

Country/entity South Sudan

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name Riang Peace Declaration

Date 5 Mar 2004

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

Parties

Full Name of Participants
Designation
County
Clan

CDR. James Yiech Biet
Commander
LuakPiny
Jikany

CDR. James Kaat Pinyien
LuakPiny
Jikany

A/CDR. Moses Dar Dieng
LuakPiny
Jikany

A/CDR. Gabriel
Nyabiem Juoch
Ulang
Jikany

A/CDR. Peter Gatkuoth Gien
Nyirol
Lou

A/CDR Peter Biel Joak
Akobo
Lou

A/CDR. Gordon Hoth
Nyirol
Lou

Lt. Col. Peter Pal Deng
Ulang
Jikany

A/CDR Ruach Gatluak
Wang
Jikany

A/CDR Thomas Tut Rueva
Luakpiny
Jikany

Lt. Col. John Ngaknom Lony Wuor
Ulang
Jikany

Major. John Gatyiel Puot
Ulang

Capt. Simon Changach Kuoth

Third parties

-

Description

A dialogue conference between Jikany and Lou communities across the Upper Nile region. The agreement involves presentations of local grievances by delegation members followed by sets of solutions on each key issue agreed on by communities, namely; governance, water access and grazing, Government of Sudan relationship with militia groups, cattle rustling issues and provisions to address drought and famine as well as overall development needs. The agreement encourages inter-community coordination on disarming and mutual understanding of key local peace issues and the need for local governance and monitoring of implementation efforts.

Agreement document[SS_040305_Riang Peace Declaration.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Local agreement properties**Process type**

Formal structured process

Rationale

The conference seems to follow a pattern or tradition of inter community gatherings for communities and clans in conflict aimed at reaching inter clan understanding between Lou and Jikany communities and more broadly, ending inter and intra clan violence in the wider upper Nile region. The conference is structured with a clear aim of ending intra/inter clan conflicts and with clear timings and delegations representing key communities and clans involved in the conflict. For the conference in Riang, there was also substantial support from the international NGO ACHA and backing by local community and religious figures.

Is there a documented link to a national peace process?

No

Link to national process: articulated rationale

No clearly articulated link to the national process in the text. This is a local and sub-local inter community agreement focusing on inter clan conflict between Lou and Jikany communities across a number of counties. The aims of the conference do involve ending ongoing intra ethnic conflict within the Nuer community in South Sudan. The conference also involves military and political factions such as the SPLA/M, SSLM and regional level governors for upper Nile region, however research does not indicate a clear link to the national level process.

Name of Locale

Akobo

Nature of Locale

Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD)

7.774875, 32.999127

Participant type Local armed group
Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder
Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations
Regional state actor

Mediator, facilitator or similar Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references) Page 4, 1.1 Executive Summary, ... The conference was made possible from the support of ACHA partners, which provided the required resources. On its part, African Centre for Human Advocacy/ Humanitarian Action (ACHA) did the mobilization of resources from partners and facilitation of the conference. Page 8, 2.3 Institutional Statement, The Africa Center for Human Advocacy is a non-governmental, non-profit making and independent organization... The aim and vision of the organization is to cater for humanitarian assistance and advocate for peace and human rights throughout the African continent.

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar International or transnational actor

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)

Page 3, Acknowledgement and Appreciation:

... Last but not least, we appreciate the participation of all the delegates some of whom travelled long distances to attend the conference. May God bless you all as you work hard to intervene in this long journey towards a peaceful Southern Sudan and in particular towards Jikany/Lou harmony.

Page 14, 3.2: Plenary Session, Day Two

...

Stephen Leaw Lual Marrow (Jikany Elder) — ... He also asked Jikany and Lou to share the resources harmoniously without necessarily resorting to violence because these were God given resources.

Page 17, 3.2: Plenary Session, Day Two

... Day Two Pastor David Ding Gatwech (Jikany Church PCOS —Yomding Parish) — He said that the church is no longer a respected institution as it used to be sometimes back because church leaders involve in politics that lead to manipulation and biasness in the cause of their church duties. He called upon people to forget about their past and commit themselves to building peace through prayers and addressing the real issues that affect the people at large. He challenged fellow church leaders to stick to the work of God than indulging in politics that divided people along ethnic lines.

Page 23, 3.3:Group Discussions, 3.3.2 Suggested Solutions,
8. Mistrust/Attitudes/beliefs

...

- Inculcation of a culture of prayer, love and faith in God to restore hope and humanity at all levels.

Grievance List

Page 12, 3.2: Plenary Session,

Cdr. John Jock Gai (Commissioner of Nyirol County) — the cause of the current problem is due to ineffective administration at the community level. There are many units operating under the name of the Movement but coordination is lacking. At the community level, Lou as a clan felt they have been insulted and abused by their neighbors which include; Jikany, Dinka, Gawar, Murle and Anyuak...

Page 13, 3.2: Plenary Session,

Cdr. Gordon Banak Thoan (Commissioner of Ulang County) — The major cause of the conflict is uncontrolled and uncoordinated governance though problems that characterized Jikany/Lou conflict are so diverse. Ulang in particular has been hard hit by the conflict. The effect of the conflict is devastating; people are displaced from one point to the other; Baliet, Maiwut, Luakpiny and Lou areas. There is rampage looting of property, cattle rustling and killing. The rustled cattle are exchanged between criminals living between the two clans...

...

ACdr. Gordon Nyoat Rut (Executive Director of Akobo County) — Lou people are faced with water problem. He requested the Jikany to find a way of allowing Lou use the water during dry season. He complained about the Lou criminals who are hosted and protected by Jikany and constantly attack and loot the Lou property. He said that Jikany must be ready to identify and denounce such criminals.

Page 14, 3.2: Plenary Session,

Cdr. John Wiyual Chol (Commissioner of Maiwut County) — ... While people who could be future leaders and movers of development are murdered, Nuer community as a whole would continue to suffer since they would be nowhere in leadership positions should peace prevail in south Sudan. He emphasized that some of the problems facing the two clans are brought about by greedy politicians who take advantage to enrich themselves at the expense of our ignorant people...

...

John Kuol Duot (Baliet Executive Director, Sobat County) — the most contentious issues are cattle rustling and illegal arms in the hands of civilians. Most people live very peacefully a part from criminals who steal other people's cattle. The act of hooliganism must be stopped if peace is to be achieved between Jikany and Lou communities.

Page 14, 3.2: Plenary Session, Day Two

Peter Wal Banang Malieth — (Jikany Elder) — ... The delegates must be aware that Jikany/Lou problem is not caused by hindrance in accessibility to water points but the differences in the Movement's leadership and interference by Sudan government. This has degenerated in unbearable lawlessness and disorder at local level. The effects of violent actions have been felt by Jikany hosting some Lou, as the guests not only fail to appreciate but instead turn hostile to Jikany hosts.

Stephen Leaw Lual Marrow (Jikany Elder) — ... The two contentious issues of water and repatriation of Lou people living within Jikany area must be spelt out properly. He asked Jikany to find a way of reintegrating the Lou currently settling in Jikany area rather than sending them away. He also asked Jikany and Lou to share the resources harmoniously without necessarily resorting to violence because these were God given resources.

Page 15, 3.2: Plenary Session, Day Two

**Cattle rustling/
banditry**

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Page 15, 3.2: Plenary Session, Day Two

... Yien Kuoth Puor — (Lou Elder) — the main problem between Jikany and Lou is cattle rustling, which is caused by Cie Donujaak and cie-Yat (Lou sub-clans) who migrated to Jikany territory after killing people from Lou area last year 2003. They cause all manners of problems and for us to live harmoniously; there must be a way of ending their actions. We must work hard to ensure that the authority apprehend and deal with these criminals. These two sub-clans from Lou use to return back to Lou areas occasionally and steal their cattle while residing in Jikany territory for protection.

Page 16, 3.2: Plenary Session, Day Two

Elizabeth Nyawech Kuon (Lou Women Representative) — ... women also contribute a lot because they support and encourage men to steal cows in order to pay large dowries. He challenged women to stand up and denounce violence and start playing a bigger role in peace process. She asked organizations like ACHA to empower women to participate in peace and development activities.

...

Rebecca Nyawech Puk (Lou Women representative) — She said that the problem of Lou and Jikany was cattle rustling. She blamed Jikany for killing their husbands and children to the extent that many people are now opting to join Sudan government or go in exile as refugees in Ethiopia.

Page 19, 3.3:Group Discussions, 3.3.1 Root Cause of Conflict in Upper Nile,

...

5. Cattle rustling and looting of property.

Page 22, 3.3:Group Discussions, 3.3.2 Suggested Solutions,

...

5. Cattle rustling and looting of property

- Organize joint military (SPLA/M) interventions or operations in cattle rustling areas .

- Arrest and put under trial (tribunal court) those militia or leaders that support and perpetuate conflict and other criminal activities in the region .

- SPLA/M should work hard to recover stolen cattle and return to the owners while offenders are punished .

- The Lou and Jikany communities should find other alternative means of livelihood instead of depending solely on cattle, which has become the major source of conflict.

- Movement of cattle from one community or point to the other should be sanctioned by the relevant authority.

Social cover

Page 13, 3.2: Plenary Session,

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