



# SINDICATO NACIONAL DA POLÍCIA

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Membro da Confederação  
Europeia de Polícia



Membro do Concelho  
Internacional de Associações  
Representativas de Polícias

## ICPRA MEETING 2008 – WELLINGTON – NEW ZEALAND

### 1: International policing experience

- **The extent of current/recent international deployments**

Regarding this topic, the Portuguese police forces, **PSP** – Policia de Segurança Pública (Public Safety Police), the civilian police or **GNR**- Guarda Nacional Republicana (National Republic Guard), military police were and are present in several countries helping to implement peace.

The Portuguese contingent, either for its historic roots and for the miscellaneous of races, always creates a special bond with the community where they are stationed, what in many cases ended in marriage with the locals.

The Portuguese Police Forces international missions are or were in the past:

**UNMIK**-Kosovo, **ONUMOZ**-Mozambique, **EUPM**-Bosnia, **MINUGUA**-Guatemala, **MONUC**-Congo, **EUPOL**-Kinshasa, **UNTAET**-East-Timor, **UNMISSET**-East-Timor, **UNOTIL**-East-Timor, **MINUSTAH**-Haiti, **MAPE**-Albania, **MINURSO**- Western Sahara, **EUPOL**-Macedonia, **EUPOL**-Croacia, **EUPOL**- Servia/Montenegro and "Last but not Least" in **IRAQUE**

- **Expected future demands/trends in demand**

The Portuguese police are and will be always ready and available for the current and future demands, but like it must be in several countries that is a political decision, there for the future belongs to them and not to the police forces in spite of our readiness as police professionals to be deployed anywhere in the world.

- **whether civilian/non-sworn staff are also deployed, or only sworn police officers**

In Portugal only sworn civilian or military police officers are eligible to perform this type of missions, all the non-sworn staff may be involved in the missions but as a liaison contact inside national borders.

In SINAPOL we defend that only sworn police officers may be part of an international mission and that any other way is a good start for the private sector and we must not allow that.

For us only a policeman can do a police job and no other.

- **Any key issues from your association's/jurisdiction's perspective.**

SINAPOL, normally agrees with the national and international policies regarding this subject and from our experience and knowledge given to us by those who usually work in international missions not much should be changed.

But as said before we must not allow the private sector or the army to do police activity, something that recently is happening in some parts of the globe.

## **2. Affiliate reports**

Regarding SINAPOL's association's/jurisdiction's perspective of relevance to ICPRA, as President what I can say is when needed ICPRA was always available to help us, I think we are the most recent member of ICPRA and for that we are not yet able to express more ideas or opinions regarding ICPRA, but for us one thing is certain "continue the good work" and when needed SINAPOL will be always available help ICPRA and /or any of its members.

### **Less-than-lethal tactical options SINAPOL vision:**

In Portugal the police officers many times were arrested because they used the fire arm and that resulted in the dead of someone.

Fortunately this tendency from the Portuguese courts to arrest police officers since the late 90's has gradually decreased to the point that in the last 8 years no police officer was arrested.

Unfortunately the disciplinary actions did not follow the evolution of the courts and many police officers are punished to the point of being expelled from the police forces, what in some cases is the correct decision but in other cases no.

How come, you must say, the reason is simple, the use of less-than-lethal weapons and appropriated weapon formation make all the difference, in many cases between a proper police action and a wrong police action or on other words, a life saved or a dead body.

For all the above SINAPOL was one of the first police unions in Portugal to contact several providers of less-than-lethal police material, such as Pepperball in the USA and some Taser resellers in Portugal.

After we scouted the market and tested some equipment, we recommended our police force (PSP), also to scout the market, what they did.

At the moment almost 90% of the Portuguese police officers are equipped with a pepper spray kit and already some taser and pepperball and the use of it makes it easy to resolve many police actions and better to control violent persons when needed, all without use a firearm.

In conclusion SINAPOL agree and support the use of Less-than-lethal weapons in police forces, but this does not means that they should replace entirely the firearm as part of the police officer "uniform", because as many of us police officers know, there are situations were a firearm is the only work tool that makes the job done.

The SINAPOL President

Armando Ferreira