



Figure 21 provides two pieces of information - the military presence in society, and the relative level of political and civil freedoms. With respect to the military presence, only Libya stands out as far outside of the regional norm of between four and eight soldiers per thousand, with more than 17 soldiers per thousand citizens. Not surprisingly perhaps, it also scores at the worst end of the freedom index. By contrast, the two states with the lowest number of soldiers per population do score highest on the freedom index, and there appears to be a tendency to move upwards on the number of soldiers per thousand scale as the political and civil rights situation deteriorates. (One should also note that the figure for the Sudan does *not* include the opposition forces of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army, which may in total be as large as the government's forces, thus effectively doubling the Sudanese figure for soldiers/thousand population). In general, the human rights and political liberties situation in most of these states is also very poor. As of 1993, only two states scored as "partly free" (Mali and Niger), and the subsequent recent coup in Niger will push it back towards "unfree" status.

In comparison with the military presence in society in Central and South America, the overall situation in North Africa is worrisome. Only three states in Latin America had more than six soldiers per thousand population (Chile, Uruguay, El Salvador), and in each case some pressure exists to reduce the size of the armed forces. But in North Africa alone, four of ten states score about the six-soldier threshold. One