



Joint EC-UNDP Task Force on Electoral Assistance  
International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance

Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention



# Second Edition of the Thematic Workshop on Elections, Violence and Conflict Prevention

*Election Day Phase – Electoral Conflict Triggers and Inhibitors*

**Jeff Fischer**

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# Triggers and Inhibitors

- **Electoral Security Administration Capacity**
  - Joint Election Operations Center
  - Quick Reaction Forces
  - Rules of Engagement
- **“Generating Legitimacy” in Electoral Practices**
  - Confidence in Voter Registry
  - Political Campaign Practices
  - Impartiality of EMBs and Poll Workers
  - Electoral Fraud or the Perceptions of Fraud
- **Political Marginalization**
  - Victims and Spoilers
- **De-Militarizing Politics**
  - Post-Conflict Elections



# Joint Election Operations Centers

- **Locus for coordinated electoral security administration**
- **Participation and Staffing**
  - EMB, Police, and Other Security Forces
  - Civil Society and Political Parties
- **Services**
  - Communications
  - Incident Tracking
  - Coordinated Deployments



# Quick Reaction Forces (QRFs)

- **QRFs - civilian or military, constabulary, or local police**
- **EMBs can deploy QRFs to address Election Day disputes at polling stations**
- **Judicial QRFs to quickly adjudicate Election Day disputes**
- **Fire and ambulance workers - advanced voting for full strength on Election Day**
- **Security forces QRFs - specialized capabilities such as hostage negotiation, bomb squad, among others**



# Rules of Engagement

- **Rules of Engagement can Manage or Exacerbate Electoral Conflict**
- **Enforcement but Respect for Human Rights – Limit Damage and Injury**
- **Heavy-Handed Tactics by Security Forces**
  - Armenia (2008)
  - Mongolia (2008)
  - Pakistan (2008)
- **Hands-Off Tactics by Security Forces**
  - Post-Consultation Violence in East Timor (1999)



# Political Marginalization and Conflict

- **Marginalized Electorates – Victims and Spoilers**
  - **Victims**
    - Individuals or classes of individuals who possess electorate rights, but because of the legal framework, administrative deficiencies, or intentional exclusion, they cannot participate in an election
  - **Spoilers**
    - Outside of the electoral process and leverage this marginalization to defraud, disrupt, or deny the election
- **Military forces can be either victims or spoilers**



# Managing Boycotts

- **Electoral Boycotts and Conflict**
  - Thailand (2006) – Low Turnout, Protests, Coup
- **“Open Door” for 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Inclusion**
  - Inkatha Freedom Party – South Africa
- **Grievances for Boycotts**
  - Iraq (2005)
- **Intimidation into Boycotting**
  - Kosovo (2000)



# De-Militarizing Politics

- **Post-Conflict Elections**
- **Parallel goals of war termination and democratization**
  - Angola (1992)
  - Cote D'Ivoire (2010)
- **Incentives and Sanctions**
  - Encouraging Peacebuilding
- **On-Going Insurgencies**
  - Colombia
  - Philippines





## Election Day Phase – Electoral Conflict Triggers and Inhibitors

**Thank you...**

**...QUESTIONS?**