

The Legal, Judicial and Prison Affairs Section, in association with the other UNOCI units ensures that the legislative reforms adopted by the National Assembly and/or the President of the Republic and implemented by the Government of National Reconciliation are adhered to. Members of the unit carry out legal research, take part in the training of Ivorian policemen.

The Section is also in charge of identifying and of analyzing the problems in the legislature, human resources, lack of material which staff in the Cote d'Ivoire judicial and prison system face; as well as advise the Government of National Reconciliation on how these can be remedied.



Louise Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights during a visit to Fengolo. © ONUCI / Ky Chung

The Section pays special attention to the independence of the judiciary and to that of its members in the performance of their duties, to their impartiality and to the fight against impunity.

It has a Prison Advisory Unit whose role is to give technical support for the training of prison administration staff in management skills overseen by the Ministry of Justice.

This unit also has the added responsibility of encouraging and providing support to the Government in the redeployment of the judicial workforce and the prison staff as well as for the restoring of an operational, effective, impartial and independent judicial

system all over Cote d'Ivoire especially in the zones under control of the Forces Nouvelles.

It also provides practical solutions, (particularly in the Zone of Confidence, by setting up mobile groups which will hold small gatherings leading to the release of administrative documents) and is looking forward to the redeployment.

The unity also ensures the follow-up of certain sensitive criminal procedures and assist in all types of legal cases, with special attention to cases involving impunity or possible violations of human rights. It has developed a modus operandi for the observation and the analysis of the legal cases.

The Section works close collaboration with the judicial and prison authorities and with the various administrative entities of the Ministry of Justice.

It has strong links with national non-governmental agencies (NGO) as well as international institutions based in Cote d'Ivoire. The Section also collaborates daily with the other components of UNOCI on a number of overlapping issues.