

***Violent Crimes Against Peace Corps Volunteers***  
***1989 – 2010***

*(As reported in the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Reports to Congress)*

The following pages were taken directly from Peace Corps' Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Reports to Congress. Recent reports, from October 1, 2005 to the present, are publicly available online within the Peace Corps website at the following address:

<http://www.peacecorps.gov/index.cfm?shell=about.leadership.inspgen.reports>

Earlier reports were made available, in printed format, by a direct request to the OIG. Those reports covered the period from April 1, 1989 (*"This is our first seminannual report"*) to September 30, 2005, with later reports available electronically from the address given above.

The sections below that were taken from the reports in printed format were transcribed by myself from the printed copies, and any errors or accidental omissions are my own. For the later reports, available electronically, the appropriate texts were copied directly from the reports.

Incidents/crimes that are considered 'violent crime', according to the OIG:

- Volunteer Death (under any circumstances)
- Kidnapping
- Rape and Attempted Rape
- Major Sexual Assault
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault
- Major Physical Assault
- Burglary with Volunteer/Trainee present (or attempted)
- Death Threat
- Intimidation/Stalking (also Domestic Violence)

It should be noted that:

Prior to September 1, 2008, the Investigation Unit managed and coordinated the agency's participation in the investigative and prosecutorial processes of cases involving violent crimes committed against Volunteers overseas. This function was transferred to the Peace Corps Office of Safety and Security. As agreed upon, OIG continues to provide oversight of legacy cases that occurred prior to the transfer of responsibility. The Investigation Unit remains responsible for investigating allegations of criminal wrongdoing, including violent crimes, committed by Peace Corps staff members, contractors, and Volunteers.

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- Mike Sheppard  
RPCV / The Gambia ('03 - '05)  
<http://www.PeaceCorpsWiki.org/>

April 3, 2011

**Peace Corps**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Semiannual Report to Congress**  
**April 1 – September 30, 1989**  
*("This is our first semiannual report")*

**Investigations**

**Sexual Assault of Volunteer in Ecuador**

The OIG assisted local authorities in Ecuador in the investigation into a brutal rape and assault of a Peace Corps Volunteer who was kidnapped by two men and driven to the outskirts of Quito where she was savagely attacked. A preliminary investigation by the Embassy Regional Security Officer led to the involvement of the OIG, the Ecuadorian police, Interpol, and the FBI. An extensive manhunt resulted in the apprehension of the alleged rapist, a Chilean national. The initial phase of the criminal process has been completed, and the suspect has been found legally responsible for the offense.

**Sexual assault on Volunteer in Cape Verde**

The OIG interviewed and prepared for trial a Peace Corps Volunteer who had been sexually assaulted twice by a Cape Verde national and had reported the incidents to local police. The defendant was convicted in Cape Verde of two counts of sexual assault and two counts of breaking and entering. He was sentenced to eleven months imprisonment, execution of sentence suspended with five years' probation. He was fined approximately \$600.

## **Investigations**

### **Sexual Assault**

A female Peace Corps Volunteer, serving in Honduras, was allegedly raped by four assailants and robbed while her male companion, also a Volunteer, was assaulted and robbed. The OIG initiated an oversight investigation to evaluate the Agency's handling of the crisis. That investigation is on - going. While conducting the oversight investigation in - country, the female Volunteer requested OIG's assistance to coordinate and facilitate the local police investigation. Working with the Volunteer, the OIG was able to prepare a composite sketch of the assailants. The OIG coordinated a joint effort between the Honduran Federal Police and the U. S. Embassy's Regional Security Officer to facilitate the arrest of the suspects. Three suspects were subsequently arrested after having been identified by the victims, and remain in police custody pending trial. The suspects, members of the country's military, pled guilty and have identified a fourth suspect who remains at - large. The local investigation continues.

## **Investigations**

### **Alleged Sexual Assault / Rape of a Volunteer**

A Peace Corps Volunteer alleged to the OIG that her supervisor, a Foreign Service National (FSN) employed by the Peace Corps, had raped her. A subsequent field investigation disclosed that the incident had occurred during the early morning hours as the FSN walked with the Volunteer after they had both attended a social function. The FSN initially denied having had any sexual contact with the Volunteer. He subsequently stated that he had had consensual sexual relations with the Volunteer. The Volunteer declined to prosecute the FSN and was subsequently medically separated from the Peace Corps. The FSN, an employee of the Peace Corps for several years, resigned.

### **Assistance Provided to the U. S. Immigration & Naturalization Service – Follow - up on Volunteer Rape Investigation**

The OIG received information from a confidential source which alleged that a suspect in the rape of a [then] Peace Corps Volunteer overseas had entered the United States illegally. The former Volunteer, who now resides in the United States, notified the OIG that she had independently received identical information from the same source and expressed fear for her safety. [The OIG had provided technical field assistance to the foreign police agency during the initial investigation, which contributed to the successful apprehension and conviction of three other participants.] The OIG referred the information to the U. S. Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Office of Criminal Investigations. The OIG acted as a liaison between the foreign police agency, who had a warrant for the suspect's arrest, and the INS. Additionally, the OIG obtained necessary legal documents and certain information from the foreign police agency, which was passed on to the INS.

The results of the OIG/INS collaboration disclosed that the information was inaccurate, but resulted in the arrest of the suspect's brother and friend, who were both in the United States illegally. The OIG subsequently coordinated with the foreign police agency and the Regional Security Officer (RSO) at the U. S. Embassy in the country where the rape occurred. Consequently, reliable information was developed which established the suspect's general whereabouts in a certain foreign country. The OIG continued to encourage the foreign police agency's pursuit of the suspect with concern for the safety of the former Volunteer and Volunteers who continue to serve Peace Corps near the village where the rape occurred.

**Follow - up Information Relating to an OIG Investigation of a Sexual Assault / Rape of a Volunteer**

In 1989, the OIG reported that it had assisted local police authorities in investigating the brutal rape and assault of a Peace Corps Volunteer who was kidnapped by two men and driven to the outskirts of the capital city where she was savagely attacked. The investigation was concluded and the suspect was found to be legally responsible for the offense. After a lengthy trial in April 1991, the court found the defendant guilty of the crime, and he was sentenced to the maximum penalty of eight years in prison. An appeal has been lodged. While the appeal process is underway, the defendant will remain in prison.

## **Investigations**

### **Murder of Peace Corps Volunteer**

The OIG received information which reported that a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV), who was serving in Latin America, was an apparent homicide victim. An OIG criminal investigator, who is fluent in Spanish, responded immediately to the country where the crime was committed and met with the U. S. State Department's Regional Security Officer (RSO). The OIG investigator was invited by local police to participate in the criminal investigations, which included a crime scene search, a search for the body, a search for a suspect, and the interrogation of a suspect. The OIG investigator collaborated in - country with the State Department's RSO, the U. S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the U. S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and local police. As a result of this international collaborative effort, sufficient physical evidence for prosecution and conviction was gathered from several criminal scenes and a suspect was arrested. The suspect, a Spanish national and social acquaintance of the victim, had a history of mental illness and drug abuse. Ultimately, the suspect confessed to the murder and was found guilty. However, while awaiting sentencing, the defendant escaped from prison. The OIG is closely monitoring the search effort, which is being conducted by local and Federal National police, with assistance provided also by the U. S. State Department's Office of Diplomatic Security.

### **Rape of Peace Corps Volunteer**

The OIG assisted local authorities on a Caribbean Island nation to locate and arrest a suspect in the rape of a Peace Corps Volunteer, after that suspect fled to Puerto Rico. The OIG coordinated with authorities at the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Puerto Rico, who located, arrested, and deported the individual based on information provided to them by the OIG. The suspect was turned over to local authorities and is awaiting trial along with the two other accomplices.

## **Investigations**

### **Alleged Rape of a Peace Corps Volunteer**

An alleged sexual assault of a Volunteer by a Peace Corps trainee at an overseas Peace Corps Training Center was reported to the IG by a senior headquarters official. The OIG immediately reported this to the U. S. Attorney's Office where the information was accepted for prosecutorial considerations pending a statement from the victim.

After interviewing the alleged victim, who had been medically evacuated to Washington, IG investigators obtained facts indicating that a potential prosecution could not be supported. The victim, who was initially undecided about pursuing prosecution, eventually decided against it. The information was reported the U. S. Attorney's Office and a formal declination was received.

The information was then referred to Peace Corps management for possible disciplinary actions against the Peace Corps trainee under Peace Corps Manual Section (PCMS) 284. This Manual Section places responsibility on Peace Corps Country Directors to take management action within their jurisdiction.

Because the Country Director in this case failed to notify the Inspector General of the alleged rape and attempted to resolve the matter without professional investigative assistance, the IG counseled the Country Director subsequent to the closing of this investigation. He advised the Country Director of the reporting responsibilities of Peace Corps personnel under PCMS 861. Country Directors should promptly refer incidents of misconduct and should cooperate with internal investigations in order for the OIG to perform efficiently.

## **Status of Previously Reported Cases**

### **Rape of Volunteer**

During the reporting period, three of four suspects in the previously reported rape of a female Peace Corps Volunteer were apprehended and convicted. One of the rapists was charged as a juvenile and received a sentence of 18 months imprisonment. The other two were charged as adults and were sentenced to six years.

The fourth suspect, who was a juvenile at the time of the crime, remains at large. These convictions represent a successful collaborative investigation between the OIG and local police.



**Peace Corps**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Semiannual Report to Congress**  
**October 1, 1994 – March 31, 1995**

**Investigations**

**Update: Sentencing of Murder Defendant**

As reported in a previous Semiannual Report to Congress, dated October 1, 1991, to March 31, 1992, wherein it was reported that a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in the Inter - America Region was murdered in October 1991, the principal defendants were sentenced to terms of two years each. This sentencing date for these defendants was December 21, 1994. The OIG would like to thank all parties for the unrelenting pursuit of justice in this matter.

**Investigations of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

**Correction: Sentencing of Murder Defendant**

There was a typographical error in the previous SARC covering the period from October 1, 1994, to March 31, 1995. That SARC reported the sentencing of the defendants in the murder of a Peace Corps Volunteer serving in the Inter - America Region in 1991. The report should have stated that the principal defendant was sentenced to a term of thirty years, with the two co - defendants receiving sentences of two years each. The sentencing date for these defendants was December 21, 1994.

**Significant Investigations of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

**Three Individuals Receive Death Sentence for Murder of Peace Corps Volunteer in Madagascar**

A 29 - year - old female Volunteer was attacked by three individuals while traveling by bicycle to work during the early morning hours of April 9, 1996. The attack occurred approximately two kilometers outside the Volunteer's village in the southern region of Madagascar. The Volunteer died from a blow to the back of her head. The Peace Corps Director dispatched the Inspector General and an OIG Investigator to represent him personally and to review and assist with the investigation by national and local authorities. The Malagasy investigation resulted in the arrest of three individuals who confessed to the murder. All three were tried and found guilty and, on May 20, 1996, were sentenced to death and ordered to pay a symbolic amount to the Volunteer's family. Madagascar authorities stated that capital punishment has never been enforced, and they speculated that the subjects would serve life in prison with no opportunity for parole.

**Peace Corps  
Office of Inspector General  
Semiannual Report to Congress  
October 1, 1996 – March 31, 1997**

**Significant Investigations of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

**Suspects Arrested in Rape and Robbery of Peace Corps Volunteers in El Salvador**

In a joint investigation involving the Peace Corps' OIG, the Department of State, Bureau of Diplomatic Security, and the El Salvadorian National Police, six El Salvadorian men were arrested for the rape and robbery of Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) on Christmas day 1996. Five defendants were charged with aggravated rape, robbery, and criminal association; the sixth was charged with illegal possession of military weapons. The Volunteers were visiting a PCV friend when they were taken by surprise during the evening hours by this band of marauders which has terrorized the area for several years.

**Peace Corps  
Office of Inspector General  
Semiannual Report to Congress  
October 1, 1997 – March 31, 1998**

**Significant Investigations of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

This reporting period was marked by orientation of the two newly hired investigators and responding to and assisting with a number of extremely violent crimes against Volunteers.

One case involved the escape from prison and the recapture of the convicted murderer of a Volunteer in Madagascar. The OIG traveled to Antananarivo and environs, met with US Embassy and Malagasy officials, assisted in preparing wanted posters, and endorsed a reward proposal and logistical support for the investigation. Superb collaboration among the charge d'affaires, the country director, and the gendarmerie speeded the murderer's recapture. He is now in maximum security awaiting a supreme court decision on a pending death sentence.

Another case involved OIG travel to Cote d'Ivoire to review and consult on the investigation of the murder of a Volunteer in the town of Tanda. The cooperation among the Peace Corps, the embassy, and Ivoirian officials, including the president and foreign minister, led to a very timely investigation and the arrest of three defendants. OIG offers of forensic assistance are pending.

Cases involving rapes of Volunteers continue to be monitored in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Guinea. In El Salvador, one suspect remains a fugitive while five others are awaiting sentencing. The Guatemala and Guinea cases involved suspect drawings, photo spread displays, and, in one case, the viewing of a color videotape. Suspects were positively identified in both cases. One former Volunteer has been escorted back to the country by the OIG and made a positive identification from a line - up. The other former Volunteer is awaiting the scheduling of a similar procedure.

**Peace Corps  
Office of Inspector General  
Semiannual Report to Congress  
April 1, 1998 – September 30, 1998**

**Significant Investigations and Reviews of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

The OIG has received and investigated or provided assistance/liaison in one rape, one attempted rape, two sexual assaults, two homicides, and one death. The OIG has taken an active role in the investigation and prosecutorial process involved in conducting these cases abroad. Extensive collaborative efforts were enlisted through the US embassies, Peace Corps overseas staff members, Peace Corps Office of General Counsel, country officials, and local law enforcement entities. In addition, this office has advised the agency's general counsel and overseas staff members on the evidentiary and judicial steps necessary to ensure the successful completion of legally enforceable criminal investigations. Additionally, the OIG investigated two computer - related charges (pornography and unlicensed software) and one case alleging administrative misconduct.

**Cases**

**Homicides / Death**

- A male Volunteer was murdered in the Philippines while traveling a taxi to his residence. The taxi drove through an area where a group of people were firing on passing cars. Ten people, including 9 Filipinos, were killed. Four suspects were arrested and charged with murder.
- A male Volunteer was stabbed to death in his apartment in the Ukraine, during an apparent robbery. Several suspects are in custody for the murder.
- The unexpected death of a male Volunteer in the Dominican Republic prompted an investigation by this office into the circumstances surrounding the death of the Volunteer and the administrative handling of the death. The investigation revealed no foul play or negligence by the medical staff in the Dominican Republic. This matter later became the subject of a congressional inquiry, which has been resolved.

**Rapes / Assaults**

- A male Volunteer was physically assaulted by a local official in Cameroon. The US embassy has issued diplomatic notes requesting censure of the suspect involved.
- A female Volunteer was raped in Macedonia by two male acquaintances. The OIG advised the Volunteer and offered forensic assistance and escort through the prosecutorial process. The case is pending final judicial action.

- One case involved a sexual assault of a female Volunteer in Moldova by a host country family member. The Volunteer did not want to prosecute and appropriate housing changes were implemented.
- Another case involved the burglary and attempted assault of a female Volunteer in Paraguay. Cooperative efforts between the OIG, the US embassy, Peace Corps overseas staff, and Peace Corps medical staff led to the development of further investigation under the direction of the RSO. Appropriate housing and site security changes have been implemented.
- An attempted rape of a female Volunteer by an acquaintance occurred in Eastern Russia. The OIG met with the Volunteer, reviewed the circumstances surrounding the assault, and advised the Volunteer of the additional investigative procedures that needed to be addressed. Subsequently, the Volunteer declined to pursue the investigation.

### **Victim Escorts**

The OIG escorted three female Volunteer rape victims and a male former State Department intern assault victim to the countries where the assaults occurred. The OIG assisted the victims in transit and through the investigative and prosecutorial process. The cases involved liaison with the US embassies, Guatemalan and Guinean police and judicial officials, Peace Corps overseas staff members, the Peace Corps Office of General Counsel, and local legal representatives.

### **Updates on Cases Previously Reported**

- Another case involved the rape of a female Volunteer and the assault and battery of a male State Department intern in Guatemala. Through persistent actions by the RSO, four suspects were arrested and held in this case. The RSO provided photographs to the OIG for inclusion in photo spreads which were shown to the victims. The same two suspects were identified by each victim. The OIG paid for travel arrangements and accommodations and escorted the victims to Guatemala where they again identified the same two suspects in lineups and provided sworn deposition for the prosecutors before an examining judge. At the request of the Peace Corps' General Counsel, the Office of Foreign Litigation, US Department of Justice, has provided for a local attorney to represent the victims' interests. That lawyer has succeeded in having multiple charges filed against both defendants, including robbery, abduction, battery, illegal possession of firearms, and terrorizing by threatening death during commission of a crime. Those charges are in addition to rape of the Volunteer and assault of the intern. Further judicial action is expected soon.

- In the last SARC, the escape and re - capture of a convicted murderer of a Volunteer in Madagascar was reported. Since then the Malagash Supreme Court has denied an appeal to reduce the lower court's death sentence. The last appeal is for a presidential commutation to life imprisonment.
- On Christmas night 1996, three female Volunteers were victimized in a horrific multiple rape and robbery while on vacation in San Salvador. A male Volunteer was threatened and held at gun point during the assaults. Through extraordinary cooperation between the US embassy and the Salvadoran government, six defendants were arrested, identified in lineups and charged. The seventh and eight defendants remain fugitives. Six defendants have been sentenced to 30 years imprisonment for crimes of rape and theft, including one of the fugitives 'in absentia.' One defendant, the father of one of the fugitives, was released for lack of evidence on the charge of possessing war weapons. This group had been terrorizing their local area for some time with impunity and the prosecutor, in reporting the sentencings to the Country Director, thanked him for 'instilling in us the attitude and respect for human rights which make the United States of America a great nation.'



**Significant Investigations and Reviews of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

**Physical Assault of PCV – El Salvador**

A Volunteer was assaulted while she stood outside her hotel. She was able to fend off the attack even though the assailant was armed. He fled. An alert hotel employee witnessed the attack and notified the police who stopped the suspect's car a short time later. The Volunteer and the country director went to the scene of the arrest and the assailant was identified and formally charged. Evidence developed in the Volunteer's case led to the arrest of the same suspect in the rape of a 17 year old Salvadoran. The suspect was indicted in both cases and, following trial, was found guilty and sentenced to 2 consecutive 8 year terms of imprisonment

**Rape of PCV – Guatemala**

Two female Volunteers and a male Department of State intern were returning to their residence after seeing a movie in the capital when they were confronted by 4 men in a pickup truck. One Volunteer, sensing danger, fled and notified authorities. The other Volunteer and the intern were abducted at gunpoint and taken to a remote area about 25 miles from Guatemala City. There the Volunteer was repeatedly raped and the intern suffered major injuries to his head and mouth. The victims were released and left to seek aid, which they finally found. An emergency response team from the US Embassy transported them to a city hospital for treatment. Through extraordinary cooperation, the RSO's office and the National Police kept a high focus on the case. Several months later, 4 men were arrested and 2 resembled sketches made from descriptions given by the intern. The OIG arranged to show photo spreads and videotape to the victims in the US. Conditional identifications resulted in the OIG escorted the victims and another witness. At the conclusion of the trial, each defendant was found guilty of aggravated rape and sentenced to 15 years imprisonment. Early in the prosecution, the Office of Litigation, US Department of Justice (DoJ), arranged for a local lawyer to represent US interests.

**Rape of PCV – Guinea**

A female Volunteer was raped while jogging alone near the Peace Corps training center. The OIG arranged for the victim to meet with a forensic artist at the US Secret Service who produced a sketch of the suspect. Wanted posters were produced and provided to the local police who made an arrest following an identification made from the poster. The OIG escorted the victim back to Guinea where she made a positive identification of the suspect in a lineup. The suspect was awaiting trial when he died in jail.

### **Physical Assault on PCV – Mali**

A Volunteer was assaulted and severely beaten while on her way home. The assault went on for several minutes without aid being rendered by onlookers. Finally a group of residential guards came to the Volunteer's rescue. The assailant fled. Police were less than concerned until, a few months later, a similar assault on a host country female took place at the same place. Witnesses led police to a suspect telling them the same man was responsible for the attack on the Volunteer. The suspect was arrested and a photograph taken which the OIG presented to the Volunteer in a photo spread. The Volunteer was unable to identify the suspect.

### **Pending Cases**

#### **Rape of PCV – Bolivia**

A Volunteer left a restaurant and took a taxi to her residence. En route, the driver took the Volunteer to a remote area and raped her. Afterward the driver took the Volunteer home. After insistence by the RSO, the police arrested a suspect and a photo was taken. The OIG presented a photo spread to the Volunteer and a positive identification of the suspect was made. Trial is pending.

#### **Murder of PCV – Cote d'Ivoire**

A male Volunteer, soon to complete his service, was found by local children bludgeoned to death in his residence. After intervention by the Ambassador and the RSO, the local authorities arrested 6 people, several of whom were known acquaintances of the Volunteer. Robbery was the apparent motive. Four individuals remain in jail awaiting trial.

#### **Rape of PCV – Honduras**

One Peace Corps Volunteer and one Peace Corps trainee were victims of an attack by an armed Honduran gang while traveling through Honduras near the border with El Salvador. The Volunteer was raped and robbed and the trainee was assaulted and robbed. Due to collaborative efforts by the OIG, the Peace Corps country director, the US Embassy, the Honduran officials, five of the six suspects were apprehended and charged. The OIG escorted the victims back to Honduras where they made positive identifications of 2 suspects during a lineup. The suspects are awaiting trial without bail.

### **Murder of PCV – Gabon**

A female Volunteer, following a Peace Corps ceremony, left a restaurant and was last seen walking home. Her partially - clad body was found the next morning in high grass beside a road in her neighborhood. She apparently died of a single wound to the head. Initial investigation led police to a local acquaintance who implicated a local celebrity. While the celebrity was being held, his family successfully pressured for his released. The police were preparing to close the investigation when the US Ambassador intervened with national government officials, include the Gabonese president.

Just before the IG's visit, the President ordered his special police to arrest the prime suspects, including the celebrity. The OIG has arranged for several DNA examinations comparing fluids obtained from the victim and some of the suspects. The primary suspects, related to a very prominent family, have, to this point, refused to provide blood samples for comparison. The suspects have been moved from the rural town where the Volunteer worked to the capital. Trial is pending. The Office of Foreign Litigation, DoJ, has arranged for a local lawyer to represent the Peace Corps and the Volunteer's family.

**Investigations and Safety and Security Assessments of Peace Corps Operations and Programs**

**Murder of PCV – Cote d'Ivoire**

A male Volunteer, soon to complete his service, was found by local children bludgeoned to death in his residence. After intervention by the Ambassador and RSO, the local police arrested several people, including a local friend 'Alain,' a former girlfriend, and a co - worker at the mayory. Prosecutors later charged three people with murder. Robbery was the apparent motive. The case came to trial 18 months later, which is unusual – prisoners have languished for years waiting for trial. The Ambassador observed: 'This swiftness is the likely result of the Ivoirian government's interest and the persistence of the U. S. government to move this case forward.' After a 12 - hour trial, the jury deliberated one hour before finding 'Alain' guilty of pre - meditated murder and sentenced him to life in prison; two other defendants were found not guilty and were released. The concurrent civil action resulted in awards of CFA (Central African Francs) 20 million (about U. S. \$30, 000) to the Volunteer's family and a token CFA to the Peace Corps.

**Investigations and Safety and Security Assessment of Peace Corps Programs**

**Rape of Volunteer – Bolivia**

A female PCV reported being raped by a cab driver in Bolivia after leaving a club en route to her home. The PCV alleged that the driver drove around the city with the pretense of needing gas and change for her Bolivian currency. She reported that he drove to an isolated spot and raped her. An OIG representative traveled to Bolivia to assist in the investigation. With help from the RSO's office, the Bolivia National Police arrested a suspect. The RSO obtained a photograph of the suspect and forwarded it to the OIG. The PCV was shown a photo spread created by the OIG, and she made a positive identification of the suspect. The OIG arranged for DNA testing of evidence obtained from the victim and the suspect. The post dropped the case, because the DNA report excluded the suspect and because of other evidentiary problems.

**Rape of Volunteer – Guatemala**

A female PCV and a male Guatemalan co - worker were stopped by a group of bandits on a dirt road in northern Guatemala. They were robbed of jewelry and money and ordered into a wooded area where the male co - worker was knocked unconscious and the female PCV was raped. After an extensive manhunt by the Guatemalan Policia Nacional Civil and the RSO's office, three suspects were arrested for robbery and identified as the suspects in the rape of the PCV. The OIG accompanied the PCV to Guatemala where she made positive identifications of two of the suspects. After three continuances, the case went to trial and the defendants were convicted and sentenced to prison terms of 12 years.

**Pending Cases**

The following cases, most pending judicial action, remain open. The OIG will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

**Murder of PCV – Gabon:** pending trial.

**Rape of PCV – Honduras:** pending sentencing.

**Rape of PCV – Macedonia:** pending sentencing.

**Rape of PCV – Ukraine:** pending investigation.

**Assault on PCV – El Salvador:** pending sentencing.

**Assault on PCV – Lesotho:** pending trial.

**Investigations and Safety and Security Assessments of Peace Corps Programs**

**Assault on Volunteer – Lesotho**

A female Volunteer was walking with a neighbor when a male attacked the neighbor. The Volunteer pulled the neighbor away while two other males restrained the attacker. The man broke away, ran up to the Volunteer from behind, and hit her in the face with a stone. The Volunteer suffered severe facial fractures, was hospitalized, and evacuated to the U. S. The attacker was detained, arrested, and held for trial. The Volunteer has decided not to return to country, and the charges have been dropped.

**Pending Cases**

The following cases, most pending judicial action, remain open. We will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

**1989 Murder of Volunteer – Gabon:** trial resulted in acquittal; the Government of Gabon has filed an appeal

**Rape of Volunteer – Honduras:** pending sentencing

**Rape of Volunteer – Macedonia:** pending sentencing

**Assault on Volunteer – El Salvador:** pending sentencing

**Rape of Volunteer – Eastern Caribbean:** pending investigation.

**Assault on Volunteer – Jamaica:** pending trial.

**Investigations Completed and Final Safety and Security Assessment Reports Issued During Reporting Period**

**Assault on Peace Corps Volunteer – Peace Corps / Cameroon**

A Volunteer was accosted without provocation and abducted by a man in plain clothes driving an unmarked car. The man took the Volunteer to what the Volunteer described as a local police station, although it too was unmarked, where another man later identified the assailant as the police commissioner. There the Volunteer was caned on his bare feet and face, had hair yanked out, and his fingers bent backwards. Then the man took the Volunteer to his (Volunteer's) house where he punched the Volunteer in the chest. The man left after threatening that, if he should talk, 'I know where you live.'

The Volunteer had his face photographed and reported the incident to the U. S. embassy. The charge delivered a demarche to the Cameroon Minister of Territorial Administration who promised a full investigation. The U. S. Ambassador determined that the assailant was the local head of undercover police and that an investigation had found him at fault. The President of Cameroon, through a 'most senior aide,' apologized and promised stern punishment. The officer has since been stripped of police powers, removed from his post, and demoted; he is reportedly ill and receiving treatment.

**Alleged Assault and Rape of Volunteers – Peace Corps / Ukraine**

While traveling by train, two Volunteers, one male and one female, drank two bottles of vodka and arrived at their destination train station drunk and, in the male's case, unconscious. They reported that local police took them to a detoxification center and placed them in separate rooms. The female Volunteer reported being partially undressed and fondled during the night by male attendants who stopped when summoned by other workers; nothing further happened to her. The male Volunteer reported being raped twice by two men whom he could not describe.

The assaults were reported to the local police when the victims arrived at another Volunteer's house. The U. S. embassy and the Peace Corps office were also notified. The Volunteers signed a no-fault statement for the police, later saying this had been coerced.

The embassy issued a formal complaint to the Ukraine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and requested a full and impartial investigation. The investigative report found no improper conduct by the police. IN newspaper accounts, the chief prosecutor stressed the male Volunteer's drunk, ill, and soiled condition and several inconsistencies in the Volunteers' stories.

### **Assault of Volunteer – Peace Corps / Jamaica**

While walking near her site, a female Volunteer was approached by a man who displayed a small knife and grabbed her. She screamed, wrestled free, and jumped down a slope where she found help. The assailant escaped. About six months later the Volunteer saw the man in the town square. Local police arrested the man, who was positively identified by the Volunteer in a police line - up. After many continuances, the assailant was convicted, in absentia, of assault with intent to rape while armed and fined. A bench warrant has been issued. Sentencing for such crimes ranges from seven to ten years' imprisonment.

### **Assault of Volunteer – Peace Corps / El Salvador**

While walking home, a female Volunteer was accosted by a man with a knife, dragged into a field, and thrown to the ground. She screamed, managed to get the assailant off her, and ran to the house of an acquaintance. She suffered a small puncture wound in her neck, was taken to a hospital, treated, and released. The assailant escaped. Within three days, the community rallied to her cause; a 12 - year old female witness to the attack came forward and identified the assailant to the police. Under police protection, the Volunteer returned to the site, identified the assailant in a line - up, and testified at the preliminary hearing and at the trial. The jury found the defendant guilty of attempted rape and attempted aggravated assault. He was sentenced to two consecutive three - year prison terms, plus a one - year 'condemnatory sentence, ' and was ordered to pay a fine for physical damages to the Volunteer. The Volunteer continues her service in another country.

### **Possible Assault on Female Volunteer – Peace Corps / Bulgaria**

A female Volunteer reported a possible sexual assault while she attended a party with other Volunteers and people from the local community. She reported passing out either from the heat in the building or someone placing something in her drink. Upon awakening, she felt she might have been raped. Her friends confirmed that she had been absent from the party for a period of time, but they did not see with whom she had left. A laboratory test for semen was negative. She remains on duty at her site.

### **Pending Cases:**

The following cases remain open, most pending judicial action. We will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

**1998 Murder of Volunteer – Gabon:** trial resulted in acquittal; the Government of Gabon has filed an appeal.

**Rape of Volunteer - Macedonia:** pending sentencing.

**Rape of Volunteer – Honduras:** pending sentencing.

**Rape of Volunteer – Eastern Caribbean:** pending trial.

**Armed Robbery of Volunteer – Malawi:** pending sentencing.

**Missing Volunteer – Bolivia:** under investigation.



### **Investigations Completed During the Reporting Period**

#### **Eastern Caribbean: Rape of Volunteer**

A female Volunteer reported being raped while in her home. The Volunteer reported not recognizing the assailant who was armed with a knife. The Volunteer's description of the rapist led to the arrest of an 18 - year - old suspect, a client at a rehabilitation center where the Volunteer was an advisor. The defendant was convicted and sentenced to eight years imprisonment at hard labor.

#### **Macedonia: Rape of Volunteer**

A female Volunteer was forcibly raped several times by two men known to her. The police were notified, both men were arrested, and the Volunteer was medevaced for treatment. The Volunteer decided not to continue her service. With OIG funding, the Volunteer returned and testified at trial. Both men were convicted and sentenced to one year in prison. On appeal, the convictions were overturned. The local prosecutor has decided not to retry the case.

### **Pending Cases**

The following cases remain open, most pending judicial action. We will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

#### **Bolivia: Missing Volunteer**

A male Volunteer, who had just completed his training, was reported missing. Personnel from the American embassy, Peace Corps / Bolivia staff, the OIG, and the Bolivian National Police conducted a thorough search of his site and the city of La Paz. Hospitals, jails, border crossings, hotels, hostels, and morgues throughout Bolivia were contacted. A search was mobilized at his site and all paths and trails near his village and neighboring villages were searched and checked for possible leads. Ground searches were conducted, and teams of investigators began questioning people in the village where he lived. Five kilometers of the river near his site were searched by the Bolivian firemen and police trained in search and rescue. The Peace Corps and the American embassy launched an extensive media campaign. Newspapers, radio stations, and local television stations broadcast hourly communications seeking assistance in locating the Volunteer. Over 4, 000 flyers offering a reward (\$10, 000) for information leading to the discovery of the Volunteer's whereabouts were distributed throughout the country's airports, border crossings, and checkpoints. The investigation continues.

**Bolivia: Rape of Volunteer.** Pending judicial action.

**Gabon: 1998 Murder of Volunteer.** The trial resulted in acquittal; the Government of Gabon has filed an appeal.

**Honduras: Rape of Volunteer.** Pending sentencing.

**Kazakhstan: Rape of Volunteer.** Pending judicial action.

**Malawi: Armed Robbery of Volunteer.** Defendant escaped from custody; pending sentencing.

### Investigations Completed During the Reporting Period

#### **Rape of Volunteer**

A female Volunteer accompanied two males to an apartment where she thought other females from a group she met at a beach were to join them. Once in the apartment, the two males attempted to give her alcohol and, after she refused, both males raped and beat her. One male left the apartment, and she escaped. She called the police, who arrested one of the two males. He was sentenced to five years and six months in jail. The other male has not been identified.

#### Pending Cases

The following cases remain open, most pending judicial action. We will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

**Murder of Volunteer, 1998.** Trial resulted in acquittal. The Government of Gabon filed an appeal and the acquittal has been vacated. Trial to be re - scheduled.

**Rape of Volunteer, 1999. Honduras.** Pending sentencing.

**Assault on Volunteer, Rape of Acquaintance, 2000. Guatemala.** Pending judicial action.

**Missing Volunteer, 2001.** During the reporting period, outreach through the local media in Bolivia for leads to the whereabouts of the Volunteer was repeated with the reward for information increased to \$25, 000. The media outreach also extended to neighboring countries. As yet, this effort has produced no promising leads.

**Murder of Volunteer, 2001.** Volunteer in Zimbabwe was apparently murdered for her cell phone. Pending prosecution.

**Rape of Volunteer, 2001.** Pending judicial action in Bolivia.

**Rape of Volunteer, 2001.** Volunteer in Samoa alleged two local men broke into her home, knocked her unconscious, and raped her. Investigation continues.

**Assault of Volunteer, 2002.** Volunteer in Samoa alleged that a male entered her unlocked room and sexually assaulted her. Investigation continues.

### Investigations Completed During the Reporting Period

#### **Alleged Rape of Volunteer**

A Volunteer was alone in bed when two local men entered her house and pushing her, causing her to hit her head on the wall and lose consciousness. When she awoke, she was missing clothing she was wearing before the attack. A physical exam did not establish that rape had occurred. She could not describe her attacker, and the police investigation has not developed any suspects.

#### **Sexual Assault of Volunteer**

A Volunteer was asleep in a Peace Corps dormitory, when a man entered and attempted to rape her. She succeeded in getting him outside where she roused a guard, and the assailant fled. Working with local police, the OIG made a photospread of suspects from which the Volunteer could not make an identification. On her return to post, the Volunteer positively identified a suspect from a lineup, primarily from voice identification. Prosecution has been declined for lack of evidence.

#### **Alleged Rape of Volunteer**

After an afternoon and evening of risky behavior, a female Volunteer awoke with two male Volunteers in bed with her. When told by others of what had transpired (she cannot remember), she called the post and reported being raped. When interviewed by the OIG, the male Volunteers claimed the sex was consensual. Witnesses reported observing the female having sex voluntarily. The male Volunteers resigned.

### Pending Cases

The following cases remain open, most pending judicial action. We will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

**Gabon: Murder of Volunteer, 1998.** Trial resulted in acquittal. The Government of Gabon filed an appeal, and the acquittal has been vacated. Trial to be re - scheduled.

**Honduras: Rape of Volunteer, 1999.** Pending sentencing.

**Guatemala: Assault on Volunteer, Rape of Acquaintance, 2000.** Pending judicial action.

**Bolivia: Missing Volunteer, 2001.** Continuing efforts have produced no promising leads.

**Bolivia: Rape of Volunteer, 2001.** Pending judicial action.

**Zimbabwe: Murder of Volunteer, 2001.** Pending prosecution.

**Zambia: Assault on Volunteer, 2002.** Pending judicial action.

### Investigations Completed During the Reporting Period

#### **Rape of Volunteer, 2001**

A female Volunteer was raped by two host country males following a birthday party celebration for another Volunteer. The rapists were caught in the act by the landlord. They were well known to the Volunteers and the landlord and were arrested and jailed. The case was removed to the capital city because of the influence of the father of one of the rapists. After nearly two years of political and legal maneuvering, the victim asked that the matter be dropped. The case was closed.

### Pending Cases

The following cases remain open, most pending judicial action. We will report on them in full once the investigations are closed.

**1998: Gabon: Murder of Volunteer.** Trial resulted in acquittal. The U. S. Department of Justice requested a re - investigation. The Government of Gabon and the heirs of the Volunteer filed an appeal, and the acquittal has been vacated. Trial to be rescheduled.

**1999: Honduras: Rape of Volunteer.** One defendant sentenced; two defendants awaiting trial on consolidated charges.

**2000: Guatemala: Assault on Volunteer, Rape of Acquaintance.** Pending judicial action.

**2001: Bolivia: Missing Volunteer.** No new leads developed.

**2001: Zimbabwe: Murder of Volunteer.** Defendant convicted and sentenced. Case open pending receipt of investigative report. (Peace Corps subsequently closed this post. )

**2002: Zambia: Assault on Volunteer.** Pending judicial action.

**2002: Belize: Aggravated Assault and Attempted Rape of Volunteer.** Pending judicial action.

**2003: Guatemala: Robbery, Sexual Assault, Rape of Volunteer.** Pending judicial action.

**2003: Ukraine: Rape of Volunteer.** Under investigation.

## Representative Investigative Case Activities

### **Crimes Against Volunteers**

**Gabon:** A 1998 murder of a Volunteer resulted in an acquittal. As a result, the OIG continues to actively pursue the matter in coordination with the Peace Corps General Counsel and the U. S. Department of Justice.

**Belize:** In December 2002, a local male accosted, robbed, and attempted to rape a Volunteer while she was walking to her residence. The Volunteer escaped and was able to identify the assailant. The OIG investigator assisted the RSO and local police in gathering sufficient information from the Volunteer to identify the perpetrator. In June 2003, the perpetrator was tried and sentenced to 12 years in prison.

**Bolivia:** The OIG continued to actively review the case of a Volunteer missing since 2001. As part of its investigation, the OIG has worked with the Office of Medical Services to obtain a family serology sample (DNA).

**Zimbabwe:** In October 2001, the OIG was informed that a 63 - year - old Volunteer had been murdered and her body had been found beneath the floorboards in her house. The autopsy showed that she had died due to skull fracture and hemorrhage secondary to trauma to the head with a blunt object. Two males were arrested. One was found guilty of murder and was sentenced in March 2003 to 11 years in prison. The other was acquitted.

**Samoa:** In March 2003, the OIG was informed that a perpetrator had broken into a female Volunteer's house and had sexually assaulted her. The OIG investigator interviewed the Volunteer and helped her construct a report and sketch of the crime scene that led to the identification and arrest of the assailant. The assailant pleaded guilty to four counts – attempted rape, indecent assault, actual bodily harm, and burglary – and was sentenced in July 2003 to six years in prison.

**Guatemala:** The OIG continues to work three cases involving sexual assault of Volunteers. In each case, further prosecutorial and judicial actions are pending.

**Grenada:** The OIG responded to a sexual assault of a Volunteer by developing evidence that is being used in the prosecution of the offender by local authorities. The Volunteer was escorted through the criminal justice process by OIG staff.

## Representative Investigative Case Activities

### **Crimes Against Volunteers**

As noted in the introduction to this report, the violent crimes protocol was issued by the Director of the agency during this reporting period, clarifying and establishing as policy the reporting of violent crimes to this office and this office's responsibility for responding and representing the agency in investigations of such crimes. We have established a Violent Crime Hotline and a secure fax to receive reports of crimes, and we have been responding to questions from the overseas posts about the changes and implementation procedures. We received 75 incident reports during this reporting period - a significant increase from the rate of incident traffic we previously experienced. We do not attribute this to an increase in incidents but to the requirement that incidents be reported to us.

**Gabon:** A 1998 murder of a Volunteer resulted in an acquittal. The verdict has been appealed, and a new trial is scheduled soon. We continue to pursue the matter in coordination with the U. S. Department of Justice.

**Bolivia:** The OIG maintains an open investigation on the case of a Volunteer missing since 2001. Any and all leads are pursued in coordination with the U. S. Embassy's Regional Security Officer and the local police.

**Guatemala:** The OIG continues to work four cases involving sexual assault of Volunteers. In each case, further prosecutorial and judicial actions are pending.

**Armenia:** A Volunteer was sexually assaulted but decided not to prosecute. She was moved from the site. However, since the incident had been reported to the local police, the police went forward with the prosecution, and the perpetrator was found guilty.

**Grenada:** The OIG responded to a sexual assault of a Volunteer by developing evidence that is being used in the prosecution of the offender by local authorities. The Volunteer was escorted through the criminal justice process by the OIG staff.

**Mauritania:** During the reporting period, the OIG continued its coordination of the investigation and prosecution of a multiple - perpetrator sexual assault of a Volunteer. As a result of initial close coordination between the country director, the Peace Corps Medical Officer, and the Regional Security Officer (RSO), initial victim evidence had been obtained and preserved. The OIG worked with the Federal Bureau of Investigation Laboratory to coordinate examination of the forensic evidence. An OIG investigator returned to the country with the victim to participate in local judicial proceedings and also obtain serological samples for analysis from three prisoners with the assistance of the local police and the RSO. We also presented the results of the FBI lab work to local police, to the Magistrate of Inquiry, and to a medical expert retrained by the local court to review the DNA evidence. This represented the first case of DNA evidence in the country. This case also involved coordination with the Foreign Litigation Section of the U. S. Department of Justice and the FBI Legal Attaché in Paris, whose jurisdiction includes Mauritania.



### **Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

#### **Violent crime cases closed**

- Responding to a past sexual assault of a Volunteer in the Caribbean, an OIG agent accompanied a former Volunteer back to post for trial. The trial ended with the defendant convicted of rape and burglary. He was sentenced to 10 years hard labor. The OIG helped develop evidence used in the prosecution of the offender by local authorities.
- In a case in Central American country, a juvenile with ties to a local gang confessed and was convicted of the rape of a Volunteer. The defendant was sentenced to three years in prison. An OIG agent accompanied the Volunteer back to the venue for judicial proceedings.
- In the capital of a sub - Saharan country, a series of five robberies involving a total of 11 Volunteers occurred near the transit house used by Volunteers. In one of the five cases, local authorities arrested two of the three suspects. The case proceeded to court where the suspects were sentenced to 18 months in jail. In another case, two suspects received five years imprisonment and a third was found not guilty and released from custody. The other three cases were closed, because the Volunteer victims were unable to identify the perpetrators. As a result of these five robberies, the Country Director issued new policies pertaining to Volunteer movement to and from the transit house. There have been no new robberies of Volunteers in the area. The arrests and changes in procedures came with substantial support from the RSO.
- In a case in West Africa, a tribunal found four individuals guilty of rape and kidnapping under the country's Penal Code. In the very early stages of this investigation, the OIG coordinated the collection and preservation of evidence, teaching the local police authorities how to collect and package DNA evidence. The OIG worked with the FBI laboratory to coordinate the examination of the forensic evidence (DNA) for presentation in court and returned to country to coordinate the first - ever use of DNA by judicial and prosecution officials. The sentences of the four individuals ranged from ten months to two years with fines and restitution.
- A Volunteer in a Pacific nation was assaulted and raped by a masked assailant. The assailant/rapist was subsequently identified. The assailant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 30 years in prison with no possibility of parole for 20 years. This appears to be one of the longest sentences handed down in a criminal case in that country.

### **Pending Violent Crime Cases:**

- In January 2003, two Peace Corps Trainees were accosted at gunpoint in a public park and sexually assaulted in a Central American country. Based on the Volunteers' identification, a suspect was arrested. Trial is pending.
- In a Central American country, a Peace Corps Trainee was raped by an acquaintance on an isolated stretch of roadway. Trial is pending.
- In a Central American country, two Volunteers were shot (calf and foot) and sustained non - life threatening injuries in a botched robbery attempt. The OIG advised post on the collection and photographic documentation of the ballistic evidence. No suspects have yet been apprehended.
- The OIG continues to monitor the progress of local authority in the apprehension and arrest of a suspect wanted for the attempted rape and assault of a Volunteer in a South American country. An arrest warrant has been issued. The Volunteer was medically separated from the Peace Corps.
- In an Eastern European nation, two vacationing Volunteers were assaulted while traveling on an overnight train from one country to another. The OIG is monitoring progress and coordinating this case with the Regional Security Officers in both nations.
- A Volunteer was the victim of an attempted rape during a home invasion in a South American nation. The PCV was assaulted and suffered injuries resulting in medical separation.
- In a South American country, a Volunteer was the victim of a rape during a home invasion. Physical evidence was left at the crime scene that could aid in the identification of the rapist. The OIG consulted with post staff, local authorities, and the RSO about the collection and submission of forensic evidence to the FBI.
- A Volunteer was assaulted with a knife and raped during a home invasion in a Central American Country. The OIG coordinated collection of physical evidence that has been submitted to the FBI lab.
- In a Central American country, a Trainee was sexually assaulted and raped by an extended member of her host family. The OIG interviewed the Trainee and consulted with the RSO and regional police authorities. No arrest has been made.
- In an African country, the OIG is working with the FBI laboratory on the examination of the forensic evidence in a Volunteer rape. The OIG continues its investigation by coordinating with the Regional Security Officer at the U. S. Embassy. The case is proceeding to trial.

- In a missing Volunteer case, the OIG worked in South America with the RSO and national police to pursue new leads that had developed in the case. As noted earlier in this report, we have now contracted with two private investigators to conduct a full cold case review and follow up on all potential leads.
- In a six - year - old homicide case in equatorial Africa, the OIG continues to coordinate with an on - going investigation led by the FBI. FBI personnel returned to country and worked with the local police during this reporting period. The OIG provided some financial support to the local police for their investigative expenses. This is an on - going investigation.
- In a Central American country, a Volunteer was the victim of a sexual assault by an employee of a hotel where she had been a patron. An OIG agent twice accompanied the victim back to country for testimony that led to the identification and indictment of the two suspects. Trial proceedings are pending.
- A Volunteer vacationing and residing in a hotel on a Caribbean island was the victim of a brutal sexual assault by three armed burglars. Local police authorities have since broken up a ring of serial rapists who were preying on tourists. The OIG is coordinating with DSS and the FBI on the prosecution of the case.

## **Investigations**

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- In Central Asia, a Volunteer was sexually assaulted. The accused was arrested, tried, and received a four - year prison term.
  
- In Africa, a Volunteer was the victim of an assault in August 2004. An OIG agent coordinated with the Regional Security Officer, interviewed the victim, and provided guidance to post on the matter. The accused received a six - month prison sentence.
  
- In Eastern Europe, a Volunteer was the victim of an assault and robbery. Through a coordinated effort with the Regional Security Officer and the local law enforcement authorities, three suspects were apprehended, charged, and found guilty. The three men are repeat crime offenders. The courts took this into consideration and sentenced two of the men to 12. 5 - year terms, while the third defendant received a 10 - year prison term. The Volunteer's laptop computer – taken during the course of the robbery – was located and returned to the victim.
  
- In Central Asia, a Volunteer was the victim of a physical and attempted sexual assault. As a result of quick intervention on the part of the host country police, two suspects were found and sentenced to two - year probation/community service terms.
  
- In northwest Africa, a Volunteer was the victim of an armed robbery. The police responded quickly and within four hours the suspect was found and detained. The suspect pleaded guilty and was sentenced to six months.
  
- In sub - Saharan Africa, a Volunteer was the victim of death threats and a simple assault. The suspect was apprehended, tried, and sentenced to five years probation.
  
- In an Eastern European nation, two vacationing Volunteers were assaulted while traveling on an overnight train from one country to another. The OIG coordinated this case with the Regional Security Officers in both nations, but local authorities failed to make an arrest.

- Responding to a request for assistance from the U. S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, we arranged for the transport of a Volunteer back to the United States to participate in a state court trial. The Volunteer had been a victim of the accused prior to entering Peace Corps service. The defendant was on trial for a second case of rape and was convicted and sentenced to 24 years.

#### **Pending Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- In an African country, the OIG worked the FBI laboratory on the examination of the forensic evidence in a Volunteer sexual assault. The OIG worked with the Regional Security Officer at the U. S. Embassy. The case is proceeding to trial.
- In January 2003, two Peace Corps Volunteers in pre - service training were accosted at gunpoint in a public park and sexually assaulted in a Central American country. Based on the Volunteers' identification, a suspect was arrested and has been incarcerated awaiting trial in April 2005. The OIG will facilitate the return of the two Volunteers to testify at the trial.
- In a Central American country in 2003, a Peace Corps Volunteer in pre - service training was sexually assaulted by an acquaintance on an isolated stretch of roadway. An OIG investigator accompanied the Volunteer back to post where the defendant was acquitted in a two day trial of all charges by a three judge panel. The public prosecutor will file an appeal.
- In a Central American country, two Volunteers were shot (calf and foot) and sustained non - life threatening injuries in a botched robbery attempt. The OIG advised post on the collection and photographic documentation of the ballistic evidence. No suspects have yet been apprehended. The Volunteers returned to complete their service.
- In a South American Country, the OIG continues to await action by local authorities to execute an arrest warrant leading to the trial of a person wanted for the assault and attempted sexual assault of a Peace Corps Volunteer in 2003.
- In a South American country, an OIG investigator accompanied a former Volunteer back to post to view a line - up for the police. OIG investigators, in collaboration with the RSO, local police authorities, and U. S. Immigration and Customs Agents in the United States, were able to identify a prime suspect, a deportee. The Volunteer had been sexually accosted during a night - time home invasion and was unable to make a positive identification.
- In a Central American country, a Volunteer in pre - service training was sexually assaulted and raped by an extended member of the host family. The OIG interviewed the Volunteer in pre - service training and consulted with the RSO and regional police authorities. No arrest has been made.

- In a six - year - old homicide case in equatorial Africa, the OIG continues to coordinate with an on - going investigation led by the FBI. The OIG provided some financial support to the local police for their investigative expenses. The U. S. Ambassador has filed a former request for action with the government.
- A Volunteer vacationing and residing in a hotel on a Caribbean island was the victim of a sexual assault by three armed burglars. The OIG is coordinating with DSS and the FBI on the prosecution of the case.
- In a South American country, the OIG responded to a sexual assault of a Volunteer while in - country on other cases. The OIG coordinated with the RSO to assist the victim and a Volunteer witness with filing police reports, contacting the prosecutor's office to provide sworn statements, contacting the forensic science institute for medical examination and follow - up, and attending an identification line - up. The Department of Justice Office of Foreign Litigation accepted the case so that a third - party prosecutor could be retained to represent the Volunteer's interests in all legal proceedings. The OIG met and conducted liaison with the local prosecutor, the judge who conducted the initial hearing, the Deputy Attorney General of Bolivia, the Directory of Forensic Science Institute, and several third - party prosecutors who represented the Volunteer victim in court. The suspect was arrested and after a lengthy hearing, and is being held without bail. The suspect is a known local figure who is believed to be an enforcer for local businessmen and politicians. The suspect also had a known history of trafficking in narcotics. The Volunteer victim was granted an early release from the Peace Corps. The case is being actively pursued by local authorities.
- In sub - Saharan Africa, a Volunteer was the victim of an attempted home invasion and robbery. During the course of the attempted robbery, the subjects attempted to set the Volunteer's house - guard on fire in an effort to murder him. In a coordinated effort involving the OIG, the Regional Security Office, and local authorities, suspects were apprehended and are currently in custody and are awaiting trial.
- The OIG responded to a report of armed home invasion in the Caribbean. The OIG established contact with the victims, who provided several leads as to the identity of the subjects responsible and indicated they were willing to prosecute. The OIG coordinated with the RSO for the victims to attend several line - ups, as the local police believed they had apprehended the suspects. However, the victims were unable to identify the suspects, and the investigation is continuing.

- The OIG responded to a report of a sexual assault and robbery of a Volunteer in an Asian country. The OIG coordinated with DSS's Criminal Investigative Liaison Office in Washington, D. C. , as there was no RSO in country at the time. The OIG coordination with DSS's Criminal Investigative Liaison Office led to early intervention by the Deputy Chief of Mission with the potential for a successful outcome. The suspect was arrested, incarcerated, and is currently awaiting trial.
- A Volunteer reported an attempted burglary /stalking in South America. The OIG coordinated with the country director and RSO, who contacted the local police with the Volunteer victim. The suspect was arrested and has been released on bond pending further legal proceedings.
- An OIG agent traveled to South America to review and renew the investigation into a long - time missing Volunteer. The OIG reviewed hundreds of documents, conducted interviews of personnel involved in search efforts and conducted investigative follow - up on developed leads. Witnesses were interviewed as a result of new investigative leads, follow - up was conducted with a contracted private investigator and former federal investigator who had been tasked with conducting an independent investigation. All current leads have been exhausted, but the case will continue to be closely monitored and investigated by the OIG and other U. S. and local authorities.
- An OIG agent is currently coordinating the return of a Volunteer to testify at a rape trial in Milan, Italy. The Volunteer was the victim of a rape while vacationing in Italy early in 2004. The assailant has been identified. The OIG agent, the Italian prosecutor assigned to the case, and a U. S. Consular Affairs Assistant are actively coordinating to maximize the chances of a successful prosecution.

## **Summary of Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- A Volunteer serving in the South Pacific was the victim of a home invasion and major physical assault. The victim returned to the United States for medical treatment, was met by an OIG agent, and interviewed about the details of the attack. The agent worked with the local law enforcement community to assist in collecting evidence relating to the crime. After a period of time in which all parties thought that the case might remain unsolved, a break came when the subject was found by the neighbor in possession of a large amount of cash that he was unable to explain. The subject then provided a full confession to police and appeared before the local Supreme Court. The court sentenced the defendant to a 3 year, 10 month prison term. The victim recovered all items taken during the attack, including a box of personal letters and mementoes with sentimental value.
  
- In January 2004, a Volunteer serving in Central East Africa was the victim of a rape while vacationing in Europe. In coordination with the local police and the U. S. Department of State, an investigation was undertaken and the suspect in their rape was found and identified. The court initially wanted to begin proceedings at a date that interfered with the completion of several of the Volunteer's ongoing projects. An OIG agent worked with the host country prosecutor and the U. S. Department of State for a continuation in the case, which was granted. In May 2005, the court convened and the Volunteer was escorted by an OIG agent. The court found the defendant guilty of the charges, and he received a prison sentence of six years and two months.
  
- In an East African country, a Volunteer was the victim of a home invasion and robbery. During the course of the attack, the assailants attempted to set the Volunteer's house - guard on fire. Within a few days, police had arrested several suspects. After further investigation, it was determined that the suspects in custody were not the perpetrators and that their arrest was a show of support for the Volunteer by the local police. As of this date, no subjects have been found. An OIG agent coordinated with DSS to ensure all leads were exhausted. Based upon the lack of actionable evidence, the case was closed.
  
- A Volunteer serving in Central Asia was the victim of a robbery. The Volunteer was riding on a bus that was hijacked by three armed, masked men who demanded valuable items from all passengers. The three hijackers were eventually found and identified. After a lengthy detention



and trial period, the three men were each found guilty and were sentenced to nine years imprisonment.

- A Volunteer serving in Central Asia was the victim of a physical assault and robbery. The attack occurred within the victim's apartment stairwell. The local police were instrumental in finding and arresting the two men who were responsible. The Volunteer decided not to participate in the prosecution of the two men, but the host country government moved ahead and sentenced both men to a period of probation and community service, thereby avoiding the need to involve the Volunteer.
- A Volunteer serving in Eastern Europe was the victim of a sexual assault by a local employee at the university where they both worked. The police and university management were contacted. The Volunteer did not wish to prosecute the subject. The offending employee's employment was terminated, allowing the Volunteer to continue service.
- A Volunteer serving in Eastern Europe was the victim of a robbery and assault. The police were notified, and the subjects were found, identified, and prosecuted for the crime. One of the subjects was found guilty and sentenced to 13 months in prison. The Volunteer recovered personal items taken during the attack.
- In January 2003, two Volunteers in pre - service training were accosted at gunpoint in a public park and sexually assaulted in a Central American country. Based on the Volunteers' identification, a suspect was arrested and incarcerated prior to the trial. During the reporting period, OIG agents facilitated and accompanied the two Volunteers who had completed their Peace Corps service, to testify at the trial. The one month trial culminated in the conviction and sentencing of the defendant to 23 years in prison. A subsequent appeal by the defendant upheld the conviction and sentence.
- In a southern African country, a Volunteer was raped by a host family cousin who entered the room where the victim was sleeping. The assailant is known to the Volunteer, who was subsequently medevaced to Washington, but the victim declined to press criminal charges.
- In August 2004, two Volunteers were shot (calf and foot) in a Central American country and sustained non - life threatening injuries in a botched robbery attempt. The OIG advised the post on the collection and photographic documentation of the ballistic evidence. An OIG investigator responded to the post for developments in the investigation. The Volunteers returned to service and closed out their service without further incident. No suspects were apprehended.
- In August of 2004, a Volunteer vacationing and residing in a hotel on a Caribbean island was the victim of a sexual assault by three armed burglars. The OIG coordinated with DSS and the FBI on the prosecution of the case. A number of line - ups were conducted, but the victim was not able

to make an identification. The Volunteer was subsequently medically separated from the Peace Corps.

- In South America, a Volunteer was robbed in a suspected drug - facilitated crime after accepting a bottled beverage from a stranger in a commercial business. An OIG agent coordinated closely with the RSO to interview the victim and witnesses and to obtain physical evidence for a prosecution. Prior to the collection of additional physical evidence, the Volunteer requested and was granted an early close of service. The suspect was not identified.
- In a South American country, a suspect who had committed an attempted burglary and stalking of a Volunteer was not charged based on insufficient evidence. However, local police officers felt that the short period of incarceration and their warnings for him to stay away from the Volunteer, the Volunteer's house, or work site, would be heeded and effective.
- In the Caribbean, an OIG agent coordinated with the RSO and two Volunteer victims of an armed home invasion to identify the suspects. After attending several line - ups at the police department, the victims were unable to identify the assailants and completed their service.
- In a South American country, the suspects in a robbery and assault of a Volunteer were convicted and sentenced to 12 months in jail.
- On a Pacific island, charges against a suspect arrested for the attempted rape of a Volunteer were dropped due to the Volunteer leaving the country at close of service.
- On a Pacific island, charges against a suspect arrested for the burglary and attempted sexual assault of a Volunteer were dropped due to the Volunteer leaving the country on a transfer to another country.
- On a Pacific island, a subject, who committed an armed home invasion with an apparent intent to rape the Volunteer, was convicted and sentenced to two years for robbery.
- On a Pacific island, a relative of the Volunteer's host family who had attempted to rape the Volunteer was convicted of sexual assault and received a sentence of three years and six months and a fine.
- In Central Asia, a suspect in an assault of a Volunteer was convicted and sentenced to four years in prison.
- In a Central American country, an OIG agent followed up on a robbery of two Volunteers with one of the victims and the prosecutor's office. A suspect was identified by witnesses, but neither

of the Volunteer victims could positively identify the suspect. The prosecutor's office declined prosecution for lack of evidence.

- In a Central American country, two suspects were tried for the assault and robbery of a Volunteer. Through bribery and intimidation of witnesses, as well as poor performance on the part of the public prosecutor, the suspects were acquitted of both charges.

#### **Pending Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- A Volunteer serving in Eastern Europe was the victim of rape by a host family member. An OIG agent met with the local prosecutor and the lead investigator and interviewed the victim on several occasions for information that the lead investigator requested. In September 2005, the local court convened and the charges were dismissed based on a technicality. Currently, the U. S. mission is working with the host country government to determine if applicable law was honored in this matter. The Volunteer has appealed the decision, and additional action is likely forthcoming.
- Following a sexual assault last year of a Volunteer serving in Central Africa, the court has yet to set a trial date. The accused remains in custody and a member of the OIG investigative team will return with the Volunteer, who has subsequently completed service, once trial commences.
- In a South American country, the OIG continues to await action by local authorities to execute an arrest warrant leading to the trial of a person wanted for the assault and attempted sexual assault of a Volunteer in 2003.
- In an equatorial African country, a Volunteer was the victim of an aggravated assault when the victim refused to give money to the assailant. The assailant then fled the scene with an unidentified person on a motorcycle. The Volunteer was taken to a hospital for first aid and medevaced to Washington. The Volunteer is recovering and has closed service. One suspect was apprehended and the weapon was found. The case is awaiting trial.
- A Volunteer in a Central American country was the victim of a sexual assault/room invasion while vacationing at a hotel. The victim recognized one of the assailants as hotel security personnel. OIG agents have twice returned to the country to provide coordination with the victim, local officials, and the RSO. The defendant and co - conspirator were indicated and are awaiting a hearing in December 2005.
- In a South American country, an arrest warrant is being sought by the local authorities for a rape defendant who failed to appear for trial in 2005. An OIG agent coordinated the investigation and prosecution of this case in cooperation and conjunction with the RSO, local prosecutors, and other local law enforcement officials. The suspect had been in custody, but was released on bail

pending trial. The OIG assisted with funding for DNA analysis on evidence collected at the time of the rape that provides critical physical evidence for the pending trial.

- In the case of a long - time missing Volunteer from a South American country, the OIG assisted in funding two ranking National Police officers to travel to the area in which the Volunteer had lived for a short time prior to the Volunteer's disappearance. The preliminary results are that the police officers were able to identify a seven - kilometer area in which the Volunteer may have last been seen. An OIG agent is coordinating with the RSO to corroborate a date in which the Volunteer was last seen in that area. If the OIG and RSO can confirm that the Volunteer was seen in that seven - kilometer area after the last known sighting in the capital city, the FBI, RSO, and OIG will make a determination if a search of the area is feasible.
- In Southeast Asia, a suspect is in custody pending trial for the sexual assault and robbery of a Volunteer. An OIG agent intervened early on in this investigation, due to the lack of an RSO in country, and the U. S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission acted on behalf of the Mission to assist the Volunteer in obtaining a positive outcome at a preliminary and detention hearing.
- The homicide of a Volunteer in Africa several years ago remains an open case with the OIG, the RSO, and FBI. The Peace Corps program in the country has been closed, but the OIG continues to coordinate with law enforcement agencies to seek justice from the host nation authorities in the case.

## **Investigations**

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was raped and robbed at knifepoint. The suspect was subsequently arrested, identified, and detained. The OIG coordinated with the RSO and local police to attend a preliminary hearing and conduct follow - up in country in preparation for trial. The subject was convicted of rape and robbery and received 10 and 5 years to be served concurrently. This was the first successful rape prosecution that we are aware of relating to a crime against a Volunteer in this country and sent a strong message of deterrence.
- A Volunteer in Africa was struck in the head with an ax by a man demanding money. He fled on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice. The Volunteer recovered and closed service. The attacker and accomplice were apprehended and convicted to terms of 12 and 10 years.
- A Volunteer in northern Africa was assaulted by three men. The prosecuting authority sentenced all three subjects to a monetary fine and a two - month suspended sentence, even though the Volunteer had not requested prosecution, sending a strong message that the host country takes crimes against Volunteers seriously.
- The OIG coordinated with local authorities in the case of a sexual assault in Eastern Europe. The police conducted an investigation and were successful in locating the subject who was sentenced to six months confinement in a mental institution.
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was robbed and assaulted by a taxi driver and cohort. The perpetrators were arrested and brought to trial but were acquitted, due to evidentiary weaknesses. (The same two suspects were subsequently caught committing an armed robbery of a casino. )
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer received a death threat. The perpetrator was not identified, and the Volunteer was transferred to another site.
- In South America, a Volunteer received a death threat. One suspect was interviewed by the RSO, and it was determined that he was not the perpetrator of the death threat. The Volunteer was transferred to another site.

- A Volunteer was attacked by a group of teenagers in a central Asian country. The Volunteer could not identify the subjects and departed the country.
- In a central Asian country, a Volunteer was the victim of a rape while walking along a road. Despite efforts by the Volunteer, the OIG, the host country government, and the RSO to identify the perpetrator, the case was closed for lack of evidence.

**The following cases were closed because the victims decided not to pursue prosecution.**

- A case of a Volunteer robbed of a cell phone and backpack in a central Asian country. During the robbery, the Volunteer was stabbed with a knife, but the knife did not penetrate his jacket.
- A case of a Volunteer in a south central Asian country who was the victim of an assault by a group of local youths.
- A Volunteer who was raped in Eastern Europe.
- A Volunteer who was raped in Central Asia.
- A reported Volunteer rape victim in another Eastern European country.

**Pending Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- In a South American country, the OIG agent coordinated with the RSO to locate the perpetrator of an attempted rape of a Volunteer in 2003. In February 2006, local authorities arrested the accused. The Public Prosecutor initiated a formal investigation and multiple witnesses provided sworn statements. The OIG retained legal counsel to represent the victim, and an OIG agent accompanied the former Volunteer back to post to provide a legal deposition and to identify the suspect in a line - up. The OIG agent is coordinating documentary and physical evidence to be submitted to the Public Prosecutor to support the prosecution.
- In the case of a long - time missing Volunteer from a South American country, the OIG has continued coordinating with the RSO and hired a local private investigator to follow up on leads generated by a new publicity and reward campaign. The private investigator received 21 phone calls from persons who wished to provide information. Of the 21 callers, the investigator met with 12, but no new, reliable, or actionable information was developed. (The family of the missing Volunteer also hired two private investigators, and they have also failed to uncover any new or actionable leads. )

During this period, an OIG agent also coordinated with the RSO on a search of an area identified as where the Volunteer may have last been seen with negative results. An OIG agent continues to coordinate with the RSO on the discovery of multiple sets of human remains found in various areas of the country to determine if they are those of the missing Volunteer. None of the over two dozen sets of human remains located to date have been identified as those of the Volunteer based on DNA, dental record, or general physical comparisons.

- On a Pacific island, a Volunteer was raped at knifepoint. The suspect was identified and arrested, and is pending trial. Two other subjects who were arrested and charged with a local crime related to the burglary and rape, have pled guilty and were sentenced to two years and 15 months, respectively.
- In western Africa, a female Volunteer was assaulted and robbed and escaped an attempted rape. An investigation by local police and the RSO resulted in one arrest and the recovery of the Volunteer's property. The subject was tried and convicted and is awaiting sentencing.
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was raped and robbed. An OIG agent coordinated with the RSO and country director to obtain physical evidence and to follow up with local police and the Public Prosecutor. The OIG retained legal counsel to represent the victim. A preliminary and detention hearing were conducted, and the suspect was detained without bail. This case is pending trial.
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was raped by a security guard at a hotel where she was staying with two other Volunteers. During this period, an OIG agent accompanied the former Volunteer back to the country for a Preliminary Hearing. This case is pending trial.
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was raped at knifepoint in her home. The OIG coordinated with the RSO and Peace Corps staff on the collection of physical evidence. The Volunteer medically separated from Peace Corps, but is willing to prosecute if a suspect is identified and apprehended.
- In the Pacific region, a Volunteer awakened when grabbed by a male who fled when she screamed. The OIG coordinated with the RSO and the Peace Corps country director on the incident, and the case has been referred to the local High Council for trial. The subject was arrested initially but is free pending further action of the court.
- In Southeast Asia, a suspect in a Volunteer sexual assault and robbery case was in custody, but has been freed pending further action of the court.
- A case was opened for an incident in a central Asian country in which a Volunteer returned home to discover that he had been the victim of a burglary. Police have arrested and are in the process of prosecuting a suspect.
- The case of a Volunteer serving in Eastern Europe who was the victim of rape that was reported in the last Semiannual Report as having the charges dismissed continues to be pursued on appeal.

- The accused in a case of sexual assault against a Volunteer in central Africa remains in custody awaiting trial. The Volunteer has separated from the Peace Corps, but a member of the OIG investigative team will return with the Volunteer once the trial commences.
- The OIG, the RSO, local prosecutors, and law enforcement officials are cooperating in seeking the arrest of a defendant in the rape of a Volunteer in a South American country. The defendant failed to appear for trial in 2005. The suspect had been in custody, but was released on bail pending trial. The OIG assisted with funding for DNA analysis on evidence collected at the time of the rape that provides critical physical evidence for the pending trial.
- The homicide of a Volunteer in Africa several years ago remains an open case with the OIG, the RSO, and FBI. The Peace Corps program in the country has been closed, but the OIG continues to coordinate with both law enforcement agencies and the local authorities to seek justice in the case.
- In northern Africa, local villagers thwarted an attempted rape of a Volunteer. The assailant was apprehended, incarcerated, and is presently awaiting trial.
- In northwest Africa, two men raped a Volunteer who also suffered a fractured arm. Two suspects were subsequently apprehended, but one escaped after being in local police custody. The RSO is working closely with the OIG, and forensic evidence has been submitted to the FBI lab for analysis.
- An OIG investigator provided forensic investigative support to local police and the RSO in the investigation of the accidental death of a Volunteer in a sub-Saharan African country. The OIG also participated with other agency staff in advising the family on the circumstances of the death.



## **Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- A Volunteer was attacked while jogging in an Eastern European country. The RSO was notified and, with the assistance of an OIG investigator, coordinated with the local police. A subject was arrested and the local courts sentenced him to a three - year prison term.
- A Volunteer serving in a Central Asia country was the victim of a robbery. During the robbery, the two attackers attempted to throw the Volunteer off a bridge. The subjects were located by the local police, tried in local court, and convicted. One subject was sentenced to four years imprisonment. The accomplice was sentenced to a two - year suspended prison sentence.
- As reported in the previous Semiannual Report, a Volunteer was the victim of a robbery in a Central Asian country. During this reporting period, the subject was tried and convicted by the local court and received a three - year suspended prison sentence and is serving a one - year of probation sentence.
- In the Pacific region, a Volunteer was raped at knifepoint in her home. Three suspects were arrested; one suspect for rape and two suspects for 'creeping' or voyeurism. The two suspects charged with creeping pled guilty and received sentences of two years and fifteen months, respectively. The rape suspect pled guilty and was sentenced to three years and eight months in prison.
- In 2004, a Volunteer serving in the Caribbean was the victim of an attempted rape by a hotel security guard who entered her room while she slept. In August 2006, an OIG investigator accompanied the Volunteer victim and two Volunteer witnesses to testify at trial. The OIG investigator coordinated with the local prosecutor and the safety and security coordinator. The defendant was convicted of sexual abuse and sentenced to four years in prison.
- In a rural community in a Central American country, a Volunteer was raped and robbed by her landlord and another individual. An OIG investigator coordinated with the RSO and the country director to obtain physical evidence and to follow up with local authorities. The OIG retained legal counsel to represent the victim. In April 2006, the case went to a jury trial but the defendant was acquitted.

- An OIG investigator provided forensic investigative support to the local police and the assistant RSO during the investigation of the accidental death of a two Volunteers in an African country. Four Volunteers were on a river in a catamaran when the steel mast struck a high voltage power line. Two Volunteers died, another Volunteer was severely injured, and the fourth Volunteer escaped injury. The deaths were deemed an accident.
- Two Volunteers in an African country were attacked by an armed male and received injuries. One Volunteer was struck on the head and required six stitches to the scalp. Local police detained and questioned some individuals but no suspects were positively identified.
- In a southwestern Africa country, a Volunteer was accosted by an unidentified male armed with a knife during a home invasion. The Volunteer resisted the assailant and received minor injuries. The Volunteer was treated at a local hospital and released. A suspect was apprehended but the Volunteer was unable to identify the assailant in a line - up.
- In a coastal West African country, a Volunteer and two visiting family members were assaulted and robbed at a hotel by four armed perpetrators. The OIG with assistance from the RSO collected fingerprints and delivered the evidence to the FBI lab for latent print processing. A suspect was apprehended and his fingerprints were submitted to the FBI lab for comparison. The case was closed after the suspect's fingerprints failed to match the latent print samples.
- A Volunteer in a northern African country reported having been sexually abused by her language tutor. The Volunteer was medevaced to PC/Washington where, after receiving treatment and counseling, the Volunteer declined to prosecute the assailant.
- A Volunteer reported a rape a month after its occurrence to Peace Corps staff. The Volunteer reported being harassed, chastised, and compelled to have sex with the village chief's son. The Volunteer declined to prosecute.

#### **Pending Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- In a South American country, an OIG investigator coordinated with the RSO to locate and arrest the perpetrator of an attempted rape of a Volunteer that occurred in 2003. In February 2006, the RSO and local authorities arrested the subject, who was detained without bail. The OIG retained legal counsel to represent the victim in the case. An OIG investigator accompanied the Volunteer, who had subsequently left service, to the post to provide a legal deposition and to identify the suspect in a lineup. The public prosecutor initiated a formal investigation into the matter and filed formal charges against the subject for sexual coercion. Trial is pending.

- In the Pacific region, a Volunteer was raped in her residence by a host country national. An OIG investigator coordinated with the Volunteer victim and the post to bring the case to trial. The OIG investigator accompanied the Volunteer to the preliminary hearing. The defendant was remanded to the Supreme Court for trial with an October 2006 trial date.
- In the Pacific region, a case of an aggravated assault of a Volunteer that occurred in 2005 was scheduled for trial in September 2006. The case was rescheduled and elevated to the Supreme Court due to the severity of the crime. An OIG investigator traveled to the post to coordinate with the prosecution lawyer, provide digital photographs of injuries, and coordinate with the safety and security coordinator to ensure a witness's appearance at a pre - trial deposition. Trial is pending.
- The case of a missing Volunteer in South America remains open. We continue to pursue investigative leads.
- In Southeast Asia, a suspect was released pending trial for the sexual assault and robbery of a Volunteer. The Volunteer, who has subsequently left service, shows continued high interest in prosecuting the subject.
- The accused in a case of sexual assault against a Volunteer in central Africa remains in custody awaiting trial. The Volunteer, who has subsequently left service, was accompanied back to the country for a preliminary hearing and a trial date is pending.
- In northwest Africa, a Volunteer suffered a fractured arm during a rape by two men. The two suspects were subsequently apprehended, but one escaped from local police custody and was sentenced in absentia. The fugitive was recaptured, appealed his sentence, and is waiting to be retried. The Volunteer, who has subsequently left service, will return to the country with an OIG investigator for the trial.
- The homicide of a Volunteer in Africa several years ago remains an open case with the OIG, the RSO, and the FBI. The Peace Corps program in the country has been closed, but the OIG continues to coordinate with both law enforcement agencies and the local authorities to seek justice in the case and the return of personal effects of the decedents to the family.

## **Investigations**

### **Investigation of a Volunteer's Disappearance in Bolivia**

The OIG investigative unit continues investigating the disappearance of a Volunteer in Bolivia that occurred more than six years ago. We have retained two expert search managers from the National Park Service with extensive Grand Canyon search experience, and we plan to enlist the assistance of trained search dogs. An OIG agent is leading the team in Bolivia assessing the area, taking coordinates, and determining how the search will be conducted as well as determining what follow-up investigatory work is needed.

## **Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- As reported in the previous Semiannual Report, a Pacific region Volunteer was raped in her residence by a host country national. The subject was remanded to the Supreme Court for trial. In December 2006, an OIG agent returned to the post to accompany the Volunteer to trial. The subject pled guilty and received a sentence of six years in prison and formally apologized to the victim.
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was the victim of an aggravated assault by a host country national acquaintance while at home. The Volunteer was transferred to another site, but subsequently left service early and returned to her home of record. The Volunteer expressed a desire to prosecute the suspect, and the OIG agent coordinated with the post and the RSO to return the former Volunteer to country and file a formal declaration with the local police. The suspect was arrested, and the OIG agent accompanied the former Volunteer to court. The defendant pled guilty to assault and was sentenced to six months in jail.
- In a Caribbean country, a Volunteer suffered an injury during a landlord/tenant dispute. An OIG agent accompanied the Volunteer, who had subsequently completed service, back to the post for the criminal proceeding. The landlord was sentenced to six months in jail and a \$500 fine.

- A Volunteer serving in West Africa was attacked by two assailants outside her residence. One suspect who attempted to strangle the Volunteer and take her backpack escaped. The second suspect was apprehended at the scene and the Volunteer's property was recovered. The status of the first suspect is unknown. The Peace Corps program in this country has been suspended and the case closed.
- The OIG received allegations that a Peace Corps Medical Officer (PCMO) made inappropriate comments and physical gestures to a medically evacuated Volunteer. The Volunteer denied any inappropriate physical/sexual contact by the PCMO and said she appreciated the PCMO's care and attention. The investigation of the allegations was inconclusive and the case was closed. The PCMO was advised to maintain professional boundaries during the treatment of Volunteer patients.

#### **Active Investigations of Violent Crime Cases**

- The subject of a sexual assault case against a Volunteer in central Africa remains in custody awaiting trial. The Volunteer, who has subsequently left service, was accompanied back to the country by agency staff for the preliminary hearing. A trial date is scheduled for June 2007.
- A Volunteer was raped in a South American country by host country nationals. The Volunteer identified one of the suspects, a local police officer, through a photo and physical line - up. An OIG agent went to post and coordinated the investigative activities with the Assistant Regional Security Officer, local police, and the prosecutor. The OIG also forwarded evidence to the FBI lab for analysis. The suspect is in jail awaiting trial.
- As reported in the previous Semiannual Report, an OIG agent coordinated with the RSO to apprehend the perpetrator of an attempted rape of a Volunteer in South America that occurred in 2003. In February 2006, the RSO and local authorities arrested a subject and he was detained without bail. An OIG agent accompanied the former Volunteer back to the post to provide a legal deposition and to identify the suspect in a line - up. The public prosecutor filed formal charges against the subject and a trial date has been scheduled for April 2007.
- An attempted rape of a Volunteer occurred on a Pacific island. The OIG worked with the local police to identify and apprehend a suspect who confessed to the crime. The OIG advised the country director to collect DNA samples from the suspect while the suspect was in police custody. The suspect has been temporarily released, and a trial date is pending.

- In the Pacific region, a Volunteer was the victim of an aggravated assault in 2005 and the trial was scheduled in the country's Supreme Court during this reporting period. An OIG agent traveled to the post to coordinate with the prosecutor and provide digital photographs of the Volunteer victim's injuries. The OIG agent also coordinated with the post to ensure witness appearances at the pre-trial deposition. When a key witness could not be located, the trial was remanded to the Magistrate's Court and is still pending.
- In a South American country, a Volunteer was raped by a host country national. The Volunteer was medically evacuated, and an OIG agent worked with the Volunteer and a forensic sketch artist to develop a drawing of the suspect. The RSO and local police investigators identified and located a suspect. The OIG agent traveled to the post and assisted the Volunteer with the filing of a formal declaration. The Volunteer identified the suspect in a line-up, and the OIG agent and Volunteer attended a local detention hearing. The OIG agent met with the prosecutor to request DNA samples from the suspect and the judge ordered that DNA be obtained from the suspect. This case is pending a decision by the judge on a procedural matter.
- In northern Africa, local villagers thwarted an attempted rape of a Volunteer. The assailant was apprehended, incarcerated, and is awaiting trial.
- A Volunteer in West Africa was sexually assaulted and the assailant fled. Local police learned the identity of the attacker from villagers, and he was arrested and taken into custody. Working together with the post and local police authorities, an OIG agent forwarded collected DNA evidence to the FBI lab for analysis. An OIG agent went to the post and testified in court about the chain of custody and the efficacy of DNA analysis. The trial verdict is pending.
- In an Eastern European country, a Volunteer was sexually assaulted by three host country nationals. The OIG coordinated with the US embassy and local police, and three subjects were identified and arrested within a week. The OIG is coordinating with the FBI crime lab and host country officials to ensure DNA evidence is admitted in the judicial proceedings. The Volunteer has returned to the country and continues to serve. The three subjects confessed to the crime and are currently waiting to be transferred to the capital of the country for trial.
- In southern Africa, an escaped felon attempted to sexually assault a Volunteer. The Volunteer victim's screams attracted villagers who apprehended the assailant for police authorities. The case is awaiting trial.

- In a South American country, a Volunteer was raped by an acquaintance of another Volunteer. The suspect provided an official statement in which he indicated he did not have sexual or physical contact with the Volunteer victim. The Volunteer victim expressed a desire to prosecute. An OIG agent traveled to the country and coordinated with the post to get DNA evidence analyzed. Prosecution is pending DNA analysis.
- In a Central American country, a Volunteer was the victim of an aggravated assault by a host country national. The Volunteer was medically evacuated from the post, but expressed a desire to return to country and prosecute the assailant if he could be apprehended. The OIG agent coordinated with a forensic sketch artist to work with the Volunteer to develop a drawing of the suspect. The sketch was forwarded to the post and provided to the local police, who reported that the same individual had attacked other women in the same area. The case is pending identification and arrest of the assailant.
- In Southeast Asia, a suspect was released pending trial for the sexual assault and robbery of a Volunteer. The former Volunteer shows continued interest in prosecution of this matter.
- In the Caribbean, a Volunteer was raped at knifepoint in her residence by a host country national. The OIG coordinated with the RSO and the post on the collection of physical evidence. The Volunteer was medically separated from the Peace Corps, but is willing to prosecute if a suspect is identified and apprehended.
- A suspect forced his way into a residence and physically assaulted a Volunteer in a Central American country. A police report was filed and the police apprehended a subject, but the Volunteer said this was not her attacker. The OIG coordinated with the country director to collect evidence from the residence and the victim. The local police are still in search of the suspect.
- As previously reported in the Semiannual Report, a Volunteer homicide several years ago in central Africa remains an open investigation with the OIG, the RSO, and FBI. The Peace Corps program in the country has been closed, but the OIG continues to coordinate with both law enforcement agencies and the local authorities to seek justice. During this report period, the OIG was successful in recovering and returning some non - evidentiary sentimental personal effects of the decedent back to the family.
- As was previously reported in the Semiannual Report, a Volunteer in northwest Africa suffered a fractured arm while being raped by two men. The suspects were apprehended, but one escaped after being in local police custody and was recaptured. The Volunteer, who has subsequently left service, has expressed interest in returning to the post when a trial is convened.

- A Volunteer in sub-Saharan Africa suffered a serious physical injury from a knife during a home invasion. The suspect was apprehended and is presently incarcerated. The Volunteer, who has recovered from the physical injury and completed service, has expressed interest in returning to the post when a trial is convened.
- In a West African country, a Volunteer was the victim of an attempted sexual assault by a co-worker. The subject has been identified and will be questioned by local police authorities.
- The investigation continues into allegations of a Volunteer raping a fellow Volunteer while both were in service in Eastern Europe. During the last reporting period, agents met with a second Volunteer who alleged that she was also the victim of a sexual assault by the same subject Volunteer. This case was presented to the District of South Carolina where it was declined. The case is currently being reviewed by the District of Oregon for potential prosecution.
- In an Eastern Asian country, a Volunteer was stabbed multiple times but survived through immediate intervention and emergency surgery. The local police continue their investigation. One subject has been apprehended and remains in custody while a second subject is at large.
- In West Africa, two Volunteers were robbed by a knife-wielding assailant on a motorcycle. Neither of the Volunteers sustained serious injuries. Local authorities arrested a subject and a trial is pending.
- In East Africa, two Volunteers were accosted by an armed assailant. The Volunteers were robbed of cash, cell phone and belongings. The assailant was apprehended, and the property was recovered. This case is awaiting trial.



## **Investigations**

### **Missing Peace Corps Volunteer Investigation**

On March 4, 2001, the mother of a Volunteer reported that her son had not been in contact with his family for several weeks. The Volunteer had been assigned to the Zongo Valley (Bolivia) in late December 2000. The Zongo Valley is a large canyon located 2 - 3 hours outside of La Paz, Bolivia, on the other side of a 15, 600 - foot mountain peak. The area is anchored by the River Zongo, and the Bolivian Electric Authority operates multiple hydroelectric plants along its path.

On March 5, 2001, a search for the Volunteer was initiated in the Zongo Valley by his local supervisor and other Peace Corps personnel. The search continued through April 2001, and was conducted by a variety of teams, including a Bolivian search and rescue team, personnel from the U. S. Embassy Regional Security Office and Bolivian National Police, and Peace Corps personnel with trekking, mountaineering, and whitewater experience.

The FBI joined the investigation into the Volunteer's disappearance in April 2001, and locations in the Zongo Valley were again searched in June 2001. An assessment team returned to the Zongo Valley in August 2002 to consider other potential sites to search. As recently as December 2005, a Bolivian search team returned to the Zongo Valley and searched a seven kilometer trail between two points that may have been traversed by the missing Volunteer.

The local investigation, in which several U. S. federal law enforcement agencies participated, revealed no evidence of foul play that could have contributed to the Volunteer's disappearance. His personal effects, including wallet, ID, bank card, and cash were found undisturbed in the locked room he rented in the Zongo Valley.

Over the past several years, the U. S. Embassy and Peace Corps have conducted several publicity campaigns and media blitzes in Spanish and local Indian languages on local television, radio, and newspapers. There is a \$25, 000 reward for any information regarding the Volunteer and/or his whereabouts. In 2004, the OIG contracted two highly qualified private investigators to review and re - investigate his disappearance. In 2005, we also established a non - U. S. tip line for anonymous callers to report any information as part of the publicity campaign and reward. Although the phone line received calls, none of the tips provided any useful or actionable information.

As a result of a review of the documentation surrounding the investigation and the multiple searches conducted in the Zongo Valley, the OIG determined that a mapped, grid search using global positioning system (GPS) coordinates to document all areas and locations that have been searched plus those that needed further review should be conducted.

In April 2007, an OIG agent accompanied two National Park Service Search and Rescue Managers to Bolivia to conduct an assessment of a potential search area. In addition, the OIG agent requested and obtained documents from other law enforcement agencies regarding this investigation. In July 2007, two OIG agents returned to Bolivia to conduct follow - up interviews with several host country nationals regarding the missing Volunteer. As a result of those interviews and the review of the documents, it was determined that the missing Volunteer was last seen in a village with an altitude of approximately 11, 600 feet in the Zongo Valley. The Volunteer had presented his ecotourism project to the local community at a monthly assembly meeting. Our investigation disclosed that the Volunteer departed the meeting area alone during torrential rains and minimal visibility. He had to hike a winding trail with thousand - foot drop - offs for approximately four miles. The Volunteer was trying to reach a school where he had left a sleeping bag and clothing the night before his visit to the community for his presentation. School officials and local residents never saw the Volunteer return to the school.

In September 2007, the Inspector General led a 28 - person search team comprised of eight specially trained National Park Service Search and Rescue personnel, four dog handlers and four cadaver dogs, a veterinarian, four OIG agents, a Bolivian search and rescue team, personnel from the United States Embassy Regional Security Office, Bolivian National Police, FBI officials, and other personnel to search the area where it is believed the Volunteer had the highest probability of an accident, based on the steep, vertical terrain and treacherous precipices between the community and the school. A thorough search was conducted amidst very difficult weather conditions. Several items of evidentiary value were collected and submitted to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology for analysis.

### **Investigation of the Murder of a Volunteer**

During this reporting period, we were notified of a Volunteer who was overdue in returning to her site to attend graduation proceedings at the local school where she was serving as an English teacher. The Volunteer had been visiting a remote location popular with tourists and had told friends that she planned to hike in alone, stay for a short period of time, then return to her home site. When she failed to return as planned, numerous telephone calls were made to her cell phone, all of which went unanswered. A team from the United States Embassy was assembled and a search commenced in the area surrounding her last known location. Interviews conducted placed the Volunteer at a small café overlooking the valley of the search. The Volunteer allegedly purchased a soda, continued on her hike, failed to check in at the local tourist checkpoint, and was never seen again.

Within 72 hours of being notified, we dispatched an OIG agent specializing in search management to begin coordinating with the local police, military, local guide services, and U. S. Embassy to formalize a search of the area. On the second operational period of the formalized search, the Volunteer's remains were located in a remote, shallow grave. Foul play was immediately suspected.

The café owner's husband was immediately identified as the main suspect, having departed the valley for an extended period of time without explanation. An eyewitness identified him fleeing the scene of the crime on the time and date of the Volunteer's disappearance. The suspect was arrested after an extensive manhunt. The suspect submitted a voluntary statement to police in the presence of his defense attorney claiming that he mistook the Volunteer for a neighbor with whom he had been quarrelling. He claimed the Volunteer bumped into him while hiking on the trail and that he turned around and bludgeoned her multiple times with a rock and log. The Volunteer's death was caused by multiple blunt - force traumas to the head.

The suspect remains in custody while being tried for murder where it is believed his defense will attempt to assert the involuntary nature of the crime, in order to secure a lesser conviction. The OIG, on behalf of the Volunteer's family, has retained a local attorney with extensive experience in prosecuting murder suspects to assist in the prosecution of the case. In coordination with the Volunteer's family and their stated wishes, the local attorney and prosecutor filed charges of murder, the maximum allowable under host country law.

Hearings pertaining to this case began on August 21 and 22, 2007, during which time the defendant reconfirmed his admission of killing the Volunteer, though qualified his admission by asserting the homicide was 'accidental.' The witness who observed the defendant fleeing the crime scene testified, as did the Volunteer's mother, who traveled to the country to visit the Volunteer's home site and crime scene and to offer testimony in court. The next court proceeding has been scheduled for October 8, 2007, and the following dates, if necessary: November 5 and 6, 2007; December 3 and 4, 2007; January 7 and 8, 2008; February 4 and 5, 2008; March 3 and 4, 2008; April 7 and 8, 2008; and May 7 and 8, 2008.

## **Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- In a South American country, a Volunteer was raped by a host country national. The OIG took the Volunteer to a sketch artist when she was medically evacuated to Washington, D. C. after the rape. The sketch was provided to local authorities and a suspect was apprehended. The OIG assisted the Volunteer with filing a formal declaration against the suspect. The OIG also accompanied the Volunteer to the town where the incident occurred where she identified the suspect in a physical line - up. The case went to trial and the jury unanimously found the suspect guilty and he was convicted to 10 years in jail.

- A female Volunteer serving in a Central Asian country was raped by an acquaintance of her counterpart. The Volunteer reported the assault to the police, who immediately took the subject into custody. Through coordination with the U. S. Embassy and a local investigator, the subject was tried and convicted. He was sentenced to eight years in a maximum security prison facility.
- In a South American country, a former Volunteer who had been sexually assaulted in 2003 by a host country national returned for trial accompanied by an OIG agent. The former Volunteer testified and the defendant was convicted and sentenced to four years incarceration for his crime.
- In an East African country, a Volunteer was walking down a busy thoroughfare when she was grabbed from behind, dragged to the ground, and robbed of her handbag. An angry crowd gave chase to the perpetrator. Local police authorities arrived and shot and killed the perpetrator. The stolen property was recovered; the Volunteer was treated for minor injuries.
- In a Caribbean country, a Volunteer reported that she had been sexually assaulted by another Volunteer six months after the event. The OIG and the embassy's Regional Security Officer interviewed the suspect, the victim, and witnesses. The case was referred to the U. S. Attorney's Office in the alleged assailant's home of record. The case was declined due to the victim's reluctance to prosecute, the delay in reporting the incident, and the lack of physical evidence. The suspect resigned in lieu of administrative separation.
- In a South American country, a Volunteer reported that she had been sexually assaulted by another Volunteer. The OIG interviewed the alleged victim, suspect and other potential witnesses. During an interview with the country director, the suspect admitted to being so intoxicated that he could not remember the events clearly, but did recall that the victim had said no to his advances. The suspect resigned prior to initiation of administrative separation proceedings.
- An investigation of allegations that a Volunteer raped two other Volunteers while serving in an Eastern European country has concluded. This case was presented in the District Courts of two states but both venues declined prosecution. The OIG concluded investigative and prosecutorial efforts concerning these matters.

### **Active Investigations of Violent Crime Cases**

- The OIG continued to work with local prosecuting attorneys in an Eastern European country to convict three suspects who brutally assaulted and raped a female Volunteer. As a result of intergovernmental cooperation, all three suspects were found guilty. Two received six - year prison sentences, and one suspect received probation. The U. S. Embassy and the OIG are seeking an appeal of the sentences because they do not reflect the grave nature of the crime. The results of the appeal are pending.
- In a Caribbean country, we are investigating the assault of a Volunteer with a machete. The Volunteer received a serious shoulder injury when he attempted to break up a fight. The Volunteer received medical attention and was medically separated from the Agency. The assailant was apprehended and is currently detained. An OIG agent will accompany the Volunteer to trial in December 2007.
- In a Pacific island country, a Volunteer was raped by a host country national. Local police identified and arrested a suspect after the Volunteer had left the country. An OIG agent traveled to post to coordinate with police and collect DNA evidence. Subsequent DNA analysis performed by the FBI laboratory confirmed that the subject in custody is the perpetrator of the crime. A trial is pending.
- A Volunteer was raped in a South American country by host country nationals. The Volunteer identified one of the suspects as a local police officer through both a photo and physical line - up. An OIG agent coordinated investigative activities with the Assistant Regional Security Officer, local police, and the prosecutor at the post. The OIG forwarded evidence to the FBI lab for DNA analysis, but it did not match the suspect. The Volunteer was subsequently able to identify a second suspect through a photo line - up and a physical line - up of the second suspect is pending.
- In a South American country, a Volunteer was raped by her host country national counterpart. The police apprehended the suspect and placed him in jail. An OIG agent coordinated evidence collection with the Peace Corps Medical Officer. The OIG is in the process of retaining counsel for the Volunteer.
- A Volunteer was raped in a South American country by a host country national. The Volunteer was medically evacuated to Washington, D. C. The OIG coordinated with the Fairfax County police department and via Volunteer description, an artist was able to compile a sketch of the suspect. The sketch was forwarded to the local police to assist with their search for the suspect. The OIG is attempting to obtain counsel for the assaulted Volunteer.

- In a West African country, a Volunteer was the victim of an attempted sexual assault by a co-worker. The subject has been identified and will be questioned by local police authorities.
- In an East African country, two Volunteers were accosted by an armed assailant. The Volunteers were robbed of cash, cell phone and other belongings. The assailant was apprehended, and the property was recovered. This case is awaiting trial.
- In a southern Africa country, an escaped felon attempted to sexually assault a Volunteer. The Volunteer victim's screams attracted villagers who apprehended the assailant for police authorities. The case is awaiting trial.
- As was previously reported, a Volunteer in a West African country was sexually assaulted and the assailant fled. Local police learned the identity of the attacker from villagers, and he was arrested and taken into custody. Working together with the post and local police authorities, an OIG agent forwarded DNA evidence to the FBI lab for analysis. An OIG agent went to post and testified in court about the chain of custody and the efficacy of DNA analysis. The perpetrator was convicted and sentenced to serve six years in prison.
- As was previously reported, the subject of a sexual assault case against a Volunteer in a central African country remains in custody awaiting trial. The Volunteer, who has subsequently left service, was accompanied back to the country by Agency staff for the preliminary hearing. A trial date is pending.
- As was previously reported, in a northern African country, local villagers thwarted an attempted rape of a Volunteer. The assailant was apprehended, incarcerated, and is awaiting trial.
- As was previously reported, a Volunteer in a northern African country suffered a fractured arm while being raped by two men. The suspects were apprehended, but one escaped after being in local police custody. He was subsequently recaptured. The Volunteer, who has left service, has expressed interest in returning to the post when a trial is convened.
- As was previously reported, a Volunteer was stabbed multiple times in an Eastern Asian country. Through immediate intervention and emergency surgery, the Volunteer survived. Host country police continue their investigation and one subject has been apprehended and remains in custody while a second subject is still at large. During this reporting period, the OIG continued to coordinate with the U. S. Embassy to ensure that the jailed subject is tried for the attack while the search continues for his accomplices.

- As was previously reported, a Volunteer homicide in a central African country that occurred in 1998 remains an open investigation with the OIG, the RSO, and the FBI. The Peace Corps program in the country has been closed, but the OIG continues to coordinate with both law enforcement agencies and the local authorities to seek justice. We met with the FBI during the reporting period to strategize on investigative efforts, including ongoing discussions with the local government.
- As was previously reported, a Volunteer in a sub - Saharan African country suffered a serious physical injury from a knife during a home invasion. The suspect was apprehended and is presently incarcerated. The Volunteer was medically separated from the Agency and has recovered. The Volunteer provided a written deposition to be submitted as evidence, which may preclude her appearance at an upcoming trial.
- As was previously reported, in a West African country, two Volunteers were robbed by a knife - wielding assailant on a motorcycle. Neither of the Volunteers sustained injuries. Local authorities arrested a subject and a trial is pending.

## **Investigations**

### **Investigation of the Death of a Volunteer**

In a Pacific island country, a Volunteer was killed in a sudden, unexpected, traumatic manner. The community members stated that a tree had fallen on the Volunteer; a host country national from a neighboring village also died in the same event. An OIG special agent was dispatched to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death. The OIG arranged for a charter helicopter to travel to the remote location, and photographed, videotaped, processed, and collected evidence at the death scene. There were no local police authorities available to conduct an investigation, no telecommunication capability, no medical facilities, and very limited transportation to the remote area where the Volunteer died.

The OIG learned that community members waited approximately three hours prior to notifying the Peace Corps post of the Volunteer's death. The body was removed from the scene prior to Peace Corps' staff arrival. The OIG recommended that an autopsy be performed to establish cause of death, based on unresolved issues related to the manner of death as described by community members. The OIG offered to fly an Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) forensic team to the host country to perform the autopsy, or to have them travel to the Volunteer's home of record to perform the autopsy. Due to the Volunteer's family wishes, an autopsy was not performed, so the actual cause of death could not be established.

### **Investigation of the Death of a Volunteer**

In a South American country, a Volunteer was killed by a booby - trap gun in a rural, wooden area. The OIG Investigations Unit responded by sending a team to country to investigate the circumstances. OIG special agents interviewed community members, other Volunteers, and worked with the local police to examine the death scene, collect evidence, and conduct follow - up interviews. OIG special agents photographed and videotaped the scene, collected, reviewed, and analyzed cell phone records, cameras, laptops, and journals that belonged to the Volunteer. With host country approval, OIG special agents conducted additional interviews with villagers, and coordinated with the local police to collect further evidence. The OIG coordinated with AFIP to have a forensic team respond to country to assist with an autopsy. The investigation is ongoing.



### **Missing Volunteer Investigation**

In September 2007, the OIG organized a multi - agency team that included personnel from the State Department, FBI, Bolivian officials, Rhode Island State Police, to conduct a search for a missing Volunteer in a remote valley in Bolivia. The search was conducted after a review of documents and follow - up interviews disclosed the last known location of the missing Volunteer. In October 2007, several probable bone fragments found by the search team were examined by AFIP forensic personnel and were determined to be non - human. OIG special agents are still pursuing historical records documents from the multiple agencies that have been involved in the investigation of the missing Volunteer to identify outstanding issues.

### **Closed Cases of Violent Crime Against Volunteers**

- The OIG previously reported a brutal rape and assault in an Eastern European country against a Volunteer by three host county national males. All three defendants were convicted; however, the U. S. Embassy and OIG instructed the host country attorney retained by the OIG to appeal the sentences for being too lenient. The government reevaluated the sentencing and determined that the elements of the rape had not been properly evaluated by the lower court. The upper court subsequently sentenced two suspects to nine years imprisonment (originally six year sentences) and the third defendant to six years imprisonment (originally probation).
- Two OIG special agents accompanied a former Volunteer back to the Pacific region for a rape trial. This was the first DNA case tried in the local legal system. The OIG supported the investigation by: providing guidance and direction to the country director, the Peace Corps Medical Officer, and the local forensic doctor regarding the collection and preservation of biological evidence; through coordination with the U. S. Embassy regional security office; and through direct support and victim advocacy for the Volunteer. An OIG special agent met with the local police regarding the investigation. While in country, the OIG special agent collected additional evidence at the crime scene and received biological evidence from a suspect held in police custody. The OIG special agent transported the biological evidence collected from the crime scene to the U. S. for analysis by the FBI laboratory. The DNA evidence proved conclusively that the suspect in custody is the perpetrator of the crime. This confirmation provided the impetus for the host country to collect and transmit its own forensic evidence to a New Zealand laboratory. The OIG coordinated with the host country prosecutor, and assisted the former Volunteer with trial preparation, logistics, and security to promote a favorable outcome. The suspect was found guilty on five charges of rape and one charge of kidnapping. Sentencing in the case is set for May 2008.

- An OIG special agent escorted a Volunteer back to a South American country for a legal proceeding and to revisit to the crime scene. The Volunteer related the events of the night she was raped in front of the judge and the defense team. The case was elevated to the supreme court to render a verdict and sentencing for the suspect. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to eight years in prison.
- An OIG special agent coordinated with the post in a West African country to retain counsel to represent a Volunteer for a sexual assault trial. The OIG special agent traveled to the post and accompanied the Volunteer, attorney, and other staff to the trial site. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to three years probation and a fine.
- During this reporting period, a Volunteer was raped in a Caribbean country. The OIG coordinated with the Regional Security Officer and the post to provide victim advocacy resources and information to the Volunteer. The Volunteer was medically evacuated to Washington, DC where she met with OIG special agents on several occasions. The Volunteer decided not to prosecute and returned to the country to complete her service.
- In a prior reporting period, the OIG reported that a Volunteer was stabbed multiple times in an East Asian country. Through immediate intervention and emergency surgery the Volunteer survived. Host country police continue their investigation. One subject has been apprehended and remains in custody, while a second subject is still at large. During this reporting period, the OIG continued to coordinate with the U. S. Embassy and the post to promote justice in this crime and ensure that the jailed subject is tried for the attack.
- In an African country, a Volunteer was raped by an acquaintance at a hostel. The Volunteer filed a police report and made a formal statement with the public prosecutor. Witnesses were interviewed and some of their statements conflicted with the victim's statement. The public prosecutor's office did not believe that the case was viable for prosecution, but asked the victim to decide if she wanted to pursue charges. After careful consideration and consultations with the OIG regarding the evidence and conflicting witness statements, the Volunteer chose to withdraw formal charges against the subject.

- A West African post notified the OIG that a Volunteer received a death threat from his landlord for allegedly engaging in sexual contact with a 13 - year - old host country national. An OIG agent was dispatched to the post to investigate the allegations. The OIG special agent collected sworn statements from witnesses, the host country minor, and the Volunteer. The Regional Security Officer and the OIG agent interviewed the Volunteer, who denied the charges. The OIG special agent retrieved evidence, including physical evidence from the Volunteer's home and DNA samples. The OIG also seized the Volunteer's external computer hard drive and imaged the Volunteer's laptop computer. The analysis of the imaged and seized hard drives revealed no evidence of child pornography or other illegal activity.

#### **Active Investigations of Violent Crime Cases**

- In a prior reporting period, the OIG reported on the murder of a Volunteer in a Southern Asian country. A suspect was apprehended and remains in custody. During this period, the OIG special agent worked with the local attorney to support trial efforts, which included sifting through collected evidence, photographs, reports, and witness statements. The OIG special agent aided in the search for local witnesses to appear in court, and organized the travel of a U. S. citizen witness who was with the Volunteer the day that she disappeared. The OIG special agent testified in court about the OIG's role in the consensus based search model effort used to locate the victim, the body recovery, and the on - scene identification of the Volunteer. Per the family's request, the OIG has updated the family members on the case and trial, and responded to questions asked about recovery efforts, manner of death, and post - mortem findings. The trial is ongoing.
- A Volunteer serving in Asia was raped by a host country national male in the foyer of an apartment building. The police subsequently retrieved text messages sent by the subject immediately following the incident in which he apologized and asked for forgiveness. The suspect admitted to the attack during police questioning. Local authorities are not aggressively pursuing the rape investigation, in part because the victim only had minor injuries, and the suspect recanted his confession and claimed the encounter was consensual. The OIG retained an attorney experienced in sex crime issues to work with the local prosecutor's office to maximize chances of conviction. The attorney recently advised the OIG that the host country prosecutor wants to dismiss the charges. The OIG is coordinating with the U. S. Embassy to request that the host government make a fair and unbiased assessment of the facts before dismissing the case.

- A Volunteer serving in the Caribbean reported that she had been raped during an electrical blackout. The Volunteer was en route to her home on a motorcycle taxi when the driver pulled up to a house to allegedly talk to a friend. The driver invited the Volunteer to come inside the house, where she was accosted by another subject and raped. The OIG aided the Volunteer in obtaining financial assistance to help with medical repercussions associated with the rape. The OIG also collected evidence to aid in the identification of the perpetrator. The investigation is ongoing.
- An OIG special agent accompanied a former Volunteer back to a Caribbean country for the trial of an aggravated assault. The OIG also coordinated logistics for a U. S. Embassy FSNI in Barbados to assist in this matter. The Volunteer had been stabbed twice and was medically separated from Peace Corps as a result of his injuries. The trial was heard at the Magistrate's Court, and a police prosecutor was assigned to the case. However, the prosecutor was ill - prepared and conducted no trial preparation with the Volunteer. The defendant had a private attorney. Ultimately, the police prosecutor withdrew the charges against the defendant. In response, the OIG special agent and FSNI met with the Deputy Police Commissioner, and followed up with the post and the U. S. Embassy to draft a letter to the Police Commissioner. The Volunteer is prepared to return for future hearings in this matter.
- In a Caribbean country, a Volunteer was the victim of an attempted rape. The police identified and apprehended a suspect. An OIG special agent assisted the post in hiring a lawyer to represent the Volunteer. At the preliminary hearing, the judge presiding over the case decided there was enough evidence for the case to go to trial, which has been scheduled for April 2008.
- In a West African country, a Volunteer was raped. An OIG special agent contacted the Volunteer to explain prosecution options. The Volunteer chose to press charges and will return to the country for trial. The OIG special agent coordinated with the post to retain counsel to represent the Volunteer. The case is awaiting trial.
- As was previously reported, a Volunteer was raped at another Volunteer's home by an acquaintance in a South American country. The defendant stated that he had no physical contact with the Volunteer in his official statement to the local police. The OIG special agent had met with the Deputy Attorney General who commented that if the defendant's DNA was found on or in any of the evidence collected, a prosecution could be pursued. In July 2007, the OIG special agent returned to the post and subsequently transported a second set of biological samples to the FBI laboratory for DNA analysis. In March 2008, the FBI indicated that the defendant's DNA was found in the evidence. This case is ongoing.

- In a Central American country, a Volunteer was robbed and a U. S. citizen friend was gang raped. An OIG special agent coordinated with the local police, prosecutors, and forensic analysts. Three suspects were captured and their DNA was collected for comparison with evidence collected from the victim. Because the country does not yet have DNA analysis capabilities, the OIG special agent took custody of the DNA evidence and brought it to the FBI lab in Quantico, Virginia. Results of the analysis are pending.
- A female Volunteer serving in Central Asia reported she had had been raped and robbed by multiple host country males over the course of two nights. When the Volunteer notified the police of this matter, the investigating officials informed the local Peace Corps office and the embassy that the Volunteer could potentially be charged for criminal conduct, because she had allowed 15 to 17 year old males into her home and allegedly provided them alcohol. The Volunteer was subsequently allowed to return to the United States for medical treatment. The case has been forwarded to the local prosecutor's office where charges against the five host country nationals are under consideration.

## **Investigations**

### **Investigation of a Missing Volunteer**

The OIG continued its investigation of a missing Volunteer. In August 2008, the OIG forwarded two new leads concerning his whereabouts to the Regional Security Officer (RSO) in La Paz, Bolivia. Later that month, an OIG staff member was sent to the U. S. Embassy in Bolivia to copy FBI interviews and historical records from the numerous government agencies that have been involved in separate and joint investigations.

The OIG forwarded maps of the Zongo valley and a video copy of the multi - agency search that was conducted in September 2007, to the Volunteer's family. The OIG had organized experts from the National Park Service, State Department, FBI, Rhode Island State Police, Bolivian authorities, and search dogs, to locate the missing Volunteer.

As of September 15, 2008, Peace Corps operations in Bolivia were temporarily suspended to ensure the safety of Volunteers serving there. The OIG's investigative efforts have been suspended pending receipt of additional information.

## **Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Closed Cases**

- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer serving in the Pacific was raped. A perpetrator was identified and DNA samples were obtained. This case was the first time that DNA evidence was presented in the country's court. Throughout this investigation, the OIG coordinated with the host country prosecutor, and assisted the former Volunteer with security, trial preparation, and logistics, to promote a successful outcome.

During this reporting period, the perpetrator was found guilty on five charges of rape and one charge of kidnapping. He was sentenced to 16 and one - half years in prison for the rape, assault, and abduction.

- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer serving in a Caribbean country was the victim of an attempted rape. Local police subsequently identified and apprehended a suspect.

During this reporting period, the OIG criminal investigator accompanied the Volunteer back to country for trial. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment.

- In 2006, a female Volunteer serving in West Africa was brutally beaten and raped by two men. The OIG coordinated with the local Peace Corps office and the U. S. Embassy, and worked to retain a local lawyer.

During this reporting period, the OIG learned that one of the men had been convicted and was serving time in prison. The second suspect was convicted in absentia, but he had not yet served any prison time. The OIG learned that the government had moved forward with an in - person prosecution against the second suspect. An OIG investigator traveled with the Volunteer back to the country on two occasions during this reporting period to assist with having documents translated, meet the local attorney to develop a trial strategy, provide evidentiary photographs, and advocate on behalf of the Volunteer. On several occasions, the Volunteer was required to meet with local trial judges to assert her accusation against the suspect in his presence. The second suspect was sentenced to two years in prison and fined approximately \$1, 329. 87. However, the OIG learned that the second suspect subsequently appealed the trial verdict and is out on bail while a judicial board reviews the conviction.

- During a previous reporting period, a female Volunteer serving in Asia was raped by a host country national in the foyer of an apartment building. The police questioned the suspect, and he admitted to the attack. However, he later recanted his confession and claimed the encounter was consensual.

During this reporting period, OIG retained an attorney experienced in sex crime cases who agreed to work pro bono with the local prosecutor's office to maximize chances of conviction. An OIG criminal investigator traveled to the country in anticipation of legal proceedings and met with the attorney, several Volunteer witnesses, the Volunteer victim, and members of the prosecutor's office. Although the trial commenced as scheduled, the judge delayed the case because the court appointed translator did not have sufficient English language skills to effectively translate testimony.

During the interim time period, the suspect's family mounted a public attack against the Volunteer, including staging a protest outside of the Peace Corps office. The local press also ran several articles sympathetic to the suspect in which the Volunteer's name was identified. The Volunteer chose to terminate her Peace Corps service early and declined further participation in the criminal case, citing security concerns. The defendant was found not guilty.

- During a previous reporting period, a Volunteer serving in the Eastern Caribbean was the victim of an aggravated assault. A police prosecutor was assigned to the case and the trial was presented in the magistrates' court. However, the police prosecutor was not prepared for the trial and subsequently withdrew the charges against the defendant.

During this reporting period, the OIG worked with the U. S. Embassy, the local Peace Corps office, and the Volunteer to determine whether the case could be retried. While the local government acknowledged that that the trial had procedural errors, including being assigned to an incorrect trial court, the local government declined to retry the case. The Volunteer informed the OIG that he considered the matter closed as he had already returned to the United States.

- Previously, we reported that a female Volunteer serving in Central Asia had advised the OIG that she had been raped and robbed by multiple host country males over the course of two nights. The male suspects involved in the rape were as young as 15 years old. Complications in this case arose because the male suspects were minors. The case was forwarded to the local prosecutor's office where charges against the five host country national males were declined due to insufficient evidence.

### **Active Cases**

- Previously, we reported that the OIG was notified that a Volunteer serving in a southern Asian country was missing. Foul play had been suspected and an extensive investigation and search commenced. The Volunteer's remains were found in remote, shallow grave. A suspect was identified, arrested, and remained in custody while he was tried. The OIG retained a local attorney with extensive experience in prosecuting homicide cases.

In June 2008, the court convicted the defendant of murdering the Volunteer. The defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment without parole. The OIG continued to coordinate with the host country authorities and the U. S. Embassy to ensure that the convicted defendant was transferred to a penal facility. The OIG learned during this reporting period that the defendant and his defense team are appealing the conviction and life sentence. The OIG has retained an attorney to represent the family and deceased Volunteer's interests throughout the appeal process.

- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer serving in a South American country was fatally shot by a booby - trap gun. The OIG Investigations Unit responded by sending a team to investigate. The owner of the gun was placed in custody by local police for firearms violations. In a statement provided to police, the owner of the gun said that he had installed the gun in the vegetable garden to shoot wild animals.

During this reporting period, the local police completed their investigation; the suspect was charged with several crimes and detained for 45 days. The case has been turned over to the Attorney General for prosecution; the suspect has been released pending trial. To date, the local court has not ruled on this matter.

- During the previous reporting period, an attempted rape of a Volunteer occurred in a Central American country. The Volunteer fought back and her neighbors assisted her. The Volunteer reported the incident to the police. During the preliminary hearing the Volunteer positively identified the suspect and he was placed in police custody. The OIG and the post worked together to retain local counsel. The judge presiding over the case requested the results of the DNA tests in this case. The results are still pending.



- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer was raped at another Volunteer's home by an acquaintance in a South American country. The defendant's DNA was collected and the OIG transported the DNA samples to the FBI laboratory for analysis. During this reporting period, the FBI analysis concluded that the sample DNA from the rape kit and the defendant's DNA were a match. This case is ongoing.
- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer was raped in a South American country by host country nationals. One suspect, a local police officer, was apprehended. An OIG criminal investigator traveled to the country to coordinate investigative activities with the Department of State's Assistant Regional Security Officer, local police, and a prosecutor. During this reporting period, an OIG criminal investigator accompanied the Volunteer back to country to provide testimony at trial. The trial is ongoing.
- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer was the victim of an attempted rape in a South American country. An OIG criminal investigator coordinated a meeting with the Volunteer and a forensic sketch artist to prepare a composite sketch of the suspect.

During this reporting period, local police actively searched for the suspect using the composite sketch. They have forwarded photographs of potential suspects via email to the OIG for review with the Volunteer. The Volunteer has not confirmed the identity of the suspect from these images. The investigation is ongoing.
- In a South American country, a Volunteer was raped. An OIG criminal investigator met with a local attorney who had coordinated with local authorities to apprehend the suspect. The suspect was incarcerated pending trial; but during civil unrest and political protests, prison guards abandoned their posts and the suspect fled from jail with other escaping inmates. The suspect is still at large.

**Peace Corps**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Semiannual Report to Congress**  
**October 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009**

**Violent Crimes Against Volunteers**

This is the first reporting period since the Agency transferred violent crimes from the OIG to the Office of Safety and Security. On September 1, 2008, the Peace Corps Director transferred the responsibility for coordinating the investigation of violent crimes committed against Peace Corps Volunteers to the Office of Safety and Security. As agreed upon, the OIG continues to provide oversight of legacy cases that occurred prior to the transfer of responsibility.

As of the end of March 31, 2009, the OIG closed 193 preliminary inquiries and 13 investigative cases involving violent crimes. The following table demonstrates the areas of our closed cases.

Type of Investigation	Number of Cases
Attempted Assault	16
Attempted Burglary	1
Attempted Rape	2
Burglary with Volunteer Present	48
Death	3
Intimidation	36
Kidnapping	3
Major and Other Physical Assault	12
Major Sexual Assault	5
PROTECT Act	2
Rape	14
Robbery	65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>206</b>

## **Violent Crime Cases**

### **On - going Investigation of a Murdered Volunteer**

The 1998 murder of a Peace Corps Volunteer remains unresolved; a FBI Legal Attaché based in Dakar traveled to Libreville, Gabon and met with several U. S. Government (USG) and Government of Gabon (GOG) officials in November 2008, to determine the required actions to bring this case to closure. During the course of those meetings, all parties agreed that identifying and hiring a local attorney to represent the interests of the USG and the victim's family would be the best way to proceed. The Peace Corps/OIG agreed to assist in the search for legal representation and pay for the attorney's services. In February 2009, the Assistant Inspector General for Investigations met the FBI Legal Attaché, and the Regional Security Officer (RSO) assigned to the U. S. Embassy in Libreville to interview potential attorneys. The selected attorney is researching the current status of the case. In preparation for the retrial in March 2009, the Ambassador sent a letter to the GOG revisiting the homicide case and discussing the feasibility of refiling the case in the Gabonese court system.

### **Additional Active Violent Crime Investigations**

- Previously, we reported that a Volunteer serving in a Caribbean country was the victim of an attempted rape. During the attack, the Volunteer fought her assailant and her neighbors arrived and interrupted further injury to the victim. This matter was reported to the police and the suspect was apprehended and placed into custody. In August 2008, the Volunteer identified her assailant via photo - identification which was jointly administered by host country police and the OIG. Host country police also transferred evidence to the OIG, which was taken to the FBI laboratory for analysis.

In December 2008, the OIG accompanied the Volunteer back to the host country. The Volunteer positively identified her assailant in a police lineup. The Volunteer also testified in court at a preliminary hearing. The suspect remains in police custody awaiting trial.

- Previously, we reported the alleged rape of a Volunteer serving in South America. The Volunteer identified her attacker; the alleged perpetrator was subsequently arrested and later identified as a police officer for the host country's national police. An OIG special agent accompanied the Volunteer back to the host country in September 2008 to testify against the suspect; however, no verdict was reached. The presiding judge requested additional evidence to corroborate the Volunteer's testimony. In the interim, the suspect, who had been held for six months, was released per local law. According to the attorney hired by the OIG, the case is pending until additional evidence is found to corroborate the Volunteer's testimony.

**Peace Corps**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Semiannual Report to Congress**  
**April 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009**

**Investigations**

Prior to September 1, 2008, the Investigation Unit managed and coordinated the agency's participation in the investigation and prosecution process of cases involving violent crimes committed against Peace Corps Volunteers. This function was transferred to the Peace Corps Office of Safety and Security; however, the OIG has retained oversight of cases in which the OIG was involved prior to the transfer. In addition, because the OIG has responsibility to investigate allegations of wrongdoing by Peace Corps employees, contractors, and Volunteers, the OIG continues its jurisdiction of violent crimes committed by an employee, contractor, or Volunteer. As of September 30, 2009, the OIG closed 48 preliminary inquiries and investigations involving violent crimes. The following table demonstrates the areas of our closed violent crime cases.

Type of Investigation	Number of Cases *
Aggravated Assault	2
Attempted Rape	2
Burglary with Volunteer Present	4
Intimidation	14
Major and Other Physical Assault	6
Major Sexual Assault	1
PROTECT Act	1
Rape	6
Robbery	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48</b>

*(\*) Cases opened prior to the transfer of violent crimes to Office of Safety and Security*

**Ongoing Investigation of a Murdered Volunteer**

The investigation of a Peace Corps Volunteer murdered in West Africa in 1998 is ongoing. During this reporting period, U. S. law enforcement officials met at the Peace Corps headquarters office to brief the incoming Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Legal Attaché and Regional Security Officer (RSO) on the case. In September 2009, the FBI Legal Attaché and RSO met with the lawyer representing Peace Corps interests, the former lead prosecutor for the case, and one of the lead investigators on the case. All the meetings were described as being productive. The U. S. Ambassador is scheduled to meet with the new president of the country in November 2009. The RSO has scheduled several meetings with the Ambassador to update her on the murder investigation, which will be a topic of discussion with the incoming president.

## **Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Judicial Disposition of Legacy Cases Involving Crimes Against Volunteers**

- We previously reported that a Volunteer serving in Central Asia had advised the OIG that she been raped and robbed by multiple host country males over two nights. The male suspects were minors, as young as 15 years old, and alcohol was involved. The case was forwarded to the local prosecutor's office and charges were filed against the six host country national males. The charges were initially declined because the victim was not able to be physically present. However, a trial ensued, and the six subjects received various convictions. One subject was convicted of group rape and robbery and sentenced for five years and 10 days. A second subject was convicted of group rape and theft and sentenced for six years and one month. Three subjects were convicted of group theft; one received a sentence of four years and two received sentences of three years. The sixth subject was convicted of not reporting the crime and was fined approximately \$300.
- In Central America, an assailant attempted to rape a Volunteer. The Volunteer bit the assailant and he bled on her shirt. A host country national male was apprehended. Lab analysis subsequently determined with 99.99% certainty that the suspect in custody's blood was on the Volunteer's shirt. The OIG coordinated with host country law enforcement officials and provided an attorney to represent the Volunteer in local court. The suspect was found guilty and sentenced to four years in prison.
- In a Caribbean country, a Volunteer had his wallet stolen. The Volunteer ran after a host country male to recover his wallet. The police were called, and they arrested a suspect. The Volunteer was able to identify the suspect. The OIG coordinated with local law enforcement and assisted with the trial. The suspect was found guilty of attempted robbery and sentenced to nine months in jail.

### **Active Case Involving Crimes Against a Volunteers**

- As previously reported, a Volunteer serving in the Caribbean was burglarized and brutally assaulted while her assailant attempted to rape her. A host country male was apprehended and placed in local custody. The OIG coordinated with the Regional Security Officer, host country police, and prosecutor. The OIG assisted with photo identification, physical line - up, and transporting evidence to the Federal Bureau of Investigation laboratory. The OIG accompanied the Volunteer victim to the pre - trial hearing. On Sept 22, 2009, the suspect pled guilty. Sentencing is scheduled for October 2009.

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Office of Inspector General  
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**Investigations**

Prior to September 1, 2008, the Investigation Unit managed and coordinated the agency’s participation in the investigative and prosecutorial processes of cases involving violent crimes committed against Volunteers overseas. This function was transferred to the Peace Corps Office of Safety and Security. However, OIG remains responsible for investigating allegations of criminal wrongdoing, including violent crimes, committed by Peace Corps staff members, contractors, and Volunteers.

During this reporting period (October 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010), the OIG investigation unit closed 13 legacy cases, which include preliminary inquiries and investigations involving violent crimes against Volunteers. Legacy cases include investigations and inquiries initiated before September 1, 2008. The following table demonstrates the types and number of closed violent crime cases.

<b>Closed Legacy Cases of Violent Crimes Against Volunteers</b>		
<b>Investigation Type</b>	<b>Number of Inquiries</b>	<b>Number of Investigations</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	4	1
<b>Attempted Rape</b>	0	1
<b>Burglary with Volunteer Present</b>	2	0
<b>Intimidation</b>	0	0
<b>Major and Other Physical Assault</b>	0	0
<b>Major Sexual Assault</b>	2	1
<b>PROTECT Act</b>	0	1
<b>Rape</b>	0	0
<b>Other Sexual Assault</b>	0	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>

## **Crimes Against Volunteers**

### **Investigation of a Homicide at a West African Post**

OIG continues to coordinate with other members of the law enforcement community to investigate the murder of a Volunteer in West Africa that occurred in 1998. During this reporting period, U. S. law enforcement officials continue initiatives to reintroduce this case in the host country's court of law. The Peace Corps' attorney filed petitions with the local courts to enable the regional security officer (RSO) and the FBI Legal Attaché to interview the main suspect in this investigation, a male host country national who initially confessed to the crime, but later recanted. The RSO provides weekly updates on this homicide case to the U. S. ambassador, who has raised the case with the newly elected President of the country.

### **Judicial Disposition of an Attempted Rape at a Caribbean Post**

As previously reported, a Volunteer serving in a Caribbean country was burglarized and brutally assaulted while her assailant attempted to rape her. A host country male was apprehended and placed in local custody. OIG coordinated with the regional security officer, host country police, and the local prosecutor to prosecute the case. OIG assisted with photo identification, physical line - up, and transport of evidence to the FBI laboratory for analyses. OIG also accompanied the Volunteer victim to a pre - trial hearing. On September 22, 2009, the suspect pleaded guilty to some, but not all, of the charges and on October 22, 2009 he was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by the local courts.

### **Investigation of Sexual Assault Allegation at an African Post**

A Volunteer serving in an African post reported that she had been sexually assaulted by a Peace Corps personal service contract staff member. OIG investigated the incident at the post and obtained subject and witness statements which supported some, but not all, of the victim's allegations. The personal service contractor was subsequently placed on administrative leave and escorted from Peace Corps property. The country director and the region determined that it was in the best interest of the Peace Corps to place him on administrative leave until his contract expired in December 2009. The Volunteer took a break in service, but hopes to continue serving at another agency post.

## **Investigations**

Prior to September 1, 2008, the Investigation Unit managed and coordinated the agency's participation in the investigative and prosecutorial processes of cases involving violent crimes committed against Volunteers overseas. This function was transferred to the Peace Corps Office of Safety and Security. As agreed upon, OIG continues to provide oversight of legacy cases that occurred prior to the transfer of responsibility. The Investigation Unit remains responsible for investigating allegations of criminal wrongdoing, including violent crimes, committed by Peace Corps staff members, contractors, and Volunteers.

## **Legacy Cases**

### **Investigation of a Volunteer Homicide at a West African Post**

The U. S. ambassador to a West African post hosted a gathering of former and current law enforcement officials to consider strategies to further the investigation of a Volunteer homicide that occurred in 1998. Law enforcement officials collectively decided that all investigative files would be consolidated under the auspices of the embassy's regional security officer. It was further decided that the local attorney representing the family's interests in this matter will be replaced. The ambassador reaffirmed his commitment to bringing justice to the family and friends of the deceased Volunteer.

### **Search for a Missing Volunteer at a South American Post**

OIG deployed investigators to Bolivia to search for a Volunteer missing since 2001. The investigation was assisted by Bolivian government officials, the U. S. Embassy, and post staff. The search was initiated when OIG learned a retired Bolivian police and military officer was alleged to have information on the Volunteer's whereabouts. The source claimed to have specific information about the Volunteer's death and the location of his remains. The search effort was unsuccessful and the source proved to be unreliable. The investigation remains open. OIG will continue to pursue any credible leads about the missing Volunteer. The Peace Corps will continue to coordinate with the Bolivian government and U. S. Embassy in future efforts to locate the Volunteer.



## **Criminal and Misconduct - Related Investigations**

### **Sexual Assault Allegation at a West African Post**

A Peace Corps country director notified OIG about a possible sexual assault of a female Volunteer by a fellow male Volunteer. OIG investigated the incident at the post and obtained subject and witness statements that supported the victim's allegations. Both Volunteers admitted to consuming large quantities of alcohol prior to the incident. The male Volunteer resigned from the Peace Corps in lieu of administrative separation. The female Volunteer took medical leave for counseling and care in Washington, D. C. , but subsequently returned to the post to complete her service.

### **Sexual Assault Allegation at a North African Post**

A Peace Corps country director notified OIG about a possible sexual assault of a female Volunteer by a fellow male Volunteer. Essential facts surrounding the alleged sexual assault remain in dispute and were not resolved by the investigation. The investigation disclosed that the Volunteers involved engaged in drinking excessive alcohol. The male Volunteer was relocated in - country. The female Volunteer received medical care at her home of record and hopes to return to complete her service.

