



European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan

ماموریت پولیس اتحادیه اروپا در افغانستان

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Press Release

EUPOL ACTIVELY SUPPORTING THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN AFGHAN POLICE

EUPOL Afghanistan marks the International Women's Day with the launch of a project addressing threats female police officers are facing. The project, which takes the form of a telephone helpline, will be fully deployed by 1 May 2010 and accessible to female police officers throughout Afghanistan.

While Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior is undertaking efforts to increase the currently low number of female police officers in the country by a further 5,000 in 2014, serious cultural and security obstacles to retaining women exist within the service. EUPOL aims to reduce these security obstacles through the establishment of the helpline which will assist female police officers facing with threats in the conduct of their work. Harassment, even death threats are commonly face Afghanistan's 700 female police officers of a total compliment of 93,000 officers. "Creating a culture of respect for gender equality and other basic human rights standards is vital to success of the Mission", says Nigel Thomas, Deputy Head of the EUPOL Mission to Afghanistan, "for this reason the Mission has placed such standards at the core of its training and mentoring activities supporting the establishment of a sustainable and effective policing arrangements in Afghanistan – one where in women can increasingly play a more prominent role."

Amongst its core activities, EUPOL actively works with the Afghan Ministry of Interior to improve gender equality compliance though mentoring and training support within the Ministry and directly with the Afghan National Police services. Priorities include technical support to the newly formed Department of Gender and Human Rights in the Ministry of Interior, headed by Col. Shafiq Quraishi.

Apart from this all EUPOL basic training programmes for Afghan police now contain modules on how to deal with domestic and sexual violence. EUPOL also actively aims to support female victims of crime, is has recently launched the installation of victim-friendly investigation rooms in police offices throughout Afghanistan with the goal of enhance the ability of women to report crimes and facilitating more effective investigations of domestic and sexual violence crimes against women.

Background

The European Union launched the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan (EUPOL Afghanistan) in June 2007. Through in policing and the wider field of RoL, the EUPOL mandate is to contribute to the establishment of sustainable and effective policing arrangements in all parts of Afghanistan. In so doing, the EUPOL mission to Afghanistan works towards police reform and an Afghan police service, in local ownership, that respects human rights and operates within the framework of the rule of law.

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