

HOW TO DEAL WITH NON-STATE ARMED ACTORS

Actors with political goals
→ Negotiation possible

Actors with "criminal" agendas
→ primarily met with repression

Complexity of actors, binary differentiation
→ poor policy outcomes

TYPOLGY

Embeddedness

- Political
- Ethnic
- Religious

Financing

- Legal – illegal
- Type of resource
- Local - global

Relations with State and Society

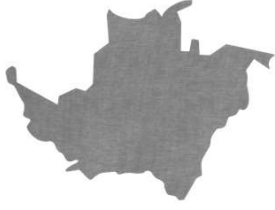
- Cooperation
- Confrontation

Transborder and international connections

- Economic
- Political
- Geo-political

Clan del Golfo (Colombia)

- Post-paramilitary group
- Drug production and trade, extortion
- Criminal and armed governance
- Transnational connections via drug trade



- Ceasefire January to March 2023 (Paz Total)
- Cooptation of local politicians
- Leadership persecution and extradition to the US

Jama'at Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin (Mali)

- Islamist group
- Taxation, looting, extortion, ransom, smuggling
- Shadow governance
- Transnational connections, loyalty to al-Qaeda



- Local ceasefires
- Indiscriminate violent military operations
- Drone/ air strikes
- Leadership removal

Moro Islamic Liberation Front (Philippines)

- Separatist ethnic-religious group
- Taxation, diaspora
- Rebel governance
- Transnational connections via Islam and diaspora



- Peace agreement and regional autonomy
- 2019: Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) established

STRATEGIES

Negotiation

- Ceasefires
- Transitional Justice
- Disarmament
- Political and economic reforms

Cooptation

- Power-sharing agreements
- State capture, entanglement of politicians / businesses with armed non-state actors

Rule of Law

- Persecution of criminal activities such as human rights violations, illegal economic activities, corruption, ...

Repression

- Extrajudicial killings, leadership removal
- Indiscriminate violence
- Tactical operations, drone/ air strikes

TRANSFORMING NON-STATE ARMED ACTORS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

• Develop comprehensive strategies based on human rights and the rule of law

• Include local communities, in particular through the generation of sustainable livelihoods

• Manage or marginalize non-participating or deviant group