

PUBLIC PERCEPTION OF PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES (PSCs) IN CRIME CONTROL WITHIN CALABAR MUNICIPALITY, CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Following rising crime rates and diminishing public trust in State security agencies, the reliance on Private Security Companies in recent times has increased, thereby raising serious public concern. This study investigates the public perception of Private Security Companies (PSCs) in crime control within Calabar Municipality, Cross River State, Nigeria. The assumptions of the structural functionalism and Routine Activity theories were adopted as theoretical framework. The research adopted a cross-sectional survey design, utilizing both quantitative and qualitative methods to collect data from 400 residents, of which 357 valid responses were analyzed. Findings reveal that a substantial portion of residents and businesses engage PSC services particularly manned guarding and physical access control measures as a strategy for crime deterrence. Statistical analysis using the Chi-square technique confirmed significant relationships between PSC services and crime reduction, as well as between the presence of security guards and improved safety. Despite their contributions, PSCs face challenges including lack of integration with public agencies, limited resources, and regulatory inconsistencies. The study recommends among others that enhanced public-private collaboration, standardized training, and the adoption of advanced security technologies to strengthen crime control efforts.

Key words: Crime, Crime Control, Private Security, Security

INTRODUCTION

The security of lives and property is one of the most popular issues globally. security issues are inevitable in any place where people live in simple or complicated societies, developed or developing societies. According to Abubakar (2019) and Afolabi, *et al.*, (2016), the protection of life and property has never been a secondary concern. Trying to protect and prevent crime, societies come up with different measures to promote the safety.

Crime and insecurity have become major concerns in many parts of the world, particularly in developing countries such as Nigeria. In recent years, the increasing rate of criminal activities such as armed robbery, burglary, kidnapping, and vandalism has placed significant pressure on public law enforcement agencies. Despite the efforts of agencies like the Nigerian Police Force,

the demand for security continues to exceed the capacity of the state. As a result, private security companies (PSCs) have emerged as important actors in the provision of security services. These companies provide a wide range of services including manned guarding, surveillance, access control, and protection of lives and property. The growth of private security in Nigeria is largely driven by public dissatisfaction with the effectiveness, responsiveness, and coverage of state security institutions.

In urban areas such as Calabar Municipality, the presence of private security personnel is increasingly visible in residential areas, business premises, banks, and institutions. These companies play a complementary role to public security agencies by helping to deter crime, control access to restricted areas, and respond to emergencies. The increasing reliance on PSCs reflects a broader shift in security governance, where the responsibility for safety is shared between public and private actors. However, despite their growing importance, concerns remain regarding their effectiveness, level of training, regulation, and collaboration with public law enforcement agencies. Given this context, it becomes necessary to examine how the public perceives the role and effectiveness of private security companies in crime control, particularly within Calabar Municipality.

In most States of Nigeria, people are increasingly relying on informal security providers due to the rising insecurity levels and the loss of confidence in the State institutions, especially the police (Oyebambi, 2024). Lack of capacity of formal State agencies to provide adequate security, law and order, and provision of justice has facilitated the emergence of different non-State actors (Ogbozor, 2016). Igbo (2011) posits that in the post-civil war era, there was a reappearance of old criminals and more sophisticated ones, indicating that the existing security systems in the country are under threat as the incidences of crime keep increasing. Insecurity has increased with the recent cases of kidnapping, bandits, terrorism, cybercrime and armed robbery, which have been fuelled by easy access to guns thus significantly changing the nature and magnitude of criminal activities.

In addition, the Global Peace Index (2012), as cited in Achiumba, *et al.*, (2013) has always rated Nigeria lower, an aspect that shows how security is deteriorating in the country. Despite the introduction of new policing strategies, none has offered a long-lasting solution to the problem, which can be attributed to the fact that the security agencies have limited ability to deal with the existing threats. This weakness is further aggravated by the reality that the police is usually inadequately funded and not well equipped to deal with the emerging criminal organizations (Kwaja, 2014). The same argument is presented by Achumba *et al.*, (2013) that states that insecurity levels in Nigeria have become larger than the government can handle. Consequently, the failures of the police and the growing displeasure of the people led to the development of the services of the private security firms to supplement the official security agencies but make their operations within the legal framework. Oladele (2020) explicates that PSCs are informal systems like a vigilante group that is meant to address increasing crime. This has led to the development of the civilian private security sector to address the unmet security needs of the society (Abubakar, 2019; Enechojo, 2013).

Studies indicate that many Nigerians, particularly in urban areas, prefer hiring private security services over depending solely on public law enforcement agencies (Ajayi and Okonkwo, 2022). This preference is driven by the perception that private security firms provide faster responses, better-trained personnel, and more personalized security services (Ekhomu, 2021). As a result, private security companies have expanded significantly in Nigeria, operating in

various sectors, including residential communities, corporate organizations, and critical infrastructure protection (Van StedenandSarre, 2022).

However, despite their growing relevance, private security firms in Nigeria face numerous challenges. These include poor regulation, lack of proper training, limited legal authority, and concerns over professionalism and accountability (Ojo, 2023). Unlike in developed countries where private security is well-integrated into national security frameworks, Nigeria's PSCs operate in a largely uncoordinated manner, often lacking clear collaboration with public security agencies (Ndifon and Ekpo, 2023). This lack of integration raises concerns about the effectiveness of private security firms in addressing complex security threats. Calabar Municipality, like many urban areas in Nigeria, is confronted with increasing levels of insecurity, including burglary, violent crimes, and cult-related violence (Ndifon and Ekpo, 2023). The inability of law enforcement agencies to fully control these threats has created a security gap, making private security companies crucial in protecting lives and property. However, little research has been conducted on public perception and effectiveness of PSCs in crime control within Calabar Municipality. Therefore, this study seeks to examine the impact of private security companies in mitigating crime and their potential contributions to the overall security framework in the region.

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Issues on Private Security

Privatization of security has emerged as one of the most rapidly expanding industry in the global society especially in developing countries such as Nigeria where the State security agencies are overworked. The PSCs are registered companies within the law of the land and engage in manned guarding, access control, surveillance, as well as investigations services to individuals or corporate clients (Adebayo and Ogunlana, 2023).

According to Ojo and Ebong (2024), PSCs in Nigeria have grown to be important players in the security of urban areas, acting as bridges to the unfeasible underfunded and overworking public police forces. In contrast with State police, PSCs work on the principle of a client-oriented approach, providing individual services - beginning with uniformed guards to electronic control. The Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) regulate their activities under the Private Guard Companies Act CAP P30 LFN 2004. In line with world trends, Adekunle and Mbanefo (2023) postulate that the globalization of the private security industry is an indication of the shift in the monopoly of coercive power by the state to a more pluralistic crime-controlling system. This wider trend of moving towards plural policing, in which the responsibility of keeping things safe is shared by both the government and the civil society, is reflected in the development of PSCs in Nigeria (Crawford and Lister, 2023).

Specifically, differences in the definition of the concept of private security occur because of differences in job operations, profitability, client interactions, and the incorporation of security-related services like equipment production and installation (Cunningham *et al.*, 1990). In the initial RAND research, private security was defined as the provision of service in the form of guarding, patrol, detection of liars, alarm, and armored transport by individuals or organizations (KakalikandWildhorn, 1971), which is basically concerned with crime prevention and detection. This definition was later expanded by Hallcrest (2005) to include physical, informational and employment-related security claiming that this has a greater scope of the activity of private security work in comparison with previous definitions. The concept was further extended by Bottom and Kostanoski (1983) who established five major protection areas

by the private security, which included crime, waste, accidents, errors and unethical acts. The questioning of the Research and Development Corporation (RAND) definition was criticized by the Private Security Task Force (PSTF), which was a creation of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) and that was too narrow and that failed to acknowledge that the industry was driven by profit. PSTF hence came up with an inclusive definition which encompassed self-employed practitioners and privately funded organizations that offer protection to clients or assets except when these were quasi-public units except when privately funded ones (Cunningham, *et al.*, 1990).

Issues on Crime

Crime is a social construct that evolves with time and context. Legally, it refers to acts or omissions punishable under the criminal laws of a society (Alemika and Chukwuma, 2023). Sociologically, crime is defined as any behavior that violates societal norms and provokes a formal response such as punishment or correction (Quinney, 2006). Current literature emphasizes that crimes in urban Nigeria have become more sophisticated and violent, involving organized gangs, cybercriminals, cultists, and armed robbers (CLEEN Foundation, 2023). Urban centers like Calabar are particularly vulnerable due to rapid urbanization, unemployment, and weak law enforcement structures (Akpan and Iwara, 2024).

The definition of crime, as most social scientific cases, lacks a universal definition. Though crime can sound as simple as defining wrongdoing or morally wrong act, morals are not universal, so it is a question why all actions, which are immoral, are criminal acts, and why not every criminal act is immoral. Crime can technically be defined in the context of breaking the rules or laws that a force, typically, a legal system, penalizes. In the social and legal spheres, crime is a set of facts or presumptions that constitute a case whereby some actions that are criminalized under criminal law have been perpetrated, and a penalty is consequently imposed (either in the form of fines, imprisonment or even death) (Larry, 2012). Scott and Marshall (2009) define crime as an activity that crosses the borders of self to the social realm through the violation of legal or prohibitory regulations to which one can be punished officially. To be considered a crime, the act has to be made noticeable by the authority of the population, it has to be reported, documented, and, perhaps, investigated by the police or some other organization. Then it might be represented in the crime statistics and may or may not result in prosecution. Normative perspective takes crime as deviant behavior which infringes on the norms of society, i.e. cultural norms of what is expected (Quinney, 2006). This method considers the evolving social, political, economic and psychological circumstances which influence the definition of crime and how the societies react to it by enforcing the law or punishing the offenders. With the development of societies, some behaviors can be criminalized or decriminalized, which influences crime statistics, a distribution of resources, and attitudes of people. Conflict theorists perceive crime as influenced by the ruling class interests. Quinney (2005) argues that the laws that are made by the people in power are the ones that advance their own interests whereas the crimes that the lower classes commit are a result of poor living conditions and conflicting interests with those of the elites. The ruling elite also influence the beliefs of people regarding crime, in a manner that works to their advantage and disbelieve the people at the bottom of the society.

According to Dambazau (2007), crime refers to an action or failure to do an action, which contravenes the common good and is forbidden by a law in the general welfare of the entire society, with the prescribed sanctions. Crime is viewed as infraction of regulations that have been accepted in the society, and these should be punished to those who violate them. The same is stressed by Mathews (2010) who views crime as a social and ethical evil. Also, social

transformations, including modernization and introduction to western ways of life, have been attributed to novel expressions of crime. The concept of crime is also known as a social construct, the meaning of which changes through time and place. Its definition may be developed through interaction of four major players such as victims, offenders, the state, and the public. Criminologists point out two fundamental elements of crime, which are the act of crime (commission or omission) and the motive or intention to act crime. They both are threats to life, property and well-being. The situation will not be a crime when either of the elements is missing. Crime control can be defined as attempts to prevent, lessen or dishearten criminal act as a society. It entails policies, programs and strategies that seek to reduce crime and even limit criminal activities (Igbo, 2007).

Legal Framework for Private Security Companies

Private Security Companies operate under specific legal guidelines in Nigeria. The NSCDC regulates licensing, training, and operational standards. PSCs are not permitted to carry firearms, and their primary functions include guarding, surveillance, access control, and crime deterrence (NSCDC, 2024). Recent reforms proposed by the Federal Ministry of Interior seek to professionalize PSC operations through enhanced training standards, central databases of registered firms, and technology integration (Ministry of Interior, 2023). However, regulatory gaps remain. Many firms operate without proper licensing, contributing to the proliferation of low-quality security services (Oyetunde, 2025).

Although it is not decided in which definition of a private security company (PSC) to be considered as the universal and singular definition, their role in the process of security provision is quite established. Anyanwu (2012) also cited in Chinwokwu (2018) states that PSCs offer a great variety of services like armed and unarmed guarding, patrol, escort, valuables and goods movement, intelligence information, trained dogs, electronic surveillance, investigation, fortification of buildings, protection of works and infrastructure, anti-kidnapping, safety and self-defense training, and weapons sales. Anyanwu (2012) also adds that these services are appealing to a wide range of clients such as government agencies, individual industries, corporate organizations and more and more individuals, who need to secure their property and lives. He points out that the essence of the PSCs is the crime prevention and control with the purpose of protecting people and property.

Under private guards' company act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (1990) under the CAP 367, firearms are not supposed to be used by them when they are carrying out their duties. Their roles go beyond securing the public and private areas to implement combined patrols alongside the police, providing escort services to airports, protection of key areas, executive protection, security consultations, risk assessments, electronic surveillance, audio intelligence, installing alarms, carrying of money, security awareness training, dog-handling services, private investigations, protocol duties, security driving, crime analysis, custodial services, environmental cleaning, fraud examination, strategic planning, forensic analysis, and expert testimony in court (Ekhomu, 2005; Oshanugor, 2012). These responsibilities are summed up in Section 1(1) of CAP 367 as watching, guarding, patrolling, cash-in-transit protection, and crime prevention. Therefore, Ekhomu (2005) asserts that PSCs still play important roles in contributing to the national development by aiding in controlling and preventing crimes. The government consequently wants them to make a significant contribution in the socio-economic security architecture of Nigeria.

The Rationale of the Development and Proliferation of the Private Security Firms in Nigeria

Scholars have different ways of looking at the origins of private security in Nigeria. In 1965, the first PSC was founded by Alhaji Mumuni the Nigerian Security and Investigation Company, which is said to have been the first uniformed outfitting of man-guarding in the country (Ekhomu, 2005, cited in Chinwokwu, 2018). The industry has grown significantly ever since. PSCs have come to provide security to individual residences, commercial facilities, and key government installations like the National Stadium Surulere, Murtala Mohammed International Airport Lagos, Oshodi Airport Warri, oil installations, shop centres, places of worship, schools, banks as well as entertainment joints (Abrahamsen and Williams, 2005; Ekhomu, 2005; Oshanugor, 2012).

According to Kwaja (2011), which is cited in Chinwokwu (2018), the emergence of PSCs is associated with the failure of the Nigerian government to govern and provide security. Rotberg (2002) also relates the proliferation of insecurity and poor states structures to the propagation of private security. Reno (1997) uses the examples of Angola and Sierra Leone where the leaders used the services of their own military to receive the revenue, protect the territory, and run the diplomatic affairs because the state capacity was reduced. He explains how privatized security has been used as a strategy by weak governments to negate domestic threats (Reno, 1998). Patrick (2006) further adds that weak states can hardly sustain a monopoly on the legal use of force and this situation paves way to the development of private security industries.

The country of Nigeria is faced with violent crime and terrorism whose lack of a proper government response may be indicative of a weak state, thereby augmenting the reliance of a population on PSCs. According to Shreier and Caparini (2005), PSC development can be explained by the lack of resources in the state security agencies. Corruption and mismanagement however are usually associated with this shortage in Nigeria.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Routine Activities Theory

Routine activity theory was propounded by Cohen and Felson in (1979). The routine activity theory is based on three assumptions where an interested offender, a suitable target and a lack of a competent guardian (security measures) and the three components are required to occur so that a criminal act can be perpetrated. According to Felson (1994), targets become more appropriate and are more apt to property crimes due to routine activities and economic transformations. The use of this theory is deemed quite helpful, since the presence of a motivated offender and an appropriate target may be present and due to the vigilance and constant high-density security guards, a crime will be deterred or tamed. The reason is that the interest of private security companies is to be proactive and make sure that the opportunity to commit crimes is entirely locked up. By providing trained personnel to monitor and protect properties, public spaces, and events, PSCs can reduce the likelihood of crime by increasing the perception that potential offenders are likely to be caught.

Structural Functionalism

Structural functionalism is one of the dominant schools of thought in sociology. The theory, which owes so much to the pioneering ideas of Emile Durkheim, is better appreciated for its emphasis on social cohesion, order, or status quo maintenance. Functionalism arose from the seminal contributions of 19th-century sociologists, namely, Auguste Comte, Emile Durkheim,

Herbert Spencer, and Talcott Parsons, the father of contemporary functionalism in the 20th century. Structural functionalism uses the human body as a model for understanding society. It sees society as a multifaceted system whose components work together to produce solidarity and stability. It examines society from a macro-level perspective, which means that it focuses on the social systems that shape society in general.

According to the theory, every organ in the human body plays a crucial role in maintaining the body's equilibrium, and anything that affects one area will have an impact on how the body operates. By explaining and comprehending how its constituent components operate and how the social institutions toil endlessly to preserve the stability of the society, we can comprehend society in the same way that we can comprehend the body (Durkheim, 1987).

In relation to this study, structural functionalism helps illuminate the various roles that private security companies play in crime control by emphasizing their contributions to societal changes, division of labour, economic stability and buffering effects against failures in public institutions. Through this lens, private security can be understood as an integral part of the broader social system aimed at maintaining stability and addressing security needs in Calabar Municipality, Cross River State.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A Cross-sectional survey research design was adopted for this study. Calabar Municipal is the Local Government Area within the Cross River State in Nigeria, and its headquarters is in Calabar city. It is located between 4 o 15 N and 8 o 25 E with the Great Kwa River on its north and Mouth of Calabar River on its south, and Calabar South LGA. The city has an area of approximately 331.551 square kilometers. Calabar Municipal is the capital of the Cross River State and a headquarters of the Southern Senatorial District. The region has experienced a few changes of its management. It was the former capital of the Southern Protectorate and was forced to give it up to Lagos in 1904. Calabar also led the Local Government governing the former Eastern Region until the year 1952 when the leadership was taken by the Chairman Benjamin Ekaluo and the Vice Chairman Essien Kooffreh through the 1952 Local Government Ordinance. Chief Eniang Essien thereafter replaced Ekaluo. Calabar Municipality (population as at 2006 census) has a population of 179, 392. However, using 3% annual population projection increase. The 2025 population of Calabar Municipality is estimated to have 281,645.

The population was made up of 150,722 males and 130,723 females. Additionally, the study sample included 400 persons aged 18 years and above who are residents of Calabar municipality. The sample size was calculated using Yamane's (1967) statistical method. The study used both nonprobability and probability sampling techniques. To maximize the study's results, the researchers used both quantitative and qualitative methods. Structured questionnaires and the In-Depth Interview (IDI) were tools utilized to gather quantitative and qualitative data for this study. The Test-Retest Reliability Technique was used in the investigation. The Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 was employed to manage and analyze the data collected for this study. Descriptive statistics, encompassing fundamental percentages, and frequency distributions, were employed to organize, display, analyze, and interpret the data.

RESULTS

Table 1: Respondents' views on the type of security service do you use

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Manned Guarding (Security Guards)	107	30.0
Access Control Systems	55	15.4
CCTV Surveillance	70	19.6
Alarm Systems	35	9.8
Not applicable	90	25.2
Total	357	100

Field survey, 2025

Table 1 shows that majority of the respondents (30.0%) indicated that manned guarding (Security Guards) is the type of security service they use. Others in use include access control systems, CCTV Surveillance and Alarm Systems. This finding is supported by data from the IDI.

One of the interviewees stated:

Yes, we use them (private security guards) a lot especially in my estate. What we have fully adopted is the use of manned security for adequate security within this area. We cannot rely on the police alone, so we just go out of our way to protect our places of work and where we live (Male, 35, business owner).

Another interviewee stated:

There are different kinds of private security systems including access control systems and CCTV surveillance. We use a mix of these and then also ensure that we have security on ground. Manned security personnel are at the top in terms of use here (Female, 29, business owner).

From the finding above, it is glaring that man guarding remains the major type of private security services been patronized by the residence of Calabar municipality. Therefore, it is safe to assert, that man guarding, is widely recognized and patronized as the most private security services in the entire Calabar municipality

Table 2: Respondents' views on whether they believe the presence of security guards helps in crime control

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Yes, greatly	293	82.1
Yes, but only in certain cases	47	13.2
No, they are not effective	17	4.8
Total	357	100

Field survey, 2025.

Table 2 shows that an overwhelming majority of respondents (82.1%) indicated that security measures are greatly effective in their premises. Some respondents (13.2%) reported they are effective only in certain cases, while a small minority (4.8%) said they are not effective. This finding is reinforced by data from the IDI.

One of the interviewees stated:

These security arrangements work very well for us. Since we installed the systems, we've seen a big drop in incidents. I can say they're highly effective in keeping our property safe. (Male, 38, shop owner).

Another interviewee added:

They help most of the time, but I've seen cases where determined criminals still find ways around them. So, they're effective but not perfect in every situation (Female, 29, office worker).

Table 3: Respondents' views on how security guards contribute to crime control in their area

<i>Responses</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Immediate response to threats	171	49.6
Visible deterrence to criminals	76	21.2
Collaboration with law enforcement	110	30.8
Total	357	100

Field survey, 2025

Table 3 shows that nearly half of respondents (49.6%) believe security guards contribute most through immediate response to threats. Others highlighted their role as visible deterrence to criminals (21.2%) and collaboration with law enforcement (30.8%). These findings are supported by IDI data.

One interviewee stated:

The guards in our estate are very quick to respond when there's any suspicious activity. Just last week they caught some thieves trying to break into a house. (Male, 41, estate resident).

Another interviewee added:

Just having guards present stops many crimes before they happen. Criminals see the uniforms and go elsewhere looking for easier targets. (Female, 35, business owner).

From the findings, as well as opinions of the interviewees, as capture in Tables 4.6 and 4.7, there is an affirmation that the presences of security guards help greatly in crime control within Calabar municipality. Also, this security guards as part of their contribution to crime control, provide immediate response to threats, therefore, it is safe to state vehemently, that the presences of security guards, which is one of the significant services of private security companies, play a crucial role towards crime control.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This study investigated private security utilization in Calabar Municipality, Cross River State, Nigeria. The findings reveal several important patterns regarding security service usage and effectiveness. First, the study examined whether residents and businesses patronize private security companies. The data shows that majority of respondents (74.8%) use private security services, with manned guarding (security guards) being the most common service (30.0%). This finding is supported by interview responses where participants emphasized their reliance on security guards. As one business owner stated: "We cannot rely on the police alone, so we

just go out of our way to protect our places of work and where we live." This confirms that private security has become an essential complement to state security services in the area.

Regarding physical access control measures, the study found that security barriers (gates and fences) are the most widely used (59.7%). Many respondents (36.4%) reported these measures significantly reduce crime, though some (21.8%) observed no noticeable effect. These mixed results suggest that while physical barriers are important, their effectiveness depends on proper implementation and maintenance. Interview participants noted that "gates and fences serve as the first layer of security," but acknowledged they are not foolproof solutions.

Concluding, the study assessed the contribution of security guards to crime control. An overwhelming majority (82.1%) believed guards are greatly effective, particularly through immediate response to threats (49.6%) and collaboration with law enforcement (30.8%). However, a small minority (4.8%) questioned their effectiveness, highlighting potential areas for improvement in guard training and equipment.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that Private Security Companies play a significant and complementary role in crime control in Calabar Municipality. The high level of patronage of PSC services demonstrates their importance in addressing the security needs of residents and businesses. However, while PSCs have become an essential component of crime control in Calabar Municipality, their optimal performance depends on improved coordination, professional development, and institutional support.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

1. **Strengthening Collaboration Between PSCs and Public Security Agencies:** Since the study identified collaboration as the most important improvement measure, there is a need to establish a formal framework that promotes cooperation between private security companies and public law enforcement agencies. This will enhance information sharing, coordinated response, and overall crime control effectiveness.
2. **Improvement of Training and Professional Standards:** Given that the effectiveness of security guards depends on their competence, private security companies should implement regular and standardized training programmes in areas such as surveillance, emergency response, and conflict management. Regulatory bodies should also enforce minimum training standards.
3. **Provision of Adequate Security Equipment:** As findings indicated that lack of equipment affects performance, PSCs should be equipped with modern tools such as communication devices, CCTV systems, and monitoring technologies to enhance their operational efficiency.
4. **Enhancement of Physical Access Control Systems:** Since physical access control was found to significantly reduce crime, property owners and organizations should invest in improved access control measures such as biometric systems, reinforced barriers, and surveillance technologies.
5. **Government Support and Regulation:** The government should strengthen the regulation of private security companies to ensure compliance with licensing requirements and operational standards. Additionally, policies should be developed to support the integration of PSCs into the broader national security framework.

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