

Press Release
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IDLO TRAINS COUNTER NARCOTICS POLICE IN AFGHANISTAN

This week, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) has begun training the new Mobile Detection Teams (MDTs) of the Counter Narcotics Police in Afghanistan (CNPA). The legal education provided by IDLO is funded by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), and forms a vital part of a four-month basic training program for the teams.

The UK-supported CNPA Mobile Detection Teams work towards countering drug trafficking in Afghanistan - a fundamental task in ensuring the country's long term security, development and effective governance.

IDLO will be running four courses during 2008, informing MDT Officers about their legal rights and responsibilities, the Afghan Constitution, drug law and criminal procedure. This training is designed to enable MDT Officers to observe the correct procedures when investigating drug cases.

The first of these courses began this week (Saturday, March 29, 2008) and will run until April 16. During the introduction to the current course, IDLO Chief of Party, Geralyn Busnardo, said:

"The large-scale production of raw materials for narcotics in Afghanistan threatens the nation as a whole. It hinders the growth of the legal economy; funds corruption and terrorism; and fuels wide-spread drug addiction.

"While Afghan law heavily legislates against this burgeoning industry, enforcing the law - especially in the rural provinces - represents a significant challenge for the police. Understanding the legal basis of their work is fundamental if the police's new Mobile Detection Teams are to be effective in this essential role."

For more information on IDLO's work in Afghanistan, please contact:

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