

‘Justice and Security Architecture in Africa: The Plans, The Bricks, The Purse and The Builder’, *Journal of Legal Pluralism*, 63 (2011): 25-48.

This article is about the dilemma presented by legal pluralism in Africa. Is its prevalence to be welcomed and its opportunities exploited or is it a handicap to justice that should be eliminated? In seeking to present an overview of what is happening in security and justice programmes in Africa and the issues that they are raising, this article begins by examining the security and justice providers in Africa, with particular emphasis on policing; the providers being the bricks of security architecture. Next the article considers the benefits and drawbacks of two approaches by donors and African states to security and justice provision; the architectural plans. The more widely used is statebuilding and a less widely used is the multi-layered approach. The next section explores the cost implications of the two plans; the purse. It argues that statebuilding is not only very expensive but may well be unsustainable in a way that using nonstate-informal actors is not. Finally and briefly, the article asks whose security architecture is it that is being built in Africa? Who is the builder? Amid disputes about what is meant by local ownership, the article calls for the security and justice users to design an affordable architecture.