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United Nations Institute for Training and Research



Press release, 12 February 2010

First UNITAR training course in Bonn

Bonn/ Geneva. From 8 to 12 February 2010, a training course entitled: "The Protection of Civilians in Peace Operations" was organized by BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) and UNITAR (United Nations Institute for Training and Research).

Twenty participants from eleven countries took part in the five-day course, which also dealt with the protection of women and children during peace operations. Assistance for internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as the responsibility to protect were other topics discussed in this course. One of the case studies investigated were the experiences gained by the United Nations – African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The lectures were held by trainers from NUPI (Norwegian Institute for International Affairs), ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) and UNITAR

UNITAR was established in 1965 as an autonomous body within the United Nations with the mandate of enhancing the effectiveness of the work of the United Nations and its Member States in the fields of environment, governance, and peace and security, and further on with the aim of supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

"Every year UNITAR provides training to more than 70,000 beneficiaries either through face-to-face seminars and workshops, or through distance learning," explains Evariste Karambizi, Manager UNITAR. "It was the first time UNITAR engaged in Bonn. We had fruitful discussions and an intensive exchange of experiences."

"With this training course UNITAR and BICC will start a cooperation, which hopefully will be followed by many other activities", Peter J. Croll, Director BICC, underlines.

BICC und UNITAR intend to stabilize their cooperation by entering into a Memorandum of Understanding which will contain the framework for the exchange of research, training and capacity-building.

Further information:

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