



CPMRD NEWSLETTER

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Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department [CPMRD]



Japan's Initiative Support for Regional Intervention on Small Arms Control in West Africa

The Government of Japan is collaborating with West African governments and institutions towards a regional intervention against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Africa.

SALW control comprises of a set of management activities designed to implement a range of policy measures aimed at reducing negative impact of

small arms on people. Already, Japan is supporting five other institutions in Africa including the Africa Union (AU).

In West Africa, Japan has extended similar support to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) through twin support to the ECOWAS Small Arms Programme (ECOSAP) based in Bamako, Mali; and further support through the United Nations Develop-

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A section of distinguished delegates at the inauguration of the Small Arms Control Project at KAIPTC.



The Japanese Ambassador to Ghana, H. E. Keiichi Katakami at the opening ceremony of the SALW training at KAIPTC, Accra.

ORGANISED CRIME IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

The Conflict Prevention management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), held a lecture on the topic: "Organised Crime in the Global Context" at the KAIPTC on Friday, 16 January, 2009.

The lecture, which was first in the series of the CPMRD's *Reflections in Security Series* for the year 2009, was delivered by Prof. James Walston from the American University of Rome, Italy.

The lecture was preceded by a CPMRD briefing session which was delivered by Miss Emma Birikorang, a Research Fellow at the KAIPTC.

In his presentation, Prof. James Walston demonstrated the manner in which the liberalisation of the world financial sector was advantageous for organised criminals to the extent that even in the current credit melt down and recession where major

banks and government institutions failed, organised criminals still have the leverage to lend out money to plan their activities.

The Italian Ambassador to Ghana, H. E. Fabrizio De Agostini who led the discussions on the

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A section of the distinguished participants at the CPMRD lecture. Also seated is the Italian Ambassador to Ghana, H.E. Fabrizio De Agostini.



Japan's Support for Small Arms Control in W/A– *Cont. story from page 1*

ment Programme (UNDP) to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra. With this support, KAIPTC is leading the design and delivery of targeted training on SALW control for the various National Commissions for Small Arms (also referred to as NatComs) in the member-states of ECOWAS. Thus the *Strategic Partnership against the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in West Africa* involving the Government of Japan, ECOWAS Commission, UNDP, and KAIPTC seeks to train up to 400 personnel of the NatComs over three years.

ECOSAP primarily focuses on building the capacity of the NatComs in West Africa and the training at the KAIPTC is envisaged to complement the capacity building work of ECOSAP. In the end, it is anticipated that a synergy between human resource capacity building and other forms of technical and material support by ECOSAP would be realized.

The KAIPTC training programme has translated into a three-year capacity building programme focusing on the training needs of the various NatComs in West Africa.

NatComs are national level inter-agency institutions prescribed by the *ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Related Material* (ECOWAS Convention) to coordinate the control of SALW proliferation in the ECOWAS member-countries. It has representations from relevant civil society organizations, the military, police and other security agencies of state. By targeting such an umbrella state agency (NatComs), the KAIPTC seeks to enhance technical human resource capacities towards the promotion of a coordinated approach to SALW control.

The KAIPTC SALW training programme was launched in March 2008 at a ceremony attended by the Deputy Head of Mission at the Japan Embassy in Accra, Mr. Yutaka Nakamura who re-affirmed the commitment of Japan in helping to control the proliferation of SALW in Africa.

Other dignitaries who participated in the opening

ceremony included General (Rtd) Charles Okae, Director of Peace and Security at the ECOWAS Commission, Major General John Attipoe, Commandant of the KAIPTC, Mr. Dauda Toure, UNDP Resident Representative in Ghana, among other dignitaries.

In terms of the oversight and management, framework of the small arms training at KAIPTC, the programme has established a Steering Group made up of the four participating institutions (Japan, ECOWAS, UNDP and KAIPTC) as well as civil society representatives. The Steering Group provides strategic direction and validates activities of the programme. The SALW programme at KAIPTC has engaged a regional Programme Coordinator to be assisted by a young Japanese national on the United Nations Volunteer Services (UNVS) programme (this position should be filled in February 2009 and will be implemented sequentially on a yearly basis). These officers are located in the Research Department of the KAIPTC – the only thoroughly civilian department at the KAIPTC. A Technical Working Group comprising technocrats from the member-institutions and subject matter experts is also in place to provide technical level guidance to the Programme Coordinator towards the implementation of the programme. These structures have been put in place to ensure collective ownership of the programme.

A foundational training course on SALW control has been designed and is being implemented at the KAIPTC. The design processes began with a meeting of the Technical Working Group in July 2008 where a broad outline of the course was determined. A group of subject matter experts were assembled in October 2008 to translate the course outline into training modules which was pilot-tested in November 2008. The outcome of the pilot has informed a review of the course after a second Technical Working Group meeting in January 2009. The proposals of the second Technical Working Group meeting were largely endorsed by the Steering Group in the same month, paving the way for the first substantive course from 16-27 February 2009.

Thus from 16 - 27 February 2009, KAIPTC will seek to introduce course participants made up of people from

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Distinguished guests at the opening ceremony of the SALW training at KAIPTC. From left: Mr Daniel Andoh, UNDP Programme Manager, Governance; H.E Kaichi Katakami, Japanese Ambassador to Ghana; Col. Joseph Klobodu, Head of Field Training Department and Col. Werner Rauber, Head of Peacekeeping Studies, KAIPTC.



Japan Support for Small Arms Control in W/A– *Cont. story from page 2*

West Africa to some of the foundational issues pertaining to SALW and prepare participants to confront context specific challenges. The course will also seek to improve participants' awareness of the fundamental managerial and advocacy skills necessary for the establishment of National Commissions for Small Arms and the promotion of SALW issues in the respective countries.

During the pilot course in November 2008, 24 personnel from NatComs in 14 out of the 15 countries in West Africa participated. It emerged that while some countries are ahead in terms of the development of their NatComs, a number of them are at the rudimentary stages. To reconcile these challenges, there is

therefore the need for tailor-made in-country trainings in future.

In spite of the above, it is important that in the meantime, the KAIPTC and the implementing partners focus attention on consolidating the gains already made with the foundation course. This is because, even at this initial stage, some of the countries have started sending us positive feedback. For example, a representative from Guinea Bissau has written to inform that the ideas they picked from the course has been used to secure US\$100,000.00 funding for a related project in the country.

The KAIPTC will continue to monitor such impacts and report to our valued stakeholders.



Mr John Pokoo, Coordinator of the SALW Project at KAIPTC in an interview with the press. Looking on is Commander Derek Deighton, Staff Officer Training Development, KAIPTC.



A section of participants at the SALW training at KAIPTC.

ORGANISED CRIME IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT– *cont. story from page-1*

lecture, outlined a number of sub-regional policy initiatives that are being undertaken by ECOWAS and the development partners to combat organised crime in West Africa.

It was noted that the most challenging aspect of organised crime in Africa is its devastating impact on political stability of weak states.

The lecture was chaired by Dr Thomas Jaye, Senior Research Fellow at KAIPTC.



Prof. James Walston delivering his presentation at the CPMRD lecture.

CHINA'S AFRICA SECURITY POLICY

The Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre, (KAIPTC) in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation (FES), will hold a lecture on: "China's Africa Security Policy" scheduled to take place at the KAIPTC on Thursday, 26 February, 2009, at 10:30 hours.

The lecture will be delivered by the Chinese Ambas-

sador to Ghana, His Excellency Mr. Yu Wenzhe a graduate from Beijing Foreign Studies University.

The lecture, which is part of the CPMRD's *Reflections on Security Series* for the year, 2009 will bring together opinion leaders drawn from the public, members of the diplomatic corps, private sector, the security agencies and civil society actors to deliberate on issues relating to Security in Africa.



CPMRD TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Department (KA IPTC) held its second annual teambuilding and planning workshop in Sogakope near Accra, Ghana.

The two-day workshop, which was held from 28-29 January, 2009 was aimed at improving team spirit among staff and drawing up the strategic and action plans for the year 2009. The team building exercise was also designed to fashion out strategies concerning the work of the department in relation to other departments of the Center as well as its external partners.

Dr Kwesi Aning, Head of Department (CPMRD) reviewed the 2008 activities of the department and outlined the strategic direction and research agenda for 2009. He commended the staff for their performance in the past year and charged them to work harder in the coming year.

Dr Aning emphasized the importance of having a collective approach to achieving organizational goals. He took the opportunity to formally announced that plans are far advanced for the construction of a new multi-purpose building for the research department at the centre.

Dr Thomas Jaye, a Senior Research Fellow at CPMRD, advised members to set realistic targets for the year, adding that the essence of the team-building exercise was to instill and improve the spirit of team work, information sharing, communication skills, strategizing, and cooperation amongst members of

staff.

The German Development Cooperation (GTZ) Technical Advisor, Mr David Nii Addy emphasized the importance of maintaining the collaboration between the center and GTZ. He expressed the optimism that the

ongoing partnership between KA IPTC and GTZ will move to the next phase of its implementation.

Mrs Levinia Addae-Mensah, who is the Course Manager of the KA IPTC facilitated the workshop.



A section of CPMRD staff members at the teambuilding workshop.



A group photograph of CPMRD staff

The New KA IPTC Newsletter

The next edition of the "CPMRD Newsletter" will be published as "KA IPTC Newsletter". This change has become necessary following the approval by the KA IPTC Senior Management to adopt the CPMRD Newsletter as the official newspaper publication for the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC).

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Policy Brief



Insurgent Movements in West Africa: A Need for Preventive Action in Mali, Niger and Senegal

By
Aïssatou Fall¹

Civil wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Sudan have captured the attention of the international community. However, there are currently in West Africa, conflicts that international actors (the United Nations and regional organizations) do not seem to give the attention that is required, particularly in terms of conflict prevention. Examples are the rebellions in Northern Mali, Niger and in the Casamance region of Southern Senegal. This brief seeks to achieve two things. Firstly, it argues that greater attention to the insurgencies taking place in Mali, Niger and Casamance is critical to the maintenance of stability, good governance and peace in the West Africa region and that if no appropriate measures are taken by the respective governments, the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU) and/or the United Nations (UN), the level of violence might increase, spread and escalate into regional wars. The issue is that these conflicts are only captured in the news or by the international community only when grave incidents occur. Secondly, the brief argues that these 'small' or 'low-level' conflicts are protracted mainly because of the complexity of their interconnected nature. Therefore, this is a call for international and regional actors, in particular ECOWAS to take appropriate preventive measures if civil wars of the kind in Liberia and Sierra Leone are to be avoided.

Mali and Niger have both been the theatre of what is called the Tuareg rebellion. The Tuareg are a group of nomadic people who descended from the Berbers of North Africa. At the end of French colonial rule in West Africa, the Tuareg found themselves straddled between Mali, Niger with Burkina Faso to the south and Algeria and Libya to the north. They share their own language –Tamasheq- and have been largely Muslim since the 16th century. In Mali, the rebellion began in 1963, and then from 1990 to approximately 1996, the rebellion resurged in the northern part of the country. Both rebel groups (and later splintering groups) have been defeating their own local government resulting in the marginalization and a continued failure to tackle the high levels of poverty among the Tuareg group. In Mali, the conflict died down after the creation of a new self-governing region, the Kidal region in 1992. Tuareg, reputed to have been trained and armed by Libya, attacked Gao, which again led to major Malian army reprisals. Mali then effectively went into civil war. The Malian government and the Tuareg rebel movement went into series of peace deals from 1995 up until 2006.

In the case of Niger, it endured austere military rule for much of its post-independence history. The country shares borders with seven countries and some boundaries are in dispute. From 1992, the nomadic Tuareg in the north and Tabou in the east engaged in an armed rebellion against the Nigerien state. The sources of the grievances are broadly the same. Tuareg in Niger, like their counterparts in Mali, are claiming for recognition from the government. In addition, they are also claiming their share from the booming uranium industry in the country, Niger being rich in uranium and among the world's top five uranium producers. The Tuareg also argue that mining has damaged valuable pastoral lands, while revenues have failed to benefit local communities. After a series of peace accords (Ouagadougou, 1995; Algiers, 1997, and N'Djamena, 1998), followed by the adoption of a new constitution in 1999 and elections in 2000, peace was restored in the country. However, in both Mali and Niger, there is a resurgence of violence since 2006 after a break of a decade. In Mali, between 2007 and 2008, the Tuareg attacked Malian army bases, seized vehicles and took

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15 soldiers as hostages. Similarly in Niger, a splinter group of the Tuareg rebel movement in Mali built alliances with the Niger Movement for Justice (MNJ) and attacked remote army posts, killed 40 soldiers, took 70 hostages and attacked main airports in the northern town of Agadez, complaining that the 1995 peace deal that ended the previous insurgency had never been fully implemented and that the region remains marginalized.

In Casamance, the *Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC)* has been fighting the Senegalese state since 1982. This happens to be the longest civil war in Africa (1982 up to present). Rebels have been struggling for 26 years for the independence of the Casamance region. They claim that Casamance has never been part of Senegal with regards to the special arrangements that were made during the colonial rule, French colonialists facing lots of resistance from the local populations, mainly from the Diola ethnic group. In addition, they have also been blaming the state of marginalizing the ethnic groups in Casamance. Twenty-six years of conflicts have resulted in a succession of peace agreements being violated by both parties, and also a lot of suffering for the people in Casamance, with a cohort of refugees in The Gambia and Guinea Bissau, several victims of landmines and violations of human rights. The agricultural and economic activities are hampered by the seeding of landmines by rebels aiming at protecting their bases. Today, there is a situation of 'neither peace nor war' due to interruption in the negotiation process after the last agreement which was signed in 2004 between the Senegalese state and a rebel faction. Rebels have developed a war economy in order to sustain the rebellion. They are involved in trafficking in cannabis and arms in the neighbouring countries of Guinea Bissau, The Gambia and Guinea Conakry. Since the last agreement between the Senegalese state and the rebel movement in 2004, no major battles occurred. However, December 2005 and 2006 witnessed a resurgence of violence with regards to political assassinations perpetrated on representatives of the State dealing with the conflict. These assassinations have been allegedly attributed to the MFDC. Attacks and lootings of 'Nordic'² passengers have been perpetrated along the main traffic roads. Local people have also been attacked in their fields and mutilated, while coping with their own agricultural activities. In addition a high level of corruption is involved in the handling of the Casamance issue as a lot of actors either from the government or the rebel groups' side, have made of the Casamance issue a money-making enterprise.

The issue is the international community, in particular ECOWAS, has not been active in finding a definite settlement to the rebellions in Niger, Mali and Casamance. The cases of Niger, Mali and Casamance have not been in the forefront of the agenda of these organizations. It could be that these wars are to 'small' to be dealt with, or there are no major stakes involved in it like in Liberia and Sierra Leone. It is argued, therefore, that greater attention to these conflicts and effective preventive actions are urgently needed taking into consideration the following factors:

- Countries in which insurgency is taking place are always prone to all sorts of trafficking which can lead to instability and insecurity. Mali and Niger have become an established transit route for weapons heading from West Africa's increasingly peaceful coastal states to active conflicts in West and Central Africa. Regional monitoring has shown a steady uptake in the number of guns entering Mali and Niger over the last five years. Some of these weapons go to active conflicts in the north of Mali and Niger, Chad and even as far away as Sudan. In both Mali and Niger, violence between the army and rebels has recently escalated;
- In view of the current situation of 'neither peace nor war' in Casamance and the stagnation of the peace process, nobody knows presently what is going on in the rebel bases. The Casamance conflict has taken a transnational dimension with the involvement of Guinea Bissau and The Gambia providing rear bases to the rebel movement.

So international and regional organizations, in particular ECOWAS, are urged to focus on the rebellions in Mali, Niger and Casamance, define and apply a regional and collective conflict prevention response that tackles the root causes of the conflicts.

². The rebel movement identifies people living outside the Casamance region as 'the Nordic' and call themselves 'the Southerners'.