

KOFI ANNAN INSTITUTE FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION (KAICT) NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE
DIRECTOR

Madam Mama Pope,
Assisting Chair of the
Peace Hut, welcomed
participants.



KAICT
CONDUCTS EIGHTH
SPEAKER EVENT

The Armed Forces of Liberia Has Improved Coordination with other State Security Institutions

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Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



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The Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) is a component of the Graduate School of the University of Liberia. KAICT offers Master of Arts degree, Diploma and Certificate courses in Conflict Transformation. Further to our degree and diploma courses, the institution in itself is a Think Tank that conducts policy research, supports the Government of Liberia and the international community in policy formulation and implementation.

In fulfillment of its mandate to serve as a reservoir of knowledge, KAICT has catalyzed the establishment and operationalization of a Security Sector Reform Think Tank (SSRTT) which assembles key Liberian security sector stakeholders, including academic scholars, policy makers, security sector officers and civil society representatives.

This newsletter happens to be the 4th in a series and highlights key activities of the Security Sector Reform Think Tank. Following a period inevitable glitch, due mainly to UNMIL's departure, we are happy to reposition publication of the SSRTT Newsletter on an irreversible path of quality production and circulation with support from UNDP.

In this series, we reveal current development and challenges confronting the security sector, gathered through high level policy dialogues, community outreach and observance of International Day of peace. Key messages, challenges and recommendation contained herein are critical to enhancing a vibrant and civilian owned security sector.

T. Debey Sayndee

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Madam Mama Pope,

Assisting Chair of the Peace Hut, welcomed participants. Mama Pope and her team sang and danced "We want peace, no more war" as some participants joined in.

Madam Lusu Bernard, Coordinator/ Advanced Specialized Course on Women, Peace and Security, Cohort 2/KAICT, give an overview of the program and introduced the visiting students. She expressed her gratitude to the women for their cordial welcome.

Speaking on the purpose of the visit, Madam Bernard emphasized her students' desire to understand how disputes amongst community dwellers are settled, including but not limited to issues of rape and land disputes as means of ensuring peace and security in the County.

Madam Mary C. Sandiman Co-chair and Acting Head of the Peace-hut in response to the purpose of the students' visit, summarized activities of the group beginning as far back as 2003, before the establishment of the Hut; she explained the peace role of women during the war and their activities related to the disarmament of warring groups.

According to Madam Sandiman "The women of Totota have worked extensively to ensure peace and security in this country but we have been left out". Risking their safety during the periods of fighting, they grouped themselves and met face-to-face with the soldiers and advise them to stop fighting, that the people of Liberia deserve to live in a peaceful society, free from chaos.



Outstanding among the many works of the women of Totota was the Peace Tree, a symbol of peace and a proof of the disarmament carried out by the women. The trunk of the tree is made up of all the guns that were taken from soldiers, the leaves are the shells of the bullet, while the branches are words signifying a stable society: Empowerment, Development, Reconciliation, and Disarmament.

The tree was donated by UN Women through DEN-L on May 8, 2015, and thereafter erected in Totota Lower Bong, the Headquarter of Women in Peace Network for Bong County, as a tribute to the women of Totota for their work in ensuring that peace came to the country, (they sat in the rain and the sun denying themselves of pleasures until peace was obtained).

KAICT RELAUNCHES SSRTT POLICY DIALOGUES

The Security Sector Reform Think Tank (SSRTT) housed at the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) has relaunched its series of policy dialogues. The dialogues were relaunched in September 2018 following a period of stasis due in part to the departure of UNMIL, who, significantly supported the initiative in time past. The dialogues are currently being supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The SSRTT believes policy dialogues of such substantive nature set the platform for security sector actors to discuss issues that are critical to the nation's security and to promote horizontal and vertical linkages amongst policy makers, security personnel, civil society, students, development partners and the media. The dialogues also place emphasis on enhancing the capacity of national actors and stakeholders to actively monitor and inform security sector reform processes.

To date, Two SSR dialogues were held on September 28, 2018 and October 17, 2018 respectively in the auditorium of the University of Liberia and brought together civil society activists, members of the security sector institutions, traditional groups, student bodies and lecturers, women groups, International organizations (UNDP, ECOWAS, MRU, AU, donor community etc.) to discuss SSR issues in Liberia. The dialogues took the form of syndicate sessions interspersed with speeches, panel and plenary discussions. Panel members were drawn from the security sector, civil society and comprised senior officials of government. The September 2018 policy dialogue was themed "Processes and Mechanisms for the Development of SSR Policies" whilst the October 2018 carried the theme "National Ownership of the Security Sector".

The ultimate goal of the policy dialogues is to create local ownership that strengthens the security institutions and promotes rule of law and access to justice in Liberia. Both dialogues brought together more than 300 persons from civil society, security sector institutions, traditional groups, student bodies and lecturers, women groups, international organizations (UNDP, ECOWAS, MRU, and AU), donor community etc.

During the September 2018 policy dialogue, the Director of Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) welcomed and encouraged participants to develop the concept of national ownership of the SSR process by lending their support in every way possible. Prof. T. Debey Saydee provided a short overview of the Security Sector Reform Think Tank project, indicating with the support of UNDP and other international and local partners, the series of activities for the SSR project would harness knowledge and expertise from various security sector actors and local communities.

These policy dialogues will glean knowledge and share experience for strategic national policy advocacy, advisement and academic enhancement, Prof. Saydee maintained.



STUDENTS OF KAICT VISIT PEACE HUT IN TOTOTA, BONG COUNTY



The WANEP-WIPNET-Peace hut located in Totota, Bong County was a scene of convergence as students of Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) paid a visit on September 28, 2018.

The students who are part of an Advanced Specialized Course on Women, Peace and Security, Cohort 2, took a one-day bus ride to the rural peace center with the view to interact with women peacemakers in rural communities and understand conflict resolution coupled with the underlying strategies of the rural women in ensuring peace and security within the county. The event brought together women, Commissioners, Imam and students all members of the Peace Hut.

The event commenced with an indoor peace hut dialogue in which the rural women shared their experiences with participants. This was followed by a question and answer session. After the dialogue, participants were subsequently divided into small groups and sent into the community to interact with residents, ask questions and observe the composure aimed at determining correlation between their stories and actions.





Rough Political Transition Created Policy Gap in the Security Sector – Peter Zazay Alerts

In the margins of the SSR policy dialogue held on 28 September, former Deputy Commissioner of Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) served as one of three panelists, during which time he made a sensitive and critical revelation. In his presentation Mr. Peter Zazay provided historical analysis of Liberia's SSR process; major activities characterizing UNMIL's draw down and subsequent departure; effects of 2017 political transition on the security sector; and the need for intimate legislative involvement in the sector.

According to Mr. Zazay, "SSR began in 2003. The need for SSR was spelled out in the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (ACPA) and the UN Security Council Resolution 1509. Both ACPA and UN Resolution 1509 provided for the UN and other international organizations to partner with the Liberian Government aimed at reforming Liberian security sector institutions.

Between 2003 and 2004, the Rand Corporation conducted a study under the theme "Making Liberia Safe" and recommended rationalization and harmonization of the security sector since some of the institutions were overlapping functions. Implementation of the recommendation resulted in the formulation and implementation of the National Security Sector Reform and Intelligence Act which saw the dissolution of the Ministry of National Security and The National Bureau of Investigation."

In light of the 2017 political elections which saw the inauguration of President George Weah in January 2018, the transition of public officials in the security sector did not witness a smooth turnover. Upon inauguration of the President everybody was deemed or considered resigned or dismissed. So we didn't have that smooth transition as you would call it, Mr. Zazay expressed.

According to Mr. Zazay, with the exception of LIS, there are new breed of leaders in the security who have not had the opportunity to be orientated and benefit from hand-over-notes from their predecessors. The situation has created a gap in terms of understanding and operationalizing the policies that were developed over the SSR period.

KAICT Conducts Eighth Speaker Event

The Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation organized its Eighth Speaker Event under the Theme: "The Preservation of Liberia's Natural Resources for Future Generations". The Event was held at the University of Liberia Auditorium on October 12, 2018 at the precise hour of 10:00am and ended 2:30pm.



The event was conducted as a panel discussion and involved students from various high schools and local experts in the field of natural resource management. The deliberation was centered on how the natural resources of Liberia can be preserved for future generations. The discussions addressed the questions: What does preservation means for Liberia? This question should clarify the framework, policies, and processes for the preservation of natural resources. The second talking point is to address what we know about ways and practices of circumventing these frameworks?

Madam Susan B. Koker of KAICT in her welcome remarks said Liberia as a nation needs to know how we can preserve our natural resources for future Generations. The next section was followed by an opening statement from the Director of KAICT in person of Mr. T. Debey Sayndee. He said different groups of people may ascribe or associate different meanings to the term natural resources, those meanings may be because of how they see their various governments handling their resources, in a more pristine or precarious manner.

However, as a nation there is a dire need that we contrive good strategies to be able to preserve these resources for the future Generation. Whether the plan is to leave our resources untouched or for it to be used in a more prudent way, the outcome should be in the best interest of the future generations to come.

Serving as panelists at the Speaker Event organized by KAICT were Mr. Jackson Speare, Program Coordinator/UNIDO, Mr. Aaron Weah, Executive Director/Search for Common Ground and Mr. Myer W. Saye, Policy Officer/KAICT.

During the deliberation, Mr. Jackson Speare cautioned Liberians not to be too sure of describing Liberia as a resource rich nation. Mr. Jackson's comment stems from the absence of a proper inventory of Liberia's natural resource wealth, a database that could have indicated the kinds of natural resources the nation possesses, their quantity and location.

"Since inception in 1847 Liberia has been exploiting her natural resources and has no idea on the quantity reserved. This makes the nation vulnerable because people cannot quantify the amount of resources currently available" Mr. Jackson averred.

For his part Mr. Aaron Weah, Executive Director of the Search for Common Ground, named the Ministry of Lands, Mines and Energy (MLME), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) as the legal and regulatory agencies of government holding the mandates of regulating all of the components of our natural resource sector which is inclusive of Mining, Logging, Agriculture and the newest Oil and Gas sectors.

"The most important of all the bodies or structures we have in our country is the National Legislature made up of the House of Senate and the House of Representatives. These two houses have statutory committees set up to give check and balance on the various laws that are established. Therefore, the first assignment in preserving the natural resources of the country comes with our civic responsibilities" Mr. Weah disclosed.

The event was well attended and graced by Mr. I.B. Mohammed of the Nigerian Military and Ms. Jacqueline M. Cheeks; Madam Lauretta Pope Kai and Cllr. M. Bedor –Wla Freeman served as panelists. The former serves as President of KAICT's student union while the latter is Head of the Independent Information Commission. The keynote address was delivered by Mrs. Georgina Williams, an alumnus of KAICT and Assistant Coordinator, Department of Education/NASSCORP.

Generally, the IDP celebration seeks to sustain the peace in Liberia through deliberate efforts of conscientizing the Liberian people to be messengers of peace themselves.

This year's IDP celebration sought the following specific objectives:

- To highlight the importance of peace and stability to all Liberians;
- To make people conscious of their right to peace as a means of keeping the flame of peace burning in Liberia and the world; and
- To ensure we live a life free of violence and unnecessary conflict.

The IDP celebration ceremony commenced with remarks from Prof. T. Debey Sayndee, Director of KAICT. He called for a moment of silence in observance of the death of Dr. Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General in whose honor the institute of peace and conflict studies at the university of Liberia was named.

Professor Sayndee in further remarks commended the German Non- governmental AGEH for its support to the observance of the International Day of Peace and intimated his institution (KAICT) will continue to tread on the path of its proud tradition to promote peace.

"We are proud to herald the process of peace building and conflict transformation at Liberia's highest institution of learning" Professor Sayndee stated.

"And we ask you to journey with us on this road for the consolidation of peace. Together we have all worked to preserve 15 years of peace. And now more than ever before, the task is ours as a people to help ensure that the investment of the international community is upheld" Professor Sayndee emphasized.

The keynote speaker, Georgina T. Williams, has observed that peace is an effective conduit for growth and development in any nation. "Let us continue to endeavor to promote peace", Williams pointed out.

The keynote speaker commended the Kofi Annan Institute for helping to build a tradition of peace and conflict transformation in Liberia.

She paid homage to the Institute for the wonderful job it is doing to promote peace in this country. Madam Williams added that KAICT is following in a great tradition pursued by the likes of Dr. Martin Luther-King, Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Kofi Annan and Mother Mary Brownell.

Critical to Madam Williams' message was that Young people should be at the forefront of global chance and innovation. She wants young people empowered to be agents of positive change.

During the panel discussion, the need for collaborative efforts in sustaining the peace resonated with the presenters - **Madam Lauretta Pope Kai and Cllr. M. Bedor –Wla Freeman**.

Cllr. Freeman encouraged the people to embrace the concept of peace by denouncing violence. He also urged Liberians to strive to promote a culture of free speech; saying this is a guiding tool in democracy consolidation and peace building.

For her part, **Madam Lauretta Pope Kai** believes students should be agents of peace. This can be achieved through the attainment of education, an essential tool for peacebuilding.

The program which was described by many as colorful and educating was organized by a committee headed by Dr. Anthony Hena of the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation.



Significant Progress Has Been Made in Security Sector Reform – Hon. Asatu Bah Kenneth

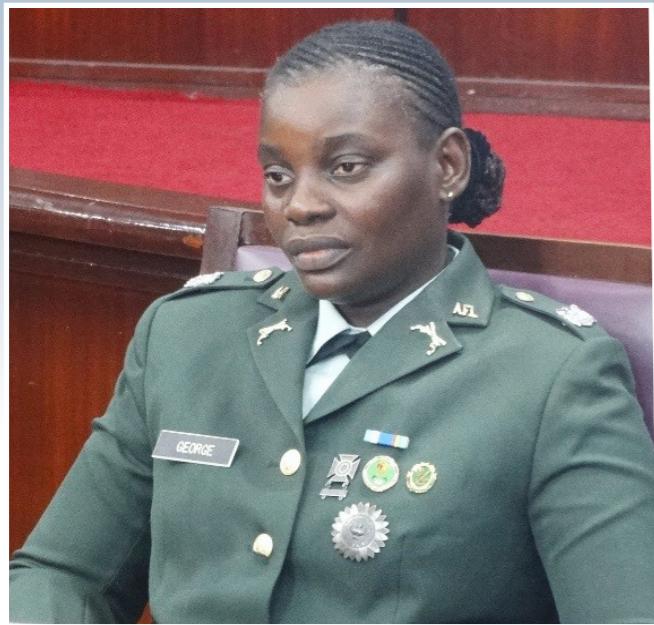
During her presentation as panelist at the September 28, 2018 policy dialogue held on the Capitol Hill campus of the University of Liberia, Deputy Commissioner of the Liberia Immigration Service, Hon. Asatu Bah Kenneth recognized the importance of the SSR process, stating it has brought improvement to the security sector.

In spite of the complexities marking implementation of SSR reforms, the Deputy Immigration Boss did not hesitate to inform the audience that significant progress has been made in Security Sector Reform. Madam Kenneth explained: "Today as we look at the security sector, it is far improved somehow better than ten years ago. It is all because of these strategies and policies that have been developed or mechanisms that are in place. There are more professionals, more college graduates, more college students and the like into this sector because of all of the reform strategies that are in place and the reform process is being monitored closely".

Madam Kenneth listed major achievements in the security sector due to reforms as establishment of professional standards in the security sector; rolling of the gender policies; and capacity building at every level. In the past, officers were only given opportunity to do recruitment training, basic recruit training, etc. They never had the opportunity to build their capacity in specialized skills and never had the opportunity to even go further, the Deputy Immigration Boss pointed out.

Madam Kenneth also informed her audience the security sector has regained public trust. She said "Before the establishment of the community service section, getting involved with community policing proved challenging. People ran from the security officers. But today due to all of these mechanisms that have been put into place we now regained public trust".

In her parting comments, the Deputy Immigration boss urged the security sector to be depoliticized; encourage the appointment of more women at decision making level; and pleaded for improvement in incentives and logistics for officers in the security sector.



The Armed Forces of Liberia Has Improved Coordination with other State Security Institutions - Geraldine J. George /Deputy Chief of Staff/AFL

In what appears to be a formal presentation to a broader audience during another security sector reform policy dialogue, conducted on the Capitol Hill Campus of the University on October 17, 2018, Brigadier General Geraldine J. George/Deputy Chief of Staff/AFL, informed participants of greater coordination between the AFL and other state security institutions since the draw-down of UNMIL.

The AFL has provided training to personnel of the Liberia Immigration Service, the Executive Protection Services, and the Drug Enforcement Agency to show ownership and collaboration in the security sector.

"Internally, the AFL has built capacity of its soldiers including training of two pilots over twelve years in Nigeria". Brigadier General George was however quick to point out to the lack of air craft, something that would have enabled the two pilots practice and apply their knowledge effectively for the benefit of the nation.

According to Brigadier General George, taking local ownership of the security sector since the drawdown of UNMIL has been a bit challenging for the AFL due to Lack of adequate logistics to include airlift capabilities, training aids, serviceable vehicles and accommodation facilities.

Owing to the fact that the aforementioned challenges significantly prohibit the AFL from adequately responding to emergencies within the country, the Deputy AFL Boss recommended additional recruitment of personnel into the AFL; organization of joint briefing sessions with other security agencies; capacity building for security agencies; gun training and operations; and comprehensive intelligence gathering.

National Ownership is the Fundamental Approach to Security Sector Reform – Patrick Sudu/Inspector General of Police



Police Inspector General Patrick Sudu had stressed national ownership is the fundamental approach to SSR. He said this means that SSR must be initiated, formulated and implemented by national stakeholders rather than external.

According to the IG of Police, citizens referred to the security sector as regime security during the civil crisis in Liberia, so in order to alleviate the fear of citizens and allow them to build trust in the sector, citizens should be given the opportunity to decide the type of security sector they want since they are the ones who will inherit it.

National ownership of SSR should not be left to the international community or the government alone rather it should involve local participation of citizens.

According to Inspector General Sudu, SSR in Liberia was not fully decentralized, citizens were not involved in formulation and implementation of the program. To decentralize the LNP and other security apparatus the government will have to strengthen the Security Council so that it can serve as a decision making body for the locals. In that way citizens or local leaders will not have to move from the interior and come to Monrovia to gather information about how to make certain decisions.

The inability of UN to include local stakeholders in the SSR project formulation undermined local ownership of the program. One of the ways to bridge this gap is for the UN and other stakeholders to revisit the SSR program for African countries including Liberia.

The Inspector General of Police made the remarks at a ceremony marking a high level Security Sector Reform Policy Dialogue held at the University of Liberia in October 2018.

At the same occasion, Director of Prevention at Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency, Mr. Robert Kutu Akoi said the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency is in partnership with the Joint Security Operations and other security apparatus. They work together to ensure the country is free from illicit drug.

According to Mr. Akoi, the 1999 Act establishing the Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) states "any security apparatus or auxiliary arresting drugs in the country should transfer it to the LDEA but there have been some challenges in the total adherence to the Act in past times, where other security apparatus would arrest and seize drugs without transferring to the LDEA. Mr. Akoi however praised the new police administration, saying the LDEA has seen new level of collaboration, where during the International Drugs Day the Liberia National Police brought all of the Drugs they had in their custody and turn it over to the LDEA.

At this event Mr. Akoi who serves as Director of Prevention/LDEA made a startling revelation. He said the newest drug issue in Liberia is the illegal use of Tramadol. According to Mr. Akoi, this drug is not illegal; it can be bought over the counter in pharmacies. Young people in Liberia claim that it gives the same effect as cocaine. The issue of drug use in Liberia should be the concern of everyone and there should be laws to prohibit the act but instead we have many lawyers pleading for the release of drug traffickers. The laws should be strengthened so that drug lords can be persecuted.

Arresting culprits in leeward counties is difficult because there is no vehicle. We sometimes have to take culprit to the station by means of motorcycle. The issue of manpower is also important point to consider when fighting drug in Liberia because we have the border areas and do not have manpower to cover the entire location, Mr. Akoi intimated.

Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) Celebrates International Day of Peace

The Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation (KAICT) celebrated the International Day of Peace (IDP) on Friday, 21 September 2018. The occasion brought together about 200 participants from all walks of life including students, government, civil society, academia, military and the media.

Initially, the event was scheduled to begin with a parade from the Antoinette Tubman Stadium to the University of Liberia campus on Capitol Hill. However, the parade was disrupted by bad weather condition which saw heavy precipitations in Monrovia.

The IDP was established by a United Nations Resolution 36/37 in 1981 and is dedicated to **"commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples."** According to the UN General Assembly the day is to be observed on 21 September each year as International Day of Peace.

To that end, the Kofi Annan Institute for Conflict Transformation at the University of Liberia has since embraced the idea and dedicated tremendous efforts towards celebrating the International Day of Peace (IDP). This year's celebration was characterized by speeches, panel discussions, key note address, cultural extravaganza and drama that conveyed the message of peace.