

**Title:** Analyzing the formal and informal roles of women in security and justice in Yemen: Reflections for future considerations

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**Research Question:**

This paper is part of a larger project which examines the roles and agency of women in counterterrorism practices. This paper specifically asks: what formal and informal roles have women played in the provision of security in Yemen, and how may this inform domestic post-conflict security considerations, as well as international security concerns?

**Importance:**

Yemen is a country dominantly viewed in terms of security, specifically the threats that emanate from its borders, such as AQAP and more recently ISIL and as such, remains a key focus for international actors. However, analysis of the formal and informal roles of women in Yemen's security sector has been significantly lacking, though these lend to considerations of not only their inclusion in broader security practices, but how national and international actors can support and foster these. This has particular relevance for the current conflict, lending to post-conflict security considerations for all actors.

**Research Findings:**

There has been a seeming neglect in the literature analyzing and outlining women's roles in informal security, particularly in tribes, in areas such as conflict mediation or negotiation. If/as the power and influence of tribes continues to recede, so to may opportunities for women in the informal sector. This neglect also extends to women's roles in the formal security sector (police, military). While these were prevalent in south Yemen prior to unification, they have only re-emerged in the formal state structures largely since 2001. However, it remains an important consideration to recognize the roles that women may play in both formal and informal security institutions, practices and norms to holistically understand what contributions women can and are making to security in Yemen and how this can be supported by domestic and international actors.

**Implications:**

This paper offers useful insights and considerations for post-conflict security concerns, including security sector restructuring and programming, in Yemen. By highlighting both the informal and formal roles that women have taken in the security sector in Yemen, filling a gap in the academic literature, and linking this to practical security considerations in the country (reflecting both domestic and international security concerns), offers a useful addition to post-conflict security considerations, and the roles that international actors can play in fostering these.