

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. Anngrace Asha Taban [signed] Rev. Michael Alias [signed] Elder Victor Lemeru [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

Local agreement properties

Process type	Formal structured process
Rationale	This agreement is the outcome of a two-phased mediation initiative led by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and His Voice Global USA. The second part of this initiative led to the signing of this agreement. Multiple official state representatives, including from regional state governments and the South Sudanese Embassy in Kampala, participated in this event which took place in Kampala. The agreement resulting from the first phase of this mediation initiative is called 'Resolutions drawn following a Dialogue Meeting between County Commissioners of Lujolo, Morobo, Otogo and Yei representing the Government of Yei River State and the Opposition Leaders of Lujolo, Morobo, Otogo and Yei Counties who have taken arms against the Government of South Sudan' from 06/03/2017.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	Yes
Link to national process: articulated rationale	The parties to this agreement include representatives of the South Sudanese government as well as from a splinter group of the SPLA-in Opposition, one of the main parties to the national-level comprehensive agreement, the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), signed about one and a half years after this agreement was done. Agreement also links this subnational mediation initiative to the national level: Page 14, 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.
Name of Locale	Yei River State
Nature of Locale	Region
GPS Lat/Long (DD)	4.078562, 30.673120
Participant type	Central state actor Local armed group International or transnational actor 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)	Mediators: Church Mediation Team, Most Rev. Bishop Elias Taban, leader of the Mediation Team, Rev. Anngace Asha Taban, Rev. Michael Alias, Elder Victor Lemer; and His Voice Global USA under the leadership of Dr. Vernon Burger
Type of mediator/facilitator/similar	Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder International or transnational actor

Local issues

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

Grievance List Page 14, 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:

Page 15, 1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF SPLM/A IO 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

...

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

Cattle rustling/ banditry No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.
