

**‘Who do People Turn to for Policing in Sierra Leone?’,
Journal of Contemporary African Studies, 23, 3 (2005), 371-
390.**

ABSTRACT

The increasing diversification worldwide of policing away from the state to non-state agencies has been seen as a process that is only accepted reluctantly by the citizens of developing countries. Given the opportunity, it has been argued, citizens would choose more state policing over the non-state alternatives, since the latter serve the poorest badly. This is not the experience in Sierra Leone today. A survey of policing agencies demonstrates that non-state policing fulfils a very real need in the frequent absence of the state police and with its current failings. From the multichoice policing available, Sierra Leoneans negotiate their security provision in this post-conflict society. Such diversity of policing, however, necessitates the construction a law and order policy that is based on incorporating all acceptable policing groups.