

# The Emergence of Protection of Civilians as a Policy Tool – Study on UNSC Debates on MONUC

## Research Question

Does framing a conflict as one of human rights violations increase the advocacy for Protection of Civilians in UNSC debates on a peacekeeping mission?

## Abbreviations

UNSC: United Nations Security Council  
 MONUC: United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo  
 PKO: Peacekeeping operation  
 PoC: Protection of Civilians  
 HRV: Human rights violations

## Relevance

PKO mandates are frequently adjusted by the UNSC  
 → Direct implications for mission's purpose on the ground, especially: Inclusion of PoC

## Theoretical Background

Prescriptive norm of human rights implies rhetorical support for PoC

## Unit of Analysis

- (Stemmed) speeches in the UNSC by country (Data by Schönfeld et al. 2019)
- Creation of different corpuses: Around mandate amendments

## Methodological Approach

- Classification using dictionaries
- Linear regression for each cross-sectional sub-corpus

## Variables

### HRV Framing

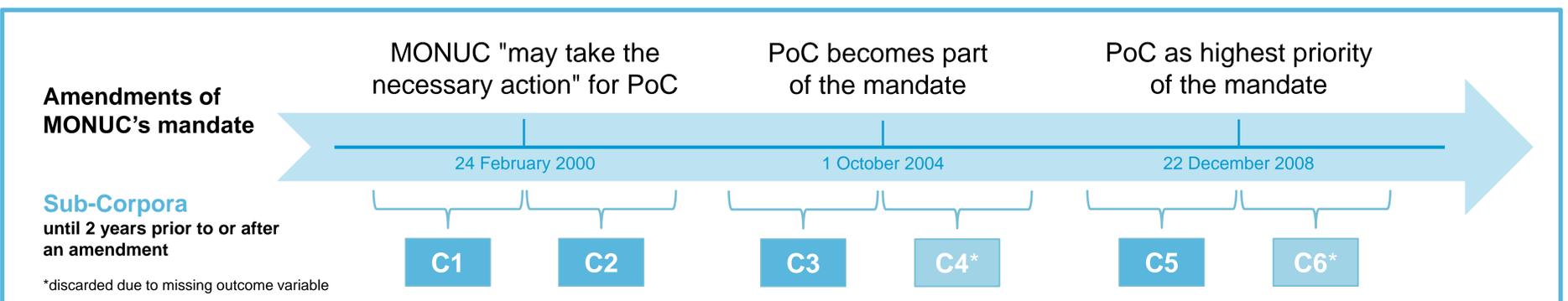
#### Operationalization:

Number of tokens identified by the HRV dictionary (stemmed and adapted by Medzhorsky et al., 2017):  
 repress, human, crime, moral, tortur, persecut, abus, oppress, repress, life, tyranni, terror, children, women, perpetr, victim, account, massacr, crackdown, target, indiscrimin, brutal, genocid, cleans, school, hospit, kill, human\_right

### PoC Mentionings

#### Operationalization:

Number of (stemmed compound) tokens identified by the PoC dictionary:  
 protect\_civilian, protect\_civilian\_popul



## Results of the Linear Regression

	Cross-Sections			
	1	2	3	5
(Intercept)	-0.13 (0.15)	0.13 (0.11)	0.01 (0.09)	1.27** (0.40)
HRV Framing	0.05** (0.02)	0.01 (0.00)	0.01*** (0.00)	0.01 (0.05)
R <sup>2</sup>	0.17	0.05	0.30	0.01
Adj. R <sup>2</sup>	0.15	0.02	0.28	-0.05
Num. obs.	38	42	37	20

\*\*\* $p < 0.001$ ; \*\* $p < 0.01$ ; \* $p < 0.05$

## Conclusion

- C1, C3: Countries using HRV framing for the conflict in the DRC on average mentioned PoC significantly more often
- C5: HRV framing not a significant predictor anymore; countries on average use the term PoC once, even when not using HRV frame

Indicates emergence of PoC as an established policy tool, which is not dependent on HRV framing anymore

Countries push for PoC in advance of mandate amending resolutions – probably to raise the status of PoC

## Limited...

- Causal interpretation of the trend over time → different countries speaking at different cross-sections
- Generalizability as we focused only on debates on MONUC

Still: findings coincide with results from qualitative research on the case

## Sources

Medzhorsky, J., Popovic, M., & Jenne, E. K. (2017). Rhetoric of civil conflict management: United nations security council debates over the syrian civil war.  
 Schoenfeld, M., Eckhard, S., Patz, R., van Meegdenburg, H., & Pires, A. (2019). The UN Security Council debates 1995-2017.

## Contact Information

Birke Pfeifle: [birke.pfeifle@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:birke.pfeifle@uni-konstanz.de)  
 Maren Lüdecke: [maren.luedecke@uni-konstanz.de](mailto:maren.luedecke@uni-konstanz.de)

University of Konstanz/ University of Bayreuth

Seminar: Introduction to computer-based text analysis: Analysis of political speech in the UN Security Council

Lecturers: Jun.-Prof. Dr. Steffen Eckhard, University of Konstanz, Jun.-Prof. Dr. Mirco Schönfeld, University of Bayreuth

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