CRIME IN DAR ES SALAAM

RESULTS OF A CITY VICTIM SURVEY

RORY ROBERTSHAW, ANTOINETTE LOUW & ANNA MTANI

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Results from a city victim survey

and

in depth interviews on violence against women

Prepared for the Dar es Salaam Safer Cities project and UN Habitat

Victim survey by Rory Robertshaw, Antoinette Louw & Aki Stavrou In depth interviews on violence against women by Lizette Meyer & Antoinette Louw Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria & DRA Development, Durban

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BACKGROUND

Information is essential for the planning, design and monitoring of a crime reduction strategy. Information is needed not only about crime levels but also about resource availability, capacity and the views of the people in the area about the issues. Victim surveys are one way of gathering some of this information. They supplement police statistics by providing data on unreported crimes. They also show who is more at risk of crime, some of the impacts of crime and most importantly, public perception about the priority issues in their area.

The Institute for Security Studies has conducted four city victim surveys in recent years in South Africa in order to provide city governments with data for designing crime reduction strategies. The ISS has also conducted specialised surveys – on crime in rural areas and on violence against women – to assist national and provincial government as well as non-state practitioners in planning for better crime reduction.

In February and March 2000 two surveys were conducted in Dar es Salaam for the Safer Cities project – a city victim survey and in depth inteviews on violence against women. The format of the ISS surveys was used as a framework and adapted to suit local conditions. The results of these surveys are presented below.

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