LOW-TECH SURVEILLANCE: PRODUCTION OF UNCERTAINTY AMONG CONSCRIPTS IN ERITREA (AFRICA)

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OUTLINE

• Eritrea and National Service
• Checkpoints and documents
• Round ups and effects
• (messy) bureaucracy to get permits
• Social effects of the apparatus
ERITREA AND NATIONAL SERVICE: A POLICE STATE

- 30 years guerrilla warfare
- 1991: independence
- F/M from 18 to 50 are conscripted
- Repression and militarism
- No demobilization / desertion
LIMITED EFFICIENCY OF PERVERSIVE CTRL

- Forgery and falsification
- Black market / corruption
- No cross-checking practices
ROUND UPS AND PATROLS

- Suspicion of fraud
- 04-now: indiscriminate round-ups
- No National Service ID
- Confusion among state institutions
BUREAUCRACY: ISSUANCE OF PERMITS

- Abstenteism
- (trivial) technical problems
- New regulation
- Purge / Reassignation
UNINTELLIGIBILITY
3 TYPES

- State -> Citizens: limits of information
- State -> State: problem of coordination
- Citizen -> State: what are the rules?
DESTABILISATION

- Reading under the lines
- Rumoring
- Paranoid explanations
- Informal spying
- Denunciation/Delation