



IBZ Seminar Programme

Seminar Nr. 16/11

Arthur Troop Scholarship Report on Sexual Exploitation of the
Child 29/02/2016—04/03/2018

Presented by : Sando Garnet Johnson
Arthur Troop Scholar
Small Arms Control Unit
Liberia National Police

Foreign Associate Member
IPA Swaziland Section

Submitted to : Chief Superintendent May-Britt Rinaldo
Chair
International Professional Commission
International Police Association

Submitted on : March 10, 2016

Section- 1 -Who am I?

I am a Foreign Associate Member of IPA Swaziland Section, an active member of the Liberia National Police, with a supervisory role in the Small Arms Control Unit, as the Assistant Commander for Administration. My role covers ensuring compliance with National and International Firearms best practice by coordinating the marking, tracing, recording and management of both Police and civilian owned firearms, light weapons and its related materials, to avoid the illicit proliferation and trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Besides my Police life, I am a Senior Student at the Department of Sociology, University of Liberia Undergraduate Program with strong passion to serve humanity.

Currently, I am networking with IPA Swaziland Section and the Administration of the Liberia National Police to have a memorandum of understanding for other young, active and deserving Police Officers to join the International Police Association from Liberia, to impact change in their respective communities. With consistency, I remain of the conviction that this will be achieved soon.

Over 11 years, I have been committed to the main purpose of Law-enforcement, friendship through service delivery to the public. My vision is to ensure that the Liberia National Police effectively represents the communities it serves, becomes responsive and accountable to them through initiatives that will regularly monitor and evaluate Police Officers relationship with the public in keeping with the Police Code of Ethics.

Section 2 – What I learnt from IBZ Gimborn

During my stay at the IBZ Gimborn, Cologne, I learned several things regarding Sexual Exploitation of the Child which refers to children as victims and a history of ignoring children's statements in interviews and other situations. The seminar also focused on problems which arise during Police investigation, impact on victims, and therapy results in treating offenders.

On Monday, February 29, 2016, the seminar officially opened and participants were greeted by the IBZ Team. Thereafter, we had the introductory aspect of the seminar, sharing of personal interest, experiences and expectations, aims and objectives of the seminar, all headed by the Seminar Chair, May-Britt Rinaldo, Chief Superintendent, Gottenburg, Sweden.

Chief Superintendent Rinaldo's lecture series on Historical Sexual Child Abuses and Legal Limitations-Review from Sweden was very interactive; participants provided crossed countries analysis during the group discussion. A true picture of the topic was captured, protecting the basis rights and dignity of a child, a reference from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (1989). The consortium of street children was also discussed. Participants again gained a broader understanding on international conventions or treaties that tend to protect the rights of all kids regardless of social status.

Tuesday, March 1st, 2016, Mary Daly, Member of the Ireland Police spoke on the topic: Clerical Abuse in Ireland since the Foundation of the State-Reflections on the Reports Commissioned by the Irish Government. During the morning section, an overview was given about the influence of the Church in Ireland. To give participants a practical picture, a case study was made on the Catholic Church mode of Controlling or dominating the society through education and welfare, in the 19th Century. Practical views were also given on other religious groups that opposed the Catholic Teaching. Lesson learned is, in some way, religion has contributed to abuse of children in Ireland and continues to affect kids around the world, thus, sensing the need for the state to protect all.

We also had another great speaker, Detective Chief Inspector Tom Chisholm of the Westmidiands Police UK who spoke on the investigation of historic sexual abuse of children. This topic seeks to address investigative strategies to be used by Police officers who investigate child offenders. It covers, the plans for a successful investigation, gathering and preserving the best evidence that will not cause a case to be dismissed from court due to procedural errors. Amongst other things learned, were victims and witness care, accounts that need to be confidential and only used for court action.

Another vital aspect of this lecture was dealing with stereotypes, which, when not careful can cause a victim to commit suicide or transfer said action to others. If stereotypes is not handled well by an investigator, it could black label a police organization, causing mistrust.

After our free time, sports activities, discussions and evening meals, we went outing in the neighborhood of IBZ Gimborn at a nearby community, where, we received the true reception from the Germans; my interaction in the place with friends and residents tells me that IBZ Gimborn is suitable for learning and social interaction that aid transformation.

In another development, on Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016, an Author, Mr. Andreas Huckale, spoke on the topic: Abuse in Boarding Schools: Example Odenwaldschule. Mr. Huckale was practical in his presentation; he gave personal examples on the topic, illustrating abuse in boarding schools and homes.

During the course, I learned about feeling associated with environments of sex abuse on children, ranging from apathy, anger, sadness, compassion, fear, learning from offended experiences.

Sex victims also find it appalling going through difficult experience. I also learned that the nervous system has an internal elasticity that allows a victim to collapse or overcome traumatic experiences. An experience for shock is freezing, our biological system shows activation. A person can collapse when he or she is unable to cope with his or her nervous system due to a traumatic situation. When this happens, the victim puts up a strange behavior and often collapse. Some of the measures to be used when you encounter a person in a traumatic complex situation are to relax, tell the person who you are, the impact you choose to make in the situation that he or she is undergoing, the purpose of your encounter, all these are done to give the victim assurance that the responding officers cares and can recommend a way out.

I also learned that investigators have emotional encounters with a victim in a case of sex offence. At times, the investigator is left in a dilemma; he or she suffers rejection from the victim based on social relationship with the accused. Another lesson learned is repeating pattern in sex violence on a victim creates re-victimization or overwhelming emotions.

Sexualized violence is another aspect of sex violence. The consequences of invasive experience of a child, such as shock, trauma, and abandonment can also cause re-victimization. To reduce the stress on victim, it is advisable that the victim takes all the time he or she has to tell his story.

Sexualized offences occur often in boarding schools and institutions. In the event, wherein, it is reported and brought to the attention of school administrators, the accused institution picks someone as a sacrifice to save the image of the institution.

Most institutions ways of attempting to handle offence of this kind is to acknowledge the act and promise to amicably handle it as an institution in keeping with the institution's regulations.

To uncover and ensure prosecution, it is advisable that Police officers be consistent in their quest to ensure that matters surrounding sex offences are properly investigated and sent to court for deterrence.

After the morning and afternoon session, both IBZ Team and seminar participants, headed by the Seminar Chair, departed for Cologne, where, we toured the city, met members of IPA Cologne and visited a renowned restaurant for dinner. This trip was filled with sightseeing, teambuilding and excitement.

On Thursday, March 3rd, 2016, Thomas Schlingmann of Tauwetter, Berlin spoke on the Topic: Female Offenders. The class was made to understand the side effects of sex offences, where, people know that there are sex victims and there exists sexual abuse of women. Most often, violation occur when individuals are unaware of culture or rules that exist in foreign countries. The violators or perpetrators often start the acts of sex offence by testing limits or restrictions. This lesson was inspiring as it was supported by several academic references.

Speaker Tom Chisholm later spoke on the topic: The management of Sex Offenders. The lecturer provided insights on the motivation or reasons why some women commit sex offences. Example, making their victims objects (Wolfers 1995).

According to my understanding to my understanding, women who commit acts of this kind are, lovers who start sexual relationship with boys that are in their minor, women who were previously exposed to disabuse themselves and core offenders, a female offender seeks the assistance of male to join her in such deviant social act. The offenders in this case are popular amongst children. The lesson learned from this session is "Sexuality can be used to punish or humiliate others".

After our free time, sports activities, discussion and evening meal, we climaxed the day's activities in the Honesty Bar, IBZ. Participants representing each country had wonderful time together. The Center for Honesty was filled with excitement.

Friday, March 4th, 2016, we had the last workshop headed by the Seminar Chair, followed by the presentation of workshop results and discussion. Later, the feedback forms were distributed and feedbacks on the seminar were given and coordinated by the IBZ Team. The IBZ Team also issued me a letter of Membership in the IBZ Schloss Gimborn e.v. upon declaring my intent to serve as one of the supporters while attending the seminar. I was also granted membership as a Knight of Gimborn.

After these activities, the seminar was declared officially closed, followed by departure. I want to be grateful to Mr. Michael Murfin, a Veteran UK Police Officers, one of those participants who demonstrated true friendship to me. He served as my host, pending my departure from Cologne via Frankfurt on March 5, 2016.

Section 3 – Why I chose Seminar 16/11 Sexual Exploitation of the Child

To increase my understanding in child related offences and protect the basis rights and dignity of a child, as contained in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (1989).

What I learnt- The benefits to me and society

Compassion with a compassionate spirit, I will be able to see and treat victims of sex offences with respect and ensure that violators of their rights are persecuted in keeping with statute. The lesson learnt from been compassionate. A compassionate spirit allows a police officer to identify with victims.

Courage this has to do with strong commitment, at times in Police career, we respond to hostile sex offence scenes, where the victim and accused all side against the responding Police Officer, questing his or her reasoning. During this time, Police must brave the storm, be neutral and professional in addressing the conflict.

Respect, I learned to regard people for who they are regardless of their social backgrounds or societal status. This is accepting diversity. This can help me and society by upholding the rule of law, ensuring true democracy for sustained development.

Integrity, I was so moved by the honesty that exists in the Honesty Bar at Gimborn that was first sight. I learned greater steadfast adherence to strict morals or ethical codes. The benefit to me and my Police Department is working against dishonesty in law enforcement, to enable the Police gain the trust of the public, those we are called to serve, by always doing what is right and necessary by standards.

Excellence, the learning objective in excellent service is to provide good qualities in all that we do as required by us. The benefits of excellence to me and my Police Service we will be successful in our daily duties when we are diligent.

Service, from this context, I learned to serve others in my daily life. The benefits of service to me and my Police Service, is Peace and sustained development.

Finally, I want to thank the IPA for awarding me this scholarship. It means a lot to me. Knowledge acquired from this program will be transferred to my fellow Police Office, as we collectively combat child related offences/crime in our respective communities.

