





# ICGLR Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region

### **Summary Report of the Workshop on**

Training Police Officers, from ICGLR Member State in Forensic Evidence Management for Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region

> Imperial Golf View Hotel Entebbe, Uganda 9-13 December 2014

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#### INTRODUCTION

The Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region with the support of the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) and African Union Commission (AUC-P&S) department) organized a successful Training for Police Officers from ICGLR Member States in Forensic Evidence Management for Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region at Imperial Golf View Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda, 9-13 December 2014.

The training was attended by representatives of police from all the 12 member states of ICGLR (except Angola who missed a flight) namely: Burundi, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville), South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Each country was represented by two (2) participants with an exception of Uganda that had four (4) participants.

The Guest of Honor at the opening of the training was Gen. Kale Kayihura, the inspector General of Police in Uganda and closed by Hon: Mary Karooro Okurut the Minister of Gender of the Republic of Uganda. The training was conducted by Glenn Vendegrift, Ed Huffine and Augustine Mukama of Bode technologies ltd. Prof Ntumba Luaba the Executive Secretary of the ICGLR and Mr. Innocent Balemba Zahinda, Team leader of the UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law on Sexual violence in Conflict, Mrs. Miranda Tabifor (Senior Gender Advisor Office of the UN SESG-GLR, Mr Nathan M Byamukama the Ag. Director of the RTF also graced the opening and closing of the Training workshop.



Participants of the training in Forensic Evidence Management

The representative of the UN-SESG-GLR, UNWomen, UNFPA, ICGLR secretariat among others also witnessed the opening ceremony of the training.

### Areas covered during the training

The trainers covered issues related to; How to use DNA in forensic management, DNA sampling techniques in sexual violence cases (with practical demonstrations), over view of types of forensic evidence potentially available in cases of sexual violence and where such evidence can be found and collected, how to ensure the chain of custody for judicial proceedings, packaging, storage and transportation of DNA, how to swab for DNA analysis at the crime scene, types of DNA, how to maintain DNA database, forensic report wording and statistics.



Detective Glenn Vandegrift (extreme right) from Bensalem, P.A., USA, demonstrating a DNA sample collection kit.

### Context

The Kampala based Regional Training Facility (RTF) on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence in the Great Lakes Region (GLR) is an institution of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), whose mandate is to train and sensitize judicial officers, police units, social workers, medical officers and other categories of persons who handle cases of sexual violence in the Great Lakes Region. This is provided for under the GLR Protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children (art 6(9)). The ICGLR is an Intergovernmental Organization composed of 12 Member States namely: Angola, Burundi,

Central Africa Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo (Congo Brazzaville), South Sudan, Sudan, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. The RTF was officially opened on 18th Feb 2014 and became operational in April 2014. The crime of sexual violence remains a persistent problem in conflict/war zones within the GLR and in peacetime and the Region is determined to eradicate it.

In Feb 2013, the ICGLR Regional Inter Ministerial Committee (RIMC) directed "...Secretariat to identify relevant partners including those organizations specializing in DNA scientific technology in order to train all stakeholders in handling SGBV cases, in particular the police and the judiciary, on the techniques related to DNA evidence based technology for easy prosecution of the suspects. (See Decision 5. Pg 7 of the Report of RIMC). The training was in line with this decision.



Kits used in the collection of DNA

In line with UN Security Council resolutions 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013); and the Framework of Cooperation between the United Nations' Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) and the African Union Commission (31 January 2014), the ICGLR signed a Framework of Cooperation with the SRSG-SVC (23 September 2014). Through this Framework, the two entities agreed to cooperate in a

number of activities, including training on conflict-related sexual violence. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) had also been signed with the African Union Commission, to cooperate in promoting the implementation of the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development including the Protocol on Prevention of Sexual Violence.

The training was organized by the ICGLR-RTF, AU and the UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law -Sexual Violence in Conflict (O-SRSG-SVC). It took place at Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe and was attended by Police officers, Government officials, Lawyers, Media Houses and other members from Great Lakes Region except Angola whose representative missed the flight.

## Objectives of the Training.

- To help strengthen the capacity of police from ICGLR MS on the management of Forensic Evidence, to assist successful prosecutions of cases of sexual violence and other related crimes.
- ii. To sensitize police officers from ICGLR Member States about key challenges regarding conflict-related sexual violence in the region and relevant global and regional instruments related to sexual violence.
- iii. To provide a platform for ICGLR Member States to share good practices on how they handle various challenges related to the collection, administration, and presentation of forensic evidence in sexual violence cases in different jurisdictions and in various national and regional institutions
- iv. To develop strategies of regional collaboration regarding forensics issues and discuss how the lessons learned at the training can be applied in home jurisdictions concretely.



# Opening session of the training.

- The training was officially opened by the GOH Gen. Kale Kayihura, the Inspector General of Police in Uganda.
- He appreciated different actors in the fight against the vice of sexual violence in the region, the Heads of

State who took an initiative to put in place mechanisms to allow those at operational level e.g police to fight SGBV in the region to implement their decisions. He also appreciated Hon. Karooro Okurut for accepting to host the RTF, the Executive Secretary ICGLR Prof. Ntumba-Luaba for being on the frontline of fighting the vice of sexual violence in the Region.

- He announced that the Police has land that can be used for construction of Headquarters
  of the Regional Training Facility in Kampala and promised to provide 5 acres of land to
  the RTF.
- Nathan appreciated IGP for the land offer and informed everyone that the RTF was going to
  follow up on the offer by the GoU. He also invited the IGP to return for the closing session of
  the training.
- Innocent Balemba Zahinda, team leader of the UN Team of Experts on rule of law on sexual violence in conflict, noted that in September 2014, the IGCLR entered into a frame work of cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict. As part of that frame work, the team agreed to support the ICGR in delivering training to relevant actors and support the ICGLR Regional Training Facility to become a Centre of excellence.
- Nathan M Byamukama the A.g Director of RTF presented on International and Regional Instruments on Sexual Violence. These included; International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, International Criminal Law, International Refugee Law, Regional Standards, Universal Non Treaty Standards, Member states Obligations, The Role of the Police in fulfilling obligations, among others.



A Zambian Participant receiving a certificate from Hon. Karooro-Okurut (centre) with Mr Nathan Byamukama (extreme left) and Mr Innocent Balemba Zahinda (extreme right), team leader of the UN Team of Experts on rule of law on sexual violence in conflict

# Suggestions/Follow Up from participants

- ❖ For purposes of continuity, further trainings should be attended by same participants to build on what they already have.
- Member states should create databases for each of their countries which may eventually be combined to form a regional database.
- ❖ ICGLR-RTF should follow up on the land offer from the Government of Uganda through the IGP, Gen. Kale Kayihura
- ❖ The Region should have standardized policies and procedures for forensic evidence management.
- ❖ Standardization of DNA analysis across the Great Lakes Region will be a great step towards building capacity across member states.





### **Some Action Points**

- 1. The RTF should be tasked to mobilize resources to setup its head offices since the government of Uganda through the IGP, Gen. Kale Kayihura offered space (5 acres of land) to establish its offices.
- 2. A clear strategy should be put in place indicating how member states and ICGLR Secretariat should receive recommendations from this meeting and suggestions how they should be implemented.
- 3. Bode should be tasked to produce a comprehensive proposal to ICGLR /RTF for training in Groups of Countries Anglophones (East Africa) and Francophone (DRC, Congo Brazzaville, Central Africa and Angola)
- 4. Think of round table meeting of ICGLR and international partners to mobilize funds for RTF program only and Creation of Basket fund for RTF supervised by ICGLR Secretariat for DNA training and equipment for Regional centers.
- 5. Task the RTF management to come up with proposals to MS and approach donors to concretize regional objectives of ending impunity on SGBV using DNA technologies
- 6. To encourage individual Countries (IGLR MS) to develop national DNA infrastructure facilities and technical knowledge on management of evidence.
- 7. Make sure that for ICGLR MS who have more than one ( Police ) institutions dealing with DNA services ( Case of Uganda and Tanzania ), the second institution (Government Chemistry Analytical Labs ) is always invited in such training for the sake of effectiveness of the training

### **CLOSING SESSION:**

Mrs. Miranda Tabifor (Senior Gender Advisor Office of the UN SESG-GLR) said that ensuring that the facility becomes operational has been a key benchmark for the framework between OSESG-GLR (Peace and Security and Cooperation, signed in 2013). This framework offers us the opportunity to deal with the violent conflict in Eastern DRC and across the GLR.

- ✓ The member states that signed to this framework made 7 major commitments. One of which was dealing with the staggering amount of Sexual Violence in the GLR.
- ✓ Therefore, the OSESG-GLR is proud to support the ICGLR in its efforts, RTF being among them (commitment numbers 6 and 7). The RTF has a key role to play in achieving the goal.
- ✓ On behalf of the new Special Envoy, she would like to re-iterate the commitment of the UN to helping support the RTF in achieving what it was set up to achieve.

Innocent Zahinda, Team Leader TOE also noted that he was proud to have co-organized the inaugural training of the RTF, though it would not be possible without the hospitality of the GOU, including the Hon. Minister and the IGP, together with Bode Technology for the expertise as well as UNDP that has supported logistically. He also pledged that his team and OSRSG-SVC are committed to working with the RTF in the future due to the cross-border nature of some of these crimes, they were happy to hear about the Regional Forensic Referral Centre, which can be a resource for the entire region. He implored the participants not to let the training end with them, but to go out and spread the message.

Hon. Minister for Gender of the republic of Uganda, Mrs. Mary Karooro-Okurut (GoH) at the closing ceremony appreciated everyone for the work put in organizing the training most especially Nathan and his team for the good work, since RTF is housed in her ministry, it was good that she had started seeing the fruits.



Minister Hon Karooro Okurut (in the middle) with some of the participants

## Conclusion

On the basis of their evaluations all participants appreciated the training was very useful in their work in relation to the need and knowledge for DNA as tool to fight impunity of the crime of evidence. Almost all of the participants recommended however that given the importance of forensic evidence in fighting DNA, the training period should next time be longer for the participants to perfect the skills required in managing DNA and related chain of custody. They also recommended that participants should in the next training visit laboratories of the host countries, also added that other forensic management methods like finger print should be thought. They also suggested that there should be practical illustrations in laboratories with enough training kits in host country laboratory for them to have a practical experience. In addition they recommended that only qualified and skilled personnel should be given the first priority to train as they would have a multiplier effect in training others when they return in their home countries. —.

## **Appendix**

	PARTICIPANTS FOR THE FORENSIC TRAINING 9-13 <sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2014 SUPPORTED BY ICGLR /AU/ UN TEAM OF EXPERTS ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE.						
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