



The International Institute for
Justice and the Rule of Law



ANNUAL REPORT
2023

Our Mission is to enhance and strengthen the competencies of criminal justice practitioners and other stakeholders to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities within a rule of law framework and to promote cooperation and information exchange on a national, regional and international basis.

Our Vision is to be an internationally recognised multinational organisation focused on building the capacity of justice practitioners to fight terrorism, violent extremism and transnational crime in line with human rights and the rule of law. The IJJ designs and delivers tailored training and capacity-building programmes as well as activities that help governments and practitioners address—in a practical, effective and collaborative manner—the evolving nature of contemporary transnational threats.

Since its inauguration in 2014, the IJJ has trained more than 9000 criminal justice practitioners through its interactive capacity-building workshops – in Malta and abroad – that enhance the competencies of judges, prosecutors, police, prison, and other criminal justice practitioners to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities within a rule of law framework. The IJJ tailors its programmes to the needs of the regions it serves, including North, West and East Africa; the Middle East; Southeast Asia and select engagement in other regions.

The IJJ will continue its core geographic focus on North, West and East Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and other select regions. The IJJ's continued growth will include developing, implementing and operationalising international good practices and developing new strategies and techniques to fully address the contemporary manifestation and evolving nature of global terrorism.



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Message from the Executive Secretary



It is an honour to introduce the 2023 annual report, my second as the Executive Secretary of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ)

2023 was a highly fruitful year at the IJ. I am immensely proud of the team's outstanding achievements. In 2023, we successfully implemented 28 capacity-building activities, including 23 focused programmes and 5 core courses, covering a wide range of thematic and geographic areas. Our efforts engaged nearly 900 practitioners, resulting in a total of 3,300 training days provided globally.

I am particularly pleased to welcome Germany as a new member of our Governing Board of Administrators, a timely addition as we anticipate our 10-year anniversary celebrations in 2024.

Over the course of 2024, we have been marking a decade of dedication and hard work at the IJ. As we reflect on this significant milestone, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering justice, promoting the rule of law, and building a secure future for all.

I extend our gratitude to our Governing Board of Administrators, Advisory Board members, staff, alumni, partners, and donors for their unwavering support over the past ten years. Thank you to each one of you who believes in our vision and mission and helps us achieve it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steven Hill".

Mr. Steven Hill
Executive Secretary

The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law



Overview of the IJ

At the June 2012 Ministerial Plenary Meeting of the Global Counter-terrorism Forum (GCTF), members called for the establishment of the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IJ) as a key platform to provide innovative and sustainable training to implement the counter-terrorism-related, rule of law-based GCTF good practices. The Group of 8 (G8) welcomed the proposed establishment of the IJ at its June 2013 Summit. Various governments and international, regional, and non-governmental organisations then collaborated to develop the IJ's mandate and structure. The IJ was formally inaugurated in June 2014.

The IJ designs and delivers capacity-building workshops, expert meetings, and other activities tailored to the needs of criminal justice sector practitioners. All IJ programmes are fundamentally committed to advancing the legal framework through which criminal justice practitioners pursue justice for terrorism and related activities by integrating human rights, justice, and the rule of law. The IJ's mission is to deliver tailored capacity-building programmes that help governments and practitioners address the evolving and multifaceted threat of terrorism and related transnational crime in a practical, effective, and coordinated manner.

All IJ programmes are fundamentally committed to advancing the legal framework through which criminal justice practitioners pursue justice for terrorism and related activities by integrating human rights, justice, and the rule of law.



Senior Management

The IJ is led by Executive Secretary Steven Hill, with a team of contracted and seconded Directors and an international staff from more than twenty countries.

Academic Unit

The Academic Unit delivers the Counter-Terrorism Academic Curriculum (CTAC), an innovative online course (eCTAC) and an ambitious Research Agenda, led by Judge Marie Compère.

Administrative & Outreach Unit

The Administrative & Outreach Unit provides essential support for the IJ's capacity-building mission through accounting, administration, human resources, procurement, communications and outreach, fundraising and grant administration, including Monitoring and Evaluation. The Unit is led by Reinhard Uhrig.

Programmatic Unit

The Programmatic Unit delivers capacity-building workshops addressing specific and emerging challenges. The work is organised under three main categories: Addressing Cutting-Edge Challenges, Countering the Financing of Terrorism, Safeguarding Rights, Gathering the Evidence, and Proving the Cases, a flexible structure that is responsive to the changing threat environment, practitioner needs and donor priorities. The Unit is led by Gail Malone, a senior prosecutor seconded from the U.S. Department of Justice.



CT PHARE

The Council Conclusions on EU External Action on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism of June 2020 highlighted the need to strengthen the human rights-compliant criminal justice chain worldwide and recognised the critical role of the GCTF and the IJJ in this effort. In support of these conclusions, the IJJ launched the CT PHARE project in late 2022. Funded by the EU's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI), this project aims to ensure that states' counter-terrorism policies, legislation, and judicial strategies, as well as daily investigative and prosecutorial practices, adhere to internationally recognised human rights standards. The facility is led by Paul Madden.

Seconded Advisers

The IJJ has on its staff three seconded senior advisers: Senior Legal Adviser Judge Lulua Al Ghanim, a judge and prosecutor seconded by the Kuwait; Senior Investigations Adviser John Hughes, an experienced law enforcement officer seconded by the United Kingdom; and Senior Legal Adviser Judge Kaan Furkan Gülsoy, seconded by Türkiye.

Governing Board of Administrators

The Secretariat is guided in its mission by an international Governing Board of Administrators, representing 13 governments and the European Union.

Advisory Board

The IJJ Advisory Board comprises a distinguished group of subject-matter experts, experienced practitioners, and leaders from partner organisations and academic networks, offering valuable strategic advice.





The IJJ and the GCTF

The GCTF is an international forum comprising 32 members dedicated to reducing global vulnerability to terrorism.

The GCTF is an informal, apolitical, multilateral counter-terrorism platform. It is small, nimble, inclusive, and consensus-based. Its overarching mission is to reduce the vulnerability of people worldwide to terrorism by mobilising expertise and resources to prevent, combat, and prosecute terrorist acts and counter incitement and recruitment to terrorism. For more information, visit: www.thegctf.org.

Implementing & Operationalising GCTF Framework Memoranda

The IJJ plays a crucial role in implementing the GCTF's good practices and framework memoranda. It is the only organisation specifically mandated to support the practical application of these good practices for criminal justice practitioners. The IJJ collaborates with Working Group Co-Chairs to develop essential GCTF documents, such as the Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counter-terrorism Context and the Rabat-Washington Good Practices on addressing Homegrown Terrorism.

The IJJ offers customised programmes to help national, regional, and sectoral entities implement GCTF good practices. It integrates these practices into all its programmatic and academic activities, ensuring they are applied to real-world challenges faced by criminal justice practitioners.

Advancing the GCTF Mission

The IJJ maintains close coordination with the GCTF through regular interactions with Co-Chairs, Working Groups, Members, the Administrative Unit, and other GCTF-Inspired Institutions. A primary focus of the IJJ is to enhance coordination among the Working Groups and Inspired Institutions, leveraging collective expertise to further the GCTF mission. By promoting meaningful collaboration, the IJJ ensures that thematic and geographic priorities are aligned, and lessons learned are shared and integrated into future activities.

In addition to its overall efforts to advance GCTF priorities, the IJJ directly assists in the work of certain GCTF thematic working groups. As an implementing partner for the GCTF Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group, which is co-chaired by Italy and Nigeria, the IJJ supports the organisation of expert and plenary meetings, conducts surveys and develops policy toolkits. In 2023, the IJJ organised the Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group Plenary Meeting in Malta on 27 April and conducted the Survey on Fair Trial Rights in Terrorism Cases.

GCTF-Inspired Institutions

The IJJ works closely with its fellow GCTF-Inspired Institutions: The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), with whom the IJJ signed a strategic partnership agreement in 2020, and Hedayah, with whom the IJJ has partnered on many significant projects.



The IJ is one of three GCTF-inspired institutions, along with:



The Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, headquartered in Geneva, is a global fund that strengthens community resilience by supporting local initiatives to address the drivers of violent extremism. Operating at the nexus of security and development, GCERF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society and the private sector in beneficiary countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism. Visit www.gcerf.org



Hedayah, the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism based in Abu Dhabi, is a key operational delivery arm for the GCTF's CVE efforts. It is an essential partner in the development and implementation of the Abu Dhabi Memorandum on Good Practices for Education and Countering Violent Extremism, including through the ongoing GCTF-OIC initiative on CVE and religious education. Hedayah manages the GCTF's FTF-related CVE and Returnee Programmes under the auspices of the FTF Working Group, which serves as a living resource for interested states. Visit www.hedayah.com

The IJJ plays a pivotal role as a reliable implementing partner to serve long-term objectives in the counter-terrorism realm.

A Holistic Mission

To respond to the evolving complexity of threats to international peace and security, the IJJ is optimising its work to be holistic and is developing comprehensive capacity-building activities that address specific and measurable objectives. As a **GCTF Inspired Institution**, the IJJ supports the GCTF's priorities, and the objectives set out in its framework documents and guides the GCTF on normative practices.

The IJJ plays a **pivotal role as a reliable implementing partner to serve long-term objectives in the counter-terrorism realm**. It fulfils the need for sustainable, trust-based engagement between practitioners and civil society to:

1. foster dialogue across regions and actors involved in operationalizing the requirements of comprehensive and tailored prosecutions,
2. support legal frameworks, improve oversight and accountability mechanisms (*data gathering, documenting human rights violations, advocating for human rights, and bringing cases to court*),
3. promote disengagement and reduce the risks of recidivism, through human rights-compliant and community-based strategies,
4. deprive terrorist organisations of means and potential and/or former fighters,
5. and ultimately, contain the threat of terrorism.

In relation to its **partnership approach**, the IJJ cooperates with trusted partners to provide expertise in design, deliver top-quality judicial responses to its target audience, and cross-promote training and capacity-building activities. The IJJ continuously updates existing and potential cooperation opportunities in line with its priorities and regularly evaluates them. The IJJ acknowledges that the persistent and global threat posed by terrorism calls for a multilateral approach based on joint multi-entity initiatives. This integrative, multi-stakeholder approach, offers a breadth of perspectives from diverse actors and aspects and can only be sustained through a clear thematic and/or geographic focus responsive to the national, regional and international needs.



The IJ and the United Nations

The IJ works closely and proactively with the United Nations to establish meaningful linkages and connections between efforts in the counter-terrorism and rule of law fields. The United Nations is a close partner and the IJ actively supports the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions. The IJ has worked collaboratively with a number of UN bodies, including the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

The IJ maintains a Memorandum of Understanding with the UNOCT, initially signed in September 2020 and renewed in July 2023 to formalise and articulate a forward vision for this important partnership. The agreement provides a framework for enhancing our cooperation to support the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, relevant UN General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions, and GCTF good practices and tools and joint activities are agreed upon in a dedicated Plan of Action. Under the newly signed MoU, both institutions have agreed on a Programme of Action for Enhanced Collaboration and Cooperation. This initiative aims to strengthen their partnership at both institutional and operational levels, aligning with their respective mandates and supporting Member States in adopting an 'All-of-UN' approach to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. This Programme of Action serves as a roadmap and monitoring tool for their mutual commitments.



The IJJ and the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (KIJLS)



In 2022, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law and the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a strategic cooperation framework between both Institutes. This MoU will enhance collaborations to support criminal justice practitioners' responses to counter-terrorism and violent extremism with a rule of law and human rights context. In October 2023, the IJJ and KIJLS conducted their first joint workshop in Kuwait entitled on framework for collecting evidence related to crime and tracking money.

This MoU will enhance collaborations to support criminal justice practitioners' responses to counter-terrorism and violent extremism with a rule of law and human rights context



SPECIAL EDITION



The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law: A Decade of Excellence from Malta to the World

In 2024, the IJ celebrates its tenth anniversary as an international institute. This milestone marks the Institute's first decade of impactful work and ongoing commitment to training and collaborating with experts and legal practitioners worldwide. The IJ's story began in 2012, when the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum envisioned the creation of an institution dedicated to innovative and sustainable training in counter-terrorism and rule of law practices. This vision received endorsement from the Group of Eight in 2013, leading to the establishment of the IJ in Malta in 2014. Founded with the mission to enhance the competencies of criminal justice practitioners

in addressing terrorism within a rule of law framework, the IJ also promotes international cooperation and information exchange.

The IJ Governing Board, signed the Deed of Foundation on 18 June 2014, and today represents a group of 13 countries and the European Union. The organisation is chaired by the United States of America and Nigeria. In implementing its mission, the IJ has collaborated with numerous partners and made a significant difference to the security of many countries that have been directly or indirectly affected by terrorism.



To commemorate its tenth anniversary, the IJJ planned numerous activities throughout 2024. To start, the IJJ hosted a symposium in January to address the question “Does the Rule of Law Really Matter to Global Security?” The event gathered representatives from different ministries, diplomats, IJJ governing and advisory board members, international partners, and alumni for open and critical discussions regarding policy choices the international community makes and the impacts they have on global security dynamics. The overall objective was to shed light on the complex balance between security initiatives and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to review counter-terrorism frameworks to identify areas for improvement and innovation.





The symposium featured a series of panel discussions, keynote speakers, and interactive sessions led by prominent experts, policy-makers, practitioners, and academics. The collaborative discussions provided a platform for participants to share insights and raise challenging questions on best practices and emerging trends. Highlighting the event was a discussion between Executive Secretary Steven Hill and Hon. Stephen G. Breyer, Associate Justice (Ret.) of the U.S. Supreme Court, which offered thought-provoking reflections on the intersection of justice and the rule of law within the world of counter-terrorism.

This symposium was followed by anniversary celebrations hosted by His Excellency President Emeritus George Vella of Malta at the Verdala Palace. More activities are planned for the rest of the year, in addition to the normal work being conducted worldwide.

As we celebrate these ten years of excellence, we look forward to continuing our mission with the same dedication and commitment for the next decade and beyond.



“Peace, security, and stability, unfortunately remain elusive objectives in many countries around the world. Terrorism and a lack of effective criminal justice systems are contributory factors.

The IJJ, since its inception, has contributed in no small way to strengthen security in many countries.

The 9000 IJJ alumni, hailing from 130 countries, have helped promote international cooperation, and establish the rule of law. This is all in line and consistent, with Malta’s vocation to be a beacon of peace and a promoter of justice in a troubled world.

Looking back on these results, it gives me great satisfaction to realise that my eagerness to have this Institution set up in Malta, 10 years ago, has proved to be so fruitful.”

President Emeritus Dr. George Vella

10
YEARS

9000+
ALUMNI

200+
COURSES AND
WORKSHOPS

50+
INTERNATIONAL
GRANTS

130+
PARTICIPATING
COUNTRIES

Academic Unit

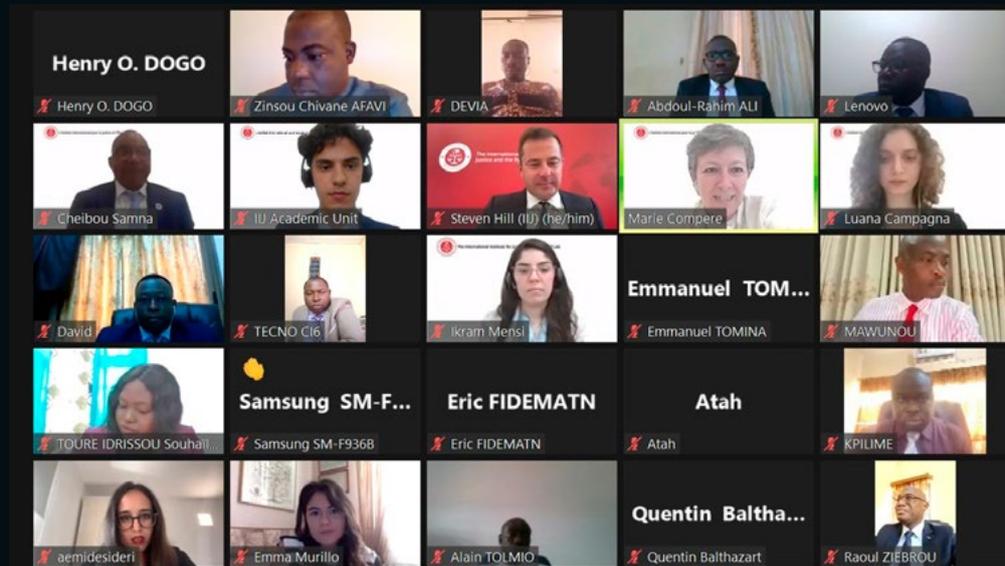
Launched in 2020, the Academic Unit is a significant addition to the IJ. It offers longer multi-method courses that enable practitioners responsible for counter-terrorism procedures, or those who may soon have such responsibilities, to train on practical and foundational skills. These courses also engage in reinforcement learning, which is critical for updating practices, better knowledge retention, and effective networking.

Adapted to the specific needs and legal frameworks of the IJ's partner countries and delivered in the main practitioners' respective working languages (Arabic, English, or French), each course delivered by the Unit aims to strengthen practitioners' knowledge and skills while enhancing their networking opportunities and mutual support.

The Academic Unit team consists of experienced practitioners with complementary legal backgrounds, known as the IJ Resident Fellows. They coordinate technical expertise provided by the IJ's team, including IJ Senior Advisers, as well as from the IJ network and Advisory Board.

The Academic Unit uses an innovative hybrid learning and peer-to-peer approach, which offers time and safety benefits, improves digital skills and networking, and reduces the carbon footprint.

The year 2023 was a pivotal year for the Academic Unit, as it marked the launch of the Unit's first "Trial Judges' Counter-Terrorism: Academic Curriculum" (or TJ CTAC) course designed to enhance judges' capacities for adjudicating terrorism-related cases. This new course completes the capacity-building of the criminal justice chain by focusing on the unique needs and roles of trial judges in counter-terrorism proceedings. It includes both an online and in-person component.



The Academic Unit continues to design and implement its “Investigation and Prosecution Counter-Terrorism: Academic Curriculum” (IP CTAC) courses which build the capacities of prosecutors, examining judges, and investigators on proactive, as well as reactive, investigations and prosecution of terrorists and other related transnational crimes. These courses include an online component – which can also be a standalone course, i.e. the eCTAC course dedicated to proactive investigations and prosecutions – as well as an in-person component dedicated to reactive investigations and prosecutions.

Since its inception, the Academic Unit has trained up to 200 practitioners from 33 countries in Africa, the Middle East, South and South-east Asia, and has built up a dynamic alumni network. At least 85% of alumni from Academic

Unit courses have reported utilising the skills and knowledge from the courses in their daily work and/or sharing the course learnings with their peers within the first four months of its completion.

Overall, the Academic Unit’s courses contribute to safeguarding the Rule of Law by enhancing expertise among criminal justice practitioners in their crucial efforts to counter-terrorism and other transnational crimes. In this sense, they further establish the IJJ as an indispensable international hub and resource for capacity building in the criminal justice sphere, supporting practitioners and institutions to effectively address terrorism and transnational crime in compliance with human rights and the rule of law.

About the “Counter-Terrorism: Academic Curriculum” (CTAC) courses

The Academic Unit’s CTAC courses have been adapted for civil law, common law, and hybrid justice systems, as well as tailored to the specific needs of practitioners in Africa, the Middle East and South and Southeast Asia.

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Each course includes no more than 25 participants and works to strengthen the practitioners’ knowledge and skills as well as enhance their networking opportunities and mutual support. The selection of countries for these courses is based on the partner States shared institutional, judicial, and operational needs – including a common working language, similar terrorist threats, cross-border counter-terrorism procedures, a shared common law legal tradition, and an opportunity to improve international judicial cooperation.

Building on the skills and competencies of counter-terrorism practitioners, these courses aim to have a lasting impact on the participants and, in turn, on their domestic institutions and national counter-terrorism judicial response capacities.

The IJ uses a “flipped learning approach,” wherein participants study resources on their own and then engage in online sessions driven by practical exercises. The in-person and full-

time components then allow participants to consolidate a sense of mutual trust, skills and knowledge via a flipped learning approach, on the same online platform, combined with a participatory learning approach.

This approach directly involves the participants in the learning process, with two main interactive pedagogical methods:

1. A simulated cross-border terrorism case that allows participants to learn by directly applying their knowledge and skills. At the end of each exercise, the CTAC facilitators discuss the highlighted points, the lessons learned and issues to be improved in a plenary session.
2. The alternation between training seminars, case studies and practical exercises within the framework of the simulated case to deepen the fundamental skills of the participants on the conduct of investigations and prosecutions or adjudications.

In 2023, we started to offer two types of CTAC courses: the **IP CTAC** course which builds the capacities of prosecutors, examining judges, and investigators on both proactive and reactive investigations as well as the prosecution



of terrorists and those charged with other related transnational crimes; and the **TJ CTAC** course, which is designed to increase judges' capacities for adjudicating terrorism-related cases. Both types of CTAC courses include both an online and in-person component. However, the online component of the IP CTAC can also be a standalone course dedicated to proactive investigations and prosecutions.

The IJJ provides access to a unique facility, with 24/7/365 access to updated, accurate and legitimated sources as well as tools and the Institute's platform of relevant contacts, available to participants throughout the course of their study and beyond. The IJJ's aim is also to build bridges within the other IJJ activities and beyond, with national or regional training institutions and the bi-or multilateral projects of the IJJ's partners. This increased practitioner capacity, in turn, supports the development of the justice institutions that play a key role in the delivery of rule of law and the protection of human rights.

Finally, to ensure the relevance of the IJJ's innovative courses as well as to maintain and continuously improve the consistency and excellence of these formats, the IJJ launched, in the last quarter of 2023, an independent

evaluation of the impact of the eCTAC courses over the three years of their implementation, as well as an in-depth analysis of the data collected from the 600+ eCTAC and CTAC application forms of its selected and non-selected candidates. These reviews aim to (i) analyse trends and needs from the IJJ's audience over the past three years, also considering the consequences of the global pandemic, (ii) collaborate with cross-functional teams to address data-related challenges and opportunities, including with IJJ Alumni and partners, and (iii) inform improvements within the IJJ team, providing actionable insights and supporting decision-making processes by providing data-driven recommendations to enrich future proposals, formats and content of its activities.



“My participation in the IJ activity has had a definite impact on my day-to-day professional practice. The IJ activity has enabled me to develop very good reflexes and in-depth knowledge in this area. Furthermore, in our day-to-day practice in the courts, the knowledge I’ve acquired has been applied to organised crime”.

“We are delighted to attend this course; it will contribute to our CT [counter-terrorism] efforts. IJ [is] also building the capacity of criminal justice practitioners, prosecutors, detectives, and others [to] play [a] crucial role in the justice system of Africa. The IJ works collaboratively with practitioners at the international, regional, and national level, to design capacity building [modules] with sustainable impact, IJ supporting partitioners and institute to effectively address terrorism and transactional crime in compliance with human rights and rule of law. We have learned from this course many topics which will contribute to successfully prosecute the CT and other organised crimes”.



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1092



- Participants emphasised the need for continuous training, refresher courses, and ongoing assessments. To this end, the IJ could collaborate with national judiciary schools to sustain its innovative training with a wider audience, institutionalise its capacity-building efforts and provide continuous networking opportunities.
- Consideration could be given to prioritise the practical aspect of face-to-face training, extending the duration of the online training courses, and including fictitious trials exercises and field visits to enhance learning and practical understanding.
- Participants identified specific aspects such as witness and whistleblower protection, the link between terrorism and maritime security, and the role of the media in the fight against terrorism as areas requiring more intensive technical assistance.

CTAC and eCTAC Courses in 2023

First CTAC Course for Arabic Speaking Practitioners from the Middle East and North Africa

From 6 – 16 March, the IJJ Academic Unit delivered its first in-person Arabic-language course for frontline criminal justice practitioners from the Middle East and North Africa. The course employed a contextualised version of the Academic Unit’s ground-breaking CTAC and built the skills and capacities of 16 police investigators, prosecutors, and examining judges from Algeria, Chad, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia.

This immersive, foundational course – funded by the U.S. Department of State – aimed at strengthening practitioners’ core skills on conducting investigations and prosecutions of terrorist crimes through:

- Increased awareness of proportionate, reasonable and justifiable methods to investigate terrorism, in compliance with human rights, including special investigation techniques.
- Improved drafting and advocacy skills to accurately communicate facts and legal arguments.
- Implementation of efficient case management procedures to reduce trial delays.
- Improved participation of witnesses and victims in investigations and prosecutions of offenders, including through better protection mechanisms.
- Enhanced knowledge of international good practices for the effective investigation and prosecution of terrorism cases; and
- Strengthening international networks and international cooperation to improve evidence collection, mutual legal assistance and the extradition of offenders.

“This in-person CTAC enabled me to have solid knowledge in other legal systems in Arab countries,” reflected Ms. Hanane Gaddas, Deputy Prosecutor in Tunisia. “I also learned more about organisations that exist on the ground.... Now I am very motivated to go back home and find ways [to collaborate] with these organisations.”

As with all CTAC courses, the instructors use interactive pedagogical methods through which the participants are required to solve problems and challenges arising during the investigation of a hypothetical cross-border terrorism case. The process of active problem solving reinforces the relevant skills and good practices presented in the course materials. The problem-solving exercises allowed participants to deepen their fundamental knowledge and will facilitate the use and implementation of these new skills in their work in their national jurisdictions.



Speaking about this approach, Mr. Bilal Al Qatawneh, Public Security Judge from Jordan, reported: “This course has been a great opportunity for all of us to exchange experiences and knowledge through the collective exercises and taking decisions in groups, which is a way to show that now, thanks to the CTAC, we all have common ground.”

Additionally, the course included significant training sessions on contemporary criminal justice issues, including detention practices, the interconnection between organised crime and terrorism in the region, the utilisation

of firearms and ammunition as crucial evidence in investigations, and utilisation of emerging technologies by terrorists. These sessions benefited from contributions by various external experts from the MENA region, including representatives from organisations such as the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC) and Conflict Armament Research. This fifth CTAC course welcomed practitioners who had previously worked together during either one of the Academic Unit’s many French-language or Arabic-language eCTAC courses on proactive investigations to consolidate and deepen participants’ networks and cooperation.





Second CTAC Course for Anglophone African Practitioners

From May 16 to 26, the IJJ Academic Unit conducted its CTAC course, supporting frontline criminal justice practitioners. This immersive foundational course, funded by the U.S. Department of State, was the second offered to English-speaking practitioners from East and West Africa. It enhanced the skills and capacities of 23 police investigators, prosecutors, and examining judges from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, and Uganda.

The diverse geographic and professional backgrounds of the participants enriched course discussions. David Ssegendo Wasswa, a Senior Police Commissioner in the Uganda Police Force, praised the opportunity to understand different perspectives in a unified class environment guided by experts.

Instructors, with backgrounds as judges, prosecutors, investigators, and defence attorneys, employed interactive pedagogical methods, requiring participants to solve problems related to a hypothetical cross-border terrorism case. They also shared case studies to stimulate discussions on witness and victim protection and courtroom safety. Participants appreciated this approach, finding it impactful in learning practical skills.

The active problem-solving process reinforced the skills and practices presented in the course materials, allowing participants to deepen their knowledge and apply new skills in their national jurisdictions.

Demonstrating the IJJ's commitment to gender equality, the CTAC course achieved gender parity among participants for the second time, with women making up the majority. **Ms. Batilda Mushi, a Tanzanian prosecutor, appreciated this effort, recognising the increasing role of women in decision-making as well as in leading investigations in the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime.**

"We see this in [the] IJJ where the balance of women in the fight against terrorism was well taken care of. We see more women now coming forward. They are part and parcel of the decision making [process, are] leading investigations [and are active] in all areas in the fight against transnational organised crime, including terrorism. So, I applaud the IJJ for the steps that they have taken to appreciate women in this fight."



Trial Judge's CTAC: First Edition for Practitioners from West Africa and Sahel

In September and October 2023, with support from the French and German governments, the IJ's Academic Unit initiated the "Counter-Terrorism: Academic Curriculum" programme. This programme aimed to enhance the skills of judges overseeing terrorism proceedings in West Africa and the Sahel (Trial Judge's CTAC).

The inaugural edition featured fictitious terrorist incident cases and interactive training sessions to deepen practitioners' fundamental skills. It comprised both online and in-person components, with the online segment spanning over a month and the in-person segment lasting a week in Malta. Led by Hon. Judge Marie Compère, Director of the Academic Unit, and Resident Fellow Cheibou Samna, former Niamey Public Prosecutor, the course was conducted in French. Guest speakers included Hélène Cisse, a lawyer at the Dakar Bar, and Guillaume Soto-Mayor, an expert on West and Central Africa. Additionally, a French magistrate, former president of the Paris Court of Assizes, who presided over the 13 November 2015, terrorism cases, contributed to the course.

Nineteen judges from six French-speaking civil law countries in West Africa and the Sahel (Benin, Chad, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Senegal, and Togo) participated in the Programme, exchanging and collaborating online and in person for a month. They praised the peer-to-peer nature of the Programme, emphasising both its practicality and its innovative and intensive approach. Kossivi Sossou, Correctional and Civil Judge of Tsévié in Togo, highlighted how the training revealed gaps in Togo's national legal texts compared to international legal instruments. He expressed gratitude to the IJ and the donors, France and Germany, recommending continued Togolese participation in future CTAC training.

"We would like to express our sincere thanks to the IJ and to the donors, notably France and Germany, who placed their trust in the IJ's efforts to support the organisation of this training (...) and we recommend that Togo always be associated with future CTAC training, as we found this training very relevant". Another participant noted that "there is no training programme more in-depth and closer to reality".



eCTAC: Fourth Edition for Practitioners from West Africa and Sahel

In September 2023, supported by the U.S. Department of State, the IJJ's Academic Unit conducted the fourth eCTAC on proactive investigations and prosecution. Twenty-four prosecutors and examining judges from six French-speaking civil law countries in West Africa and the Sahel (Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, and Togo) participated.

The course comprised one week of online learning through the Academic Unit's online platform, followed by two weeks of live sessions. These sessions included three small-group interactive tutorials on "Effective Coordination Between Investigators and Prosecutors", "Collection of Evidence for Successful Prosecutions", and "Cross-Border Investigations". Led by Hon. Judge Marie

Compère, Director of the Academic Unit, and Resident Fellow and former Niamey Public Prosecutor, Mr. Cheibou Samna, the course was delivered in French.

Practitioners actively engaged with the course materials and live sessions, finding the eCTAC course rigorous and relevant to their work. Mr. Dingamadji Carlos Rotta, Chad's Director of Legislation and Agreements, stated that the course would lead to reforms in his country's legislation based on the Institute's recommendations. Mr. Placide-Clement Mawunou, Deputy Public Prosecutor at the Lomé Court of Appeal in Togo, highlighted the importance of teamwork and the coordination plans studied during the course, emphasizing the value in their work.



Third Edition for Practitioners from West Africa and Sahel

In November 2023, with support from the U.S. Department of State, the IJ Academic Unit conducted the third edition of the CTAC course. Twenty-four investigators, investigative judges, and prosecutors from seven French-speaking West African and Sahel countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Togo) participated. These mid to senior-level practitioners had previously completed the eCTAC course on proactive CT investigations and were invited to Malta for this intensive nine-day Human Rights-based course to expand their specialisation in this critical and evolving field.

Led on a peer-to-peer basis by Hon. Judge Marie Compère, Director of the Academic Unit, and Mr. Cheibou Samna, Resident Fellow and former Niamey Public Prosecutor, the course included international subject matter experts such as Abdou Chefou and Kamal Touré from UNODC, Léo Jarry from Conflict Armament Research, and Tatiana Smirnova, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sherbrooke (Canada), among others. Practical exercises focused on a simulated international terrorism case, covering various steps from a terrorist attack to the trial. Topics covered included the modus operandi of terrorist groups, crime scene management, judicial analysis of improvised explosive devices, weapons and ammunition, evidence collection (especially financial matters and terrorist assets), and court hearing organisation respecting fair trial rules.

Participants actively engaged in sharing experiences, challenges, and contexts from their respective countries. They found both the eCTAC and CTAC beneficial to their day-to-day practice and intend to apply what they learned. Mrs. Mankentsop Wamba, Head of the Monitoring Unit at the Ministry of Justice in Cameroon, emphasised the Programme's importance for Cameroon's security and legislative perspectives, intending to share knowledge with her colleagues. Ms. Gnacadja, Public Prosecutor of the Court of Cotonou in Benin, expressed the programme's enriching nature and her commitment to deepening her knowledge to combat terrorism in Benin.

The CTAC participants are now part of the IJ Academic Unit Alumni Community, which includes up to 200 mid to senior frontline CT actors from 33 countries since the launch of the IJ Academic Unit. The IJ appreciates the trust and support of its donors, especially the USA, France, Denmark, Australia, and the UK, in promoting human rights and the rule of law.

Mrs. Mankentsop Wamba, Head of the Monitoring Unit at the Ministry of Justice in Cameroon, expressed, *"I am delighted to be here; this programme is of great importance for Cameroon in terms of security and legislative perspectives. It will help us provide support on the legislative side and train various practitioners."* She also confirmed, *"We will share our knowledge with our colleagues through this programme."*



Programmatic Unit

The Programmatic Unit offers a range of capacity-building workshops and professional exchanges for criminal justice professionals tailored to national and regional contexts, with a focus on practical application of skills and good practices to real world challenges.

Our programmes support the implementation of relevant GCTF Good Practices and recommendations, the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy and UN Security Council Resolutions, as well as other regional and international frameworks.

The Programmatic Unit completed 2023 with an ambitious calendar, a greater strategic vision, and a range of new partnerships, successfully delivering 23 programmes across its portfolio. The Programmatic Unit also helped integrate the IJ Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy into all its programmes, bolstered both institutional and professional development, and forged new donor relationships.

Programmes delivered in 2023 addressed each of the following three thematic fields and their respective objectives, which build on and inform one another.

Thematic field	Objective	Focus areas in 2023
Addressing cutting-edge challenges	Focus on pressing issues as identified by the Programmatic Unit and its partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Racially- or ethnically-motivated violent extremism (REMVE) • Countering the financing of terrorism (CFT) • Gender dynamics in terrorism (sexual violence linked to terrorism, and women's role in terrorism)
Safeguarding rights	Encouraging solutions for specific groups and problem sets in compliance with human rights and the rule of law.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile justice • Returning foreign terrorist fighters
Gathering the evidence and proving the case	Strengthening practitioners' capacity to identify, gather and analyse evidence, develop informal and formal evidence-sharing mechanisms, and build thorough, evidence-based cases to support successful prosecutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Central Authorities Initiative (GCAI) and mutual legal assistance (MLA) • Judicial capacity building initiative • Investigations • The Proof Project, battlefield evidence and other projects on information sharing and evidence

Addressing Cutting-Edge Challenges

Through its work on addressing cutting-edge challenges, the Programmatic Unit responds creatively and meaningfully to pressing trends and threats, offering in-depth and multidimensional insights to assist both criminal justice practitioners and a range of other partners in better understanding and addressing these trends and threats. In 2023, the Programmatic Unit's work focused on three initiatives: racially- or ethnically- motivated violent extremism (REMVE), countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), and gender dynamics in terrorism, all of which are set to continue growing through 2024 and beyond.

Racially- or Ethnically-Motivated Violent Extremism (REMVE)

The IJ has developed an international reputation for both excellent programming and subject matter expertise on the REMVE threat. Furthermore, it has continued to build on its track record of success in 2023 with a programme focused on radicalisation to violence among active and retired military and law enforcement. The roundtable, entitled **Addressing REMVE Radicalisation Within Security Services' Ranks**, gathered 30 criminal justice practitioners and policymakers from the Programmatic Unit's core REMVE nations, in addition to leading academic and think tank experts and researchers, for frank and intensive discussions on the scope

of the problem, how to screen for violent extremism before and during service, and how best to respond to this type of "insider threat" when it occurs.

Sessions addressed how governments are screening security service personnel, both during recruitment and during active service, for a history of and/or risks of radicalisation to violence, training to counter REMVE propaganda and build service members' resilience to radicalisation, investigating situations of concern, and using disciplinary measures or prosecution in particular cases where conduct is most serious. These in-depth exchanges – like those in all the Programmatic Unit's REMVE programmes – are built on the guidance of the good practices in the *IJ Criminal Justice Practitioner's Guide for Addressing REMVE*, which is now available in Arabic, English, French, German, Russian, and Spanish on the IJ website.

The Programmatic Unit is planning two REMVE programmes in 2024, including a second in London in partnership with the United Kingdom as well as its first-ever geographically focused programme in Argentina.





“The issue of radicalisation within security forces is critical and demands attention. Through this activity lesson, I gained valuable insights into how this threat has materialised thus far. The forum established for practitioners and policymakers enabled me to learn from others and identify practical measures to proactively detect and counter radicalisation”.



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- More intensive technical assistance could be provided on filling in the gap between the strategic and policy levels and the normative approach to the risk assessment.
- Consideration could be given to promote interaction as well as to delve deeper into specific topics by extending the length of activities, inviting interdisciplinary audiences, and setting up a more intimate conversational format to allow discussions and open dialogues.

Countering the Financing of Terrorism

Throughout 2023, the Programmatic Unit continued implementing programmes on Countering the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) to build the capacity of criminal justice practitioners and other relevant stakeholders to tackle terrorist financing (TF) effectively following a systematic approach within the framework of the Programmatic Unit's CFT Strategy. This work not only fosters a proactive investigation culture and encourages international, regional and interagency cooperation, but strengthens public-private partnerships to detect and disrupt the financing of terrorism.

In 2023, the Programmatic Unit's thematic focus in this field centred on mitigating terrorist financing risks associated with abuse of the nonprofit sector and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs), with a geographic focus on the Middle East and West Africa. In January, the Programmatic Unit gathered representatives from Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Yemen for in-depth discussions on how to **safeguard non-profit organisations (NPOs) from misuse for terrorist financing**. Following discussions on current NPO terrorist financing risks, and the exchange of corresponding state measures, good practices, and reporting obligations, participants formulated recommendations for their respective governments and those self-regulating bodies

that operate in the non-profit sector, based on specific vulnerabilities and good practices. These recommendations will be central to the Programmatic Unit's follow-on activities on this issue.

The Programmatic Unit also continued its work on mitigating risks associated with the abuse of **DNFBPs for terrorist financing purposes in West Africa**, implementing the third in a series of workshops on this topic with representatives from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo. Bringing together the same cohort from two prior workshops organised in 2021 and 2022, as well as new participants, the October workshop in Côte d'Ivoire built on progressive learning, harnessed existing relationships and benefited from new input and views.





Countering the Financing of Terrorism



To support the programme's focus on improving interagency cooperation and public-private partnerships, the workshop advanced expertise in mitigating specific sectoral risks, monitoring the CFT obligations of high-risk sectors, building public-private trust and cooperation, promoting procedural and institutional change in the workplace, and implementing risk-based supervision measures.

During the workshop, all country delegations reported considerable progress in improving their CFT regulation and reporting entities' compliance levels, resulting in significant improvements in overall compliance. This demonstrated the real-life impact of capacity-building efforts in this field and the potential for acquired knowledge to be translated into practice in relatively short timeframes.

In addition to the regional programming in West Africa, the Programmatic Unit travelled to Abuja in November to work bilaterally with

Nigerian CFT practitioners at a tailored training programme to address gaps in the country's CFT framework that have contributed to Nigeria's grey listing by FATF. Following discussions on the country's key CFT deficiencies, participants identified priority areas and next steps to bolster Nigeria's CFT posture. Key takeaways of the training will contribute to the implementation of Nigeria's National Plan of Action on CFT, including recommendations on conducting parallel investigations, digitisation and enhanced case management systems, improved charging decisions in CFT prosecutions, increased engagement with the private sector, and policies that more fully consider gender.

The Programmatic Unit will continue its CFT work throughout 2024 and beyond, including a new series of CFT capacity-building efforts in Southeast Asia.



“This training enabled me to strengthen my operational capabilities in the fight against the financing of terrorism. It also enabled me to open up to legal practitioners from other countries, through whom we have established contacts and maintained relations”.

“The IJJ created an environment where officials of the various Law enforcements involved in combating terrorism and terrorism financing to share experiences, challenges, suggestions and exchange contacts in order to bolster inter-agency communication and cooperation”.



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- Participants found it important to sustain and institutionalise similar training activities, enable in-depth discussions, facilitate continuous and regular exchanges, and develop more hands-on and technical training components proposing practical and mock cases, real case scenario, role-play and table-top exercises.
- More intensive technical assistance could address the need to enhance formal cooperation framework between the various players involved in combating money laundering and the financing of terrorism, increase cooperation and information sharing along the justice chain, the synergies between the prosecutors and the investigators, the need for improving public - private dialogue and partnership in CFT measures.
- The practitioners emphasised the critical need for strengthening and updating the legal and regulatory frameworks to combat the financing of terrorism, which currently impedes the development of the EPNFD sector. Key suggestions included:
 - strengthening legal frameworks and sector-specific regulations to align with international best practices,
 - creating a directory of legal resources to facilitate easy access to relevant legal information,
 - need for effective risk assessment risk-based supervision of the non-profit sector and organisations vulnerable to terrorist financing

Gender Dynamics in Terrorism

The IJ is dedicated to promoting gender parity and encouraging equal gender representation in all its programmes. It offers specialised initiatives that address the gendered aspects of terrorism and create forums for sensitive discussions to address biases that hinder the effective investigation and prosecution of terrorist acts. The Programmatic Unit's gender work is focused on two main areas: the investigation and prosecution of sexual violence linked to terrorism (TRSV) and understanding the diverse roles women play in terrorism (WIT).

Investigation and Prosecution of TRSV: These programmes delve into the complex gender issues surrounding sexual violence committed by terrorists, including why victims may not report such crimes, how criminal justice systems respond to sexual violence cases, and the crucial collaboration between criminal justice actors and non-governmental organizations to meet survivor needs. In February 2023, the Programmatic Unit held a TRSV investigation workshop in Malawi for officials from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, and Malawi. Adopting a survivor-centric approach, the workshop focused on victim interviewing techniques, evidence gathering and analysis, and forensic investigations. Participants discussed innovative approaches to overcoming societal, religious, and traditional barriers to reporting and investigating sexual violence linked to terrorism. The following week, a regional workshop in Uganda brought together legal experts, prosecutors, and judges from Burkina Faso, Uganda, Nigeria, Kenya, and Mozambique to address prosecution challenges. The workshop, funded by Australia and supported by Honourable Lady Justice Jane Abodo, Uganda's Director of Public Prosecutions, focused on integrating national and international jurisprudence into TRSV prosecutions, managing unique victim and evidence-related challenges, and borrowing promising regional models and tools for successful prosecutions. It emphasised the successful prosecution of sexual violence by linking it to other types of

organised crime and promoting cumulative prosecutions for international core crimes, including those related to sexual violence.

Moving forward, the IJ will strategically focus on advancing policy initiatives derived from the insights and recommendations of these workshops. This includes developing specialised training programmes tailored for investigators and prosecutors to bolster skills in evidence collection, forensic investigations, and victim interviewing techniques specific to TRSV, integrating these challenges into broader counter-terrorism strategies. Collaborating with regional partners, the IJ will work to embed specific curricula into existing training frameworks for criminal justice practitioners across jurisdictions. Furthermore, advocating for robust victim and witness protection frameworks within legal systems will ensure the safety and cooperation of individuals involved in TRSV cases. Lastly, the IJ will focus on fostering ongoing regional collaboration among practitioners to share best practices aiming to strengthen collective capabilities in prosecuting TRSV, including its intersection with other organised crimes and international core crimes. Looking ahead to 2024, the IJ will expand its focus to include programmes on the role of women in terrorism worldwide and continue its efforts in developing specialised curricula tailored to the investigation and prosecution of TRSV.



“These workshops need to be conducted routinely as the threat of terrorist attacks is real and they serve to keep practitioners well informed on how they can effectively handle incidents”.



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- Participants advocated for special sessions of handling sexual violence cases to avoid re-traumatizing the survivors, and the inclusion of a topic on the extradition of fugitives who have committed sexual terrorism offenses.
- Consideration could be given to longer training periods to allow more qualitative and thorough group discussions.

Safeguarding Rights

The Programmatic Unit's work on safeguarding rights focuses attention on particular vulnerable groups and the complex challenges of balancing their unique needs against the interest in public security and accountability, all while advancing important counter-terrorism goals. In 2023, the Programmatic Unit's programming in this area centred on juvenile justice and the repatriation and prosecution of terrorist fighters from Northeast Syria.

Juvenile Justice

The IJ juvenile justice initiative works with criminal justice practitioners to manage terrorism cases involving children in a way that respects their unique psycho-social needs and prioritises holistic treatment over detention and prosecution. Programmes advance the principles in the GCFT *Neuchâtel Memorandum on Good Practices for Juvenile Justice in a Counter-terrorism Context* and the IJ's *Practitioner's Guide on Juvenile Justice in the Context of Terrorism*.

In 2023, the IJ deepened its partnership with The Philippines by hosting its **first juvenile justice programme in Manila** for practitioners and partners from Indonesia, Malaysia and

The Philippines. The programme, co-hosted by the Filipino Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC), featured JJWC's national baseline assessment of juveniles in detention, as well as The Philippines' national juvenile justice strategy, which expressly adopts the IJ's *Practitioner's Guide on Juvenile Justice in the Context of Terrorism* as a foundational document.

In April, the Programmatic Unit delivered a juvenile justice side event on the margins of the first **Africa Children Summit** in Nairobi, which brought together youth leaders, prosecutors, judicial officers, defence counsel and prison officials to explore a broad range of issues impacting youth.





The Programmatic Unit then returned to South-east Asia to carry on the momentum from the Manila workshop, gathering the same three countries in Indonesia in October for the **second subregional juvenile justice workshop**. After country-specific updates on progress made since the Manila workshop, the Unit organised thematic sessions addressing the priorities the practitioners had identified, such as special techniques for interviewing children.

Juvenile justice programming for 2023 ended in December when the Programmatic Unit travelled to Cameroon for its first **juvenile justice programme for francophone practitioners from Cameroon**, the Central African Republic, Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Following discussions on each country's legal framework and procedures for cases involving minors, alumni from previous Programmatic Unit programmes then shared the core principles in the *Neuchâtel Memorandum* and *IJJ Practitioner's Guide*.



Safeguarding Rights



Participants then considered every point at which the criminal justice system comes into contact with children in terrorism cases — whether as victims, witnesses, perpetrators or a combination of the three — and how to ensure that at each phase practitioners make an individualised assessment of the child’s needs and risks before deciding on a course of action. Through specific case studies and country examples, practitioners considered how to assess whether prosecution is appropriate, consider diversionary measures or other alternatives to prosecution, limit detention to only the most extreme cases, and even when detention is the only option, ensure that children are detained in appropriate facilities that respect their rights and prioritise community reintegration.

On the final day of the event, participants developed recommendations for future programming to address specific challenges they face in their work with juveniles, including non-compliance with custody and detention time limits, obstacles faced by social workers and defence counsel accessing detention facilities, lack of specialisation, and a deficiency in rehabilitation and reintegration services and mechanisms.

The IJ will continue its work on juvenile justice in 2024, including a third subregional workshop in Malaysia to address priorities identified at the Indonesia workshop, and possibly a companion programme to the Cameroon workshop but for Anglophone practitioners.



"IJJ event was effective in giving a 360-degree helicopter view on the challenges and responses".



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- To address the absence in some countries of alternative measures to detention and prosecution, consideration could be given to improve legislative frameworks and strengthen institutional structures at the national level in respect to the protection of children's rights, to increase community-based approaches that promote child-friendly alternatives to custody and that which parental and community support as a means to promote effective rehabilitation and reinsertion into society. On the prevention side, it is of the outmost importance to build proactive strategies to divert children from being influenced by terrorism.
- Participants deemed important to develop and implement comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration programmes for children associated with terrorist through the enhanced collaboration between judges, prosecutors, law enforcement and civil society.
- In line with one of the IJJ Best Practices that recommends that children only be put into custody as a last resort, practitioners raised the need to develop guidelines and standard operating procedures to encourage the use of prosecutorial discretion and alternative measures to prosecution.
- Participants also highlighted the need to sustain skills-based, child-sensitive training initiatives to practitioners such as child-friendly interviewing, management of care facilities, community-based activities and interventions to minimise stigma, and responses to judicial supervision for cases of alternative sentences or community work.

Safeguarding Rights

Repatriation and Prosecution of Fighters from Northeast Syria

Since its launch in 2015, the IJ's initiative on foreign terrorist fighters has evolved alongside the changing nature of the phenomenon itself. Initially focused on terrorist fighters who travelled from third countries to fight in conflicts, in 2021 programming pivoted towards supporting countries in repatriating their nationals from detention facilities and camps in Northeast Syria, and in prosecuting those returnees for whom criminal charges were appropriate.



In May, the Programmatic Unit hosted its second programme to **support repatriation from Northeast Syria**, shifting focus from the overall humanitarian, logistic and security challenges to the prosecution of returnees. The workshop, which gathered criminal justice practitioners, policymakers and others, discussed the importance of a process for triaging new returnee cases to determine whether they involve minors, contain sufficient evidence to support prosecution, or suggest mitigating circumstances that would make prosecution inappropriate. Thematic sessions also considered techniques for gathering additional evidence, pre- and post-

trial detention, post-release monitoring, and alternatives to prosecution. The programme also offered participants an opportunity to understand the support available from the United States as well as from multilateral organisations.

At the United Nations General Assembly in September, the IJ continued its repatriation work with a highly successful event on **Enabling the Safe Return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and Associated Family Members from Northeast Syria**. The event, co-hosted by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Counter-terrorism, brought together more than 50 senior policy officials from around the world to highlight the ongoing humanitarian and security crisis in the detention facilities and at Al-Hol and Roj displaced persons camps in Northeast Syria.

The event, which welcomed Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein, explored the important security and humanitarian implications of ISIS detention facilities and of camps housing those displaced after the 2019 territorial defeat of ISIS in Northeast Syria. Speakers underscored the urgency of repatriating suspected foreign fighters, their families, and other foreign nationals, highlighting the risk of human rights violations and the need for special protections for children. Country delegations shared solutions to the complex challenges associated with repatriation and offered insights on rehabilitation, reintegration, and where applicable, the prosecution of returnees.

This work will continue to be a priority in 2024.



“Much of our work is built on relationships and trust (...). The value of professional contacts in this field cannot be overstated. This was a phenomenal opportunity”.



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- Critical needs were identified for similar capacity-sharing efforts relating to the acquisition of applicable skills (e.g. taking witness statements, obtaining foreign evidence) to national assessment centres where returning nationals will be housed prior to reintegration, the enhancement of networking opportunities aimed to consolidate mutual trust and regular consultation,
- More intensive technical assistance could be envisaged to respond to the need to set up monitoring mechanisms for repatriated citizens and assist countries that may need assistance to update their counter-terrorism laws.

Gathering the Evidence and Proving the Case

This work, an outgrowth and expansion of the IJ's long standing work in the field of Battlefield Evidence and Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA), aims to (i) aid partner nations in building and reinforcing their domestic agencies and processes for issuing and responding to requests for international judicial cooperation; (ii) strengthen practitioners' capacity to identify, gather and analyse evidence; (iii) develop informal and formal cross-border and cross-agency information and evidence-sharing mechanisms; and (iv) build strong evidence-based cases to support successful prosecutions.



Global Central Authorities Initiative (GCAI)

Because of the inherently international nature of terrorism, the IJ identified early on that cross-border sharing of information is central to effectively holding terrorists responsible for their conduct. The Programmatic Unit therefore devotes considerable resources to helping countries build and reinforce their central authorities and the processes on which they operate, and to working with practitioners to appreciate when MLA and other requests are appropriate for building strong cases.

To build on the momentum of and address certain needs identified at the June 2022 Kinshasa Ministerial Conference of the International Conference of the Great Lake Region, the Programmatic Unit travelled to Dar Es Salaam in June to work with practitioners involved in **cross-border judicial cooperation between Malawi, Mozambique and Tanzania**. Discussions centred on ways to improve the exchange of evidence and suspects, relevant national policy and institutional frameworks for MLA and extradition,

overcoming challenges in processing requests, and building professional networks to promote and expedite cross-border cooperation.

The Programmatic Unit also made important advances through a series of programmes offered as part of the Canada-funded project **Building Strong Procedural Mechanisms for Mutual Legal Assistance**, which strengthens central authorities and processes in Kenya and Somalia and identifies ways to improve cooperation and evidence exchange between the two countries. In 2023, this included **organising a workshop for key Kenyan institutions in April 2023 to facilitate inter-agency cooperation in issuing and responding to requests for MLA and extradition** by aiding to identify roadblocks and pertinent solutions. At the conclusion of the programme, Kenyan representatives designed a roadmap of action items to strengthen existing judicial cooperation processes. The project also supported the Kenyan Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) in finalising its internal prosecutorial guidelines on MLA.



Regarding Somalia, the Programmatic Unit gathered Somali practitioners and policymakers at **two workshops in February and May 2023 to discuss the existing legal and institutional framework on international judicial cooperation (IJC) under Somali law**, as well as key action items and improvements to meet international requirements for IJC infrastructure and move towards a more comprehensive national framework. At the conclusion of the workshop, participants prepared a Communiqué setting forth specific recommendations for progress.

After working with both Kenya and Somalia separately to advance their national goals, in November 2023, the Programmatic Unit brought together – for the first time ever – **representatives from the central and competent authorities of both countries**, providing a rare opportunity for respective counterparts to meet and exchange in person. After sharing details about their national frameworks,



“The IJJ has carved a niche for itself in the development of legal minds and [the] training of criminal sector practitioners in Africa. They are shaping the landscape of our criminal justice system positively.”

“The IJJ provides a neutral ground for countries and stakeholders to discuss issues openly and provide possible solutions.”

“The activity really sharpened my skills on the drafting of requests in extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance... I walked out of this workshop a different person altogether.”



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- More intensive technical assistance could address the need for cross-fertilisation discussions on international judicial cooperation, MLA and extradition with other federal systems, to help national central authorities implement or develop Standard Operating Procedures for receiving, processing and sending MLA and Extradition requests, and to support the digitalisation of case management systems on MLA and extradition requests.

processes and challenges, Kenyan and Somali participants compiled a list of priority areas for cooperation which will serve as a guide for future professional interactions.

This Kenya-Somalia grant will continue into 2024 and envisions both publication of the ODPP internal MLA guide and programming to assist Somalia in drafting its first-ever domestic legislation on IJC.

Investigations

The IJ's focus on the investigation phase of terrorism and/or related transnational crime cases seeks to build the capacity of investigators and other law enforcement practitioners to gather and develop intelligence and evidence in the physical and digital realms and to build strong cases against terrorist actors.

In March, the IJ's Senior Law Enforcement Adviser from the United Kingdom's Central Counter-terrorism Command coordinated a week-long workshop in Malawi to assess the impact of the 2022 programme and continue supporting the development of its national counter-terrorism strategy. Sessions included systematic counter-terrorism investigative techniques, facilitating inter-agency cooperation and incorporating intelligence to develop and support evidential investigations and effective prosecutions vis-à-vis terrorism.



The Proof Project: Battlefield Evidence and Other Projects on Information Sharing and Evidence Collection

This rapidly evolving and expanding family of programmes is rooted in the Programmatic Unit's important work on battlefield evidence but continues expanding to encompass a wider range of information than just that collected by the military, as well as a broader set of end uses beyond civilian prosecution.

In May, the Programmatic Unit teamed with the Council of Europe (COE) Committee on Counter-Terrorism (CDCT) to sponsor the first expert group meeting aimed at developing a set of comparative practices on battlefield evidence. This guide, which will assemble and analyse responses from COE member states on their collection, analysis and use of battlefield evidence in actual cases, will contribute to the

library of international reference documents for practitioners. After the Programmatic Unit and COE collaborated on a draft outline and work plan for the guide, the expert group met for a second time in Rome in October to continue laying the groundwork that will create a foundation for the drafting process. The Programmatic Unit and CDCT will formally launch the guide at a joint roundtable in late 2024, where they will present and explain this resource to relevant bodies and authorities and amplify its practical application.

In November 2023, the Programmatic Unit partnered with the U.S. State Department's Office of Global Criminal Justice and the Center for Justice and Accountability at its first work-



shop to consider the challenges associated with insider witnesses to international crimes. The programme gathered world-leading experts from governments, civil society, international courts and investigative mechanisms to recognise the value of insider testimony in building strong cases on complex and serious crimes and define better approaches to protecting insider witnesses both before, during and after trial. Discussions drew particular attention to the diplomatic challenges that arise when relocation and change of identity are necessary. This project will continue with additional workshops in 2024, and perhaps a guiding document.



"I need more of such workshops as my interest is in international law and this was a good eye opener".



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- Consideration could be given to allowing for longer periods of discussion enabling greater engagement and the ability to delve deeper into the subject matter.
- More intensive technical assistance could be envisaged to improve legislative frameworks and strengthen national institutional structures as well as to acquaint participants to national and international legal frameworks relating to insider witnesses' protection as well as to standards for relocating across borders.



CT PHARE

The CT PHARE – Counter-Terrorism Platform for Human Rights Engagement – is a global CT facility funded by the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) of the European Commission. The facility has a 3,000,000 EUR budget and an implementation period of 3 years, which commenced on 01 October 2022 and will run until 01 October 2025. As one of several EU global CT facilities in support of the EU External Action Council’s Conclusions on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism of June 2020, CT PHARE is designed to build capacity to promote and protect human rights while countering terrorism, including policy and institutional support, to beneficiary countries and regions that request it. The CT PHARE facility is global in scope with a focus on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), East Africa, West Africa, and Southeast Asia.

CT PHARE’s mission is to increase the degree to which states’ counter-terrorism policies, legislation, and judicial approaches – in addition to their day-to-day investigation and prosecution practices – comply with internationally-recognised human rights standards, both on policy and operational levels.

CT PHARE Components

CT PHARE activities will be grouped in three main components:

Component 1: Enhancing Knowledge Strengthening Capacities of Counter-Terrorism Practitioners

Component 1 aims at enhancing the knowledge and strengthening the capacities of senior management and mid-level counter-terrorism practitioners in ensuring full compliance with human rights obligations in their daily work. This component focuses on the main human rights challenges that can appear at all stages of the criminal justice response to terrorism, from the definition of “terrorism” to the investigation, prosecution, trial and punishment of terrorism offences.

Component 2: Supporting Policy and Institutional Reforms

Component 2 seeks to support policy, legal and institutional reforms to effectively integrate a rule of law and human rights-based approach in counter-terrorism policymaking and criminal justice processes.

Component 3 - Promoting Transnational Cooperation

Component 3 focuses on promoting strategic transnational cooperation by facilitating the establishment and/or strengthening of institutional networks to exchange knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned in the design and/or implementation of human rights-compliant counter-terrorism measures.

CT PHARE

Platform for Human Rights Engagement

Expert Group Meeting

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CT PHARE Target groups and beneficiaries

The target groups and intended beneficiaries of CT PHARE are all actors involved in the counter-terrorism cycle, including:

- Senior- and mid-level criminal justice practitioners, such as judges, prosecutors, intelligence and law enforcement officers involved in counter-terrorism policy making and implementation as well as in investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating counter-terrorism cases.
- Defence counsel, bar associations, local and regional human rights institutions, civil society organisations (CSOs) and community groups, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups who have been subject to or are vulnerable to human rights violations.
- Policymakers and other governmental stakeholders involved in designing, developing and/or implementing counter-terrorism policies and strategies (e.g., Ministries of Justice, Interior/ Home Affairs, and/or Foreign Affairs).

CT PHARE will also draw on the expertise and experience of:

- Practitioners and professionals from different disciplines who have helped design counter-terrorism policies, strategies, and/or legislation in line with international human rights standards, particularly those from other countries in the same region as the beneficiary countries.
- Representatives of justice-sector training academies and networks of criminal justice stakeholders.
- Representatives of institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights around the world (e.g., the United Nations Human Rights Council) as well as members of regional courts (e.g., the European Court of Human Rights, and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights).
- Organisations working in some of the same thematic areas as CT PHARE (e.g., the African Counter-Terrorism Centre - AUCTC, the Global Centre for Cooperative Security - GCCS, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, etc.).



Coordination and Collaboration with Existing Efforts

The CT PHARE Project Team is responsible for engaging in discussions to determine potential collaborations and priorities of beneficiary countries. Additionally, CT PHARE looks to build the necessary trust and buy-in to ensure the smooth implementation of activities and the achievement of project objectives. To do so, the Inception Phase has been key in defining the work streams and geographic scope of the project.

The CT PHARE Team has conducted numerous meetings online and in person with the European External Action Service (EEAS), the FPI, with relevant geographical units in Directorates-General INTPA and NEAR, and with other CT facilities (CT JUST, CT TECH and CT INFLOW). The Team also coordinated and met with the European Union (EU) Delegations and the EU counter-terrorism experts, the EU CT Coordinator, as well as with United Nations (UN) entities such as The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Counter-Ter-

rorism Executive Directorate (UNCTED), the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) / United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), international and regional organisations, and government representatives. CT PHARE has also organised informal consultations with a variety of stakeholders, including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and CSOs in the field of human rights and counter-terrorism, such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch (HRW), to discuss potential synergies, avoid the duplication of efforts, identify partners, and, ultimately, increase the efficiency of project activities. Therefore, all project activities for 2023 were delivered in full complementarity with existing bilateral and regional programmes.

For the IJ and the CT PHARE project, establishing communication channels with beneficiary countries is not only crucial to identify local needs and demands but also to determine



“Countering terrorism is a Global concern; both the hot spots and the cold spots should be invited to the programme. The hot spots will share their stories and experiences which could be used by the cold spots to prevent future situations.”

“It is my great pleasure to be part of the capacity-building programme. It has indeed broadened my understanding and knowledge with respect to human rights as it relates to counter-terrorism. I have also learned good practices from other countries which are useful to my daily activities”.



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- The IJ could facilitate knowledge-sharing activities to analyse the conformity of domestic law with international law standards and promote exchange of good practices from other national systems for further incorporation into domestic research and drafting of counter-terrorism protocols.
- The IJ could produce targeted manuals and guidelines, and train national trainers to raise awareness and introduce within a national training curriculum the respect for and protection of human rights principles as a basic subject and ongoing commitment.
- On possible substance of future capacity-building activities, the IJ could address transitional justice as part of accountability.
- The IJ could envisage to set up a virtual platform to sustain formal and informal networking opportunities that would help open new channels of communication with civil society and human rights organisations.
- Consideration should be given to set up conversational format and extend time for genuine discussions, blend formats and use practical cases and more informal face-to-face formats that promote interaction.

how to best support existing national or regional plans for reforms, in line with the sustainability of the project. This is achieved by utilising the IJ Alumni Portal of over 9,000 counter-terrorism practitioners which has been developed by the IJ since its foundation in 2014.

CT PHARE also benefits from the IJ's status as a GCTF Inspired Institution, allowing it to collaborate with 32 GCTF Members including the EU as well as with the IJ Governing Board of Administrators (GBA)'s 14 Member States. It is through these networks that CT PHARE leverages support and necessary buy-in for the project workstreams' advancement. Therefore, relationships with state authorities in the beneficiary countries are strong and compliment EU Delegations and EU Security/CT Experts interventions.

CT PHARE Workstreams

In March 2023, the IJ launched the CT PHARE facility with an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) at its headquarters in Malta, convening 35 senior-level criminal justice practitioners, policymakers, and representatives of international governmental organisations, academia, and CSOs. Through informal exchanges and networking, the participants were asked to identify and examine the most pressing challenges and good practices related to human rights in the context of counter-terrorism.



Following the consultations at the EGM and wide engagement with stakeholders across the EU, UN, international organisations and proposed beneficiary countries, to guide the successful implementation of CT PHARE, the IJJ, in agreement with the European Union, will focus its work on four specific workstreams:

Workstream 1

Oversight and accountability mechanisms in the context of countering terrorism to seek redress for victims and to monitor government policies.

CT PHARE's strategy for oversight and accountability mechanisms is to provide criminal justice practitioners, representatives of the National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), ombudsman institutions, police complaints authorities, parliamentary bodies and CSOs an increased understanding on how to address gaps and vulnerabilities in their national responses to human rights violations across the regions where the IJJ operates. Additionally, it aims to enhance collaboration amongst professionals and their respective countries at the transregional level.

In 2023, CT PHARE implemented four regional workshops organised across the MENA, West Africa, East Africa and Southeast Asia regions (June-November 2023). The three-day activities consisted of working sessions and interactive discussions to identify gaps, vulnerabilities and good practices in the promotion and protection of human rights. This was done with the overall goal of identifying a set of recommendations for each region on independent oversight and accountability mechanisms in counter-terrorism operations.

Experts from the AUCTC, the UNCTED, the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and the respective regional networks of National Human Rights Institutions attended the events.

In 2023, following the four regional workshops, CT PHARE supported the EU to develop a **GCTF Good Practice Framework Document on oversight and accountability mechanisms in counter-terrorism operations**. This Document falls under a GCTF standalone Initiative on Oversight and Accountability, led by the EU, and endorsed by the GCTF Twenty-second Coordinating Committee in September 2023. This GCTF Framework Document was developed following an extensive consultation process, involving a dedicated Expert Reference Group, which met multiple times (online and in person) to provide input into the finalisation of the above-mentioned document. The Expert Reference Group was comprised of the following organisations: the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC), the Arab Interior Ministers' Council (AIMC), the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the Global Centre on Cooperative Security (GCCS), Human Rights Watch (HRW), the Office of the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. The document entitled: *The Brussels Memorandum on Good Practices for Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms in Counter-terrorism*.



Workstream 2

Protection of human rights in the context of militarisation and military responses to terrorism

CT PHARE's strategy for Workstream 2 is to raise awareness of human rights obligations during counter-terrorism operations by providing criminal justice practitioners (judiciary, prosecutors, law enforcement and security agencies) and policymakers from the beneficiary countries with an increased understanding on the human rights-based decision-making model (DMM) in counter-terrorism interventions and crisis management. The five-stage model continuously puts human rights at the core of all decision-making in the planning and delivery of counter-terrorism operations, investigations and adjudication of terrorism cases.

In 2023 CT PHARE implemented one regional capacity-building activity (July 2023) with law enforcement from the MENA region, exposing

them to the DMM methodology, increasing their awareness of accountability at all levels in counter-terrorism operations. The main outcome of this regional activity was – with contributions of participating states – the drafting of a set of recommendations that will lead to the development of an IJ Tool Kit (in 2024) for counter-terrorism practitioners on the use of human rights-based DMM in counter-terrorism operations.

CT PHARE intends that the Tool Kit will assist regional bodies such as the AIM, the AUCTC, and if the need and scope arises, select national counter-terrorism training facilities as well, leading to curricula development adopted for each legal framework and organisational structure at the national level.



Workstream 3

Pre-trial detention and the right to a fair trial

Since January 2023, CT PHARE has been tasked with assisting the GCTF Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group (GCTF CJ-ROL WG) co-chaired by Italy and Nigeria with activities on pre-trial detention and fair trial rights in counter-terrorism cases.

CT PHARE has designed and distributed a survey to GCTF Members and other UN Member States to assess the practical use of The Hague Memorandum, in particular Good Practice 5 on supporting the right of the accused to a fair trial with adequate legal representation and The Rabat Memorandum Good Practice 7 on providing for the lawful exercise of the pre-trial detention of terrorism suspects. The Global Survey was launched by the GCTF CJ-RoL Working Group Co-chairs in April 2023. The scope of this survey covered 14 areas of arrest and pre-trial detention, as well as the different components of fair trial rights. The main objective of this Global Survey was to

assess the practical use of these two Good Practices, understanding how they have been implemented at the global level, mapping perceived vulnerabilities, and establishing areas for improvement.

The interim survey findings were presented on 20 September 2023, at an event organised in the margins of the Twenty-second GCTF Coordinating Committee and thirteenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meetings in New York.





Workstream 4

Specific requests from EU Delegations and EU/Security Experts

Guided by the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the conclusions of the Council of the European Union in the context of political dialogues on counter-terrorism, the EU cooperates with countries across the globe. With the objective of supporting and facilitating the implementation of the EU's political objectives, the EU Commission has established several thematic CT facilities including CT PHARE.

CT PHARE provides demand-driven, tailor-made support to partner countries in the human rights domain of the counter-terrorism cycle to enhance their capacities to address terrorism from a human rights and rule of law perspective. CT PHARE is flexible and designed in a way that allows for adjustments in activities when considering developments or changing priorities within the respective geographic and/or thematic areas of human rights in counter-terrorism.



CT PHARE Events and Actions in 2023

Event	Date and Location	Objective
Expert Group Meeting	21-22 March 2023 IJJ, Malta	CT PHARE's launch event.
GCTF CJ-ROL Working Group's Plenary Meeting on The Right to a Fair Trial in Counter-Terrorism Case	27 April 2023 Valletta, Malta	CT PHARE designed and distributed the Global Survey on the right to a fair trial in counter-terrorism cases. The survey was launched during the Plenary Meeting of the GCTF CJ-ROL WG.
EU CT Week	23-25 May 2023 Brussels, Belgium	CT PHARE attended the EU CT Week and presented the main workstream of the project.
Capacity-Building Activity on Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms in Counter-Terrorism	6-8 June 2023 Nairobi, Kenya	To identify a set of recommendations on independent oversight and accountability mechanisms in counter-terrorism operations of Anglophone African countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Uganda
Capacity Building Activity on Human Rights-Based Decision-Making Model (DMM)	11-14 July 2024 IJJ, Malta	To increase the understanding among participants from Algeria, Bahrain, Chad, Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, on how to apply the DMM methodology in their daily work. To formulate a set of recommendations to assist with the development of an IJJ Tool Kit for counter-terrorism practitioners on the use of human rights-based DMM in counter-terrorism operations.
GCTF CJ-ROL's Side-Event on The Right to a Fair Trial in Counter-terrorism Cases	21 Sept. 2023 New York, USA	To present the first findings of the GCTF CJ-ROL's Global Survey on the right to a fair trial for defendants in terrorism-related cases.
Capacity-Building Activity on Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms in Counter-Terrorism	3-5 Oct. 2023 Casablanca, Morocco	To identify a set of recommendations on independent oversight and accountability mechanisms in counter-terrorism operations for Francophone African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, Djibouti, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Mauritania, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Senegal, Tchad, and Togo
26th Arab Conference for Counter Terrorism Officials	17-18 October 2023 Tunis, Tunisia	To strengthen the collaboration between the IJJ CT PHARE with the AIMC
Capacity-Building Activity on Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms in Counter-Terrorism	31 Oct.-3 Nov. 2023 Jakarta, Indonesia	To identify a set of recommendations on independent oversight and accountability mechanisms in counter-terrorism operations for South and Southeast Asian countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, the Philippines, Timor-Leste and Thailand.
Capacity-Building Activity on Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms in Counter-Terrorism	14-16 Nov. 2023 Amman, Jordan	To identify a set of recommendations on independent oversight and accountability mechanisms in counter-terrorism operations for countries of the Middle East: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine and Tunisia.

Monitoring & Evaluation

In 2023, the IJ ensured that more than **900 criminal justice practitioners** and other stakeholders from over **80 countries** are trained and well-prepared to support their governments in addressing the evolving and multifaceted nature of contemporary terrorism and related transnational crime within a rule of law framework.

Committed to promoting resilient cooperation and information exchange on a national, regional and international basis, the IJ offered over **3,000 individual training days through 28 tailored training and capacity-building activities** across a wide variety of thematic and geographic areas of focus, centred on the IJ's core regions of Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

The IJ collects practitioners' evaluations on modules to understand the successful application of techniques, knowledge, and skills in their work learned from IJ activities.

The evaluation found that the activities produced tangible results, with participants becoming change-makers and witnessing

beneficial effects in counter-terrorism and human rights initiatives in their respective countries.

The evaluation highlighted areas that require **additional follow-up focus** and set out **lessons to inform future programming** and ensure coherence of future activities.

It recommends building on the successes of the project by extending trainings, building sustainable partnerships with judicial institutions in beneficiary countries, promoting gender equity and consolidating the design and implementation process, maintaining a practitioner-centred perspective, and strengthening the role of oversight mechanisms and monitoring systems.

The **summative takeaways and lessons learned** for actionable follow-up from the evaluation of our 2023 activities can be found in the respective content sections..



A Context-Sensitive and Sustainable Value Proposition

Prospects for **sustainability** could enhance by increasing embedding opportunities for **context-sensitive involvement** from partnering countries directly within the design and implementation of activities. This is because they are key stakeholders in the assessment of training needs and challenges, first-hand interlocutors with which to partner for the implementation of the activities, and trustworthy partners and reliable relays for ensuring the sustainability of the impact of the activities at the individual and institutional levels.

Bearing in mind the needs of different groups and contexts, and how the IJJ's activities can best address them, it would

be beneficial in providing support, creating adherence and the feeling of ownership, ensuring continuity, timely response, monitoring, and visibility for the activities. It could also ease intersectionality, optimise chances of gender parity, and boost the impact.

Strengthened confidence, skills, knowledge, and resources that increase from capacity-building activities are key to enhance practitioners' ability to envision, take action and ownership sensitive to the particularities of local cultures and contexts, and, as a result, often lead to more feasible and sustainable solutions..



Coherent Support

The coherence of future projects may be enhanced by ensuring that proposed activities address the gaps in the normative environment of IJ's core geographical focus and are in line with national policies, justice reforms and/or counter-terrorism strategies.

Several countries in North, West and East Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia have adopted legislation that, among others, strengthen existing counter-terrorism provisions, enhance criminal penalties for terrorist acts, increase criminal liability regarding the threat of foreign terrorist fighters, and promote regional and international cooperation on investigations and the prosecution of terrorists.

However, challenges remain as to the common use and understanding of terminologies used in the counter-terrorism context, which are hindrances to national stakeholders in implementing a human rights-based and rule of law approach.

The IJ strives to contextualise their needs and strategies for overcoming these challenges to fully address the contemporary manifestations and evolving nature of terrorism worldwide.



Facilitating Opportunities

There is no “*one size fits all*” approach in respect to the **length and format of the activities**. Their effectiveness is linked to the careful analysis of practitioners’ needs, the formulation of objectives, the awareness of group dynamics, and the appropriate amount of time balanced between lectures, discussions, practical exercises and wrap-up.

Promoting **gender** equity and gender mainstreaming throughout the design and implementation processes requires ensuring that the design of the activities integrates a gender analysis perspective by default, that the sessions proposed during the activities take high consideration of gender considerations and the gender-based impacts of counter-terrorism measures.

There are numerous opportunities in the enhanced **digitalisation of judicial proceedings** that facilitate closer judicial cooperation and enable the wider judicial community to

quickly and efficiently interact and exchange critical information and evidence during criminal investigations. Capacity-building efforts are needed to support digital information exchange on cross-border terrorism cases, and support legislative initiatives to further develop the digitalisation of judicial proceedings and admissibility of evidence.

Evaluation is a collective responsibility and necessitates that key stakeholders are dedicated to interpreting results and making recommendations. This does not only contribute to evaluation being more context-specific but also to a higher uptake of evaluation findings. Monitoring & Evaluation entails the formulation of specific objectives and the evaluation of progress made at achieving them. Defining benchmarks by which to measure the qualities of activities and programmes is essential and a precondition to moving forward.

Outreach and Communications

In 2023, the IJ continued to enhance its footprint in the multilateral system with key UN organisations and other international and regional organisations. Partnerships involve the participation in each other events, collaboration where of mutual interest and benefit for an activity as well as joint donor outreach. At the same time, the IJ further continued to diversity its funding and in 2023 received contributions of a total €3.7 million. Similarly, the IJ maintains strong engagement with Alumni through online and in-person events, enabling discussions in the IJ official languages on targeted topics.

The IJ significantly boosted its communication and outreach efforts through diverse social media channels and by updating its

trilingual website. This proactive approach led to the achievement of two major milestones, marking a significant progression in the Institute's growth and success. The enhanced communication infrastructure not only increased the Institute's visibility and engagement with a global audience but also played a crucial role in amplifying the impact of its capacity-building and training programmes. These advancements have enabled the IJ to reach a broader audience, effectively disseminate vital information, and foster stronger connections with stakeholders worldwide, thereby enhancing its overall mission and objectives.

Selected Outreach Engagements

The IJ significantly increased its engagements on both the bilateral and multilateral level. This section provides a representative selection of some of these engagements.

Global Coalition Against Daesh

In February, the IJ visited Niamey, Niger, to attend the Africa Focus Group meeting of The Global Coalition Against Daesh and meet with criminal justice practitioners. Led by Executive Secretary Steven Hill, alongside Director of Programmes Gail Malone and Resident Fellow Samna Cheibou, the delegation engaged with the Minister of Justice,

the National Judicial Training School, security-focused organisations, and international partners.

United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week

Mr. Steven Hill attended the Third United Nations High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, where he met with various heads of missions, attended numerous conferences, and spoke about the impactful work IJ is doing worldwide. It also provided an opportunity to connect with several IJ alumni.



GCTF Coordination Committee (CoCo) Meeting, Egypt





Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies Visit to the IJ

The IJ was honoured to host a delegation from the Kuwait Institute for Judicial and Legal Studies (KIJLS) in Malta. During this two-day visit, Mr. Steven Hill met with Counsellors Hani Al Hamdan, Tareq Al Jaber, and Muhammed Al Duaij at the IJ office in Valletta. This visit served to strengthen discussions and joint programmes on national, regional, and international levels, fostering robust cooperation in line with both organisations' mandates.



Executive Secretary's Visit to France

Invited by the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Steven Hill and part of his team travelled to Paris, France, on December 14 and 15. This visit facilitated valuable meetings with the IJ's network at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly with Adrien Frier, Strategic Affairs Adviser at the Geographical Directorates and the Crisis and Support Centre, and with officials from the French Ministry of Justice.



United Nations Security Council Arria-formula Meeting

Mr. Steven Hill took part in the latest UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. Mr. Hill discussed the IJ's missions and valuable work with the Ambassadors of Albania, Brazil, France, Gabon, Ghana, Switzerland, US, UK, and others.

Germany joins Governing Board of Administrators

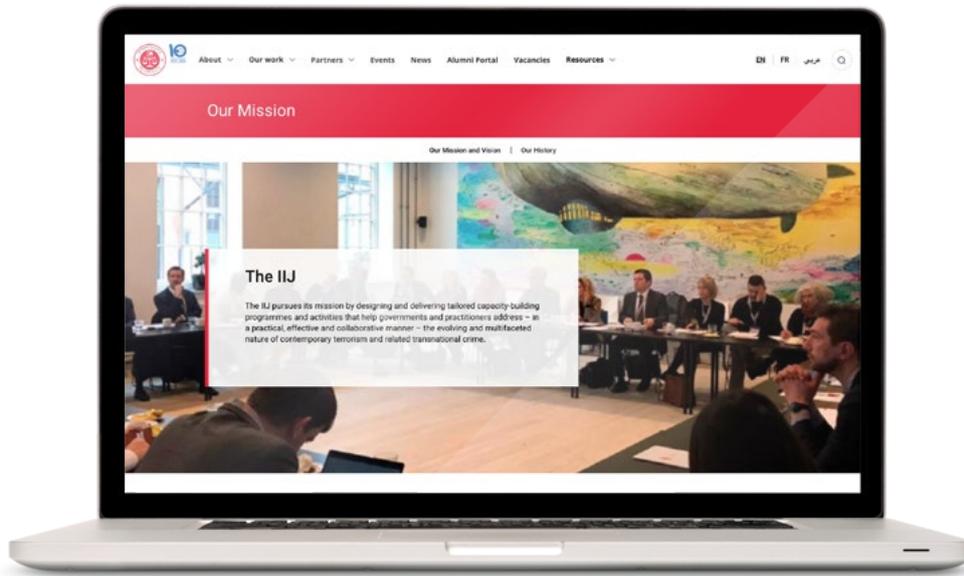
During the Governing Board of Administrators meeting on the 6th of November 2023, the IJ's Board voted in favour of Germany's request to join the Board. This step comes after years of collaboration between the IJ and Germany as well as Germany's steadfast financial support to the IJ as a donor as well as with expertise to programmatic activities.

In 2023, Germany funded a project in Abidjan where the IJ organised the third in a series of workshops on Mitigating Risks Associated with Abuse of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) for Terrorist Financing Purposes in West Africa. The event, which reconvened the same cohort from two previous programmes to maximise progressive expertise building and networking as well as bring in new participants, provided support in building knowledge and skills on preventing, identifying and disrupting illegal activities involving DNFBPs that contribute to financing of terrorist groups in the region.



GCTF Criminal Justice and Rule of Law Working Group (CJ-ROL WG) - Plenary Meeting





Communications

The IJ multilingual website, available in Arabic, English, and French, serves over 9,000 alumni, donors, and the broader counter-terrorism and rule of law communities. It highlights the IJ's geographic focus and showcases how internationally-recognised Good Practices are being implemented. Additionally, it features

impact stories from IJ alumni and provides professional resources to guide practitioners in their daily work. Our active presence on social media networks ensures comprehensive coverage of all our activities, keeping our community informed and engaged.

Alumni

In 2023, one of our main objectives was to solidify our alumni network. Utilising our alumni portal and hosting regular meetings both online and offline, we successfully implemented six alumni events featuring experts from various partners, including the United Nations, the African Union, the Cairo International Centre for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCCPA), the Global Internet Forum to Counter-terrorism, and more. The topics for these discussions were chosen by our alumni themselves, and we are grateful for their interest and high level of participation. Organising joint events with other international organisations has helped the IJ to connect practitioners who

share their experiences, turning our events into enriching exchanges and enabling open dialogue with fellow alumni from all over the world. Additionally, some of the IJ alumni had the opportunity to meet in person at several workshops and courses held in Malta, Kenya, Jordan, and New York. These interactions have strengthened the IJ community and provided valuable opportunities for professional growth and collaboration.

Alumni events will continue in 2024 with more in-person regional gatherings, including IJ practitioners, advisory board members, and experts. The IJ looks forward to continuing to foster these connections and support our alumni network in the coming year.



Mid-year Governing Board of Administrators Meeting, Malta



IJ Roundtable, Malta



The IJJ and Malta

Malta

Malta provides a neutral learning environment where sensitive topics can be discussed in a constructive manner. The country's central location in the Mediterranean makes it accessible to participants from across Africa, the Middle East, and other regions. This strategic positioning enhances the IJJ's ability to convene diverse groups for meaningful dialogue and collaboration. The IJJ is grateful for Malta's continued support and commitment to the Institute's mission and vision. This partnership has been instrumental in fostering an inclusive and productive atmosphere for all our programmes and initiatives.

The IJJ – Valletta Campus

The University of Malta's Valletta Campus – popularly known as the Old University Building – is a culturally and historically significant 16th-century palazzo located in Valletta, Malta's historical capital city. Construction on the Old University Building began in 1595, under Grand Master Martino Garzes. The exterior of the building was redesigned in a Baroque style in 1647.

The IJJ holds most of its Malta-based programmes at the Old University Building, which can accommodate up to 60 participants in conference settings, as well as a range of other venues for breakout groups and smaller events. Since 2018, following the IJJ Governing Board of Administrators decision, the IJJ made its long-term home at the Old University Building.

Recently, further enhancements have been made to incorporate advanced technology and support hybrid training models, allowing for both in-person and virtual participation. The IJJ remains committed to maintaining the Old University Building as a state-of-the-art centre for learning and collaboration, ensuring that it meets the evolving needs of its participants and stakeholders. The ongoing support and partnership with the University of Malta are critical to the IJJ's continued success in fostering international cooperation and professional development.

The IJ Team

Senior Management



Steven Hill
Executive Secretary



Reinhard Uhrig
Director of Administration
and Outreach



Marie Compère
Director of the
Academic Unit



Gail Malone
Director of Programmes

Senior Advisers



Lulua Al Ghanim
Senior Investigations Adviser



Kaan Furkan Gülsoy
Senior Legal Adviser



John Hughes
Senior Investigations Adviser

Programmatic Unit



Lara Nonninger
Programme Manager



Heather Moore
Administrative Assistant



Nathalie Tran
Programme Manager

CT PHARE



Paul Madden
Project Lead



Francesca Amerio
Project Manager



Julien Domergue
Programme Manager



Winthrop Wells
Senior Manager, Programmes
and Policy Planning



Joya Elias
Programme Manager



Alla Dyubanova
Programme Manager



Mo Sakran
Programme Assistant

Academic Unit



Rachel Simon Rushby
Resident Fellow



Samna Cheibou
Resident Fellow



Ikram Mensi
Programme Manager



Luana Campagna
Programme Assistant



Swan Goudet
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Adriana Fenech
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Jaqueline Petrie
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Hollie Azzopardi
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Quentin Balthazart
Monitoring &
Evaluation Manager



Anna Milovanovic
Grants & Resource
Mobilisation Manager



Kyra Busuttill
Human Resources Officer



Ruth Camilleri
Senior Officer, Event
Coordination & Procurement



Mariola Matyszkiewicz Boulais
Event Coordination &
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Administrative Officer



Ali Khair
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Zaha Mango
Communications Assistant



Abibou Bello
Programme Assistant



Fares Bouloudani
Programme Assistant



Albana Gërxi
Programme Assistant



Robert Vella-Barnes
Programme Assistant



Justin Coppini
Programme Assistant

Governing Board of Administrators (as of July 2024)



ALGERIA
Ambassador
Abdelmalek Bouheddou



EUROPEAN UNION
Ms Nadia Costantini



FRANCE
Ms Amelie Delaroche



GERMANY
Ms Gabriele Scheel



ITALY
Mr Alberto Dal Degan



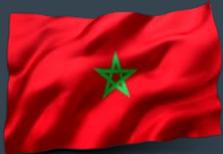
JORDAN
Colonel Bilal Al-Awamleh



KUWAIT
Ambassador Hamad Al Mashaan



MALTA
Mr Christopher Cutajar



MOROCCO
Ambassador Ismail Chekkori



NIGERIA
Attorney General Lateef Fagbemi



TUNISIA
Ms Hanin Ben Jrad



TÜRKIYE
Ambassador Fatma Ceren Yazgan



UNITED KINGDOM
Mr Nigel Holmes



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Mr Gregory D. LoGerfo

Advisory Board (as of July 2024)

The IJJ Advisory Board was established in 2019 with a mandate to provide non-binding strategic advice to the IJJ on a range of key areas, including programming, curriculum development, and thematic and geographic areas of focus and partnerships. From partnering with the IJJ on specific projects, to supporting the development of capacity-building curricula, to identifying opportunities to leverage research and other networks for enhancing regional and international engagement, the IJJ's impressive Advisory Board plays an invaluable role in supporting the IJJ's mission.

Mr. Christian Leke Achaleke

Executive Director, Local Youth Corner

Dr. Mark Ellis

Executive Director, International Bar Association

Mr. Tobias Freeman

International Lawyer

Prof. Rohan Gunaratna

Professor of Security Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technology University

Dr. Isaac Kfir

Director, National Security Programme, Head, Counter-Terrorism Policy Centre, Australian Strategic Policy Institute

Mr. Adam Ravnkilde

Senior Strategic Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Mr. Marie Epiphane Sohounou

Director, Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature

Ms. Edith Van Den Broek

Senior Prosecutor and Legal Advisor, International Association of Prosecutors

Dr. Peter Vedel Kessing

Senior Researcher, Department for International Law and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

Judge Nicolas Guillou

Judge at the International Criminal Court

Mr. Andrew Begg

United Nations' Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate

Ms. Namira Negm

Director of the African Migration Observatory, African Union

Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh

Ms. Juliet Ibekaku-Nwagwu

Former Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on Justice Sector Reform and International Relations

Ms. Erin F. Delaney

Professor of Law with a courtesy appointment in the Department of Political Science

Ms. Tricia Clare Oco

Executive Director of the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council (JJWC)

Mr. Jamil Jaffer

Founder & Executive Director, National Security Institute

Grants and Secondments since 2014



AUSTRALIA



CANADA



DENMARK



EUROPEAN UNION



FRANCE



GERMANY



ITALY



JAPAN



KUWAIT



MALTA



NETHERLANDS



SPAIN



SWITZERLAND



TÜRKIYE



UNITED KINGDOM



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Partners

- Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF)
- Hedayah
- European Judicial Training Network
- Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Valletta Partners

- African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism
- CEELI Institute
- Global Centre on Cooperative Security
- Institute for Security Studies (ISS)
- International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT)
- Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights

UN Partners

- United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
- United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)





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