



Bundesministerium
der Verteidigung



Institut für Sicherheitspolitik
an der Christian-Albrechts-
Universität zu Kiel



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Protection of civilians in the context of Peace Operations: Translating UN policies into national frameworks

Tuesday, November 12, 2019

12:30pm – 4:30pm

Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security and Development
International Peace Institute, 12th floor

777 United Nations Plaza (corner of 44th Street and 1st Avenue), New York NY

The International Peace Institute (IPI), the Institute of Security and Global Affairs of the University of Leiden (ISGA), the Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK), the Global Governance Institute (GGI), and the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany are pleased to invite you to a workshop titled ***“Protection of civilians in the context of Peace Operations: Translating UN policies into national frameworks”***. The event is part of an international study project on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Defence that aims at developing a more pronounced national stance on the concept of protection of civilians (POC) and searches for ways to improve Germany’s “POC preparedness” with respect to military, police, and civilian capacities.

The workshop will provide an opportunity to explore the recent policy developments pertaining to POC in the context of UN peace operations, discuss persisting issues and challenges related to the implementation of POC mandates, and map best practices, political commitments and institutional initiatives that aim to renovate and invigorate POC at the international, regional and national levels. In particular, it will identify existing UN, regional and national policy frameworks pertaining to POC, in order to inform the development of national POC strategies, with an aim to foster further cooperation and partnerships in this area.

Since 1999, when the first POC mandate for a UN peacekeeping operation was established, **POC has become an essential task of UN peace operations**. The UN has developed policy and guidance documents institutionalizing POC in peacekeeping, strengthened and professionalized the implementation of POC by field missions, and established creative tools, approaches, and mechanisms to protect local populations on the ground. However, gaps in means and resources, command-and-control issues, inadequate training and expertise of UN personnel, and caveats imposed by troop contributing countries have all hampered the actual delivery of POC mandates. The many operational challenges faced in non-permissive environments—where peacekeepers have to manage asymmetric threats or navigate obstruction from host states, coupled with unclear or unrealistic mandates from the Security Council—also exacerbate the structural limitations for peacekeepers to operate effectively. Since 2017, the POC Program of IPI has sought to analyze key issues related to the delivery of POC mandates – such as the gap between political strategies and POC, the over-emphasis on military interventions, and the absence of a comprehensive accountability framework.

In this context, the UN continues to develop its POC doctrine, amending policies and guidelines, training standards, and adopting tailored approaches for its peace operations. Notably, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) and the Department of Operational Support (DOS) have undertaken the revision of the



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2015 Policy on the Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations, which is expected to be released by the end of this year.

In parallel, regional organizations and multiple countries, such as Afghanistan, Ukraine, France and the United Kingdom, have recently taken steps to prioritize POC at the national level, including by adopting national policy frameworks or strategies. The United Kingdom launched a national strategy on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict in 2010, and officials across the Nigerian government have engaged in high-level consultations to adopt a POC policy. The AU established draft POC guidelines for African Union Peace Support Operations in 2012, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization adopted its Policy for Protection of Civilians in 2016.

As the Government of Germany seeks to establish its national POC framework, this closed-door discussion will provide space to review these developments, and analyze the recent modifications to the UN policy.

This workshop will explore ways in which POC has evolved, as well as best practices and policies from examples on the field. Moreover, it will provide an opportunity to share, compare, and bring together the different regional and national POC strategies. The workshop will be held under Chatham House rules on non-attribution and will gather representatives of the diplomatic community, including thematic experts and military and police advisors, UN Secretariat officials, members of the NGO community, and external researchers.

Agenda

12:30: Welcome remarks

Dr. Namie Di Razza, *Senior Fellow and Head of the Protection of Civilians Program*, International Peace Institute

H.E. Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, *Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations*

12:45: Opening remarks

Lt. Col. Dr. Ekkehard Griep, *Senior UN Policy Advisor*, Directorate-General for Political Affairs, German Federal Ministry of Defence

12:50-14:30: The revision of the UN Policy on POC in peacekeeping operations: lessons learned, best practices and recent shifts

The first session will provide an overview of the evolution of the POC doctrine for UN peace operations, building on two decades of normative and practical developments. Participants will discuss the evolution of the POC concept from the development of the operational concept in 2010, the establishment of the official policy in 2015, and the revision of this policy in 2019. In particular, it will open the conversation on the more detailed description of roles and responsibilities for POC; the accountability provisions; the shift from a military focus to an emphasis on political dialogue and engagement; and the renewed attention for harm mitigation. It will also explore the existing guidelines for military and police personnel, review the operational challenges related to POC mandates, and the

many lessons learned that could inform the development of national POC strategies of Troop and Police contributing countries.

Chair: **Mr. Robin Schroeder**, *Head of Department for Conflict Analysis and International Crisis Management*, Institute for Security Policy at Kiel University (ISPK)

Speakers:

- **Mr Tarik Carney**, *Protection of Civilians Team, Division of Policy, Evaluation and Training*, UNDPD
- **Mr. Luis Carrilho**, *Police Adviser*, UN Department of Peace Operations
- **Lt. Col. Martin Sonnenberger**, *Commander*, German Armed Forces, and *Chief of Staff*, 10th DEU MINUSMA Contingent Gao
- **Dr. Charles Hunt**, *Visiting Fellow*, UNU

14:30-14:45: Coffee break

14:45-16:15: Regional and national frameworks for the protection of civilians in peace operations

The second session will focus on POC policy or operational frameworks developed by regional organizations and specific member states. It will aim at comparing the UN, NATO, EU and AU doctrine, and to present national strategies established to better protect civilians in military operations, including peace operations. It will explore the process that led to the development of regional and national strategies, the content of such strategies, and the gaps that remain to be addressed by national policy frameworks related to POC.

Chair: **Dr. Namie Di Razza**, *Senior Fellow and Head of the Protection of Civilians Program*, International Peace Institute

Speakers:

- **Ms. Chloe Marnay-Baszanger**, *Chief of the Peace Mission Support Section*, OHCHR
- **Mr. Zinurine Alghali**, *Head of Policy Development Unit*, PSOD, AU (via VTC)
- **Mr. Anthony Icajan**, *Supreme Allied Commander Transformation*, NATO
- **Mr. Vincent Conus**, *First Secretary*, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations
- **Mr. Evan Cinq-Mars**, *United Nations Advisor*, CIVIC

16:15-16:30: Concluding remarks

Prof. Dr. Joachim A. Koops, *Scientific Director and Chair of Security Studies*, Institute of Security and Global Affairs

Dr. Namie Di Razza, *Senior Fellow and Head of the Protection of Civilians Program*, International Peace Institute