of the Palestinian Correction and Rehabilitation Centres Department . It also involves advising on operational plans for two new correctional facilities”, explains Penitentiary Adviser Lars Widholm.

Ensuring the care and rehabilitation of each prisoner

The role of today's correctional services is multidimensional. Not only must prisons maintain sufficient security, they also have an obligation to ensure the care and rehabilitation of each prisoner. To do so, prison management needs to identify and classify the risks and needs of each prisoner and based on the assessment, prepare prisoners for their release and reintegration into society. They also have to plan and structure sentences, and develop measures to prevent prisoners' misconduct and reoffending after release.

The multidimensional role of prisons

Imprisonment is a punitive action carried out by states on citizens to deprive them of their freedom. The purpose of imprisonment is to protect society against crime and to reduce reoffending. As such, prisons play a central role in the criminal justice chain: From arrest and detention to trial and verdict, serving the sentence, rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Good prison practices

Internationally accepted standards define the minimum of what is accepted as good practices when states apply corrective measures on citizens. These standards concern the management and operation of prisons and in particular the treatment of prisoners to ensure their basic rights are met.

Complying to internationally accepted standards

The European Union has funded the construction of the two new correctional facilities in Nablus and Jenin. However, before they can be commissioned, they must each have an Operational Plan ensuring full compliance with internationally accepted standards.





EUPOL COPPS Penitentiary Adviser, Lars Widholm is responsible for the Mission's relations with and training of the Palestinian Correction and Rehabilitation Centres Department.

Several training initiatives

In March, the Mission facilitated a workshop in which the structure for an Operational Plan was handed over to the Correction and Rehabilitation Centre Department. 16 Officers, constituting the working group responsible for drafting the Operational Plan, attended the workshop.

“We believe that our unrelenting support at the strategic, structural and capacity building levels will enable the Palestinian Correction and Rehabilitation Centre Department to pursue a robust way forward and better cope with the many challenges in the field of penitentiary in Palestine”, concludes Lars Widholm.



The brand new correctional facility in Nablus is one of two prison constructions funded by the European Union. The other is located in Jenin.

Successful high level Senior Management training

In April, 15 members of the Correction and Rehabilitation Centres Department (CRCD) Senior Management completed a four-day Management Training Course planned, organized and conducted by the Mission's Penitentiary Adviser and a Visiting Expert from the Swedish Prison and Probation Service. The course took place in Ramallah with the participation of the CRCD Director, the Directors of the Correction and Rehabilitation Centres (CRC) and Head of Units in the CRCD Headquarters. It comprised four training modules; 'Operational Management', 'Staff Management', 'Leadership and Security' and 'Leadership and Rehabilitation/Reintegration'.

