

Conflict Prevention Adviser, ECOWAS

abdelfataumusah@yahoo.co.uk

Dr Musah is the Director of Political affairs at the ECONOMIC Community of West African States (ECOWAS). From April 2005 To March 2009, he served as Senior Conflict Prevention Adviser to the Danish Agency for International Development (Danida) and ECOWAS. His duties included helping the Commission to operationalize the conflict prevention elements of ECOWAS protocols on peace and security, including those relating to conflict management and peace-building, democracy and good governance, and free movement of persons. To this end, he led the process to adopt the ECOWAS Conflict Prevention Framework, an operational tool for cooperative interventions in peace and security in the ECOWAS region. He also works closely with the ECOWAS organs responsible for peace and security, helps the Commission assess security threats and develop policy options to meet them, and coordinates ECOWAS observer missions to elections in the region.

Before joining ECOWAS and Danida, Dr. Musah served as the Senior Program Officer at the Open Society Institute - West Africa (2002-2004); Consultant to the UN Regional Office for West Africa on peace-building and conflict prevention (2004-2005); Head of Research & Advocacy at the London-based Centre for Democracy and Development (1998-2001) and the Africa Desk Officer at the British-American Security Information Council, London (1996-1998). An accomplished international peace and security expert, Dr. Musah has devoted time in his diverse capacities researching and advocating on the impacts of political and natural resource governance, the privatization of security and weapons proliferation, on human and regional security in Africa; and on the evolving peace and security architecture in Africa. He has contributed immensely to building capacities at both governmental and civil society levels in Africa to promote accountability, good governance, peace and security. Dr. Musah is a Board member of the International Action Network on Small Arms and member of the International Governing Council of the Centre for Democracy and Development. Between 1999 and 2004, he served as a member of the UN Panel of Experts on Mercenaries.

His recently published works include *West Africa: Governance and Security in a Changing World* (IPI Coping with Crisis series, New York, February 2009); *The Evolving ECOWAS Security Architecture* (CDD, London & Abuja, 2008); *The ECOWAS Moratorium on Light Weapons: Pitching Political Will against Reality*, FOSDA, Ghana, 2004; 'Small Arms: A Time Bomb under West Africa's Democratization Process' (Brown Journal on World Affairs, Spring 2002); *Mercenaries: An African Security Dilemma* (Pluto Press, London, 2000);
□
and
Over a Barrel:

Light Weapons & Human Rights in the Commonwealth (CHRI, 2000).