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'South Africa in Africa' Workshop Series

Co-hosted by SIGLA and RDDC

22 November 2016

The Royal Danish Embassy, Hatfield, Pretoria

Workshop 2: South African and contemporary threats to national security - The peaceful Island in a rough neighbourhood?

South Africa, like every other country in the world, is faced with a range of new types of security threats and challenges to national security. Localised conflicts tends to be globalised in what Tim Shaw calls "glocal" conflicts, where for instance the conflict in Somalia has links to and affects security in South Africa directly or indirectly. Migration and refugee flows put pressure on limited state resources, trans-border traffic and smuggling of small arms, drugs and people challenge the modern state's security agencies responsible for countering such challenges. Modern technology and the global transfer of ideas and norms, including radical and extremist sentiments, mean that acts and statements in Syria can quickly reach and influence a constituency in South Africa. Hybrid and cyber threats imply that the technologically dependent state must guard against risks and threats from cyber-crime and/or terrorist attacks, or even attacks from other states. The Israeli cyberattack on Iran, or the hacking of banks, news stations and polls in some Baltic states by a foreign power are cases in point.

But how is South Africa prepared for these kinds of contemporary threats and risks to its national security? The South African Police Service (SAPS) has difficulty in addressing the chronic high domestic crime levels and media-reports argue that South Africa's intelligence services struggle with capacity problems and political interference, whilst the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has been forced to take up the responsibility of controlling South Africa's border's due to the SAPS not being up to the task of physical border protection as well.

The event is hosted jointly by SIGLA, the RDDC, and the Royal Danish Embassy in South Africa. This workshop will try to shed some light on the nature of the challenges facing contemporary South Africa, and what kind of capacity and capabilities can be found within the nation's security cluster to address these challenges?

The workshop will be open to a small number of selected invited guests and will be conducted under the Chatham House Rules.

Registration: Before 10 November 2016 to imk-06@fak.dk

Questions related to the seminar: Contact Prof. Thomas Mandrup, RDDC/SIGLA, imk-06@fak.dk, Cell: +4522748390

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