



*Officials from juvenile justice agencies in Iraq tour Horizon Juvenile Center and meet with DJJ facility staff.*

## **Iraqi Officials Tour New York City Juvenile Detention System**

On Wednesday, June 10, 2009, a delegation of Iraqi Juvenile Justice officials received a comprehensive tour of New York City's Juvenile Justice System. As part of the tour, the delegation visited Horizon Juvenile Center, discussing juvenile justice issues faced both, in Iraq and in New York City. The Iraqi officials met with First Deputy Commissioner Judith Pincus and other Department staff members.

The tour, led by DJJ Assistant Commissioner for Communications & Public Affairs Scott Trent, began with a roundtable conversation and overview of juvenile justice in New York. DJJ staff discussed detention strategies and practices used to care for youth remanded to secure detention by the court system.

Horizon Juvenile Center Executive Director Eduardo Marcial provided the delegation with an up close perspective of the approach and standards applied in caring for detained youth, as well as detailed insight into the services available to residents. The delegation, led by Anatoli Samocharnov, Program Officer from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department, included officials from Iraq's Juvenile Justice Coordination Committee, the Juvenile Corrections and Rehabilitation Directorate of Iraq's Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Juvenile Police Command and senior staff from juvenile facilities in Iraq.

William Soto, Assistant to the Commissioner, said, "DJJ was very pleased to have the privilege to meet our Iraqi counterparts, exchanging strategies and experiences that will enhance the quality of care for detained youth at home and abroad." As a member of the New York National Guard, Mr. Soto served a tour of duty in Baghdad, training members of Iraq's security force at the Baghdad Police Academy.

