The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law

JUDICIAL CAPACITY-BUILDING INITIATIVE

The Judicial Capacity-Building Initiative is one of eight core initiatives that the IIJ is implementing:

- Addressing Homegrown Terrorism
- Global Central Authorities
- Returning FTFs
- Judicial Capacity-Building
- Juvenile Justice
- Parliamentarians
- Prison Management
- Investigations

The IIJ is a non-profit intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting terrorism through capacity-building training in justice and the rule of law. More than 4000 criminal justice practitioners have participated in IIJ workshops in Malta and abroad.

The growth and expansion of terrorism-related offenses over the past several years has required countries to strengthen the capacities of their civilian criminal justice systems. The judiciary plays a central role in the conduct of fair trials, including by encouraging robust prosecution, ensuring that defendants rights are protected and delivering effective verdicts. In terrorism cases, the judiciary is required to strike a delicate balance between protecting national security and ensuring that those accused of terrorism offenses receive a fair trial.

One of the IIJ’s oldest initiatives, as well as one of its most diverse, the Judicial Capacity-Building Initiative, encompasses a variety of programs and comprehensive workshops, through which the IIJ aims to build the capacities of civilian criminal justice systems in the IIJ target regions. Through these workshops, the IIJ promotes good practices, raises awareness, and encourages judges and other legal practitioners to engage in cross-border dialogue in an effort to respond effectively to terrorism within a rule of law framework.

**Key Foci:**

- **Strengthening** national criminal justice systems
- **Emphasizing** the rule of law in adjudicating and prosecuting cases of terrorism
- **Supporting** judges as independent adjudicators
- **Encouraging** judges to actively protect the fundamental rights of an accused

**Next Steps**

- **October 2018, Valletta, Malta:** Workshop on Handling Complex Terrorism, Transnational and Organized Crime Cases.
- **November 2018, Istanbul, Turkey:** Workshop on Good Practices for Pursuing and Adjudicating Terrorism Offenses in the Horn of Africa region.
- **January 2019:** Expert Meeting – Review and Finalization of EU-funded IIJ Prosecution Outline for Investigating and Prosecuting Terrorism Cases.
In December 2017, with support from the EU, the IIJ convened a capacity-building program for 26 prosecutors and investigating magistrates from 17 countries in the MENA, Sahel, and Horn of Africa regions as well as Europe and the United States. The workshop focused on the development of strategies to build and strengthen effective relationships between investigators and the prosecutors handling terrorism cases.

In January 2018, the IIJ, with the support of Canada, held a regional workshop in Cotonou, Benin for judges who handle terrorism cases in West Africa and the Sahel. The event brought together 28 judges from Benin, Chad, Niger and Nigeria as well as France, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and the United States. The training workshop was tailored to improve judicial capacity to effectively and equitably handle terrorism-related cases by reinforcing judges’ knowledge of international good practices.

In March 2018, the IIJ co-hosted with Canada a Judicial Study Tour of six Moroccan criminal justice institutions for judges from 15 countries. The program brought together more than 50 judges and criminal justice practitioners from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Nigeria, as well as from Belgium, France, Spain and the United States.

The IIJ’s program provided a platform for judges from the West Africa and Sahel regions to learn from Morocco’s experience addressing terrorist threats, to share national experiences, and to reinforce the judges’ knowledge of international good practices.

In July 2018, the IIJ held a Canadian-funded workshop for countries from West and North Africa and the Sahel region, with the participation of the Netherlands and the United States. During this final judicial workshop, the IIJ compiled input from judges to produce an IIJ Recommendations Manual to operationalize the good practices in the GCTF’s The Hague Memorandum. The IIJ Recommendations Manual provides practical guidelines to assist judges in dealing with some of the key issues faced during the adjudication of terrorism and related crimes.

For more information on the Judicial Capacity-Building Initiative or to support the IIJ financially, please contact: Soufiane El Hamdi, IIJ Program Manager, elhamdis@theiij.org

The International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law
University of Malta – Valletta Campus,
Old University Building, St. Paul Street,
Valletta VLT 1216 Malta