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Title: Rebordering Peace: Interdisciplinary Reflections on Forced Migration, Global Governance, and the Politics of Human Security in Postcolonial Africa

Abstract

This paper explores the complex intersections between migration governance, human security, and peacebuilding through the lens of forced deportations of African migrants from the United States. While conventional peace and conflict studies often examine displacement within the contexts of war and humanitarian crises, this study repositions deportation as a transdisciplinary site of structural violence and global governance contestation. Drawing from political science, critical migration studies, sociology, and postcolonial international relations, the paper investigates how African non-state actors, including civil society networks, diaspora associations, and advocacy organizations, mobilize resistance and construct counter-narratives that challenge dominant regimes of global order.

Focusing on recent deportation waves to Ghana and Eswatini, the research adopts a qualitative multi-sited design, integrating documentary analysis and semi-structured interviews to uncover how deportees experience and reinterpret exclusion, belonging, and dignity. The study argues that forced return policies not only destabilize communities but also reconfigure Africa's geopolitical positioning within the global security architecture. By engaging both the material and epistemic dimensions of human displacement, the paper highlights how local actors transform deportation from an act of exclusion into a terrain of political agency and peace advocacy.

The analysis contributes to ongoing debates about decolonizing peace research by demonstrating the value of inter- and transdisciplinary approaches in understanding the everyday politics of global governance and human mobility. Ultimately, it calls for a broader conception of peace; one that transcends the absence of conflict to include the recognition of dignity, justice, and voice for marginalized populations at the frontlines of global inequality.

Keywords: Forced migration, peacebuilding, human security, transdisciplinarity, postcolonial governance, deportation, Africa