



RoLS Informs

Newsletter of the Rule of Law and Security Programme

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EDITORIAL

Dear reader,

In this edition of RoLS Newsletter we are pleased to bring news that represent a big step in the effort the Government has been doing in the Security Sector Reform (SSR). In the past month of June, the Steering Committee of the Peace building Fund in Guinea-Bissau approved the priority plan for the country. Among other important initiatives, this plan includes the proposal from RoLS / UNDP for the rehabilitation of two courts and construction of the National Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ - in its Portuguese acronym) as you can read in the first article of this newsletter. These priorities are stated in the National Sector Justice National Policy and represent an important advance for judicial decentralization and strengthening of all elements of criminal justice.

Also new is the activity that RoLS is now launching in support of the National Popular Assembly (NPA), a strategic partner in the process of SSR. This initiative already agreed and at the planning stage with the NPA, will contribute for the objective number 2 of the NPA Strategic Development Plan 2010-2015 which concerns the strengthening of its legislative capacity. More details can be found in this edition.

We must also congratulate the Ministry of Justice and CENFOJ for completing the training course for Technicians Legal Assistants, known as 'TAJ' in its Portuguese acronym, who will work the Access to Justice Centers (CAJ), providing legal information, awareness and free legal advice to the population. On page 2 and 3, you can better understand who they are and where they will work. Additionally, RoLS will support a Human Rights and Access to Justice proposal submitted by the Guinean Human Rights League to protect the most vulnerable groups in the three pilot regions supported by RoLS - Cacheu, Oio and Autonomous Sector of Bissau. The day-to-day work of the technical legal assistants and of the activists of the Human Rights League will be facilitated by the production of sensitization material such as comics, games and posters that will be used to inform people of their rights and how to use litigation to achieve them, as described on page 3.

The right to communication, in the others words, the right of each person to inform and be informed is a fundamental human right. As such, RoLS / UNDP continues to support the SSR National Campaign Commission. On page 4, the article presents information about a radio soap opera produced by the Group Theatre Blife, which will be transmitted from August onwards in the main radio stations in Guinea Bissau.

Happy Reading!
Ana Graça, RoLS Programme Manager

Support:

MDG ACHIEVEMENT FUND

PBF approves the proposal for rehabilitation of courts in the regions of Oio and Cacheu

The Steering Committee of the Peace Building Fund in Guinea-Bissau (PBF) approved on June 15, the 2011-2013 Priority Plan for Guinea-Bissau, which provides a total of 16.8 million dollars for supporting strategic areas for the consolidation of peace in the country.

This plan includes a proposal submitted by RoLS/ UNDP for the Justice Sector, which foresees the investment of one million dollars for the rehabilitation of two Regional Courts in Cacheu and Oio, as well as \$ 600,000 for



the construction of the permanent building of the Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ) in Bissau. According to the plan, the establishment of regional courts in Cacheu and Oio is aligned with the action plan established in the National Justice Sector Policy and will facilitate the synergies with the Model Police Stations, that will be built in these regions, with the support of UNIOGBIS as

well as with the prison recently opened in Mansoa, Oio. The priority plan also emphasizes the importance of coordinating efforts to improve the functioning of the criminal justice chain. For Ana Graça, manager of RoLS, the PBF support will

The facade of the Court in Mansoa

strengthen the overall strategy of RoLS programme, a programme implemented in close partnership with the Ministry of Justice. "Interventions under the PBF will greatly contribute to the overall strategy of the judicial decentralization and improving access to justice in the pilot regions of Cacheu and Oio", she stated.

RoLS supports training in legislative processes

ROLS / UNDP will support the National Assembly (ANP) with a training of trainers in legislative process. Ten legislative experts, between NPA in house candidates (4) and external candidates (6), will receive training of trainers and the best external candidates will then be recruited by the assembly to provide on job training and continuous technical assistance. The goal is to train participants so they may work as legislative experts at the service of

the Specialized Commissions. This training is a demand that arose during a diagnosis conducted by UNDP in 2010 on the legislative capacity of the NPA which concluded, among others things, that technical staff and Members of Parliament do not have the necessary skills to participate effectively in the legislative process, and the number of technical legal assistants at the service of the parliament is insufficient to meet its legislative requirements.

Legal Aid Technicians are ready to work



On May 16, the Minister of Justice, Mamadu Jalo Pires, launched the new premises of CENFOJ. The rehabilitation works were funded by ROLS/UNDP.

In July, the training course for the Technical Legal Assistance (TLA), given by the **Judicial Training Centre (CENFOJ)** in Bissau was completed. Eight of the trainees will work as TLAs in the four Access to Justice Centers that will be inaugurated by the Ministry of Justice in the first week of September, in Bissau (Bissau Velho and Bairro Militar), Canchungo and Mansoa. The other two participants are members from the Guinean Human Rights League and will also be part of the 30 activists that will provide legal aid and information within the project that will be implemented by this NGO in each of the four

Access to Justice Centers. Both TLAs and the rights activists of the League shall be responsible for providing information, assistance and free legal advice to the most vulnerable groups such as women and children.

The TLA training lasted for 35 days with over 157 hours of classes, in which participants were able to deepen their knowledge in different subjects, such as deprivation of liberty, human rights, women and children's rights, alternative dispute resolution, mediation and conciliation, among others.

The eight jurists now recruited as TLA were selected to attend the training course through a competitive launched by the Ministry of Justice in March this year. They were recruited by the Ministry in July 2011 to provide legal aid in the Access to Justice Centers, as determined by the National Policy for the Justice Sector, approved by the Council of Ministers in January this year.

Both the course for the TLA, the functioning of the CENFOJ and the Access to Justice Centers are supported by ROLS/UNDP and the MDG Spanish Fund.

Get to know the TLAs



Ansumane Sanha, 28, is a native of Farim, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He is a member of the Guinean Association for Combating Racism and Tribalism. He will be the coordinator of CAJ in Canchungo.



Bissau Velho (Bissau).

Luis Peti, 36, is a native of Bissau, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He has worked in the Directorate General of Administration of Justice of the Ministry of Justice, and also as a facilitator of many trainings. He will be the coordinator of CAJ in



tor of CAJ in Bairro Militar (Bissau).

Seco Biague N'bar, 27, is a native of Cubucare, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He is a teacher and member of the *Organização Internacional de Bons Templários*, which he represents in the National Civil Society Movement. He will be the coordina-



work at CAJ in Canchungo.

Bernardo Mário Catchura, 30, is a native of São Domingos, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He is founder-member of the National Human Rights Observatory and work as a teaches at Universidade Colinas de Boé. He will



Ricardino Nancassa, 45, is a native of Bissau, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He has worked as legal adviser in researchers, specially in a study in the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) field and other in Early Marriage. He will work at CAJ in Bissau Velho (Bissau).



(Bissau).

Cabi Sanhá, 27, is a native of Canchungo, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He has worked as a national technician for the elaboration of the National Policy on Equality and Gender Equity and also as a facilitator in sexual reproductive health. He will work at CAJ in Bairro Militar

Comics and Games will be used in the Access to Justice Centres

The Technical Legal Assistants and NGO activists who work at the Access to Justice Centers will receive a series of comic books, posters and games to support the actions to raise awareness among communities about laws, rights and how to access Justice. The material, produced with RoLS/UNDP support and funded by the Spanish

Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund (MDG-F), aims to transmit in an easy and affordable way important information in order to guarantee that, especially the most vulnerable, are aware of their rights and how to access them.



Comics Tudo Djinte tene diritu a justisa (Everyone has the right to Justice) will be disseminated through CAJ and within sensitization activities by the TLAs.

Human Rights League reinforces TLAs work



Valentim N'Ganhá, 35, native of Prábis, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He has worked in the Education field and since January he has been working as a trainee in a Law Office. He will be the coordinator of CAJ in Mansoa.



Mamadú Selo Jaló, 29, is native of Quebo, graduated in Law from the Law School of Bissau. He will work at CAJ in Mansoa.

The Guinean League for Human Rights (LGDH) was the NGO selected by RoLS/ UNDP to support the legal advice and assistance actions of the Access to Justice Centers (CAJ).

With the opening of CAJs, the League will implement a project of access to justice and protection of Human Rights of the most vulnerable groups in the three pilot regions of RoLS/ UNDP - Cacheu, Oio and the Sector of Bissau.

Thirty activists will be trained in legal assistance by the Legal Aid Technicians who attended the training in CENFOJ, according to the article published on page 2. They will be based in the CAJs of Bissau Velho, Bairro Militar (Bissau), Canchungo and Mansoa. They will be responsible for the periodic visits to the *tabancas* (villages) in those regions, as well as to the police

stations and detention centres, in order to survey and monitor the major crimes, especially against women, children and detained illegally, which are the most vulnerable groups in access to justice in Guinea-Bissau, as indicated by the study elaborated by RoLS/UNDP. They will also



be responsible for raising public awareness about their rights and for the sensitization of the population on how to go to court in case of violation of their rights.

The activists of the League will work as facilitators between the public and the TLAs. In other words, in case of any violation identified by an activist, he will make the

registration and orientation of the victim, and when necessary refer him or her to the CAJ. In the centers, victims will be met by the Legal Assistants. HRL interventions will also focus on prevention and training of the traditional authorities.

Radio drama on SSR will be nationally transmitted

A series of 10 episodes of Radio drama on the Security Sector Reform (SSR) will be transmitted in August by the main national radios. The series was prepared by the Theatre Group Blife, with technical and financial support of RoLS/ UNDP, in the framework of the Awareness and Information Campaign about SSR.

The first three episodes tell a story of soldiers who are worried about their retirement. However, after being informed about it, they realize that the SSR proposal for retirement is different from what happened in the past. This time, they are confident that the SSR will bring results and that the members of the defense forces and security, with more than 30 years of service, may benefit from the Pension Fund and, thereby, enjoy a dignified retirement. The episodes also shows the dialogues between those militaries and their families and their concern with the future of the country, which is not only within the reform of the Defense Sector, but also within Security and Justice Reform.

Episodes 4, 5 and 6 focus on the Reform of the Defense Sector. The characters, young militaries and others in the retirement, talk about reform and their main concerns. In these episodes, the listeners are informed about the Reform, focused on the support



Armed Forces are one of the targets of the Campaign on SSR

that will be given by the Government for those who leave the Army forces because of age, level of education or qualification. For those who are old enough to retire, the Government created the Pension Fund. For the younger ones, there will be reintegration programs, in which the demobilized younger may have access to training in other areas such as carpentry and tailoring, for example, to join another profession. The episodes also talk about the new requirements for enlisting of young men and women in the Army.

In episodes 7 and 8, the listeners will have the opportunity to learn about the internal security component of SSR Reform with emphasis on the reorganization of the sector and its division into four departments: Public Order Police, Judicial Police, Guinean National Guard and State Information Service.

The last two episodes focus on the Reform of the Justice Sector, with the story of a man who seeks to know how the Sector works and ends up realizing that some progress has been achieved, such as elaboration of the National Policy for the Justice Sector, the rehabilitation of courts and prisons and the installation of Access to Justice Centers.

Quick notes

- A workshop in Bissau by the National Movement of Civil Society on 25 and 26 May marked the end of the first phase of the Public Information Campaign on SSR. More than 60 members of Army and Security forces, the Justice Sector and Civil Society attended the workshop, which was funded by RoLS/UNDP;
- In June, representatives of RoLS/UNDP and national partners attended two workshops sponsored by the MDG-F in Panama City, in Panama, and Casablanca, in Morocco. The main objective was to promote the exchange of information and the lessons learned among the various Joint Programmes supported by the MDG-F in the world.

RoLS Inform

RoLS Informs is a bimonthly publication of the Rule of Law and Security Programme implemented by UNDP in Guinea-Bissau, with the support of the Bureau of Conflict Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) and the Millennium Development Goals Fund (MDG-F). For further information on the programme, please contact Mirella Domenich, Communication and Monitoring Officer: tel. + 245 605 60 59; e-mail: mirella.domenich@undpaffiliates.org.



CARBON FREE

Emissions of 1,22 tons of CO₂ equivalent utilized for the production of this newsletter will be compensated by the planting of eight trees in the cost zone of Varela, making this the first edition of an environmentally sustainable RoLS Reports.

RoLS is managed by a multidisciplinary team, based at the UN in Guinea-Bissau building: Gerard Chagniot, MDG-F Coordinator and Conflict Prevention and Recovery Advisor; Ana Graça, Programme Specialist; Julde Balde, National Legal Expert; Taino João Monteiro, Administrative and Financial Assistant; Mirella Domenich, Communication and Monitoring Officer; Mussa Mendes, Driver, and Justino Cabi, Driver.

