



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

BOLSTERING CIVILIAN OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR: PRACTITIONER PERSPECTIVES

BIOGRAPHIES

Moderator

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Justice and Rule of Law at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Her work focuses on party politics and democratization, rule of law and security sector governance, and transnational organized crime. She is faculty lead for the rule of law and security sector governance portfolio, as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio. She is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

Previously, Kelly was an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, and Learning Division at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work on judicial training and grassroots legal empowerment took her to Burundi, CAR, DRC, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda to work with a range of national and local judicial officials, paralegals, and civil society. Fluent in French, Kelly has also designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and on West Africa and Area Studies at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Kelly has earned fellowships from Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, West Africa Research Association, Harvard University, and the U.S. Government's Foreign Language and Area Studies program for the Wolof language. Her book, *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is based on eighteen months of research in Senegal. She has also published in *African Security*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Comparative Politics*, *The Washington Post*, *Democracy in Africa*, numerous edited volumes, and American Bar Association white papers.

Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis.

Panelists

Mr. Sean Tait is the executive Director of the African Policing Civilian Oversight Forum (APCOF), a non-governmental organization working on issues of police governance and accountability in Africa. He is a board member of the African Security Sector Network and of the Afro Asian Association for Justice Development and an expert member of the African Union

Steering Committee on Security Sector Reform. He served on the project steering committee to develop an international protocol on interviewing led by ex UN special rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez and on the advisory group led by Pablo De Grieff on developing a human rights-based prevention framework to support efforts at non recurrence.

Under his stewardship APCOF has worked with among others the AU Department of Peace and Security to develop operational guidance notes on the developing codes of Conduct in the operationalization of the AU SSR framework, the Pan African Parliament on developing a model law for Police in Africa, the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on standards on the management of assemblies by law enforcement officials in Africa and on conditions of arrest, police custody and pretrial detention in Africa. At a Regional level he regularly co-operates with the East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO) and has developed an agreed standard for policing in Eastern Africa, supported this with monitoring tools and led assessments of policing in Uganda, Kenya and Sudan. He has provided training to the East Africa Stand by Brigade Police component on the EAPCCO developed tools and in partnership with the Danish Demining Group translate rights-based tools on arrest and detention for the Federal and state level police in Somalia. He has collaborated with the Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO) to develop a framework for crime and violence prevention and supporting tools.

He has worked directly with the South African Independent Police Investigative Directorate, The Kenyan Independent Policing Oversight Authority, The Nigeria Police Service Commission and the Sierra Leone Independent Police Complaints Commission

Mr. Abdul Tejan-Cole is a human rights lawyer, activist, and expert in the fields of international criminal justice, human rights, governance, anti-corruption, and environmental law. With a rich and diverse background, his extensive experience spans over 30 years of dedicated work in progressive development of human rights, good governance, and post-conflict reconstruction. His expertise has contributed significantly to the advancement of rule of law and justice provision, particularly in Africa. He holds Bachelor of Laws with Honours, University of Sierra Leone, Master of Laws, University College London and Post-graduate Diploma in International Trade Law, University Institute of European Studies. He lectured law at the University of Sierra Leone and the Sierra Leone Law School.

Abdul Tejan-Cole has held prominent positions and played pivotal roles in various organizations, including former Commissioner of Sierra Leone's Anti-Corruption Commission (2007-2010), focusing on high-level corruption cases and combating corruption in critical sectors, Deputy Director at the International Centre for Transitional Justice's Cape Town Office, contributing to transitional justice efforts, Senior Campaign Director at Waxman Strategies, advocating for environmental conservation and workers' rights, particularly in Africa's deforestation and industrial agriculture sectors, Executive Director of the Open Society Initiative for West Africa, leading initiatives for social justice, good governance, and human rights in the region, Head of Campaign for Good Governance (CGG), a prominent Sierra Leonean NGO dedicated to promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement, Attorney at the Special Court for Sierra Leone, engaging in war crimes prosecution and advancing international justice and Executive Director of Africa Studies Association. He is a recipient of the 2001 Human Rights

Watch Annual Award, acknowledging his outstanding dedication to human rights and Yale World Fellow and Columbia University Teaching Fellow, demonstrating recognition of his expertise and contributions to academia.