On 22.01.2008 the United Nations Operations in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI) held a medal awards ceremony at the Former American School, Riviera 3, Abidjan, in honor of three hundred and seventy-five (375) officers and men of the Jordan Formed Police Units (FPUs). The Kingdom of Jordan has three Formed Police Units in Ivory Coast. This comprised JORD FPU 1 based in Daloa and JORD FPU 2 and 3 based in Abidjan. The current rotation is the fifth from Jordan since the arrival of the first in 2005.
The short but impressive ceremony started at about 11.00hrs with the Anthems of the United Nations and Kingdom of Jordan, followed by a one minute silence observed in honour of all those who have fallen in the service of peace with the United Nations. The ceremony was jointly co-coordinated by the PIO/UNPOL and the FPU. The Special Guest of Honour was the Principal Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General (PDSRSG) Mr Abou Moussa who deputized for the SRSG in Ivory Coast, His Excellency Mr. Y J Choi. The Acting Commissioner of the UNPOL, Col. Pierre-Andre Campiche, who certainly was the host, also graced the occasion accompanied by a high retinue of UNPOL chiefs of sections who included the chief of Operations, Mr Amadou Diakhite, and Chief of Logistics, Mr. Robert Max Faye as well as the FPU co-ordinator and his deputy Mr. Jean-Pierre Diandaye and Alaedin Jarrar respectively. There were, also, high representations from the UNOCI Military Battalions of Jordan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Pakistan-FPU, Bangladesh-FPU as well as a large section of UNPOLs and UNOCI staff.

In his welcome address, the Commander of Jordan FPUs, Lt. Col Ahmed Al-Tarawneh thanked UNOCI for the high recognition and honour done his contingent and the Kingdom of Jordan. He recounted the history of the Kingdom of Jordan’s Police participation in UN Peace missions and assured UNOCI of the readiness of the Jordan FPU and for that matter the Kingdom of Pakistan to continue to demonstrate loyalty to the UN in the search of global peace and security for all humanity.

On his part, the Acting Commissioner UNPOL, Col. Pierre-Andre Campiche described the Jordan FPU as very committed, hardworking and discipline in the mission. He noted with high sense of satisfaction that their outstanding professionalism of the contingent was a continuous source of pride to the UNPOL and has further confirmed the growing and expanding role of the FPU in contemporary global policing. He used the occasion to reiterate his call on UNPOLs and FPUs to demonstrate more commitment, discipline and professionalism to meet the challenges inherent in the ongoing mobile public court hearings (audiences foraines), the ensuing compilation of voters register and the expectant elections.

In his keynote address, the Special Guest of Honour, Mr. Abou Moussa noted that in contemporary times UN Medal award days encompassed stock taking. He
commended the dedication of the recipients «You have, indeed, strengthened the capability and responsiveness of ONUCI in its effort at meeting unforeseen security challenges….you have further reinforced the confidence of the local population in the role of the UNOCI». He extended the highest felicitations of the UN Secretary-General H.E Mr. Ban Ki-Moon to the recipients and the Kingdom of Jordan for her tireless support towards ending the crisis in Ivory Coast.

Mr Abou Moussa was later assisted by the Acting Commissioner UNPOL to decorate the joyous recipients with the covetous UN medals.

The ceremony came to a successful end at about 12.00noon and immediately followed by a grand luncheon offered by the recipients.