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UN SUPPORTS PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S EFFORTS IN TACKLING LAW AND ORDER

VIDEO

SECURITY (11")

Safety is a major industry in the urban centres of Papua New Guinea, a country in the Pacific's Melanesian region where crime is widespread.

HARUMI AT WORK (8")

It's having a profound effect on everyone in the society, says Harumi Sakaguchi, the UN's Coordinator in the country.

HARUMI SAKAGUCHI ON-CAMERA (14")

SAKAGUCHI:

"The entire sort of atmosphere of fear tends to depress and otherwise prevent the expression of people's talents, skills, and determination from really coming to the fore."

STREET KIDS (16")

NARRATION

The factors fuelling the crime wave are well known: unfettered urban growth, the proliferation of small weapons, and an overburdened, under-financed, and ineffectual criminal justice system. Adding to the breakdown in law and order is rampant corruption.

NARRATION

STREET KIDS (13")

Although rich in natural resources, Papua New Guinea's five million inhabitants suffer from a stagnant economy and extremely high levels of unemployment, particularly among its youth.

JUVENILE COURTS (34")

To tackle crimes committed by young people, UNICEF, the UN agency for children is helping to establish juvenile courts in the country's seven major urban centres. This one in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea's capital, opened in 2003. The goal is to involve the community in the judicial process and keep the young offenders from mixing with hardened adult criminals. Seven to eighteen year olds should only be tried at these juvenile courts, which offer options other than jail time, says Magistrate Iova Geita.

GEITA:

IOVA GEITA ON-CAMERA (12")

"I am saying that diversion options could be used there and then and have that juvenile off the hook rather than getting him into the criminal justice system."

NARRATION

COMMUNITY (30")

To keep young offenders out of the system this community, supported by a church group, is

teaching 80 youngsters a trade. Most had been picked up for robberies and drug offences. They choose to come here instead of going to jail. This initiative, supported by UNICEF, includes teaching the youngsters farming techniques, care for livestock, carpentry and car mechanics. For 19-year-old Simon Naime it offers hope of a major life change.

SIMON NAIME ON-CAMERA
(8")

NAIME:

"I want to be a good citizen and a better boy in the community, on the street and country."

COMMUNITY COURT (36")

NARRATION

Another experiment in homegrown justice is being tested here in the Six-Mile settlement, one of the most violent neighbourhoods of the capital. Disputes are resolved in a traditional Melanesian way, following a well-established formula: conflict, mediation, apology, punishment, forgiveness, and finally, reconciliation. The goal is to keep problems within the community, without involving the police or the criminal justice system. This has advantages for both accuser and accused, says Alan Vino, Secretary of Peace and Community Development at the Six-Mile settlement.

ALAN VINO ON-CAMERA (8")

VINO:

"They come to some sort of compromise themselves. They come to a consensus. We don't make the decisions like the courts do. Both

parties come to an agreement.”

NARRATION

AGREEMENT (18”)

Over 300 cases on issues ranging from land disputes to ethnic conflict have been mediated using these traditional community based courts. Experts say getting people involved is key if crime and violence is to be controlled in Papua New Guinea.

UN LOGO (9”)

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.