

# Reinforcing Oversight of Private Security Companies

## Background

Recent years have seen an unprecedented rise in the provision of security services by private security providers. A number of high profile incidents highlighted key challenges related to the privatisation of military and security services. These include the potential that companies providing military/security services act in a manner that fails to respect international human rights and humanitarian law, at the same time highlighting gaps in accountability, particularly where private actors operate in situations of armed conflict or in

other contexts of state fragility. In response to these challenges, the Swiss government launched an international initiative to promote compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law by Private Security Companies (PSC) operating in armed conflict. That initiative has resulted in two major developments: the "Montreux Document" and the "International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers (ICoC)". The ICoC focuses primarily on the responsibilities of private security companies operating in

complex environments. The International Code of Conduct Association (ICoCA) is a non-profit multi-stakeholder initiative that was established in 2013 to implement and oversee the Code of Conduct. The ICoCA's mandate includes three core functions: certification, monitoring and handling complaints. By joining the ICoCA, private security companies (PSCs) show their commitment to complying with the human rights and humanitarian law principles and standards articulated in the ICoC.

## SHRIM Support

The main objective of this project is to support the ICoCA to develop, test and implement the standard planning and operating processes for Field Based Reviews (FBRs) as required in the Procedures for Reporting, Monitoring and Assessing Performance and Com-

pliance. The main deliverable of the project will be the development of standard planning and operating processes relative to the scope and objectives of the FBRs. The SHRIM is supporting three field based reviews of the ICoCA monitoring team in complex environments:



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the rule of law



International  
Code of Conduct  
Association



## Project Updates

In 2017, the ICoCA team carried out field missions in Nigeria and Iraq. The final mission in Ghana will be carried out in June.

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