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# WALT KILROY

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## **Peacebuilding materials: Ownership, participation and social capital in the reintegration of ex-combatants after war**

Local ownership of peace processes and participatory approaches to peacebuilding have long been advocated. In reality, the practice is often different. Among the key stakeholders in this process, ex-combatants are significant for a number of reasons, especially when the conflict was a civil war. This study looks at their experience of the official disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programme after the war in Liberia, which ended in 2003. It finds that for many, the process was far from participatory. The study explores the implications of this lack of participation and owner-

ship for the rebuilding of positive social capital, and the role of social capital in post-war peacebuilding.