

## **RESTRICTED**

### **ABSTRACT**

The process of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) is one of the activities which are carried out in the post-conflict peace building process. Security-sector reform calls for downsizing the army size and demobilising combatants from armed groups. In doing so, restoring national security would be priority number one to create conditions that would facilitate the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex combatants for sustainable peacebuilding. It is in this regard that in 1997, the Rwanda Demobilisation and Reintegration Commission (RDRC) was established to demobilize and reintegrate FDLR Ex-Combatants, a French acronym meaning Force de Defence pour la Liberation du Rwanda with the objective of contributing to peace and stability in Rwanda and the Great Lakes Region.

The research looks into recurring activities of Rwandan armed group operating in Eastern DRC. The activities of the combatants undermine the ongoing process of DDR as well as threatening peacebuilding in Rwanda. The Government of Rwanda has made strong progress in the building of peace in the great lakes region and unity among Rwandans. This is in line with planning to further weaken FDLR until it is eradicated. However, the plan's success is repeatedly being obstructed by the outfit's ability to continue training, rearming and refitting while exploiting the inability of the International Community as well as the Government of DRC that sheltered them since 1994 to eradicate the group.

The study seeks to emphasise on the research gaps whereby there still exists unaddressed aspects which researchers have not touched and this concerns the existence of continuing threat posed by FDLR on Rwanda security. However, only concerted efforts geared towards its eradication among all the stakeholders to apply political, diplomatic, economic and military pressure can efficiently and effectively decisively address this problem concerning the FDLR threat. The approaches used during the research are the mix of quantitative and qualitative methods to collect data. Key concepts in this research includes; Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration, Conflict, Combatant, Peace and Peacebuilding