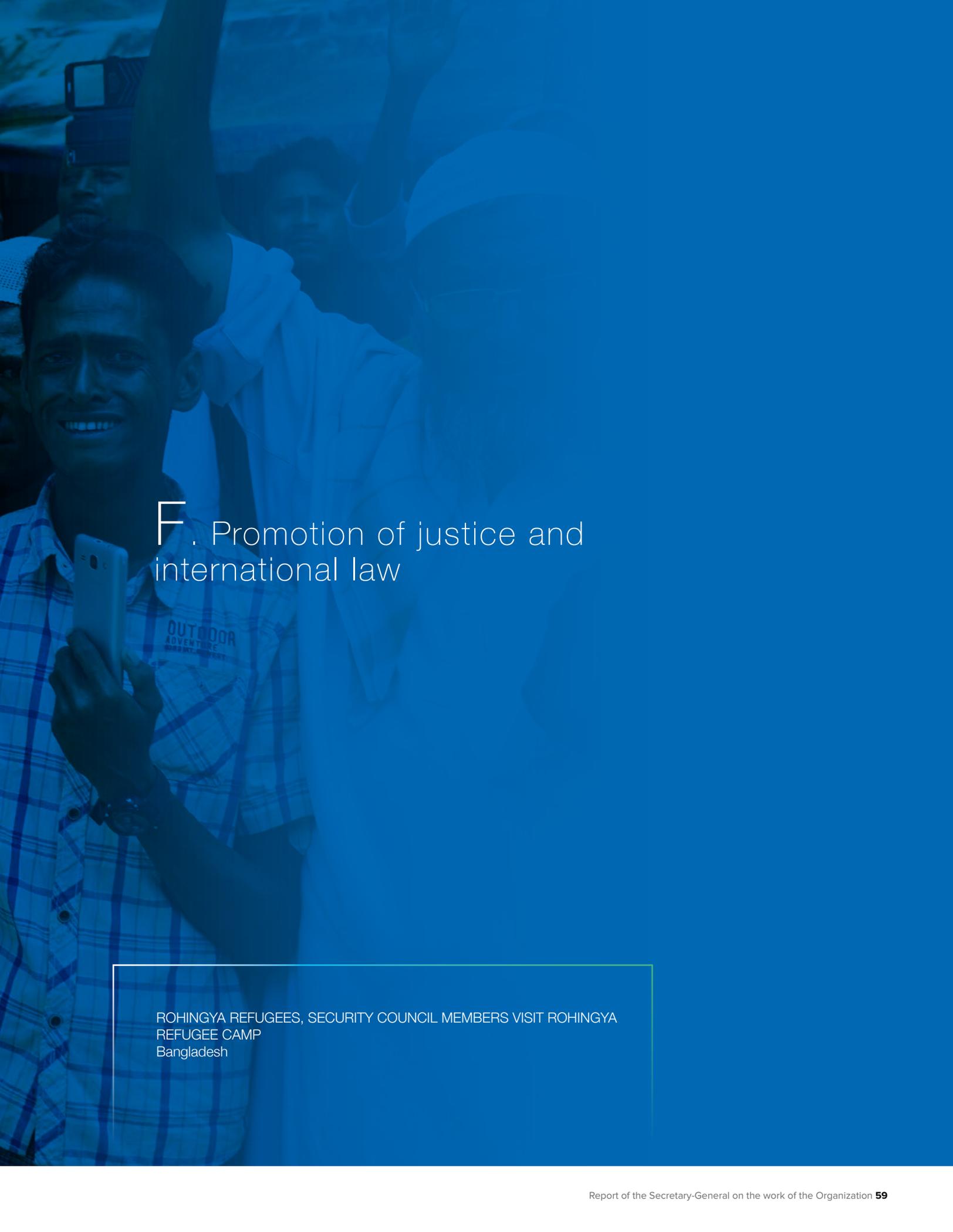




UN Photo/Caroline Guice, #759756, 29/04/2018



F. Promotion of justice and international law

ROHINGYA REFUGEES, SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS VISIT ROHINGYA
REFUGEE CAMP
Bangladesh

United Nations rule of law assistance in countries emerging from conflict has contributed to the protection of civilians, the extension of State authority, the fight against impunity and sustainable peace. These efforts include ensuring accountability for serious crimes that fuel and perpetuate conflict.

The global focal point for police, justice and corrections arrangement has further promoted a coordinated, coherent and joint delivery of United Nations rule of law assistance in conflict and post-conflict settings, drawing on the unique and distinct strength of its members, combining operational interventions, political analysis and cross-pillar integration.

To achieve the best results, constructive engagement of Member States with the Secretariat is essential before intergovernmental organs take decisions on establishing or supporting new accountability mechanisms in order to ensure due consideration of United Nations policies and best practices.

SUPPORT TO DOMESTIC JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES

The global focal point has provided timely and comprehensive support to 18 countries in 2017/18, including in transitioning contexts to ensure that inclusive and accountable security and justice institutions are sustained after the withdrawal of peace operations.

In the Central African Republic, the United Nations supported the effective operationalization of the Special Criminal Court, including the arrest, handover and secure detention of alleged criminals and high-profile members of armed groups. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, support to the domestic military justice system led to landmark convictions in 2017 for rape, sexual slavery and attacks against civilians. In Mali, assistance to a specialized investigation unit on terrorism and transnational organized crime has increased the number of arrests and trials. In Afghanistan, the United Nations-backed specialized court and prosecutors' office have renewed their commitment to fight corruption; and, in Darfur, support has been provided to rural courts to resolve intercommunal land disputes that fuel conflict.

INTERNATIONAL COURTS AND TRIBUNALS

The Secretariat provided a dossier of documents to the International Court of Justice in connection with the request for an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965. In January 2018, I chose the Court as the means to be used for the resolution of the border controversy between Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. My good offices remain available to the two States to complement the judicial process.

The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia closed in December 2017, having accounted for all 161 persons who were indicted for genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity. The International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals delivered its first ever appeal judgment at its branch in The Hague in the Šešelj case in April 2018. In June 2018, the Mechanism referred a contempt of court case to Serbia for trial, the first such referral by the Mechanism.

In 2017, we made substantial progress in providing technical assistance to the African Union Commission and the Transitional Government of National Unity of South Sudan for the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan.

The global focal point has provided timely and comprehensive support to 18 countries.

The International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 presented its first report to the General Assembly, reflecting on steps taken towards its full operationalization.

At the request of the Security Council, I took steps to establish an investigative team to support domestic efforts to hold ISIL accountable, by collecting, preserving and storing evidence of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by ISIL in Iraq.

We continue to cooperate with the International Criminal Court by providing support pursuant to the Relationship Agreement, including through the sharing of information and evidence, and the provision of services, facilities and various forms of practical support.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Three regional courses in international law in three continents were offered and 52 lectures were recorded for the United Nations Audiovisual Library of International Law. In 2018, the International Law Commission commemorated its seventieth anniversary, and adopted two major international law instruments.

Equally important is the ongoing process for an international legally binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. The General Assembly will convene an intergovernmental conference to consider the text of the instrument. Another topic of increasing interest concerns anthropogenic underwater noise, which was the focus of the meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea held in June 2018.

PROMOTION OF JUSTICE AND INTERNATIONAL LAW



The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia closed after accounting for all

161

persons who were indicted for genocide, war crimes or crimes against humanity



184

victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Mali and Mexico received legal assistance to obtain compensation and redress



More than

320

officials from 135 States have benefited from the treaty body capacity-building programme, which also increases the level of implementation of treaty body recommendations at the national level