

Ottawa

Article 8 on South Sudan

Tuesday, January-28-14

Developments in South Sudan Conflict: Upper Nile (Continued), Jonglei State and possibility of additional 60,000 White Army

Our Articles 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 were situation analysis of the conflict in South Sudan. Our article 4 (A) and 4 (B) were the first of our series on “Who is Who”. Our article 4 (C) is under editing. This article (8) is a logical continuation of article 7 and deals with Upper Nile (UN) and Jonglei States. It deals with analysis of the military landscape in Upper Nile and Jonglei and analyses the situation in Jonglei State **if the 6 generals who escaped Juba can make it to Fangak.**

The accounts of Articles 7 and 8 will demonstrate that the SPLA/Government of the Republic of South Sudan (GRSS) were in continuous war within South Sudan since 2005 to date. The war depleted and fatigued the SPLA. The absorbed unruly and ill-trained rebels in peace agreements further deteriorated the quality of the army and police cadre and command and control over them.

Please be patient and read through to the end. Both States shall be revisited in future articles.

Upper Nile (UN) State

Background

This is a state that has been the scene of immense and intensive fighting for 30 years now. The State has strategic locations such as Malakal and Sobat Mouth, Nasir, Renk, Melut, Jikou, Tonga. It also has about 200,000 BBD of oil. It has important permanent and seasonal rivers such as R Bibban, R Sangeir, R Ahmar, R Tombak, R Yale, R Adar, Khor Yabous, and R Baro or Sobat which makes it heaven for pastoralists.

It has seen mutinies, inter-clan clashes and inter military factional clashes too many a times to be enumerated.

But now we have the following:

We have the following players to note:

Brigadier General Garhoth Gatkuoth, former Advisor for security affairs to the Governor Simon Kun Puoch. He is from Nasir County, Chieng-thiep subsection of Gajiok section.

Governor Simon Kun of UN is from Nasir, A Nuer and hence opinion is divided in UN/Malakal. We need to wait for more dust to settle. The subsections who are loyal to the Commissioners of Nasir, Ulang and Maiwut have pledge their allegiance to Simon Kun. That means they would be armed by the government to fight the subsections loyal to Riek Machar.

We need to note that the Nuers have the following localities (counties)

1. Luakpiny (Nasir)
2. Ulang
3. Maiwut (Old Jikaou)
4. Longochuk

Those 4 counties are currently controlled by Machar's forces. This is vast land and people.

And that is out of 12 counties. The main concentration of Dinka is in Renk, Melut and Baliet. However, Baliet County is currently "No man's Land" as Dinkas have fled.

The rest of the counties

1. Fashoda
2. Malakal
3. Panyikang
4. Melut
5. Maban
6. Manyo
7. Renk

Are a mix of tribes and none of them seems to be controlled by Machar's forces. There are claims that they are under the control of the GRSS. The SSLA, which assisted the SPLA in recapturing Malakal last week, is providing security in four Shilluk counties.

When the war broke out, the SSLM/A claims that they had 3000 soldiers in Malakal waiting to be integrated according to the agreement with the SPLA that was interrupted by the war on December 15th (see our article 7). The SSLA claims that they took the brunt of the fighting in the repeated take/retake scenarios.

We have information that only 500 regulars from the SPLA in Malakal joined the rebellion. The rest of Machar forces are “White Army”. But they have shortage of weapons and ammunition.

The information we have (Needs verification) on the fate of the county commissioners of the 4 counties under Machar is that only Longochuk County fully joined the rebels under Brigadier General Michael Ruot Gatkuoth and he is still in his county. The other 3 commissioners ran to Ethiopia.

We will come back to UN State when we verify some of the additional information we have. There are strong rumors that the Nuers who are not with Machar will be armed by the GRSS. If that happens, we will see more Nuers killing Nuers. This is the idea of Nasir Commissioner whose subsection of Chieng Yol are ready to fight against Machar’s loyalists to return him to the town.

The International, African and Regional Community need to go beyond the rhetoric and the manifestations and dig deeper into such issues to stop further calamities.

Jonglei State

There is clear divide and demarcation between the Nuers of Jonglei.

The Lou Nuers have the following counties (Localities)

1. Uror
2. Akobo
3. Nyirol

Central Nuers have the following counties

1. Ayod (Gawaar section)
2. Fangak (Lak and Thieng sections)

The Central Nuers have not joined the war (Yet!).

At the time of the violence on Dec 15th, Jonglei State had 12,000 armed men of the SPLA. 5000 were Nuers. But the Nuers had 25,000 white Army.

6 of their Generals remained in Juba. For an unknown reason, all 6 were attacked in their homes and attempts on their lives were carried out presumably by the Tiger Brigade (Now literary the 5000 BG Dinkas secretly trained and transported to Kiir's farm near Juba and they were the reason for the disagreement between Kiir and Gen Hoth- the Chief of General Staff).

They are:

1. Major General Gabriel Tanginye (Fangak)
2. Major General Simon Gatwec Duel (Uror)
3. Major General Thomas Mabor Dhol(Nyirol)
4. Brig. General James Otang Lia (Akobo)
5. Brig. General William Kuol (Uror-a military judge)
6. Brig General Lony Thichiot Ngundeng (Nyirol) [this is the grandson of the Lou Nuer prophet Ngundeng (means the Gift of God)].

These men escaped and went into Jebel Ladu area of the Mundari Tribe land. They collected about 2000 soldiers of their soldiers and started heading north on the West bank of the Nile. They are being chased and the Governor of Lakes State was reported to be chasing them.

On January, 27, it is reported by the reliable sources that they reached Unity State villages of Leer County. They met with Maj. Gen. James Koang and are now planning to cross the Nile to Fangak, the home town of Gabriel Tanginye.

If these 6 Generals can make it to the Northern Western parts of Jonglei, they can mobilize up to 60,000 strong White Army; that is if they can find logistics for them (Arms, Ammunition, food....). If that unfortunate scenario happens, we will see a totally different military landscape in South Sudan.

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