

WEBINAR

USE OF LETHAL FORCE BY POLICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

24 AUGUST 2021

08:00 GMT

The excessive use of force by police or by armed forces performing functions of public security is a challenge shared by several if not most African countries. Particularly in the presence of terrorism or serious violent crime, the use of deadly force is often justified as the inevitable result of the context.

Excessive use of lethal force, however, does not only point to the existence of serious human rights violations such as extrajudicial killing, but also includes situations where lethal force by public agents may not have been illegal, but could have been avoided. Excessive use of force can also be a contributing factor in undermining the legitimacy of security institutions. This, in turn, can lead to further distrust and less compliance with the law (Tyler, 2008), as well as further violence. Understanding its incidence, its the drivers and possible strategies to limit the use of force are critical.

Unfortunately, use of force in Africa is rarely documented and, when it is, the data is often unavailable.

The African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), the Network for African Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) and the Laboratory for the Analysis of Violence of the State University of Rio (LAV) are collaborating to measure the incidence of use of force in Africa.

Initial research into police use of lethal force in South Africa has just been completed and will be discussed by panellists from academia and practice.

Join us on to discuss the findings.

Register in advance for this webinar:

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