

South Sudan Cases
Last Updated: 16 August 2017

torg	gname	onset	min	max
T2597	SOUTH SUDAN UNITED MOVEMENT/ARMY		1998	2000
T2613	SOUTH SUDAN DEFENCE MOVEMENT/ARMY (SSDM/A)	2011	2010	2011
T2618	REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN		2011	2011
T2659	MURLE TRIBE		2006	2012
T2668	REVOLUTIONARY FRONT		2011	2012
T2672	SOUTH SUDAN DEMOCRATIC ARMY		2012	2012
T1986	SOUTH SUDAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY	2011	2011	2012

- I. SOUTH SUDAN UNITED MOVEMENT/ARMY
 Min. Group Date: 1998
 Max. Group Date: 2000
 Onset: NA

Aliases: South Sudan United Movement/Army, SSUM/A

Part 1. Bibliography

- "South Sudan Unity Movement/Army (SSUM/A)," Pro-Government Militias Coding Page, N.Da. <http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/militias-public/data/pgag/266/>
- "South Sudan Unity Movement/Army (SSUM/A)," Pro-Government Militias Evidence Page, N.Db. <http://www.sowi.uni-mannheim.de/militias-public/data/pgag/266/evidence/>
- "South Sudan Unity Movement/Army (SSUM/A)," Sudan Tribune, <http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?mot1966>
- Young, John. "Sudan: liberation movements, regional armies, ethnic militias & peace." Review of African Political Economy 30, no. 97 (2003): 423-434.

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

The SSUM/A is a private army/militia founded by Paulino Matieb in 1998. It splintered off of the South Sudan Defense Force, a paramilitary wing of the Sudanese government, because the two groups were fighting over political and military control of the West Upper Nile (PGAG N.Db; Young 2003 p.431). The group's first recorded violent action occurred in 1998 (Young 2003 p.431). Since the SSUM/A is led by the major General of the Sudanese army it supports the Sudan government; it was created in order to fight insurgencies like the SPLA in South Sudan (PGAG N.Db; PGAG N.Da). The group has no ideology.

Geography

The SSUM/A was founded and operated in South Sudan prior to independence (Sudan Tribune N.D). It has also been active in Khartoum and has been granted control over the Upper Nile area (PGAG N.Da; Young 2003 p.432). The group has specifically conducted violent actions in the following towns: Bentiu, Kalakilah, Mayom, and Mankien (PGAG N.Db). This is not a transnational group because it operated in South Sudan prior to independence.

Organizational Structure

SSUM/A leader, Paulino Matieb, is the chief of staff of the SSDF and major general in the Sudanese army (ibid; PGAG N.Db). The group has no political wing and exists solely as a militia. A majority of SSUM/A members are former militants or youths (PGAG N.Da). Members of the group typically belong to the Nuer ethnic group (ibid). The SSUM/A had more than 1,000 fighters in 1998 (ibid). Sudan's Military Intelligence supplies the SSDF (Young 2003 p.432). In 1997 the SSUM/A became a faction of the South Sudan Defense Force according to the Khartoum Peace Agreement (Sudan Tribune N.D).

There are conflicting narratives, but it seems like the SSUM/A splintered and fought with the SSDF in 1998 then announced a cease-fire and rejoined the group that same year (PGAG N.Db; Sudan Tribune N.D; Young 2003 p.431).

External Ties

In 1997 the SSUM/A joined the South Sudan Defense Force according to the Khartoum Peace Agreement (Sudan Tribune N.D). There are conflicting narratives but it may be inferred that the SSUM/A splintered and fought with the SSDF in 1998 then announced a cease-fire that same year (PGAG N.Db; Sudan Tribune N.D; Young 2003 p.431). Most sources describe the group as a faction of the South Sudan Defense Force led by Paulino Matieb, so it probably rejoined with the organization (Young 2003 p.432). The group was created to deter the SPLA but no information regarding any violent confrontations between the two groups could be found. In 1999 forces led by Peter Gadet and Kerubino Kwanyin Bol joined the SSUM/A (PGAG N.Da). Then in 2006 the

SSUM/A joined the SPLM/A (the political wing of the SPLA) according to the Juba Declaration (ibid).

Sudan's Military Intelligence explicitly supplies the SSDF and its factions with equipment and trains the SSUM/A (Young 2003 p.432; PGAG N.Da). The Sudanese government also shares information and joint operations with the SSUM/A (ibid).

Group Outcome

The date of the group's last recorded violent activity occurred in 2004 (PGAG N.Db). In 2006 under the Juba Declaration the SSUM/A and the South Sudan Independence Movement joined the Sudan People's Liberation Army (PGAG N.Db). Since this was a pro-government organization no counter-insurgency measures could be found.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 1998

Group End (Outcome): 2006 (merger)

Notes for Iris:

- reason for splintering is about having control over the group (similar to Indonesia splintering movement)
- potential commitment problem over sharing spoils between factions which could lead to splintering (kydd and walter 2002)
- there is no evidence of any interaction with the Janjaweed militias
- intergroup competition between forces
- this may be a faction of the SSDF for part of 1998 if not longer, but since SSDF is also a militia it doesn't change dynamics that much
- Iris will need to look into why this group changes sides in 2005 at the end of the civil war
- the leader is super personalistic and just commands it as his own military command so it's never really loyal to a particular group or cause

II. SOUTH SUDAN DEFENCE MOVEMENT/ARMY (SSDM/A)

Min. Group Date: 2010

Max. Group Date: 2011

Onset: 2010

Aliases: South Sudan Defence Movement/Army, South Sudan Defence Movement/Army (SSDM/A), SSDM/A

Part 1. Bibliography

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

This is the armed wing of the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDM) mentioned below.

Geography

This is the armed wing of the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDM) mentioned below.

Organizational Structure

This is the armed wing of the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDM) mentioned below.

External Ties

This is the armed wing of the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDM) mentioned below.

Group Outcome

This is the armed wing of the South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDM) mentioned below.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: Any additional aliases you may have encountered

Group Formation: A new proposed formation date if different than above

Group End (Outcome): A new proposed end date with the reason for ending in parentheses

III. REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Min. Group Date: 2011

Max. Group Date: 2011

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Note: This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its' independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Part 1. Bibliography

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Geography

This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Organizational Structure

This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

External Ties

This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Group Outcome

This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Group Formation: This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

Group End (Outcome): This refers to a state actor, South Sudan, which gained its independence in 2011. It should be disregarded.

- IV. MURLE TRIBE
Min. Group Date: 2006

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- Ahmed Osman, "The Murle Tribe: An Analysis of its Conflicts with the Nuer, Dinka, and Government of South Sudan," Foreign Military Studies Office (US), 2016, http://fmso.leavenworth.army.mil/documents/products_regionalSecurity_SOUTHCOM/20151201_MurleTribe%20Final.pdf
- "Murle," Sudan Tribune, <http://www.sudantribune.com/+Murle.473-+>
- Robyn Dixon, "Why hundreds of people are dying over cattle in East Africa," Los Angeles Times, 2016, <http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-ethiopia-massacre-20160420-story.html>
- Peter Greste, "Murle women flee tribal violence in S Sudan," Al-Jazeera, 2013, <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/inpictures/2013/08/2013810175457971240.html>
- Young, John. "Sudan: liberation movements, regional armies, ethnic militias & peace." *Review of African Political Economy* 30, no. 97 (2003): 423-434.
- "SSDM/A-Cobra Faction," Human Security Baseline Assessment for Sudan and South Sudan, Small Arms Survey, 2013, <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/de/facts-figures/south-sudan/armed-groups/south-ern-dissident-militias/ssdma-cobra-faction.html>

Note: this refers to Cobra Faction (SSDM/A-Cobra Faction)

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

The Murle Tribe originated in Ethiopia and moved to Pibor County, Jonglei State in the 1930s (Sudan Tribune N.D). They began fighting with neighboring tribes the Lou Nuer and Dinka when they moved (Osman 2016 p.9). However, because the Sudanese government armed the group in order to combat the Sudan People's Liberation Movement, by 2003 the Murle had militias (Osman 2016 p.7; Young 2003 p.430). After the civil war ended in 2005 the Murle aimed to establish semi-autonomous territory and defend themselves from neighboring tribes (Osman 2016 p.11). The group's violence spiked in 2010 when Murle candidate David Yau Yau lost the April elections and rebelled (Sudan Tribune N.D; Osman 2016 p.11). Yau Yau then led a Murle militia again in 2012 called the Cobra faction in response to violence by the South Sudan government against the Murle people and their aim changed to oppose the South Sudan government (Osman 2016 p.7-13; HSBA 2013). The Cobra faction splintered from the SSDA after the SSDA decided to continue. They have an ethno-nationalist ideology.

Geography

The Murle live in the south-eastern Upper Nile area (Young 2003 p.430). The members armed by the government are based in Jongley and the Fertit around Wau (Young 2003 p.430). The Dinka are based to the west of them and the Lou Nuer are to the north (Osman 2016 p.6). Their militia groups are not transnational, but the tribe straddles the South Sudan-Sudan border.

Organizational Structure

David Yau Yau led several members of the tribe to rebel against the South Sudan government in 2010 after he was unable to become a member of the Jonglei State parliament (Sudan Tribune N.D; HSBA 2013). Previously he was a theology student (Osman 2016 p.7). The tribe itself has a hierarchical structure with spiritual leaders and elders (Osman 2016 p.8). In 2010, David Yau Yau led a small rebellion of 200 men from the Murle ethnic group that was granted amnesty (HSBA 2013). After 2012, he led a "Cobra faction" of the South Sudan Defense Movement that mainly consisted of Murle members whose estimated numbers as of 2013 range from 3,000-6,000 fighters with only 500-1,000 core members (Osman 2016 p.13; HSBA 2013). The organizational structure of the Cobra faction is unknown. The Murle tribe consists of members from the Murle ethnic group. No size estimates of the tribe or militia force could be found. The tribe was armed by the Sudanese government in order to combat the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (Osman 2016 p.7; Young 2003 p.430).

External Ties

The tribe has constant violent confrontations with neighboring Dinka and Lou Nuer tribes (Osman 2016 p.9). Since 2011, violent relations between the Lou Nuer and the Murle have resulted in thousands of casualties (Sudan Tribune N.D; Los Angeles Times N.D). Allegedly, the South Sudan government is supporting the Lou Nuer tribe (Al-Jazeera 2013).

The tribe was explicitly armed with weapons from the Sudanese government in order to combat the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (Osman 2016 p.7; Young 2003 p.430). After South Sudan disarmed the tribe they allegedly obtained weapons from Ethiopia (Osman 2016 p.7). The members under David Yau Yau are allegedly supported by the government in Sudan (Sudan Tribune N.D) The Cobra faction allegedly has Chinese ammunition and weapons and along with Athor has been supplied with weapons by Eritrea (HSBA 2013).

Group Outcome

In 2010 David Yau Yau led a Murle militia in retaliation for losing the April elections. The government responded by negotiating and giving David a position as major general of the South Sudan army in 2011 (Osman 2016 p.11; Sudan Tribune N.D).

In 2012 South Sudan disarmed the Murle tribe by creating a militia of the neighboring Dinka and Lou Nuer which attacked the tribe (Osman 2016 p.7). In response to this operation, David rebelled for the second time causing the Movement to disarm and the Murle to be suspended as the government focused on the group led by Yau Yau (Osman 2016 p.13).

In March 28 2014 he signed an agreement with the South Sudan government which granted a semi-autonomous region to the Murle and other minorities in exchange for disbanding his Cobra faction (Osman 2016 p.13). As of 2016, the Murle are mainly involved in a violent ethnic conflict with neighboring tribes which has worsened as the Pibor region has been incorporated into a new state called Boma and David Yau Yau has been removed as the Pibor state administrator (Los Angeles Times 2016).

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: Cobra Faction, SSDM/A - Cobra Faction

Group Formation: 2003 (armed), against South Sudan 2012 (Cobra Faction)

Group End (Outcome): 2017 (active in tribal conflict)

Note for Iris:

- this is later known as the Cobra Faction
- it's originally a militia then an amorphous movement then, under the leadership of Yau Yau becomes the Cobra Faction
- some proxy war dynamics and promoting instability
- the Murle tribe moved into South Sudan

V. REVOLUTIONARY FRONT

Min. Group Date: 2011

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: Revolutionary Front, Al-Jabhat Al-Thawriyat Al-Sudan, Sudan Revolutionary Front, Sudanese Revolutionary Front

Part 1. Bibliography

- Andrew McCutchen, “The Sudan Revolutionary Front: Its Formation and Development,” HSBA Small Arms Survey on Sudan, Small Arms Survey, <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/186150/HSBA-WP33-SRF.pdf>
- Magdi el Gizouli, “The Sudan Revolutionary Front: comrades in squabble,” African Arguments, 2015, <http://africanarguments.org/2015/11/09/the-sudan-revolutionary-front-comrades-in-squabble/>
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Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

The Sudan Revolutionary Front was formed on November 13, 2011, as a coalition of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the Sudan Liberation Army factions of Minni Minawi (SPLA/M-N), Abdul Wahid, and the northern factions of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (HSBA 2013; IRIN 2012). The alliance’s first violent attacks took place in 2012 (HSBA 2013). They aim to overthrow the National Congress Party’s Regime and Khartoum government in order to establish a secular liberal state in its place (IRIN 2012). The alliance had no encompassing ideology. There’s never any evidence of politicized opposition to South Sudan. The group opposes the Sudanese government.

Geography

The SRF is based in Kaoda and the Nuba Mountains (HSBA 2013). The alliance is most active in South Kordofan, Sudan but also operates in the Blue Nile and in states that border South Sudan (ibid). The three Darfur organizations in the alliance operated in Darfur until 2012 (ibid). The SRF also captured Hejlj and conducted an attack in Um

Ruwaba, North Kordofan, Sudan (ibid). This is a transnational group with bases in South Sudan.

Organizational Structure

In 2011, there was conflict in the alliance as to whether JEM leader Jibreel Ibrahim or SPLA/M-N leader Malik Agar would be chairman of the alliance (Al-Jazeera, 2011). This briefly split the SRF into two blocks (ibid). Because of their “clientelistic” ties to the South Sudan government the SPLA/M-N initially held the most influence in the alliance (ibid; Gizouli 2015). As of 2012, the organization’s chairman is Malik Agar and Jibril serves as vice-chairman (HSBA 2013). The group has a Leadership Council, political wing, secretaries, and deputies indicating a complex organizational structure (ibid). Abdel Wahid leads the political affairs office, Minni Minawi leads the finance office, and Jibril Ibrahim leads external affairs (ibid). All three leaders are from the Darfur groups and are considered vice-chairmen (ibid).

Three out of the four groups which comprise the alliance are from the Darfur region (HSBA 2013). The estimated size of the SRF militia was 1,500-3,000 fighters in 2013 (McCutchen HSBA).

External Ties

The Sudan Revolutionary Front is a coalition of the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), the Sudan Liberation Army factions of Minni Minawi (SPLA/M-N), Abdul Wahid, and the northern factions of the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (Sudan Tribune N.D; IRIN 2012).

South Sudan has been accused of allegedly supporting and giving weapons to the SRF specifically because of its ties to the SPLA/M-N (Gizouli 2015; Al-Jazeera, 2011). The Juba government also has ties to the JEM and the SPLA/M-N (Gizouli 2015).

Group Outcome

In 2003, Khartoum began holding talks with Darfur groups like the JEM (Al-Jazeera 2011). In September 2012, an agreement between the South Sudan and Sudanese government marked the SRF for disarmament, demobilization, and repatriation (Gizouli 2015). The last recorded attack by the SRF was in 2015 (GTD 2016).

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 2011

Group End (Outcome): Last Active in 2015 (NA)

VI. SOUTH SUDAN DEMOCRATIC ARMY

Min. Group Date: 2012

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: South Sudan Democratic Army, South Sudan Democratic Army (SSDA)

Part 1. Bibliography

- “South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/SSDA),” Sudan Tribune, <http://www.sudantribune.com/+SSDM-A-South-Sudan-Democratic,483-+>
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- “Pendulum swings: the rise and fall of insurgent militias in South Sudan,” HSBA for Sudan and South Sudan, Small Arms Survey, <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/174763/HSBA-IB22-Pendulum-Swings.pdf>

Part 2. Narrative

Group Formation

The South Sudan Democratic Army was founded by George Athor in 2010 after he lost the April elections (Sudan Tribune N.D). The group’s first violent attack was on April 30, 2010 (ibid). The group aims to overthrow the South Sudan government led by Salva Kiir Mayardit and fight the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (On War N.D). The SSDM has no ideology.

Geography

The SSDM has conducted attacks in Doleib Hill, Pigi county, Fangak county in Dor, Koliet, and Kolnyang, and Jonglei state (Sudan Tribune N.D; On War N.D). The Cobra faction of the group is based in Pibor county (HSBA N.D). There is no evidence to show this is a transnational group.

Organizational Structure

Before he founded the SSDM, George Athor was Lieutenant General in the SPLA and ran for office in April 2010 (Sudan Tribune N.D). George recruited Gatluak Gai in Unity, David Yau Yau in Pibor county, and Shilluk commanders Johnson Olony and Alyuak Ogot in Upper Nile to join the SSDM (HSBA N.D). The group under David Yau Yau became known as the Cobra faction whose estimated numbers as of 2013 range from 3,000-6,000 fighters with only 500-1,000 core members (ibid; HSBA 2013). A large number of the SSDM members are from the Murle ethnic group (On War N.D). The SPLA have accused the Sudanese government of giving support to the SSDM (On War N.D). No information could be found on group size or wings.

External Ties

George recruited Gatluak Gai in Unity, David Yau Yau in Pibor county, and Shilluk commanders Johnson Olony and Alyuak Ogot in Upper Nile to join the SSDM (HSBA N.D). The group under David Yau Yau splintered and became known as the Cobra faction, a large majority of whose members come from the Murle tribe (ibid).

The SPLA have accused the North Sudanese government of giving support to the SSDM (Sudan Tribune N.D). Since 2012, there have been reports of military equipment being dropped into Pibor county (Sudan Tribune N.D). The Cobra faction allegedly has Chinese ammunition and weapons and along with Athor has been supplied with weapons by Eritrea (HSBA 2013).

Group Outcome

In October 2010, negotiations occurred between the SPLA and the SSDM but they were unsuccessful (Sudan Tribune N.D). This led the South Sudanese government to order George to talk with a delegation on December 2, 2010 (ibid). In January 2011, Athor agreed to a ceasefire but began to fight with the SPLA the following month (HSBA N.D). Then, in December 2011, George Athor was killed when entering South Sudan from Uganda (ibid). On February 27, 2012, SSDM agreed to a peace deal with the Juba government (ibid). By September 2013, SSDM as a whole became inactive but factions like the Cobra faction and Olony's group remain violent (ibid). The factions splintered into multiple different independent groups.

Part 3. Proposed Changes

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 2010

Group End (Outcome): 2012 (peace deal)

Notes for Iris:

-factions didn't want to disarm and this led to current violent

VII. SOUTH SUDAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY

Min. Group Date: 2011

Max. Group Date: 2012

Onset: NA

Aliases: None

Part 1. Bibliography

- "The conflict in Jonglei state." Human Security Baseline Assessment in Sudan and South Sudan. Small Arms Survey Sudan. 2014.
<http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/facts-figures/south-sudan/conflict-of-2013-14/the-conflict-in-jonglei.html>
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- Hereward Holland. “Thousands of South Sudanese rebels surrender after thaw with Sudan.” Reuters. 2013.
<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-southsudan-rebels/thousands-of-south-sudanese-rebels-surrender-after-thaw-with-sudan-idUKBRE93P14E20130426>
- “Profile: South Sudan army defector Peter Gadet.” BBC. 2014.
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25447527>

Part 2. Proposed Changes

Aliases: None

Group Formation: 2011

Group End (Outcome): 2012 (peace deal)

Part 3. Narrative

Group Formation

The SSLA was formed in April 2011 by Peter Gatdet shortly before South Sudan formally gained independence in July that year (HSBA 2011; Sudan Tribune n.d.). The group formed in response to perceived discrimination in the armed forces arguing that “tribal nepotism dominates in the South Sudan army” by the Dinka ethnic group (All Africa 2011; Copnall 2011).

It conducted its first suspected violent attack on April 19 (Asylum Research Center 2013) or April 22, 2011, (GTD 2019) when it attacked a South Sudanese Army (SPLA) military convoy. The group aimed to overthrow the South Sudanese government and replace it with a more diverse political coalition (All Africa 2011). The group also had a set of secondary policy aims to reform the military and fight corruption (All Africa 2011). The group aimed to promote the rights of the Nuer ethnic group against the Dinka-dominated government (BBC 2014).

Geography

The group first began conducting attacks in Unity State (BBC 2011). It primarily operated out of Unity State and South Kordofan (Asylum Research Center 2013, 33). The group may have also had an external base in Sudan as the members drove across the border from Sudan when they finally surrendered (Reuters 2013; BBC 2013).

Organizational Structure

The group's founder was Peter Gatdet. Gatdet had been a former "general" in the SPLA when South Sudan was fighting for independence (Copnall 2011). He later resigned from the group in March 2011 and disappeared during a trip to Kenya (HSBA 2011; All Africa 2011; BBC 2014). He reemerged a month later claiming to head a new militia group that would fight against the new South Sudanese government (All Africa 2011). Gatdet later defected from the SSLA and later rejoined the South Sudanese Army (SPLA) (Sudan Tribune n.d.; HSBA 2014).

Gadet's replacement was James Gai Yoach (Sudan Tribune n.d.). Deputy leaders in 2011 included Matthew Pul Jang, Bapiny Monytuil, and Gai Yoach (Asylum Research 2013). Many initial leaders had previously served in the Joint Integrated Units or South Sudan Legislative Assembly (HSBA 2011). One of the group's spokespersons was Bol Gatkouth Kol (Copnall 2011).

Most members of the SSLA were Nuer (Asylum Research Center 2013; BBC 2013; BBC 2014). In November 2012, the group had between 1,200-3,000 fighters (Asylum Research Center 2013, 33; UCDP n.d.). In 2013, the group had approximately 3,000 fighters (BBC 2013). The group is suspected of having funded itself through external support from Sudan (Copnall 2011). It also captured oil fields early on which could have provided a source of revenue (HSBA 2011).

External Ties

South Sudan alleged that the Sudanese government was providing financial and material support to the SSLA (UCDP n.d.; Copnall 2011). There is strong evidence Sudan provided the weapons given the uniformity and quality of the assault rifles they received (Asylum Research 2013, 32). The group may have also had an external base in Sudan as the members drove across the border from Sudan when they finally surrendered (Reuters 2013; BBC 2013). The SSLA was not unique as Sudan had a history of backing most armed groups in South Sudan (Copnall 2011). Sudan denied backing the group (BBC 2013).

The group allied itself with other South Sudanese armed groups including the South Sudan Democratic Army, David Yau Yau militia, and "the self-proclaimed Lou Nuer prophet Dak Kueth" (Asylum Research Center 2013, 33).

Group Outcome

In either August 2011 (Sudan Tribune n.d.; Asylum Research Center 2013, 33) or 2012 (HSBA 2014), Peter Gatdet accepted an amnesty deal from the South Sudanese government and became a military commander in the SPLA. Gatdet went on to spearhead the counterinsurgency campaign against the David Yau Yau militia (HSBA

2014). The conflict was at its worst between November 2011 and March 2012 between the SSLA and SPLA (Reuters 2013). The group's last violent attack seems to have been in 2012 (Reuters 2013; UCDP n.d.).

In 2013, the group agreed to an amnesty offer by South Sudanese President Slava Kiir along with two other militia groups (Reuters 2013). Consequently, 3,000 members of the group surrendered to the South Sudanese government. The government announced they would be demobilized and integrated into the armed forces (BBC 2013).

Interesting quote from Copnall:

The SSLA, at least, announced its intention, in the Mayom declaration, to overthrow the government.

Some observers have their doubts.

"The rebel groups are not a threat to the government in Juba, but are a local source of instability," says EJ Hogendoorn of the International Crisis Group (ICG).