

SSR Practitioners' Course

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Hosted by GFN-SSR, University of Birmingham

Presenters

Bruce Baker is Professor of African Security at Coventry University, UK and Director of the African Studies Centre there. He is currently engaged in an Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) project examining informal and formal policing in post-conflict African states. He has conducted fieldwork in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda, The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Cape Verde, Seychelles and Liberia. His published articles cover African democratisation, governance, policing, security sector reform, popular justice and informal justice.

Piet Biesheuvel is a Director of Libra Advisory Group, a specialist security and justice policy consultancy. He was previously the Police and Justice Adviser with the SSDAT from 2004-2007. He has a wide range of developmental experience in the justice and security sector, especially in Sub Saharan Africa where he operated in the field for over ten years. Immediately prior to joining the SSDAT he was the DFID Programme Manager for the Malawi Safety, Security and Access to Justice programme. He has also brought his expertise to bear in South Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, Latin America and South East Asia.

Jeremy Brickhill has extensive experience of conflict mitigation and management in Africa and has designed and managed DDR programmes in several countries. He is an active member of the African Security Sector Network and recently completed a DFID contract as security sector advisor in Sudan.

James Cameron CBE is Director Government and Public Sector in Control Risks, an international risk consultancy. During 25 years in the British Army and two years in the private sector he has worked with the police, army, intelligence and other departments of more than 20 countries, often to ministerial level. He has strategic and hands-on experience of capacity building programmes with military, paramilitary and police organisations ranging from the Kosovo Protection Corps to the Bangladesh military. His last appointment in Government was as Assistant Director of counter terrorism.

Dr Paul Jackson is the Director of the GFN-SSR and the Director of the International Development Department, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham. Paul has over twelve years' experience working in developing and post-conflict areas, including Northern Uganda, Sierra Leone, Rwanda, and the Caucasus, and has written widely on post-conflict political reconstruction, warlords, and governance and conflict.

Louise Perrotta is the advisor on Security and Justice in Stabilisation Unit, the UK Government's inter-departmental Unit established to improve UK capacity to respond in complex, conflict affected environments. The Unit includes people from diverse government departments, with a range of knowledge, skills and experience: the comprehensive approach in practice. Most post-holders combine practical, field based expertise with an interest in lessons learning and improving the impact of UK investments in difficult environments. Louise was formerly Conflict and Rule of Law Advisor to Conflict Group in FCO and was Governance Advisor to DFID – Afghanistan between 2004 and 2006.

Kristin Valasek is the Gender and Security Sector Reform Project Officer at the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). Previously, Kristin coordinated gender, peace and security policy, research and training at the UN INSTRAW. She has also worked on gender mainstreaming issues with the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs. In addition, she is a certified mediator and has grassroots NGO experience in the areas of domestic violence, sexual assault and refugee support. Kristin holds a Masters in Conflict Resolution from the University of Bradford and an undergraduate degree in International Studies and Women's Studies.

Shiam Vidurupola is the Senior Military Liaison Officer of the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal. He served in the Sri Lankan army for twenty four years and has held senior appointments in strategy and policy areas. He has also been posted for four years as a Diplomat to the High Commission of Sri Lanka in the United Kingdom in the capacity of Defense Adviser. In 2004 he retired early from the military in the rank of Colonel to pursue academic interests. His work with the Department of Defense Management and Security Analysis of the Royal Military College of Science, UK has been related to Security Sector Reform in South and Southeast Asia. His PhD research interest with Cranfield University is focused on female combatants in the Sri Lankan conflict.

Catherine Weiss is Governance & Conflict Adviser in SSDAT. She has recently returned from five years based in Latin America, first as FCO Human Rights & Environment Adviser in Venezuela and then as HMG's Regional Conflict Adviser for Latin America. During that time, her work focused in particular on SSR, trying to develop integrated approaches to citizens' security and access to justice at a local level, developing networks and promoting more co-ordinated ways of working. She was a lawyer by trade; she left her job as a commercial solicitor to gain an LLM in International Human Rights Law and work in an NGO; one of her better decisions.

Peter Wilson is Intelligence and Security Consultant at the Security Sector Development Advisory Team, where he has worked on reform of intelligence services, National Security Councils and Ministries of Interior in Iraq, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina. He started his career in the British Diplomatic Service and has also worked as a strategy consultant for McKinsey. He has an MBA from INSEAD and a Master's in Economics from Oxford University, and is co-author of "Make Poverty Business", published by Greenleaf in October 2006.