

**CIVILIAN DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY ENHANCEMENT  
IN THE STATE OF JONGLEI, SOUTH SUDAN**

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## **ABSTRACT**

After signing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, South Sudan is facing a set of problems. The Government of South Sudan has yet to establish security throughout the South and to address internal challenges to its authority, including various militia groups and inter-communal conflicts.

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between civilian disarmament and security enhancement in Jonglei state. But more specifically to (i) establish the causes of civilian armament; (ii) examine the effects of civilian armament and (iii) suggest possible solutions to enhance security in Jonglei state, South Sudan through civilian disarmament programmes.

The study population constituted of NGO officials and ex-combatants. Purposive random sampling technique was used to select the population sample. Questionnaires were used to collect data, which was then coded and analyzed descriptively.

From the findings, it was established that; the major factors for the causes of civilian armament in Jonglei state include (i) cultural practices and values (ii) underdevelopment, political and economic marginalization and (iii) Prestige for acquiring weapons. Similarly, the findings also indicated that (i) death and injury (ii) displacement, breakdown of social order and cohesion are among the key effects of civilians possessing arms and that the best strategy to enhance security in the region is by disarming the civilian population.

However, success cannot be judged solely in terms of the numbers of weapons collected. The study therefore recommended that, (i) disarmament should be carried out simultaneously in Jonglei and in all the States using incentive method e.g. guns exchange with money or cows for it would allow civilians to voluntarily surrender their guns to the government forces (ii) Strengthening decentralization of administration so that the government is much closer to the people; (iii) Changing the people mindset by sensitizing communities about the importance of peaceful co-existence including peace education workshops focused on youth and communities leaders.