

Reinforcing oversight and accountability of the private security industry



PRIVATE SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Recent years have seen an unprecedented rise in the provision of security services by private security providers. A number of high-profile cases have highlighted the risk of human rights violations when the private security industry is not subject to democratic oversight and accountability. In response to these challenges, the Swiss government launched an international initiative that has resulted in two major developments: the **“Montreux Document”** - focused on State responsibilities in relation to private military and security companies in situations of armed conflict - and the “International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (the Code)” which focuses primarily on private security companies' responsibilities when operating in complex environments. **“The International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA)”**, a non-profit multi-stakeholder initiative, implements and oversees the Code of Conduct. By joining the ICoCA, private security companies (PSC) show their commitment to respecting the human rights and humanitarian law principles/standards articulated in the Code.

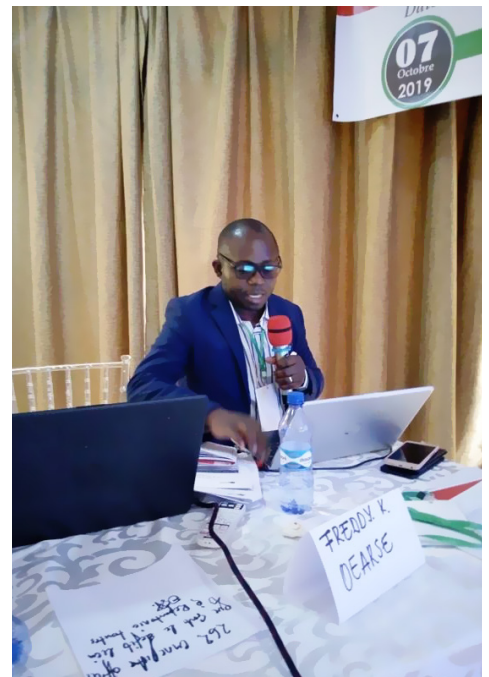




In fulfilment of its monitoring and oversight role, this project has supported ICoCA in the development, testing and implementation of standard planning and operating processes for Field Based Reviews (SoP-FBR). The SoP-FBR were piloted and finalised during missions in Jordan, Nigeria, Iraq and Ghana and adopted by the ICoCA Board in 2019. The project currently supports the strengthening of civil society's monitoring and oversight capacity. DCAF and ICoCA have partnered with a local civil society organization in the Democratic Republic of Congo - l'Observatoire d'Etudes et d'Appui à Responsabilité Sociétale et Environnementale (OEARSE) - to facilitate the development and piloting of an implementation guidance tool on reporting and monitoring human rights violations by private security personnel.



DCAF, ICoCA and OEARSE are currently developing the reporting and monitoring guidance tool. Interviews are being conducted with CSOs across the DRC. This engagement will scope needs and challenges for reporting and monitoring human rights violations by PSC personnel.



The Security and Human Rights Implementation Mechanism (SHRIM) - Enabling Multistakeholder Action

The DCAF SHRIM supports coherent, targeted and cost-effective security, development and human rights programming in fragile contexts. This project was enabled thanks to the support of Switzerland and the United Kingdom.
