



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

# EVIDENCE- AND HUMAN-RIGHTS BASED POLICING IN AFRICA DURING AND AFTER A PANDEMIC

**TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER  
17:00 – 18.00 P.M. CET**

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Crime has traditionally been viewed as the domain of the police and criminal justice system. Yet over the past two decades there has been increasing recognition of the limits of this approach, of the importance in understanding the drivers to adequately prevent crime before it happens, and to respond appropriately when it does occur.

Meanwhile across Africa there is increasing pushback over recent years against laws usually left over from the colonial period that have the effect of criminalising the poorest and most marginalised in society. These offences have been used to entrench criminal justice responses to challenges that require solutions different to that of policing and detention. In fact, it is this type of policing response that exacerbates the resourcing challenges many police face, overcrowds detention facilities and heightens risks for police in court challenges to arbitrary arrest and excessive use of force and inhumane detention.

The urgency to find an alternative has been highlighted by the impact of COVID-19 and the limits of a securitised response to a public health crisis. The lessons we learn here are relevant across many areas of police work where law enforcement is used as a primary and often only response to that are socio economic and public health challenges.

The side-event co-organised by UNODC's Justice Section and the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF) aims at providing a regional perspective to evidence-based and human rights-based policing during and after COVID-19 pandemic and discusses the shift towards the decriminalisation of petty offences in Africa and what a public health response can present by way of an alternative.





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# PROVISIONAL AGENDA

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

**Anna Giudice** - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC

## PRESENTING THE CHALLENGE

**Louise Edwards** - Programme and Research Director  
APCOF

**Tem Fuh Mbuh** - Programme Officer Open Society Initiative for West Africa

## LOOKING FOR ANSWERS

**David Birech psc(R)** - Director, Reforms, National Police Service, Kenya

**Efunsola Sowemimo** - Commissioner of Police Medical (retd), Nigerian Police Force

**Jason Kew** - Thames Valley Police

## PRACTICAL TOOLS

**Anna Giudice** - Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Office, UNODC

## Q&A

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

**Valérie Lebaux** - Chief, Justice Section, Division for Operations, UNODC