

# Outsourcing Security and the Reconfiguration of State Power after the Arab Uprisings

## Research Question

How have privatizing & outsourcing security, amid wider security market's developments, contributed to reconfiguring authoritarian rule in the Arab region after the 2010-2011 uprisings?

## Gaps & Contribution

- Qualitatively: security scholars largely adopted the security sector reform discourse
- Quantitatively: a critical shortage of studies on private security in Arab countries post-2010
- Filling these gaps, the study aspires to:
  1. Bring the multifaced dynamics of privatizing security post-2010 to the academic discourse
  2. Construct a wider framework to study similar processes in other post-uprising states

## Theory & Methods

- Studies on authoritarian regimes & state coercion
- Critical Security Studies

### Key Concepts

- Markets for force
- Regime security
- Authoritarian adaptation
- Security states

### Methods

- Official documents & secondary sources
- Interviews & fieldwork

## Main Argument

- Security market's reconfigurations, amid spreading terrorism & persisting popular unrest, follow authoritarian adaption schemes pursued by post-2010 Arab ruling regimes
- Widespread privatization & outsourcing of security is essentially shaped by regime security, embedded in close political-security tie & damaged state-society relationship

## The Arab Security Market

Pre-2011: Dominated by abusive public security forces



Post-2011: Abusive public security forces + Rise of private & non-state security actors



## Case (1): Egypt - Outsourcing Security amid Ongoing Unrest

- Rise of private security & outsourcing is linked to:
- Regime's loose control over state security forces
  - Regime interests (major benefits for state & private actors)
  - Creating jobs & alleviating economic hardships
  - Tightening state control over political mobilization



## Case (2): Tunisia - Non-State Actors & Security Reforms

- More private & non-state security actors, especially in state security reform
- Security market steadily growing amidst considerable security risks.
- Security reforms: slow, resisted & constrained by unanticipated challenges and threats
- Public security forces enjoy large institutional autonomy leading to weak accountability & overall professionalism

## Conclusion

- Exact impact of private & non-state actors on security market's reconfigurations is determined by: Historical background + Continuous post-uprising political, social & economic developments
- How privatizing security enhance democracy or enforce authoritarianism?  
Follows the interplay of combined factors that are dynamic, unpredictable & not easily controlled