

**Country/entity** South Sudan

**Region** Africa (excl MENA)

**Agreement name** Lou Nuer-Dinka Bor-Murle Action for Peace, Jonglei State

**Date** 25 Mar 2021

**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** Framework/substantive - partial

**Conflict nature** Inter-group

<b>Peace process</b>	South Sudan: Post-secession Local agreements
<b>Parties</b>	<p>Liyliy Yieh Chan - Lou Nuer Youth Leaders' Representative</p> <p>Kangach Chiok Deng - Lou Nuer Paramount Chiefs' Representative</p> <p>Mary Nyapet Puok - Lou Nuer Women's Representative</p> <p>Alek Many - Dinka Bor Youth Leaders' Representative</p> <p>Malak Ayuen Mayen + Dinka Bor Paramount Chiefs' Representative</p> <p>Alek Manyon Deng – Dinka Bor Women’s Representative</p> <p>Turyal Peluk Oleyo – Murle Youth Leaders’ Representative</p> <p>Nyathiko Gola Labarech – Murle Paramount Chiefs’ Representative</p> <p>Mary Beri Oleyeo – Murle Women’s Representative</p>
<b>Third parties</b>	<p>Page 5:</p> <p>Guaranteed by</p> <p>Gok Deng Dak Kueth Deng</p> <p>Spiritual leader</p> <p>...</p> <p>The facilitation of the Conference was supported by UK Aid, USAID and UNMISS</p>
<b>Description</b>	<p>This local agreement aims to resolve the violent conflict between the Lou Nuer, Dinka Bor, and Murle groups in Jonglei, South Sudan. The violence among these groups resulted in deaths, abductions of women and children, cattle theft. This agreement is the result of wide inter-communal talks, which included the chiefs, women's groups and youth groups, and which were supported by Gok Deng Dak Kueth Deng (Spiritual leader) and facilitated by UK Aid, USAID and UNMISS. In the agreement, the communities pledge to support peace efforts, and develop modalities for punishment of perpetrators, return of abducted women and children, and return of stolen cattle.</p>

**Agreement document**      [SS\\_210324 Dinka Bor Murle Agreement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Local agreement properties**

<b>Process type</b>	Informal but persistent process
<b>Rationale</b>	There is a persistent practice of negotiations and agreements in the Jonglei area, often supported by UNMISS.
<b>Is there a documented link to a national peace process?</b>	No

**Link to national process: articulated rationale** While the conflict is partly derived from the conditions resulting from the broader conflict, and there appears to be overlap between the perpetrators of violence and members of national armed groups, there is no clear link in these negotiations to the broader peace process. The agreement is supported by the High-level Committee set up by presidential order.

**Name of Locale** Jonglei

**Nature of Locale** Region

**GPS Lat/Long (DD)** 7.418642, 32.225384

**Participant type** Local armed group  
Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

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

**Mediator (references)** Page 5: Guaranteed by Gok Deng Dak Kueth Deng Spiritual leader ... The facilitation of the Conference was supported by UK Aid, USAID and UNMISS

**Type of mediator/facilitator/similar** Central state actor Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder International or transnational actor

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## Local issues

### Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)

Page 1, PREAMBLE

Grateful for the spiritual leadership of Gok Deng Dak Kueth in the course of this peace process, including the ritual sacrificing of four bulls at different stages of the Conference to strengthen the covenant between all communities;

Page 3-4:

5. Regarding the dissemination of the Peace

...

5.2. The Chiefs will also take responsibility for appropriate rituals to be conducted in Pibor and Bor to complement the ceremonies in Pieri led by Dak Kueth.

...

5.4. The women have underlined the importance of peace and reconciliation, love and forgiveness, and praying to God together for mercy and grace. Women will return and commit to warning their sons to stop raiding other communities. If a problem persists, they have warned they will milk out the milk from their breasts to the floor as a curse to the young men who have violated the peace.

### Grievance List

Page 1:

The Peace Process

The Conference has discussed the impact of the conflict, as well as addressing questions of abduction, cattle raiding and killing of innocent civilians and the measures that need to be put in place.

Page 1:

Preamble

We, representatives of youth leaders, traditional leaders, and women from the Dinka Bor, Murle and Lou Nuer communities;

Aware that the current conflict has caused deep and prolonged suffering in all our communities, particularly affecting women and children;

Page 2:

2. Regarding Cattle-related incidents since December

2.1. All three communities condemned ongoing criminal incidents, and underlined the urgency of finding a more conclusive response to ongoing criminal raids.

**Cattle rustling/  
banditry**

Page 1:

The Peace Process

The Conference has discussed the impact of the conflict, as well as addressing questions of abduction, cattle raiding and killing of innocent civilians and the measures that need to be put in place.

Page 2-3:

2. Regarding Cattle-related incidents since December

2.1. All three communities condemned ongoing criminal incidents, and underlined the urgency of finding a more conclusive response to ongoing criminal raids.

2.2. Cattle stolen since the December Pieri Agreement must be returned to their rightful owners. The meeting commends the GPAA Chiefs and Youth Leaders for collecting some of the stolen cattle.

2.3. Cattle losses, including the colour of individual cattle, are to be registered before the transfer of cattle.

2.4. Murle are to separate the cattle that were stolen on the side of Dinka Bor from those stolen on the side of Lou Nuer, and drive them to Gadiang and Pieri, respectively. They will be accompanied by local government officials.

2.5. Returned cattle will be processed by the local authorities in those centres, and that process will be their responsibility.

3. Regarding future cattle related incidents

3.1. Youth strongly affirmed their ownership of the peace process and commitment to stop attacks.

3.2. All communities reject immediate retaliation against incidents. It is not a legitimate response to conflict incidents.

3.3. The Conference noted that Murle youth are still dispersed in bush areas and have not received the peace message. They are suspected to be those violating the agreement since December.

3.4. The Conference accepted that the Murle would be given further time to address issues of ongoing theft in these bush areas.

3.5. The Youth Leaders will form a Peace Implementation Committee that will be the appropriate channel for reporting and peacefully responding to any future cattle related incidents.

3.6. The Youth proposed that the Committee should be facilitated to move for two weeks every two months to cover the dissemination of the peace across the three greater areas and address any emerging issues.

3.7. Youth Leaders proposed that there be established a joint protection force of the three youth communities, to be deployed as needed by the Peace Implementation Committee.

Page 3-4:

5. Regarding the dissemination of the Peace

**Social cover**

Page 3:

4. Regarding traditional justice and governance mechanisms

4.1. Perpetrators since the beginning of this process, 10 December 2021 , must be arrested and face the justice process.

4.2. If a perpetrator remains in hiding, the Chief of their community will be arrested as the community representative responsible for his community.

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