



# FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 326 Lewisberry, PA 17339  
[www.fleoa.org](http://www.fleoa.org)  
(717) 938-2300

## Representing Members Of:

AGENCY for INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
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EDUCATION - OIG  
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GENERAL SERVICES ADMIN.-OIG  
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Food & Drug Administration & OIG  
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SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION - OIG  
SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION - OIG  
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STATE DEPARTMENT  
Bureau of Diplomatic Security & OIG  
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M...er and Quinn

## Information Regarding International Policing and Cooperative Efforts with UNDP:

The Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association strongly endorses the recommendations set forth by Chairman Greg O'Connor. At present, we have members from at least eleven different law enforcement agencies serving in foreign venues. Some of these agencies include Diplomatic State Security (DSS), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS), among others.

Irrespective of their agency, our members have raised some concerns that mirror what was reflected in Chairman O'Connor's report: training resources, language/culture barriers, lack of an effective, unified command structure, health concerns, legal issues, etc. In the U.S., we work with agency directors to address and strengthen these issues. They value our input as a large federal law enforcement stakeholder organization.

Unions and professional associations garner the trust of their workforces because they are viewed as advocates for their concerns. Therefore, law enforcement officers are more inclined to share their views with their union or association, versus communicating within their agency. Sometimes, there is a sense among the workforce that there will be reprisals from their agency for making a recommendation. In this regard, unions and associations function as a representative body to communicate stakeholders concerns to agency management.

Regarding UNDP's role in foreign venues, our members their commitment to establishing the rule of law. As Chairman O'Connor remarked, it is essential that this is done in a transparent manner that will garner the respect and trust of the citizenry. It is important to keep sight on the need to earn this trust from both the citizenry, the police and those civil institutions that are necessary for a stable, functioning government. It is my sincere belief that ICPRA would prove to be an effective partner with UNDP

in pursuing common objectives. Both organizations recognize the need to establish order in tenuous environments, and both are committed to building long-term solutions.

In terms of building trust with law enforcement and communities, both ICPRA and UNDP would work well in support of the Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) program. This is essential to the establishment of foreign law enforcement components that are built on integrity and respect for the communities they serve. It is important that law enforcement officers exude confidence in any system that is created, and feel as though they are valued stakeholders. ICPRA would be an excellent advocate for this purpose, and would work well with UNDP in establishing law and order while rebuilding communities.

Having served as a first responder at "Ground Zero" in the U.S. during the terrorist attacks of September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, as well as serving as a first responder in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina devastated the city and adjacent areas, I personally witnessed the challenges that are faced by pulling together different law enforcement components under difficult circumstances. During both events, law enforcement unions and associations played a vital role in supporting its members and their department's objective to establish order. Unions and associations worked well assisting with communication issues, health and medical problems, the delivery of food and supplies, etc.

When law enforcement officers are placed in a foreign venue, they experience a great deal of stress, irrespective of their training and equipment. They experience language barriers, culture confusion, news media harassment, and an unclear understanding of the laws in a foreign venue. Law enforcement unions and associations have worked well with law enforcement agencies and civic groups to help overcome these challenges. Again, it is imperative that law enforcement officers in a foreign venue have confidence in their leadership, as well as their civil partners in attempting to establish law and order. If it is their perception that their concerns or ideas don't matter, than this will negatively impact their performance and hinder their commitment to a long term solution. Unions and associations help to bridge this divide, and build strong partnerships and communities.

On behalf of the 26,000 members of the U.S. Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, I look forward to working with ICPRA and UNDP as we face the challenges of restoring the rule of law in foreign venues, and build strong communities based on transparency, trust and integrity.