

Country/entity	South Sudan
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Agreement on the Status of Detainees between the Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (in opposition) SPLM/A (in opposition)
Date	23 Jan 2014
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Sudan Conflicts (1955 -)

Agreements relate to several distinct dyads, and also the negotiated independence of South Sudan, and subsequent internal conflict in South Sudan. Sudan-South Sudan. The long-standing conflict between the north and the south of the country dates back to colonial times, where the British introduced a so-called 'Southern Policy', severely hampering population movements between these big regions. Immediately after gaining independence in 1956, southern movements started to fight for independence; this fight became professionalised in 1983 with the foundation of the soon internationally supported Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). When the Islamic Front government introduced strict sharia laws in the south after it took over power in 1988 the war intensified. A decade later, the military situation reached a stalemate, enabling internationally facilitated peace negotiations to begin in 1997. After more fighting, a final negotiation push began in 2002, leading to the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in January 2005.

Sudan-South Sudan post referendum. South Sudan became independent in July 2011; since then, relations between the two countries are complicated and violent conflict led by the SPLM (North) in the Sudanese Nuba mountains region has since intensified.

Darfur. Other long-standing violent conflicts are in the east and the west of the country. In the east, the Beja Congress, established in 1957, is the spearhead of a currently 'peaceful' opposition movement. In the west, the violent conflict in Darfur intensified in the early 2000s and rapidly gained international attention, even resulting in genocide charges against leading figures of the Sudanese government. The situation on the ground is complex, with over a dozen organisations (most notably the Sudanese Liberation Movement and the Justice and Equality Movement) fighting the Sudanese government and allied groups like the Janjaweed – although all parties have switched sides on numerous occasions. Several mediation attempts have not been successful, due to the shaky commitment of the Sudanese central government and the distrust among the armed opposition.

South Sudan - internal

In December 2013, after president Salva Kiir accused opposition leader Riek Machar of attempting a coup, violent conflict broke out between government forces of the SPLM/A and anti-governmental groups. In addition, several other political militias as well as communal militias have joined the conflict. In 2015 the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (ARCSS) was signed. Due to unsuccessful implementation the agreement was revitalized in 2018. In September 2019, Kiir and Machar agreed to establish a power-sharing government after struggles on forming a unity transitional government.

Close

Sudan Conflicts (1955 -)

Stage Framework/substantive - partial

Conflict nature Government

Peace process	South Sudan post-secession process
Parties	GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, signed for by Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial, and THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ ARMY (IN OPPOSITION), signed for by Gen. Taban Deng Gai.
Third parties	IGAD Special Envoys, H.E. Amb. Seyoum Mesfin, Gen. Lazaro K. Sumbeiywo and Gen. Mohamed Ahmed M. El Dabi.
Description	Short agreement recognising the IGAD Communique (the Communique of of (sic) the 23rd Extra-ordinary Sessions of the Head of State and government, issued in Nairobi on the 17th December 2013 on the situation in South Sudan); agreeing to release prisoners, agreeing to establish a National Dialogue and that any disputes should be resolved by IGAD envoys peacefully.

Agreement document [SS_140123_Agreement on Status of Detainees.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Page 2, I. NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS, 3. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION: The Parties agree to establish an all-inclusive National Reconciliation Process in which the detainees and other political actors, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders have a significant role to play... '
Traditional/religious leaders	Page 2, I. NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS, 3. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION: The Parties agree to establish an all-inclusive National Reconciliation Process in which the detainees and other political actors, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders have a significant role to play... '
Public administration	No specific mention.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	No specific mention.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general	Page 2, untitled preamble: Mindful of the desire of the people of South Sudan to live in peace and dignity in an all-inclusive democratic society, based on justice, equality, respect for human rights and the rule of law;
Bill of rights/similar	No specific mention.
Treaty incorporation	No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy Page 2, untitled preamble: Mindful of the desire of the people of South Sudan to live in peace and dignity in an all-inclusive democratic society, based on justice, equality, respect for human rights and the rule of law;

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments Page 2, untitled preamble: Welcoming the signing of the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) Agreement by the Parties as a major breakthrough towards resolving the crisis,
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.

Prisoner release	Page 2, I. NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS, 1. IGAD AND IGAD PARTNERS COMMITMENT: The Parties recognize, as per the Communique of the 23rd Extra Ordinary Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the 27th December 2013 on the situation in South Sudan that GAD and the Partners of IGAD are firmly committed to undertake every effort to expedite the release of the detainees.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	Page 2, I. NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS, 3. NATIONAL RECONCILIATION: The Parties agree to establish an all-inclusive National Reconciliation Process in which the detainees and other political actors, civil society organizations, traditional and religious leaders have a significant role to play...

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
Other international signatory	IGAD Special Envoys, H.E. Amb. Seyoum Mesfin, Gen. Lazaro K. Sumbeiywo and Gen. Mohamed Ahmed M. El Dabi.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/ similar	No specific mention.
Enforcement mechanism	Page 2, I. NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS, 4. AMENDMENTS TO THIS AGREEMENT: This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent of the Parties, which, shall be in writing and signed by the Parties. 5. DISPUTE RESOLUTION Any dispute that may arise from the implementation and interpretation of this Agreement shall be resolved amicably by the mediation of the GAD Special Envoys.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Enough Project, http://enoughproject.org/files/IGAD_StatusofDetainees_GRSS.pdf
