



# CPMRD NEWSLETTER

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Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department [CPMRD]



## Elections Security Management in Ghana

**THE CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION DEPARTMENT (CPMRD)** of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in collaboration with the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana) and the Coalition of Domestic Election Observers (CODEO) launched a conflict prevention exercise on the theme: *Managing Con-*

*flict in Election 2008* in October, 2008.

The exercise which was aimed at monitoring the electoral security in the December 2008 general elections in Ghana began with a baseline study which was conducted by a team of researchers at CPMRD to map out twenty-five (25) key constituencies which  
*Cont. story on page 2*



From Left: Dr. Kwesi Aning, Prof. Miranda Greenstreet and Mr Kojo Asante at the 3rd CODEO stakeholders forum held on 2nd December, 2008 in Accra

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## Truth Commissions and Peacebuilding in Africa

**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), organised a lecture on the topic: "Truth Commissions and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in Africa" at the KAIPTC on Thursday, 20 November 2008.

The lecture which was the second in the series of CPMRD's *Reflections in Security Series* for the year 2008 was delivered by Mr Franklin Oduro, of the Centre for Democratic Development (CDD), Ghana.

The presentation was structured on the following themes: Origins of Truth

and Reconciliation Commissions (TRC), Debates and Issues Surrounding the Subject, Relationship with Peacebuilding, and Critical Weaknesses of TRCs as a tool of Peace building in Africa.

The lecture brought together opinion leaders and representatives of civil society drawn from the public, the diplomatic missions in Ghana, governance think tanks and security agencies.



A section of distinguished participants at the CPMRD Lecture Series

## CPMRD VISIT ECOWAS

**AS PART OF KAIPTC'S COLLABORATION** with ECOWAS, researchers from the CPMRD have been actively seeking ways to support the research capacity of ECOWAS as well as making contacts easier for researchers from across the region to conduct research on peace and security-related is-

sues.

In line with this, the CPMRD undertook a field research to the ECOWAS Commission to gather all relevant materials on peace and security in the region. The aim is to publish all the peace

and security protocols, declarations, conventions and peace agreements in a form of legislative compendium.

The first part of the compendium is expected to be published in early 2009.



## Election Security Management in Ghana – *Cont. story from page 1*

exhibit high volatility potential to violence during elections in Ghana. These constituencies were selected based on a set of criteria characterized by: prevailing security realities; nature of electoral competitiveness and some other underlining factors which may compromise the conduct of peaceful elections in Ghana.

Subsequent to the study, 25 electoral security observers were recruited, trained and deployed to the constituencies purposely to monitor and report on the security and violence aspects of the electoral process in the selected areas.

CPMRD reviews the findings of the observers' field reports which are then shared with the wider general public including the development partners, foreign election observers and the press at different stakeholders' forums in Accra.

The next report which is scheduled to be released in January, 2009 will review the voting-day electoral activities and the aftermath events following the release of the election results in the selected constituencies.

Since the beginning of the exercise, three reports have been released by CODEO covering the respective months of October, November and December, 2008.

In line with this collaborative exercise, CDD and CODEO have set up an Election Observation Centre at the KAIPTC to tabulate the electoral results from CODEO field observers deployed in all the polling stations in Ghana. The parallel election collation centre at KAIPTC is schedule to be operational from 30 November to 15 December, 2008.



A section of participants at the 3rd CODEO stakeholders forum in Accra



From left: Prof. Miranda Greenstreet, Mr Kojo Asante and Dr. Ziblim Iddi at the 3rd CODEO stakeholders forum in Accra

## Small Arms and Light Weapons Programme

**SINCE MARCH, 2008, CPMRD HAS BEEN DIRECTLY** involved in the on-going regional agenda to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in West Africa. In support of this commitment, a three-year rolling programme has been instituted with financial and technical support from the Government of Japan to complement the ECOWAS Commission's Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Programmes in West Africa.

The project is designed to strengthen the capacity of national commissions for small arms in West Africa. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the liaison agency for the project while KAIPTC leads in the design and delivery of the courses.

In May, 2008, a Project Co-ordinator was assigned to the CPMRD to manage the project over the three year period. This was followed by a brainstorming session which culminated in the design of training kits which was tested at a pilot training in November 2008. Within the pilot phase, a working group and a steering group have been set up to oversee the implementation of the project at the technical and strategic levels respectively.

The November pilot course attracted participants from 13 out of the 15 ECOWAS member-states many of whom expressed satisfaction at the conduct of the training. In 2009, up to 5 training courses will be organised with a view to widening the target audience.

## OFFICIAL VISITS TO KAIPTC



05 September, 2008

Her Excellence Heidemarie Wiecezrek-Zeul (middle), German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, expressing a point at a KAIPTC briefing session



04 November, 2008

H.E Ambassador Said Djinnit, SRSG for West Africa receiving a KAIPTC plaque from the Commandant, Maj. Gen. John Attipoe



13 November, 2008

Liberian Minister for Defence, Hon. Brownie J. Samukai in a chat with his Ghanaian counterpart, Hon. Albert Kan Dapaah (left) and Dr Thomas Jaye (right) at KAIPTC



10 November, 2008

U.S Ambassador to Ghana, H.E Ambassador Donald Teitelbaum exchanging pleasantries with the Commandant of KAIPTC, Maj. Gen. John Attipoe



## KAIPTC JOINT ACTIVITIES WITH PARTNERS

The 7th session of the West Africa Peacebuilding Institute (WAPI) was held in September, 2008 at KAIPTC. The peacebuilding training programme was organized by the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in collaboration with KAIPTC and the German Development Cooperation (GTZ).

Two KAIPTC staff development trainings on Equality & Diversity and Problem Based Learning (PBL)/ToT for course directors and external facilitators took place at the Centre in October and November, 2008. The Centre will publish a Problem Based Learning (PBL) handbook for future use at the Centre.

In October, 2008, KAIPTC hosted the Training of Trainers

(ToT) workshop on conflict prevention together with West Africa Civil Society Institute (WASCI) and GTZ. The workshop tested a conflict prevention training manual which will be published in due course.

In October, 2008, GTZ conducted a progress review exercise at KAIPTC. The outcome of the exercise resulted in the endorsement of the extension of the GTZ technical support programme at KAIPTC for the next three years.

During a workshop in November, 2008, KAIPTC in collaboration with the United Nations Department for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) and GTZ, explored the possibilities of designing an advanced DDR training course at the KAIPTC.

## CPMRD Research Outputs and Publications

### Dr Kwesi Aning

- \*Managing the Security Sector in Ghana, in Baffour Agyeman-Duah & Alfred Salia Fawundu. *Understanding Good Governance in Ghana* (Accra: Graphic Publications) .
- \*Opportunities and Challenges of Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector in Ghana in Adedeji, Ebo, Ed. *Challenges and Opportunities for Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector*. (Geneva: DCAF).
- \*'Security, War on terror and ODA: Is there a need for a new aid architecture?' *Southern Perspectives on Reform of the International Development Architecture*, Ed, Roy Culpeper (Ottawa: North-South Institute)
- \*The UN and the African Union's security architecture: defining an emerging relationship? *Critical Currents*, No. 5, October.

### Dr Thomas Jaye

- \*The Role of Private Military Companies in US-Africa Policy, *Review of African Political Economy* with Kwesi Aning & Samuel Atuobi, 2008.
- \*The Security Culture of ECOWAS. Origins, Development and Challenges of Child Trafficking, *Journal of Contemporary African Studies* (JACS), Vol. 26 No. 2 April 2008, 151-168.
- \*"Challenges of Security Sector Governance in Liberia" in Funmi Olonisakin, Bryden Alan and Boubacar Ndiaye (eds) *Challenges of Security Sector Governance in West Africa* (Geneva: DCAF, 2008).
- \*Liberia: Parliamentary Oversight after Protracted Conflict, with Adedeji Ebo (Geneva: DCAF) *Forthcoming*.
- \*Liberia's Security Legislation (Geneva: DCAF, 2008).

### Emma Birikorang

- \*'Challenges of the AU/UN Mission in Darfur' (forthcoming KAIPTC Occasional Paper).
- \*Compendium of ECOWAS Security Protocols and Agreements, with Kwesi Aning and Thomas Jaye (forthcoming).
- \*'African Security Architecture' in *Africa South of the Sahara*, Europa Publications, London (forthcoming).

### Samuel Atuobi

- \*Looking for Innovative Ideas: West Africa Looks Towards the Private Sector, with Hany Besada of Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) *Accra Daily Mail*, January 31 2008.
- \*Elections-Related Violence in Africa, *Conflict Trends*, Issue 1, 2008.
- \*Preventing Elections Related Violence. Whose Responsibility?" *Daily Graphic*, February 25, 2008.
- \*The Role of Private Military Companies and US Africa Policy (Joint paper with Dr. Aning and Dr. Jaye), *Review of African*

*Political Economy Vol. 35 No. 118 2008.*

- \*Responsibility to Protect in Africa: An analysis of the African Union's Peace and Security Architecture" with Dr. Aning, *Global Responsibility to Protect* (forthcoming).

### Aissatou Fall

- \*Togo Country Report with Kwesi Aning for the Centre on International Cooperation, New York University.
- \*Guinea Bissau Country Report with Mustapha Abdallah & Kwesi Aning, for the Centre on International Cooperation, New York University.
- \*Module on Gender and Multidimensional Peace Support Operations, part of the West Africa Specific Manual on Gender and Peace Support Operations being developed by ECOWAS Gender Development Centre (EGDC), Women in Peacebuilding Network in Africa (WIPSEN-A) and KAIPTC with Kwesi Aning.
- \*Report of the Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons, 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> April 2008, KAIPTC with Ernest Ansah Lartey.
- \**The Casamance Conflict : A 'Forgotten' Civil War*. KAIPTC Occasional Paper (Forthcoming).
- \*Criminality and Peacekeeping in Post-conflict societies: the case of UNMIL in Liberia joint paper within the framework of African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), with Afua Lamp- tey, Freedom Onuoha, Thimbani Mbadlanyana and Modibo Goita (Forthcoming).

### Ernest Lartey

- \*The Role of Security Agencies in Providing Security in Elections in Ghana. With Dr Kwesi Aning for United Nations Office for West Africa (On-going).
- \*Mitigating Electoral Violence in Ghana: Challenges and Prospects for Peaceful Elections. Joint paper with Dr Kwesi Aning, for Centre for Democratic Development (CDD-Ghana), Ghana.
- \*Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: Lessons from Ghana, with Dr Kwesi Aning. Centre on International Cooperation, New York.
- \*Security Sector Transformation in Liberia. Centre for Security Sector Management (CSSM), Cranfield University, U.K (Forthcoming)
- \*ECOWAS Interventions in Local Conflicts in West Africa: The Case of Northern Ghana. Joint paper with Dr Kwesi Aning, for West Africa Network for Security and Democratic Governance (WANSED), Abuja, Nigeria. (Forthcoming)
- \*Evaluating Electoral Processes and the State of Democracy in West Africa. The Case of Ghana. Joint paper with Dr Kwesi Aning, for Goree Institute, Dakar, Senegal.
- \*Post Conflict Peacebuilding in Liberia. Joint Conference Report with Dr Thomas Jaye. Centre for International Peace Operations (ZIF) and Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC).



# NEW INTERNS AT CPMRD



**Naila Salihu**

**NAILA SALIHU** joined the KAIPTC as a graduate intern with the CPMRD in October 2008 and will be with the Center till the end of March, 2009. Naila's research at the CPMRD is sponsored by the GTZ graduate internship programme at the KAIPTC.

the KAIPTC.

She holds a first degree in Political Science and Linguistics from the University of Ghana, and currently enrolled at the Legon Center for International Affairs (LECIA), University of Ghana, pursuing a Master of Philosophy degree in International Affairs.

Naila's decision to work with the KAIPTC is inspired by her strong desire to acquire a practical understanding of regional conflicts within the context of conflict prevention, management and resolution processes in Africa. She is interested in issues of governance, elections and electoral conflicts in Africa. Naila also has a special interest in gender, peace and security issues.



**Camille Muhire**

**CAMILLE MUHIRE IS A GTZ-sponsored intern at the Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution Department (CPMRD) of KAIPTC.**

He obtained a Bachelors Degree in Clinical Psychology from the National University of Rwanda before joining the University of Yaoundé for a DEA in Child Psychology and Psychopathology. He has worked for two years in Benin with an international child centered NGO.

In 2007, Camille pursued a DESS in Conflict and Peace Management at CERAP/ IDDH in partnership with University of Cocody in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

Before joining the KAIPTC, Camille had his academic internship with the West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) in Accra where he supported WANEP's Peace Monitoring Centre (PMC) particularly, through desk and field research on ECOWAS Early Warning (ECOWARN) System.

Camille has research interest in several topics such as: Conflict Early Warning and Early Response; Elections violence in Africa; Child Soldiers and Children trafficking in Africa among others. His DESS dissertation focused on "The Role of Civil Society in Preventing Electoral Violence in Ghana.



**Jimam T. Lar**

**JIMAM TIMCHANG LAR** attended the University of Jos, Nigeria, (1998-2001) graduating with a BA (Hons) Degree in History and an MA from the same Institution in March 2007.

Jimam is a merit beneficiary of the ECOWAS/CSDG MA Fellowship programme at King's College in the United Kingdom. He was in the War Studies Department of King's College pursuing an MA in Conflict Security and Development. Before arriving at King's College, Jimam was an Assistant Lecturer in the Department of History and International Studies at the University of Jos, Nigeria.

Jimam's research interest includes: intra/ inter group relations in post-colonial Central Nigeria; security sector reform and conflict prevention in West Africa with special focus in democratic governance; local ownership and policy coherence; the dynamics of boundaries, sovereignty, and sub-regional integration in West Africa. He is also interested in activities of non-state security actors in Nigeria, and local versus foreign processes of transitional justice. At KAIPTC, Jimam will focus his research on ECOWAS and its regional SSR agenda.

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**MARGARET AKPENE** Attipoe is a university graduate in Information Studies and Linguistics from the University of Ghana, Legon. She is a national service personnel at KAIPTC with CPMRD for the period between November, 2008 and August, 2009.

Margaret is interested in understanding peace building processes and negotiations in post-conflict societies in Africa. She also wishes to sharpen her research skills in issues of community crime and security.

While at KAIPTC, she intends to enhance her skills and expertise in research through personal contribution to CPMRD publications. This she hopes to achieve by writing an occasional paper focusing on community crime and violence using Ghana as a case study.

Margaret's expectations include an opportunity to pursue higher academic studies in the area of gender, peace support operations, conflict, security and development.



**Margaret A. Attipoe**

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## Policy Brief



# Democratic Transition and Electoral Security in Ghana

By  
Ernest Ansah Lartey<sup>1</sup>

One of the ways through which the success of a democratic transition can be measured is how regularly political power is peacefully transferred from one political party to another in a political contest. In this case, political parties who compete with each other in a democratic election should be given equal opportunity to conduct their campaigns in a secure political environment. On the other hand, a democratic transition which is characterised by abuse of incumbency and violence cannot be considered to be a success, even though political power may have been changed through the ballot box. In Ghana, the Fourth Republican Constitution of 1992 makes provision for a smooth alternation of political power between political parties through free and fair elections supervised by an independent electoral commission. The Constitution, also, provides ample guidelines that direct the conduct of the security agencies in promoting democracy in Ghana. This makes the Fourth Republican Constitution an exhaustive and supreme security framework which legitimizes the existence of, not only the state and the elective government, but also the security of the entire citizenry.

Since Ghana reclaimed its democratic status in 1992, the role of the security agencies in consolidating the democratic process has been extremely commendable. In the first instance, the security agencies played an instrumental role in the democratic elections that peacefully transferred political power from a military regime to a civilian government in 1992. Secondly and more significantly is the catalytic role which the security agencies played in the 2000 elections in which the incumbent democratic government, in compliance with the Constitution, handed over power peacefully to the opposition party following the outcome of the 2000 elections which went in favour of the opposition party. These two events are landmark achievements that have been largely acclaimed by the international community.

Previous elections have been keenly contested between the two major political parties, the New Patriotic Party (NPP) and National Democratic Congress (NDC), and this year's elections on December 7, 2008 promise to be even more competitive with a possibility of run-off. Certainly, another change of political administration is due to emerge from this year's elections but even with less than a week to the ballot, no clear leader has emerged from the current political race even though various opinion polls conducted by institutions such as the

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“Daily Dispatch” newspaper, National Commission for Civil Education (NCCE), the “Dankwah” Institute and the Bureau of National Investigations (BNI) have all predicted controversial outcomes with varying degree of credibility.

Also, the electoral process in Ghana has been needlessly characterized by abuse of incumbency, intolerable levels of violence and inconceivable degree of impunity which keep aggravating each time elections are held in the country. What is more instructive is the way and manner the security agencies, especially the police have managed the security of the elections. There is a deep-seated perception of institutional complicity with incumbent governments in manipulating electoral processes and outcomes in the country. This perception is strongly held by the main opposition NDC which has variously accused the security agencies of uneven handedness. The police administration, on the other hand, has made public their commitment to exercise their constitutional mandate to all parties in an impartial manner and has urged the political parties to be circumspect in their utterances in order not to incite people to violence.

To provide maximum security for the 2008 elections a National Elections Security Task Force (NESTF) has been established. As the lead agency of NESTF, the police administration needs to inspire and exhibit high sense of professionalism and capacity in order to provide the desired operational level security capable of dealing swiftly with electoral malfeasance, threats and actual acts of violence which may undermine the peaceful conduct of the December 7 elections. As the days get closer to the elections, the security agencies must ensure that they uphold the highest standards of best practices reflective of the principles of fairness, firmness and due diligence in the discharge of their election security duties.

Towards this regard, it is highly recommended that there be established a permanent national elections security management board led by the Ghana Police Service which will be charged exclusively with the responsibility of dealing with election security matters in the country irrespective of the electoral season of the national political calendar. The proposed Elections Security Management Board (ESMB) should be decentralized to the regional, district and constituency levels across the country in order to be able to give rapid response to violations of electoral rules. This will help stem the intolerable levels of electoral violence and the culture of impunity that appear to be gaining ascendancy in the Ghanaian body politics. It will also help to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and rule of law, especially at the grassroots level in Ghana. The entry point to start the formation of the proposed ESMB will be to transform part of the current ad hoc NESTF into a more professional elections security unit, and empowering it with exclusive mandate to handle elections security violations.

But beyond this, the optimum security for elections in Ghana remains a collective responsibility that must be nurtured through a predictable security governance system in which all stakeholders have a role to play.