

Country/entity South Sudan

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name Grassroots Agreement to Promote National Dialogue in Yei River State and South Sudan

Date 30 Apr 2017

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

Peace process South Sudan: Post-secession Local agreements

Parties Commissioners of Yei River State

Hon. Denis LaSuba Paul, Yei River County [signed]
 Hon. Richard Remo Soro, Morobo County [signed]
 Hon. Natalino Lasuba, Commissioner, County [signed]

SPLA – IO, YEI RIVER STATE

Brig Gen. Hillary Edson T. Yakani SPLA – IO YRS [signed]
 Brig Gen. Yuma Sebastian, SPLA – IO YRS [signed]
 Col. John Data Taban, SPLA – IO YRS [signed]

National Security Representative

Major James Alor Majok [signed]

Representative of the Embassy of the Republic of South Sudan in Uganda

Emmanuel [illegible], 1st Secretary [signed]
 Philip Maluil Akol, 1st Technical Secretary [signed]
 Joseph Ochera, Technical Attaché' [signed]

Third parties Church Mediation Team

Most Rev. Bishop Elias Taban, leader of the Mediation Team [signed]
 Rev. Anng race Asha Taban [signed]
 Rev. Michael Alias [signed]
 Elder Victor Lemer i [signed]

Elders from Uganda

Ambe George Wilson – Elder Koboko, Uganda [signed]
 Muzamil Amule, Elder Koboko Uganda [signed]

Representative of Yei Community Forum for Dialogue and Peace

Hon. Jacob Aligo Lo – Ladu, YCFDP Founder [signed]

Description -

Agreement document [SS_170430_Grassroots Agreement to Promote National Dialogue in Yei River State and South Sudan_compressed.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 13, Preamble

The undersigned mediators of Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the County Commissioners of Yei River State who represented their respective Counties and the Government of Yei River State, SPLA - IO Yei River State, represented by senior officers of Division 2B Brigade 1 and 4 representing greater Morobo and Yei, elders from Koboko - Uganda, representative of Yei Community Forum for Dialogue and Peace (YCFDP), representatives from South Sudan embassy in Kampala as well as the national security director for Yei River State met in Kampala Uganda, from 25th April to 29th April 2017 at the invitation of Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Page 14, Preamble

6. The warring parties thanked EPC Peace Desk and their partners and urged them to continue to play the mediation role of preaching peace to the nation.

Page 16, Article 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCHES, PARTICULARLY EPC AND PARTNERS

- a) The EPC and Partners to monitor the implementation of the security arrangement
- b) EPC and the Partners should report any breach of the agreement and mediate any dispute
- c) EPC and the partners will maintain their mediation role during the process of implementation of the security arrangement
- d) EPC and the partners will facilitate and finalize the comprehensive agreement after approval of the document of demands presented to the presidency
- e) EPC and Partners should lobby for international support for smooth implementation of the agreement
- f) EPC and Partners will lobby for humanitarian services like trauma and healing counseling and other necessary trainings for the armed opposition forces
- g) EPC and partners to provide support of basic needs (food, shelter, medical and others)

**Traditional/
religious leaders**

Page 13, Preamble

The undersigned mediators of Evangelical Presbyterian Church, the County Commissioners of Yei River State who represented their respective Counties and the Government of Yei River State, SPLA - IO Yei River State, represented by senior officers of Division 2B Brigade 1 and 4 representing greater Morobo and Yei, elders from Koboko - Uganda, representative of Yei Community Forum for Dialogue and Peace (YCFDP), representatives from South Sudan embassy in Kampala as well as the national security director for Yei River State met in Kampala Uganda, from 25th April to 29th April 2017 at the invitation of Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

**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 Power sharing→Military power sharing→Merger of forces
Page 14, Preamble
3. Adoption of the Presidential Order for the formation of a "Joint Military Committee", comprising 3-4 SPLA Officers from the Government side and equal number from the armed groups.

Page 14, Preamble
5. Resolve to set timetable for the formation of Joint Military Committee to be effected by 30th May 2017.

Page 15, Article 1. Responsibilities of SPLM/A IO Yei River State
b) Organize and manage its forces pending future absorption into the national organized forces;
c) Manage its forces in all ranks and will have power to conduct screening and allocation during the process of integration into the organized forces
Power sharing→Military power sharing→Joint command structures
Page 14, Preamble
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Page 14, Preamble
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Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights	Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Freedom of movement Page 15, Article 1. Responsibilities of SPLM/A IO Yei River State f) provide free movement of civilians Page 16, Article 2. Responsibilities of the Government g) Provide space for free movement of civilians between areas occupied by the government and opposition forces
Socio-economic rights	Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Adequate standard of living Page 15, Article 2. Responsibilities of Government b) Provide basic needs like food, shelter, medical care

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Page 16, Article 2. Responsibilities of Government j) allow full access of Humanitarian corridors
Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians Page 15, Article 1. Responsibilities of SPLM/A IO Yei River State d) Provide protection to the civilians in areas under out control
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→Ceasefire provision
Page 14, Preamble
The warring parties discussed all grievances presented and considered all options and unanimously concluded that the warring parties agree to end the use of force as a means of settling differences and firmly promote the culture of dialogue and peace through commitment to the following:

1. Adoption of the Presidential approval and order for the grassroots effort to proceed with the Peace process based on the declaration of the National Dialogue.
2. Committed to the Presidential Amnesty to armed groups who have accepted dialogue; recognized the phase I grassroots agreement and the approved phase II to be rolled out.
3. Adoption of the Presidential Order for the formation of a "Joint Military Committee", comprising of 3 - 4 SPLA Officers from the Government side and equal number from the armed groups.
4. Agreed to open all roads leading to Yei Town and out of Yei Town to enable movement of people and their properties.
5. Resolve to set timetable for the formation of Joint Military Committee to be effected by 30th May 2017.
6. The warring parties thanked EPC Peace Desk and their partners and urged them to continue to play the mediation role of preaching peace to the nation.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces

Page 14, Preamble

3. Adoption of the Presidential Order for the formation of a "Joint Military Committee", comprising 3-4 SPLA Officers from the Government side and equal number from the armed groups. [See also military power-sharing]

Page 15-16, Article 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT:

- a) To remove the Mathiang Anyor forces from Umbasi, Kergulu, Go'do, Morobo, Kaya and Yei Town and replace with other National Army
- b) Provide basic needs like food, shelter, medical care
- c) Provide a standby force for emergency response
- d) Maintain communication with the armed opposition forces
- e) provide incentives to the forces while in assembly areas
- f) coordinate its movement outside territories of their control with the opposition forces
- g) Provide space for free movement of civilians between areas occupied by the government and opposition forces
- h) Provide logistics and communication gadgets to the opposition forces
- i) Avail necessary resources for trainings of the opposition forces
- j) allow full access of Humanitarian corridors
- k) Respect the declared National Dialogue by the President

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

Page 14, Preamble

3. Adoption of the Presidential Order for the formation of a "Joint Military Committee", comprising 3-4 SPLA Officers from the Government side and equal number from the armed groups. [See also military power-sharing]

Page 15, Article 1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPLM/AIO YEI RIVER STATE

SPLM/A IO Yei River State commits to secession of hostilities and the declaration of National Dialogue by the President of the Republic of South Sudan

- a) Stop its forces from engaging the Government in combat
- b) Organize and manage its forces pending future absorption into the national organized forces
- c) Manage its forces in all ranks and will have power to conduct screening and allocation during the process of integration into the organized forces
- d) Provide protection to the civilians in areas under our control
- e) Mobilize the civilians who have taken refuge in Uganda and Congo for their return to the country
- f) Provide free movement of civilians
- g) Determine 4 pre-assembly areas in addition to the approved assembly area of Kendilla
- h) Commits to exchange security details with the government

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 Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 14, Preamble
2. Committed to the Presidential Amnesty to armed groups who have accepted dialogue; recognized the phase I grassroots agreements and the approved phase II to be rolled out.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory Page 17
Signatures of the Parties to the Grassroots Peace Agreement

Church Mediation Team

Most Rev. Bishop Elias Taban, leader of the Mediation Team

Rev. Anngrace Asha Taban

Rev. Michael Alias

Elder Victor Lemeru

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 16, Article 3. Responsibilities of Churches, Particularly EPC and Partners

a) The EPC and Partners to monitor the implementation of the security arrangement

b) EPC and Partners should report any breach of the agreement and mediate any dispute

Related cases No specific mention.

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