

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS

Abdul Rahman Lamin is a Lecturer in the Department of International Relations at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Educated in Sierra Leone and the United States, he holds a PhD from Howard University in Washington, D.C. Prior to joining the International Relations Department at Wits. Dr. Lamin was a *Post-Doctoral Research Fellow* at the Centre for Africa's International Relations (CAIR) at the University of the Witwatersrand, where his primary activity was to follow up on previous research on transitional justice in Sierra Leone, relate it to South African's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) experience, and determine its broader relevance for other post-conflict settings in West Africa. He has produced a number of publications on transitional justice and post-conflict peacebuilding in West Africa. Dr. Lamin has also held a Visiting Fellowship at the Solomon Asch Center for Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, USA.

Abiodun Bashua currently heads the Civil Affairs Section of the UN Operations in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI). He attended the University of Ibadan from where he graduated in June 1973 with a degree in Sociology. He also did a post-graduate course in French language at the Universite de Besancon in France in 1975. He joined the Nigerian Foreign Service in July 1974 rising to the highest ranks of the Service by 2000. He is currently on 'leave of absence' from the Nigerian Foreign Service and first served with the UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) and the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). His areas of specialization and interests are multilateral diplomacy, post-conflict peacekeeping, and developing African peacekeeping capacity.

Albert Fiasowome is a retired Major from the Ghana Armed Forces Education Corps. He is currently a Civil Military Liaison Officer with the World Food Programme in Liberia. He holds a Masters in Development Studies from the University of Ghana, specialising in economic and social development, resource allocation and project and policy analysis. Prior to his current position with the WFP, Albert served as Relief Manager for the Southern Sector of Ghana with World Vision Ghana. Mr. Fiasowome took part in an OCHA organized UN Civil Military Coordination Staff Course in Geneva, Switzerland and Skovde, Sweden. He has also participated in several

training programmes and workshops such the Initial Disaster Preparedness Plan and Track II Training, organized by World Vision Africa Regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. Albert is a veteran of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in 1994 and 1996, the UN Mission in Ethiopia-Eritrea (UNMEE) from 2000-2001, and of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) in Liberia from 1992-93 and 1997-98.

Alhagi Marong comes from The Gambia and is currently a Legal Officer at the Chambers Support Section of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha. Alhagi holds a Doctorate in law from McGill University. He also holds an LL.M. from McGill University and an LL.B., B.L from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra-Leone. During his studies at McGill, he held the McGill Greenshields Fellowship, the McGill Major Fellowship, and a Commonwealth Scholarship. Before his appointment with the ICTR, Dr. Marong worked as Co-Director for Africa Programs at the Environmental Law Institute in Washington DC. He has taught at the Department of Law at the American University of Armenia, and served as Senior State Counsel at the Ministry of Justice and Legal Adviser to the National Environment Agency of The Gambia. Dr. Marong also worked with the Law Reform Commission of The Gambia and the World Trade Organization. He consulted for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, and studied at the International Development Law Organization in Rome.

Chernor Jalloh is a Barrister of the Law Society of Upper Canada and a Solicitor of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, Canada. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Development Studies from the University of Guelph and Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Civil Law degrees from McGill University with a focus on international and comparative law. While at McGill, Chernor was a co-chair of the International Law Society and a Fellow at the Center for Developing Area Studies. After McGill, he consulted for the International Organization for Migration in Washington, D.C., where he later served as the Africa Focal Point and advised on the implementation of the Migration for Development in Africa Program. Mr. Jalloh is currently reading for a Masters in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford.

Fatoumata Aisha is a private consultant on issues of gender, women's rights and the rule of law in West Africa. Ms Aisha holds an MA in International relations and Human Rights. She holds a BA in Sociology and political

science. Ms Aisha has conducted extensive research on customary law and issues surrounding the rights of women in West Africa, with a particular focus on the Mano River basin. She has a keen interest on the role of women in post-conflict societies and a strong advocate of gender mainstreaming in peace support operations.

Lansana Gberie is an academic and journalist. He was senior research fellow at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre in Ghana. He has written extensively on conflict and peacekeeping in West Africa. As a result of his work on diamonds and conflict in Africa for Partnership Africa Canada, he was awarded the ‘Outstanding Research Award 2002’, Canada’s highest award for policy research. His book on Sierra Leone’s war, *A Dirty War in West Africa: The RUF and the Destruction of Sierra Leone*, will be issued this year by Hurst and Company in London.

Martin Rupiya is a Senior Researcher with the Defence Sector Programme at the Institute for Security Studies. Dr. Rupiya holds a PhD in military history from the University of Zimbabwe and is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the Zimbabwe Defence Force. He holds an M.A. from Kings College, University of London. Dr. Rupiya was the Director of the Centre for Defence Studies at the University of Zimbabwe and most recently was with the University of Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Dr. Rupiya has a wide experience in University Teaching, Research and Publications on the Peace and Security issues related to developments in Africa with a special focus on Southern African. He is involved in providing both practical and academic skills that are critical in understanding and analysing events around Disarmament, Demobilization, Re-integration and Resettlement and the broader issues of Security Sector Reform. He is the author of *“An African Perspective of the Reform of the Security Sector since the 1990s,”* in Eds. M. Rupiya et. al. *Guarding the Guardians Parliamentary Oversight and Civil Military Relations: The Challenges for SADC (ISS, SA)*.

Theophilus Tawiah is a Colonel in the Ghana Army. He is presently a Director of Logistics at the General Headquarters of the Ghana Armed Forces. He holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and a Master of Public Administration (MPA), degrees from the University of Ghana. He is a veteran of several UN peacekeeping operations. From August to September 2003, he was the Chief of Staff of the ECOWAS Vanguard Force (ECOMIL) deployed in Liberia to implement the Ceasefire Agreement of July 2003. On the transition of ECOMIL to a UN force, he was appointed the Sector Senior

Military Observer for the Tubmanburg and later the Monrovia sectors of UNMIL deployment from October 2003 to October 2004. Colonel Tawiah is also a veteran of several UN peace operations, in addition to serving with ECOMOG in Liberia.