

‘Multi-choice Policing in Uganda’, *Policing and Society*, 15, 1 (2005), 19-41.

ABSTRACT

Though increasing diversification of policing away from the state to non-state formal and informal agencies is a widespread pattern, it does not capture the nuances of Uganda’s situation. Participative research reveals a fragmented and overlapping pattern of policing, but one that, for historical reasons, is still heavily influenced if not controlled by state institutions. Through its penetration of society by its local council structure, and through a process of militarisation of policing units, the state has maintained a strong influence over most of the diversification. The diversification, therefore, is more one of choice than ownership. It nevertheless yields a surprising degree of choice for Ugandans for protection and/or response to crime and disorder. Such multi-choice policing does, however, demand the construction a law and order policy that is based on incorporating all acceptable policing groups.

KEY WORDS: POLICING; UGANDA; MULTI-CHOICE POLICING; FRAGMENTATION