Call for expression of interest
Due Date - 27 March 2017

Rights Based Policing Reform in a Climate of Terrorism, Insurgency and Serious Violent Crime

APCOF is calling for proposals to contribute to a collected edition that will document and seek to learn the lessons of promising local police reform initiatives aimed at developing a rights based approach to policing reform in regions and areas under pressure of terrorism, insurgency and violent crime.

Background

Security sector, police and criminal justice reform, has always grappled with the challenges of promoting rights based reforms in the face of calls for tough policing responses to high levels of violent crime. Now against the backdrop of large-scale insurgencies, and fuelled by the 'war on terror', the pressures on police and their political authorities to respond with tough measures, at the expense of rights protections, is a subject of renewed concern. Established principles of human rights, which inform the African police transformation agenda, are at risk in the enforcement of counter terrorism measures, robust policing to counter serious violent crime, and repressive responses to 'anti-state' actors. This is evident both in the introduction of new laws such as Anti Terrorism legislation but also a more permissive attitude to policing that allows for expanded provisions for use of force, extended provision for detention without trial and violations of privacy, and tacit tolerance of extra-judicial killing, repressive policing of assemblies and protests, violations of freedom from torture, crackdowns, and ethic profiling.

While terror, insurgency and serious violent crimes may dominate the attention of the media, it is also clear that national law enforcement strategies and basic policing responses are under pressure, particularly in these high-risk areas. The situation is complicated by localized strategies to combat these crises, often divergent from the national approach to policing. The fundamental hallmarks of democratic policing, including rights protections, citizen participation, oversight and accountability, remain under pressure and are often relegated on the policing reform agenda. However it is issues of unaccountability of public institutions, lack of respect for rights and ineffective criminal justice and security systems that are identified among the risk factors driving violent extremism.

This situation points to a range of looming rule of law concerns. The scene is set for law enforcement actors such as the police to adopt measures that may not prioritize human rights
concerns. On 5 November 2015, Commissioner Med Kaggwa, Special Rapporteur on Prisons, Conditions of Detention and Policing in Africa, framed terrorism in terms of how it undermines policing and security across Africa, with a profound impact on the enjoyment by all of the right to life, civil and political rights, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights. While noting the key role that law enforcement agencies play in combating terrorism, he encouraged concrete recommendations to address perceived challenges in the policing and terrorism context, including: human rights training for police officials, independent oversight mechanisms for police, and economic, social and cultural factors that contribute to human rights violations by the police.

Adding to the complexity, the police reform agenda must increasingly be mindful that reforms at a national level must take account of the stark differences posed by the challenges of local demands in at-risk areas. Simply put, policing northern Kenya is not the same as policing in the capital Nairobi.

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) report, *States of Fragility* (2015), has identified that fragility can affect all countries, and not only those traditionally considered conflict affected. Likewise, it can affect regions and parts of countries and local communities.

The OECD proposes a working model for understanding and analysing risks across five clusters of fragility indicators, namely: violence; access to justice for all; effective, accountable and inclusive institutions; economic inclusion and stability; and capacities to prevent and adapt to social, economic and environmental shocks and disasters. Understanding such indicators of fragility is key to responding to localised vulnerabilities and is critical to the success of both the localised initiatives and the national effort.

APCOF is commissioning a series of papers to be published in a collected edition on the challenges and responses to promoting local rights based police reform in policing climates dominated by anti-terrorism and counter insurgency.

Specifically APCOF is looking for articles that will explore the efforts, challenges and fault lines of rights based reform efforts at a local level and in areas grappling with terrorism insurgency and high violent crime. We will also be interested in seeking to seek to understand the role of the police in the shifting state security landscape their relationship with the military and both cross-border and international police support efforts; better assess the responses required; review the impact of increasing pressure for more punitive criminal justice responses to policing terrorism, insurgency and violent crime on the democratic police reform agenda, and; provide comparative experiences in respect of programming, sequencing and stakeholder engagement to meet the new realities.

Issue of interest also include

- Alignment of policing cultures to the broader culture of the state.
- The nature of terrorism, the role of national justice systems, and the importance of regional and sub-regional cooperation.
- The role of the military in countering terrorism, and the need to understand the military or paramilitary approaches and the impact on civilian policing practices.
- The rights of victims of terrorism including the access to a psycho-social assistance.
- The importance of training the police in countering terrorism, rather than only focusing on strengthening military capacity.
- The exposure of police officials to violations of their own rights while countering terrorism.
- Police and community partnership - advancement and roll back
- Intelligence and investigation competencies, policing and human rights

Successful contributors will be selected on the basis on which they engage with the subject matter and will present knowledge on new and practical policing police reform and development initiatives, in high-risk areas particularly on how approaches mindful and promoting of rights and accountability find purchase among a security audience in these environments.

Chapter Length

Manuscripts should be between 8 000 and 10 000 words.

Applications and Time Frame

Interested authors should submit a two-page abstract, a list of six to ten critical literature source the author will consult, together with a CV and one self authored publication to APCOF by 27 March 2017. Joint authorship is permitted. Completed manuscripts must be received by APCOF by 30 July 2017. Following comments and peer review the manuscripts must be finalized by 30 August 2017.

Successful contributors will be invited to present at a continental conference on Rights Based Policing Reform in a Climate of Terrorism, Insurgency and Serious Violent Crime to be held in October 2017 ahead of the finalization of the publication.

Fees

An honorarium of ZAR 50 000,00 will be paid to successful applicants on approval of the final manuscript.

Contact

Please forward proposals by email to Sean Tait at sean@apcof.org.za by 27 March 2017

1 Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Stamping out Rights, The impact of anti terrorism laws on policing,
2 Preventing and responding to violent extremism in Africa: A developmental approach UNDP January 2016
3 ibid