



IOM supports the Iraqi police in strengthening its community policing programme through an exchange visit to Pristina, Kosovo.

11-17 May 2014- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) supported nine senior Iraqi police officers in visiting Pristina, Kosovo, to observe lessons learned and good practices identified under the Kosovo Police's (KP's) Community Policing (CP) programme. The visit aimed to provide participants with information on Kosovo's CP policies, to introduce the KP's training modules and structure and to enable exposure to CP initiatives on the ground.

Upon arrival, the KP welcomed the Iraqi delegation and the directors of the Community Policing and Community Safety departments described the CP programme's evolution and impact since the KP's establishment in 1999. KP representatives introduced Kosovo's Community Safety Architecture (central, municipal and local level coordination bodies) and outlined their Community Policing Strategy and Action Plan, describing its legislative basis, overall vision and strategic goals, guiding principles and implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The Iraqi delegation was then invited to the Kosovo Academy for Public Safety (KAPS) in Vushtrii, where the director, Mr. Ismail Smakiqi, shared the KP's academy and in-service training modules and structure. Mr. Smakiqi described the Academy's development into an institution which, through its work with various public safety institutions, contributes to promoting inter-ethnic tolerance and human rights throughout Kosovo. Field visits were also arranged to the Central Police



The Iraqi delegation meets officers at Pristina Central Police Station for discussion on the benefits and challenges of integrating Community Policing into their daily duties © IOM 2014

Station in Pristina and to Istok, an administrative capital in an ethnically diverse, migration-affected municipality in northwestern Kosovo. In Istok, the Iraqi delegation had the opportunity to observe a meeting of the municipal level Community Safety Council (CSC), which, under the co-chairmanship of the deputy mayor and a senior police commander, brought together 25 representatives of the municipality to voice their safety- and security-related concerns.

Upon the visit's conclusion, the General Supervisor of Community Policing, Brig. Gen. Khalid Mehanna, who headed the Iraqi delegation, noted, "This exchange visit was highly valuable as it has allowed us to observe a great CP model and witness how this supports the police in assisting Kosovo's various sects and minorities.

This is exactly what we [the Iraqi Police] are seeking to achieve in our country". The Iraqi delegation and IOM Iraq officials expressed their appreciation for the support of IOM Kosovo, the KP, and their governmental and NGO partners, whose cooperation and assistance were crucial to the visit's success.

Collaboration between IOM and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) in the field of CP takes place in accordance with a high level Memorandum of Understanding signed on 01 April 2014. The exchange visit was organised under the ongoing project, Strengthening human rights and the rule of law in Iraq through enhanced cooperation between police and communities, funded by the US Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor.

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