

**WORLD
ENCYCLOPEDIA
OF
POLICE FORCES
AND
PENAL SYSTEMS**

George Thomas Kurian

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World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Penal Systems

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INTRODUCTION

The *World Encyclopedia of Police Forces and Penal Systems* is a descriptive survey of the national law enforcement and corrections systems of 183 countries of the world. Police forces and corrections are the two ends of the criminal justice pipeline, and this encyclopedia brings them together as a continuum. Excluded from the survey is the middle segment of the pipeline, comprising the courts and the legal system, which will be fully described in my forthcoming *World Legal Encyclopedia*.

Even though criminal justice science is coming into its own as a major discipline, police and corrections remain among the least studied institutions of human society and ones on which the least information is available on a global basis to scholars and researchers. In the 19th century, economics was known as the “dismal science” because it dealt with such unpleasant things as taxes, rent, and interest. Economics has vacated this name today, and the title has fallen on criminal justice science. The reasons for this are twofold. The first is the instinctive and historical academic distrust of the more forbidding aspects of police and correctional studies, and the second is the uncommunicative nature of police and penal professionals who see little practical benefit in scholarly investigation. The attention of dogged researchers needs to be focused on police and penal institutions for a number of decades to bring available information to the level of at least that obtaining in related fields, such as military science. What is currently available in the police and corrections fields is of very poor quality and there are gaps that cannot be closed without more sustained cooperation from national governments.

Information on police forces and penal systems is not only meager and uneven, but it is heavily concentrated in certain areas of law enforcement to the exclusion of others. For example, reasonably reliable information is available for most countries on the structure and organization of the police establishment, but very little is available on education, recruitment and training, and much less on police history. The problem is particularly severe in the case of East European countries and the least-developed countries (LDCs), the former for political reasons and the latter for economic reasons. The situation is not helped by the fact that Interpol, the major international police organization representing *most* noncommunist nations of the world, does not have a competent publishing or data collection program and has never taken a strong initiative in promoting police studies. It

depends on the voluntary cooperation of its members for input into its irregularly published *International Crime Statistics*. Further, this publication provides only strict crime data and does not deal with law enforcement forces.

The state of the art in law enforcement data is reflected in the organization of this work, particularly in the length of the individual chapters and the intensity of discussion on the various topics in the schema. While every effort was made to present information in a uniform and consistent manner for all countries, gaps in available information were too insurmountable in the case of the minicountries, which make up nearly one-third of the nations of the world. In order to overcome this deficiency, countries have been divided into two groups: Major Countries and Smaller Countries and Microstates. With a few exceptions, all countries with populations of over 500,000 are placed in the first group. However, the basic criterion is the availability of information and not the size of the population. Thus Seychelles appears in the first group and Benin in the second group.

Within each chapter, information is organized under four headings: History and Background; Structure and Organization; Recruitment, Education and Training; and Penal System. This basic pattern of arrangement, used in general throughout the book, has been modified in some cases to suit the needs of the particular entries. In some cases, there was no information on History and Background to warrant the inclusion of that section. Where there is no information on Recruitment, Education and Training, it is so noted under that heading. The guiding purpose in the organization of material has been to achieve the maximum consistency and clarity of presentation given the limitations of the subject matter and available information.

The primary inspiration for this work came from Edward W. Knappman, executive vice president of Facts On File. Over the long years of its gestation, his confidence in this project never wavered and his patience—perhaps the rarest of publishing virtues—never ran out. The project was fortunate in having a very supportive editor in Kate Kelly, whose competence is laced with buoyant humor. My thanks are also due to William D. Drennan, whose copy-editing skills are evidenced in the pages that follow.

During the course of collecting information, I drew heavily on the unstinted help of Philip John Stead, former dean of John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York City, and one of the world's best known

authorities on police systems. He was a pillar of strength for the project, and his unfailing kindness can be only inadequately acknowledged in this brief Introduction. I am also much indebted to Patrick Edobar Igbinovia, a Nigerian scholar, whose diligence is attested by eight chapters in this book and whose dedication to criminal justice studies is matched by

few other professionals I have known. Finally, I must acknowledge the assistance of my daughter, Sarah Kurian, who helped with the organization of materials and the compilation of statistics.

George Thomas Kurian
Yorktown Heights, New York

MAJOR COUNTRIES

CONTENTS

Introduction	ix	Indonesia	179
MAJOR COUNTRIES		Iran	184
		Iraq	188
		Ireland	190
Afghanistan	1	Israel	192
Albania	3	Italy	197
Algeria	4	Ivory Coast	204
Angola	6	Jamaica	208
Argentina	8	Japan	211
Australia	11	Jordan	220
Austria	20	Kampuchea	224
Bangladesh	25	Kenya	225
Belgium	27	Korea (North)	230
Bolivia	30	Korea (South)	232
Botswana	33	Kuwait	236
Brazil	37	Laos	238
Bulgaria	40	Lebanon	239
Burma	43	Lesotho	241
Burundi	45	Liberia	244
Cameroon	47	Libya	247
Canada	49	Madagascar	249
Chad	59	Malawi	250
Chile	61	Malaysia	252
China	64	Mauritania	257
Colombia	69	Mexico	258
Congo	79	Mongolia	262
Costa Rica	81	Morocco	264
Cuba	85	Mozambique	269
Cyprus	89	Nepal	270
Czechoslovakia	91	Netherlands	272
Denmark	94	New Zealand	282
Dominican Republic	97	Nicaragua	284
Ecuador	99	Nigeria	286
Egypt	102	Norway	295
El Salvador	107	Pakistan	297
Ethiopia	109	Panama	302
Fiji	113	Papua New Guinea	305
Finland	115	Paraguay	307
France	127	Peru	309
Germany (East)	136	Philippines	312
Germany (West)	138	Poland	315
Ghana	146	Portugal	318
Greece	152	Puerto Rico	322
Guatemala	155	Romania	324
Guinea	157	Rwanda	326
Guyana	159	Saudi Arabia	328
Haiti	161	Senegal	331
Honduras	162	Sierra Leone	333
Hong Kong	163	Singapore	335
Hungary	168	Somalia	339
India	171	South Africa	343

Spain	347	Falkland Islands	506
Sri Lanka	350	French Guiana	507
Sudan	352	Gabon	507
Swaziland	354	Gambia	508
Sweden	356	Gibraltar	509
Switzerland	362	Grenada	509
Syria	366	Guadeloupe	510
Taiwan	368	Guinea-Bissau	510
Tanzania	371	Iceland	511
Thailand	374	Kiribati	512
Trinidad and Tobago	378	Liechtenstein	513
Tunisia	381	Luxembourg	513
Turkey	385	Macau	515
Uganda	389	Maldives	515
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	391	Mali	516
United Kingdom	401	Malta	517
United States	416	Mauritius	518
Uruguay	468	Monaco	519
Venezuela	470	Montserrat	521
Vietnam	473	Nauru	521
Yemen Arab Republic	477	Netherlands Antilles	522
Yemen (South)	478	Niger	522
Yugoslavia	479	Oman	523
Zaire	481	Qatar	524
Zambia	484	St. Helena	525
Zimbabwe	487	St. Kitts-Nevis	525
		St. Lucia	526
		St. Vincent and the Grenadines	527
		San Marino	527
		São Tomé and Príncipe	528
		Seychelles	528
		Solomon Islands	531
		Suriname	532
		Togo	532
		Tonga	533
		Turks and Caicos	534
		Tuvalu	534
		United Arab Emirates	535
		Vanuatu	536
		Vatican	537
		Western Samoa	537
		Appendix I Interpol	539
		Appendix II World Police Directory	551
		Appendix III Bibliography	563
		Appendix IV Comparative Statistics on Police Protection	565
		Index	569

SMALLER COUNTRIES AND MICROSTATES

Andorra	491
Anguilla	491
Antigua and Barbuda	492
Bahamas	492
Bahrain	494
Barbados	494
Belize	496
Benin	496
Bermuda	497
Bhutan	498
Brunei	499
Burkina Faso	500
Cape Verde	501
Cayman Islands	501
Central African Republic	502
Comoros	503
Cook Islands	503
Djibouti	504
Dominica	505
Equatorial Guinea	506

AFGHANISTAN

BASIC FACT SHEET

Official Name: Democratic Republic of Afghanistan

Area: 647,497 sq km

Population: 14,183,671 (1987)

Capital: Kabul

Nature of Government: Communist dictatorship

Languages: Pushtu and Dari

Currency: Afghani

GNP: \$3.52 billion (1985)

Territorial Divisions: 29 provinces

Population per Police Officer: 540

Police Expenditures per 1,000: N.A.

History & Background

For centuries, until the accession of Abdur Rahman Shah in 1880, public order on a countrywide basis was nonexistent. Each tribe defined proper behavior for its members, trying and punishing offenders for violations of tribal codes. Intertribal relations were, more often than not, governed by armed force. Tribal chiefs and village leaders regarded themselves as independent rulers over their respective areas, and they treated those who traveled through their domains according to their whims. Brigands and robbers were common, preying mostly on passing caravans and travelers.

Abdur Rahman (1881–1901), a strong and forceful ruler, began early to establish order. He applied these laws universally and forcefully, although many of them conflicted with tribal customs, such as Pushtunwali, the code of conduct for Pushtuns. He organized Muslim courts and tribunals to deal with crimes against the state, property and person. Abdur Rahman personally presided over the trials of all serious cases. His decisions often reflected a crude sense of fair play, but his punishments were occasionally harsh and capricious. Common punishments included amputation of a hand or foot and blinding. The official “blinder” became a prominent member of Abdul Rahman’s court. Maximum punishments were reserved for those offenses that caused misery to others and exploited the poor. The death penalty was common and included such forms of execution as death by starving and stoning and being blown from a cannon. Ordinary prisoners were required to pay for their food as well as for the use of their cells.

The amir greatly increased his police force and

installed a network of informers and agents. In Kabul one of every four able-bodied adults was engaged in some form of police work.

Abdur Rahman’s policies were generally continued under his successors, Habibullah Khan, Amanullah Khan, Nadir Shah and Mohammad Zahir Shah. In 1942 the gendarmerie was established and placed under the Ministry of the Interior. It took over police tasks in the rural parts of the country from the police and the military. The police was limited to urban areas. In the 1950s, a National Police Academy was established in Kabul and a number of police officers received special training in the United States under an AID agreement. The program was terminated in 1959 and replaced by a similar one with West Germany.

Structure & Organization

Police functions are performed by the Army, the National Police, and the Afghan Gendarmerie. In general, the police work in large urban areas and the gendarmerie in rural areas. The strength of these two groups is unofficially estimated at 50,000. Both agencies are under the Ministry of the Interior’s Police and Gendarmerie Department. Traffic police, however, is under the Provincial Administration Department of the Ministry of the Interior.

The National Police fall into two categories: municipal and provincial. The Municipal Police maintains public order in the organized cities and towns. They also operate prisons and jails, arrest criminals, investigate criminal cases, serve summonses, guard government buildings and escort government vehicles. The Provincial Police, under the authority of the

provincial governor, maintain public order in rural areas and in towns that do not have a formal municipal government. All civil police forces wear the same uniform, patterned after that of the Army, but with certain distinguishing police patches. Normally, the police are posted in pairs and carry side arms. On night patrol or emergency missions provincial police usually carry a rifle as an additional weapon.

Each of the larger cities, except Kabul, has a small group of civil police under the direction of a chief of police, an official on the staff of the mayor. They function as a city police force and are paid from the municipal funds. The Kabul police is under the general supervision of the State Department of Police.

The Afghan Gendarmerie is the rural and frontier police force and operates in those areas not covered by the National Police or the Army. Its tasks include garrisoning of some of the less important frontier posts, patrolling sensitive stretches of the border, occupying important road checkpoints, and settling or suppressing disturbances in rural areas. Some of these functions have been taken over by the Army since the Soviet occupation of the country.

The gendarmes are usually mounted, but some safety patrols along the main roads employ small trucks or jeeps. In addition to these patrols, manned posts are established at various intervals in the difficult mountain pass regions. Other duties assigned to the gendarmerie include escorting government convoys, guarding vital installations, providing emergency aid, checking on military exemptions and deferments, collecting conscripts for the Army, and apprehending deserters and conscript evaders.

Recruitment, Education & Training

No information is available on recruitment and training under the present regime.

The Penal System

The penal system was originally designed to enforce punishments imposed by court sentences. Since the overthrow of the monarchy, the government has initiated certain actions directed toward the rehabilitation of prisoners. Among these are an expanded training program and the establishment of a reform school for juvenile delinquents. In addition, private associations in certain provinces have taken steps to help women prisoners through rehabilitation classes.

In past years, the government tended to use prison labor to produce wares, especially clothing, for the military. More recently stress has been laid on the

teaching of trades and handicrafts, permitting inmates to retain the money earned from the sale of their products. Stonemasonry, pottery making, and rug and carpet weaving are among the most common trades and crafts taught.

Almost all cities and towns have jails, and the larger administrative and population centers have prisons. In villages where gendarmerie posts are located, a lockup room is maintained for the detention of prisoners pending their further disposition. Food for prisoners is commonly furnished by relatives or friends; otherwise the accuser is called upon to provide it. Provincial and central government officials make periodic inspections of jails and prisons.

Bail has never been a regular feature of Afghan law. In cases of common crimes involving wealthy persons or those with good connections, bail is sometimes granted. Corruption, however, is so widespread that it is possible for families of people detained for common crimes to obtain their release after paying bribes to the police or other officials.

There are no effective constitutional or legal safeguards against arbitrary arrest or detention. The principal internal security organ is KHAD (Khidamate Atilaati Daulati), which has extensive powers to detain and question suspects. Warrants are not used, nor is the right of habeas corpus respected. Formal charges are brought only after months of interrogation, and prisoners languish incommunicado during this period. Torture and physical and psychological intimidation remain standard techniques used by KHAD.

Statistics on crime are not collected or published on a national basis. Indications, based on fragmentary information, are that smuggling, pocket picking, burglary and theft rank highest in incidence. Because of revenge traditions rooted in tribal honor, homicide ranks highest among the serious crimes. Water and property rights are vital in the predominantly agricultural communities, and disputes concerning these rights frequently end in violence. Few professional thieves or burglars are involved in reported crimes. First offenders predominate, because the graduated system of punishments serves as a deterrent to recidivism. Most pocket picking is done by children, usually girls and boys between nine and 14 years of age. When arrested, these juvenile offenders are normally released on bond into the custody of their parents, in the absence of juvenile detention homes.

Death sentences are carried out by shooting by the Army or gendarmerie personnel. Convicts are sentenced to hard labor on roads, canals, or other public works projects. Flogging, common in the past, has become increasingly rare.

ALBANIA

BASIC FACT SHEET

Official Name: People's Socialist Republic of Albania

Area: 28,748 sq km

Population: 3,085,985 (1987)

Capital: Tirana

Nature of Government: Communist dictatorship

Language: Albanian

Currency: Lek

GNP: \$2.9 billion (1986)

Territorial Divisions: 26 districts

Population per Police Officer: 550

Police Expenditures per 1,000: N.A.

Structure & Organization

Police and security forces are under the control of the Ministry of the Interior. They are organized into three directorates: the Directorate of State Security, Frontier Guards and the People's Police. The state security force, as is the case in Communist countries, takes precedence over all other forces and is designed as an apparatus for uncovering and destroying enemies of the regime. Frontier Guards patrol the borders. The People's Police are municipal police who perform the functions normally discharged by police forces in other countries.

The Directorate of State Security (Drejtoria e Sigurimit te Shtetit, commonly called Sigurimi) is organized into four battalions and has more plainclothes policemen than uniformed. Its stated mission is to prevent counterrevolution and to eliminate opposition to the party. The Sigurimi has seven sections: political, censorship, public records, prison camp, two sections for counterespionage, and a foreign service. There is also a foreign service section. Sigurimi is in charge of the political indoctrination of prisoners and others considered socially dangerous.

The Frontier Guards are organized into five battalions. Although organized along military lines, it is

under the Ministry of the Interior. Guards are trained at the Guard School in Tirana. Guards personnel are recruited by conscription but carefully screened for political orientation.

The People's Police has five branches: the Police for Economic Objectives, Communications Police, Fire Police, Detention Police and General Police. The General Police functions overlap those of the security police to some extent, but the former operate on a purely local level. Each municipal headquarters has a political commissar in addition to an operational commander.

Recruitment, Education & Training

A 1948 law requires all able-bodied men to serve two months in an auxiliary police capacity. They serve without pay, but wear regular police uniforms with a red armband.

The Penal System

No crime statistics have ever been published in the country. Similarly, no information is available on penal institutions.

ALGERIA

BASIC FACT SHEET

Official Name: Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria
Area: 2,381,471 sq km
Population: 23,460,614 (1987)
Capital: Algiers
Nature of Government: One-party dictatorship
Language: Arabic
Currency: Dinar
GNP: \$57 billion (1985)
Territorial Divisions: 31 wilayas (provinces), 161 dairat (districts), 691 communes
Population per Police Officer: 840
Police Expenditures per 1,000: N.A.

Structure & Organization

Primary responsibility for the maintenance of law and order and for internal security is exercised jointly by Algeria's two separate police organizations: the Gendarmerie Nationale and the Sûreté Nationale. Both agencies were constituted soon after Algerian independence in 1962 and modeled on the police system of Metropolitan France. Both employ French procedures, and much of the equipment was supplied by France. In 1971, however, French assistance was suspended because of political differences between the two countries over the Western Sahara issue.

The Gendarmerie Nationale, a component of the Army (ANP, Armée Nationale Populaire), is the main rural police force. It has been described as a national guard on permanent active duty. Because of its size, training, equipment inventory and tactical deployment capability, it is highly regarded as a versatile and competent paramilitary force. Its personnel strength was estimated in the mid-1980s at 20,000.

The chief responsibilities of the Gendarmerie Nationale are to maintain law and order in rural areas, provide security surveillance of local inhabitants, and symbolize central government authority in traditionally lawless regions. Its units made major contributions to the suppression of the *wilaya* insurgency in 1963 and 1964 and of Colonel Taher Zbiri's attempted coup in 1967.

The Gendarmerie Nationale is organized into battalions, with companies and platoons stationed separately in villages along the coast, in such remote mountainous regions as the Kabylie and the Aures, and in plateau villages between the coast and the desert. A highly mobile force, the Gendarmerie Na-

tionale uses both motor and animal transport, while a modern communications system interconnects its various units with each other, with the Army and with the Ministry of Defense. Gendarmerie Nationale equipment includes light infantry weapons and armored cars with mounted machine guns and light cannons.

Although dependent on ANP general staff for logistical assistance and for reinforcement in major disturbances, the Gendarmerie Nationale is largely autonomous as an operational force. Its commander is an Army colonel who reports directly to the Minister of Defense and the president.

The Sûreté Nationale is the principal police force in cities and urban centers. It is charged with the maintenance of law and order, the protection of life and property, the investigation of crimes and the apprehension of offenders. In addition, it performs other routine police functions, including traffic control. Total personnel strength is not revealed but is estimated at about 50,000.

Subordinated administratively to the Ministry of the Interior and commanded by a director general, the Sûreté Nationale is organized generally along the lines of its French counterpart, with operational and investigative branches and supporting services. The Judiciary Police branch, for example, is responsible for criminal investigations, working in close coordination with the office of public prosecutor in the Ministry of Justice. Police units assigned to the capitals of the *wilayyat* (provinces) are under the nominal control of the governors. In daily operations, the Sûreté Nationale is clearly distinguished as a uniformed national metropolitan force under the direct control of the

Minister of the Interior. Elements of the Sûreté Nationale also play a role in countersubversive activities, formerly carried out by the Compagnie Nationale de Sécurité.

Although the Ministry of the Interior operates a customs service, the Sûreté Nationale assigns police contingents to work with customs inspectors at all legal points of entry. Their main concern is to apprehend undesirable immigrants and traffickers in contraband. Police assigned to seaport precincts operate under the control of the National Port Office, which is responsible for security in the maritime zones.

Recruitment, Education & Training

Some French instructors continued to work with the Algerian police well into the 1980s. Initially, both the Gendarmerie Nationale and the Sûreté Nationale recruited among the former freedom fighters. Since then, pay and conditions of service have been maintained at levels sufficient to attract qualified recruits. Both organizations operate their own schools: the Gendarmerie Nationale's main training center is at Sidi Bel Abbes, the former headquarters of the French Foreign Legion. Officers are trained at Sidi Mohammed and El Harrach. Information on the locations of the Sûreté Nationale training schools is not available.

The Penal System

Little information is available regarding the country's penal system, which includes large central prisons in Algiers, Medea, Berrouaghia, Oran, Tlemcen and Constantine. There is at least one jail in each *wilaya*. Supervision and operation of the penal system are coordinated by the Ministry of Justice.

Persons convicted of civil crimes are sent to provincial civil prisons, while those found guilty of more serious crimes against the state or crimes that carry the death penalty are sent to one of three penitentiaries. Conditions in penitentiaries are reported to be much worse than those in the civil prisons. Prisoners are often crowded together, and sanitary and medical arrangements are poor. Each prison has a contract with a local doctor who visits the prison to treat ill prisoners, while seriously ill prisoners are sent to local hospitals. Prisoners are generally fed a bland and starchy diet, augmented by provisions and meals from their families. Families are allowed to visit civil prisons once a week.

The Constitution provides that no one may be prosecuted, arrested or held except as provided by law. It also limits detention for questioning in criminal investigation cases to 48 hours, after which the sus-

pect must be charged or released. The Penal Code provides for informing detainees immediately of charges against them. Algerian law does not provide a bail system. Lawyers are allowed 24-hour access to their clients. Such meetings take place under the supervision of a guard.

Inviolability of the home is guaranteed by the Constitution and generally is honored in practice except in rare cases involving military security. Police may not enter a house without a warrant from the local prosecutor or investigating magistrate, nor may they enter a residence during night hours.

In the absence of official statistics on crime, the incidence of crime in Algeria can be deduced only from fragmentary sources. Most crime reported in the press consists of offenses against persons, property, public morals and the economic system. Since independence there has been an upswing of crime in the larger cities of Algiers, Oran, Annaba and Constantine. As in other countries, the police blame the judiciary for leniency toward criminals, while the judges cite larger caseloads and insufficient investigation by the police as contributory causes for the rise in the crime rates.

The majority of crimes against property consists of petty thefts, stolen automobiles and store break-ins. Only a small portion of these crimes is cleared by arrest. Other offenses include prostitution, vagrancy and drug abuse. Prostitution is illegal, although certain houses of prostitution are permitted to operate. Begging is also illegal, and numerous arrests on charges of vagrancy are made each year. A more serious problem is drug trafficking, especially in hashish, emanating from the Rif area of Morocco. In 1975 the government amended its penal code to mandate the death penalty for drug dealers and smugglers.

Algeria's strict gun control laws have served to keep serious-crime rates from rising even higher. The Penal Code prohibits the sale and possession by private individuals of all firearms. Only the police and the uniformed members of the ANP may possess pistols, revolvers and automatic weapons. Police also exert efforts to maintain control of concealed dangerous weapons, such as daggers and knives.

The criminal acts of greatest concern to the national government are those defined by the Penal Code as "economic offenses," which cover a broad range of activities, including corruption, misuse of public funds, strikes or work stoppages by public workers and food hoarding. Penalties for economic crimes are unusually severe, ranging from heavy fines and long prison terms to the death penalty. In contrast to other developing countries, corruption is readily and openly denounced in the semiofficial press.

ANGOLA

BASIC FACT SHEET

Official Name: People's Republic of Angola
Area: 1,246,700 sq km
Population: 7,950,244 (1987)
Capital: Luanda
Nature of Government: Marxist dictatorship
Language: Portuguese
Currency: Kwanza
GNP: \$3 billion (1986)
Territorial Divisions: 18 provinces
Population per Police Officer: N.A.
Police Expenditures per 1,000: N.A.

History & Background

The national police force, known as the People's Police Corps of Angola (Corpo de Policia Popular de Angola [CPPA]), was created on February 28, 1978, at about the same time that the civil war was drawing to a close. Most of its personnel were transferred from the ranks of the Forças Armadas Populares de Libertação de Angola (FAPLA).

Structure & Organization

CPPA is lead by a commander who is also a member of the Central Committee of the MPLA Labor Party. Other CPPA officer grades are comparable to those in the military. Lower-ranking police personnel are referred to as sergeants and agents. The main headquarters is located in Luanda and is subordinate to the Ministry of Defense. Organizationally, CPPA is compartmentalized according to functions and is believed to have sections or divisions covering criminal activities, traffic, railroads, ports and harbors, and mining. Military police are frequently mentioned in news reports, but their responsibilities are not defined, nor are their functions vis-à-vis those of the regular police. The military police was one of the units reportedly purged after the May 1977 coup attempt.

There are police commands in the provincial capitals and police squadrons below the provincial level. It is not known how much of the country is under actual CPPA control because of continuing guerrilla warfare. The principal training academy is the Kapolo Martyrs Practical Police School in Luanda, where the training is both political and technical. Political indoctrination of police recruits has increased since the

MPLA Congress of December 1977, and party cells have been established in the smallest police groups. A political commissariat exists at the main police headquarters, and all CPPA officers receive FAPLA training as political teachers.

In addition to the CPPA, there is another police organization, known as the Directorate of Information and Security of Angola (Direção de Informação e Segurança de Angola, DISA), set up by East German advisers. Little is known about this organization except that it is the national security police, combining intelligence-gathering and criminal investigation. DISA is directly subordinate to the president of the republic rather than to the minister of defense, as is CPPA.

In 1978 the government established the State Secretariat for Internal Order as a supervisory and advisory board within the office of the president. The secretariat was charged with the prevention of a broad range of crimes, including those involving firearms and explosives.

Recruitment, Education & Training

Since 1978 a voluntary system of recruitment has been in force. The CPPA runs a training school, staffed by Cubans, for new recruits in Luanda.

The Penal System

At the end of the civil war, MPLA took over the colonial prison system, which had been heavily damaged during the conflict. Many facilities were looted. The immediate task of the new government was to rebuild the system and to train personnel to take over its operation. The National School of Penal Technol-

ogy opened in 1976, and its students were sent to Cuba for specialized training in penology.

The operation of the penal system is the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice. The system consists of maximum- and minimum-security prisons; and so-called production camps, where prisoners are sent to be rehabilitated through regular work and reeducation programs. There is less constraint at production camps, although the inmates are still under guard. The treatment of the prisoners varies according to their behavior and degree of rehabilitation. A Danish mariner, Paul Matthieson, traveling alone along the West Coast of Africa in 1977, developed engine trouble and entered an Angolan port. He was promptly imprisoned and was held for about five months until the Danish authorities demanded his release. Recuperating in a hospital, Matthieson provided the only available firsthand account of an Angolan prison, which he said was "indescribable." Mistreatment of political pris-

oners is common, including parading them in public, solitary confinement, physical intimidation and prolonged use of force. In 1984 the Angolan government was cited by the ILO for violation of ILO Convention 105, which prohibits the use of forced prison labor.

Crime statistics have not been reported by the Angolan government since it came to power, and newspaper references to crime are rare. Given the unsettled political and economic conditions in the country, violent crimes are probably on the rise. The Ministry of Justice's periodic summaries of criminal justice activities refer to assault, drug trafficking and diamond smuggling as the major problems but without giving any details. The *Jornal de Angola* occasionally reports on police sweeps through Luanda districts to counter criminal activity by "enemies of the revolution who live by plundering and exploiting the people."

CRIME STATISTICS (1984)

	Number Reported	Attempts %	Cases Solved %	Crime per 100,000	Offenders	Females %	Juveniles %	Strangers %
1. Murder	717		89.12	10.3	339		0.98	
2. Sex offenses, including rape	1,309		86.86	18.31	480		4.04	
3. Rape	427		84.77	5.97	299		6.79	
4. Serious assault	26		65.38	0.36	11		4.00	
5. All theft	5,446		59.25	76.16	2,966		3.48	
6. Aggravated theft	515		67.37	7.20	230		2.15	
7. Robbery and violent theft								
8. Breaking and entering								
9. Auto theft								
10. Other thefts	4,931		58.4	68.96	2,736		3.63	
11. Fraud	631		85.89	8.82	285		0.63	
12. Counterfeiting								
13. Drug offenses	491		93.27	6.87	249		4.07	
14. Total offenses	17,166		77.59	240.05	7,162		3.00	

Criteria of juveniles: aged from 7 to 15 years.

Note: Information for some categories is not available.

ARGENTINA

BASIC FACT SHEET

Official Name: Argentine Republic
Area: 2,766,889 sq km
Population: 31,144,755 (1987)
Capital: Buenos Aires
Nature of Government: Parliamentary democracy
Language: Spanish
Currency: Austral
GNP: \$63.3 billion (1985)
Territorial Divisions: 22 provinces, 1 district, 1 territory
Population per Police Officer: 1,270
Police Expenditures per 1,000: \$8,429

History & Background

Argentina's national police establishment consists of two principal elements: the Federal Police and the provincial police forces. The older agency, the Federal Police (Policia Federal) was established in 1880 and in 1943 its authority was extended to the provinces, giving it jurisdiction over all federal crimes, including political offenses. It was reorganized in 1971 and placed under a high-ranking command officer of the armed forces. The force is directly subordinate to the Ministry of the Interior and maintains its headquarters in the capital. In the mid-1980s it had a strength of some 25,000

Structure & Organization

Police headquarters is organized into a number of superintendencies and directorates charged with various functions and responsibilities. The two principal superintendencies are Investigations (Investigaciones) and Federal Security (Seguridad Federal). The superintendency of investigations comprises four departments: Intelligence, Narcotics, Surveillance and Special Services, and Financial Offenses. The superintendency of federal security comprises the Department of Presidential and Congressional Surveillance; the Aviation Department; and the Directorate of the Interior, which is divided into Cultural and Student Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Records and Information, and Tactical. The Records and Information Division controls the granting of identity cards worldwide. Also subordinate to the chief of the Federal Police are the Directorate General of Traffic; the Directorate General of Federal Protection, in charge

of civil defense; the Directorate General of Urban protection, which includes the superintendency of firemen; and the Superintendency of Police Establishments, which runs the Higher School of Police, the NCO School and the Cadet School, all in Buenos Aires.

There are three other directorates concerned with corollary activities of the police force apart from law enforcement. These are Communications, Social Work and Health, and General Secretariat. The first operates the police telephone and radio and telegraph networks; the second runs medical facilities for policemen and prisoners; and the third has charge of police archives, issues regulations and bulletins, and operates the police libraries, museum and bands.

The Federal Security and Investigations directorates constitute the operational units. The Investigations Directorate conducts criminal investigations and maintains identification files. It operates most of the police technical facilities and has charge of the crime laboratory. Its jurisdiction, however, is limited to the capital, and federal investigative functions in the provinces are carried out by the regional police offices. The policemen on the beat, traffic officers and all federal uniformed police (with the exception of women police) are under the Federal Security Directorate, which is divided into Burglaries and Thefts, Drug Prevention, Fraud and Embezzlements, Harbors, Murder, Personal Security, Police Liaison, Vehicle Thefts, and Vice. There is also an infantry Guard Corps, including the Mounted Police Corps.

The grade structure of the Federal Police is made up of two categories: officers and enlisted personnel. There is no provision for advancement from enlisted

to officer status, and a candidate must attend the two-year course at the Colonel Ramón L. Falcón Police Academy to attain officer status. Officer grades below inspector general, the highest police level, range from subadjutant officer up to senior inspector.

Basic enlisted police become patrolmen after a short period as probationary agents. Noncommissioned officer ranks start with corporal and advance through first corporal, sergeant, first sergeant, clerk noncommissioned officer, adjutant noncommissioned officer and principal noncommissioned officer. The highest enlisted rank authorized for the women police is first sergeant. Officers are periodically required to attend advanced courses at the Superior Police School. Recruitment is limited to those between 19 and 26 years of age.

Dark blue tunics and trousers are worn by all ranks, together with a cap of the same color. Blue shorts and black ties complete the uniform. Officers carry a pistol holster suspended from a jacket pocket, while other ranks have a Sam Browne belt for the purpose. All ranks carry a pistol, usually 9mm, while police-women are issued .38 pistols.

The provincial police are concerned principally with crime falling within the realm of provincial jurisdiction. In cases involving federal jurisdiction, they are subordinate to the regional police office of the Federal Police in their area. In some of the border provinces there is a degree of overlapping of provincial authority because of the jurisdiction of the National Gendarmerie over international boundaries and frontier zones. The provincial police are similar in structure and operation to the Federal Police. However, the provincial police are not up to the standards of the federal or Buenos Aires force. Equipment is of lower quality, personnel are not as competent or well trained and pay scales are lower. Many of the larger provinces have their own police academies, but their facilities and programs do not meet the high standards of the federal academy.

The provincial police are under the control of the provincial governor and in most cases are commanded by an inspector general or chief. Staff structures conform closely to the federal pattern but are usually less elaborate and have fewer directorates or other subdivisions. Larger cities also have a municipal police whose operations are confined to the limits of the urban area. These provide citywide police services, including traffic control, with centralized guidance from the provincial police headquarters. In rural areas, provincial police are organized into divisions, commissariats, subcommissariats and detachments. Because of a shortage of motor vehicles, many patrols are carried out on horseback.

The Buenos Aires Police Force (Policia de la Provincia de Buenos Aires) comprises three investigation

brigades—Center, North and West—and also a Commissariat for the Surveillance and Guard of the Presidential Palace. In addition, there is a Security Guard Detachment in the Avellaneda area and a Highway Patrol Division.

The paramilitary Argentine Gendarmerie is in charge of border control, with 20,000 men organized into three regional commands with headquarters at Córdoba, Bahía Blanca and Rosario, respectively. Its echelon consists of battalions, squadrons, groups and sections. The gendarmerie also includes an aviation section with several light aircraft.

In 1973 a National Intelligence Center was created to coordinate the intelligence agencies of the Federal Police and the armed forces. Its principal component was simply known as SIDE (Secretaria de Información de Estado). Under the military junta rule, it carried out antisubversive activities and channeled strategic national security intelligence to the president and the National Security Council (Consejo Nacional de Seguridad, CONASE).

Recruitment, Education, & Training

The Superintendency of Police Training Establishments runs the police schools, all of which are open to the personnel of the provincial forces: the Higher School of Police, the NCO School and the Cadet School. All the schools are in Buenos Aires.

The Penal System

Penologists consider Argentina's prison system to be one of the most outstanding in Latin America. There are both federal and provincial prisons, but not every province has both. In all, the system includes some 15 federal and 60 provincial institutions. Although federal prisons are better run, those of Santa Fe and Buenos Aires are reputedly among the best.

Federal prisons are under the jurisdiction of the General Directorate of Penal Institutions and the Ministry of the Interior. The directorate is headed by a director general, who is advised by a council composed of a professor of penal law, the director of psychiatric services, the chief of the National Prison and Criminal Registry, and the director of the Released Convicts Welfare Agency. Similar agencies are found in the provinces.

Approximately half of the total prison population is in federal prisons and the remainder in provincial institutions. The Penal Code provides for incarcerating provincial prisoners in national facilities if their sentence is over five years and if local facilities are not available. Federal offenders may also be placed in provincial institutions. Many prisoners are given an opportunity to work, for which they are paid.

The federal penal institutions are modern and well