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**Assessment Framework: Conditions for  
Success in Human Rights Training in  
African Security Cooperation (HR-TASC)**

Linda S. Bishai  
Austin C. Swift

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INSTITUTE FOR DEFENSE ANALYSES  
730 East Glebe Rd.  
Alexandria, Virginia 22305-3086



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### **For More Information**

Linda S. Bishai, Project Leader  
lbishai@ida.org

James R. Marrs, Director, Intelligence Analyses Division  
jmarrs@ida.org, 703-845-6993

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# ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK: Conditions for Success in Human Rights Training in African Security Cooperation (HR-TASC)

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## A. Background

Since the end of the Cold War, the United States has steadily increased the amount of military training and equipment provided to its allies, a trend that increased in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the resulting surge in terrorist activities across the globe. In response to this trend, the Congress codified into law in Section 333 of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), the Department of Defense (DoD)'s ability to use Title 10 funding to train and equip partner nations in certain instances.<sup>1</sup> However, recognizing that the global war on terror cannot be won simply through training and equipment, the Congress mandated that eligibility for funding required partner nation training on the observance of and respect for the law of armed conflict, human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, and civilian control of the military.<sup>2</sup>

However, congressional insistence on human rights and rule of law training should be seen as more than just an attempt to ensure that the recipients of US training refrain from abuses, it should be seen as an integral component of the US strategy to counter terrorism. Scholarly articles and reports have noted the important strategic value of US security cooperation on the African continent, and tied that to the aims of professionalizing partner militaries and increasing respect for democratic values and the rule of law.<sup>3</sup> In particular, the US military's efforts to positively affect the behavior of African militaries towards their citizens reinforces the belief that the job of the state is to protect its people. Infusing African militaries with this sense of purpose could be more effective in reducing terrorism than actual operational training.<sup>4</sup> With this in mind, the US military must do more than just provide human rights training as a mandatory requirement—they should view

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<sup>1</sup> FY2017 NDAA, Title 10, Section 333.

<sup>2</sup> Title 10, Section 333 (C)(2)(A).

<sup>3</sup> Knowles and Matisek, "Is Human Rights Training Working with Foreign Militaries? No One Knows and That's O.K.," War on the Rocks (May 12, 2020); Stephen Watts, Kimberly Jackson, Sean Mann, and Stephen Dalzell, *A Developmental Approach to Building Sustainable Security Sector Capacity in Africa*, RR-2048-AFRICOM ((Santa Monica, CA: The RAND Corporation, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.7249/RR2048>.

<sup>4</sup> Judd Devermont and Leanne Erdberg Steadman, "Defending the U.S. Military Presence in Africa for Reasons Beyond Counterterrorism," Lawfare (May 18, 2020).

human rights training as a central part of the main effort and aim to provide the best human rights training possible.

There is currently no good way to assess the state of conduciveness to human rights training in a country prior to a security cooperation effort. Frequently, human rights training can be an afterthought or loosely incorporated into other types of training. This approach undermines the importance of respect for human rights to all other security cooperation efforts. The central idea of international human rights is that states or those acting as their agents are responsible for satisfying certain conditions in the way their own people are being treated. In that regard, human rights recognize that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Human rights training prepares individuals to understand, assess, and effectively promote the practice of human rights. In addition to supporting partner nations to avoid failure in the domain of human rights, which may generate action by the world community and constraints for partnership under US law, incorporating this training in security cooperation fulfills the goal of strengthening partner nation relationships on the basis of shared values and commitments. African military partners with notably better human rights compliance will yield benefits in stability, professionalism, trustworthiness, and reduction of vulnerability to extremist violence.

Relatedly, there is an increasing global consensus on the value of using a human security approach in humanitarian and security cooperation. Using a human security approach calls for “people-centered, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people.”<sup>5</sup> Thus, a human security approach incorporates strengthening the underlying conditions for the protection and valuing of human rights. A human security approach to training in human rights and the rule of law cultivates shared fundamental values and strengthens bilateral relationships. Consequently, a human security approach increases trust and US influence in Africa, and stabilizes nations emerging from conflict and fragility, by strengthening relationships between security officials and the citizens they are supposed to protect.

While receptivity to human rights norms does not lend itself to easy measurement, a series of underlying conditions and incentive structures—present to varying degrees in democracies with strong human rights records—can serve as indicators for the likelihood of successful human rights training outcomes. Correspondingly, once the human rights environment has been assessed, the design and delivery mechanisms from the US side must be appropriately tailored to the underlying conditions. Given that some past examples of US security cooperation have been associated with negative outcomes, it is important to identify problems—disconnects between conditions and approaches—and develop ways

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<sup>5</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/290.



to prevent them in future activities.<sup>6</sup> Because increased respect for human rights through security cooperation is an important and continuing goal, we should focus attention on how to do it well. The **Human Rights Training in African Security Cooperation (HR-TASC) framework** is designed to address the gap between conditions conducive to success in human rights training and approaches for designing and delivering that training.

This assessment framework provides a tool for structured research with two deliverables:

- A highly contextual gap analysis of the conditions conducive to successful outcomes in the human rights training components of Security Cooperation in Africa, based on 24 factors derived from subject matter experts (SMEs) and stabilization/ development good practice;
- A corresponding set of tailored evidence-based recommendations for approaches that will improve the likelihood of success in future security cooperation human rights training.

## **B. Desired Outcomes**

Human rights training activities encourage partner security forces to strengthen the orientation of their policies, behavior, and structures to make their practices supportive of respect for the rule of law and human rights, and result in more effective, professional, reliable allies and partners who are aligned with the values and goals of the United States. Successful human rights training in security cooperation should result in observable improvements in performance guidelines and accountability mechanisms, and in perceptions among partner forces that human rights are a valued component of military professionalism and are integral in all activities.

## **C. HR-TASC Assessment Framework Assumptions**

Accurate and detailed assessments will highlight context-specific gaps between the existing operating environment for partner country forces and the conditions that promote successful outcomes in human rights training. These gaps should be addressed as part of security cooperation in order to increase the likelihood of successful outcomes.

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<sup>6</sup> Kyle Rempfer, “US training and security assistance may be empowering Egyptian war crimes, says human rights group,” *Military Times*, May 28, 2019, <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/your-military/2019/05/28/us-training-and-security-assistance-may-be-empowering-egyptian-war-crimes-says-human-rights-group/>; Daniel R. Mahanty, “The ‘Leahy Law’ Prohibiting US Assistance to Human Rights Abusers: Pulling Back the Curtain,” *Just Security* (June 27, 2017), <https://www.justsecurity.org/42578/leahy-law-prohibiting-assistance-human-rights-abusers-pulling-curtain/>.

Full implementation of the framework will lead to country-specific recommendations aimed at improving the likelihood of successfully achieving the human rights training objectives of US security cooperation.

This framework can be used independently to provide a human rights-specific assessment for security cooperation, or it can be incorporated as a component of a more comprehensive needs and institutional capacity assessment to assist in the design of a security cooperation initiative.

#### **D. Analytical Categories for Assessing the Conditions for Successful Outcomes**

Respect for and protection of human rights is widespread in a country when individuals, institutions, societies, and governments reflect laws, policies, and practices that promote these values and establish these rights. The four categories below offer insights into both the institutional level functioning of the partner military and the societal and governmental levels that create the enabling environment for human rights. A pilot implementation of this framework is expected to refine the definitions of these categories and the factors that are used to assess them (see the factors described in Table 1).

1. **Political Willingness:** Whether resources are allocated by a country's leadership towards promoting and protecting human rights (both in the armed forces and in the larger community) and independent government mechanisms exist to promote and enforce human rights obligations.
2. **Absorptive Capacity and Ability to Sustain Independently:** Whether the security forces are able to receive and implement the lessons of human rights training and whether there are policies and structures in the security forces that can take on and maintain responsibility for sustaining practices supportive of human rights.
3. **Political Stability:** Whether the partner country is currently experiencing political instability, violent conflict, or fragility in ways that impede acceptance or promotion of human rights norms.
4. **Respect for the Rule of Law and Human Rights:** Whether the partner country's constitutional and societal norms value and protect the rule of law and human rights, and whether these values and norms are also applied in the use of force and counterterrorism contexts.

## E. Approach and Methodology

### 1. Factors

The HR-TASC Framework considers 24 factors arranged by the four analytical categories listed in the previous section (Table 1).

**Table 1. Twenty-four (24) Factors Arranged by Assessment Categories**

Categories for Assessing the Conditions of Success	Relevant Factors	Sources
<b>POLITICAL WILLINGNESS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources are allocated by the government for the promotion and protection of human rights; existence of a national action plan</li> <li>• Serious efforts are made to address human security and the basic needs of the population (including nutrition, sanitation, healthcare, disease prevalence)</li> <li>• Human rights are effectively incorporated into basic training for all armed forces</li> <li>• Armed forces recruitment is non-discriminatory; forces are representative of the demographic make-up of the general population</li> <li>• Independent rigorous mechanisms exist to receive reports of human rights abuses; national commission for human rights and/or military office for human rights compliance</li> <li>• Military personnel who violate policies and practices are held accountable (e.g., disciplined/removed) and action reports are accessible</li> <li>• National Security Strategy or other official document incorporates human security and the rule of law into policy and procedures regarding the use of force, including in counterterrorism contexts</li> </ul>	<p>Interviews, budget documents, legislation, reports</p> <p>Interviews, World Bank &amp; UNDP data, reports</p> <p>Interviews with military trainers &amp; recent recruits, policy documents, observation</p> <p>Armed Forces recruitment data, interviews, observation</p> <p>Interviews with national human rights commission, and/or inspector general, legal records, observation</p> <p>Interviews with inspector general or disciplinary body, action reports, policy documents</p> <p>Policy documents, interviews with counterterrorism personnel</p>

Categories for Assessing the Conditions of Success	Relevant Factors	Sources
<b>ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY AND ABILITY TO SUSTAIN INDEPENDENTLY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner military has the ability to receive and implement training (e.g., levels of education and trainers available)</li> <li>• Partner military has high levels of force discipline and wide compliance with restrictions and obligations, including those associated with human rights standards</li> <li>• Effective processes exist for distributing resources across the forces, hiring/training personnel, and planning for readiness in ways that reflect respect for human rights requirements (e.g., Force Management, Human Resource Management, Strategy &amp; Planning)</li> <li>• The force structure (elite forces, active, informal, reserve) and differing rules of engagement and training reflect awareness of human rights obligations</li> </ul>	<p>Interviews with training staff and recent recruits, records of past success in training, site visit</p> <p>Interviews, State Department Human Rights Reports, UN Reports, observation</p> <p>Interviews with relevant division personnel, recent resource documents, observation</p> <p>Interviews with policy staff, policy and rules of engagement (ROE) documents, training manuals, observation</p>
<b>POLITICAL STABILITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violence, especially against civilians, is not present at levels that threaten the human rights of the population (especially gender-based violence)</li> <li>• Citizen trust in the Armed Forces is high</li> <li>• Political demonstrations or uprisings are peaceful; military response (distinguish police) does not threaten human rights</li> <li>• Armed opposition movements, if present, do not threaten the human rights of the population</li> </ul> <p>Economic resources are sufficiently allocated for independent rule of law and human rights mechanisms nationwide</p>	<p>ACLED Data, State Department and UN reporting, interviews with local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs)</p> <p>Ibrahim index, Afrobarometer, surveys, interviews</p> <p>Rule of law index, surveys, interviews</p> <p>ACLED data, fragility index, surveys, interviews, human rights reports</p> <p>World Bank, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), rule of law index, human rights reports, interviews</p>

Categories for Assessing the Conditions of Success	Relevant Factors	Sources
<b>RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government takes a human security-oriented approach to national security as reflected in its National Security Strategy or similar written strategic documents</li> <li>• Constitutional and legal codes incorporate principles of universal basic human rights</li> <li>• Levels of trust in courts and the government are high</li> <li>• Special laws on counterterrorism and/or the national counterterrorism strategy reflect adherence to international human rights obligations and standards</li> <li>• Special courts of justice or mechanisms for processing terrorism suspects uphold international human rights standards</li> <li>• Behavioral health treatment and psychosocial support resources are readily available through military health services</li> <li>• Destigmatization of mental health (and behavioral health or psychosocial assistance) for military personnel</li> <li>• Accountability mechanisms exist for complaints and appeals of legal judgments, and they are independent and accessible</li> </ul>	<p>National Security Strategy or other policy documents, interviews</p> <p>Legal document review, interviews</p> <p>Rule of law index, surveys, interviews</p> <p>Legal document review, interviews</p> <p>Legal document review, interviews</p> <p>Interviews with Armed Forces medical staff, policy documents, observation of facilities</p> <p>Interviews with Armed Forces medical staff, policy documents, surveys, observation of facilities</p> <p>Rule of law index, review of legal documents, interviews with legal community, published opinions</p>

The four analytical categories, defined in Section E, have previously been identified by DoD as important components of the Significant Security Cooperation Initiative (SSCI) Proposal Template for assessing the strategic context, partnership, and initiative design.<sup>7</sup> The HR-TASC Framework re-articulates these categories with specific attention to the feasibility of successful human rights outcomes and further differentiates contributing factors that clarify the strength of the likelihood or feasibility. The 24 factors relate to

<sup>7</sup> Excerpted from *Initial Assessment Standards* “to assess the feasibility of achieving successful outcomes,” in DoD Instruction 5132.14 Section 3.2 (5), p. 14 (January 2017); and from the DoD Security Cooperation Significant Security Cooperation Initiative (SSCI) Proposal Template, sections 1 and 2 (current as of April 2020).

critical conditions necessary for a strong foundation in human rights and rule of law protection and are derived from conditions aspired to and observed in varying degrees in mature democracies with civilian control of armed forces. The factors are aimed at assessing both the national environment in the partner country at large and the institutional level issues related specifically to military compliance with rule of law and human rights obligations. The HR-TASC research team will gather extensive data from multiple sources using both qualitative and quantitative methods. This approach will allow for a thorough and triangulated assessment of the 24 factors and a classification of overall conduciveness to human rights in security cooperation using the 4-level typology detailed in Section G:

- Highly conducive to success,
- Moderately conducive to success,
- Likely not conducive to success, and
- Unconducive.

## 2. Methodology

Research will be conducted by teams of Africa and topical SMEs and occur in three phases:

1. **Comprehensive desk review** of relevant reports and legal and official national documents, and analysis of the evidence found in identified indices and databases.
2. **Semi-structured interviews** with researchers, academics, and SMEs in the US and relevant region; relevant officials in the partner government/military; and local civil society leaders with human rights, oversight, and veterans/military affairs experience.
3. **Site visit** for more in-depth understanding of institutional mechanisms, practices, and working relationships, as well as more informal observation of the socio-political environment.

**Note:** Site visits are encouraged to obtain the critical information that is unknowable from remote research and that often surfaces from in-person conversations and observation of processes and attitudes. However, if travel is difficult or not advised, the third stage will be conducted with consideration of online surveys, local consultant-led focus groups, and/or expanded outreach for phone interviews with persons in the partner country.

Once the data have been collected and analyzed, the HR-TASC team will produce a detailed written report with an overall integrated assessment as well as in-depth explanations, documentation, and separate classifications of each of the 24 assessment factors. Scoring each factor separately allows the team to present a closely tailored report

that highlights the relevant strengths and weaknesses and particular context of each category as it applies to the country in question. These 24 micro assessments then feed into a corresponding set of tailored, evidence-based recommendations, based on current good practices in the fields of human rights training, armed forces training, and development and human security, for actions that can be taken to strengthen the conditions for successful human rights training in the partner nation.

### **3. Completed Assessment Components**

Each completed HR-TASC report will include:

1. Introduction of the country and the history of US security cooperation there.
2. Detailed assessment findings and explanations for each of the 24 factors.
3. Combined analysis of the factor findings and overall assessment for the partner country.
4. Presentation of evidence for recommended actions based on practitioner evaluations, research, and good practices.
5. Recommendations for actions to strengthen the feasibility of successful outcomes across the four categories of analysis.

### **F. Typology for Assessment of Feasibility of Successful Outcomes**

Each of the 24 factors will be assessed using the typology levels in Table 2 specifically as it manifests in the partner nation context. The typology will be used to convey strength levels and relative conduciveness for success in human rights training. The relative factor strengths and weaknesses will then be used to develop specific recommendations for improved security cooperation planning.

**Table 2. Typology Definitions**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>Highly Conducive to Success</b>	Partner forces currently exhibit practices designed to support respect for the rule of law and human rights, indicating greater likelihood of sustaining good or improved human rights values and compliance. US security cooperation is likely to strengthen relationships, trust, and information-sharing networks.
<b>Moderately Conducive to Success</b>	Partner forces exhibit some practices supportive of respect for the rule of law and human rights but also display some disregard and lack of discipline, indicating the necessity of incorporating mitigating measures into the curriculum to improve the likelihood of sustaining improved human rights values and compliance. There are risks for distrust and negative views of US engagement among the population, but also opportunities for significant improvement and successful outcomes with improved bi-lateral relationships. US security cooperation should adopt a broad human security-oriented approach to incentivize reforms that improve conditions for success in human rights training.
<b>Likely Not Conducive to Success</b>	Partner forces may have written policies and doctrines promoting respect for the rule of law and human rights, but they exhibit patterns of repeated and widespread disregard and/or accountability mechanisms are not independent. Remedial measures should be adopted to maximize the feasibility of successful outcomes. Sustained, whole-of-government peacebuilding, stabilization, and development, as well as human security approaches, may be needed to improve the likelihood of improved human rights values and compliance. International partners and the United Nations are likely to be involved and there should be coordination of efforts. There is a high risk of negative outcomes and reputational damage for the United States. The importance of human security should be prioritized when training, while activities and communications should be carefully managed to minimize US connection to potential abuses.
<b>Unconducive</b>	Military forces are unrestrained and undisciplined with near bottom scores in global indices for human rights, governance, and the rule of law. The conditions for successful outcomes are largely absent and there is a likelihood of negative consequences and reputational damage connected to the United States due to the provision of security force assistance. Long-term investments in reforms and significant changes to the security environment need to be under way before conditions for success in human rights training are moderately conducive. The culture of lack of respect for human rights is so pervasive that US efforts to provide training and equipment to the partner nation military are likely to do more harm than good to US strategic objectives.



## Appendix A.

# Conditions for Successful Outcomes

## Executive Summary Template

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Highlight major takeaways from our research and present them in a “need to know” table embedded into each report. The table could serve as an annex or introductory abstract. The table can be color-coded to allow for rapid identification and differentiation.

### A. Country X Executive Summary Template

<b>Political Willingness</b>	<p>Narrative: Whether resources are allocated towards promoting and protecting human rights (both in the forces and in the larger community) and independent government mechanisms exist to promote and enforce human rights obligations.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unconductive/Likely Not/Moderately/Highly Conductive</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1–2 sentence overview of feasibility with contextual information.</i></p>
<b>Absorptive Capacity</b>	<p>Narrative: Whether the security forces are able to receive and implement the lessons of human rights training and whether there are policies and structures in the security forces that can take on and maintain responsibility for sustaining practices supportive of human rights.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unconductive/Likely Not/Moderately/Highly Conductive</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1–2 sentence overview of feasibility with contextual information.</i></p>
<b>Political Stability</b>	<p>Narrative: Whether the partner country is currently experiencing political instability, violent conflict, or fragility in ways that impede acceptance or promotion of human rights norms.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unconductive/Likely Not/Moderately/Highly Conductive</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1–2 sentence overview of feasibility with contextual information.</i></p>
<b>Respect for Rule of Law/ Human Rights</b>	<p>Narrative: Whether the partner country’s constitutional and societal norms value and protect the rule of law and human rights, and whether these values and norms are also applied in the use of force and counterterrorism contexts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unconductive/Likely Not/Moderately/Highly Conductive</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>1–2 sentence overview of feasibility with contextual information.</i></p>

Note: Data and Reporting (Dates Collected).

**B. Wakanda Executive Summary (Example)**

<p><b>Political Willingness</b></p>	<p>Wakanda has good policies and institutions for human rights, governance, indicating a conducive national environment and willingness to adapt institutions to improve accountability for human rights compliance. The documented record commits to human rights and rule of law but there are some gaps in practice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Highly Conducive</b></p> <p><i>Wakanda’s leadership desires the benefits of multilateral cooperation and wishes to improve the practices and institutions of accountability for better compliance. The political environment is highly conducive to collaborative approaches to security cooperation.</i></p>
<p><b>Absorptive Capacity</b></p>	<p>Wakanda’s military readiness and professionalism of forces have serious gaps as the forces were recently merged to include insurgent armed groups in a comprehensive peace deal. Wakandan forces are funded in unaccountable ways and millions of dollars are wasted in closed door deals. The military currently lacks the mechanisms and capacity to sustain human rights trainings and policies.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Not Likely Conducive</b></p> <p><i>Wakanda’s military does not currently have the capacity to absorb and sustain human rights-observant practices and will need a dedicated institutional capacity building program with integrated human rights training components to raise its capacity level.</i></p>
<p><b>Political Stability</b></p>	<p>Wakanda is emerging from civil war with a recent peace agreement incorporating armed insurgents and political dissidents. While fragile, there is a great deal of support for the new unity government and significant international development aid. The UN has an active peacekeeping operation in the country.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderately Conducive</b></p> <p><i>Because of strong political will, there are good opportunities to build cooperative relationships in security cooperation with Wakanda and to provide rapid response to threats of instability, but significant preliminary efforts should focus on human security and should precede traditional security cooperation programs.</i></p>
<p><b>Respect for Rule of Law / Human Rights</b></p>	<p>Wakanda has a new constitution with strong human rights and rule of law protections; the constitution making process was inclusive and nationwide, indicating a relatively high level of national legitimacy. There is a transitional justice process under way to handle issues of violations of human rights that occurred during the conflict, but security forces continue to revert to old habits and abuses.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Moderately Conducive</b></p> <p><i>Wakanda has demonstrated a strong commitment to codifying its human rights and rule of law obligations in law and in the transitional justice process. Security cooperation should incorporate support for transitional justice mechanisms and human rights institutional capacity strengthening.</i></p>

Note: Data and Reporting (Dates Collected)

## **Appendix B.**

### **Tools for HR-TASC Assessment**

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#### **A. Sample Interview List**

- In-Country Officials
  - Security Cooperation Officer, US Embassy
  - Partner Military liaison
  - Disciplinary officer
  - Military health care officer or medical official
  - Military Legal Officers (JAG equivalent)
  - Military Judges or oversight officers
  - Professional Military Education Teaching staff
  - National Human Rights Commission staff (or equivalent)
  - Ministry of Defense policy staff
  - Members of Armed Forces Committee of Parliament
  - International partners undertaking security sector training or support
- US-based and In-Country Subject Matter Experts
  - State Department Desk Officer
  - Social Scientists with relevant country experience
  - Human rights and Rule of Law subject matter experts with relevant country experience
  - DIILS trainers with relevant country experience
- In-Country Civil Society Leaders
  - Human rights NGOs
  - Rule of Law NGOs
  - Transitional Justice advocates (if relevant)
  - Watchdog organizations
  - Veterans' and military oriented organizations

## **B. Sample List of Published Sources**

- National Security Strategy or related documents for Partner Country
- National Counterterrorism plan or related documents for Partner Country
- OHCHR Universal Periodic Review for Partner Country
- State Department Annual Human Rights Report for Partner Country
- USAID Reports/Assessments
- Constitutional Document/Bill of Rights
- National Codes on Military structure and civilian control
- Special Counterterrorism legislation
- Ratified Treaty Obligations
- Ibrahim Index of African Governance
- World Health Organization Data (Ourworldindata)
- Rule of Law Index (World Justice Project)
- Fragile States Index
- Afrobarometer
- Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) Project
- International Crisis Group Reports

## **C. Sample Questions for Semi-Structured Interviews**

- Questions for Partner Nation Officials
  - Who is responsible for compliance with human rights standards in the armed forces? What authority do they have to enforce standards?
  - Is human rights training (including humanitarian law) an essential part of basic training for all armed forces?
  - What level of education do you require for new recruits to the armed forces?
  - Do the armed forces reflect the ethnic/gender diversity of the country? If not, who is not represented and why?
  - Who is responsible for the human rights component of armed forces training?
  - What steps are being taken to protect the mental health and resilience of the armed forces?

- What would you identify as the gap/need of the armed forces to enable greater respect for and observance of human rights standards? (in terms of knowledge, skills, and behavior)
- Questions for Country Experts
  - Has the government of the partner nation demonstrated a desire to comply with international human rights standards? Including in counterterrorism contexts?
  - Does the government make efforts to comply with rule of law norms, for example with presidential term limits and civilian control of the military?
  - What has been the relationship between marginalized groups/ethnicities and the military?
  - What has been the role of women in the military? Has it changed recently?
  - How has the government handled popular demonstrations and/or expressions of criticism and free speech?
  - Do courts and the legislative branch have power to balance the executive? Do they serve as conduits for complaints and appeals of government decision making?
- Questions for Civil Society Leaders
  - What is your relationship with the armed forces? Do you have access to leaders or input into policies that affect the population?
  - Are the armed forces a trusted institution in your country? Why or why not?
  - Do you feel that members of the armed forces understand and value their obligations under human rights standards?
  - Are there groups who are marginalized by the armed forces? (not recruited, not promoted)
  - Are the members of the armed forces accorded their own human rights? Do they experience abuse while in the service?
  - Are the armed forces accountable for any abuses they may have committed?



## Appendix C. Definitions

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Throughout this document, specific terms used are defined as follows:

- **Human Rights**—The idea that all humans are equal and should be afforded the same rights, freedoms, and protections from the law. This includes, but is not limited to, freedom from torture, cruel treatment, arbitrary arrest, discrimination; freedom of thought, assembly, and protection; right to privacy, adequate standard of living, safe working conditions, and education.
- **Human Security**—An approach to national and international security that gives primacy to human beings and their complex social and economic interactions; the goal is the protection of people from traditional military and nontraditional threats such as poverty and disease while also protecting their civil and political rights. Central to this approach is the understanding that citizen needs are broadly inclusive and that institutionalized human security deprivations undermine peace and stability within and between states; the approach also recognizes that an overemphasis on the security of the state can be detrimental to human welfare.
- **Military Compliance with Human Rights**—The extent to which military forces adhere to the human rights obligations set out in (1) the UN Charter, (2) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (3) human rights treaties ratified by the State concerned, (4) voluntary pledges and commitments made by the State (e.g., national human rights policies and/or programs implemented), and (5) applicable international humanitarian law.
- **Military Effectiveness**—The ability of a military force to accomplish its objective, based on behavioral, operational, and leadership considerations and in accordance with legal obligations.
- **Military Professionalism**—A military that demonstrates the discipline, commitment, and skill to perform its job well.
- **Success in Human Rights Training**—An outcome in which African Military Partners have measurably better human rights values and/or compliance practices that are maintained sustainably over time.





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