

October > [Justice officers from UN partners gather for rule of law training](#)

Justice officers from UN partners gather for rule of law training

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A **Department of Peacekeeping Operations** (DPKO) training for its judicial affairs officers working in DPKO and **Department of Political Affairs** (DPA) peace missions concludes on Saturday, 9 October.

The Rule of Law Training for Judicial Affairs Officers in United Nations Peace Operations is a six-day course that was first piloted in Accra, Ghana in July 2010. The current course, which is taking place at the Cairo Centre for Training on Conflict Resolution and Peacekeeping in Africa in Egypt, is the second of four trainings scheduled between July 2010 and December 2011. The four courses are jointly organized by DPKO and the German non-governmental organization, Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF).



The **Criminal Law and Judicial Advisory Service** (CLJAS) of the **Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions** in DPKO developed the training programme with the support of the Government of Canada and are delivering it with the Government of Germany, through ZIF.

In addition to DPKO and DPA, staff from OHCHR, UNODC, UNICEF, UNHCR, and UNDP also participated in the training. Instructors include Chiefs of justice components from UNAMA and UNMIS; senior representatives from DPKO, OHCHR, OLA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNODC and the Director of the Rule of Law Unit in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Welcoming remarks were made by the ambassadors of Canada, Germany, Egypt, and Japan. In addition, representatives of Canada, Jordan, the United Kingdom, and the United States are attending as observers. Representatives of the Egyptian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense and Justice also observed parts of the training.



"Peacekeeping has become multi-faceted.

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding become more and more interrelated, in particular in the field of civilian activities. Today, strengthening the rule of law is one of its main elements," said Ambassador to Egypt from Japan Norihiro Okuda.

Participants expressed enthusiasm at the opportunity to attend the training and work closely with colleagues from DPKO and other United Nations entities working on similar issues. "I believe this training will be particularly useful and relevant to the work I perform in the field," noted Nathalie Faure, an Associate Judicial Affairs Officer from France deployed in Côte d'Ivoire. "It allows for a sharing of experiences, good practices and practical challenges that we encounter in our missions. I also appreciate the cultural and professional diversity of the participants which results in extremely

rich discussions and debates.”

Mike Dzakuma, a Ghanaian Judicial Affairs Officer deployed in Darfur/Sudan, agreed. “The varying methodologies and the wide thematic range of presentations make this training very interesting.”

The course has been met with keen interest by Egyptian authorities, who posted an article about it in English, French, and Arabic on the website of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Approximately 170 judicial affairs officers are currently deployed in 11 United Nations peace operations to assist host countries in strengthening their legal and judicial systems. Of the 30 participants attending the training, 19 judicial affairs officers and human rights officers attended the course from nine peace operations supported by DPKO. Together, the participants and observers represent over 20 nationalities.

A 300-page instructor’s manual was developed for the training covering different topics and includes talking points, exercises, charts, background information and slides. Valuable inputs on the instructor’s manual were received from colleagues in United Nations entities working on rule of law issues. With the support of the Government of Canada, in the coming months DPKO will draft a participant’s handbook which complements the instructor’s manual and will serve as a ‘text book’ for course participants and ensure the long-term impact of the training programme.

The next training will take place in April 2011. Staff members from other United Nations entities will be invited.

For more information about the training, please contact Andrea Goodman (goodmana@un.org) on lotus notes.

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