UNAMA Press Release | UNITED NATIONS ASSISTANCE MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN

UNAMA ASSESSMENT OF JUVENILE REHABILITATION CENTRES FINDS IMPROVING CONDITIONS BUT PRESSING NEEDS

KABUL, 4 December 2016 – A new United Nations report released today indicates positive trends in Afghanistan's juvenile detention and rehabilitation facilities while also outlining a critical need to improve in-detention education and post-rehabilitation care for young Afghans.

Extensive research carried out by the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) into juvenile rehabilitation centres (JRCs) indicates the need for the Afghan government to focus, in particular, on helping young Afghans re-enter society.

"Our research shows an improved intra-governmental effort to address the needs of juvenile detainees," said Michael E. Hartmann, Director of UNAMA Rule of Law. "Still, the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Education require continued international support for accommodation improvements as well as existing rehabilitation and new re-entry programs for juveniles."

Overall, UNAMA's research demonstrated Afghanistan's progress in meeting the minimum and acceptable international standards. However, the field research found that improvement was not uniform or consistent across all centres. Shortcomings were particularly evident in those JRCs that were not the Ministry of Justice's custom-built facilities.

At the request of Afghanistan's Minister of Justice, UNAMA undertook the assessment of the JRCs to look into minimum protections for juveniles in detention, as afforded by national laws and recommended by the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (the so-called Havana Rules).

Key recommendations for improving JRCs and helping juveniles detained therein are contained in the full UNAMA report, available on UNAMA's website:
https://unama.unmissions.org/juvenile-rehabilitation

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