

Title of Article: NGO's, Security and Democracy Recession in Africa

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Abstract: Though external support of civil society groups has helped to strengthen democracies, other factors are also important and that these reductions in support can be overcome when other strategies are explored. This is where more attention should be focussed on education as an important tool to accomplish this task. The point to stress here is that education, whether civic or formal, can empower the individual. It provides the knowledge of their rights and social responsibilities which is vital to enabling an establishment of a stable and healthy society. The acquisition of knowledge opens access to opportunities for the advancement of man and an optimized human resource. For instance, an illiterate child is a threat to the educated ones and the nation. Studies of social exclusion and deviant behaviour, demonstrate the dangers of lopsided education. The case is, in most developing countries, that the elements used to intimidate voters or perpetrate violence during elections are drawn from the pool of illiterate and poor folks. Even where votes are allowed to count, a preponderance of the illiterate uninformed electorate would ultimately suffer from bad leadership because they are not sufficiently educated to vote correctly. Recognising that education is very important, the question that arises is how to create awareness, given the fact that state institutions and international actors are focussing on a different agenda. This paper therefore focuses on community based organizations are crucial instruments for this project. These organizations exist for diverse reasons, but could be tapped to reach out the grassroots for greater participation in the political process. Therefore, national country based pro-democracy organizations currently facing challenges of paucity of funds due to dwindling external sources,

require a change of method. Reach out programmes such as workshops, seminars, media campaigns and other money guzzling activities should be scaled down for this new alternative.