

Figure 18 simply lines up the sub-region's states in ascending order according to the percentage of their GNP that is devoted to the military. Somewhat surprisingly, there is no regional "norm" around which states cluster, and states are instead spread evenly from Niger, at 1.5 percent, to Sudan, at 17.1 percent (but note the uncertainty in Sudanese data mentioned above). Against this backdrop, specific outlier states other than Sudan are difficult to identify, although if one takes the sub-regional median as falling below four percent, then Mauritania, Egypt, Morocco, and Libya also are all above it. The scale of Figure 18 is also somewhat deceptive (because Sudan skews it), and one should remember that Egypt, Morocco and Libya are all devoted twice as many resources (in terms of percentage of GNP) to the military as Niger and Mali.

In the cases of Libya and Egypt, military expenditures have, however, declined recently, although this might be more a sign of difficult economic circumstances than any reorientation of security policy. In Egypt at least, both its external and internal security environment have been rendered insecurity by an increase in the early 1990s in Islamist activity in the Upper Nile (and throughout the country), fuelled in

