



Transforming e Bulletin



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This E- Bulletin is available on:
www.securitytransformation.org
 Editor: Alejandra Lunecke,
 Flasco- Chile.
 Phones: 5622900212 or 5622900213
 Av. Dag Hammarskjöld 3269
 Vitacura, Santiago de Chile.

News

ABOUT THE "TRANSFORMING E- BULLETIN"

The objective of this e-bulletin is to promote debate and reflection concerning transformational processes in the security sector in different regional contexts involving developing countries. It will provide a special way to shed light on the Global Consortium's principal activities, the initiatives of our partners, our foci, general knowledge, and debate through the exchange of ideas and experiences. A great deal of the content in this bulletin is the result of activities undertaken by the Global Consortium.

This informative bulletin has been conceived as an instrument for the interchange of ideas and practices that different actors around the world have realized, especially those that pertain to civil society organizations and institutions. With it we hope to not only strengthen south-south and south-north cooperation, but we also hope to promote the inclusion of new voices and existing opinions in the debate on the subject of security.

The central objective of the bulletin is the analysis of key themes related to transformational processes of the security sector in the context of developing countries. It will cover a variety of topics, such as police reform, the developing industry of private security, challenges in the area of national defense, the demands of public security, and the strengthening of citizen participation, among others. These analyses are realized by established specialists and public authorities in the sphere of security.

We will also present the projects that our partners are developing in different regional contexts, including activities related to formation and capacitating, as well as instances of interchange and international cooperation regarding transformation of the security sector.

This bulletin will be disseminated quarterly to different actors in the security sector: public officials, researchers, civil society organizations, community organizations, and public authorities, among others.

Topic of analysis

TRANSFORMING SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AN UNEQUAL WORLD

Robin Luckham (*)



Wide gaps have opened between a global vision of a more prosperous and secure post-Cold War world and the dismal realities of violent conflict and chronic poverty experienced by a significant proportion of the world's population. These gaps reflect failures of understanding and conflicts of interest, as well as resource constraints and poor implementation. Security, like development, is all too often seen as something the North delivers through its policy interventions and aid programmes, rather than as the product of changes in the developing South, reflecting the priorities and interests of those most at risk.

Security is a new and indeed rather suspect concept for development practitioners. They have good reason for caution. For security is a highly contested idea that arose from the theory and practice of state sovereignty and inter-state relations in Western Europe and North America. It was (and still remains) preoccupied with the security of states within a state system dominated by a few large powers. Decolonization embedded security within post-colonial statehood. But it became confused with the security of regimes, and the privatization of state power in the service of elite wealth accumulation. National security was deployed as a doctrinal fig-leaf for authoritarian regimes, which prioritized state secrecy and resisted

accountability to citizens. Aid and military alliances cemented peripheral states into the security architecture of the Cold War with profound effects on their state structures, power relations and development.

The most important reason the development community should engage with security issues is that they are far too important to be left to security specialists alone. Military and security spending have immense opportunity costs, diverting resources from development. War and insecurity are major causes of poverty and human misery in their own right, often generating what the World Bank calls 'development in reverse'. Coercion is at the heart of the system of power and profit, which underpins global capital accumulation and international development. Security is intricately linked to the role of the state in development, as well as issues of state reconstruction in 'fragile' states.

Rethinking security demands innovative yet rigorous empirical analysis of the sources of insecurity in a world divided by profound inequality and ongoing conflict.



At the same time it should identify the spaces, which exist for change, in order to empower as well as protect those most at risk. The special issue of the GCST's quarterly bulletin is first step towards such an analysis.

(*) *Phd in Sociology, University of Chicago. Research Associate IDS at the University of Sussex.*

Suggested Documents

PRISONS, PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES FOR THE AMERICAS.

Dammert, Lucia and Liza Zuñiga. Flacso- Chile y OEA. Santiago de Chile, 2008.

<http://www.flacso.cl>

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM PROVISIONS IN PEACE AGREEMENTS.

Eboe Hutchful. African Security Sector Network. University of Birmingham, UK, 2009.

<http://www.ssrnetwork.net/publications/provisions.php>

SECURITY SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION IN SIERRA LEONE, 1997-2007.

Albrecht, Peter and Paul Jackson. University of Birmingham. UK. 2009.

http://www.ssrnetwork.net/publications/security_s.php

Developing Project in SST

GLOBAL CONSORTIUM ON SECURITY TRANSFORMATION: FOSTERING NEW WAYS TO THINK SECURITY

Lucia Dammert* and Alejandra Lunecke**



The Global Consortium on Security Transformation (GCST) is a project that involves several global institutions from civil society working in the security sector. It aims to encourage existing south-south and south-north security and development debates in order to promote the inclusion of new voices in policy discussion and analysis, to make existing initiatives more visible for a wider community, and to promote change of the existing understanding of security.

GCST has been created through the unique partnership of different institutions from across the world that can bring solid academic and practical experience to the field of security. The partners include the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), the Arab Reform Initiative (ARI), the Institute of Development Studies (IDS, Sussex, UK), the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS-Philippines), the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO-Chile) and the Southern African Defense and Security Management Network (SASDEM).

With the Global Consortium we would like to constitute a point of reference for policy makers, practitioners, researchers, and especially representatives from civil society so they can discuss ways to

confront security issues in different regional contexts.

The project includes the promotion of innovative research; travel fellowships for outstanding civil society representatives

in developing countries, and regional Working Groups, conceived as thematic work groups that will convene to exchange knowledge, share their practical experiences in the field, foster new agendas, and strengthen existing networks. Resulting policy dialogues, policy memos and publications will be regularly published on the website.

Our communication interface begins with the launch of our webpage. The site includes discussion groups, forums, and a monthly electronic bulletin, as well as access to our document library, a mailing directory and useful links to the partner and related institutions.

In the interest of contributing actively and innovatively to the sphere of security, we invite you to keep track of our development and events on our webpage: www.securitytransformation.org



*Director, Global Consortium on Security Transformation. FLACSO- Chile.

** Executive Manager, Global Consortium on Security Transformation. FLACSO- Chile.

Current and Recent Events



Training Courses

FLACSO, Chile. March 2009.

Security and Citizenship Programme. International Training Course: Public Security at the local level.

ISDS, Philipines. December 2008.

Trainings on Security Sector Reform (SSR).

GFN SSR, Sussex, UK. March 2009.

SSR Practitioners' Courses.

Seminars and Conferences

GFN SSR, Sussex, UK. March 2009.

Exit Strategies and Peace Consolidation in State-Building Operations

GFN SSR, London, UK. March 2009.

SSR in challenging environments -Counter-terrorism and SSR in Pakistan Seminar

GFN SSR, Sussex, UK. March 2009.

Pakistan: Sources of Stability and Instability

INSYDE, Konrad Adenauer Foundation and Public Security Secretariat of Mexico. Chihuahua, Mexico. March 2009.

International Conference on Public Security.

ICPC and Chilean Government. Santiago de Chile, March 2009.

The Second International Meeting on Crime Observatories

Global Consortium on Security Transformation

SECRETARIAT

LATIN AMERICAN FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES (FLACSO- CHILE)

Director:

Lucia Dammert (lucia@flacso.cl)

Executive Manager:

Alejandra Lunecke (alunecke@flacso.cl)

Assistants:

Mike Solis (msolis@flacso.cl)

Amanda Gutierrez (agutierrez@flacso.cl).

Av. Dag Hammarskjold 3269,
Vitacura, Santiago de Chile.

Phones : 56 2 2900200
56 2 2900212

Email: securitytransformation@flacso.cl



FLACSO
CHILE