Civil Society-Military Relations and Human Security

Tuesday, March 8th
9:30 – 11:00am

Johns Hopkins SAIS
Nitze Building, Kenny Auditorium
1740 Massachusetts Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Forum Details:

In response to the challenges and frustrations in Afghanistan and Iraq, top US military and political leaders call for strengthened civilian capacities and more effective civil-military cooperation. Civilian government, civilian contractors, civil society organizations (CSOs) and the civilian public are very different kinds of “civilians.” The intense challenges of coordinating government civilians with military actors and the increasing use of civilian contractors confuses and overshadows the distinct nature of how an independent civil society relates to military forces.

US military personnel increasingly conduct humanitarian, development and peacebuilding activities, list “building civil society” and “local ownership” in their strategies, and seek NGOs as “implementing partners.” Yet many civil society organizations conducting humanitarian aid, development and peacebuilding vehemently oppose military involvement in these activities and are withdrawing from all contact with military actors.

This forum provides an orientation to the perceptions, tensions, and opportunities between civil society organizations and military actors in conflict-affected regions. It will build on the ideas presented in 3D Security’s Civil Society-Military Roadmap on Human Security. Participants are encouraged to read this before the forum.

Speakers:

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense Rosa Brooks
United States Department of Defense

Lisa Schirch
Director, 3D Security, Eastern Mennonite University

Col. Mark Mykleby
Special Strategic Assistant to Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Fulco van Deventer
Policy and Political Advisor, Cordaid

Bios

Rosa Brooks
Rosa Brooks serves as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Rule of Law and International Humanitarian Policy and as Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy. She is currently on a public service leave from her position as a professor at the Georgetown University Law Center, where she specializes in international law. Ms. Brooks has had a varied career in government, academia, the media and the NGO world. From 2005 to March 2009, she was a foreign policy columnist for the Los Angeles Times. Ms. Brooks has also served as Special Counsel to the President of the Open Society Institute, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Virginia School of Law; Senior Advisor at the US Department of State’s Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, a consultant for Human Rights
Watch, a lecturer at Yale Law School, a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and a fellow at the Carr Center at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. She has also served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the National Security Network, the White Oak Foreign Policy Leaders’ Project, the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on Fragile States, Amnesty International USA, and the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law. Brooks received her A.B. from Harvard, followed by a master's degree from Oxford (where she was a Marshall Scholar) and a law degree from Yale.

Lisa Schirch

Lisa Schirch is the director of the 3D Security Initiative and professor of peacebuilding at Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) which promotes civil society perspectives on conflict prevention and peacebuilding in US security policymaking. With colleagues in the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding at EMU, Schirch consults with a network of strategic partner organizations involved in peacebuilding activities in over 20 countries. A former Fulbright Fellow in East and West Africa, Schirch has written four books and numerous articles on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Her current research interests include civil-military dialogue on human security and supporting a comprehensive peace process in Afghanistan. She is a frequent public speaker and has TV and radio experience discussing U.S. foreign policy. She holds a B.A. in International Relations from the University of Waterloo, Canada, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from George Mason University.

Col. Mark Mykleby

Colonel Mykleby is currently serving as a special strategic assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He has participated in combat operations including Provide Promise, Deny Flight, Southern Watch, and Iraqi Freedom. Colonel Mykleby has served as the George Washington Battle Group liaison officer to Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia (Eskan Village, Saudi Arabia) in 1997, serving as a Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Staff Training Program (MSTP) instructor from 1999-2001, and serving as the Harry S. Truman Battle Group liaison officer to the NATO Combined Air Operations Center Five (CAOC-5) headquarters (Poggio Renautico, Italy) in January 2003. In June 2007, Colonel Mykleby was assigned to the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) where he served as an international engagement/liaison officer for USSOCOM. In August 2007, he helped stand up USSOCOM’s first Strategy Division and, as Deputy Division Head, led the development of strategy for Special Operations Forces. Colonel Mykleby graduated from the United States Naval Academy with distinction and from the Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School. He earned a Masters of Military Studies from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College and he graduated from the Air War College with distinction and earned a Masters of National Security Studies.

Fulco van Deventer

Fulco van Deventer has studied psychology and business administration. He started his career as a consultant on governmental reform in Caribbean Island States and on post war reconstruction in Lebanon. In a long-term assignment for two Dutch Co-financing agencies he worked with a large variety of Civil Society organizations in Asia, Africa and Latin America in building political and institutional capacities. For the last ten years his focus is mainly on CS-actors in conflict areas and fragile states in their role in conflict transformation and silent diplomacy. During that time he spent an intensive period in Colombia supporting local civil organizations in their struggle for peace and development. Since three years he joined Cordaid, a Dutch Catholic donor organization, to work on the nexus between counter terrorism measures, political space and security. It aims at influencing international policy makers for setting adequate conditions to let CS actors play an effective role in security-issues and conflict transformation.