

## CAPABILITY PROFILE ATROCITY CRIME INVESTIGATIONS

### Rationale

Under certain circumstances, it may be necessary to quickly deploy a team of forensic and crime scene experts to an area that has recently experienced mass atrocities (e.g. Rwanda or the former Yugoslavia). The purpose of such deployment could be to provide evidence for a court or to assist local communities who have decided to locate and recover their own dead, but who lack the skills and resources for such work.



### Principles

When a team or teams are deployed to such regions, the following are essential:

- All teams use the same protocols and standard operating procedures;
- all teams should be multidisciplinary;
- all teams must have awareness training for such issues as health and safety (including UXO, EOD), political, economic and cultural issues and impact assessment;
- the teams must work closely with the organisation is responsible for the collection of ante-mortem data (e.g. ICRC, PHR);
- all teams remain independent of the investigating authority in the collection and interpretation of evidence in order that they remain impartial and objective.



### Inforce Experience

Inforce core staff have personal experience of rapid deployment to such countries as Kosovo, Iraq and the Congo.

The Inforce Foundation was requested by the UK FCO to deploy rapidly to Iraq in May 2003 and sent a team of nine three days later. That team undertook the following:



- The assessment of sites suggested to be mass graves;
- assisting local communities undertaking their own recovery and identification;
- developing a mass graves strategy and resources schedule for the CPA.

This work led directly to the implementation of a training programme, in which 34 Iraqi scientists and police were trained in forensic atrocity crime investigations.