

Discussion: KPSRL – Margins for reform in authoritarian regimes: social movement

Monday 17th July 2023, 14:30 – 16:00

[Register here!](#)

Goals

- Understand the dilemma and opportunities in supporting social and civil movements in Authoritarian regimes.
 - How do movements emerge and respond to different strands of authoritarianism and moments in the life of an authoritarian regime?
 - How do movements evolve and remain relevant?
 - Which movements are most likely to grow?
 - What results for social contracts, social cohesion, and democratization can be expected by social and civil movements in authoritarian and hybrid regimes?
 - What are some of the dilemma connected to external support for social and civil movements?
- Draw and discuss the most relevant implications and recommendations for policy and practice.

Background

In 2022, the network of the Knowledge Platform Security & Rule of Law (KPSRL) unpacked its Thematic Headline ‘Reimagine Social Contracts’. This theme a.o. guided a kick-off webinar, a window of the Knowledge Management Fund (KMF) and the Annual Conference (KPAC22).

The findings throughout the year have been bundled in an [analytical paper](#). Through an online survey, the KPSRL network expressed an eagerness to unpack this complex theme further, moving from concepts to operationalization.

Speakers

- Natalia Forrat, Freedom House and University of Michigan will set the frame by presenting a comparative research on what results social and civic movements tend to obtain, and which are most likely to grow and be successful.
- Michel Luntumbue, in conversation with FILIMBI, will present the experience with civil and social movements that recently responded to West African authoritarian attempts.
- Walden Bello will share insights in the experience of responding to democratic backsliding caused by far right populist movements.

Agenda

- Natalia Forrat will set the scene on the overall topic.
- Michel Luntumbue will present key findings contained in his eBook, developed with KPSRL funding, on new citizen movements in West African countries, their experiences, trajectories, results, and dilemmas in supporting them.

- Walden Bello will share insights in the experience of responding to democratic backsliding caused by far right populist movements.
- Iyad El Baghdadi will share insights into what can be expected of social and civic movements in the context of the heritage of the Arab Spring.

Time	Topic	Contributor
14:30 – 14:50	Welcome Which social movements are more likely to grow in authoritarian contexts?	Natalia Forrat
14:50 – 15:15	Citizen movements in West Africa: results and trajectories 15 minutes presentation, 5 minutes Q&A	Michel Luntumbue
15:15 – 15:35	Resisting far right populist movements and regimes 15 minutes presentation, 5 minutes Q&A	Walden Bello
15:30 – 16:00	Discussion on implications (3 breakout groups) 1. Opportunities for support to social movements in different regime types / or in three specific countries?	
16:00 – 16:05	Conclusions and Next steps	Giorgio Ferrari