Country/entity   South Sudan

Region   Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name   Gogrial State Grassroots Peace Initiative

Date   4 Aug 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 Areement (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	Hon. Ludoviko Lual Aken Chairman, Aguok Community Chief Justice Ambrose Riny Thiik Chairman, Apuk Community – Juba Gen. Agasio Akol Tong Chairman, Awan Community Jackson Akot Majok Chairman, Kuac Community
Third parties	Most Rev. Bishop Elias Taban Parangi Head of EPC Peace Desk Republic of South Sudan
Description	The communities of Aguok, Apuk, Awan, and Kuac agree that a peacebuilding and healing conference is to be organized, that youths will be disarmed, and that a neutral investigative body is to be established in order to try current cases.

Agreement document	SS_170804_Signing Ceremony of Gogrial State Grassroots Peace Initiatives.pdf (opens in new tab)	Download PDF

Local agreement properties

Process type	Formal structured process
Rationale	Agreement is the result of a one-month mediation process facilitated by the Evangelical Presbyterian church and His Voice Global USA. This mediation process was approved by the President of South Sudan (see reference). Large group of participants, including government officials, met twice as part of this process. Another local peace agreement dealt with conflict in Gogrial State (see Gogrial Agreement between Twic, Aweil East, Aweil South and Gogrial West Counties of 13/07/2013), suggesting that this is not an isolated example. Secondary sources also suggest that there have been previous peace agreements and initiatives (see reference, World Vision 2018).
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	No
Link to national process: articulated rationale	While the mediation process that led to this agreement was approved by the Persident of South Sudan, there is no evidence that suggests that this agreement is linked to the national-level peace process.
Name of Locale	Gogrial State

Nature of Locale	Region
GPS Lat/Long (DD)	8.299814, 27.986469
Participant type	Local state actor International or transnational actor Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder
Mediator, facilitator or similar	Mediator or similar referred to
Mediator (references)	Mediator and funder: Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC), Most Rev. Bishop: Elias Taban Parangi, Head of EPC Peace Desk, Republic South Sudan; His Voice Global USA, Dr. Vernon Burger (see references)
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	No specific mention.
Cattle rustling/ banditry	No specific mention.
Social cover	No specific mention.