



CODESRIA

TITLE: "Regulatory Institutions and Private Policing in Sub-Saharan Africa: a Comparative Study of Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria and Uganda"

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Summary: The private security sector in Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced rapid growth in recent times, and the industry has become a major part of the sub-region's economy. But the dynamics of private security in the region, as well as its implications for policing are yet to be adequately studied, understood and explained. This study is therefore conceived to undertake a comparative analysis of the key issues in the private security industry, challenges faced by the actors and prospects for improved governance of security in Africa. The study will be conducted in Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Uganda. These countries share some common characteristics including growing insecurity, weak or ineffective public security institutions and breakdown of the social contract. The main assumption that will guide this research is that poor regulatory institutions negatively affect the performance of Private Security Companies (PSCs) in the provision of policing, but the effects vary from country-to country. Several papers raise the concern on the need to have a better-regulated environment for PSCs. However, very few actually highlight the issue from a comparative perspective. The significance of this proposal is two folds. First and foremost, this is a contribution to the literature on security governance by generating findings on the nature of operation of PSCs and the challenges and prospects associated with growing number of PSCs in the sub-region. Second, the comparative dimension of the research is significant because on the one hand, it uses a multidisciplinary approach (criminology, political science, sociology and economics) and on the other hand, it involves a cross-country analysis.