

Editors' word

The Journal of Regional Security has a great pleasure to welcome Nemanja Džuverović (University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences) as new co-editor and Roger Mac Ginty (The University of Manchester) and Petra Roter (University of Ljubljana) as new members of the Editorial Board. The Journal also developed a brand new website – www.regionalsecurityjournal.com. All back issues are in a Gold Open Access regime and available for free download. We invite you to visit our website, browse our archives and provide us with your valuable feedback. In the following period the Journal will focus on the topics such as Regional Security Complex Theory, memory/security nexus and civilian capacities for participation in peace support operations. We invite all potential authors to send us their manuscripts on these or other issues relevant for our subject matter.

This issue opens with the article by Fairlie Chappuis, Deniz Kocak and Eric Sangar, which deals with the problems of security governance in Africa. The article looks at the concept of „local ownership“ of the Security Sector Reform with regards to the regional and sub-regional security mechanisms that are commonly known as „African solutions to African problems“. The authors explore the discourses and practices that are connected to security governance by looking at various cases in Africa across time. They argue that „specifically African traits of security governance at national and regional level can be discerned in institutional legacies of repression and poor security governance, as well as the discursive commitment to norms and human security at the regional level“, in the practice of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

Jonathan Marley's article concerns the new and emerging structures in the defense sector within the region of Southeastern Europe. The paper argues that a sustainable and efficient military requires the three specific concerns to be addressed in the process of reform: knowledge deficit in civil-military relations, ownership and legitimacy of military beyond the post-conflict context. The author posits that „combined effects of these issues have the potential to erode legitimacy of function of military forces in the eyes of the state and nation, presenting the challenge to military leaders of re-establishing military relevance and purpose in an economically depressed and increasingly sceptical environment“.

The third article, co-authored by Branka Marijan and Dejan Guzina, claims that in post-conflict setting, we need to better understand the role of civil society in constituting legitimacy for their process of police reform. In their case study of Ireland, they analyse the community involvement and civilian oversight of policing structures. The authors find that „much has been achieved since the 1999 Independence Commission on Policing, the question of police legitimation is still largely unresolved“, while „more attention must be paid to building relationships between the police and local communities.“

The issue closes with two book reviews. While reading *Perseverance of Terrorism: Focus on Leaders* (IOS Press, 2014), Milan Krstić suggests that studying conditions lead to terrorist acts is much more useful than just paying attention to its consequences. Vuk Vukasnović reviews *The Arab Spring, Democracy and Security: Domestic and International Ramifications* (Routledge, 2013) and points out that the greatest strength, but also its weakness is that it provides „an alternative view to the MENA region considering that as country from the region Israel is directly impacted by the events of the Arab Spring.“

Editors

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