

The Security Sector in a Democracy

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**This is not really difficult
The security sector is like all
other sectors of government.**

Sectors of government

Government is made up of sectors

Health, education, transport

One of these is security

It obeys the same rules

What rules ?

Ministry

Civilian political head

Civilian staff

**Responsibility to public and
parliament.**

Don't ask:
**Why should defence and security
be the same**

Do ask:
Why should they be different?

First, let's look at the security sector in other types of political system.

Usually, these came before democracy

Multi-polar state

Security forces linked with leaders
and parties

Can be divided by ethnicity etc.

Political militias

Internal power struggles

Oligarchic

Security forces are part of the power structure and identify with it.

Security forces exist to protect the regime.

Regime and nation assumed to be the same thing.

Authoritarian

Security forces share norms of the social and political order.

See their job as to defend it.

Population can be the enemy

One party

Security forces ideological in orientation

Often members of ruling party.

Preserve party and ideology?

Legitimacy from revolution or national independence struggle.

**Assume a country is introducing a
democratic political system.
What follows?**

What follows

Independence of the state from political power structure

Willingness to serve different masters

Professionalisation of security forces

Tolerance of opposing views

**Of course, states always reflect
the norms of dominant groups
So do the security forces
There's little you can do about this**

Democratic obligations

Transparency

Accountability

... what do these mean?

Transparency

Government acts in the name of the citizen and the voter.

The citizen and the voter, and their elected representatives should be aware of what government is doing

Accountability

Government acts in the name of the citizen and the taxpayer

The taxpayers and their elected representatives deserve an *account* of how the money has been spent.

Democratic obligations

Not as difficult as sometimes made
out

Need to maintain constitutional
boundaries

The End