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## **2005 Summer Seminar Series**

# **EXORCISING DEMONS OF THE PAST: SEIZING NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO PROMOTE DEMOCRATIC POLICING**

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**Why should USAID support law enforcement in its programs?**



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## Historical Context

- POST WORLD WAR II
- OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY
- PROHIBITION



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## EXCEPTIONS

- 1985: exceptions were carved out for USAID to conduct police programs in Latin America
- 1996: another exception was carved out for post conflict situations. However, this exception is of limited duration.
- “notwithstanding authority”



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## RECENT LEGISLATION

**“to enhance the effectiveness and accountability of civilian police authority through training and technical assistance in human rights, the rule of law, strategic planning, and through assistance to foster civilian police roles that support democratic governance, including assistance for programs to prevent conflict, respond to disasters, address gender-based violence, and foster improved police relations with the communities they serve.”**



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## **USAID Programs May Not Include the Following Components**

- Solving individual crimes;
- Assistance in individual investigations and prosecutions;
- Training for or assistance in implementing a law enforcement operation;
- Commodity support for lethal technology and weapons;
- Commodity support for or assistance in the carrying out of internal intelligence or surveillance operations ; and
- Assistance designed to combat activity under the mandate of other U.S. authorities (i.e. narcotics,



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## Other US Agencies that Provide Support to Law Enforcement

- There are other US agencies that work on law enforcement issues.
- The Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the Department of State works extensively on police programs.
- INL implements and develops policies and programs to combat international narcotics and crime. USAID worked in conjunction with INL's anti-crime programs to develop complementary community policy programs in Jamaica.



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## Definitions: Democratic Policing

- Four main criteria defining democratic policing.
  1. The actions of the police must be governed by law. Police must act without the authorization of political representatives chosen, hopefully, in a democratic way.
  2. Police actions must not violate international principles of human rights. In other words, police must not only be governed by law, but the law itself must incorporate human rights.
  3. The police must be subject to external supervision with respect to both corporate law-enforcement effectiveness and the behavior of individual officers in the performance of their duty.
  4. As a matter of priority, the police must be responsive to the needs of individual citizens. They must act not only with the consent of the public but in service to the needs of the public individually articulated.





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## Community Policing

- During the last twenty years “community policing” has become the mantra of police reform in many countries. It is frequently used interchangeably with “democratic policing.” This is a mistake. Community policing may be a component of democratic policing, but the terms are not interchangeable.
- Community policing was developed primarily to increase the ability of the police to prevent crime. Mobilizing the public to work with the police as “co-producers” of public safety would more successfully prevent crime as well as improve the deterrent capacity of the police to arrest and punish criminals.



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## Community Policing Continued...

- Consultation by the police with communities;
- Adaptation of police strategies to the requirements of particular communities or localities;
- Mobilization of the public to work with the police to prevent crime;
- Adoption of a problem-solving methodology as the fundamental strategy of policing.



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## Community Policing-Programs

- **USAID has conducted community policing programs in Macedonia, El Salvador, Colombia, Indonesia and Jamaica.**
- **Jamaica:**
  - Through USAID funding, the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) has developed a comprehensive, broad-based anti-violence initiative.
  - Activities have included:
    - Police and community training,
    - Deployment of bicycle patrols in Grants Pen,
    - Creation of a community police facility that will offer a wide range of services, and activities to build trust between residents and the police.



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## Community Policing-Programs Continued...

- Trust-building activities have included town hall meetings, public services announcements on the radio, a school mentorship program, and a grant to a local NGO to provide alternative dispute resolution and training in domestic violence and other areas.
- Training has focused specifically on both police officers and Grants Pen residents, and has included ongoing instruction in basic community policing precepts, rights and responsibilities.
- Additionally, 80 officers and 90 residents have been trained to date in collaborative problem solving.
- An important component of the initiative is construction of a “Community Services Center” that will contain not only a police station, but also health services, a post office, community meeting rooms, a bill payment service, an ATM, a day care center and recreation facilities.



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## Civil Society Reform

- Civilian oversight is essential in order to **ensure transparency and accountability to public institutions.**
- **Civilian oversight involves people from outside the police taking a role in calling the police to account for their actions, polices and organization.**
- Most civilian oversight mechanisms are usually concerned with **complaints against the police.**
- However, civilians can hold the police accountable in many other ways that extend far beyond individual complaints, covering broad areas of police practice such as **corruption and public policy.**



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## Civil Society Reform Example: The Philippines

- **The Philippines:**
  - USAID is supporting the National Democratic Institute in its work with the **Philippine** Government and the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) **to strengthen civilian control over the police.**
  - The program had several key focus areas: Program implementers **worked with civilian administrators and officials to help increase public access to information on key policies related to both civilian oversight of law enforcement and the administration of peace and order mechanisms.**



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## Anti-Corruption

- Corruption impedes the development of markets, drives away the investment, increases costs of doing business, and stalls democracy-building efforts.
- It can be easily identified as one of the leading reasons for the ongoing failures of the developing economies.
- Corruption prospers in countries with weak legal institutions, poor enforcement mechanisms, vague and complex laws and regulations, and too much discretionary power at various levels of government.



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## Anti-Corruption Example: Bolivia

- **Bolivia**
  - The USAID Mission in Bolivia has launched an anti-corruption program that builds on its experience with implementing that country's Criminal Code of Procedure (CCP).
  - **The Mission is now vetting and training a corps of 20 police officers to work with the office of the Attorney General to establish an anti-corruption task force.**





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## Additional Police Reform Programs

- USAID has also funded and implemented other direct police programs.
- **Nigeria:**
  - USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives worked with the Ministry of Police Affairs and key stakeholders to **develop a strategic plan to reform policing as that country transitioned to civilian rule.**
- **Rwanda:**
  - Between 1997-99 USAID funded a program that was designed to increase the security of both people and their property **by supporting police training and procurement of vehicles, radios, blankets, and other equipment for the police.**



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## Future USAID Programming

- Lead in the area of **strategic planning**. USAID can ensure that a proper needs assessment is done in any host country or region being targeted for assistance.
- Ensure **broad coordination of developmental assistance of USG agencies, government supported NGOs, and embassy country teams.**



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## Future USAID Programming Continued...

- **Focus on long term sustainable development of law enforcement infrastructure:**
  - USAID should focus on **developing modern leadership and supervisory skills** within law enforcement institutions to ensure buy in from the top down of these organizations.
  - USAID should **engage in academy development** to ensure that the basic training for new police agents incorporates the principles and philosophies of democratic and community oriented policing so that new officers entering these organizations are properly grounded in modern international policing principles.



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## **Future USAID Programming Continued...**

- Demand a holistic approach to justice sector reform which brings police, prosecutors and the judiciary together in a coordinated approach to improving access to the justice system for citizens.
- Engage the police in grassroots coalition building and prevention programs around important social issues such as Domestic violence, religious and ethnic violence, juvenile addiction and delinquency.



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## **Exercise**

- **Would you conduct a police program in this country?**
- **If Yes what would you do?**



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## Conclusions

- **USAID does have experience and a role to fill in this field**
- **There is a considerable amount of technical assistance in this area already being developed within USAID**
- **Decision to implement a police assistance program should be consultative**
- **USAID programs should be strategic, holistic and effective agency responses and look to see where we can complement and build on other existing USG police programs**
- **The focus of USAID programs should be on long term sustainable development of law enforcement infrastructure**
- **Programs should be based on formal needs assessments**



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**2005 Summer Seminar Series**  
**Join us next Tuesday, JULY 12 for:**

**GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS:  
IMPROVING MANAGEMENT, GETTING RESULTS,  
AND COMMUNICATING THE U.S. FOREIGN  
ASSISTANCE STORY**

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Session Organizer: Carrie Stokes, EGAT/NRM

**9:00 a.m. here at the Center for Association Leadership**