



# CPMRD NEWSLETTER

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Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department [CPMRD]



## EXPERT WORKSHOP ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**A 3-day Expert Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in West Africa was held at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC) between 7-9 April, 2008.**

The workshop was aimed at enhancing the skills of selected West African experts in SALW control and management by providing a platform for the exchange of information and lessons learned as well as validating a proposed training manual that will be adopted as a standard document for training in SALW programmes in West Africa.

Speaking at the opening of the seminar, Dr Kwesi Aning, Head of CPMRD, urged participants to be honest and objective in their deliberations, emphasising the need to adopt a more pragmatic approach towards the realisation of the objectives set out in the ECOWAS Convention on SALW. On his part, Dr Cyriaque Abnekehom from the ECOWAS Commission emphasised the need to enhance capacity and coordination of civil societies in small arms control

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Panel at the opening session ( From left: Mr Mike Ashkenazi, Dr Kwesi Aning, Dr Cyriaque Agnekethom and Mr David Nii Addy)



A group photograph of participants

## UNAMID PRE-DEPLOYMENT TRAINING COURSE FOR POLICE OFFICERS

**THE first, in a series of ten, of the UNAMID Police Pre-deployment Training Course is currently underway at the KA IPTC. The course, which brought together twenty-six (26) police officers selected from Bangladesh, Zambia, Senegal and Ghana, is being sponsored by the German Government.**

The Commandant of the KA IPTC, Maj. Gen. John K. Attipoe, in his welcoming remarks at the opening ceremony held on 31 July 31, 2008, expressed appreciation to the German Government for its continued support to KA IPTC, especially, in the area of infrastructure and capacity development. He wished the participants successful deliberations during the two-week training exercise.

The representative of UNDP in Ghana, Dr Ozonnia Ojielo said that the UN/AU hybrid mission in Darfur represents the first step in a three-stage approach towards the final settlement of the conflict in Sudan, adding that the hybrid approach is a learning process which should be managed within the framework of the mission mandate.

He further advocated for reinforcement of capacity building initiatives for peacekeepers, especially police officers in order to cope with strict adherence to the UN code of conduct and respect for value systems and culture in mission areas.

Miss Jana Orlowski who represented the German Ambassador to Ghana emphasized her government's support to peace

and security initiatives in Africa. She explained that Germany's contribution to the development of Africa is linked to the G8 capacity mission to support the implementation of NEPAD and APRM in Africa.



Section of participants at the UNAMID police course



Section of participants at the UNAMID police course



## SEND-OFF RECEPTION FOR FIVE KAIPTC STAFF

**THE Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) held a send-off reception for five of its staff on February 8, 2008.**

The five were Mr Prosper Addo, a Research Fellow at the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD), Miss Dorcas Onigbinde, a Research Intern, at CPMRD, Ex- WO1 Gabriel Gakpleadzi- Head of security, Mr Emmanuel Martey- Audiovisuals, and Ex-S/Sgt. Godwin Asemro- Senior warden.

The Deputy Commandant of the Centre, Cdre. Albert Addi-

son, commended all five for their hard work and commitment to duty. Mr Prosper Addo who spoke on behalf of the outgoing staff thanked the Centre for the support given them in the discharge of their duties and for all that had been done to make their stay at KAIPTC a memorable one. He emphasised that it had been a rewarding experience working with the Centre and encouraged the rest of the staff to exercise due diligence in their respective areas of work. He also promised to be an ambassador of KAIPTC in his next assignment.



Mr Prosper Addo receiving a plaque and citation from the Commandant- KAIPTC. Looking on is the Deputy Commandant



WO1 Gabriel Gakpleadzi exchanging a warm handshake with the Executive Director-KAIPTC.



Mr Emmanuel Martey receiving a plaque from Col. J.K Klobodu

## NIIA DELEGATION VISITS KAIPTC

**AN eight-member delegation from the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), led by its Director General, Professor Osita Eze, visited KAIPTC on 21 February 2008.**

The purpose of the visit was for the NIIA team to familiarize itself with activities of KAIPTC and also to explore common areas for future collaboration and networking.

As part of the visit, the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of KAIPTC facilitated discussions bordering on political transitions and conflict resolution in West Africa.

The discussions concluded with a commitment on both

sides to undertake joint programmes on: organizing conferences on the problems of democratic transition and conflict resolution; exchanging course facilitators between KAIPTC and NIIA; exchanging research findings and visits of junior researchers; promoting participation of NIIA in CPMRD lecture series. Both parties took turns to exchange books and other reading materials to symbolize the importance of the visit.



Dr Kwesi Aning presenting a plaque to Prof. Osita Eze



Dr Kwesi Aning and Dr Thomas Jaye in a discussion with NIIA delegates

## CIMIC AND NEGOTIATION COURSE

**THE Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) course and the Negotiations course were both held at KAIPTC from 3-14 March 2008. The two courses brought together military and civilian participants selected from various countries in Africa.**

Speaking at the joint opening ceremony, the Commandant of the Centre entreated course participants to make the best out of the opportunity, stressing the need for participants to share their skills and field experiences in their deliberations.

He expressed his appreciation to the international community, for their continuous support, and especially thanked the Canadian and Danish governments for sponsoring the Negotiations and CIMIC courses.

The Danish ambassador to Ghana, H.E Bjork Pederson, in his remarks, underscored the fact that civil- military collaboration is the future of successful peacekeeping missions. He congratulated ECOWAS on the recent transformation of its Secretariat into a Commission and also commended the efforts of President J.A. Kufour, former AU Chairman, and Mr Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General, for the successful peace negotiations in Kenya.

Mrs Maria Lavelle who represented the Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, emphasised her government's commitment to support training in negotiation skills for peacekeeping personnel. She further encouraged participants to make good use of the opportunity.



Section of participants at the CIMIC course

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- ◆ CPMRD LECTURE SERIES — 23 April, 2008 (Tentative)
- ◆ DDR COURSE — 21-30 April, 2008
- ◆ Security in Fragile States Workshop — 19-21 May, 2008



## Research, Publications and Conferences

- ◆ **Dr. Kwesi Aning's** work on the UN Secretary General's report relating to the relationship between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in the maintenance of international peace and security has been completed and published. The report will be presented by the South African Permanent representative to the UN Security Council on 15 April 2008.
- ◆ **Dr Kwesi Aning's** new joint article with Delphine Lecoutre has been published by the African Security Review of the Institute for Security Studies. The paper is titled: "China's Ventures in Africa". Another paper is also in line relating to China-AU relations and peace-keeping.
- ◆ **Andrews Atta-Asamoah's** paper on: "*Counter-Terrorism and the National Security of African States: Points of Convergence and Departure*", was published in the Journal of Security Sector Management of the Centre for Security Sector Management (CSSM), Cranfield University, UK.
- ◆ **Samuel Atuobi** served as a course facilitator on the KAIPTC Negotiation course which was held between 3-14 March, 2008.
- ◆ **Samuel Atuobi and Andrews Atta-Asamoah** gave a lecture at the Local Government Training Institute in Accra on 17 March, 2008. The seminar was on "Pre-election Monitoring for Regional/Divisional and Operational Commanders in the Ghana Police Service". Samuel presented on democracy and elections while Andrews delivered on election related human rights abuses.
- ◆ **John Opoku** is working on two research proposals titled: "*Understanding the challenges of state fragility*" and "*HIV/AIDS in Peacekeeping Operations in West Africa*".
- ◆ **Samuel Atuobi** is currently writing a Monograph on ***Peace Support Operations and Elections in West Africa***. The study examines the role of Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in the conduct of post-conflict elections in West Africa and its overall impact on peace implementation, democratization and development in post-conflict societies. The paper, when completed, will contribute to the enhancement of the role of PSOs in the organization of post-conflict elections.

The **abstract** of the paper reads as follows:

*Africa's recognition of the threat of terrorism to the continent has culminated in the galvanisation of national, regional and international efforts towards counter-terrorism. By addressing the safety of citizens, protection of territorial integrity and preservation of the primacy of states, these efforts converge with the classical demands of the national security of African states. However, certain practical fallouts from the implementation of these measures - such as human rights abuses - diverge from the overarching purpose of national security of states and undermine national cohesion and democratic principles. This article juxtaposes post-9/11 counter-terrorism efforts in Africa and the national security of African states arguing that more effective implementation strategies supporting counter-terrorism initiatives in Africa will not only help rid the continent of terrorist activities and associated threats but also help combat other criminal aspects of African society and security threats. However, if the drivers of Africa's counter-terrorism agenda do not steer initiatives clear of parochial politics and religion, the security of African states will be undermined by counter-terrorism.*

Available at <http://www.ssronline.org/jofssm/index.cfm>

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### Counter-Terrorism and the National Security of African States: Points of Convergence and Departure

Andrews Atta-Asamoah<sup>1</sup>

- ◆ Ernest also successfully completed the CIMIC course which was held at KAIPTC between 3-14 March, 2008.
- ◆ Ernest Ansah Lartey has been absorbed into the GTZ-Sponsored Internship Programme at CPMRD as a Research Intern for a period of 4 months (April-July, 2008).
- ◆ **Rosalie Amani** has completed her final draft paper on peacekeeping operations and civilian protection in conflict and post conflict reconstruction in West Africa. The paper took a critical look into the stakes and challenges involved in the management of peacekeeping operations in the Ivorian crisis.



# Employee Profile and New Research Intern at CPMRD

**Andrews Atta-Asamoah is a Programme Assistant on the Training for Peace Programme (TFP) at the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD). He holds a Master of Arts (M.A.) degree in International Affairs from the Legon Centre for International Affairs (LECIA), University of Ghana, and a Bachelors degree in Socio-economics from the University for Development Studies (UDS) in Ghana.**

His post-graduate degree dissertation focussed on "The Concept of Territorial Integrity and Global Security Threats, Since September 11, 2001" in which he argued principally that post-9/11 global security threats are primarily deterritorialised or transnational and undermine the territorial wholeness of states to a very large extent. As such, the polemical function of the concept of territorial integ-

riety outweighs its empirical referent within the context of international peace and security. One of his propositions, therefore, is that any attempt at containing the threats to international peace and security should involve collective action and/or multilateralism, under a doctored circumvention of the concept under the UN system.

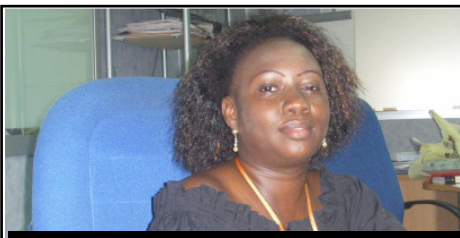
Before joining the KAIPTC, he was a Research officer at the Accra-based Centre for Security Studies (CSS) where his primary responsibilities included conducting research, advocacy and training on peace and security issues with special focus on Africa. He also has extensive experience in HIV/AIDS Psychosocial Counselling and has facilitated many HIV/AIDS Counselling seminars and workshops in Ghana.

His research interests include Terrorism; Conflicts; International Organ-

ised Crime; Small Arms and Light Weapons; Climate change and Security; Youth and Conflict; and Development. His recent article was published in the Cranfield University's Journal of Security Sector Management under the title: "Counter-Terrorism and the National Security of African States: Points of Convergence and Departure." He has honoured many speaking engagements at the international level.



Andrews Atta-Asamoah - Programme Assistant (TFP)



Ms Aïssatou Fall- Research Intern

**Ms Aïssatou Fall joined KAIPTC as a GTZ sponsored intern on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008 for a period of six months.**

Aïssatou holds an MA Degree in Conflict Resolution, from the University of Bradford, UK, an MSc in Sciences of

Management, from the University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, and an MPhil in Economic Policy and Economic Analysis of Projects, from the *Centre de Recherches Economiques Appliquées* (CREA), University Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar, Senegal.

She had also previously obtained a Bachelors Degree in Translation (French-English-German) from the Institute for Translators and Interpreters (ISTI), Brussels, Belgium. She has decided to make a shift in her career and devote herself to issues of conflicts, especially in Africa.

She has interest in several topics such as; Gender and Conflict Resolution; State Collapse in Africa; Peace Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction; HIV/AIDS and Conflict; Child-Soldiers and the Proliferation of Small Arms in Africa.

However, for the purpose of her internship at KAIPTC, she will examine some aspects of the Casamance Conflict, an insurgency which has been ongoing for 25 years in Senegal and often portrayed by academicians as the 'forgotten civil war'.

## Small Arms and Light Weapons Workshop: Cont. story from page 1

and management in West Africa. Other speakers at the function were: David Nii Addy, GTZ Technical Advisor (KAIPTC) and Mr. Mike Ashkenazi from the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC).

The Workshop was organised in collaboration with the German Development Corporation (GTZ), the ECOWAS Small Arms Unit (ESAU) and the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC).



Section of participants at the SALW workshop

### EDITORIAL TEAM

**Andrews Atta-Asamoah  
John Opoku  
Samuel Mondays Atuobi  
Evelyn E. Avoxe**

Newsletter Template created by Awa Ceesay Ebo  
**E-copy is designed by Andrews Atta-Asamoah, available@www.kaiptc.org**

**Editor in Chief: Ernest Ansah Lartey**

### Contact

**Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution  
Department [CPMRD]  
Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training  
Centre [KAIPTC]  
PMB CT 210 Cantonments  
Accra, Ghana.  
Phone: 233 (0) 21 718 200 Ext 2007  
Fax: 233 (0) 21 718 201  
E-mail: ernest.lartey@kaiptc.org**



## Policy Brief



### Counter-Terrorism and the National Security of African States: Points of Convergence and Departure<sup>1</sup>

By

**Andrews Atta-Asamoah<sup>2</sup>**

Africa's recognition of the threat of terrorism to the continent has culminated in the galvanisation of national, regional and international efforts towards counter-terrorism on the continent. Even though the continent's efforts started before the September 11, 2001 (9/11) terrorist attacks, post-9/11 security realities and the resultant demands of the United Nations (UN) Resolution 1373 have revitalised the efforts and harnessed international support for counter-terrorism initiatives on the continent.

The renewed efforts have culminated in the (1) designing of legal instruments to facilitate action against terrorism, and (2) the institution of operational measures to prevent, deter and combat terrorist activities on the continent. Countries such as Uganda, Tanzania, Mauritius, Gambia and South Africa have subsequently succeeded in enacting counter-terrorism legislation, whilst others such as Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria and Morocco have argued that their existing criminal codes can sufficiently deal with the situation. In addition, operational measures aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and eliminating threats of terrorism through border surveillance and control, prevention of money laundering, and the prevention of falsification of travel documents have become mainstream elements of various national, regional and continental counter-terrorism approaches. In this direction, many African countries including Algeria, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Senegal and South Africa have taken steps to standardise the application requirements and safety features of national identity documents such as passports and national identity cards as a way of preventing falsification and forgery. Many internationally-supported programmes such as the Pan Sahel Initiative (PSI); Trans-Sahel Counterterrorism Initiative (TSCTI); the Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (JTFHOA); the East Africa Counterterrorism Initiative (EACTI); and the African Union's (AU) terrorism prevention initiatives coordinated by its Terrorism Prevention Branch have all been implemented on the continent.

These initiatives, though diverse, fundamentally aim at denying terrorists of havens, eradicating sources of terrorist financing, reducing state vulnerability, and enhancing emergency preparedness and response capabilities with the ultimate goal of preserving the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the state, and ensuring the safety of citizens. In this pursuit, counter-terrorism initiatives in Africa glaringly converge with the broader goal of national security policy of African states in two important ways: First, the implementation of counter-terrorism initiatives inadvertently provides responses to other forms of criminality such as money laundering, human trafficking, resource exploitation and drug trafficking and also prevent any form of mutual and/or symbiotically reinforcing relationship between terrorism and any other criminality. Second, the emergence of cooperation as an underlying philosophy of counter-terrorism efforts and particularly the African Union's (AU) emerging

<sup>1</sup> . This Policy Brief is based on a paper on the same theme published by the Centre for Security Sector Management (CSSM), Cranfield University in March, 2008. < <http://www.ssronline.org/jofssm/index.cfm> >

<sup>2</sup> . Andrews Atta-Asamoah is a Programme Assistant on the Training for Peace (TfP) Programme at the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KA IPTC).

counter-terrorism regime assists with the entrenchment of the collective security notion as an indispensable part of efforts to combat contemporary threats to international peace and security.

On the other hand, however, many African countries have emerged from decades of autocratic and dictatorial regimes during which laws of the state were left at the behest of individuals with political influence. Some of these leaders criminalised politically dissenting views as part of efforts to protect the state from subversive entities and activities. This background - coupled with the lack of a common acceptable definition for terrorism and the absence of strong democratic principles, good governance, rule of law, and independent state structures in many African states - has increased the temptation of exploitation of the post-9/11 counter-terrorism agenda by some political leaders on the continent. Consequently, practical fallouts in the execution of counter-terrorism in Africa give ample evidence of politicisation and 'religionisation' by parochial political entities for settling political scores. In many cases, this has resulted in wanton human right abuses under the guise of fighting terrorists and national saboteurs which are undoubtedly at variance with the overarching purpose of national security policy. In Zimbabwe, for instance, President Robert Mugabe, has variously invoked the "war on terror" to justify his labelling of journalists as "agents of terrorism" or "terrorist sympathizers" and harassing them. Similarly, under the rubric of counter-terrorism, Egypt's State Security Investigations (SSI) has been noted for random 'sweeps' and detention of young men and their subsequent abusive interrogation and torture into accepting fabricated charges levelled against them.

Such occurrences on the continent have led to scepticism about the counter-terrorism agenda in Africa and particularly about the extent to which western interests and conceptualisation is influencing and/or driving its direction and focus. For many analysts, the counter-terrorism agenda has become another avenue where African governments are facing a dilemma in balancing donor agendas, legitimate national security interests, and domestic support for democracy and human rights. Rather than contribute to the attainment of national security, in some situations, it is rather becoming a threat to state stability. Where detentions and torture are employed, for instance, it has contributed to the emergence of a culture of retaliation instead of reducing violence from terrorism. This is because some detainees upon release then find a reason to revenge torture carried out on them whilst in detention. By these, counter-terrorism initiatives are contributing to the creation of volatile security situations by widening existing ethnic, political and religious fault-lines that can escalate into political, religious or politico-religious unrests in many weak African democracies and fragile states.

To avoid situations in which counter-terrorism efforts will counter-productively create insecurity through the polarisation of societies and escalation of violence, the following points are important considerations for actors on the continent:

- It is important for the drivers of Africa's counter-terrorism agenda to steer initiatives clear of parochial politicisation and persecutive religionisation.
- The continent should wean itself off western-driven and western-funded approaches for national security to enable states to prioritise national security strategies based on the actual needs of African states void of any donor-driven influence.
- A purely African approach to prioritizing security should be adopted to inform regional and continental approaches to prioritizing all threats to national, regional and continental threats. In doing this, however, caution has to be taken to craft national security policy responses according to a range of individual threats (including counter-terrorism responses) but within national realities in a way that do not undermine the tenets of national security or other national security policy responses.