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The Media Oversight of the Internal Security Forces (ISFs)

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Learning Goal & Outcomes



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Learning Goal:

- At the end of this training, participants will be equipped with the necessary knowledge of the security sector and what security sector governance (SSG) is. The participants will also understand their roles as informal oversight actors in the security sector, security sector governance and reform processes.

Learning Outcomes:

- To understand the conceptual background, international standards and main principles of civil democratic oversight of ISFs by the media
- To be familiar with the main actors in the security sector and their roles and responsibilities
- To know the examples of civil democratic oversight of ISFs by the media





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Learning Goal & Outcomes



- To develop an understanding and awareness of the media's involvement in the security sector and its function as a civil democratic oversight actor
- To be aware of the principles and indicators used to assess media freedom and civil democratic oversight of ISFs
- To learn how to challenge restrictions on media freedom imposed by security and justice providers
- To understand international and national regulations and mechanisms for accessing information held by security sector institutions
- To understand the role of the media in reporting issues on community safety through human security approach
- To be aware of the potential professional advantages of using social media in covering the security sector





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Introduction



- Free and independent media play a critical role in overseeing the work of the security and justice sector in developed democracies.
- Sometimes, journalists and media representatives are unaware of their role as informal actors in the security sector.
- This module aims to provide journalists with knowledge on concepts and actors in the security sector governance to strengthen their capacity to monitor and oversee the defense, law-enforcement and justice institutions.





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Media's role



- Therefore, journalists and media representatives need to have the capacity to exercise **political control** over the operations and financing of security forces.
- journalists and media representatives must have the means and capacity to **monitor security forces** and **provide constructive input** into the political debate on security policy.
- The media **provides information** on the work of law enforcement and defence institutions.





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Media's role



- They encourage people to raise questions on executive, legislative, or judicial decisions about important public safety and security issues and engage in decision-making processes.
- Democratic civilian oversight internal security sector and security sector reform, as relatively new terms used in development cooperation, still needs to be widely discussed and disseminated to the public.
- The close link between the security sector and development has led different actors to pay attention to this issue in recent decades





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Media's role



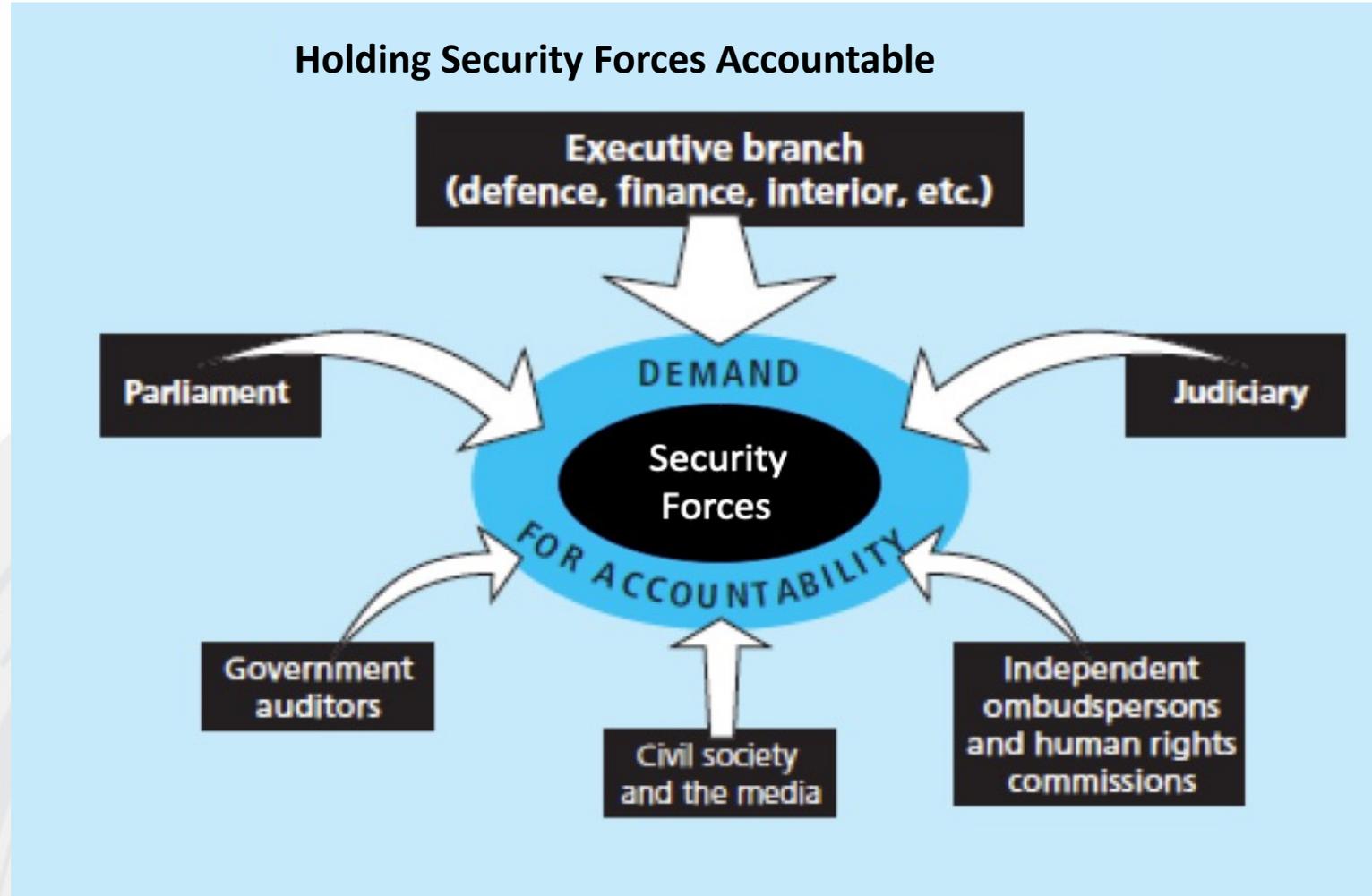
- Governments, development organizations, security providers and citizens' initiatives have been analyzing **the nexus between security and development and the relationship between good governance in the security sector and poverty reduction** since 2000.
- Journalists play an essential role in conveying **the connection between security and development** accurately to the public.
- Therefore, it is of utmost importance that they know concepts and actors in security sector governance and then report related issues.





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Concept and Actors

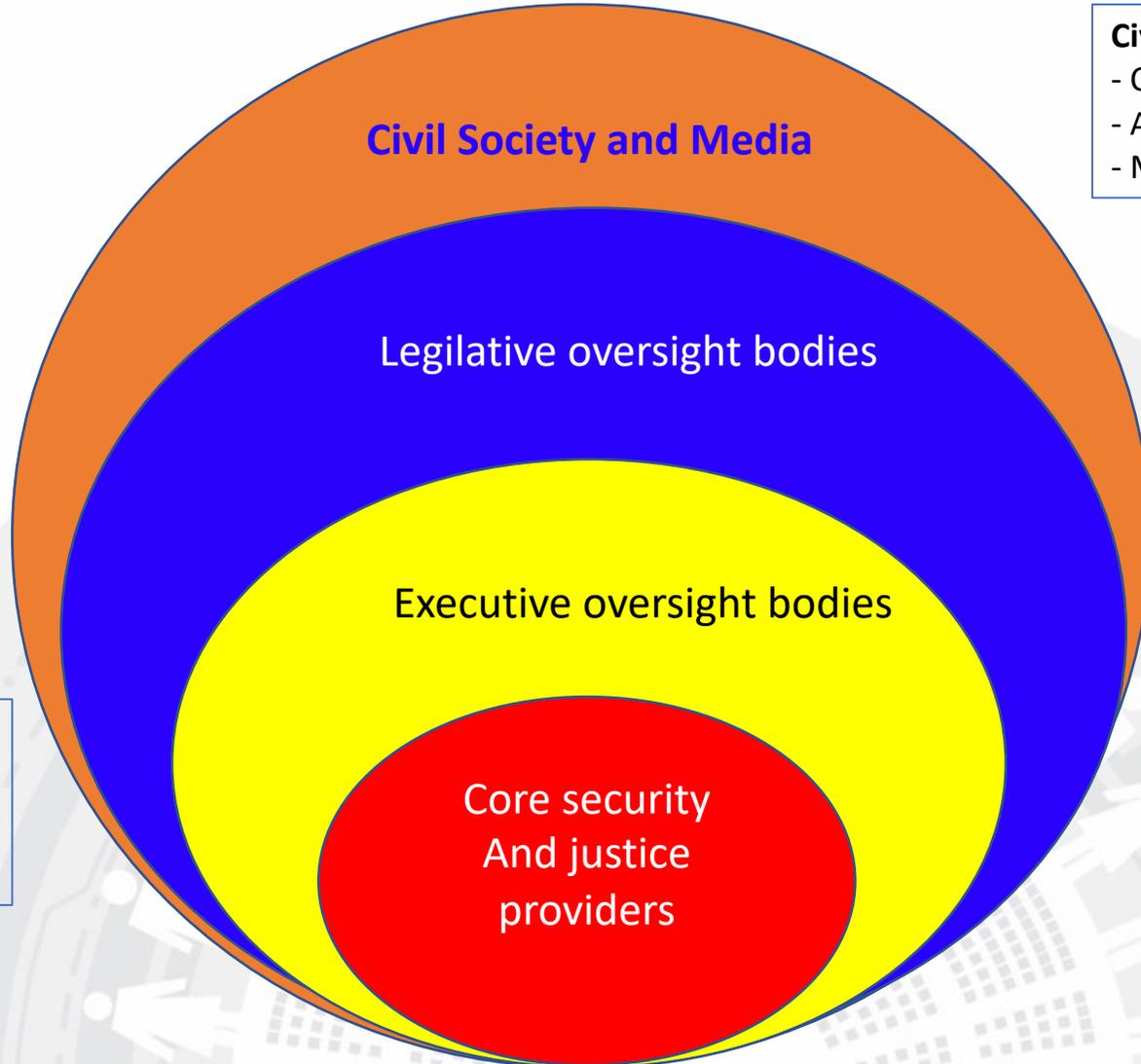


Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2002



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Security Sector



- Civil Society and Media**
- CSOs; NGOs; Human Right centres; Think tanks
 - Academia
 - Media organisations

- Legislative oversight bodies**
- Parliament
 - Parliamentary committees
 - Parliamentary ombuds offices
 - Parliamentary Audit Institutions

- Executive oversight bodies**
- Presidency
 - Council of Ministers
 - Ministries

- Core security and justice providers**
- Armed Forces
 - Police
 - Intelligence
 - Private security firms
 - Village guard
 - Illegal Armed Groups
 - Prosecution
 - Courts
 - Prisons

- International Assistance Providers**
- International aid organisations
 - Donor coordination organisations





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Media Credibility



- **What is media credibility?**
- The concept of media credibility is related to the more general concept of trust. If one views media credibility as audience trust applied to the news media, then one needs to better understand the concept of trust. ([Yariv Tsfati](#) : **Oxford Bibliographies**)
- According to the Society of Professional Journalists' [code of ethics](#), professional [integrity](#) is the cornerstone of a journalist's credibility. (<https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>)

Accountability: In a democracy, media organizations and the journalists who work in them are accountable to their audience and to wider society in various ways. (Key Concepts in Journalism)





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Media Credibility



According to Standart Eurobarometer no 91 (2019) and Standart Eurobarometer no 93 (2020), Trust in Certain Media and Institutions

- In 2019, 69 percent of the people said that they do not trust the media in Turkey. Only 27 percent of the people said that they trust the media in Turkey. And 4 percentage of them said that don't know.
- In 2020, 77 percent of the people say they do not trust the media in Turkey. Only 21 percent of the people said that they trust the media in Turkey. And 2 percentage of them said that don't know.





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Media Credibility



Standart Eurobarometer no 91 (2019) and Standart Eurobarometer no 93 (2020)

- In 2019, Greece was the countries with the least trust in the media with 79 percent and second was the UK with 73 percent. France shared the third place with Turkey with 69 percent.
- In 2020, Greece still remained as the country with the least trust in the media with 78 percent. And second was Turkey with 77 percent and third was France with 76 percent.





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Media as Watchdog



- The characterization of **journalism as a social ‘watchdog’** springs from a classical liberal conception of the power relationship between government and society within a democratic state.
- The watchdog theory of journalism is based on **a pluralistic view of social power** and can be seen as ‘a simple extension to the (newspaper) press of the fundamental individual rights to freedom of opinion, speech, religion and assembly’ (McQuail, 1994: 128).
- The watchdog ***metaphor imbues the press with the role of being a forum for discussion, investigators of impropriety, an adversary to monopoly over power and knowledge*** and the defenders of truth, freedom and democracy.
- Source: Key Concepts in Journalism (Franklin, Hamer, Hanna, Kinsey, Richardson)





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Media as Watchdog



- **Contributing to safer and more resilient societies and communities**
- **Improving partnerships between state and non--state actors involved in providing security and justice**
- **Fighting the causes of crime, including corruption, mismanagement and power abuses**
- **And... what else in your view? (Short discussion)**





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Media as Watchdog



- **Informing citizens on crime prevention and community safety initiatives**
- **Securing public support for crime prevention strategies**
- **Gauging and conveying public perceptions on crime issues**
- **Facilitating dialogue between the law enforcement agencies and the broader community**
- **And... what else in your view? (Short discussion)**



Source: DCAF





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Bodies and mechanisms at international level





Bodies and mechanisms at international level



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UN	CoE	OSCE	EU
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS	DECISION-MAKING BODIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office 	THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
SECURITY COUNCIL	PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY		THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	THE CONGRESS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES	EXECUTIVE STRUCTURES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary General / Secretariat, Vienna Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, Warsaw Representative on Freedom of the Media, Vienna High Commissioner on National Minorities, The Hague 	THE COUNCIL OF EU
SECRETARIAT	THE EUROPEAN COURT OF HUMAN RIGHTS		THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE	COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS		Other Institutions: the Court of Justice of the EU; the Court of Auditors; and interinstitutional bodies
TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL	THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS		





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NATO



Allied Command Transformation

Supreme Allied Command Transformation Headquarters
(Norfolk, USA)

Joint Analysis Lessons Learned Centre
(Portugal)

Joint Force Training Centre
(Poland)

Joint Warfare Centre
(Norway)

Allied Command Operations

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe
(Mons, Belgium)

Headquarters Joint Force Command Brunssum
(Netherlands)

Headquarters Joint Force Command Naples
(Italy)

Air Command
(Germany)

Land Command
(Turkey)

Maritime Command
(United Kingdom)

NATO Communication Information Services Group
(Belgium)





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Current Situation in Turkey: Challenges and Opportunities for Media



Challenges	Opportunities
Traditional Security Understanding	Anti military coup d'état awareness increased after 15 July
Prejudice againsts Media freedom and journalism	Covid 19 and Economic Criris change priorities regarding ISF

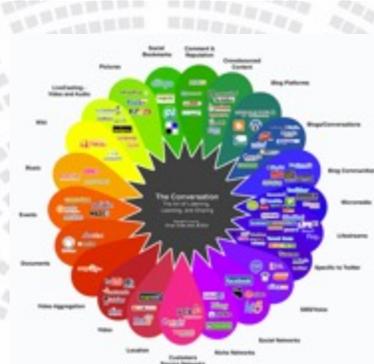
Discussing point!





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Social Media





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Gender-Specific Approach



- As stated by the Council of Europe that both traditional and social media play a major role both as a source of fact-based information and as a shaper of opinions. The media can promote awareness on equal and indivisible human rights and contribute to prevent and combat violence against women in connection with the role of security forces.
- Forms of violence against women and girls must be prevented by the Law Enforcement Officials: Domestic violence, Physical violence, Psychological violence, Economic violence, Sexual violence, Forced and child marriage or early marriage, Honour-related violence, Cyber/online violence against women,....





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Group Work



- Divide participants into four groups of 6 persons (depending on the size of the group),
- Distribute the case sheets to the groups and ask the following common questions to all groups;
- Which of these actors are part of the security sector?
- Which of these actors are not part of the security sector?
- Give flipcharts and pens to the groups,
- Ask groups to select a spokesperson and discuss the questions, including case-specific ones, for 15 minutes,
- Start group discussions, facilitate and moderate these as necessary
- Finalise group discussions and ask groups to present their responses and conclusions (5X4=20 mins),
- Encourage questions and answers between groups (5 mins),
- Write main points and recommendations of the groups on flipchart,
- Thank participants for their participation and close the group discussion.





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Thank you

