

REPORT FROM COMPPART FOUNDATION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACEBUILDING SUBMITTED TO THE SECRETARIAT OF THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS COVERING THE YEAR 2020, 2021, 2022 AND 2023.

## BACKGROUND OF THE ORGANIZATION

The Community Policing Partners for Justice, Security and Democratic Reforms - COMPPART (Incorporated as COMPPART Foundation for Justice and Peacebuilding) is a nongovernmental organization established in 2002 with the mission to serve as a centrepiece in defending citizens' rights through improve justice and security service delivery, access by citizens and residence and peace building in order to build public confidence in the justice and security sectors of Nigeria. We are based in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, South-South Geopolitical Zone of the Niger Delta Region pof Nigeria. Our Office is situated within SEIAOISOA House at No. 59 School Road, Oku Abak, Abak Local Government Area with a post code of 532111.

Activities of the organization are carried within the operating principle of "globalizing the local and localizing the global best practice on human rights and law enforcement using the strategy of "knowing and showing" instead of "naming and shaming". We were admitted as a full participants of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights (VPS) and its Association in 2019 during the annual plenary in London. Aside from the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, we are a member of the International Code of Conduct Association for Private Security Service Providers -ICOCA and as well the Civil Society Observatory of Private Security Service domiciled in the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of the Armed Forces – DCAF in Switzerland.

Our Objective as COMPPART is to reduce and or if possible, eradicate all forms of antagonistic relationship between the civil populace, host communities and law enforcement/security agencies in the lawful discharge of their legally defined functions in Nigeria.

We are also a serious advocate for the respect for the rule of law and democratic principles an its gamut's within and all spheres of human endeavours and governance structures including most especially the Traditional Rulers Council in different communities in States of Nigeria.

We are also a member of different organizations working towards ensuring service delivery within the justice and security sectors in Nigeria and we also uses these platfrm of our membership to propagate and popularize the objectives and focus of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights in the Nigeria. The Networks and or Coalitions that we belongs to are but not limited to and in no particular order:

1. Network on Police Reforms in Nigeria (NOPRIN Foundation)
2. Civil Society Observatory on the Administration of Criminal Justice Act
3. African Evidence Network

4. Civil Society Observatory on Administration of Criminal Justice Law of Akwa Ibom State (we are currently the Chair)
5. Civic Space Watch Cluster, we are the Cluster Lead for Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria. The Cluster is a USAID Funded activity through the SCALE project and implemented by Palladium.
6. Partnership Against Violence Extremism – PAVE Network. The Network has been officially recognized by the National Action Plan on Countering Violence Extremism which operation is domiciled in the National Counter Terrorism Centre in the Office of the National Security Adviser -ONSA, The Presidency, Federal Republic of Nigeria. We are serving as a Steering Committee Member of the Network representing the South-South Geo-political Zone of Nigeria.
7. African Coalition for Corporate Accountability – ACCA
8. Coalition for Rights in Development.
9. Civil Society Observatory on the Nigeria Police Force Act 2020
10. Women Security and Justice Network.

Our Strength is that we are on ground and understands the cultural sensibilities and power play of the different communities hosting extractive operations within our region and we have the capacity to translate or explained the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and other Frameworks in Local Dialect for easy understanding of the rural host community and civil populace. We remain committed to issues of security and human rights and has become a reference point for justice, safety and security issues in Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria through signature Audience Participatory Live Radio Programme on Passion 94.5 FM Uyo. The programme is called – SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOU., and was aired every Friday 7-8pm since 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019 and ended in January 2024 temporarily due to funding challenge but it is known and attributed to COMPPART and during such programme, members of the public are enlightened on what the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights is all about. As stated, it is a Live Audience Participatory Programme whereby citizens called in and ask questions, make comments or Complaint about the activities of security and law enforcement agencies in the state.

In the year 2020 post Covid -19 outbreak, our works around security and human rights was the monitoring of law enforcement agents/agencies deployed to enforced the COVID-19 rules and report their level of compliance with human rights standard. This was carried out in partnership with CLEEN Foundation. Additionally, we continued our Radio programme Titled “SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND YOU!” on Passion 94.5 FM Uyo. The programme started on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of July 2019 and run till January 2024 wherein we exhausted funding to the project. Funding to the Radio programme was through the MacArthur Foundation under the project of Prioritizing Anti-Corruption in the General Elections Project which we (COMPPART) were a Cohort and was supported for three years. Additional Funding to the Radio programme was from the Civic Space Watch Cluster project of SCALE, and Palladium with support from USAID.

The Radio programme continues till January 2024 wherein different issues bothering on human rights and security formed the content of each weekly broadcast. It was a one-hour (7-8pm) audience participatory

programme wherein issues of security and human rights were discussed and the public call in and asked questions which were answered over the air to the benefit of the listening public.

Amidst this weekly radio programme, we organized a two-day summit on Youth and Policing in Partnership with the Network on Police Reform in Nigeria (NOPRIN Foundation) with support from Macarthur Foundation for the south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria covering six states namely Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Edo and Delta States. This was hosted by COMPPART in Abak and it focuses on Youth Rights in relationship to policing taking a cue from the experience of the #ENDSARS movement.

From 2020 till date, we have remained committed to ensuring citizen access to remedy with regards to human rights violations by Law Enforcement agencies in Akwa Ibom State through the reception and procession of complaints to appropriate authorities for redress and feedback communicated to victims and their relations. Doing this have help in building the resilience of communities and its members to LAWFULLY resist Justice and Security Sectors impunity with reduced antagonism. We have published and distributed a total of ten thousand copies of Citizens Rights Card which is aimed at building community resilience to lawfully resist justice and security sectors impunity and encourages dialogue and partnership problem solving within the ambit of the rule of law.

We also attended all the different demonstration programmes organized by AFRILAW Foundation in Nigeria bothering on the activities and operations of Private Security in Nigeria and in such occasion spoke about the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and today AFRILAW has applied and was admits as an "ENGAGED NGO" during the 2024 Plenary in the United States of America into the Association.

We also organize quarterly interaction on Security and Human Rights in Abak Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State. Though not an extractive host community Local Government, its model has been replicated by different security chief who have worked in the Command and are transferred to other places such as ITU, IBENO, EKET, ESIT EKET AND EASTERN OBOLO which are core hydro-carbon host communities to different companies within the sector.

In all our advocacy efforts in Akwa Ibom State and beyond, we provide awareness for a better understanding of issues related to security and human rights, improving the ability to advocate for change. This has remained our cardinal focus as an organization that is a full participant in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

## OUR COMMITMENT AND PROCEDURES TO THE VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES ON SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

In all our letters to different Ministries, Department and Agencies, we introduced ourselves and inform them of our membership as a Participant in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights and in addition and in such circumstances, attached the VP in a Poster format to them as means of popularizing the framework among them and we have been answering questions with regards to the country status on the initiative.

We have produced and continue to distribute 10000 (ten thousand copies) in large poster format, the letters of the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Each visitor to COMPPART's office including law enforcement agents received a copy of each free of charge. These posters were also used as part of our awareness on security and human rights of extractive host communities and strategy for peaceful co-existence during our electoral advocacy project which was supported for three years by the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre -CISLAC with funding support from the Macarthur Foundation.

The project was Prioritizing Anti-Corruption before, during and after the 2023 general elections in Akwa Ibom State and issues of security (Public and Private) relationship with host communities were adequately capture and included in all intervention and demonstration programmes within the project such as Focal Group Discussions, Town Hall Meetings and the Radio awareness programme which focuses exclusively on Security and Human Rights issues in the country. In all the programmes that we are invited by sisters NGO within and outside of the State we always distribute the VP poster and the CITIZEN'S RIGHTS CARD so produced beyond Akwa Ibom State.

We have also designed and produced an abridged version to the Law with regards to Powers and Duties of the Police as the Coordinating Security Organization on Internal Security and as well the Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens – (Copy of the production attached to this report) COMPPART also promote our membership of the VPs on our website [www.comppartfoundation.org.ng](http://www.comppartfoundation.org.ng). an e-copy of the CARD was emailed to the VPS Secretariate for upload on the resources section website of the VPS and is also re-attached to this report in PDF format

We participated in all the in-country meetings until when we were no longer notified of such meetings since 2022 but that does not stop us from participating in VP activities and intervention organized by Lite Africa in Uyo Akwa Ibom State.

We also participate in other webinars bothering on issues of business and human rights and commented about the application of the VPS provision in the ease of doing business within the extractive sectors as a framework that recognizes and encourages regular interaction between public and private security organizations and their host communities.

Our commitment to human rights and security advocacy have earned us a Steering Committee membership into the PAVE Network (PAVE is Partnership Against Violent Extremism) working in partnership with the National Counter Terrorism Centre in the Office of the National Security Adviser ONSA. The United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre in January 2024 also invited us to her two-day event at the ONSA in Abuja as a mark of our recognition as an organization devoted to issues of Security and Human Rights and in such forum, we do not fail to let the participants to know that there is in existence a framework and as well an Association known as Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights.

We participated in Pillar calls whenever we can and also ensure the awareness on the VPS framework is mainstreamed into all our interventions and interactions' in Nigeria.

## OUR CHALLENGES

Majorly as it is with every other organization globally due to the economic situation occasioned by the COVID-19 outbreak, our major challenge is funding. Our last funded activity directly on the Voluntary Principles of Security and Human Rights ended in the year 2019 and was from the DUTCGH Embassy in Nigeria. It was about to be renewed but was hampered by the pandemic outbreak. Additionally, we were also supported by the SWISS Embassy, but this funding support ended in a manner that affected us seriously because though we concluded the project as proposed and submitted, a minor misunderstanding over a civil relationship issue put us in a very bad projection with the Embassy. the worst part of it remains the inability of the Embassy to release to us a balance on \$2500 which was the balance to us on the supported activities and added to that is that we have not been officially or otherwise indicted and or notified of any indictment but we were removed from the in-country working group WhatsApp platform and every other communication among members of the association ceased to come to us.

This last scenario affected us seriously to an extent that we were after all, denied a pre-support funding to attend the 2024 Annual Plenary in the United State despite fulfilling all righteousness.

However, we are still of the believe that the VPS is a tool for dialogue and can be applied within its members if there is any issue and also companies within the extractive sectors of hydro -carbon and mining. We are therefore, ever committed to the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Consequently, we hereby utilized the opportunity presented by this very report to apologize to all the pillars members for our delays and inability to submit our reports on time within the previous years due to the fear from above mentioned experience with the SWISS Government.

Also, we have challenge of poor access to internet Services due to our operation being within rural communities that have limited or no internet services.

Lack of funding support to the VPS project directly also hampers man power strength despite increase work load.

Also, inflation is a serious challenge. we understand this to be a general phenomenon.

Henceforth, our activity report will be submitted as expected no matter how small such intervention may be due to funding challenges. This report should be posted on the members exclusive page but the CITIZEN RIGHTS CARD can be posted in all public spaces of the Association website.

Thank you.

Dated this the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024.