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ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROJECT

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2006

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Contract No. 263-I-01-06-00018-00
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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the period from October to December 2006, the AOCJ project faced some significant changes. The Prosecutor General designated the Prosecution Information Center (PIC) as the new technical counterpart for Component 1 activities. In Component 2, the Prosecutor General indicated that he would prefer the project only make improvements to the existing defense system and he directed the project's efforts to the Bar Association as the most logical partner for Component 2 work.

These are significant changes that have had an impact on project implementation. Nevertheless, such changes are not unexpected in the dynamic environment that typifies international development work and the AOCJ team, in consultation with USAID, was able to quickly accommodating these deviations from our initial plan.

Significant achievements during the quarter including consolidating a working relationship with the new Component 1 technical partner, the PIC, and providing technical assistance to ensure a solid foundation for the PIC in the coming months. In Component 2 the team prepared a comprehensive assessment of the Egyptian public defense system as well as law 145 of 2006 amending certain provisions of the Criminal Procedures Code. In Component 3, Jeff Walker of BlueLaw, prepared a curriculum assessment baseline and undertook recruiting efforts that culminated in identifying AOCJ's new legal advisor for Component 3.

While the recent changes in Components 1 and 2 have required a modest period of realignment within the project, some of these changes are likely to be in the long term interests of the counterpart. In this sense, a modest period of adjustment is more than justified based on the long term benefits that are likely to be achieved. Accordingly, The AOCJ team will proceed forward enthusiastically implementing the agreed upon activities to achieve the best possible results for both project counterparts and USAID.

II. STATUS REPORT ON PROJECT COMPONENTS

Component 1: Automation of the Prosecutor General's Office

Component Manager: David Selman, Senior IT Advisor

A. Summary of Activities

Introduction. Due to PGO concerns regarding the location of sensitive case data in an automated system, the PGO designated the PIC as the new Component 1 technical counterpart for AOCJ. During the reporting period the AOCJ team therefore redirected assistance from the JIC and spent considerable time meeting with the designated PIC Director, Mr. Mahmoud Yousef. AOCJ and Mr. Yousef discussed immediate activities related to the PIC, many of which are discussed below.

AOCJ's new focus on the PIC caused slight delays in the implementation of activities. For example, the team had to repeat four IT site assessments at four specialized prosecution offices. Differences in priorities between the JIC and PIC also required the team to change some of the planned activities (i.e. observational study tour, work at Supreme State Security Prosecution Office). Finally, the inclusion of the PIC within the scope of work of the project added an entirely new element that did not previously exist with the JIC- namely institutional development of an IT center from the ground up.

Despite these challenges, the transition to the PIC has gone relatively smoothly and AOCJ believes that in the long term, the Prosecutor General's decision to establish the PIC and use it as a hub for all PGO IT activities will serve the best interests of the PGO.

Supreme State Security Prosecution Office network cabling and wiring. Pursuant to an agreement between JIC, AOCJ, and USAID, the AOCJ team undertook efforts to "fast-track" the network cabling and wiring at the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office in the new Qattameya Heights complex. This effort involved a variety of different activities. (see text box)

Most of this work was done in collaboration with the JIC. When the PIC became our partner, however, Mr. Yousef had different preferences regarding placement of the communication racks for switches at the location.

AOCJ responded to this change by drafting a recommendation memo outlining two options to resolve Mr. Yousef's concerns. This recommendation memo was delivered to the PIC on November 26, 2006.

Supreme State Security Prosecution Network and Cabling Activities

- Surveying the location
- Developing an appropriate scope of work
- Seeking quotations from qualified vendors pursuant to USAID regulations
- Developing specification for required communications switching equipment
- Evaluating vendors' offers and selecting the best value
- Conducting site inspections to ascertain compliance

On or about December 26, AOCJ received Mr. Yousef's written response approving the second recommended option. AOCJ thereafter resumed work with HIT company. The Supreme State Security Prosecution Office network is expected to be fully functional before the end of January 2007.

Re-Assessment of four specialized prosecution offices. After the redirection of assistance to the PIC, AOCJ had difficulty acquiring the four technical assessments reports or at least the raw data from the JIC, who conducted those assessments in partnership with AOCJ. The JIC wanted to conduct new assessments given that the four offices had moved. Rather than wait for the JIC, AOCJ decided to proactively complete three of the final locations, with one remaining location completed in January 2007. Assessments were done according to the schedule noted below.

Table 1			
Re-Assessment Schedule for Final Four PGO Locations			
Prosecution Office	Dates		AOCJ Team Member
	From	To	
Supreme State Security Prosecution	12/12/06	13/12/06	Kassem Mahmoud, Khaled Abdallah, Mohamed Tawfik
Combating Tax Evasion Prosecution	17/12/06	18/12/06	Khaled Abdallah Mohamed Tawfik
Financial and Commercial Affairs Prosecution	19/12/06	20/12/06	Khaled Abdallah Mohamed Tawfik
Supreme Public Monetary Prosecution <i>(to be completed in next reporting period)</i>	09/01/07	11/01/07	Khaled Abdallah Mohamed Tawfik

Compilation of site assessment reports. After completion of the technical site assessments, AOCJ compiled assessment reports for nine other locations in both Arabic and English. These reports were then delivered to the PIC. The data from all the reports will be used as the basis for the hardware and software procurements contemplated for our next quarter activities.

Developed Automation Training Plan and OST program. Prior to moving from the JIC to the PIC, AOCJ worked extensively with the JIC and training service providers to develop a suitable training plan for the JIC in advance of moving to automation. Similarly, in agreement with the JIC and USAID, the AOCJ team coordinated extensively with US-based training providers and OST sites in preparation for a JIC OST. The OST was cancelled after the PIC became our technical partner. It is no longer a part of the AOCJ work plan.

While the training for the JIC was also cancelled, many of the same subjects and courses will be relevant for PIC personnel. Accordingly, AOCJ expects to be able to use significant portions of the previous IT training plan as we proceed forward with PIC development and capacity building. At a minimum, all of the following courses will be required for future PIC personnel, once they are hired:

- Technical networking
- System and network management
- Security systems
- Helpdesk management
- Training on “Capability Maturity Model Integration” (CMMI)

Physical infrastructure recommendations for the PIC. After receiving confirmation from the Prosecutor General that the PIC would be the central hub for all Component 1 automation

activities, AOCJ began working in earnest with the PIC to prepare the foundation for a world class IT center. This involved drafting detailed physical infrastructure recommendations for the PIC which were based upon several site visits (see text box below). The recommendations were presented to the PIC on or about November 8, 2006. In a meeting on December 7, 2006, Mr. Mahmoud Yousef informed us that the PGO had adopted all of the AOCJ's recommendations.

AOCJ's Recommendations for PIC Physical Infrastructure Improvements Accepted by the Prosecutor General and Ministry of Justice

1. Upgrade electrical and network capacity throughout PIC
2. Install robust AC system in equipment rooms
3. Install fire suppression system in equipment rooms
4. Install "drop ceiling" in equipment rooms
5. Install raised floors in equipment rooms
6. Implement a higher security profile
7. Install additional phone lines
8. Create access between the two large equipment rooms

Technical assistance for future PIC development.

Following acceptance of AOCJ's recommendations, the AOCJ IT team continued to coordinate closely with Mahmoud Yousef and managers and technicians from Arab Contractors, the PIC's contractor for site improvements. AOCJ team activities included:

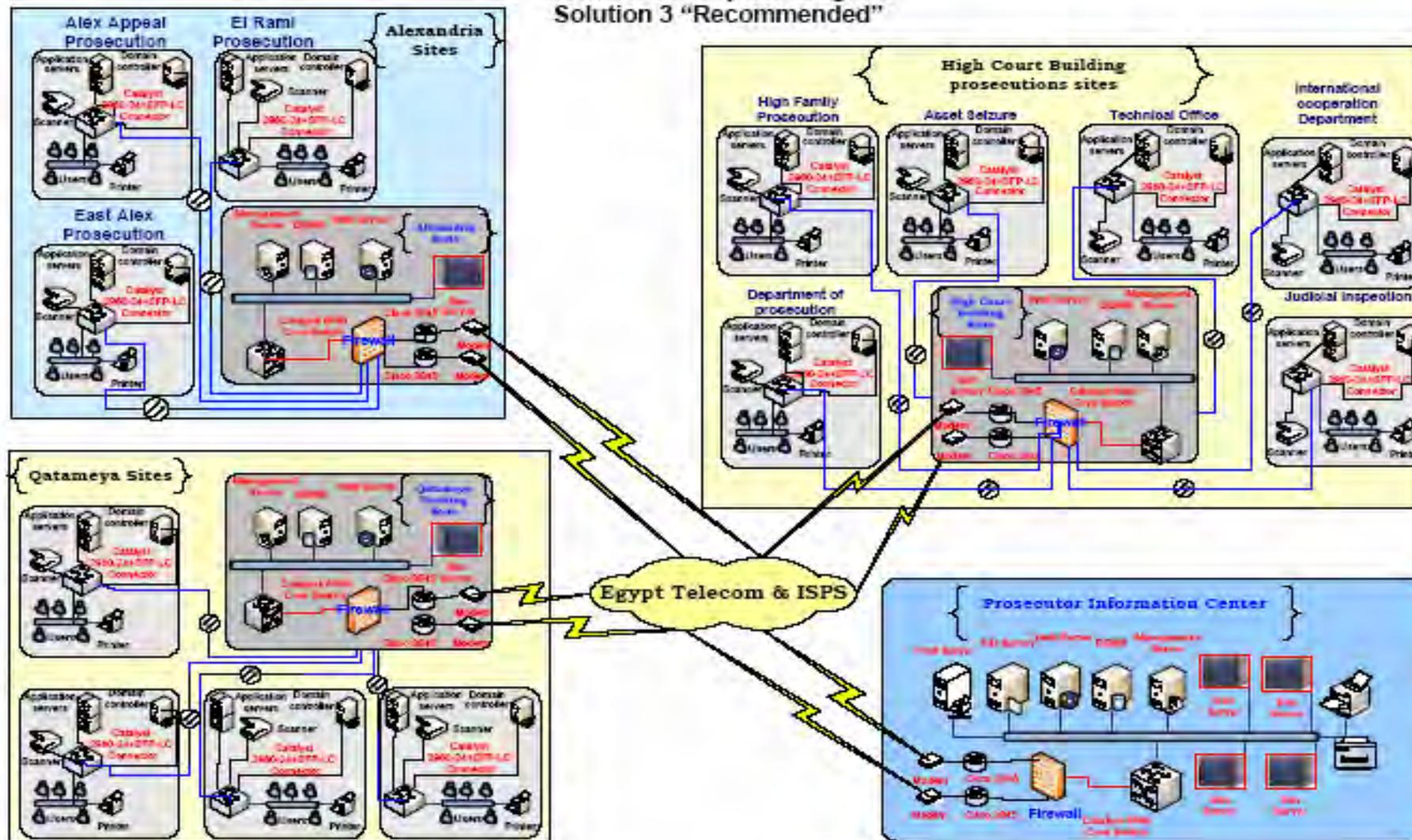
- Numerous site visits to PIC
- Detailed discussions regarding guidelines and specifications for improvements (i.e. electrical requirements, air conditioning, raised flooring, fire suppression equipment)
- Analyzing and developing anticipated staffing numbers for the PIC
- Investigated diverse database options for the PIC
- Development and verification of preliminary PIC equipment list

Technical assistance for design of overall PGO IT Solution. AOCJ completed network conceptual diagrams for a proposed IT solution for the PGO. The overall proposed solution is represented in the diagram below. This suggested solution will be included in the upcoming RFP to provide technical guidance to proposed vendors. In addition, the AOCJ team started work on a variety of items that will be completed next quarter, including:

- Physical space reallocation recommendations within the PGO to make future networking and cabling less expensive and more feasible
- Development of HW specifications for all 13 PGO locations targeted for automation; these specs will become the future RFP

Preparation of comprehensive IT Technical Assessment Report. Using information gathered from site visits, AOCJ began drafting a comprehensive report on our findings and proposed recommendations for IT solutions for the PGO. The AOCJ draft of the report is being finalized and will be delivered to the counterpart in the next reporting period.

Network Conceptual Diagram
Solution 3 "Recommended"



B. Component 1 Achievements

- Infrastructure improvements needed to establish a first-rate IT center for the PGO were provided to the PIC and approved by the PGO and the Ministry of Justice. The PIC can now proceed with fixes and be prepared to receive sensitive and expensive IT equipment from AOCJ.
- Three separate conceptual IT solutions were developed for the PGO (see recommended solution represented in diagram above). These solutions will be presented to the PIC/PGO for official approval in the next reporting period and will form the foundation for AOCJ procurements for PIC equipment, PGO equipment procurement, and system integration services.

C. Problems Encountered and Proposed Corrective Actions

While the switch from the JIC to the PIC is not technically a “problem”, it certainly required a significant reallocation of resources of the AOCJ IT team to establish new working relationships, understand the requirements of a new partner, undertake technical assignments related to establishing the PIC, and even re-do some work that would otherwise have been the responsibility of the JIC. For example, the AOCJ IT team had to re-do the four assessments of specialized prosecution offices because the previous assessments were completed with the JIC. This extra effort distracted the team from undertaking more pressing matters.

In addition, the establishment of the PIC was an entirely new assignment for the AOCJ team and working with the PIC on items such as physical infrastructure recommendations detracted from their ability to focus on AOCJ’s core mission- developing and overseeing an IT solution for the PGO and procuring the required equipment and software for this solution.

Understandably, the PIC had different priorities regarding previously conducted work, such as that done at the Supreme State Security Prosecution Office. Responding to PIC’s concerns in this area and re-dedicating resources here also took considerable time and effort from the project team.

The PIC has expressed some frustration regarding the lack of tangible IT equipment in their possession and does not appear to understand that procurement efforts would have been further along had AOCJ not had to change technical partners in mid-stream.

The AOCJ team has responded, and will continue to respond, by explaining the complex and time-consuming nature of the procurement process to the counterpart. In addition, AOCJ has attempted to accelerate certain aspects of procurement, for example, by sharing draft equipment lists with the PIC before they are finalized in order to receive early feedback.

Managing expectations is never an easy process with a counterpart that may not be accustomed to the level of procurement regulations to which USAID contractors are subject. AOCJ therefore appreciates USAID’s ongoing contribution to improving the counterpart’s understanding of the procurement process in our regular counterpart meetings.

D. Expected Activities and Results for Next Quarter

The focus of Component 1 activities in the next quarter will be on the following activities:

- Finalize IT assessment report and share with counterpart
- Review solutions with the PIC/PGO and develop consensus
- Finalize HW specifications for the PIC and present to counterpart; review and revise specifications with the PIC.
- Submit PIC specifications to IRM and then proceed with US-based procurement

- Begin draft of system integrator RFP based on feedback from assessment report
- Identify, recruit, and hire two IT staff for the PIC
- Continue to provide technical assistance for completion of PIC's site facilities

The expected results for the next reporting period include:

1. PIC equipment RFP completed and submitted for procurement
2. Draft of system integrator RFP shared with counterparts
3. Two staff personnel hired and providing in-house assistance at the PIC

Component 2: Implementation of Public Defense System

Component Manager: James Hodes, Public Defense Specialist

A. Summary of Activities

Introduction. On October 30, 2006, AOCJ and USAID met with the Prosecutor General and representatives of his office at the High Court building. At this meeting the Prosecutor General made it clear that he did not want a new public defense system or organization. He noted that Law 145 of 2006 had increased defendants' rights to counsel and that no organizational changes to the organic model in place in Egypt would be required. He requested that both his representatives and AOCJ conduct assessments of the existing Egyptian defense system.

On December 3, 2006, AOCJ received from the PGO a "Memorandum on the Public Defense." This memorandum summarized existing laws in Egypt relevant to the public defense and concluded by stating:

The above presentation indicates that there is organization for an entity that can serve as indigent defendant defender any where in the country. This entity is very much similar to the regimes that have been reviewed in the presented AOCJ comparative study dated 30th September 2006 . This actually existing system can be utilized and be the starting point for developing it to serve the purpose of the project which is to provide counsel for the defendant. It is to be noted that the beginnings of this system are traced back to law number 961 of 1968 that was subject to amendment by the current Law on Legal Profession number 17 of 1983. This renders it imperative to thoroughly study this system in order to identify potentials of success in application, the hindrances it encounters and how to develop it to render it capable to help responding to the requirements of the above mentioned recent amendments of the Law on Criminal Procedures and any relevant future amendments in the arena of enhancing the defendant's right to defense.

Assessment of Public Defense System in Egypt. Following the conclusions stated in the PGO report above (i.e. to "thoroughly study" the existing system) and in compliance with the request of the Prosecutor General in the October 30, 2006 meeting, AOCJ proceeded to assess the defense system in Egypt. We conducted research, did materials review, held meetings with legal professionals, and visited courts to gather information. The list below presents some of the Component 2 activities completed by the Component 2 Public Defense Specialist in preparation of the assessment.

- Site visit to South Cairo courthouse to meet with judges and attorneys. Spoke with clerk responsible for tracking vouchers signed by judges on behalf of court appointed counsel. Reviewed register of said vouchers.
- Meetings with the President of the Egyptian Bar Association, Sameh Ashour, and President of the Giza Bar Association, Hamdy Khalifa.
- Several information and research meetings with Professors Kibeesh, Ramadan, and Abdul Sattar of the Cairo University Faculty of Law.
- Two meetings with Professor Fouad Riad, former Judge of the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia and currently member of the Egyptian Human Rights Commission and Professor of International Private Law at Cairo University.

AOCJ finalized assessment of the existing defense system as modified by Law 145 of 2006 and presented it to the PGO on December 27, 2006.

The assessment included both the strengths and some deficiencies of the existing system. There can be no doubt, for example, that the changes to the Criminal Procedures Code made by Law 145 of 2006 significantly increase defendants' right to counsel at an earlier stage in the criminal process. However, it is equally clear that there remain some practical deficiencies in the existing system and the assessment report identified some of these.

AOCJ concluded the assessment report with four concrete recommendations, each of which is explained in detail in the report. These recommendations were:

1. Consider modifying the exceptions to the right to counsel contained in Law 145
2. Clarify procedural aspects for prosecution appointment of counsel under Law 145
3. Enhance the role of the Bar Association in the appointment process
4. Create a public defense oversight committee to link the PGO and the Bar

PGO feedback on the public defense assessment will be received and reported on in the next quarter. Early indications are that the PGO will accept recommendation #3 above and redirect AOCJ to work directly with the Bar Association in Component 2.

Prepared baseline data requirements for Component 2 monitoring and evaluation. AOCJ completed a comprehensive list of data requirements for monitoring and measuring improvements to the public defense system. This data is essential to measure project indicator #1. AOCJ will send the data requirements to the PGO next quarter with a request for assistance collecting the needed information.

B. Component 2 Achievements

- AOCJ completed a detailed and thorough analysis and assessment of strengths and weaknesses of the Egyptian public defense system, including Law 145 of 2006. This assessment provided four recommendations for improvement to the defense system to the PGO and will allow the Prosecutor General to decide how best to direct AOCJ resources to improve the defense system in Egypt.
- The project also completed a comprehensive list of specific data requirements needed to monitor and measure improvements in the defense system.

C. Problems Encountered and Proposed Corrective Actions

Personnel retention issues. During the reporting period AOCJ recruited and hired one Senior Legal Expert, Counselor Hany Hanna, and one in-house Legal Advisor, Mr. Amir Mikhail Girgis, for assistance on Component 2 activities.

Mr. Hanna, a criminal law expert with over 30 years of experience and Vice President of the Court of Cassation, joined the AOCJ team on secondment from the GOE on December 10, 2006. He had received approval for this assignment from both the High Judicial Council and the Prosecutor General. However, on December 19, 2006, Mr. Hanna was recalled to his GOE post by the Ministry of Justice for the stated reason that they had exceeded their allowed number of secondment of senior personnel. Mr. Hanna would have served as AOCJ's lead technical advisor and liaison with the PGO on Component 2 issues. Although only with AOCJ for a short period of time, Mr. Hanna, who is fluent in English, provided valuable insight on public defense matters and will be sorely missed by AOCJ.

Similarly, Mr. Mikhail joined our team on November 28, 2006, after AOCJ agreed with USAID to hire an in-house legal advisor to essentially serve as an in-house counsel conducting legal

research, overseeing legal translations, and other matters of secondary importance. Mr. Mikhail had approval from the High Judicial Council for his secondment to the AOCJ project. On or about December 27, 2006, the PGO informed the project that it would not approve the presence of Mr. Mikhail on the project because they did not believe he had the technical skills required to meet AOCJ needs.

The loss of both legal professionals from Component 2 almost simultaneously was a great blow to project efforts. Significant time and resources will now need to be expanded in order to identify, interview, and hire replacements for these critical positions. AOCJ has responded by immediately beginning a new recruitment effort to identify suitable replacements for each candidate. At least one new hire is expected in the next quarter.

D. Expected Activities and Results for Next Quarter

The focus of Component 2 activities in the next quarter will be on the following activities:

- Beginning a formal dialogue with the Bar Association to determine Bar's interest and willingness to collaborate with AOCJ on technical assistance and training activities to support improved defense services
- Assuming a positive response, establish a training plan that includes continuing legal education programs, entry level training, and workshops on defense related matters as appropriate

The expected results for next quarter for Component 2 will depend on whether the Bar Association agrees to collaborate with the AOCJ project on activities to improve access to defense counsel. There are certain political considerations that might cause the Bar Association to not want to affiliate with an American project. However, assuming the Bar is willing to collaborate with AOCJ, expected results during the next quarter would be the following:

- A written agreement on future technical assistance and training activities to be carried out with the Bar Association
- A comprehensive Bar Association training plan for FY 2007

Component 3: Development of Human Rights Curriculum

Component Manager: Ahmed Zohny, Legal Advisor

A. Summary of Activities

Introduction. Chemonics subcontractor Blue Law is AOCJ's technical partner for Component 3. Chemonics and Blue Law originally proposed that a significant portion of the technical assistance in Component 3 be provided by expatriate experts. It subsequently became apparent from discussions with counterparts that Component 3 would be more effective if implemented with a greater amount of Egyptian human rights expertise. USAID agreed with this strategy and the project has been proceeding accordingly. Component 3 technical work was originally intended to begin in year 2 of the project, which is why recruitment efforts took place in the third quarter of the project.

Recruitment Efforts for Component 3 Human Rights Legal Advisor. During the reporting period AOCJ and Blue Law carried our recruitment efforts to locate a full time Egyptian human rights legal advisor. AOCJ and Blue Law developed and placed a recruitment advertisement. AOCJ's COP and Blue Law Principal Mr. Jeff Walker interviewed several Human Rights Legal Advisor candidates and concurred regarding the qualifications of Mr. Ahmed Zohny. Mr. Zohny provides a unique fit of relevant technical skills and abilities plus approvability by the PGO. Blue Law made an offer of employment and Mr. Zohny accepted. AOCJ processed the request for approval and USAID approved. Mr. Zohny is scheduled to begin work in January 2007.

Development of curriculum assessment baseline. In advance of the commencement of technical work in Component 3, Mr. Jeff Walker carried out a technical assignment from October 28 to November 15, 2006.

To ascertain who was active in human rights education and establish relevant contacts for potential delivery of training to prosecutors in the future, Mr. Walker met with various human rights organizations, training providers, and educational institutions including all of the following:

1. United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
2. International Human Rights Law Outreach Project (IHRLOP)
3. AMIDEAST Country Office
4. American University Cairo Law Department
5. Ohio Northern University International Development Law Program
6. International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
7. GreenMed
8. St. Andrews Refuge Outreach Program
9. International Foundation for Election Systems

Mr. Walker's curriculum assessment baseline includes a draft request for relevant information regarding existing human rights courses that are currently being provided to prosecutors. It also contains the international norms for prosecutor behavior.

Perhaps most importantly, Mr. Walker and AOCJ's COP met with Mr. Ahmed Ghanem of the UNDP and engaged in detailed discussions regarding potential collaboration for the delivery of training programs to prosecutors. Since AOCJ's mandate specifically excludes the actual delivery of training programs, a potential collaboration with UNDP could ensure the effective delivery of training courses developed by the project.

For sustainability reasons, the AOCJ expects the UNDP to be a secondary option for course delivery, with preference given to the soon-to-be established GOE training academy, which will

assume the role currently played by the National Center for Judicial Studies. However, the UNDP will serve as a valuable back-up for course delivery as needed.

B. Component 3 Achievements

The achievements in Component 3 include the following:

- Human rights legal advisor identified and recruited to serve as Component 3 lead for activities scheduled to begin next quarter
- Curriculum assessment baseline report completed in advance of substantive technical activities beginning in January 2007
- Preliminary agreement secured from UNDP to provide course delivery services as needed once AOCJ courses are developed and tested

C. Problems Encountered and Proposed Corrective Actions

No major problems encountered during the reporting period.

D. Expected Activities and Results for Next Quarter

Expected activities in Component 3 include start-up all of the following:

- In coordination with the PGO, gather information related to existing entry level and CLE courses currently provided to prosecutors
- Undertake analysis of existing materials and methodologies to ascertain what is needed to supplement the entry level training with a human rights curriculum using international standards and Egyptian international obligations stemming from the International Human Rights instruments ratified by Egypt as a baseline
- Develop main principles and guidelines of the future curriculum
- Secure PGO approval of the principles and the guidelines before proceeding with curriculum development

Expected results for next quarter include the following:

- Information on existing courses gathered
- Results of the human rights training needs assessment for the targeted novice prosecutors
- PGO curriculum principles and guidelines agreed upon in writing

Component 4: Core Team/Management

Component Manager: William Hallock, COP

A. Summary of Activities

Component 4 includes all the management and operational activities that are required for the project to successfully function and to implement component activities.

Staffing and Recruitment. AOCJ engaged in extensive recruitment and interviewing of candidates for the local Legal Advisor and the local Senior Legal Expert. The project identified and hired two highly qualified candidates for each position. Formal USAID approval was received. Unfortunately AOCJ was notified that one candidate would no longer be technical acceptable to the PGO and the MOJ retracted its approval of the other candidate. (Please see Component 2 for more details).

Work plan and contract scope of work revision. AOCJ team members and the COP spent considerable time revising the AOCJ work plan to accommodate changes encountered in Components 1 and 2.

In addition, Chris Scott, Chemonics International Director for the AOCJ project, carried out a management assignment to meet with the project COP, USAID, and AOCJ team members to realign project priorities and activities. In a meeting held with USAID on December 13, 2006, Chris Scott, COP Bill Hallock, USAID CTO Jasmin Samy, and USAID Rule of Law Team Leader Margaret Groarke discussed AOCJ's SOW and contract modifications that would be submitted in January 2007.

Administrative audit and data migration. Ms. Karima Rizk, Chemonics International Associate for the AOCJ project, successfully completed an administrative review of the project from November 10-24, 2006. Ms. Rizk also undertook a file and data migration to the new AOCJ server. Finally, Ms. Rizk trained AOCJ team members on the new filing system using the shared drive.

First AOCJ Annual Report completed. The first AOCJ annual report was drafted and completed by USAID. In a meeting held on December 5, 2006, USAID stated that it had no recommended changes to the Annual Report.

B. Achievements

- Human Rights Legal Advisor identified for Component 3
- Administrative audit and data migration successfully completed

C. Problems Encountered and Proposed Corrective Actions

No major problems encountered during the reporting period.

D. Expected Activities and Results for Next Quarter

The AOCJ Chief of Party will continue project management and operations to support technical activities in all three project components. The major management task in the next quarter will be recruiting and hiring replacement legal staff for the two positions lost during this quarter. AOCJ expects to complete the recruitment and hiring process by the end of next quarter.

III. UPDATE ON PROCUREMENT PLAN

AOCJ has developed a preliminary procurement timeline with associated milestones reflecting three major procurement areas: 1) PIC equipment, required to establish the PGO's IT center; 2) Phase 1 of hardware equipment for PGO locations; 3) system integration services (including software development). A summary of each procurement is noted below.

PIC HW equipment RFP. A preliminary PIC equipment list was started during the reporting period. It will be delivered to the PIC for review on January 31, 2007. Once this list is approved by the PIC, AOCJ will immediately proceed to coordinate with Chemonics International home office procurement department for finalization of the IRM request. Finally, once any IRM concerns are addressed, an RFP will be published and an award made. Assuming a rapid response from the PIC, AOCJ expects to publish the RFP in the next quarter.

Phase 1 of HW RFP for 13 PGO locations. AOCJ started creating equipment specifications list for all 13 PGO locations during the reporting period. This preliminary list will be presented to the PIC and PGO in the next quarter as a part of the IT Technical Assessment Report.

A very preliminary budget estimates suggests a procurement amount in the range of \$2.6M to \$3M USD. The precise hardware configuration depends on the overall IT solution selected by the PGO. Once AOCJ receives PIC/PGO feedback on an IT solution, HW specifications will be finalized and submitted to IRM in Washington, D.C. AOCJ expects this to happen late next quarter or early in the third quarter of FY 07.

Phase 1 of the HW procurement will be for workstations, peripheral equipment, and software. Phase 2 of the HW procurement will be for communications switches, servers, and routers that must be reviewed and approved by the system integrator that will ultimately be responsible for establishing a functional network.

System integration RFP. The system integrator will be responsible for ensuring that the entire PGO solution works in a unified and coherent manner. The system integrator RFP will be published locally and will include a variety of tasks from developing software to setting up WANs and LANs in target locations.

Once the PIC and PGO respond to the AOCJ IT Technical Assessment report, AOCJ will immediately begin completion of this RFP. We expect to share a draft of this RFP with the counterpart during the next quarter, with publication expected in the third quarter of FY 07.