



**Forum:** Security Council



**Issue:** The Question of Conflict Zones in South Sudan

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**Position:** President

## INTRODUCTION

Suffering. War atrocities. Military, political and economical instability. Fatal consequences of wars for independence and civil wars across the world. The consensus of those who suffer because of aforementioned reasons is a view on civil war as the deadliest and most painful »illness« of a nation. Neighbours, sisters and brothers impulsively fighting against each other, leaving carcinogen decay behind. What's the role of the UN, or rather the Security Council?



South Sudan had battled a long lasted war with the North of Sudan and then in 2011, the South gained independence from Sudan as the Republic of South Sudan. Many issues with the north continue, especially when considering the border conflicts and the status of the oil rich area of South Sudan. Military tensions between the two states may be considered. But the major problems existing in the new born country are brutal disputes between different ethnic groups existing in the country with the clash among rich elites and those who want to participate in decision-making alongside. In 2013 a civil war has arrupted, only deepening inability to establish balance and peace in the land. How can we, as the UN, help to solve the problem?

## **DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS**

Civil war: it is a war between organised groups within the same state or country. The aim of one side may be to take control of the country or the region, to change government policies, etc.

SPLA: or the Sudan People's Liberation Army is the army of the Republic of South Sudan. Following South Sudan's independence in 2011, the SPLA became the new republic's regular army.

SPLM-IO: or Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition, also known as the anti-governmental forces (AGF) is a mainly South Sudanese political party and rebel group that split from the Sudan People's Liberation Movement in 2013 due to political tensions between President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar Teny over leadership of SPLM. Tensions strengthened between forces loyal to both presidents and South Sudan plunged into a political war, The South Sudanese Civil War. The party and militia is led by Riek Machar.

Militia: it is generally an army or some other type of fighting unit that is composed of non-professional fighters, citizens of a nation or subjects of a state or government who can be called upon to enter a combat situation, as opposed to a professional force of regular, full-time military personnel, or historically, members of the warrior nobility class (e.g., knights or samurai). Unable to hold their own against properly trained and equipped professional forces, it is common for militias to engage in guerrilla warfare or defense instead of being used in open attacks and offensive actions.

CPA: The Comprehensive Peace Agreement also known as the Naivasha Agreement, was an accord signed on January 9, 2005, by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and the Government of Sudan. The CPA was meant to end the Second Sudanese Civil War, develop democratic governance countrywide, and share oil revenues. It also set a timetable for a Southern Sudanese independence referendum.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **COUNTRY PROFILE**

*(Source: BBC Country Profiles)*

Republic of South Sudan

Capital: Juba

President: Salva Kiir Mayardit

Population: 7.5-10 million

Area: 619,745 sq km (239,285 sq miles)

Languages: English, Arabic (both official), Juba Arabic, Dinka

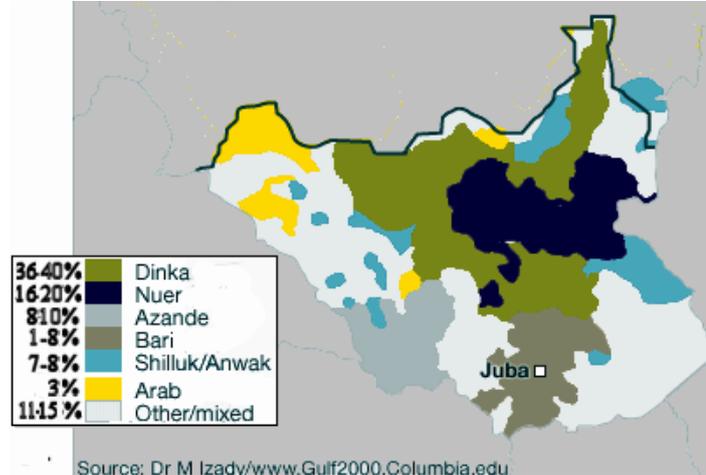
Major religions: Traditional religions, Christianity

Currency: Sudanese pound

UN, World Bank

## FIGHTING FOR INDEPENDENCE

South Sudan was fighting war for independence with much bigger Sudan for many decades, causing atrocities and many deaths. During fighting for independence, we indicate 2 Sudanese civil wars, having in mind South Sudanese fight for independence within Sudan. As an asset of fighting, SPLA was established together with clientelism among representatives and other decision makers, on long term causing political unsteadiness in independent South Sudan. It is also worth mentioning many unresolved remaining issues with the north, such as border demarcation and dispute on oil rich area of Abyei, only toughening and additionally undermining South Sudanese balance.



## THE BIRTH OF A NEW COUNTRY

After fifty years of intermittent civil war, the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), a rebel opposition group from the south, signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005. The CPA provided for the independence referendum which eventually led to the creation of South Sudan. SPLM leader Salva Kiir Mayardit became South Sudan's first President.

## TRANSITION

At the beginning of an existence of a new country in 2011, all components of a state (economy, politics, social care, army forces) were very fragile and full of old problems, considering all the resentments and complex relations between the major parties that were created during long lasted war inside Sudan for the independence. The transformation of the SPLM liberation movement, which in fact played a major role in gaining independence, into South Sudan's ruling political party has caused problems. The old military hierarchy was maintained, preventing the enforcement of democratic multi-party government system. The announcement of the president Kiir and Vice president Machar caused friction. Even more, old rivals having different allies inside a country, which later on caused also an ethnic conflict, taking into account collaboration: Salva Kiir-Dinka ethnic Group soldiers; Machar- Nuer ethnic group soldiers.

Ignited by a political struggle between Salva Kiir and Riek Machar that led to the Machar's removal from as vice president, violence erupted between presidential guard soldiers in December 2013 and immediately took on an ethnic character.

Soldiers from the Dinka ethnic group, one of the two largest ethnic groups in South Sudan, aligned with President Kiir and those from the Nuer ethnic group, the other largest ethnic group, supported Riek Machar.

In the midst of chaos, President Kiir announced that Machar had attempted a coup and violence spread quickly to Jonglei, Upper Nile, and Unity states. Since the outbreak of conflict, armed groups have targeted civilians along ethnic lines, committed rape and sexual violence, destroyed property and looted villages, and recruited children into their ranks.

## DEMOGRAPHIC COMPONENT OF THE CONFLICT

South Sudan is one of the most diverse country in Africa, having over 60 major ethnic groups. During the long era of fighting for independence, tribes had been living in unity because of a collective goal-independence from the north. When a new country was born, differences among ethnic groups only deepens, especially when considering accessibility to take part in decision-making. Some of groups feel highly discriminated. During still present South Sudanese Civil war, lots of atrocitis based on ethnic identity were committed, UN experts warnig the possibility of a genocide.

## CONFLICT'S COMPONENT OF CORRUPTION AND CLIENTELISM

South Sudanese government and administration is accused of hard corruption a nd clientelism by the majority of its citizens, having in mind a huge gap between government elites and others, which only leads to reinforcement of yet existing conflicts.

## SOUTH SUDANESE CIVIL WAR

In 2013, the SPLM's internal power struggle deteriorated from crisis to armed conflict, fuelled by underlying mistrust between the President and key SPLM figures, most importantly the Vice President, Riek Machar.

In April of that year, Kiir withdrew powers from Machar, before dismissing the cabinet in July and finally dissolving key SPLM party structures in November. Opposition figures within the SPLM accused Kiir of abusing his office, while Kiir claimed in return that they were preparing a coup. In December, gunfire erupted in Juba.

Conflict quickly spreaded from the capital Juba to other parts of a country, with the ruling SPLM and the SPLM In Opposition (SPLM-IO) fighting for control of Bor, Malakal and Bentiu.

Both the SPLM and SPLM-IO played the previous mentioned ethnic card to gain support from their respective Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups. The ethnic component to the conflict is in line with several internal crises since the SPLM's formation in 1983, which created and aggravated divisions along ethnic lines between the Dinka and Nuer. These have been exacerbated by the extremely difficult economic and social conditions in the country, which have catalysed the spread of violence as people struggle to maintain their livelihoods.

Other ethnic groups are also participating in the war.

## CIVIL WAR IN SOUTH SUDAN IN NUMBERS

- Estimated number of people killed since December 2013: over 50,000
- Estimated number of internally displaced persons: 1.6 MILLION
- Number of UN Peacekeepers: 13,490

## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

*(Source: Global Conflict Tracker)*

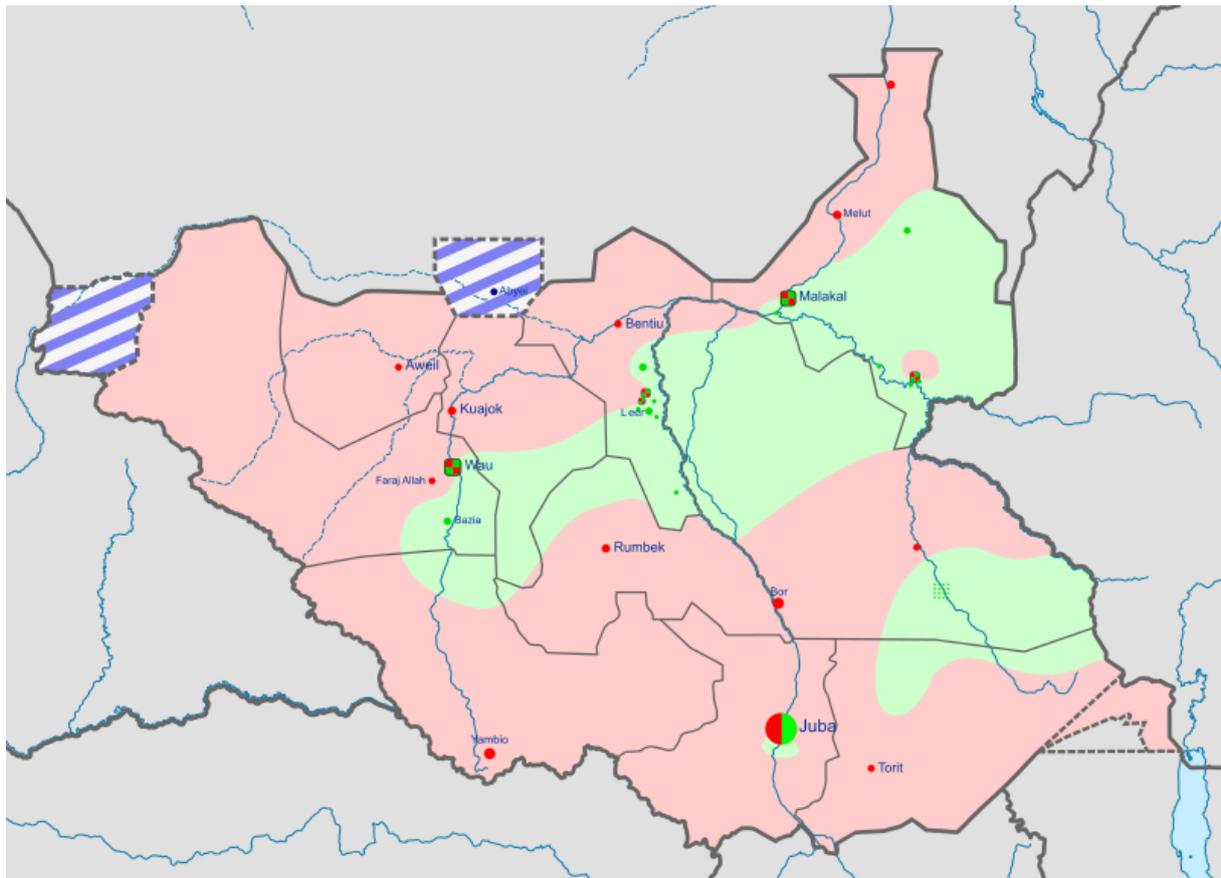
Well over 50,000 people have been killed and more than 1.6 million have been internally displaced since civil war broke out in South Sudan in December 2013. Under the threat of international sanctions and following several rounds of negotiations supported by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), President Salva Kiir signed a peace agreement with rebel leader and former Vice President Riek Machar on August 26, 2015. As the first step toward ending the civil war, Machar returned to Juba on April 26, 2016 and was sworn in as vice president, after spending more than two years outside of the country. Soon after his return, violence broke out again between government forces and opposition factions in July 2016, displacing tens of thousands of people yet again. After Machar fled the country, Kiir replaced him as vice president with General Taban Deng Gai.

The August 2015 peace deal has collapsed and the future of the transitional government remains to be seen. After signing the agreement in August 2015, violence continued and both sides to the conflict blamed the other for violating the ceasefire. The peace talks, which began in January 2014, resulted in several agreements, but both parties to the conflict and other splintering factions repeatedly violated the ceasefires.

Armed groups, including the government's Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), have committed widespread violence against civilians, especially women and children, humanitarian workers, and peacekeepers. As of August 2016, around 200,000 people are seeking protection on UN bases, which have become displacement-like settlements known as protection of civilian sites, in areas such as Bentiu, Juba, and Malakal.

## MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH SUDAN UPDATED AS OF 1 APRIL 2016

(Source: Wikipedia)



Under control of the Government of South Sudan

Under control of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in-Opposition

Under control of the Government of Sudan

### MAJOR CONSEQUENCES OF THE CIVIL WAR

- Over 5.1 million people are in need of aid
- 4.8 million are facing hunger because of lacking competence due to war activities
- Economic collapse
- Famine
- Refugees
- Genocide Threat
- Threat of diseases outbreak
- etc.

## MAJOR PLAYERS INVOLVED

### *Uganda*

As a neighbouring country, it plays a huge role in hosting the majority of South Sudanese refugees. The government of South Sudan also invite Ugandan troops into the country to help put an end to the SPLM-IO rebellion. Uganda has political and economic interests in ensuring the stability of South Sudan under SPLM-leadership, and fears it will lose its influence in South Sudan if the SPLM-IO comes to power. It also supplies South Sudanese underfed market with almost all kinds of products due to the lack of South Sudanese own agriculture and industry.

### *Ethiopia*

As a neighbouring country it hosts a lot of refugees. As a centre of African Union it plays an important role in ensuring peace talks and negotiations. However, the relations between South Sudan and Ethiopia got worse due to providence of a shelter for rebellious Machar. South Sudan strongly condemns any Ethiopian interference in South Sudan, claiming they are sovereign country. Diplomatic rows got teared.

### *Sudan*

As an old enemy, Sudan has some conflicts in terms of oil areas and the border. However, there were some peace agreements between Sudan and South Sudan, taking into account the huge population of Southern refugees in Sudan.

### *Egypt*

South Sudanese government and Egypt have been accused of working on a secret deal to keep Salva Kiir in power.

### *United States of America*

It was a lead facilitator of South Sudanese independence. Prior to the outbreak of the civil war in 2013, the United States strongly supported and advocated for Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), which became the new country's government.

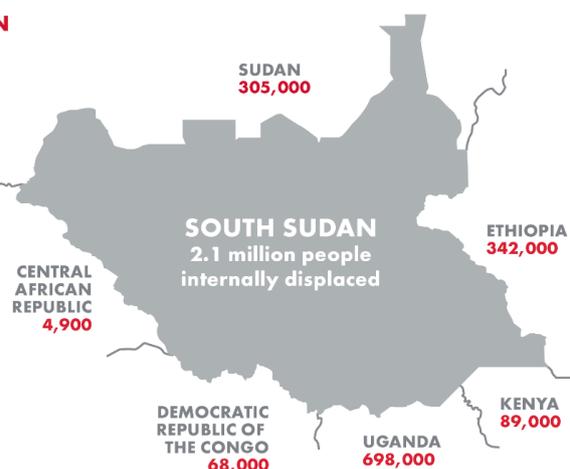
### CRISIS IN SOUTH SUDAN New Nation Torn Apart

Conflict in the world's newest country has spread across the nation, creating a severe humanitarian crisis. South Sudan has the third largest refugee crisis, after Syria and Afghanistan.

**3.6 million** have fled their homes.



**6 out of 10** South Sudanese refugees are children.



As of February 10, 2017  
Sources: <http://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2017/2/589d82834/solution-sight-refugee-numbers-south-sudan-cross-15-million-mark.html>



However, the United States has taken a back seat in peace talks as IGAD mediates between Kiir and Machar. The United States and Europe have imposed sanctions on commanders from both sides, but diplomats say real pressure for a deal to be implemented must come from neighboring states.

### *Japan*

Japanese peacekeepers arrive South Sudan, the first time in nearly 70 years that Japan has deployed its soldiers overseas with a broad mandate to use force if necessary.

### *Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)*

It is an eight-country trade bloc in Africa. It includes governments from the Horn of Africa, Nile Valley, and the African Great Lakes. Its headquarters are in Djibouti City.

## **SOUTH SUDAN TIMELINE PROFILE**

*(Source: BBC News)*

- **1956:** Sudan gains independence

### FIRST CIVIL WAR (within Sudan)

- **1962:** Civil war led by the southern separatist Anya Nya movement begins with north.
- **1969:** Group of socialist and communist Sudanese military officers led by Col Jaafar Muhammad Numeiri seizes power; Col Numeiri outlines policy of autonomy for south.
- **1972:** Government concedes a measure of autonomy for southern Sudan in a peace agreement signed in Addis Ababa.
- **1978:** Oil discovered in Unity State in southern Sudan.

### SECOND CIVIL WAR (within Sudan)

- **1983:** Fighting breaks out again between north and south Sudan, under leadership of John Garang's Sudanese People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), after Sudanese President Jaafar Numeiri abolishes South Sudan's autonomy.
- **1988:** Democratic Unionist Party - part of Sudan's ruling coalition government - drafts ceasefire agreement with the SPLM, but it is not implemented.
- **1989:** Military seizes power in Sudan.
- **2001:** Sudanese Islamist leader Hassan Al-Turabi's party, the Popular National Congress, signs memorandum of understanding with the southern rebel SPLM's armed wing, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Mr Al-Turabi is arrested the next day.
- **2002:** Talks in Kenya lead to a breakthrough agreement between southern rebels and Sudanese government on ending the civil war. The Machakos Protocol provides for the south to seek self-determination after six years.

## NORTH-SOUTH PEACE DEAL

- **January 2005:** North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) ends civil war; deal provides for a permanent ceasefire, autonomy for the south, a power-sharing government involving rebels in Khartoum and a south Sudanese referendum on independence in six years' time.
- **July 2005:** Former southern rebel leader John Garang is sworn in as first vice-president. A new Sudanese constitution which gives the south a large degree of autonomy is signed.
- **August 2005:** South Sudanese leader John Garang is killed in a plane crash. He is succeeded by Salva Kiir Mayardit.
- **October 2005:** Autonomous government is formed in South Sudan, in line with the January 2005 peace deal. The administration is dominated by former rebels.

## FRAGILE PEACE

- **November 2006:** Hundreds die in fighting centred on the southern town of Malakal - the heaviest between northern Sudanese forces and former rebels since the 2005 peace deal.
- **March 2008:** Tensions rise over clashes between an Arab militia and SPLM in the disputed oil-rich Abyei area on the north-south divide - a key sticking point in the 2005 peace accord.
- **July 2009:** North and south Sudan say they accept ruling by arbitration court in The Hague shrinking disputed Abyei region and placing the major Heglig oil field in the north.

## INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM

- **December 2009:** Leaders of North and South reach deal on terms of referendum on independence due in South by 2011.
- **January 2011:** The people of South Sudan vote in favour of full independence from Sudan.
- **February 2011:** Clashes between the security forces and rebels in southern Sudan's Jonglei state leave more than 100 dead.
- **May 2011:** North occupies disputed border region of Abyei.
- **June 2011:** Governments of north and south sign accord to demilitarize the disputed Abyei region and let in an Ethiopian peacekeeping force.

## NEW STATE BORN

- **9 July 2011:** Independence day.
- **August 2011:** UN says at least 600 people are killed in ethnic clashes in Jonglei state
- **January 2012:** South Sudan declares a disaster in Jonglei State after some 100,000 flee clashes between rival ethnic groups.
- **April 2012:** After weeks of border fighting, South Sudan troops temporarily occupy the oil field and border town of Heglig before being repulsed. Sudanese warplanes raid the Bentiu area in South Sudan
- **August 2012:** Some 200,000 refugees flee into South Sudan to escape fighting between Sudanese army and rebels in Sudan's southern border states.

- **September 2012:** The presidents of Sudan and South Sudan agree trade, oil and security deals after days of talks in Ethiopia.
- **March 2013:** Sudan and South Sudan agree to resume pumping oil after a bitter dispute over fees that saw production shut down more than a year earlier. They also agreed to withdraw troops from their border area to create a demilitarised zone.
- **June 2013:** President Kiir dismisses Finance Minister Kosti Manibe and Cabinet Affairs Minister Deng Alor over a multi-million dollar financial scandal, and lifts their immunity from prosecution.
- **July 2013:** President Kiir dismisses entire cabinet and Vice-President Riek Machar in a power struggle within the governing Sudan People's Liberation Movement

## CIVIL WAR

- **December 2013:** Civil war erupts as President Salva Kiir accuses his former vice-president, Riek Machar, of plotting to overthrow him. Rebel factions seize control of several regional towns, thousands are killed and many more flee. Uganda troops intervene on the government's side
- **January 2014:** A ceasefire is signed but broken several times over subsequent weeks, and further talks in February fail to end the violence that displaces more than a million people by April.
- **April 2014:** UN says pro-Machar forces sack the oil town of Bentiu, killing hundreds of civilians.
- **August 2014:** Peace talks begin in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa and drag on for months as fighting continues.
- **April 2016:** Riek Machar finally returns to Juba and is sworn in as first vice-president in a new unity government - but is sacked in July after further conflict and goes back into exile.
- **November 2016:** UN sacks Kenyan commander of its peacekeeping mission over the failure to protect civilians in Juba during July violence. Kenya withdraws its troops from the peacekeeping mission. Japanese peacekeepers arrive South Sudan, the first time in nearly 70 years that Japan has deployed its soldiers overseas with a broad mandate to use force if necessary.
- **December 2016:** A UN commission on human rights says a process of ethnic cleansing is underway in several parts of the country, a claim that President Salva Kiir denies.
- **February 2017:** A famine is declared in parts of South Sudan in what the UN describes as a man-made catastrophe caused by civil war and economic collapse.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

To end the conflict that has lasted for many years, agreements should be set by all parties involved. With some measures a true democracy should be assured. New elections may heal some of the tensions. Ceasefires should not be neglected, but keep in mind, a ceasefire is not a long term solution.

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

Dear delegate. You made it, you read all the chair report. But it is still not enough. Chair report is meant only to guide you, now go and search in libraries, online (links below may be useful). It is very important to acknowledge all aspects of a conflict due to many parties and components involved. Situation in South Sudan is urgent. The UN has not put all the effort in solving the problem, so it is up to you to come up with a solution. Do not forget, the delegate has to abide by standpoints of a country she or he is representing. Therefore, your suggestions must also abide by it. You should prepare only clauses for the conference, not whole resolutions (see the procedure of the Security Council).

It is your time now. Be prepared well, one day we will take part in real decision-making, take this MUN as an opportunity to train yourself. People in South Sudan need solutions! Be involved.

See you very soon.

## USEFUL LINKS:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LkWldwFdTPo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IDSu8wlQG6c>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTbUtO3YiRQ>
- <http://www.cfr.org/global/global-conflict-tracker/p32137#!/conflict/civil-war-in-south-sudan>
- <https://www.insightonconflict.org/conflicts/south-sudan/conflict-profile/>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>
- <https://www.mercycorps.org/articles/south-sudan/quick-facts-what-you-need-know-about-south-sudan-crisis>
- <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/south-sudan-tribes.htm>
- <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2017/02/sudan-facing-genocide-violence-constant-170205104411113.html>
- <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/12/15/opinions/south-sudan-genocide-looming/>
- <http://www.enoughproject.org/conflicts/sudans/conflicts-south-sudan>