

**Forum:** General Assembly 1

**Issue:** Methods to Combat the Illicit Trade and Concealment of Small Arms and Ammunition in South Sudan

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## Introduction

Small arms smuggling in the 21st century is nothing more than a global operation. In 2002, traffickers obtained 5,000 AK-47s from securities in the Yugoslav army and moved them from Serbia to Liberia under the guise of a legal deal with Nigeria. One of the planes used in this shipment arrived from Ukraine and made a refueling stop while en route in Libya. That same year, the Nicaraguan government was persuaded by a group of West African gun smugglers to sell 3,000 assault rifles and 2,5 million rounds of ammunition by pretending to broker the deal on behalf of the Panamanian National Police. Instead, the illegal commodities were transferred to South America and auctioned to Columbia's United Self-Defense Forces, an international terrorist group.

These – as well as thousands of similar cases – combine to turn the trafficking of small arms in the black market into a global \$1 billion a year. However, the financial gain comes at a considerable cost to the safety of the world. The 639 million arms in use kill about 500,000 people each year, and in certain wars, up to 80% of the casualties were caused by those weapons. Also, arms are today the preferred weapon for all parties in the conflict around the globe – be it government armies, rebel forces or terrorists – because they are cheap, widely accessible, highly authoritative, easy to use, durable, portable and concealable.

However, the situation in South Sudan (officially known as Republic of South Sudan, R.S.S) unique, a country that ought to be on the verge of development and advancement after gaining its independence 9 years ago is suffering from a crisis. The clear political conflict, economic downfall, [drought](#), displacement of citizens, food shortages, and most prominently, raging violence causes the situation in South Sudan to remain highly unstable and outbreaks of violence continue despite of the peace agreements.

Furthermore, the inability of the government to successfully control the high levels of corruption and the tendency for the country as a whole to return to instability from all aspects such as economic and political after

periods of peace has also been high. This has caused the population of being in fear of conflict and has led to civilians to use illegal [small arms](#). Some citizens are also either joining or aiding armed groups in conflict with the government in order to gain access to illegal small arms.

It is important to solve the issue of illicit trade because illicit trade is essentially a direct contradiction to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) because it directly feeds violence, breeds corruption, undermines the trust in political and legal institutions, and generates massive financial flows.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Armed insurgencies

A violent rebellion with the use of arms against authority.

### Armories

A place where weapons are kept.

### Arms exporters

Actors of the arms industry that send arms to countries.

### Assault rifles

An automatic rifle that is designed for infantry use and is magazine-fed.

### Consignees

The company or person to which the items are officially delivered.

### Disarmament

Withdrawal or reduction of weapons and military forces.

### Drought

A prolonged period of time in which there is very low rainfall resulting in a shortage of water.

### Forced displacement

Involuntary movement of a person away from their home region.

## Guerilla force

A violent non-state actor that use irregular tactics to fight a larger armed force.

## Humanitarian crisis

A single event or a series of events that threaten the safety, well-being, and health of a community.

## Intertribal violence

Violence occurring between tribes due to a variety of reasons.

## Peacekeepers

An international military force used to maintain peace and truces between communities.

## Rebel faction

A political group that is in opposition to the government and uses armed conflict to bring political change.

## Small Arms

Weapons that are intended for use by individuals that are part of armed or security forces. This includes revolvers, self-loading pistols, rifles, carbines, assault rifles, sub-machine guns, and light machine guns.

## Sustainable Development Goals

A plan with 17 goals that are set to be achieved by 2030 to ensure a better and sustainable future

## United Nations Development Program

A program working to eradicate poverty and reduce inequalities.

## Key Issues

### Lack of security

The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was founded as a [guerilla force](#) 2009, the South Sudanese government utilized The Sudan People's Liberation Army Act to essentially integrate and create the South Sudan People's Defense Forces (SSPDF), the army of South Sudan, from members of the SPLA. After South Sudan's independence, a ban on material acquisitions was lifted allowing the government of South

Sudan to pursue a number of defense contractors and suppliers for arms to strengthen the SSPDF. This essentially allowed external groups such as (militias, tribals, etc.) to also gain access to these small arms resulting in an unprecedented surge of illicit small arms in the hands of such groups.

### Lack of resources and manpower

As previously mentioned, South Sudan faces threats from various external groups such as the Lords Resistance Army from Uganda, a [rebel faction](#) in Kordofan and the Blue Nile State and other insurgent groups. This leads to the forces of the SSPDF and the South Sudan Police Service (SSPS) to be very weak and low on resources due to constant ongoing conflict. Furthermore, in 2010, the Small Arms Survey reported that the SPLA comprised of approximately 140,000 personnel divided into a division of 10,000 to 14,000 which was further split up into brigades of 3,000 to 4,000 men, then into battalions of 400 to 700 men, the issue further worsens due to poor mobility forcing the SSPDF to create SPLA sub-units that are thinly spread across large areas. This lack of manpower and resources has allowed a large number of armed groups to successfully operate with little interference from the government. Due to the widespread availability, long lifespan, low cost, and portability, illicit small arms are most commonly used, and combined with the lack of manpower and resources, it results in a higher crime rate in the country.

### Financial oversight

For a brief time in South Sudan, there was political stability due to high revenues from selling oil. With the money available, public officials were able to essentially buy the loyalties of external armed groups (or lease them as well). This money gave these external armed groups the opportunity to develop and inflate their network and get military contracts for required materials such as food, fuel, weapons, and sophisticated military equipment. However, the oil revenues declined, and the oil money started to run out in 2012. Oil production was then suspended for more than a year and was eventually resumed at a lower rate, this was followed by the decrease in the global price for fuel further worsening the issue. The loss of oil money has ultimately resulted in a large-scale economic collapse which has significantly fueled intense violence in competition for control of the state, money, and military dominance.

### Corruption – Ghost soldiers

Tens and thousands of names were added to South Sudan's army payroll, which turned out to be ghost soldiers. A review of the SSPDF by enoughproject.org concluded that there are at least two main reasons the names of ghost soldiers were added; senior-level members trying to justify a high military budget allotment and to use the artificially high force sizes being added into the army as a method to entice military adversaries to agree to peace deals. Furthermore, there are reputational, economic, and political incentives for military commanders to inflate the number of soldiers.

As part of peace settlements following a conflict with rebel groups, leaders of such groups are often integrated into the SSPDF. However, for example in 2006 with the Juba peace agreement, the South Sudan government firstly integrated them into the SSPDF and then promoted them as a way to buy their loyalty, although, these promotions were not supported by the required introduction of junior level soldiers. This resulted in a number of SSPDF brigadiers with the respective salaries, however, with no actual brigadier to command. The actual full integration, later on, forced the government to quickly promote the soldiers from the original SPLA, in order to avoid a large introduction of soldiers that outranked the existing army.

An army with such a large number of soldiers with a large percentage of ghost soldiers has very little practical purpose. The extra money being allocated for the payroll of ghost soldiers could as well be used for development and to combat the [humanitarian crisis](#) in South Sudan that is fueling violence and subsequently help eradicate the need for small arms.

### **Jonglei and the Upper Nile States**

The Jonglei and Upper Nile states are particularly facing a significant amount of [intertribal violence](#). The region has become very volatile and dangerous due to a large number of [armed insurgencies](#). The conflicts caused from the rebellions have caused thousands of deaths of South Sudanese civilians and have displaced even more. This has caused political instability as the South Sudanese have realized the inability of the South Sudan government to protect their interests and their lives more importantly. This further encourages rebellions against the government. Furthermore, it is very easy for such groups to use community dissatisfaction as a recruitment aid and increase their own power. The violence in these communities has intensified quickly both directly and indirectly due to increased access to small arms. Rebel militia and some members of the SPLA alike have supplied a great of small arms and respective ammunition to the Jonglei communities. This simple presence of these small arms makes it very easy for these rebellions and conflicts to become very violent very quickly.

### **Lack of necessary amenities and commodities**

There is currently a food crisis in South Sudan, and despite humanitarian efforts, there are still a large number of people facing hunger. This has created a situation in which people are looking out for their own interests mostly and once again with the easy access to small arms, this often turns violent. The increased firepower has allowed attackers to raid whole villages, killing civilians, they also target non-governmental organizations (NGO) facilities, schools, hospitals, and other facilities that are vital for development ultimately hindering humanitarian efforts.

## Surge of youth

After the civil war, South Sudan faced an unprecedented surge of young men that were returning from the war, they returned still in possession of arms and without a job. Without any guidance, they ended up turning to pre-existing tribal rivalries and used their weapons in conflict which were previously less violent and fought in a more traditional way. This influx of former soldiers brought even more weapons into the illicit network. Some armed groups even tried to persuade the youth to join them and fight the SSPDF with promises of giving them small arms. Unfortunately, this strategy backfired and many of the youths used the small arms not to attack the SPLA, but rather attack ethnic rivals in their communities.

## Civilian Deaths

The issues such as political marginalization, ethnic rivalries, and resource scarcity escalate the tension between communities which is released through the use of lethal weapons. There is an increasing number of civilians that are directly targeted and killed using small arms. This is clear as the number of casualties per year decreases at a very small rate even after the war has ceased. This violence has done nothing else except cause even more violence and hatred, resulting in an endless cycle.

## Hindrance of development

The overall quality of life in South Sudan diminishes due to the frequent occurrence of criminal activity. According to a survey conducted by the [United Nations Development Program \(UNDP\)](#), more than 50% of the people that were interviewed in the sample believed that they were living in an ongoing armed conflict. Moreover, six in ten respondents believed that firearms caused many deaths in the local area. This no doubt has very serious implications on the costs of goods and services, labor productivity, the success of the tourism industry, and the value of property investment. Furthermore, it places a huge economic burden on South Sudan because medical clinics and hospitals have to spend a lot of resources and time on treating for gunshot victims, clearly, quite a common injury given the context, which could as easily be spent on treatment of disabilities and prevention of disease. Violent tribal groups and armed insurgents are also a major contributing factor to the deterioration of health and social services as NGOs and medical facilities are often targeted in attacks which makes it very difficult for such organizations that are helping the development of South Sudan to operate. This results in patients have little to no access to health services.

## Displacement

The community violence can determine whether people can live in their own homes and the feeling of being unsafe due to the conflict, high level of crime, and high presence of small arms can be a significant

cause for [forced displacement](#). Whole communities in South Sudan have migrated from their homes, which completely changes the whole communities' nature and tribal relations. Furthermore, this also disrupts any normal economic activities resulting in a worsened situation for migrants. People often forced to flee to areas with less geographic resources, making development more difficult.

## Major Parties Involved and Their Views

### China

Chinese manufactured small arms and respective ammunition contributes a significant proportion of small arms in circulation during the South Sudan conflict. China accounts for about 37 percent of weapons in South Sudan documented since 2014. There is no documentation whether these weapons stayed in the hands of authorities or whether they crossed the threshold into the illegal market. However, a field study conducted by CAR (Conflict Armament Research) found that in May 2014, a Chinese arms manufacturer, China North Industries Corporation (Norinco) sent two large shipments by sea to the Kenyan port city of Mombasa. These shipments were consigned to the South Sudanese Ministry of Defense with small arms and other weapons. It is to be noted that the UN arms embargo did not exist at the time making these transfers lawful.

### Russia

The collapse of the Soviet Union leading to the withdrawal from Eastern Europe had caused a large number of weapons and associated ammunition to be left behind. This resulted in a management problem, as it became very difficult for the government to have inventory control and a fully accurate record of the legal arms. Due to the previous Yugoslav wars, there were already illegal arms in the black market sourced from the wars. The start of the Ukraine war in 2014 worsened the situation as many people began to loot depots and [armories](#) in mainly Eastern Ukraine, Western Ukraine, and Crimea. These illegal arms reached terrorist groups and organizations outside of eastern Europe and Russia through international illegal arms dealers.

### SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute)

The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute is a very significant party involved in arms as they research and provide a lot of the data on which are used to address problems and take action against them. The research mainly covers the development of new technologies and their implementation, production rates in the arms industry, arms transfer at both a regional and international level, and lastly, the military spending data across the world. The SIPRI has also worked on arms control and [disarmament](#). Furthermore, they monitor exports and imports of such arms, embargoes, and treaties.

## South Sudan

South Sudan is quite clearly a major party involved in this issue because as previously discussed, the government is extremely unstable and with the dominant military influence that exists in the politics of South Sudan, furthermore, the high level of criminal activity combined with the lack of effective government control forces citizens to use illicit small arms to protect themselves. Moreover, the government has also expressed a lack of concern in the issue of the high presence of small arms despite multiple warnings from the Security Council until the UNSC imposed an arms embargo. However, there were still illegal routes from which the SPLA received small arms.

## Uganda

Although China ceased providing external material support to the SPLA during the early stages of the war. However, according to CAR, there is clear evidence that Uganda has continued to provide materials to the SPLA and allied forces. This material included items from small arms and ammunition but also larger items such as military aircraft. These were lawful actions as technically there were no international prohibitions stopping Uganda from providing support to the SPLA.

Although there was no UN arms embargo during that time period, some of the materials that were sent from Uganda to South Sudan were originally exported to Uganda from states, including European Union (EU) states that had already imposed unilateral or regional prohibitions on arms suppliers to South Sudan. An example of this would be with exports from Bulgaria to Uganda. Reports to the Council of the EU and the UN from Bulgaria indicate that small arms and respective ammunitions were exported to Uganda valued at approximately EUR 2.7 million. Commercial documentation obtained CAR suggested that a single deal in March of 2014 with the Ugandan Ministry of Defense (using the company called Bosasy Logistics) and Bulgarian [arms exporter](#), BIEM (Bulgarian Industrial Engineering and Management) was made to supply Uganda with 2.9 million rounds of 7.62 x 39 mm ammunition and 10,000 AK [assault rifles](#). There was evidence of another shipment from Bulgaria to Uganda in July of the same year, but the items in that shipment are unknown. CAR obtained evidence from a senior South Sudanese military official that possessed direct knowledge of this deal, indicating that the Government of South Sudan intended to procure those weapons from Uganda. This is supported by the existence of a letter dated 18 March of 2014 from the chief of general staff of the SPLA addressed to the chief of defense forces of Uganda requesting the delivery by air of 10,000 AK-47 rifles and 5 million rounds of ammunition from the company Bosasy Logistics- the same company that requested the Bulgarian arms exporter company, BIEM, to supply weapons and respective ammunition of approximately the same amount.

In 2015, Bulgaria reports showed that there were much larger exports of small arms and ammunition to Uganda which were valued at EUR 18.2 million. However, the [consignees](#), transporters, and exporters involved are unconfirmed. Though the exact serial numbers are not confirmed, there is clear evidence that rebel forces that are allied with the SPLA are in possession of arms and ammunitions that were exported by BIEM since 2013. For example, in March 2018, CAR obtained photographic evidence of a crate that contained 12.7 x 108mm ammunition in service with an SPLA-loyal rebel faction. Further research showed that these were ammunition that was supplied by BIEM in a 2013 contract. Furthermore, the Ugandan Ministry of Defense also contracted EBS Investment Corporation, a company registered in Seychelles, to acquire several thousands of small arms and ammunition. EBS Investment Corporation turned to arms exporters in Romania and Slovakia. It is to be noted that there is nothing to suggest that the Romanian and Slovakian governments were aware that the arms supplied to Uganda were being diverted to South Sudan. Refer to **Appendix I** for the Romanian supply chain of ammunition.

### United Kingdom

As previously mentioned, since 2011 the EU including the UK had imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan, and in 2018 the UN Security Council adopted a resolution that effectively imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan. However, the UK has continued to sell arms based on predated contracts to South Sudan. In 2017, Amnesty International alleged that S-Profit Ltd., a British-based arms company had been selling arms to the South Sudanese government. Furthermore, Amnesty International also reported that the UK government is completely aware of UK shell companies being unlawfully used as contract medium for countries with embargos imposed on them such as South Sudan. Despite the UK's strong advocacy for the 2018 arms embargo, it has not ended its own arms export and has further failed to effectively control the presence of small arms manufactured in the UK in South Sudan.

The UK government further denies any authorizations that allow companies to supply arms to South Sudan stating "*The British Government takes its arms export control responsibilities very seriously and operates one of the most robust arms export control regimes in the world. We do not license the supply of equipment that would be in breach of an arms embargo, which would provoke or prolong armed conflicts, or aggravate tensions or conflicts, or if there is a clear risk that the items might be used for internal repression.*" (refer to **Appendix II** )

## Development of Issue/Timeline

Date	Event	Outcome
<b>February 2003</b>	Beginning of Darfur conflict.	The first major conflict between the government of Sudan and the SPLM which resulted in attacks on civilians, towns and government facilities in Darfur which later resulted in the creation of the CPA (Comprehensive Peace Agreement) that lead to the separation in Sudan.
<b>January 2011</b>	CPA to reconsider the separation of Sudan and South Sudan.	Official vote by the CPA showed that there was an overwhelming majority for a separation and a six month transition period began to make an independent nation.
<b>July 2011</b>	UNSC recommends admitting South Sudan as a member nation and establishment of resolution 1996 (S/RES/1996 (2011))	The General Assembly admits South Sudan as the 193 <sup>rd</sup> member of the United Nations. Resolution 1996 which established UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan) to take effect when South Sudan gains its independence. UNMISS is responsible for security, peace and to help establish the conditions necessary for the development of South Sudan.

<b>January 2012</b>	Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefs UNSC on violence in Jonglei	UNSC issues a press statement expressing its deep concern about the violence in the Jonglei State in South Sudan and calls for the end of violence.
<b>July 2012</b>	UNSC adopting resolution 2057 and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights briefed Council	By adopting resolution 2057, the UNMISS mandate was renewed till July 2013 and the human
	members about the situation in South Sudan.	rights violations committed by South Sudanese soldiers during the disarmament process in the Jonglei state was an issue brought up.
<b>November &amp; December 2012</b>	South Sudanese government expelled a UNMISS human rights officer and the SPLA shot down a UNMISS helicopter, killing the four crew on board.	UNSC issues a press statement condemning the incident and later on an open debate regarding the expelling of the officer.
<b>July 2013</b>	Briefing and consultation with UNSC members regarding UNMISS	The UNSC decides on adopting resolution 2109 resulting in the UNMISS mandate being extended till July 2014.
<b>December 2013</b>	Firefight with unidentified personnel at a meeting with SPLA	A disagreement regarding loyalty and corruption with battalions such as the Tiger Battalion of the SPLA resulted in a breakout of clashes in various states in South Sudan leading up to a civil war.

<b>March 2014</b>	Human rights violations that occurred from December 2013 to January 2014 were submitted in a report which summarised the enforced disappearances, mass killings, torture, gender-based violence, and more.	A report which identifies priority tasks for UNMISS which include enabling humanitarian access, increasing human rights monitoring, ceasefire monitoring, and protecting civilians.
<b>August 2014</b>	Attacks that led to the death of at least six humanitarian officers and the downing of a UNMISS helicopter.	UNSC issued a press statement that condemning both actions.
<b>March 2015</b>	Briefings and consultation with UNSC members regarding all past events in South Sudan.	A meeting was held with UNSC members to adopt a presidential statement that considered imposing sanctions, including targeted measures against senior officials that threatened the peace, security, and stability in South Sudan or imposing an arms embargo.
<b>July 2018</b>	UNSC imposes an arms embargo	Restrictions are placed on supply arms and any related material, furthermore, providing services that relate to the sanctioned items including technical training assistance, manufacturing, and maintenance.

<b>May 2020</b>	Adopting resolution 2521(2020)	By adopting this resolution, the arms embargo and targeted sanctions placed on South Sudan were extended till 31 May 2021.
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## Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

### Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR)

Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration of former soldiers are undoubtedly a vital part of peace support operations. This is a process in which firearms are recovered from former soldiers that are leaving the military organizations they were a part of and help them in becoming a part of society again as well and be civilians again. This transition usually requires the support of society, government, and international organizations. [Peacekeepers](#) and armed forces are usually given the responsibility of arranging the disarmament and demobilization parts of the DDR process whereas the reintegration is usually mandated to NGOs and development agencies that are civilian-led. In the case of South Sudan, a full scale, Multi-Year DDR Program (MYDDRP) was launched for the whole of Sudan in June 2009 and was split following South Sudan's independence in 2011. December 2012 marked the end of Phase I of MYDDRP and Phase II was not successful either with the eruption of the civil war in December of 2013 severely weakening the program. However, UNSC mandated UNMISS to provide support to the government of South Sudan in the DDR program and it was agreed that the UNMISS would take responsibility for the disarmament and demobilization, on the other hand, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would handle the reintegration aspect of DDR.

The South Sudan DDR Commission (SSDDRC) was mandated to provide the overall leadership of the South Sudan DDR program and was comprised mainly of government officials. The SSDDRC was made to allow national actors such as the SPLA to be able to interact and partner with international organizations and UN agencies to design and implement the DDR program under the guidance of the SSDDRC. The SSDDRC was tasked with organizing regular coordination workshops and meetings for donors, NGOs, and government stakeholders. The purpose of these meetings was for various stakeholders to get the opportunity to share information, determine roles and responsibilities, develop strategies, determine objectives, and mobilize resources. Furthermore, an Integrated UN DDR Unit (IUNDDRU) was created and established in South Sudan in an effort to synchronize the activities of various UN entities with national actors and relevant institutions. The position of the IUNDDRU chief was filled by the UNMISS head of DDR and the head of UNDP of South Sudan

became the deputy chief. Note that these entities were created prior to South Sudan's independence. The aforementioned structures and processes were clearly created in an effort to maintain and ensure the success of the objective which was to direct and manage the collaboration between a large range of organizations in South Sudan in a systematic manner which would have a significant role to play in the success of the DDR program.

However, the management structure in these DDR-related entities, especially prior to South Sudan's independence, created an environment in which the key local stakeholders of South Sudan were provided very little autonomy. There was also a general lack of transparency, inadequate consultations, and the absence of regular coordination meetings that the SSDDRC was tasked with organizing. Furthermore, relations between the IUNDDRU and SSDDRC were labeled as strained with low levels of trust between parties. This issue worsened due to many IUNDDRU staff lacking necessary DDR experience and knowledge and a high turnover rate. Due to the situation of the IUNDDRU, individual international stakeholders preferred bilateral interactions with the SSDDRC. The combination of these issues risked jeopardizing the ability of the entire DDR program and related entities to have a system in which all efforts were coordinated effectively and implemented successfully.

In terms of the disarmament process, UNMISS was mandated to assist in the establishment of a process for voluntary disarmament and destruction of weapons. However, there is no record of any official procedures and systems being created for communication and coordination between any DDR-related entities that had a significant role. Therefore, it is no surprise that the SPLA opted for a disarmament process that was both unilateral and forced during 2005 and 2006. This forced seizure of weapons from civilians and militias sparked violent clashes between militias targeted for disarmament and the SPLA in the Jonglei state. The UN did not publicly criticize the SPLA in fear of breaking their already fragile relationship and opted to establish partnerships with community-based organizations, this initiated several small-scale disarmament programs that did not involve the SPLA and was undoubtedly peaceful and nonaggressive with a heavy emphasis on voluntary disarmament. However, in 2008 the President of South Sudan authorized the SPLA to disarm all civilians over a six-month period. The SPLA first approached this order through a voluntary disarmament process but due to poor yields, the SPLA resorted to an approach that violated human rights and caused widespread destruction of property which did not yield good results either.

As for demobilization, the SPLA was very reluctant to demobilize large parts of their armed forces partly due to the high possibility of attacks and an invasion from militias and the Sudanese military. Furthermore, senior members were concerned that a significant downsizing of their armed forces would undermine the morale of their soldiers, have a major negative impact on the military's dominant political influence as well as causing budget cuts and restricting access to resources.

Lastly, with the reintegration phase of DDR, due to the failure of the demobilization, the reintegration phase of the DDR was not a success. This was further worsened due to the frequent rivalries and tensions between, UN entities, SSDDRC, and the donors resulting in loss of coordination, trust, and communication during the reintegration phase. For example, a major cause of tension was with the UN and SSDDRC regarding the transparency of funds and management during the reintegration process.

In conclusion, the DDR for South Sudan was successful in the start with the correct intent of including all possible stakeholders in the situation to ensure the success of the program. However, due to the failure of carrying out assigned tasks as simple as regular coordinated meetings resulted in a chain of events which ultimately resulted in the failure of the DDR program along with human right violations and much more problems.

### UN Arms Embargo

An arms embargo as defined by the UN in paragraph 2.c of UNSC resolution 1390 (2002) (S/RES/1390 (2002)) states that member states of the UN are obliged to “*Prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, and transfer, to these individuals, groups, undertakings, and entities from their territories or by their nationals outside their territories, or using their flag vessels or aircraft, of arms and related materiel of all types including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, paramilitary equipment, and spare parts for the aforementioned and technical advice, assistance, or training related to military activities;*”. The UNSC frequently threatened imposing arms embargo in hopes that South Sudan would take action on the high presence of illegal small arms and other weaponry but to no avail. Finally, in July 2018 the UNSC imposed an arms embargo which has been extended to May 2021.

Imposing an arms embargo would undoubtedly control the supply of illegal small arms and help the government of South Sudan focus on the existing presence of weapons and would further hinder and plans to establish its own weapons manufacturing system. Furthermore, an arms embargo would reassure donors as many do not want funds being directed towards the purchase of arms as South Sudan is very reliant on international support, and donors backing out could put South Sudan in a financial crisis as well. Therefore, an arms embargo would help reduce violence and issues caused due to the high presence of illegal small arms as well as encourage donors to provide their support.

However, there are issues with the arms embargo first of which that an arms embargo requires support from all members states, however, as previously discussed Uganda has openly rejected the arms embargo and has continued to support the SPLA with not only small arms but other resources and weaponry as well. This will undoubtedly reduce the effectiveness of the arms embargo as a feasible solution for the issue.

Imposing an arms embargo may also be a cause for another issue which is that certain arms exporters and seller that do not want to be seen violating international law would turn to the black market and may participate in arms smuggling along with other illegal activities also causing an impact on the economy as the price to obtain small arms from the black market would increase.

In conclusion, the full extent of the effects of the arms embargo is yet to be seen however, these are predicted effects of the arms embargo. No doubt the arms embargo will only be realistically lifted either when there is no change in the violence, human rights violations, etc and the UN has to look for another solution or when the presence of small arms has decreased and permanent stability in South Sudan is clearly present.

## Possible Solutions

### Implementation of the new DDR program

It is a feasible solution to attempt at implementing the DDR program again with more UN supervision to ensure that the tasks that are assigned to the DDR-related entities are carried out. Furthermore, with the current arms embargo would disarmament process would be easier as there would not be any arms supply. It would be important to firstly heavily promote voluntary disarmament from the SPLA and the UN and if needed use UN peacekeepers to assist in the disarmament process. It is vital that there are no forced disarmament and human rights violations occurrences during the disarmament process in order to help citizens regain their trust and faith in the government. This would also help bring more political stability, reduce crime and violence. As for the demobilization process, as previously discussed, the SPLA is reluctant to demobilizing large parts of their armed forces due to the high possibility of attacks. By promoting peace treaties with militias, Sudan, and South Sudan with the backing of UN member states, it would eliminate any possibility of attacks allowing the government of South Sudan to significantly downsize the SPLA. In terms of the reintegration process, trust-building between DDR-related entities is essential for the success program and therefore should be the first priority. It may be vital that the first few months of the program in which these entities determine the role and responsibilities of all actors involved are supervised or monitored closely to ensure that all tasks are carried out. With these measures in place, the chance of success for the DDR program will be higher and would eliminate the presence of illegal small arms and would effectively solve other key issues that have the presence of illegal small arms as a root cause.

### Seminars on the effects of illicit arms

Though there is a lot of research on the sources and routes of these illicit small arms, there needs to be more research on the actual effects these illicit arms have on society in South Sudan. This could invite

collaboration with the government of South Sudan and an NGO such as SIPRI. This allows the NGO to provide helpful insight to the government in ways to tackle the situation as the SIPRI has observed the presence of arms in various other situations and countries. The situation in South Sudan could also be useful to SIPRI in terms of disarmament research. After collecting sufficient data, the data can be used to create educational seminars for the civilians in South Sudan of all ages to discourage the use of small arms to suppress routes of illicit arms and end the violence. Furthermore, this could help SIPRI bring more relevant data and research to UN entities and organizations that deal with ending the illicit arms trade.

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Appendix II

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