



Co-operating to Disarm

**REMARKS AT THE LAUNCH CEREMONY FOR THE SEPTEMBER
AFRICAN UNION AMNESTY MONTH ON VOLUNTARY
SURRENDER OF ILLICIT FIREARMS**

IN NAIROBI

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

8TH SEPTEMBER 2020

BY

**LT. GEN. BADRELDIN ELAMIN ABDELGADIR
RECSA EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Our Chief Guest Dr. Fred Matiangí, EGH- Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government

Mr. Hilary Nzioki Mutyambai, MGH, Inspector General of Police

Mr. George Kinoti, CBS, Director of Criminal Investigations

Mr. Charlton Murithii, EBS, Director of Kenya National Focal Points on Small Arms

Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

All Protocols Observed,

I want to begin by thanking all of you for finding time out of your busy schedules to attend the Launch of the September Africa Amnesty Month campaign on Voluntary Surrender of illicit firearms.

Chief Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen,

For sure, all of us know the danger of illicit firearms and how much it affects stability. We are also aware that we cannot have meaningful growth when there is insecurity. As you may all know, the African Union Initiative on Silencing the Guns by 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals recognize that a peaceful and stable environment is important to sustain growth and Development

The September Africa Amnesty month for the surrender and collection of illegal weapons was declared in 2017 by the African Union within the framework of Silencing The Guns by 2020 initiative and adopted by African Member States. This is a call for civilians who hold illegal weapons to hand them over to their national authorities without fear, disclosure of their identity, arrest or prosecution.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in joint partnership with African Union (AU) pledged to support African Member States who expressed interest namely: Burkina Faso, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia and Kenya after their expression of interest to implement Africa Amnesty Month campaign. The Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) is the implementing partner on this campaign.

Despite the pandemic of the Coronavirus that has affected and paralyzed the entire planet, these countries through the National Commissions responsible for small arms control will conduct effective public awareness campaigns for the voluntary surrender of illegal weapons held by civilians in their respective countries. Thereafter, for proper management of weapons and ammunitions, the respective commissions will conduct destruction of the illicit small arms, conduct a Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) training as well as arms marking of state owned firearms.

I encourage KNFP to place emphasis on the participation of the community especially women in the various activities, by integrating them in the sensitizations, the media programs as well as the capacity building workshops that will be organized for Law Enforcement Agencies to build the capacity of the officers to manage the government stockpiles in line with the best International practices in order to reduce the risk of diversion.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I express my sincere gratitude to the Government of Kenya through the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, for the unwavering support in the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the prevention, control and reduction of Small Arms and Light weapons in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

I am also grateful for the support given by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the African Union commission towards the implementation of the Amnesty month project. I also thank the Kenya National Focal Point on SALW who have organized the launch of the Amnesty month.

As I conclude, I want to remind us that we all have a role to play as peace loving citizens. I count on each and every one of you to join the campaign and help spread the word in our community.

Save my life, protect me, and let me protect you through Silencing the Guns in Africa

I now thank you all for your kind attention.