

**Country/entity** South Sudan

**Region** Africa (excl MENA)

**Agreement name** Ceasefire Framework Agreement between the SPLA and Lt. Gen. George Athor's Forces

**Date** 5 Jan 2011

**Agreement status** Multiparty signed/agreed

**Interim arrangement** Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Intrastate/local 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** Ceasefire/related

**Conflict nature** Inter-group

**Peace process** South Sudan: Pre-secession Local Peace Processes

**Parties** Brigadier General Michael Majur Aleer  
for The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), with all its formations and units;

Major General Abraham Thon Chol  
for Lt. Gen. George Athor Force's, with all its formations and units.

**Third parties** Witnessed by:  
His Grace Most Reverend Dr. Daniel Deng Bul  
Chairman, High Level Committee for Reconciliation and Mediation

**Description** -

**Agreement document** [SS\\_110105\\_Ceasefire Framework Agreement between the SPLA and Lt. Gen. George Athor's Forces.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Local agreement properties**

**Process type** Formal structured process

**Rationale** The agreement was brokered by a team of mediators led by Reverend Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Chairman of the High Level Committee for Reconciliation and Mediation. It was signed in the presence of the Vice-President of the Government of Southern Sudan (GoSS) Riek Machar, GoSS representatives, diplomats, and the UN among other international organisations. It was not an isolated example as further negotiations between the South Sudan Democratic Movement (SSDM), of which Athor's Forces were part, and the SPLA/SPLM followed after the signing of this agreement.

**Is there a documented link to a national peace process?** Yes

**Link to national process: articulated rationale** This ceasefire was struck between the SPLA and Lt.Gen Athor's Forces - the latter were part of the South Sudan Democratic Movement (SSDM), one of the main groups opposing the SPLM/Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS). Prior to the signing of the agreement, the President of the GOSS issued amnesties for incidents in the area disputed between the SPLA and Athor's Forces. The agreement also makes reference to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

**Name of Locale** Areas in the Greater Upper Nile region (incl. Jonglei and Unity State)

**Nature of Locale** Region

**GPS Lat/Long (DD)** 9.027593, 31.002534

**Participant type** Central state actor  
Local armed group  
Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder

**Mediator, facilitator or similar** Mediator or similar referred to

**Mediator (references)** Mediator: His Grace Most Reverend Dr. Daniel Deng Bul Chairman, High Level Committee for Reconciliation and Mediation (secondary source states that Archbishop Bul led a team of mediators, see references UNMIS 2011)

**Type of mediator/facilitator/similar**

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**Local issues**

**Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)** No specific mention.

**Grievance List** Page 1, PREAMBLE, Determined to put an end to all acts of violence within southern Sudan that may jeopardize the attainment of this goal;  
Conscious of the fact that this crisis was triggered off by infighting within the same political organization - SPLM, and which induced military confrontations within the SPLA; and to which the Parties have expressed unconditional allegiance;  
Determined to peacefully resolve all arm conflicts and military confrontations through dialogue;

**Cattle rustling/ banditry** No specific mention.

**Social cover** No specific mention.

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