

**Country/entity** South Sudan  
Sudan  
Southern Kordofan - Blue Nile - Abyei

**Region** Africa (excl MENA)

**Agreement name** Convention for fraternity and peaceful co-existence between Messiriya Tribes, (Ajaira) and the Denka of Abyei: 3 – 11 October 2001

**Date** 11 Oct 2001

**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: Pre-secession Local Peace Processes
<b>Parties</b>	Messeriya tribes (Ajaira) and the Dinka of Abyei
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	The Convention for Fraternity and Peaceful Coexistence between the Messiriya Tribes (Ajaira) and the Denka of Abyei, held from October 3-11, 2001, was a local peace agreement in the Abyei area of South Sudan. The agreement aimed to restore peaceful coexistence between the two tribes, who had previously coexisted peacefully for many years, but had experienced friction due to rebellion. The recommendations of the agreement included denouncing differences and factors of conflict, twinning between the tribes on pasture, agriculture, and other resources, ensuring the rights of citizenship for both tribes, and forming joint committees to tour states where displaced persons from Abyei currently live, among others.

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**Agreement document** [SS\\_SD\\_011011\\_Convention for fraternity and peaceful co-existence between Messiriya Tribes, \(Ajaira\) and the Denka of Abyei.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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#### Local agreement properties

<b>Process type</b>	Informal but persistent process
<b>Rationale</b>	This agreement is one of many between the Messiriya and Dinka in Abyei, however this particular process does not seem to be supported by or connected to a peace process with formal support mechanisms.
<b>Is there a documented link to a national peace process?</b>	No
<b>Link to national process: articulated rationale</b>	The agreement does not specify a clear link to the national peace process.
<b>Name of Locale</b>	Abyei
<b>Nature of Locale</b>	Region
<b>GPS Lat/Long (DD)</b>	11.033700, 27.746185
<b>Participant type</b>	Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations
<b>Mediator, facilitator or similar</b>	No mention of mediator or similar

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**Local issues**

**Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)** Page 1, 3. Muglad Conference, attended by 52 persons representing both sections of the Messiriya. This meeting ratified the recommendations from both conferences as following, acting on God's words, [from the Holy Quran]: O ye people! We have created thee from a male and female and made of thee nations and tribes to know one another.

**Grievance List** No specific mention.

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

**Social cover** No specific mention.

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