

## REGIONAL MASTER PLAN ON SMALL ARMS

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### INTRODUCTION:

Frontier Indigenous Network organized and held small arms and light weapon campaign dubbed “Pastoralist Women Small arms Campaign” in Wajir District of northern Kenya. The campaign started with development regional master plan on small and a peaceful procession that culminated with presentation of petition to government officials for action and collaboration

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

Frontier Indigenous Network would like to thank women peace builders for their active participation during the campaign on small and light weapons that took place on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2010.

Frontier Indigenous Network and women peace builders are grateful for the grant support received from MAYPOLE FUND toward the campaign.

### GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS:

North eastern province comprises of four districts namely Wajir, Mandera, Garissa and Ijara. Wajir district borders Somalia and Ethiopia, Mandera district borders Somalia and Ethiopia, Ijara district borders Somalia while Garissa district borders Somalia. The Somali communities living the four districts of northern Kenya are Ajuran, Degodia, Marehan, Ogaden, Garreh, sheykal, Murulle, Sharmoge.

Most communities live in both sides of the border of Kenya/Somalia. The communities that live in both sides are Marehan and Ogaden while others are concentrated in the four districts.

### **SMALL ARMS PROBLEM IN NORTHERN KENYA**

The widespread availability and misuse of small arms in North Eastern province of Kenya threatens safety, security and development prospects of communities in the region.

The clan-clashes, banditry, cross-border raids and cattle rustling are fought with these easily available small arms and light weapon, sourced from various arms market along the vast Kenya/Somalia border. They are also widely used in the commission of crime and other violent activities, whilst undermining effects at conflict prevention and resolution.

This climate of insecurity serves to undermine economic development through restricting freedom of movement and access to services and opportunities for income generation. The problem of small arms in N.E.P conflict is much highlighted and pointed as the major factors that exacerbate killings, maiming of innocent people in the province.

### **DISARMAMENT PROGRAM:**

From 1998 to 2001 a major community disarmament exercise took place in the four districts of northern Kenya. The program which was funded and supported by Oxfam G.B saw communities voluntarily surrendering their arms that were used in inter-clan fighting.

The arms that were surrendered were A-k 47, G-3 and F-N. However the disarmament program did not address easily availability of small arms from two main arms market across border.

### **ARMS FOUND IN NORTHERN KENYA AFTER THE DISARMAMENT PROGRAM:**

The communities in northern Kenya went back to the two main arms market and procured large cache of arms that is kept in safe areas known by the communities. The arms are used in case of provocation from other clans and when a certain communities decide to wage attack against other.

The communities procure their arms from two main arms market of Burhache and Doblely that is some few kilometers into Kenyan territory. The communities' acquisition of arms has fuelled community arms race in northern Kenya and the exercise is kept secret that government agencies will not understand its location and when it's procured.

The arms found in northern Kenya for communities use are:

1 M-I6

2 AK-47

3 G-3

4

### **ARMS SUPPLIES BUSINESS OUTSIDE NORTHERN KENYA:**

While the two arms markets do a booming business of selling and arming local communities in northern Kenya, another intricate web of arms supplies to pastoralist communities in Isiolo, Samburu, Laikipia and Nairobi exists.

The arms dealers have used their arms supply to various clans in winning the community protection and assurance of safe passage when they traffic and transport the cache of arms to various destinations mentioned above.

The clans in northern Kenya have witnessed large transfer and transportation of large cache of arms using land rovers, camel, donkey and human beings through various villages where they get water and tea before moving to their end point.

No clan which can report to authorities about the transportation of arms as that will deprive them of arms supplies from arms dealers. The arms dealers in the two markets ensure the inventory of arms for local communities are kept so that the clans should not trade in arms and knock them out of lucrative business.

The arms dealers control the arms market to end points mentioned above and they only supply arms to designated persons who supply them to various warring communities in the districts mentioned above.

#### **ARMS THAT ARE SOLD OUTSIDE NORTHERN KENYA:**

- 1 M-16 RIFLES
- 2 AK-47 ASSAULTS
- 3 BREN RIFLES
- 4 AKER RIFLES
- 5 G-3 RIFLES

#### **ROUTES OF SMUGGLING ARMS:**

##### **WAJIR SMUGGLING POINTS**

1 FIRST UNMANNED CUT LINE FROM FAFADUN BORDER POINT TO IT PASSES OVER KHOROF HARAR VILLAGE INTO WAJIR WEST TO BOSNIA ROAD THAT BESIDE MERTI TO ISIOLO TOWN

2 CUTLINE FROM ELWAK BORDER POINT TO TAKABA, BANISA TO WAJIR NORTH UPTO WAJIR/MARSABIT BORDER MERTI AND ITS TAKEN TO SAMBURU

3 CUTLINE FROM ELWAK TO KUTULO TO MANSA, TO ELDAS TO BASIR AND IT SUPPLY CONFLICT IN MARSABIT ESPECIALLY TURBI CLASHES

4 CUTLINE FROM FAFADUN TO WAJIR BOR TO LEHELEY TO AREA BETWEEN GARBATULA AND MALKAADAKA AND THEN TO ISIOLO. IT'S TRANSPORTED TO LAIKIPIA

5 CUTLINE FROM DADAJIBULA TO SHANTAABAQ TO AREA OUTSIDE MODOGASHE TO AREA OUTSIDE GRABATULLA AND THEN TO KINNA MERU WHERE IT'S TRANSPORTED TO MERU AREAS BEFORE IT'S SUPPLIED TO LAIKIPIA, SAMBURU AND ISIOLO. THEY USE MIRAA LAND CRUISERS

6 CUTLINE FROM DOBLEY TO STRAIGHT TO AREA OUTSIDE GARISSA ITS FERRIED BY CANOE ACROSS TANA RIVER THEN ITS TAKEN BY CUTLINE TO AREA OUTSIDE MWINGI. THEY USE MASINGA ROAD TO EMBU AND MERU. THEY USE MIRAA LAND CRUISERS

7 CUTLINE FROM DOBLEY TO ELDERE AND THEN TO AREA OUTSIDE MERTI AND THEN TO KOM AREA IT'S SOLD TO SAMBURU

8 CUTLINE FROM DOBLEY TO GURUFA TO HABASWEIN TO STRAIGHT TO SHAB AREA OF ISIOLO TO KAMBI GARBA, ISIOLO

**METHODS OF SMUGGLING:**

- 1 USING DONKEYS AND COURIERS
- 2 USING LAND ROVERS
- 3 USING CAMELS
- 4 USING MIRAA VEHICLES

**TIMETABLE OF SMUGGLING:**

**MIRAA VEHICLES**

Miraa vehicle smuggles arms twice a month. They do this so that authorities should not suspect them. They ferry miraa day and night but they use cutline's twice a month

**CAMELS/DONKEYS**

They transport arms based on demands. They transport a lot to troubled spot and area ridden by inter-clan clashes.

**LAND ROVERS**

The land rovers transport the arms twice a month and they take different time with Miraa land cruisers. Their timetables are drawn by the arms dealers in the two arms market.

**ARMS SMUGGLING STYLES:**

1 Arms are piled into miraa land cruiser and it's covered by banana leaves. The number plate is covered by piece of cloth and the driver covers his face. The land cruiser has four armed guards on top and two in front.

2 The donkeys and camels move some distance from each other. Guns are piled up into sacks while other donkey's carries jerrican filled with bullets. The porters have no knowledge of what they are carrying, what type of arms and they are not allowed to tamper with the cargo.

The porters are armed with M-16 and in every group there are two marksmen. The marksmen are from former Siad Barre regime.

3 The pistols to Nairobi and other urban centre's are stuffed in goat stomach and it's passed as meat destined to Nairobi. They also use twenty liters jerrican containing animal fat to ferry pistol bullets.

**NAMES ARMS PLAYERS**

Women peace builders mentioned names of thirty arms players found in Somalia side of Kenya /Somalia border. There names are as follow.

**COMMUNITY DRIVEN SMALL ARMS CONTROL:**

Women peace builders agreed that its was important and imperative for government to join forces with local communities and various organizations that works on community peace

buildings, eradication of small arms and light weapons and cross border peace initiative in sealing small arms route, apprehending the arms players and couriers, sealing smuggling points and offer joint public /government partnership in addressing proliferation of small arms.

#### SMALL ARMS MARKING:

Women peace builders agreed that the government should mark recovered and surrendered small arms and light weapons and share the inventory of the same with various organizations and the communities so that suspicion of the same arms ending in wrong hand and fuelling conflict will stop.

#### CONCLUSION:

Women peace builders agreed that they have captured various conditions, factors, reasons, players behind the proliferation of small arms and light weapon in Wajir District .They also agreed that the regional master plan contains wish and aspiration of general populace of Wajir District on importance of government adopting open door policy and forge partnership with local civil society and members of the public.

Women peace builders agreed that this regional master plan will be presented to government officials in Wajir District.