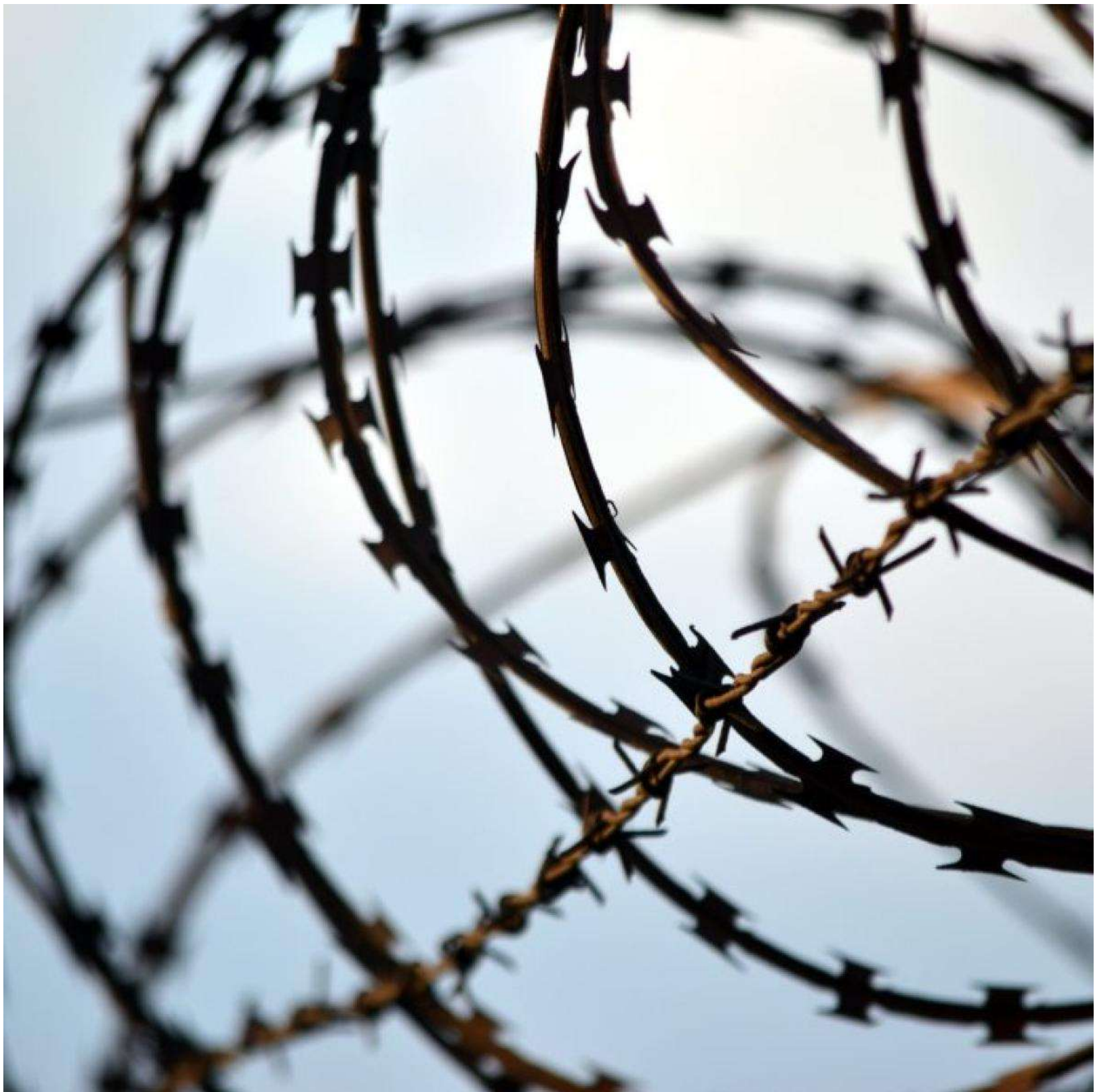


Human rights and security

Seen in the context of business activities, companies can impact on several human rights related to insufficient management of the security dimension. These include the rights to liberty and security of person; the right to freedom of assembly; the right to strike; the right to health and ultimately the right to life.

While states have traditionally been considered to have a monopoly on the use of force, military and security functions have increasingly [been contracted out to the private sector](#). [The list of human rights abuses committed in relation to business activities are many](#), including torture of detainees, shootings and killings of community members, fuelling existing conflicts, destruction of property, sexual harassment and rape. Affected rights-holders include workers and communities and women make up one particularly vulnerable group in this context.



▼ Read more

A company may be putting rights-holders at risk, for example by having public security forces protect their business assets without being informed about dynamics of local conflicts including ones between communities and those in command. Companies might also draw on the services of private security companies without conducting due diligence to assess their human rights track records, ensuring that they have received training on human rights and have management systems in place to manage potential and actual negative impacts.

The issue of human rights and security is particularly prevalent for companies operating in conflict zones (see [UNGP 23](#)). Such companies are encouraged to consult with external, credible, independent experts in government, civil society, national human rights institutions, and relevant multi-stakeholder initiatives, in order to avoid exacerbating adverse human rights impacts.

Though they were developed for the extractive industries, the [Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights](#) (VPSHR) can serve as valuable guidance for companies who are aligning their security-related policies and processes with international human rights. A central feature of the VPSHR concerns how to conduct comprehensive human rights risk assessments related to companies' engagement with public and private security providers.

▼ Links to SDGs and targets





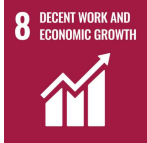


The SDGs relate to the topic of human rights and security through the goals on decent work (SDG 8) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16).

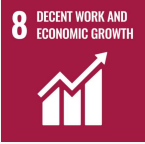

Companies can e.g. demonstrate their commitment to creating decent work by having policies related to security (public and private) that ensure adequate human rights training for security personnel, professional records free from human rights violations, and clear oversight of the hiring practices for security personnel (8.8). By taking a holistic approach that looks at the human rights capacity of both private and public security forces as well as actively engage local communities, a company can also contribute to the development of effective, accountable and transparent institutions (16.6).

These are merely examples of ways in which actions to address human rights-related security issues can contribute to certain SDGs and is not an exhaustive list of such links.

Cases on Human rights and security

Case brief	Goals	Targets	Due diligence
<p>Security staff receive human rights training</p> <p>The diamond mining company De Beers has included a provision concerning human rights and security in its policy for hiring private security forces that requires that all private security staff must have a clean record of human rights protection, receive training in human rights and security best practices, and will not carry out any illegal actions in their work. The policy was set out to protect employees, business partners, community members, security staff and other individuals associated with the extraction process. In its attempt to enforce this point, De Beers has carried out periodic audits, consultations with local stakeholders, and administrative oversight of the hiring process.</p>	<div><div>8</div><div>DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div><div></div></div> <div><div>16</div><div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div><div></div></div>	<div>8.8</div> <div>16.1</div> <div>16.6</div>	<div>Corporate commitment</div> <div>Assessing impacts</div> <div>Tracking and monitoring</div> <div>Stakeholder engagement</div>
<p>Company hosts security roundtable with community stakeholders</p> <p>During the pre-feasibility stage of its La Granja copper project in northern Peru, Rio Tinto developed a security strategy, which included a security assessment that incorporated the views of company security personnel, local and national security forces, members of the surrounding community, and other actors in the social and communal conflicts of the region. The assessment of security concerns led Rio Tinto to take a multifaceted approach to security and human rights concerning the La Granja project, taking into account not only relevant security concerns but also socioeconomic information that could have a bearing on the entire operation. According to the company, an independent human rights impact</p>	<div><div>8</div><div>DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</div><div></div></div> <div><div>16</div><div>PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</div><div></div></div>	<div>8.8</div> <div>16.1</div> <div>16.6</div>	<div>Assessing impacts</div> <div>Integrating and acting upon findings</div> <div>Stakeholder engagement</div>

Case brief	Goals	Targets	Due diligence
assessment was commissioned by Rio Tinto and carried out, in order to verify its own findings. The assessment led to Rio Tinto establishing roundtables with important local community stakeholders .			
<p>Gold company hosts security training for private and public personnel</p> <p>In 2014 the Kinross Gold Corporation carried out human rights and security training for 100% of its private security personnel in accordance with the company's Human Rights Adherence and Verification programme. The training was held for private security personnel along with public security personnel in the community and extraction area. It dealt with topics such as reporting, verification and investigation of allegations, and reporting on and monitoring of investigations by public officials.</p>	 	<div>8.8</div> <div>16.1</div> <div>16.6</div>	<div>Integrating and acting upon findings</div> <div>Stakeholder engagement</div> <div>Access to remedy</div>
<p>Mining company trains security personnel in human rights</p> <p>For its operations in Tanzania, Acacia Mining (formerly known as African Barrick Gold) enacted a policy that required all its security personnel to undergo training and refresher courses on the Voluntary Principles of Security and Human Rights (VPSHR) along with human rights compliance and appropriate use-of-force training. Acacia Mining has also entered a co-operative partnership with the Tanzanian police force with the aim of ensuring that human rights standards are defended and maintained throughout the company's operation in the country by supporting the training of public security officers on the VPSHR.</p>	 	<div>8.8</div> <div>16.1</div> <div>16.6</div>	<div>Corporate commitment</div> <div>Integrating and acting upon findings</div> <div>Stakeholder engagement</div>
<p>Company partners with UN to provide human rights training in the DRC</p> <p>The Tenke Fungurume Mining (TFM) company partnered with the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) in order to conduct human rights training for the public security forces assigned to work within the TFM extraction area. The training focused on the rule of law, democracy, use of force, human rights, the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, and sexual violence. It also included self-defence training for the mining police, territorial police, representatives of the national intelligence services, the public prosecutor's office, local NGO representatives, and TFM employees and contractors.</p> <p>TFM also partnered with the NGO Pact Congo to hold monthly security and human rights meetings. The meetings focus on education, challenges and good practices associated with security and human rights in Lubumbashi and the surrounding communities. With open invitations to public institutions, public security forces, private security companies, human rights NGOs and MONUSCO, these meetings are said to have served as</p>	  	<div>5.2</div> <div>8.8</div> <div>16.1</div> <div>16.6</div> <div>16.b</div>	<div>Assessing impacts</div> <div>Integrating and acting upon findings</div> <div>Stakeholder engagement</div>

Case brief	Goals	Targets	Due diligence
<p>beneficial regional forums that facilitated cooperation between extractive companies, public institutions and NGOs working within the DRC.</p>			
<p>Company-wide standards on human rights and security</p> <p>Because it operates in sites where it has identified elevated risks of local community conflict, such as the Kinsevere mine in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the Sepon Mine in Laos, the global mining company Minerals and Metals Group (MMG) has developed company-wide standards for human rights and security. The standards include a requirement for each site to conduct annual reviews to ensure that human rights risks are effectively understood and managed. It also includes a process for reporting and investigating allegations of human rights abuses by any party involved in MMG’s operations.</p>	 	<div>8.8</div> <div>16.1</div> <div>16.6</div>	<p>Corporate commitment</p> <p>Assessing impacts</p> <p>Tracking and monitoring</p> <p>Communicating and reporting</p>

DISCLAIMER*The case briefs featured on this site are not an endorsement of a particular company, their approach to human rights as such or their business model in general. Case briefs serve only as isolated illustrative examples for inspiration. The case briefs do not reflect all commitments or actions by any given company. In developing the case briefs DIHR has NOT evaluated the actual human rights and developmental outcomes or impacts of mentioned policies and activities. As such cases have been included for their ability to conceptually illustrate the link between human rights due diligence and sustainable development, not due to their verified impacts.*