



Yemen  
Polling  
Center

# The Security Sector in Yemen

According to the Ministry of Interior, there are a total of 171,864 police on the docket.

- 146,040 are actively performing police duties
- 40,000 are out-of-service, or serve as bodyguards for sheikhs, MPs, and other public figures
- The salaries of an additional 40,000 “ghost police officers” are thought to be received by former president Ali Abdullah Saleh
- There are 73,208 police in Sanaa city alone (42.6%)
- 90% of rural areas have no police stations

# **The Security Environment in Yemen**

Yemen's security environment was already unstable before the youth uprising.

As a result of fighting and the withdrawal of government forces in some areas, security deteriorated in many parts of the country.

Some areas, including Sana'a, have seen an improvement since President Hadi assumed the presidency, but others are still unstable.



# Public Perceptions of the Security Sector and Police Work in Yemen

A Yemen Polling Center Survey: March 28, 2013

*funded by the European Union*

## Objectives

To better understand the nature of:

- Insecurity in Yemen;
- Local security provision;
- Non-state actors;
- Attitudes of the public towards the police; and
- Gender-related security issues

**In order to provide input on necessities and opportunities for security sector reform.**

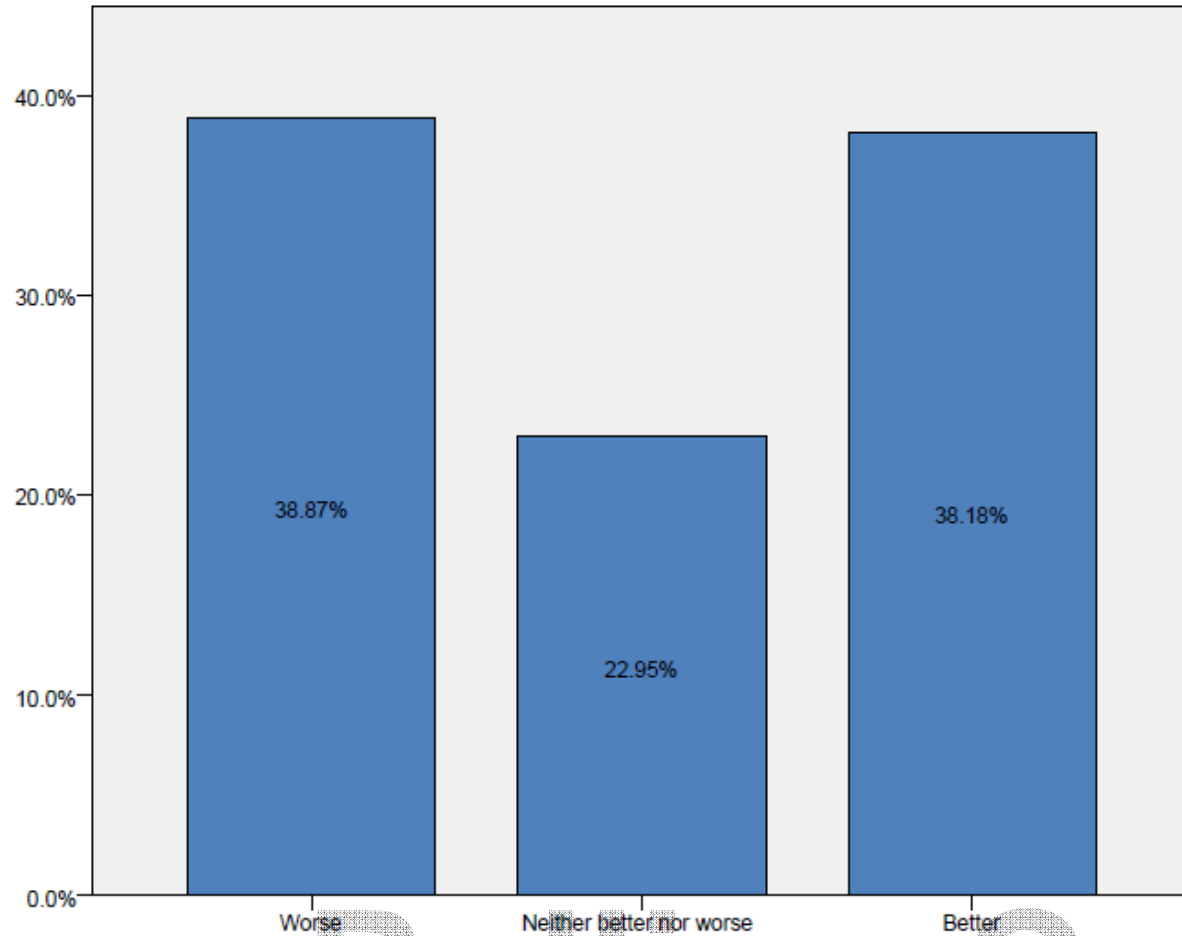
# Methodology

- Field work conducted between November and December 2012
- Target sample: 2000 respondents. Actual sample: 1990 respondents
- Yemenis aged 18+
- Even number of male and female respondents

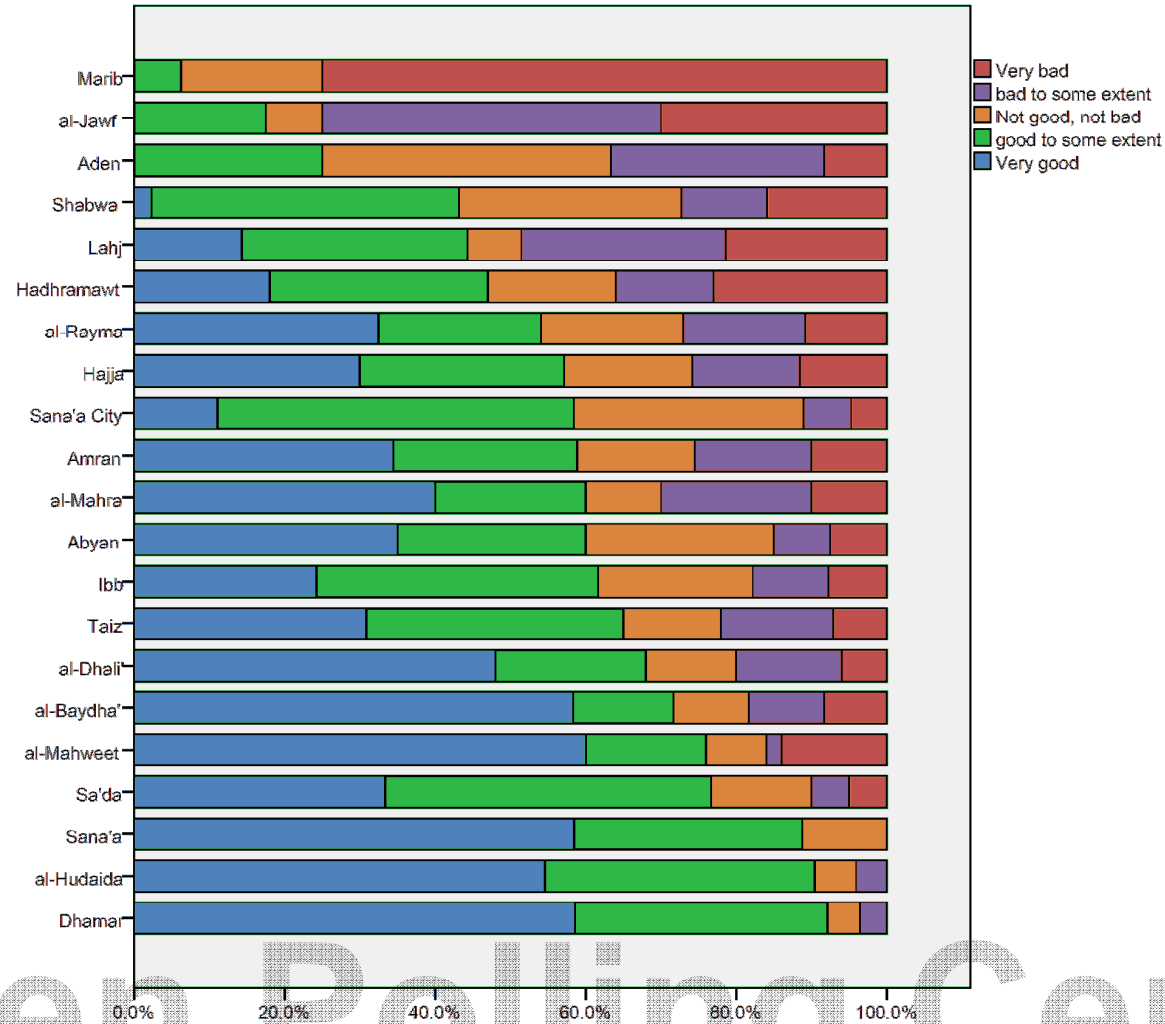


# **NATURE OF INSECURITY & SECURITY PROVISION**

I am going to list some issues and I would like you to tell me whether it is getting better or getting worse: Security Situation

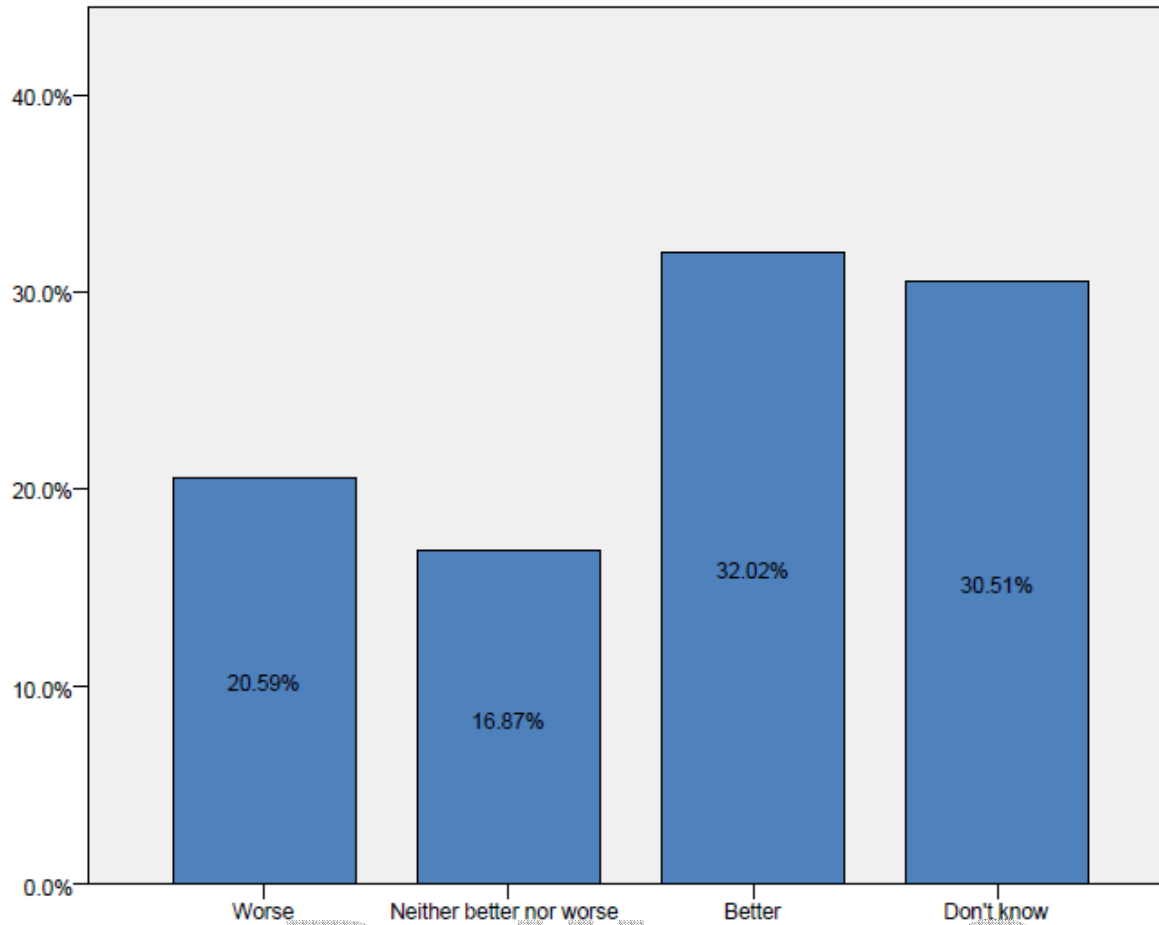


# How do you evaluate the general security situation in your area? By governorate

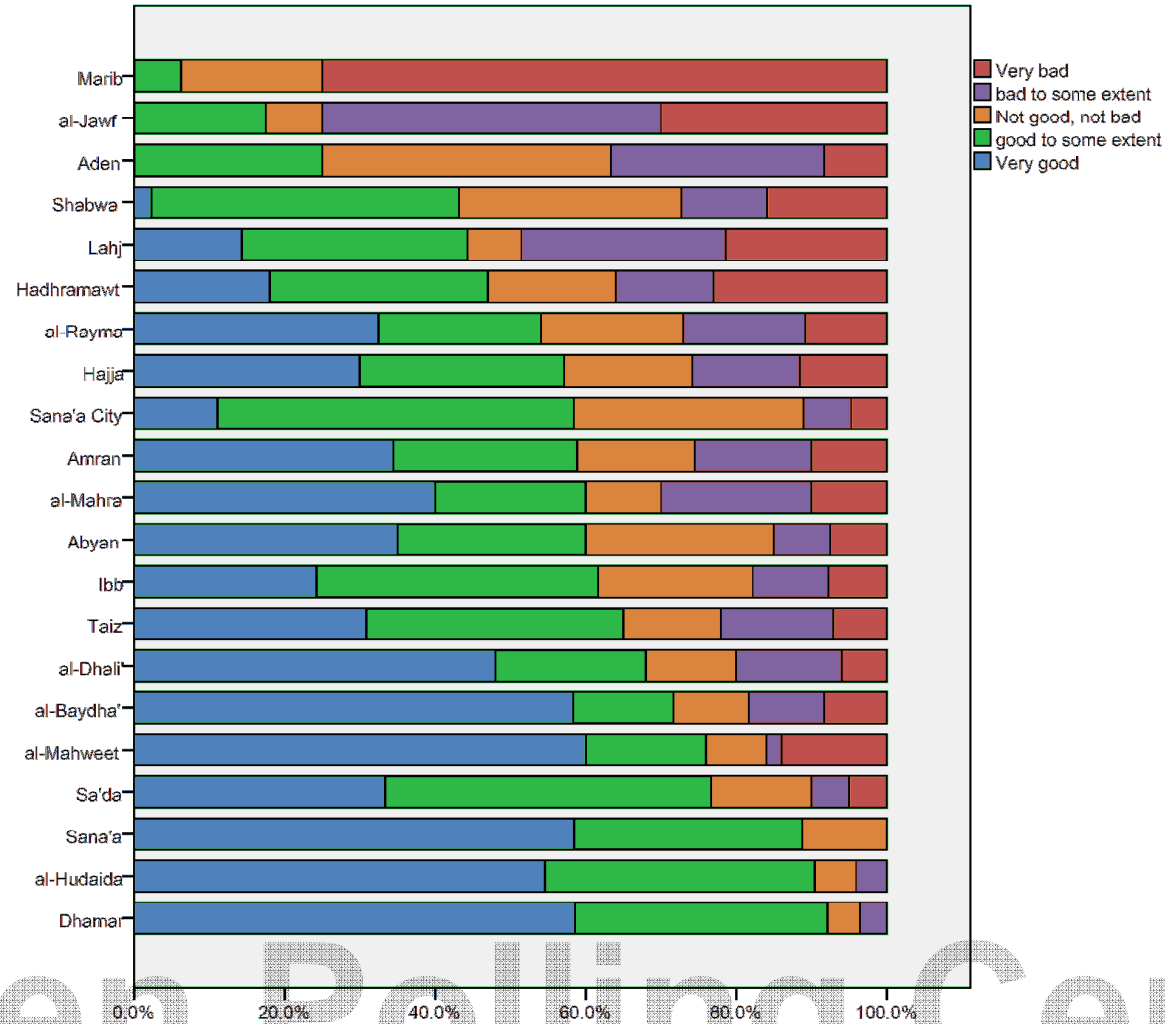




I am going to list some issues and I would like you to tell me whether it is getting better or getting worse:  
Anti-Terrorism Efforts



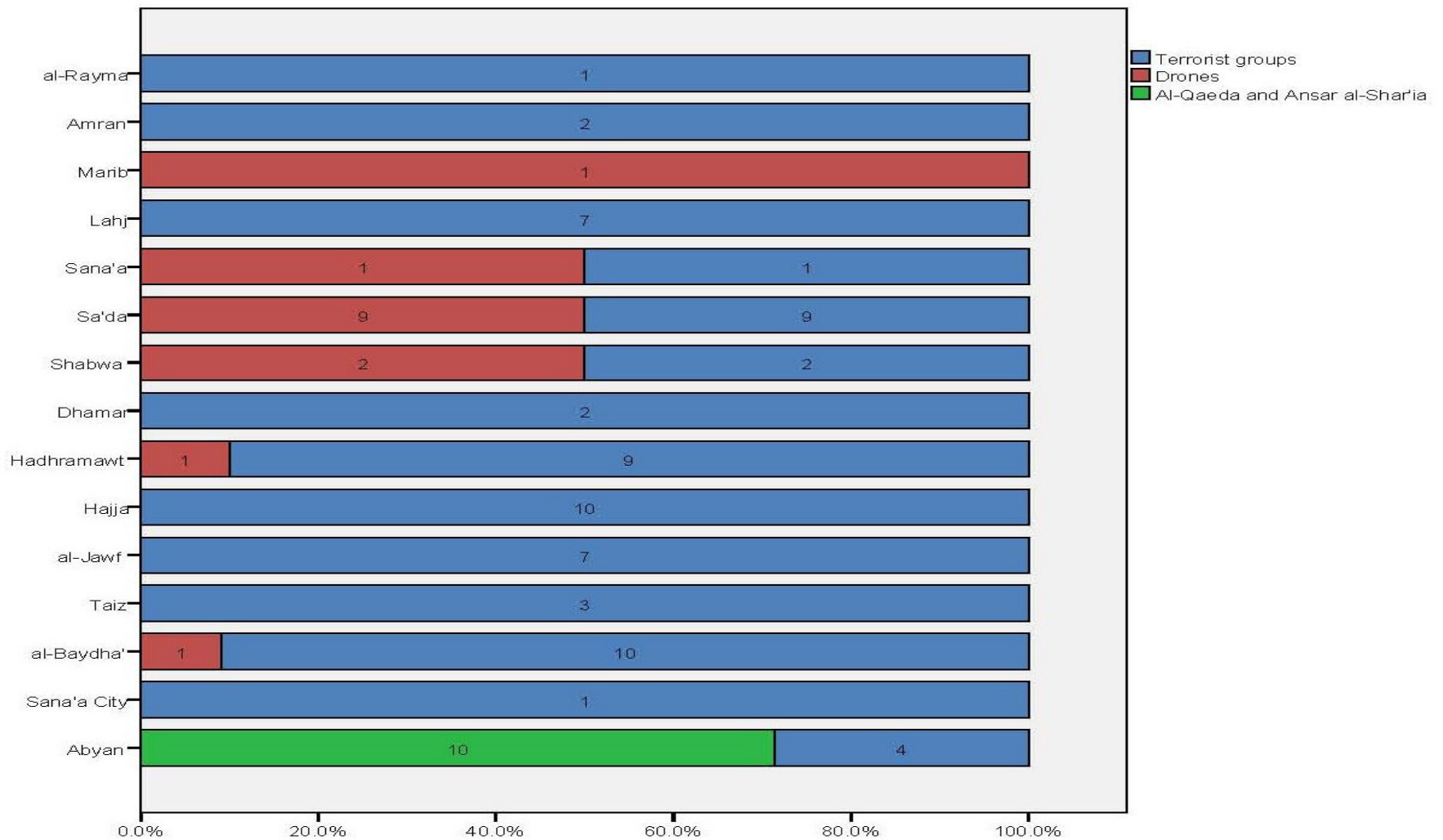
# How do you evaluate the general security situation in your area? By governorate



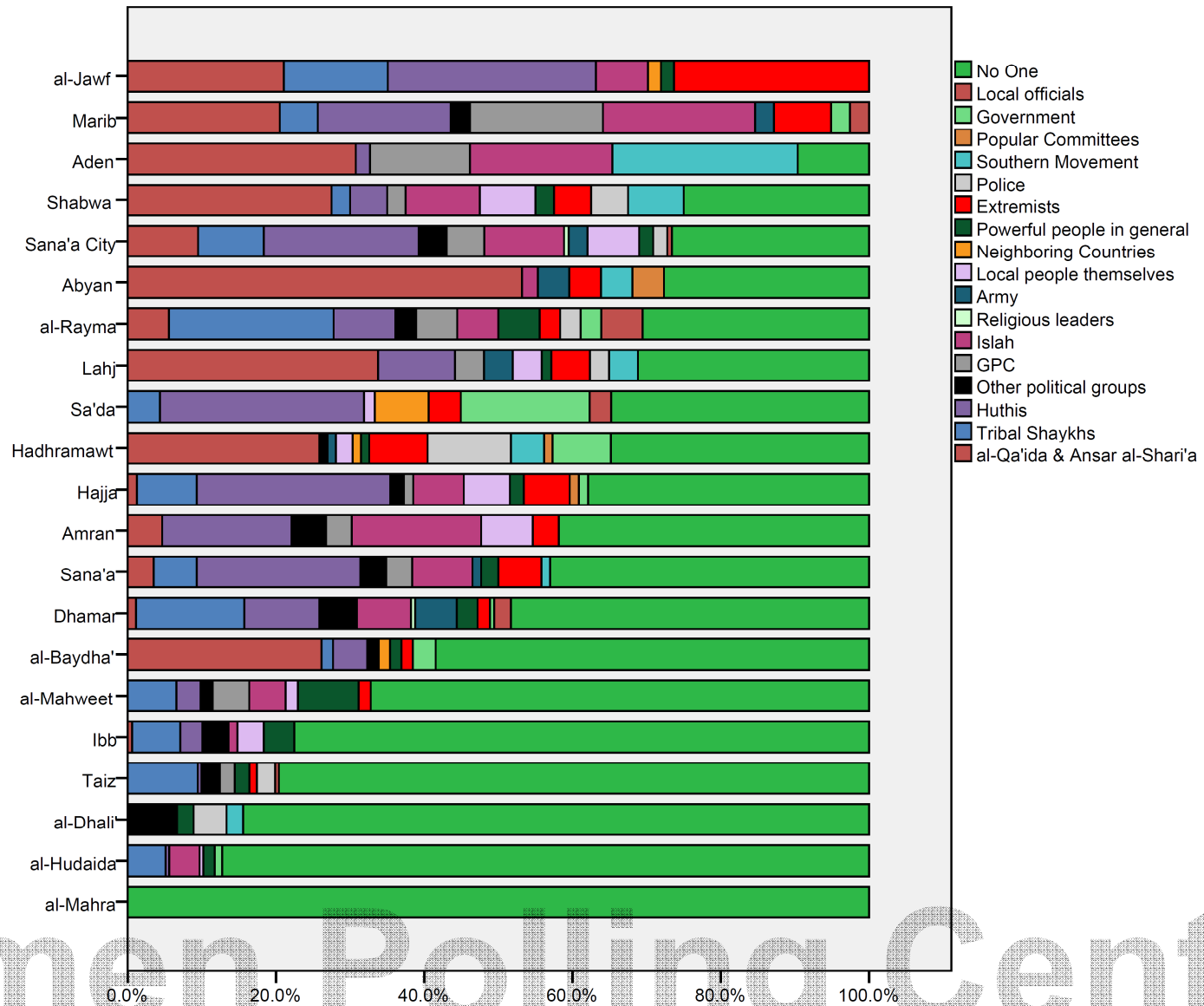
What phenomena in this area pose the greatest threats to your personal security? (open question, record one answer)

	Percentage
Tribal conflict	6.2%
Terrorist groups	3.4%
Living expenses & unemployment	17.3%
Thefts	6.8%
Armed groups	5.7%
Political conflict	2.5%
Proliferation of small arms	7.2%
Sexual harassment on the streets	1.1%
Rape	.3%
Landmines and explosive devices	.7%
Drones	.8%
Land conflicts	.8%
Family conflicts	.8%
Sectarian conflicts	1.5%
Kidnapping	1.4%
Presence of military bases in my neighborhood	.3%
Nothing	36.8%
Other	3.8%
Al-Qaeda and Ansar al-Shar'ia	.5%
Houthis	.8%
I don't know	1.5%
Refused to answer	.1%

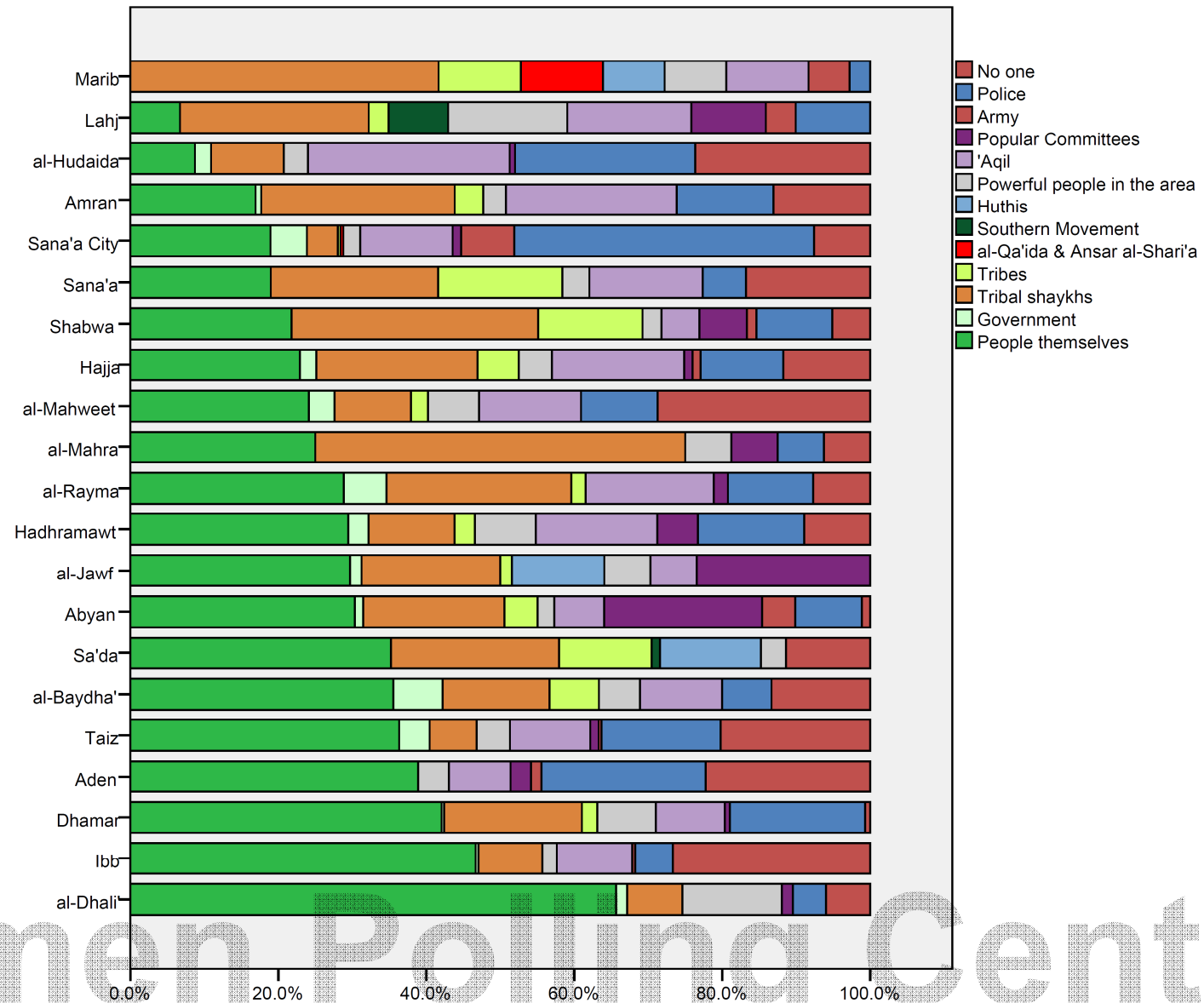
What phenomena in this area pose the greatest threats to your personal security? (open question, record one answer)



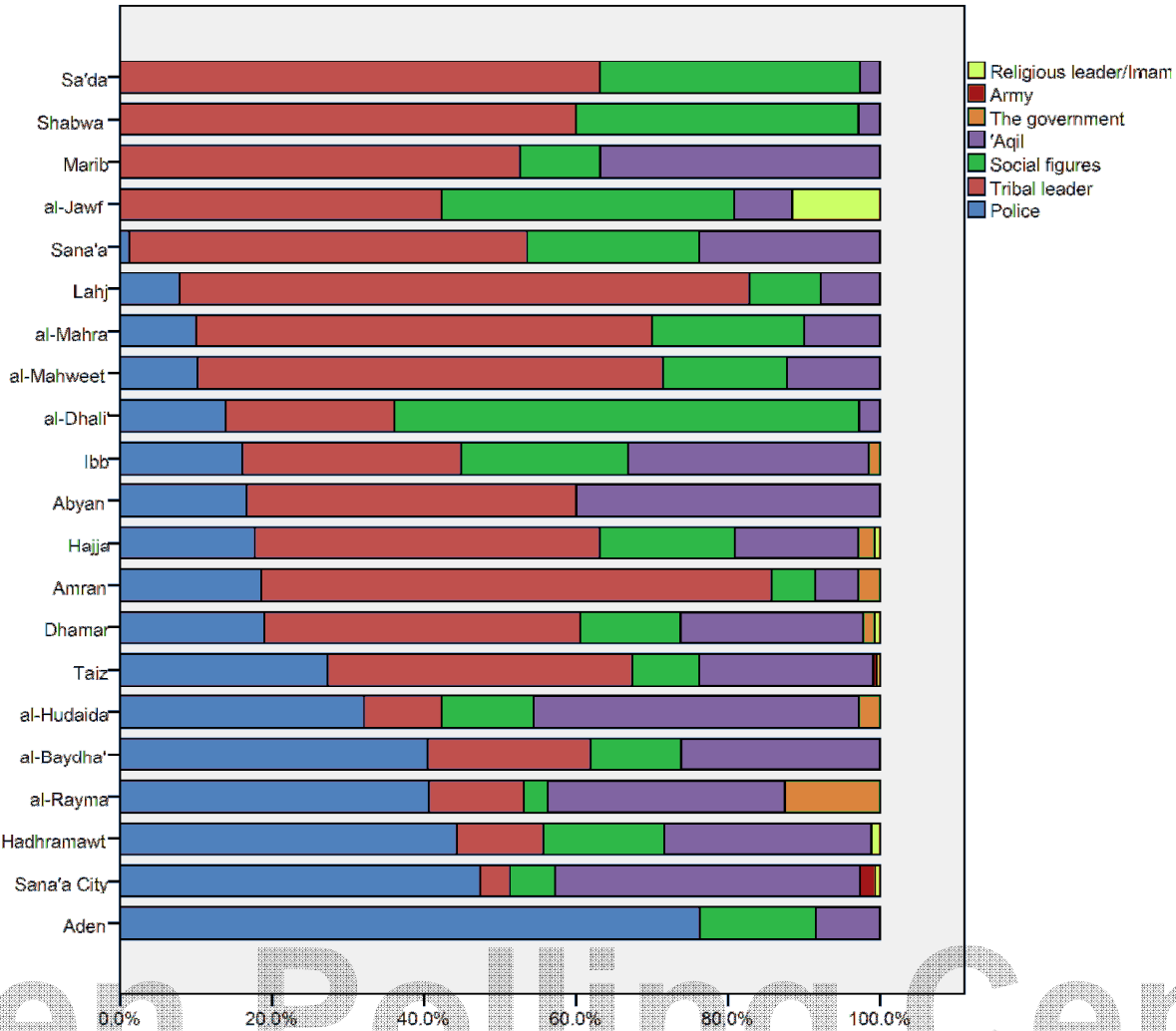
# In reality, who ruins security in this area? By governorate



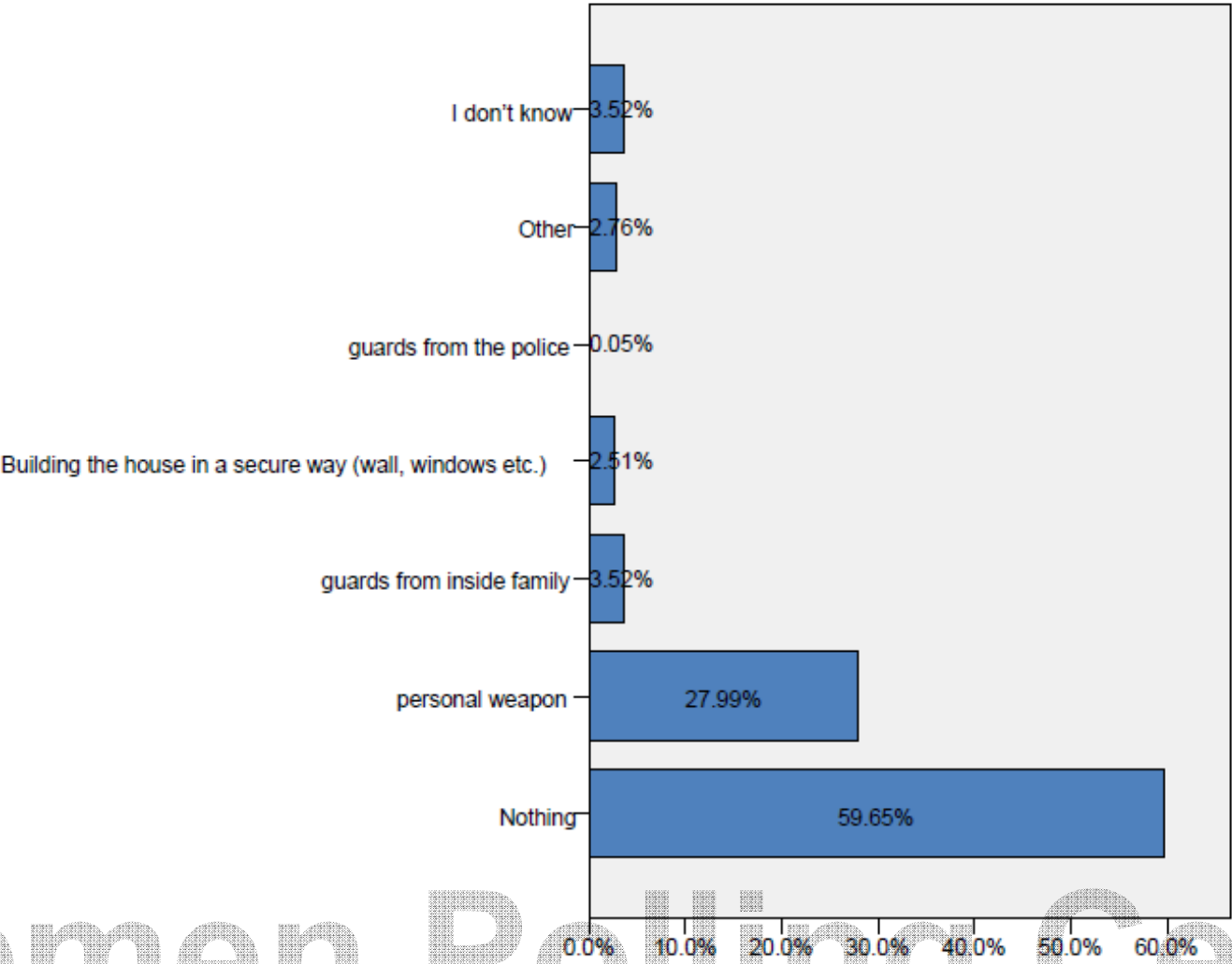
# In reality, who brings security to this area? By governorate



In general, when a problem or security incident occurs in this area, which actor deals with it first? By governorate

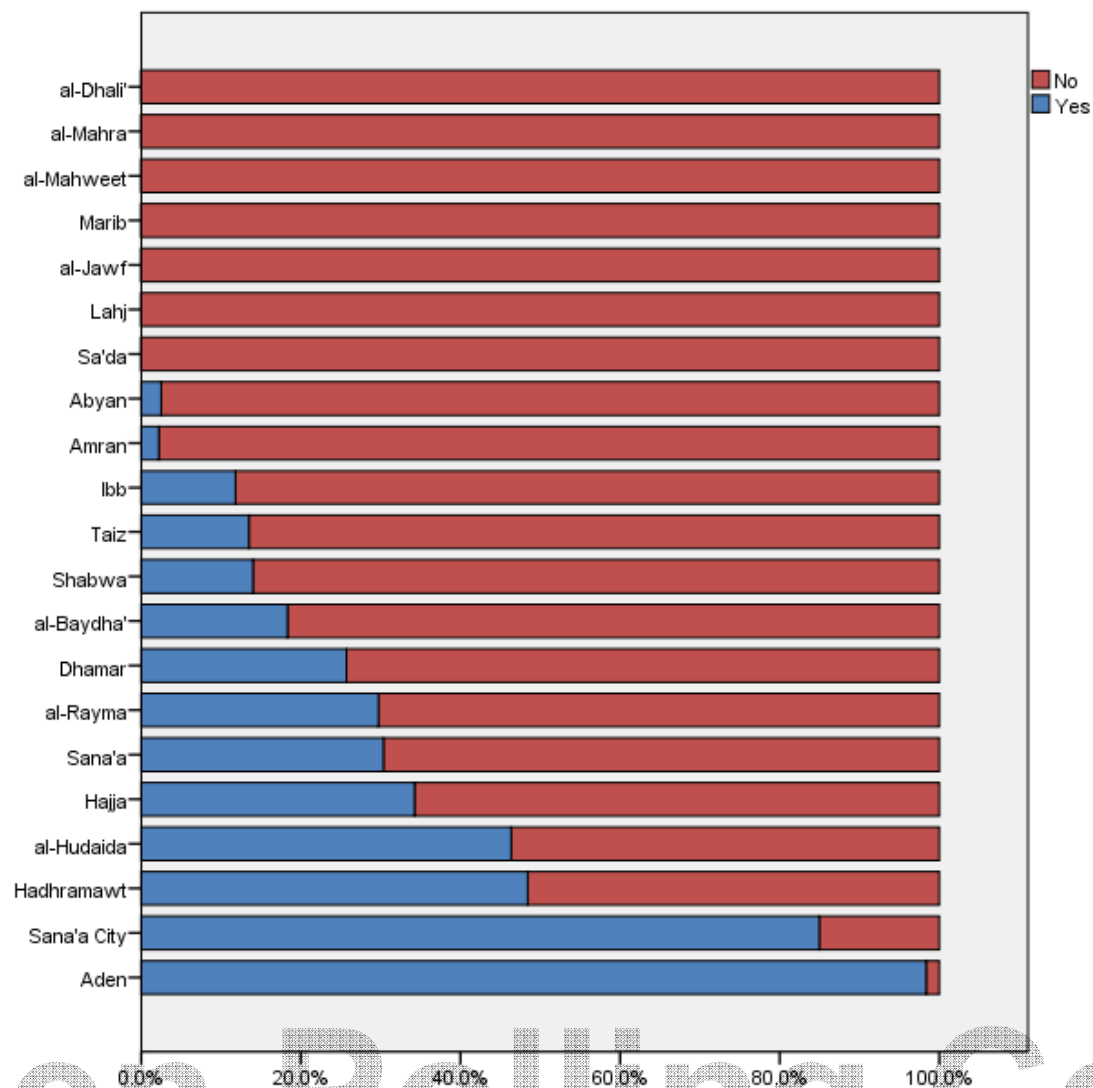


To protect yourself and your family, what procedures do you rely on? (open question, record 1 answer)





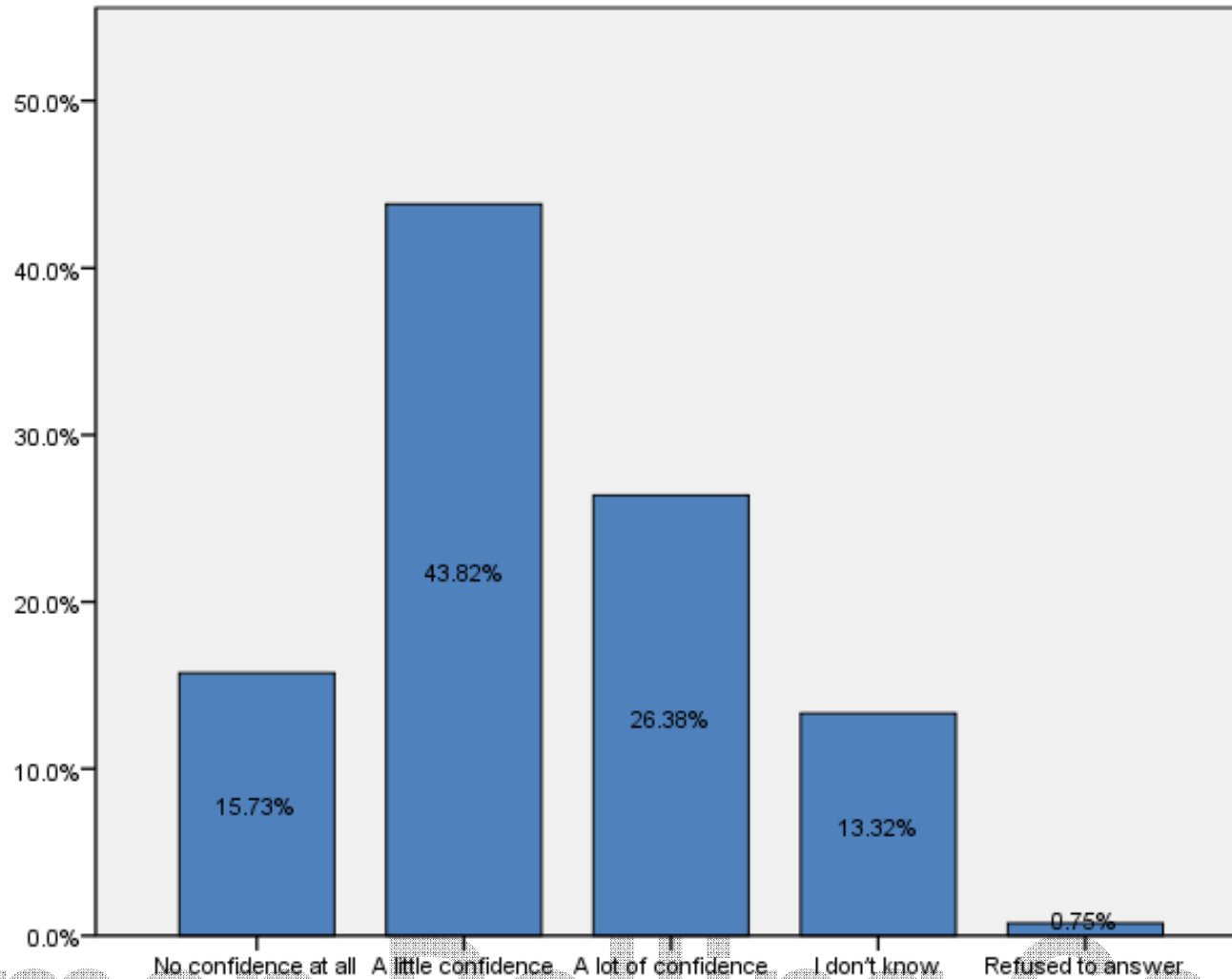
## Is there a police station in this area? By governorate



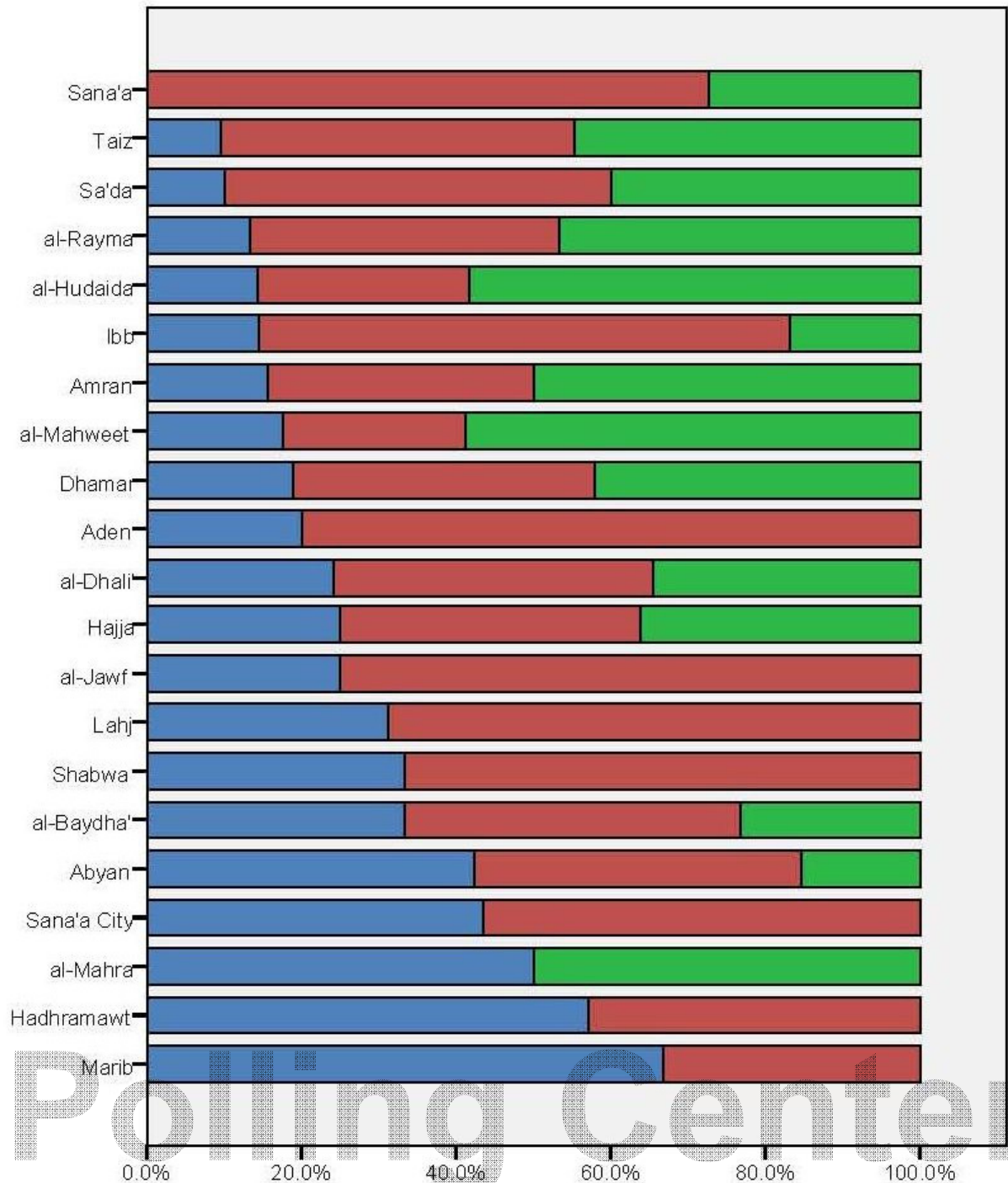


# **PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLICE AS INSTITUTION**

## How much confidence do you have in the police?

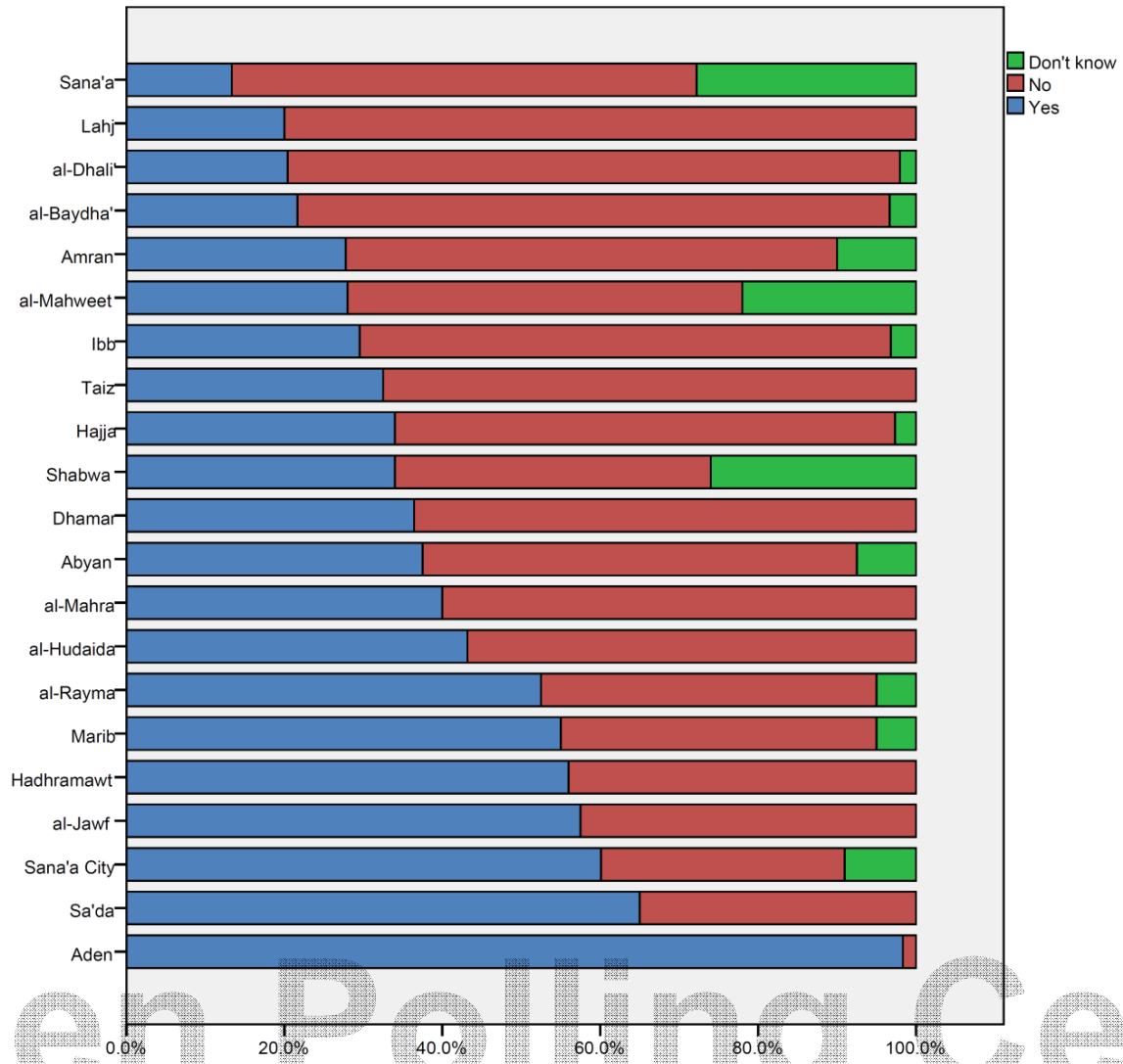


Confidence in police by respondents who said that the police is not active in their area at all



■ A lot of confidence  
■ A little confidence  
■ No confidence at all

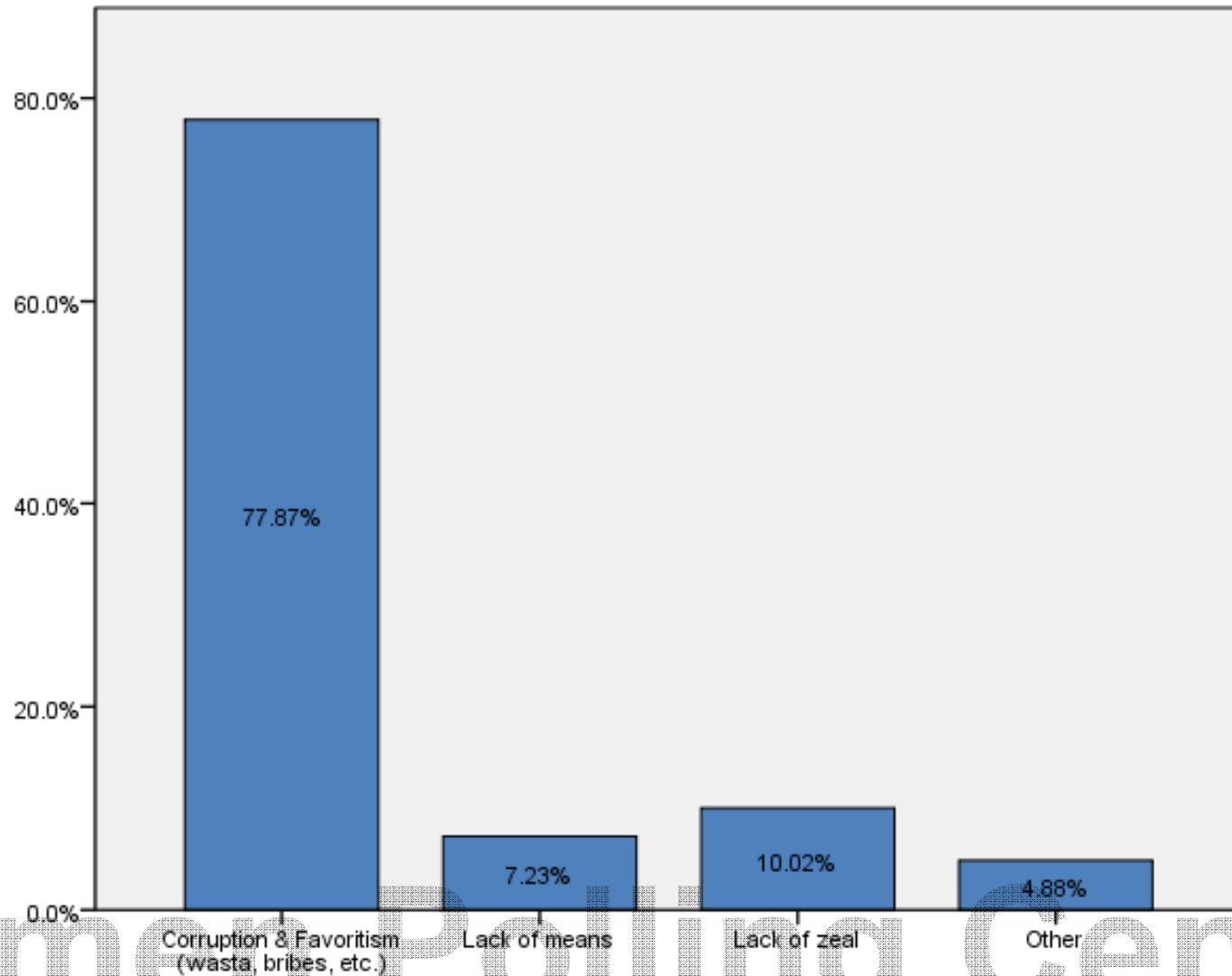
# In this area specifically, should security rest in the hands of the state alone? By governorate



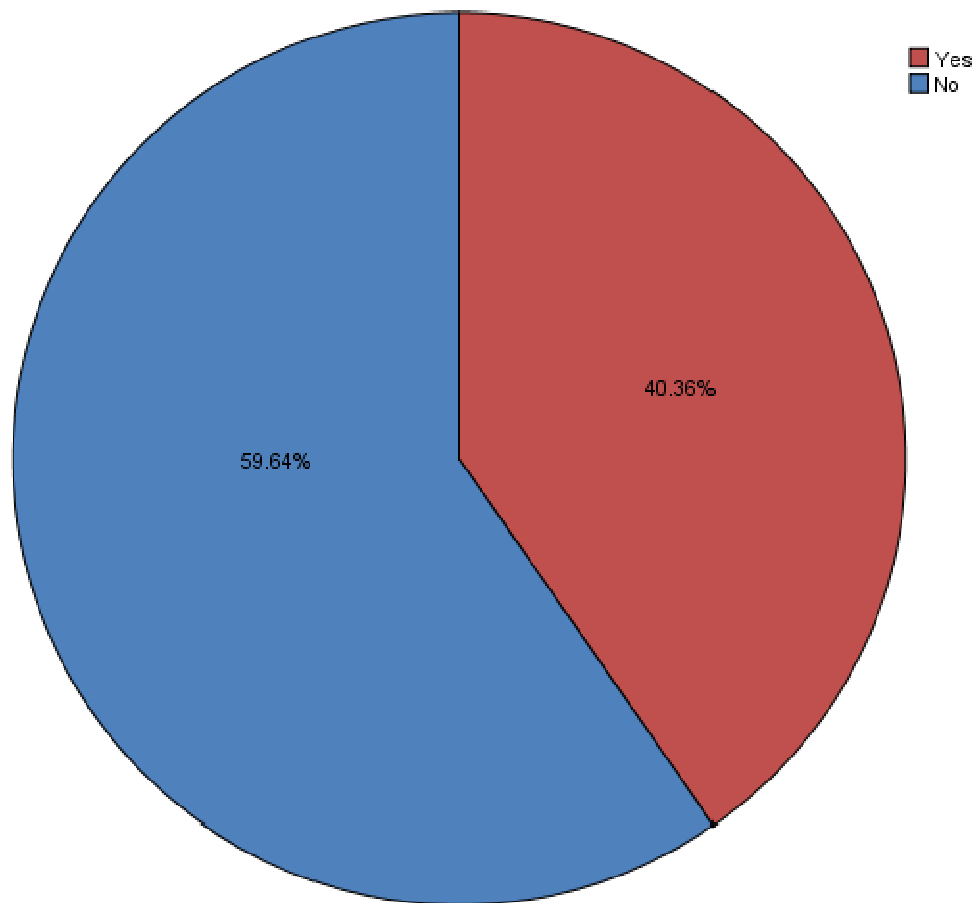


# CORRUPTION

In your opinion, what is the reason for the general lack of confidence in the police? (open question, record 1 answer)



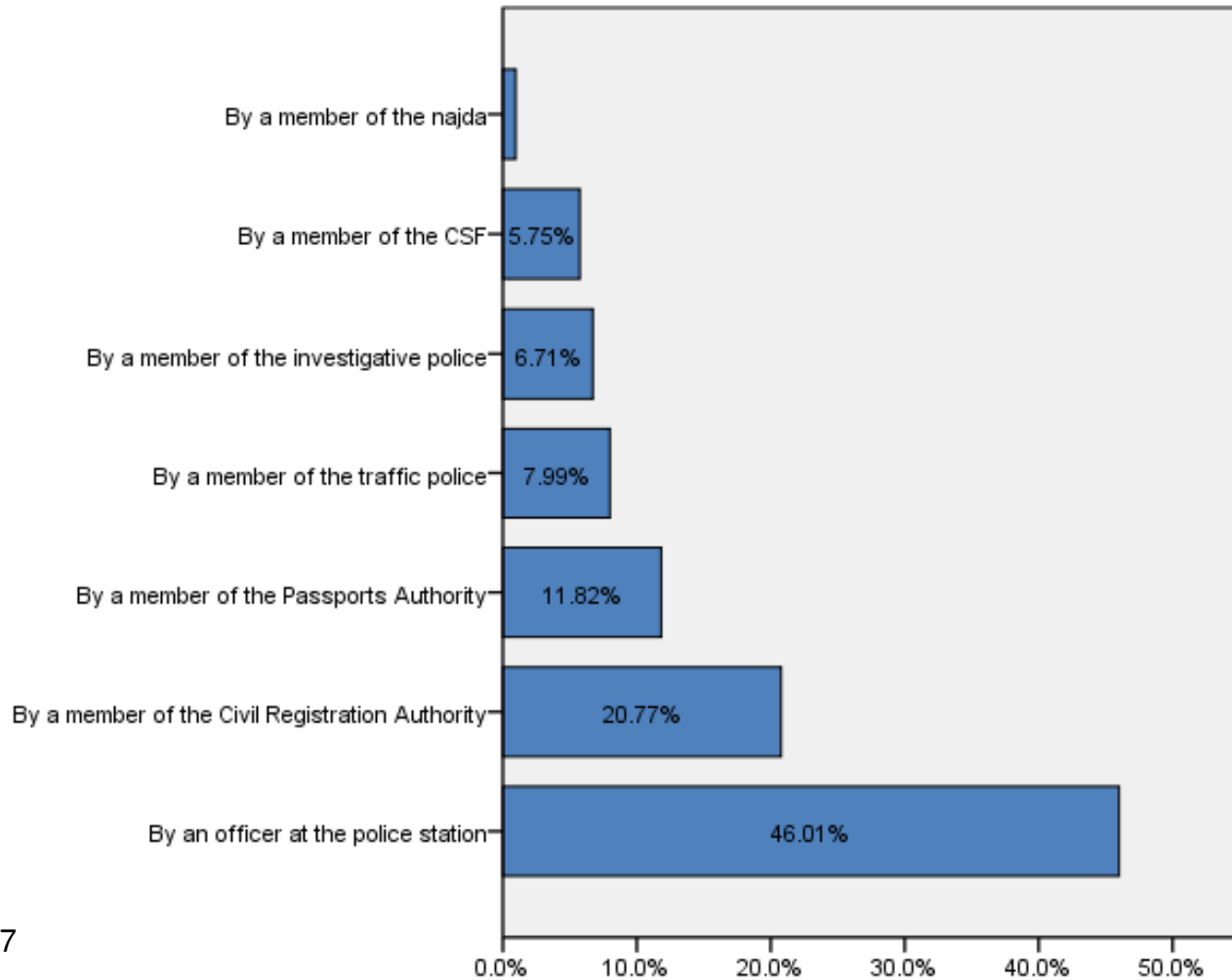
In the past twelve months, have you or a member of your family been asked for bribes? (respondents who had interacted with the police in the past twelve months)



Sample Size: 726

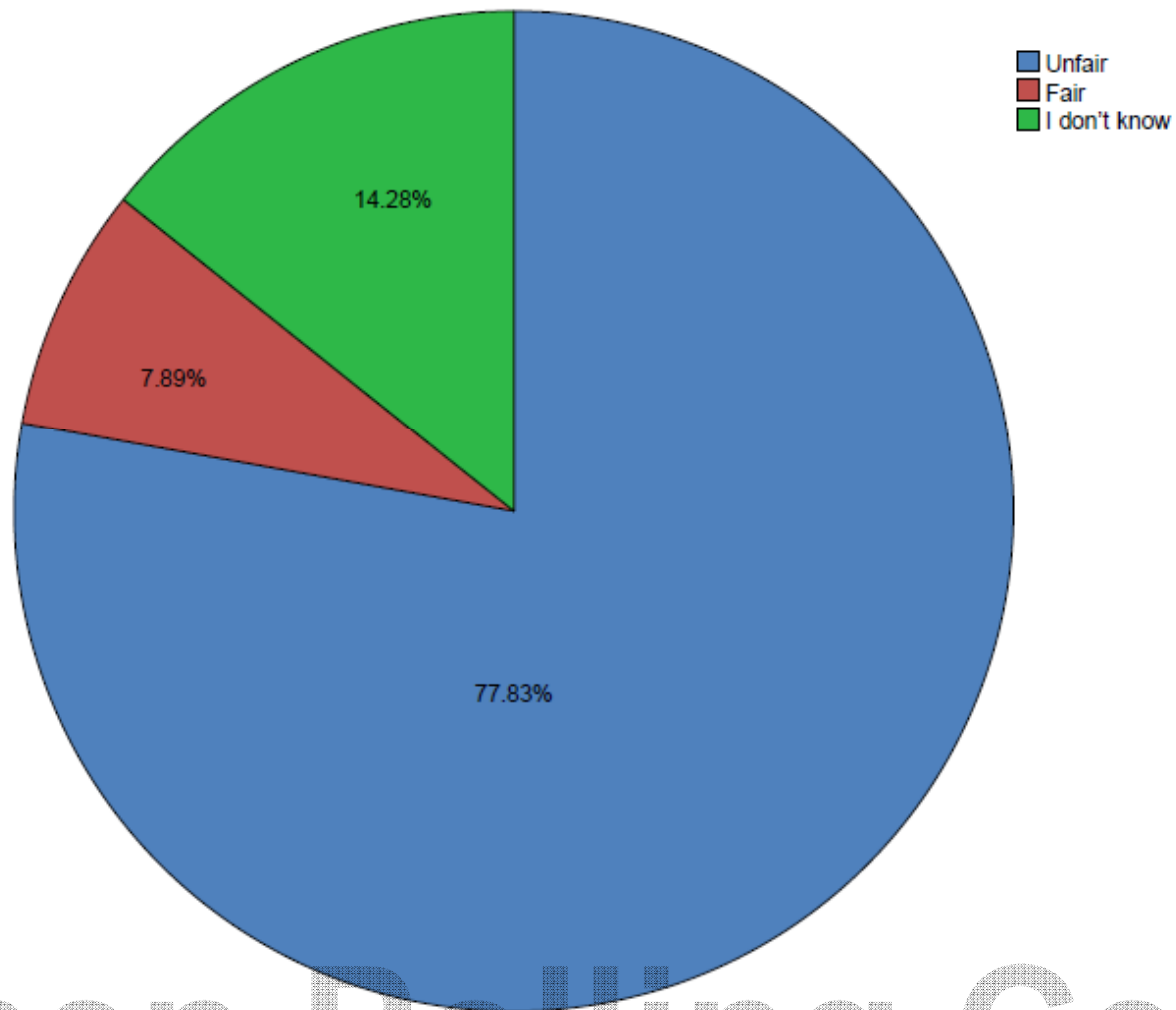


## By whom were you asked for a bribe?

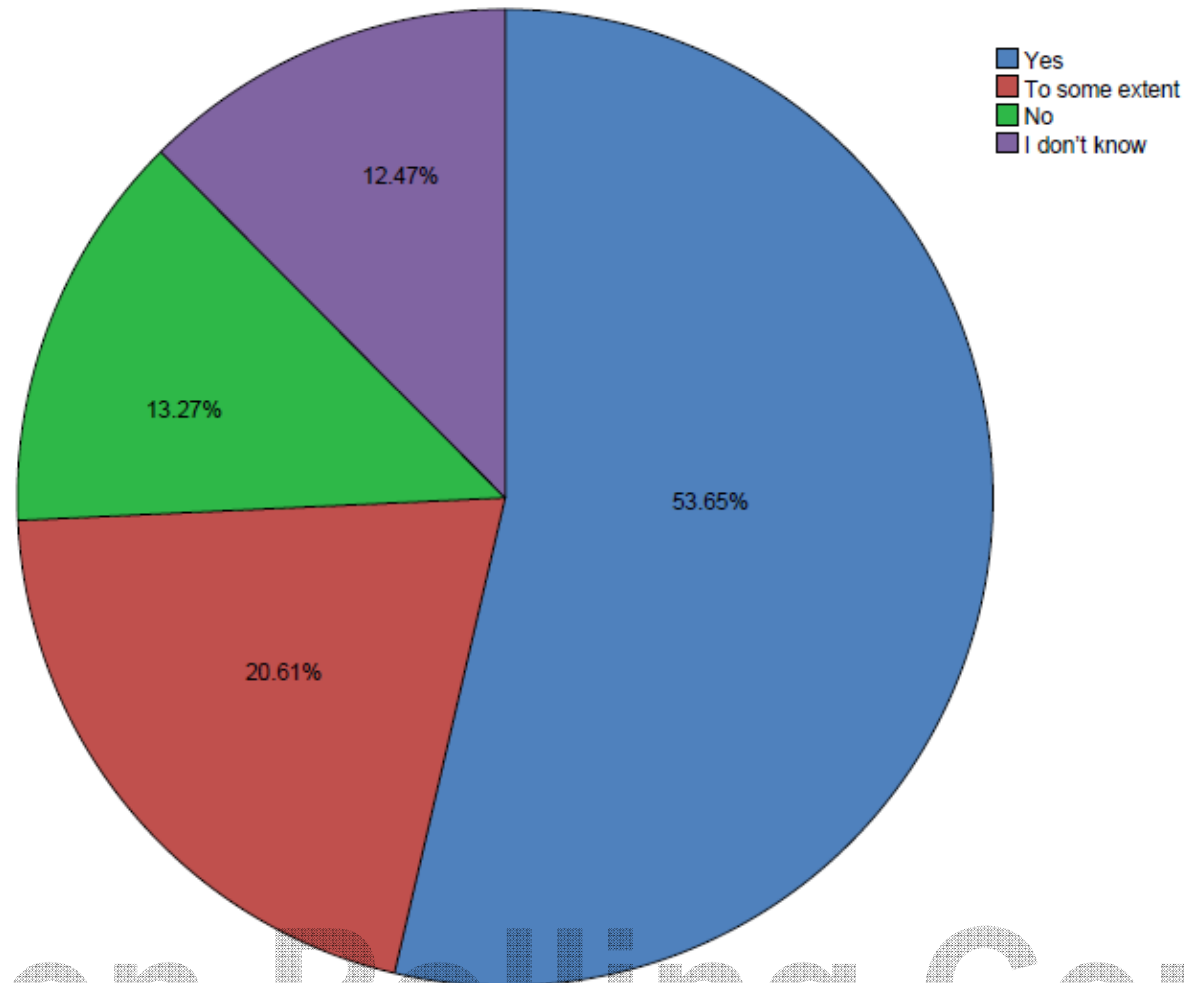


Sample Size: 317

Do you think that wages paid to regular police officers are...



If the police were better paid by the government, do you think they would be less corrupt?



# Conclusions

- Security sector reform in Yemen needs to take into account the country's regional and social diversity.
- Security provision in Yemen by the police is generally welcome by most citizens. However, it must involve non-state actors in most regions, but such involvement should be complementary to the work of state institutions and take place within a set framework of mechanisms and principles.
- Police in Yemen must work to enhance its professionalism in order to gain the trust of the people, but corruption will prevail as long as police officers are inadequately paid.
- Police reform in Yemen has to take into account the special security interests of women and girls by employing more women in the police force.

Thank you.

[www.yemenpolling.org](http://www.yemenpolling.org)

