

Anyuak-Lou Nuer [Mor] Intellectuals Consultative Meeting

Presented by Akobo Anyuak Community on 25-27/11/2013
Jonglei State, Bor
Venue: Garden Resort Hotel, Bor, Jonglei State

Introduction

- Meetings such as this have been expected for a long time
- For many reasons, good or bad, nothing happened until this lucky day
- This meeting is between people who know themselves so well
- As such it should not be a meeting of protocols but of friends, brothers, sisters, in-laws or colleagues
- In this context it is appropriate to call ourselves by first names

Introduction (cont.)

- Our gathering today is a quest for happiness and peace to give development a chance to happen
- We are hungry for peace. We need peace now, today.
- Who does not want peace in this room today?
- Both Anyuak and Nuer are always on the lookout being suspicious of one another not knowing what will happen next.
- This meeting is a start of good things because we in this room are leaders of our own ethnic groups.

Introduction (cont.)

- We, the Anyuak, have come with that spirit even though we are the victims of the circumstances.
- Both Nuer and the Anyuak must form a selfless common front for a meaningful and lasting Peace as did Jonglei Communities in May 2012
- We like to bring forward some of those circumstances that put us in the corner in South Sudan, marginalized, and how we think of their solution[s] and how peace can come in Akobo County.

Records

- For matters of record the UNHCR offered \$20,000.00 [US dollars] in 2009 for a meeting between Lou Nuer and the Anyuak and it failed.
- The Lou Nuer ignored it.
- In 2013 Anyuak Community wrote to the State for a meeting with the Nuer.
- The process could not be completed.

Records (cont.)

- Hon. Taban Juch set up a preliminary meeting in Bor 2013, this could not hold as well.
- The Nuer scattered and left us stranded for hours at the House of Minister Manawa Gatkuoth.
- Today we are here to talk and find ways to bring peace in Akobo to give development a chance. On the Nuer side they may say everything is good because they are content with the life in Akobo
- But the Anyuak are not, for obvious reasons

Why do the Anyuak see life differently in Akobo?

- History has its misgivings and blessings which did not work for all of us well
- We are not going to dwell on those misgivings or blessings as they did not work.
- We, in this room, have put politics on top of everything
- Politics is a machine for power, wealth and oppression, Anyuak being victims of power/politics
- These elements brought problem in Akobo with a toll on the Anyuak

The Loss of the Akobo County to Lou-Nuer

- The problem is the loss of Akobo County to the Nuer.
- Akobo is now called A LOU NUER COUNTY annexed to the greater Lou territory very recently and drawn into BNFA system [BNFA is Bentiu, Nasir, Fangak, Akobo-the Nuer domain].
- To further strengthen the Lou grip Greater Akobo was created in which all affairs would be decided by the Lou Nuer Supreme Council.
- This makes the Anyuak drown in the Lou domain.

The Loss of the Akobo County to Lou- Nuer (cont)

- Where is the Anyuak place here in this setting? Is it not a complete loss of identity and existence of a people? Are the Anyuak expected to agree to live as Lou Nuer?
- This is the problem and it is the Agenda for the Anyuak today to voice the discontent to the Nuer and the Government alike
- **Specifically we want Akobo back as it were when the British left in 1956.**
- The recent changes of maps are all ploys by invisible people through manipulation of politics

The Loss of Akobo County to the Lou Nuer (cont.)

- Today, we want to hear this from our friends, the Nuer:
- **We, the Nuer, took your land by force. Come and take it by force**
- If the above is true why did the Nuer invade the Anyuak by force?
- If not how did the Nuer become rulers and owners of Akobo? Or was it like this:

The Loss of Akobo County to the Lou Nuer (cont.)

- **“The Nuer bull delivered a calf!”**
Signifying Power and the oppression
- Why did the Nuer snatch Anyuak land that way?
- Here is our version of events:

The Anyuak are and have been victims of Governments

- In 1964, Anyuak were massacred by the Arab regime because of spotting an Anya-Nya One [1] element in the village of Nyikwar-700 people were killed by firing in one day.
- The Anyuak vacated Akobo region and ran to the bush and Ethiopia for safety. Anyuak were at large disowned by the Arab government for hosting the Anya-Nya 1 and 2

The Anyuak are and have been victims of Governments (cont.)

- 1972 Addis Ababa Agreement brought back about 75% of Anyuak to Akobo.
- 1983-The Nuer massacred the Anyuak in Akobo town and the surrounding villages using the Arab Government resources.
- We know people in this room who did it all.
- This sent 99% of the Anyuak to Ethiopia and other Anyuak areas and never returned till today as we speak
- 1983 episode coincided with the SPLA/SPLM formation in Anyuak land

The Anyuak are and have been victims of Governments (cont.)

- Again the Anyuak were disowned by the Arab regime for hosting the SPLA/M
- Now during independence they say: ‘If we come back what will prevent the Nuer Government to kill us again’?
- They were right: October 3rd, 2013, the Lou Nuer attacked the Anyuak.
- Five people lost their lives including the Anyuak Paramount Chief-Chol Odio Omot.


The Anyuak are and have been victims of Governments (cont.)

- The attackers were named as CIENG YOANG. Was it just Cieng Yoang without manipulation?
- The attack was supposed to be a revenge for a Nuer man found dead in the river in spite of the Hospital examination that discovered no foul play [look at the death certificate].
- The Nuer politicians even made it worse by putting up a press release attempting to cover up the killings of the Anyuak.

Puok Chibitek

This death certificate was disregarded by the Nuer MPs and the attackers of Anyuak in Akobo, 3rd October 2013

Date = 02-10-2013

 **Akobo Police Station**

Order of Postmortem;

Name: Puok Chibitek
Age: 45 yrs
Sex: Male
Occupation: Civilian
Tribe: Nuer
Nationality: South Sudanese

Medical officer;
We are hereby forwarding the above mentioned dead body for postmortem for medical examination to determine the cause of death.

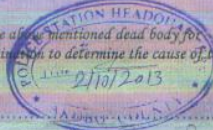
Signature of complainant: [Signature]
Signature of Officer in-charge: [Signature]


Medical examination report: No law or lead in the body (No communication in the trunk and the head and arm). Deceased had contusion with splinter protruding from the face X-ray.

Cause of Death: UNKNOWN.

Witnessed by: 1) Tomich
2) Rust

[Signature]
5/10/2013



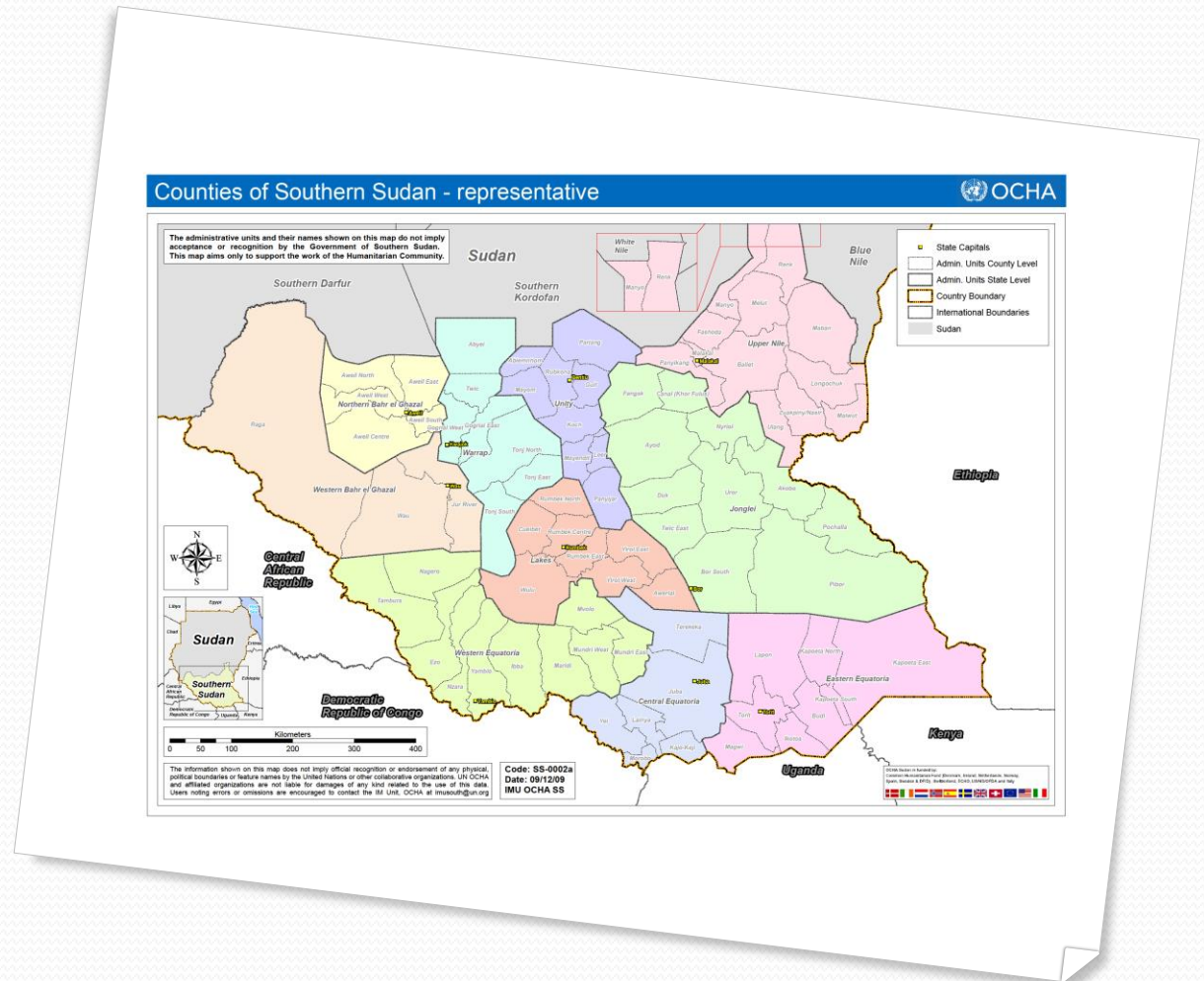


The Anyuak are and have been victims of Governments (cont.)

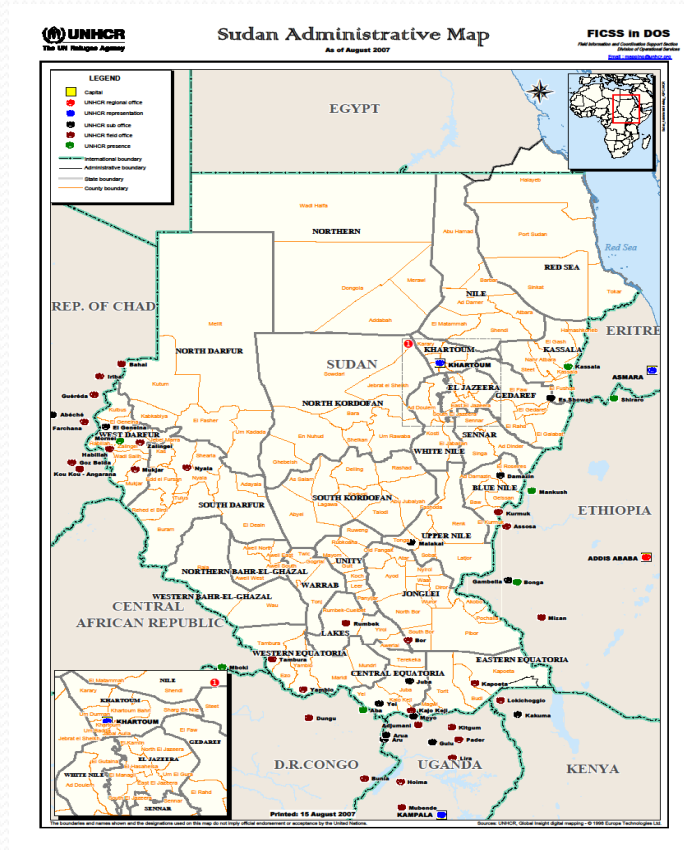
- South Sudan Government has given the Nuer so much legitimacy by accepting the destruction of the 1956 borders with the Lou Nuer
- This opened the gate very wide that the flow of the Nuer into Akobo is never limited [Refer to the Maps].

Wrong Map for Akobo Anyuak

1956 borders dishonoured



Good Map showing Akobo 1956 borders intact



The Anyuak are and have been victims of Governments (cont.)

- All of the above weakened the Anyuak power base which prior to 1964 kept the Anyuak border with Lou intact
- The above ABC are and were very great advantages to the Lou Nuer to make their way easily through politics and the help from governments in the form of Militias
- Today, Akobo is a colonized land
- The government knows it and doing nothing about it, the attention being given to warriors who are causing so much insecurity and misery in Jonglei State.
- Peaceful people are not rewarded in Jonglei State, for that matter, in South Sudan

What are the indicators of colonization in Akobo under which the Anyuak are living today while the government is silent?

- Akobo is a Lou Nuer County leading to imposition of co-existence with a hard fish
- Anyuak cannot plough or fish freely.
- We are told: Anyuak Land is under the ground. Nothing on the surface.
- Intimidation and killing is frequent and rampant including killing by SPLA Nuer soldiers [e.g. Lual Makwach Wie].
- Naming of places: “Bilkey Payam, Riek Kerjok school, etc”; division of areas and land to clans and men of protocol. For example:

[Indicators [cont.]]

- Tungdol to Pakang for Cieng Tong; Cieng Bilieu, Cieng Tut
- Nyikani for Cieng Man Tut; Cieng Yoal, Cieng Bol
- Dimma for Cieng Both; Cieng Bidit, Cieng Man Joa
- Chan and Abworo for Cieng Kwany Bol, Jamai, Galia
- Agii and Akobo Town: Men and women of Protocol
- Note: All of these clans were never known in Akobo

Indicators [cont.]

- Restriction of employment in Government and NGOs.
- Who is doing the recommendation? E.g. Thokier Kok prevented Oduro Jook employment with UNMISS just recently.
- Political domination and no sharing of parliamentary positions- majority is a curse and a legal repressive tool.
- However, Anyuak cannot be a minority in their own house
- No sharing of budgets or CDF over the years. Anyuak build schools and clinics with local materials

Indicators [cont.]

- These were burned to ashes during the Lou Nuer attack on the Anyuak on 3rd of October 2013. A replica of 1983 episode.
- Anyuak go hungry for months while WFP food is being divided to the Nuer regularly.
- Government of the State never one day investigated the Anyuak claims and complaints given even in writing
- This jives well with ignoring the Anyuak pleas and the acceptance of the Map and the name of Lou Nuer County

Indicators [cont.]

- Media shutdown: Killing of the Anyuak by the Lou Nuer on 3rd of October 2013 was not condemned by the Commissioner nor talk about it on radio
- Even this very meeting is not publicized on media.
- When Lou [Nyirol & parts of Diror] was raided by gunmen on 11th of November 2013 Akobo Commissioner was vocal
- Looting of hooks and nets in the river and shooting/killing of Anyuak on the fishing grounds
- Destroying Anyuak Houses at Dimma and Old Akobo

Effect of indicators

- All of the above are meant to eradicate the Anyuak from Akobo
- Those oppressive and suppressive tools are well designed to dehumanize the Anyuak
- We are feeling and enduring terror tools everyday
- The Government is not listening to us
- This has been a silent invasion being done through government machinery

Effects of indicators (cont.)

- Anyuak are looking at Governments as the supporter of the Nuer because of the Nuer wide presence in Government hierarchy exerting influence
- The Anyuak have found it difficult to penetrate and draw the attention of the government in that respect.

Conclusion

- We think finding solutions will make our relationships better.
- There is no need for the Nuer and Anyuak to continue as enemies in an independent country in which no tribe is expected to impose co-existence on another or one tribe being better than another
- Let us leave back the tyranny the Arabs imposed on us
- If we fought for freedom, no one should be oppressed again
- The people in this room today are responsible to bring peace or failure

Conclusion [cont.]

- The ordinary citizens in Akobo are innocent
- It is us the politicians and intellectuals who are notorious and greedy of power and wealth
- With this in mind we have solutions to the present bad situation as follows:
- We urge immediate re-instatement of the 1956 border as in Resolutions of Communities' Conference of May 5, 2012 signed in the presence of the President of the Republic of South Sudan in Bor, Jonglei State
- We ask the Lou Nuer to speak from their human side to support this demand

Conclusion (cont.)

- The President said there was no money for establishing a new County. He was right
- But the Anyuak suffering remains continuous and worsening by the day
- We therefore say: Let the budget and the CDFs go to Diror. We value peace and freedom than money
- We will plough the land and get our food and living. When the government becomes rich, we will get the budget.

Conclusion (cont.)

- We say this because we do not have benefits of budgets and CDFs under the Lou Nuer administration at the moment
- We want peace. We will miss nothing
- We do not invade people. We only want our rights respected.
- Anything less than the separation of Akobo from the Lou territory will lead to no solution making this meeting meaningless
- The re-instatement of the border will eliminate all the repressive elements enumerated above.

Conclusion (cont)

- One of the most important dividends of the border is the shift in population dynamics.
- Change in the dynamics may worry some people who may be diehard about where to go
- Some may say I was born here or lived here for 15, 20, 30, 40 years.
- South Sudan was once an Arab colony. To day it is free
- We need Abiey back to South Sudan after so many years with Sudan [1905]
- There is no need for people to worry about anything.
- There is no shame or defeat about going to Diror.

Conclusion [cont.]

- Walgak, Buong etc are great places left behind waiting to be developed.
- We have also to be clear that in South Sudan, in any county, towns belong to all citizens but the rural country belongs to that county's community.
- The President said: “—minorities must have own counties which they govern for their voice to be heard.”
- With the Nuer blanket on the Anyuak how would anybody hear our voice?
- **Re-instatement of 1956 border is very important and a viable solution**



THANK YOU