

# **Control of small arms and light weapons in Darfur**

## **Vision and Road Map**

### **Preparation:**

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January 2015

## **Introduction: -**

The spread of firearms began in Darfur with the entry of the colonizer in 1916 when advanced types of weapons were known at the time, and the colonialist policy was aimed at strengthening the tribal leaders and providing them with weapons to carry out the tasks of controlling security and order on his behalf. This policy succeeded in maintaining security and stability and the power of the civil administration emerged in Providing peace. The situation continued like this even after the departure of the colonizer and the succession of national governments until the government of the late President **Jaafar Namiri**, "may God have mercy on him", when he dissolved the civil administration for political visions linked to clashing and hostile intellectual and ideological aspects of the civil administration. Which led to the emergence of the Hambatha groups and other groups carrying weapons for sustenance.

Unofficial statistics estimate that the number of weapons in Darfur exceeded one million weapons, that the rate of weapons per family-owned in some areas reached five, and that only 30% of these weapons were in the hands of the regular forces.

The paper aims to present practical, realistic, and innovative solutions in light of the experiences of controlling illegal weapons in the states of Darfur during the past periods, with guidance, as well as the best practical applications and lessons learned from the experiences of other countries that have just emerged from armed conflicts.

According to a critical and objective perspective of the experience of the conflict in Darfur and by shedding light on its chapters and clauses and the conditions of weapons proliferation, what is

required of us all is how to unify visions and efforts to interact with this complex reality according to new approaches, ideas, and mechanisms that help achieve comprehensive and sustainable peace by controlling the spread of weapons, it is known. That there are responsibilities and obligations that the government and the people of Darfur bear inside and the Sudanese people as a whole in dealing with the matter, what are the areas and mechanisms of this role and strengthening what has been done in this regard, then how can the citizen's role be activated and raise its rates to contribute to unifying visions and initiatives in new and serious interventions.

### **The main reasons for the proliferation of arms in Darfur: -**

1- Intersection of international interests and those of neighboring countries.

The collision of international interests made a clear contribution to the proliferation of weapons, as Sudan was in the rule of Nimeiri in western orientation and Libya in an eastern orientation. Libya armed the armed opposition from the Unionist Umma Party and the Muslim Brotherhood with the latest types of weapons at that time to bring down the Nimeiri regime, and Western countries became supportive of regimes and groups across the borders to carry out proxy war In the context of the Cold War conflict, Africa was the scene of the supply of weapons, ammunition and trained cadres that only believed in fighting to solve conflicts, and the continuous support of the opposition forces by some neighboring countries had a great contribution to the citizens' access to weapons.

## **2- Armed conflicts in neighboring countries:**

The start of the Chadian opposition from Sudan in 1991 with great support from Libya, against the background of the Libyan-Chadian conflict over the Ozu Triangle. Conflicts within the neighboring countries of Darfur - Chad - Central Africa - Congo - have their repercussions on the states of Darfur, and the way in which the Gaddafi regime was removed from power in Libya has had a significant impact on the spread of small arms and light weapons in the region.

## **3- Internal armed conflicts in Darfur states:**

Represented by the rise of rebellions and the emergence of armed plunder groups, ethnic and societal armed conflicts due to the lack of accurate demarcation of paths, lack of natural resources, increased competition around them, and conflicts related to the land, these conflicts have greatly contributed to the impoverishment of citizens, low levels of development, and the increase in the flow of weapons in the region, along with the continuous support for the forces Opposition by some neighboring countries and his contribution to the arrival of weapons to citizens.

## **4- Southern War:**

This war spanned for more than half a century, and the south became the scene of the proliferation of weapons among the militias, tribal and regional formations, as well as the rebel movements, so the south became the largest market for arms promotion, and this war Supplied all those in need of weapons at the cheapest prices.

## **5- Government weapon leakage:**

The weapon leaked from the regular and semi-regular forces due to the flaw in administrative procedures and their application and weak control over stocks, warehouses and remnants of military operations is a source of illicit weapons proliferation.

## **6- the political dimension:**

The hidden and hidden conflicts of the political blocs in the country along the political eras and the successive regimes over the rule of the country opened the door for the followers and supporters to arm them through illegal ratifications that do not fulfill the rules and conditions for carrying weapons in order to find political and military weight and obtain electoral support in addition to obtaining it with the help of parties External for the sake of changing the ruling regimes.

## **Factors assisting in the proliferation of weapons: -**

- 1- The vast area of Sudan and the geographical topography facilitate arms smuggling operations and the revival of its illicit trade. This geographical extension, with its complications, is weaker than the ability of the public authority to tighten control and control.
- 2- Insufficient security arrangements and equipment: The weakness of the security forces assigned to control the borders in their human capacity, equipment and technical capabilities has led to their weak deployment and complete absence from some areas, which resulted in the security and police measures not contributing to reducing arms smuggling and dealing in it.

- 3- Lack of development and services, and the weak administrative governmental presence in the border regions.
- 4- The presence of large numbers of educational funds and widespread unemployment - scarcity of livelihoods.
- 5- Weak positive public action and delay in reaching a binding agreement with neighboring countries to control the flow of weapons across borders.
- 6- The spread of tribal conflicts in some areas created constant fear of anticipated battles, prompting people to acquire and bear arms, and the intertwining of ethnic relations of tribes that inhabit the borders.
- 7- Absence of legal plans and strategy: The state did not develop long-term plans to contain this phenomenon. All the plans previously adopted by the state through the Ministry of Interior and state governments were a reaction to events and not a detailed and long-term treatment of the problem.
- 8- Inadequacy of laws, regulations, and penalties regulating possession of weapons in the border areas of Darfur and neighboring countries.
- 9- Insufficient legal texts in the Weapons and Ammunition Law and their activation to address the problem in its various dimensions with weak penalties. Therefore, the law did not contribute effectively to deterring the possession and illegal trade of weapons.
- 10- Delay and slow implementation of the terms of the security arrangements for the signed agreements.

## **Efforts undertaken by the government to limit arms proliferation in Darfur: -**

1- Campaigns for collecting unauthorized weapons by the police and other security agencies, which usually take the form of short-term operations in a specific geographical area, and often come as a response to the occurrence of armed crimes or reports.

2- Regulating the possession and circulation of weapons carried by citizens in accordance with the Law on Weapons, Ammunition, Shells, and the Organizing Regulations.

3- The efforts of the armed forces and other security agencies in monitoring and controlling borders to prevent transient and organized crimes, including trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

4- Bilateral cooperation through the activities of the joint forces between Sudan and the neighboring countries, Chad - Central Africa - Libya.

5- The regional campaign to collect weapons in the early 1990s, known as the initiative of the good governor, Ibrahim Muhammad Khair.

6- Control over the weapons of the movements that have signed the peace agreements through the protocols of the security arrangements.

7- The efforts of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Commission in absorbing veterans of the armed forces and popular defense and the movements that signed peace agreements by transferring them to civilian life through social and psychological support, providing economic projects and means of production to secure livelihoods, and enhancing the contribution

of veterans to peace and restoration of stability And development. And Community Security Projects and Intensive Youth Employment Clips.

8- Raise awareness of the dangers of small arms proliferation and think with state governments, community leaders, academics and live audiences on the best ways to control weapons and reduce armed violence.

The aforementioned efforts, despite their diversity and varied impact, have not succeeded in achieving effective control over the proliferation of weapons, as they are temporary or sporadic efforts that lack deep strategic visions and coordination of the efforts of actors from different sectors of society and state institutions in Darfur, in addition to the lack of logistical aid, the absence of budgets, and then Weapon control projects often come in the context of an integrated process of peace, reconciliation and peaceful coexistence, addressing the roots of armed conflicts, especially those related to land, distributing natural resources, securing livelihoods, and integrating young people into productive projects.

### **Road Map Milestones:**

Experience has shown that the issue of arms proliferation in Darfur is inherently complex and complex due to the main reasons and assistance mentioned at the beginning of this paper - and thus the continuation of the current situation and in the same manner is likely to have more repercussions and challenges - and given the diversity of security threats in Darfur due to the accumulations and old and renewed conflicts, The circumstances call for tight coordination between the official and popular effort and the provision of the appropriate climate to build confidence



and radiate safety and reassurance, considering that security is a psychological state that a person feels in his heart before this is embodied in the forces that provide and guard security.

This requires reviewing the security reality in Darfur and formulating a security strategy based on the concept that security is everyone's responsibility and society's responsibility before it is the state's responsibility.

### **Collecting weapons or controlling weapons:**

In view of the noticeable improvement in the security situation, the decline in the activity of armed movements and outlaw gangs, and the limited security breakdowns thanks to the political will and the strict security controls that the government adopted and the enforcement of the security arrangements for the Doha Peace Agreement, the people of Darfur are tired of the rebellion and military activities. However, the current conditions in Darfur cannot be placed outside the circle of early recovery, which is a stage that needs a package of political, economic, societal and security interventions to enhance this recovery and move it to the stage of stability and development, and on top of these interventions is to address the proliferation of illegal weapons.

- 1- Therefore, we call for a gradual approach to controlling arms and for collecting weapons by force at the present time due to the lack of practical conditions for this, in addition to the great challenges represented by the existence of tribal conflicts in some states, the presence of armed movements that did not sign peace agreements, and the lack of completion Security arrangements for some of the signed movements and reconciliation of the conditions of their veterans. In addition to carrying illegal weapons by

- citizens in some cases for the purpose of protecting souls and property.
- 2- For all the aforementioned, the importance of adopting approaches to arms control that is based on gradualism emerges. As for talking about voluntary or forced collection of small arms, it is better to make a decision taken after addressing the aforementioned challenges in accordance with the strategy for arms control in Darfur, which is proposed to range from three to Five years. The process of collecting weapons at that time must be decided by a collective decision in which the competent authorities of the federal and state governments and the leaders of the Native Administration participate.
  - 3- As for light weapons, "Doshka - Garnouf - Arbaji - launchers - mortars ... etc." they must be collected immediately with the security authorities or the National Administration, and their use and possession by individuals is strictly prohibited. Its use is restricted by regular forces only.

**Registration and marking of illegal weapons: -**

In the context of controlling small arms, it is useful to proceed with the arms registration and marking initiatives that began in South Darfur 2010 AD by the former Governor Abdul Hamid Musa Kasha and West Darfur State 2013 AD in cooperation with the DDR Commission and the Ministry of Interior with the support of the Bonn International Center for Peace The United Nations Development Program and UNAMID. These initiatives came within the framework of the two states' efforts to address armed conflicts and armed violence crimes that occurred due to the large spread of illegal weapons in the hands of citizens. The two initiatives are based on close

cooperation with the Native Administration, activating its role in serving security and arms control, and providing technical personnel and logistical and political support. To date, 12,000 weapons have been registered in South Darfur, and 5,000 have been marked and registered in West Darfur - The two initiatives have achieved clear success in controlling weapons and have largely accomplished the purpose for which they were established, which is to improve security conditions through weapons control, as police records only recorded a number Very few of the crimes in which registered weapons were used due to the controls that regulate the registration process, including the prohibition of possession, sale or circulation of the registered weapon by another person, and the prohibition of carrying registered weapons in markets and public gathering places, which reduced the manifestations of public carrying of weapons that suggest insecurity. .

The advantages of registering and marking weapons:

1. Enhancing trust between citizens, the civil administration and the security authorities
2. Preventing illegal arms circulation and defining the responsibilities of their bearers.
3. Reducing the arms trade promotion.
4. Contributing to the improvement of the security situation and the reduction of armed crimes.
5. Raising awareness of the dangers of weapons proliferation and their devastating repercussions on souls, lives and property, and raising awareness of maximizing the sanctity of blood and preserving the right to life.

6. Emphasis on the state's mandate and responsibilities in maintaining security and stability.

**Transferring the experience of marking and registering weapons to Darfur states:**

Based on the foregoing and given the advantages achieved by the experience of registering and marking weapons, we can say that it represents the best way to address the dilemma of arms proliferation in the current circumstances if it is developed and applied in other Darfur states under federal and regional supervision that provides political and legal cover in accordance with legislation compatible with the state's general plan and requirements. Peace agreements, especially the terms of security arrangements.

**Follow community security approaches: -**

It is necessary to address the dilemma of illegal arms proliferation in Darfur by following the integrated approach to the community or community security.

And community security or community security is a concept that seeks to work for human security and human development and to link this to joint action between the government and societies at the grassroots level.

The idea of community security goes back entirely to the report of the United Nations Development Program in 1994, after a wide study and review that included fourteen countries in different parts of the world, some of which are still the ground for war, and others have said farewell to war recently, but live in its projections and repercussions.

Community security is considered one of the main pillars of human security, in answer to a question about security in a simple way. Community security is not only for systems, states and borders, but for individuals and societies under the umbrella of a strong and fully sovereign government.

Society security programs always give absolute priority in the strategies of post-war societies, given the importance of taking more comprehensive and dynamic interventions in addressing the challenges of fragility of security and carrying weapons by civilians and linking them to priorities, because these complex and intertwining challenges are no longer addressed separately from each other, so they need comprehensive and coordinated interventions.

So, community security programs aim to create an enabling environment that enables communities to face security challenges at the grassroots level and achieve community development and cohesion in order to live in peace and security.

**We believe that the plans to control small arms and light weapons in the states of Darfur should be complemented by the following interventions for community security:**

### **1. Reviving the local economy and rebuilding**

The process of rebuilding Darfur does not only mean rebuilding what has been devastated by war, but rather means rebuilding souls and making a comprehensive shift from the stage of conflict in all its manifestations to the stage of comprehensive renaissance that requires a change in concepts and superior skill in designing projects, programs, drawing policies and

attracting community capabilities to achieve comprehensive economic and social development.

## **2. Traveler stability:**

The nomads constitute an essential component of Darfur's society and its history. However, the circumstances of the deportation have added to it many challenges. It is time for the Darfur community to turn to them before the state apparatus, consolation and compromise on joint action based on joint consideration and finding balanced and effective treatments for both sides of the Darfur society, both nomads and stable, especially as there are transformations. And accumulations accompanied the general movement and were associated with changes in the environment and human and animal needs. It is necessary to examine in depth the challenges facing the nomadic community, such as poor services and education, the decline in livestock numbers and their loss, and the continuous friction with farmers. It is imperative to prepare and implement urgent development plans and specific alternatives that address this issue in a manner that secures stability, attractive neighborhood, and the exchange of benefits and interests between nomads and settled people.

## **3. Tribal Reconciliation and Peaceful Coexistence:**

Reconciliation and peaceful coexistence in the post-conflict phase (the peacebuilding phase) is one of the basic elements for transforming negative conflict energies such as hatred and distrust into positive energies. It is imperative to reinforce religious values and return to God Almighty in achieving justice, fairness and reconciliation among the people, especially since

the Darfur society is characterized by a long tradition in the field of reconciliations known locally and abroad.

Here comes the necessity of changing the approaches to reconciliations taking place in Darfur and re-devising concepts, mechanisms and measures that benefit from all similar experiences to develop our national experience and enable it to address the roots and causes of armed conflicts, which mostly relate mainly to issues of land, water, pastures, and paths due to contradictory resources. The time has come to take Issues of reconciliations and peaceful coexistence will powerfully open a wide door for serenity and recovery.

#### **4. Building the capacities of local institutions and making them effective:**

These include governmental institutions, especially those concerned with providing social services and providing security, in addition to community structures such as the civil administration, religious institutions, group formations of youth, women, students, employers, and voluntary civil society organizations, creating strong links between them through clear and specific work programs, and the commitment of these components to programs. Training, qualification and capacity building.

#### **5. Reintegration of veterans into society:**

Armed and ex-combatants pose one of the main challenges of post-war societies and they need economic reintegration packages and support for host communities to achieve social acceptance, so it is imperative to work to strengthen the relationship between them and the societies because their

return is often accompanied by environmental and social difficulties and harsh conditions.

**Application and timeframe: -**

There is no doubt that there are successes achieved in many areas in Darfur as a direct result of previous plans and initiatives. Objective consideration indicates that there is a paradox between the effort exerted and the results achieved, so what is the reason?? In the estimation of many, the reason is due to the weakness of the implementation, follow-up and evaluation mechanisms due to the lack of successful selection of specialized cadres. It may be useful here to have a regional mechanism from the relevant government agencies, representatives of the states and a number of experts and similar mechanisms at the level of any state to coordinate efforts in developing and implementing a tripartite plan that works to complete the ongoing initiatives in registering and marking weapons and transferring the experience to other Darfur states in accordance with national laws and agreements. International and the legacies of the people of Darfur.