

South Sudan Monitor

December 2011



Incumbent President Salva Kiir Myandit votes in the landmark referendum in January 2011 by Irina Mosel

A year in review

This edition of the South Sudan Monitor considers some of the key issues and trends that have emerged in 2011.

Many CPA issues unresolved

2011 brought about the enormous political change that the people of South Sudan had waited for since 1955. The year kicked off with the long-awaited Southern Sudan referendum. In the months leading up to the referendum there were fears that it could trigger violence. However the polling was peaceful with high voter turnout and led to a landslide victory in favour of separation. While the referendum outcome clearly reflected the will of the people, becoming a separate state also has far-reaching political and economic consequences.

The date of independence was set to coincide with end of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) – 9 July 2011. South Sudan became the 193rd country recognised by the United Nations

(UN), and the 54th member state of the African Union. While South Sudan set about preparing to become an independent and sovereign state, the remaining aspects of the CPA were virtually set aside. The popular consultation process in Blue Nile stalled, and the election in Southern Kordofan was contested. Soon afterwards, conflict broke out in Southern Kordofan, preventing the popular consultations that were promised to the populations of the transitional areas. The Abyei referendum was permanently postponed before it started due to political deadlocks regarding who would be eligible to vote and the composition of the Abyei Referendum Commission.

Negotiations are still continuing between Sudan and South Sudan to determine how the two countries will move forward as two sovereign countries with interlinked economies. Issues that still need to be resolved between Sudan and South Sudan include Abyei, border demarcation, Sudan's national debt and the fees for oil transportation through Port Sudan in the north. The difficult negotiations are being overseen by former South African President Thabo Mbeki, leader of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel.

The negotiations are marked by a lack of trust from both parties, and a desire from both sides to emerge from the negotiations looking strong and ensuring the best outcome for each state in terms of security and revenue, in particular.

The United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) was headquartered in Khartoum until 9 July 2011 and was regularly criticised for its inability to protect civilians. A new United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) was established by UN Security Council Resolution 1996, with a strengthened mandate which came into effect 9 July 2011. The new mission is however, only mandated to be present in South Sudan, although its mandate includes cross-border monitoring.

Political developments for the new state

A process to draft a Transitional Constitution to replace the 2005 Interim Constitution of Southern Sudan began in October 2010. On 21 January 2011 a technical drafting committee was formed. While the process was designed to be consultative, opposition political parties voiced criticism that their views were not reflected in the process or the constitution. The draft Transitional Constitution was received very negatively by the Khartoum government, because the Abyei area was included as part of South Sudan.

While 2011 represented a landmark year for South Sudan, it is the coming year that will offer the opportunity to assess whether the changes that the people of South Sudan both want and need will be realised.

The first government of South Sudan was appointed in August 2011 and faces huge challenges as it attempts to ensure that basic services are made available throughout South Sudan. The government is undergoing the process of reviewing laws and making updates as necessary, including on the National Elections Act 2011 and the Political Parties Bill 2011, both of which will be extremely important in shaping the democratic institutions of South Sudan. The Carter Center has stated that the drafting of these two pieces of legislation could make up for the shortcomings that emerged in the drafting process of the transitional constitution stating, "While the transitional constitution drafting process was not sufficiently inclusive of grassroots or outside viewpoints, the drafting of these key laws in the new republic represents an important opportunity to rebuild trust amongst opposition parties and civil

society actors and to foster genuine civic engagement".¹

While 2011 represented a landmark year for South Sudan, it is the coming year that will offer the opportunity to assess whether the changes that the people of South Sudan both want and need will be realised. South Sudan will face a plethora of challenges in the coming months and years and the government of the youngest country in the world will need to prove to their people that they are capable of handling these challenges.



Women queuing to vote in Juba by Irina Mosel

Post-conflict insecurity

South Sudan has throughout 2011 faced inter-communal, inter-ethnic and cross-border violence. The referendum period was marked by a significant decline in violence. However, there was a notable increase again in the first quarter of the year and at the start of the rainy season. The number of incidents was the highest in April, May, June and July. There have been attacks and revenge attacks; cattle raiding and abductions; cross-border incursions, attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and an increase in violent crime in the towns.

The number of reported incidents as of 31 October 2011 was 440 across the country. The worst affected was Jonglei with 179 incidents in total, the vast majority of which were inter-communal conflicts and 'other' armed conflicts. Second worst

¹ <http://www.cartercenter.org/news/pr/sudan-111611.html>

affected, Lakes State had 69 incidents reported, which were mainly intra- and inter-communal violence. And thirdly Unity State had 65 reported incidents, which were mostly related to cross-border incursions and 'other' armed conflicts.

The conflicts and violence in 2011 have so far resulted in displacement of 326,358 people. The majority of these internally displaced are in Warrap (103,205), Jonglei (76,438) and Unity (70,673) states.² In Warrap the key reasons for the displaced people are cross-border issues over Abyei as well as cattle-raiding. In Jonglei the predominant causes are armed militias and the Nuer-Murle conflicts, while in Unity it is a result of cross-border incursions and armed militias.

Reported deaths from conflicts in 2011 (as of 31 October) were 3,239. The counties with a death-toll over 300 are Pibor (532) and Uror (388) in Jonglei and Mayom (466) in Unity State. Counties with over 100 deaths are Fangak (206), Canal (164) and Akobo (113) in Jonglei State; Gogrial East (136) and Tonj East (110) in Warrap State; and Manyo (129) in Upper Nile State.³

Armed militias

Throughout 2011 armed militias have been active in South Sudan, particularly in Jonglei and Unity states. George Athor, Peter Gadet, Gabriel Tanginye, David Yau Yau and Gatluak Gai have all been key figures contributing at different times to instability, violence, deaths and displacement in South Sudan.

In January George Athor resumed fighting in Fangak in violation of the ceasefire agreement and the violence continued into February when forces loyal to him again clashed with the SPLA. Attacks by forces loyal to Athor continued throughout 2011. After further negotiations in November failed, Athor vowed continued violence.

Peter Gadet announced the formation of the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) on 11 April 2011. The SSLA was formed through the Mayom Declaration which called for a second phase of liberation: from the 'unjust rule' of the SPLM government. The declaration strongly condemns the SPLM for poor leadership, corruption, a failing administration and a lack of service delivery. In August however, he declared an unconditional ceasefire. The rest of the SSLA did not agree to the ceasefire and has continued to attack targets in Unity state.

Number of reported conflict incidents per state⁴

Jonglei	179
Lakes	69
Unity	65
Upper Nile	35
Western Equatoria	27
Warrap	24
Eastern Equatoria	21
Central Equatoria	9
Western Bahr el Ghazal	9
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	2

After months of fighting, Gatluak Gai engaged in a series of talks with the government and eventually signed a peace deal in Bentiu, Unity State. He agreed to re-join the government and reintegrate his militia into the armed forces. However, three days later, on 23 July 2011 Gai was killed, reportedly by his deputy and allegedly due to disagreement over the terms of the peace deal.

Unity State has been mined and re-mined throughout 2011. David Yau Yau initiated negotiations with the government which culminated in an agreement in June 2011.

In his first address as head of the new state President Kiir called on all rebels and armed factions to lay down their arms and bring an end to the internal conflicts that threaten the fragile peace. And although some leaders of armed groups have heeded that call, splinter groups continue to fight, creating further instability. It emphasises how limited command and control many of these commanders have over their groups and the need for renewed efforts to reach out to them.

"I would like again to declare a public amnesty to all those who may have taken up arms for one reason or another to lay down those arms and come to join your brothers and sisters to build this new nation."

President Salva Kiir, Independence Speech, 9 July 2011

North-South clashes

In January tension escalated in Abyei as it became more and more clear that the envisaged referendum would not take place. In February,

² www.unocha.org/south-sudan/maps-graphics

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

March and April there were regular clashes between a number of different actors, particularly police and civilians on one hand and Misseriya and the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) on the other. The North alleged that the local police in Abyei region are aligned with the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and include a Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) element. In May, the situation escalated after an alleged attack by SPLA soldiers attached a UN-accompanied SAF convoy, killing an unconfirmed number of SAF soldiers. In reaction, SAF seized control over most of Abyei, leading to destruction, looting and killings, as well as substantial numbers of refugees – currently at 110,000 – from Abyei into Warrap state. In June, the UN Security Council established the UN Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA) consisting of 4,200 Ethiopian troops. The situation in Abyei remains unresolved and is a constant threat to stability and security. The demarcation of the borders is a critical issue for ensuring peace between Sudan and South Sudan. But none of the refugees have returned to Abyei and a solution to the crisis is seemingly not forthcoming.

The situation at the borders was made much more perilous with the North's action in Southern Kordofan after the elections in May, as well as subsequent action in Blue Nile State. Armed clashes began in Southern Kordofan on 5 June. This included regular aerial bombardment particularly in the Nuba Mountains part of the state, as well as close to the South Sudan border and with at least two verified bombings in Unity and Upper Nile states. An estimated 200,000 have been displaced or severely affected by the armed conflict in Southern Kordofan.⁵ Many have crossed into South Sudan. It has also led to a more or less closed border, hindering food and other goods getting through to South Sudan. In Blue Nile State the fighting began on 1 September and as a result an estimated 131,000 have been displaced.⁶ The Government of Sudan has imposed severe restrictions on humanitarian agencies' access to the states and it is therefore difficult to estimate the actual figure of displaced and killed. South Sudan has showed extreme restraint to violations on its sovereign soil. The South Sudan government continues to emphasise the need for peace with its neighbour. The conflicts in Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile will not only continue to affect South-North relations, but also internal insecurity and violence in South Sudan.

⁵ Ibid.

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/OCHA_sdn_landscape_template_2.pdf

⁶ Ibid.

“The territory of the Republic of South Sudan comprises all lands and air space that constituted the three former Southern Provinces of Bahr el Ghazal, Equatoria and Upper Nile in their boundaries as they stood on January 1, 1956, and the Abyei Area, the territory of the nine Ngok Dinka chiefdoms transferred from Bahr el Ghazal Province to Kordofan Province in 1905 as defined by the Abyei Arbitration Tribunal Award of July 2009.”

Transitional Constitution Part I, 1 (2)

Community violence and insecurity

In 2011 there has been considerable intra- and inter-communal violence. Cattle-raiding and revenge attacks with killings and abductions have been particularly prominent in the Warrap, Lakes and Unity states triangle, as well as in Jonglei. April to October saw a spate of violent attacks in Jonglei, which resulted in several interventions at different levels to find solutions. In addition, violence and crime has escalated in some of the towns including Juba, Torit and Bor. In these three cities people reported robberies at gunpoint and murder/killings as key threats to their security. One survey found that representatives from all ten state capitals identified robberies (48.5%) and theft (21.3%) as their predominant sources of insecurity. When asked what they ranked second as a threat to their security, they listed domestic violence (36.5%).⁷ The intensity of violence, whether in rural or urban areas, is seriously exacerbated by the prevalence and availability of small arms.

Humanitarian situation: January-December 2011

The newly independent state of South Sudan continues to face serious humanitarian challenges. Many of these can be prevented or addressed if solutions are found to existing political, security and development challenges.

One of the features of the past year has been the very high number of people displaced from their homes due to insecurity (see security-focused article elsewhere in this issue) within South Sudan and across South Sudan's border with Sudan in particular. The vast movements of people into Warrap State from Abyei, into Unity State from

⁷ Unpublished preliminary results from Cordaid and Saferworld's phone survey on community security.

Southern Kordofan and into Upper Nile from Blue Nile State, have posed serious challenges to the humanitarian community. This has been worsened by the bombing of the Yida refugee camp hosting Southern Kordofan refugees on 10 November just as the UN was delivering a consignment of food, which led many aid agencies to withdraw their staff. By 15 November, assistance had been resumed, but there are clearly concerns about the safety of the refugees.

Within South Sudan it has at times been difficult to assess the humanitarian needs of people affected by violence due to the difficulty of accessing some of the more remote areas in the country. In addition, the inter-communal attacks have seen the abduction of hundreds of women and children – most of whose whereabouts are still unknown. Humanitarian stocks have also been looted in many of these attacks, for instance the World Food Programme store was looted during the Murle attack in Uror county in August 2011.⁸ Working conditions for humanitarian actors have worsened during the course of the year with a total of 57 incidents of state interference with humanitarian actors' work reported in the first half of the year,⁹ and increasing insecurity in areas in need of assistance, including through the planting of landmines in Unity State.

“Interference with humanitarian operations imposed serious costs on the relief effort in early 2011 in terms of delays, lost funds, lost supplies and by impacting the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.”

UN, Republic of South Sudan 2011 Consolidated Appeal

Another major humanitarian trend in the past year has been the influx of South Sudanese returning from the North. This happened in a number of phases: first those coming back to vote in the January 2011 independence referendum; then those who came back for independence in July 2011; and lastly those who came back after independence. The reasons for people returning are multiple – the government of South Sudan very strongly encouraged returns since late 2010, partly as a way to ensure that the vote would include as many South Sudanese as possible. Promises were made to returning people that they would be able to access land and other support upon arrival, but this has proved to be extremely difficult in practice. In addition, amendments to the Sudan Nationality Act passed by the Sudanese government in July means that Southerners have to either return to

⁸ UN OCHA, *Humanitarian consequences of the Murle attack in Uror County* – 18/08/11, http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/map_857.pdf

⁹ UN, *Republic of South Sudan 2011 Consolidated Appeal*

South Sudan or regularise their status as foreigners in Sudan by April 2012. Between 30 October 2010 and 15 November 2011 a total of 350,914 people had already returned, almost two thirds of them to the states of Unity, Upper Nile and Northern Bahr-el-Ghazal¹⁰ and a steady stream of returns continue. It is estimated that there may be as many as 700,000 people of South Sudanese origin who are still in Sudan.¹¹

In many cases, strained relationships have also developed between returnees and existing populations in the southern states. This is in large part due to the increased competition that the influx of such large numbers of people has generated for land, food, water and shelter, as well as livelihood opportunities. Many returnees also face language challenges – for instance children often speak no English as their schooling has been in Arabic.

Lastly, food security and other emergencies such as flooding has been a problem in many parts of South Sudan over the past year. In Warrap State, the death of more than 350 returnees in August caused great political furore after it was alleged that they died of hunger. The state government said that the deaths were due to disease.¹² This year, the UN estimated that 1.4 million people still require food assistance during the months of March-August.¹³ The reasons for food insecurity are many, including that South Sudan has been affected by drought like the rest of the region. But there are also issues that can be improved in order to increase food security, such as promoting agriculture, supporting availability of good quality seeds and improving the infrastructure to allow better access to markets.



Dry season and food shortages in Warrap state by Pete Muller

¹⁰ UN OCHA, *South Sudan Weekly Humanitarian Bulletin*, 17 November 2011

¹¹ UN OCHA, *Sudan Humanitarian Update*, 3rd Quarter 2011,

¹² Sudan Tribune, “Warrap Assembly summons governor over MP’s ‘arrest and torture’”, 24 August 2011, available at www.sudantribune.com/Warrap-Assembly-summons-governor,39937

¹³ UN, *Republic of South Sudan 2011 Consolidated Appeal*

In the northern states of South Sudan in particular, food insecurity was worsened by a Sudanese trade blockade since May and a massive rise in fuel prices across the country. While these issues are linked to global and regional economic crises, the ability of South Sudan to withstand such economic shocks is still very low and such problems can easily result in humanitarian emergency situations.

The international community still plays an important role in South Sudan in addressing humanitarian needs, and this is set to continue for a number of years still. But while the immediate needs are being addressed, long-term solutions have to be pursued that allow for the underlying economic, security and political causes of humanitarian crises to be resolved. Only in this way can the humanitarian situation improve and people in South Sudan have a more prosperous future.

Economic flashpoints

Oil production: South Sudan relies heavily on oil revenue, currently constituting 98 percent of the total budget. The Minister of Finance and Economic Planning stated that oil production has peaked in 2005 and is predicted to decline at an increasing rate after 2015 – reminding the South Sudanese how important it is to develop the non-oil revenue sector for future survival.¹⁴

Customs: One non-oil source of revenue is custom duty. Until now however, it has been characterised by irregularities and inefficiency. Allegedly the revenue collected through customs is only one third of what is expected – a concern is that individuals are benefitting from the inefficiency of the collection system.¹⁵

New currency: On 18 July 2011, South Sudan announced the release of the new South Sudan currency: the South Sudan pound, replacing the old Sudan pound. The official exchange rate was fixed at 1 USD to 2.67 SSP, but it quickly changed to 3.3, indicating a 23 percent decrease in value against the US dollar in less than three months. During the same timeframe, on the black market, 1 USD was exchanged for 4 SSP.

Export/import: During 2011 South Sudan exported oil whilst importing a huge variety of goods and commodities. Uganda and Kenya are key countries from which South Sudan imports goods (by November South Sudan had imported 6.4 million tons of goods through Mombasa alone). The payments of the imported goods are calculated in US dollar, resulting in a high demand

for the currency and a high need for stability of the exchange rate between the US dollar and the South Sudan pound.

Inflation: Inflation has been steadily increasing during 2011 - goods and services have steadily increased and subsequently purchasing power decreased. There are several reasons for the increasing inflation, including: insufficient production of goods and agricultural products (food production is less than half of what is needed); closed borders with Sudan; and a weak financial system. Retail prices of staple foods in Juba are as much as 400 percent higher than the price of the same goods in Uganda and are seldom less than double Ugandan prices.¹⁶ Costs for food and non-alcoholic drinks rose by 78.5 percent in October. South Sudan's annual inflation rate jumped to 71.7 percent in October from 61.5 percent in September.¹⁷

Economic development

“Sustained economic growth and development which is led by a vibrant private sector will be crucial for South Sudan’s future prosperity and for mitigating the potential for future conflict. For growth to be pro-poor it must be both diversified and equitable. The initial emphasis will be on using our oil wealth to drive rural economic recovery and development, as envisioned by Dr John Garang. This will enable the poor to participate in and to benefit from the growth process. It is vital that the economy diversify to create the much needed employment and livelihood opportunities. Employment generation and improved livelihoods (especially for ex-combatants and young men and women) is not only important for poverty reduction, but is central to maintaining peace and security.”

South Sudan Development Plan, 2011-2013, p xvii

¹⁴ South Sudan Governor’s Forum, Juba 14 -18 November 2011.

¹⁵ Confidential interview with customs official, Juba, 25 November 2011.

¹⁶ H.E Kosti Manibe, South Sudan Governor’s Forum, Juba 14 - 18 November 2011.

¹⁷ The Republic of South Sudan National Bureau of Statistics, <http://ssnbs.org>

South Sudan Timeline 2011

January

9 January: Referendum on self-determination

In violation of the ceasefire agreement, fighting between the forces of George Athor and the SPLA resumed in Fangak, Jonglei.

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) announced the preliminary results: almost 99 percent voted for independence.

President Salva Kiir issued a decree forming the Technical Review Committee to amend the interim constitution into a transitional constitution. Opposition parties and civil society organisations criticised their inadequate representation.

February

Fighting between SAF soldiers left at least 30 people dead in a dispute over possession of artillery in Southern Sudan.

President Omar al-Bashir accepted the Southern vote for independence.

Minister of Co-operative and Rural Development, Jimmy Lemi Milla and his bodyguard were shot dead in his office in Juba by his brother-in-law.

Hundreds of civilians sought refuge at the United Nations Compound in Abyei following violence that killed three people.

The SPLA fought with rebels loyal to George Athor in Fangak, leaving 105 people dead.

The SSRC announced the final referendum results that showed 98.83 percent of South Sudanese chose to secede from the North.

At least ten people died when a militia group attacked a police post in the disputed area of Abyei, the oil-rich area claimed by both North and Southern Sudan.

March

New clashes broke out in Abyei between the nomadic Arab Misseriya and Ngok Dinka.

Southern Sudan accused the North of bombing its territory ahead of South Sudan's independence.

April

Peter Gadet, rebelled against the Government of Southern Sudan and formed the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) in Unity.

13 people died in violence between neighbouring communities in Lakes and Western Equatoria states.

Former rebel leader Gabriel Tanginye reportedly surrendered after his forces clashed with the army in Jonglei state. His forces were due to be reintegrated into the army when the fighting started at Kaldak Assembly Area.

The Technical Review Committee submitted the draft amended transitional constitution to the President.

May

South and North Sudan agreed to start withdrawing unauthorised troops from the Abyei Border Region.

Four Zambian UN Peacekeepers were shot and wounded while on patrol in Abyei.

A United Nations convoy accompanying 200 SAF troops was reportedly attacked by SPLA soldiers as they were pulling out of the contested region of Abyei along the North-South Border. A number of SAF troops were killed, but the exact figures are disputed. Figures cited by both parties range between 22 and 197 SAF troop deaths.

SAF seized control of most of Abyei. The seizure led to destruction of property, looting, killing and burning of homes and displacement of tens of thousands of people into Warrap State.

Southern Sudan's Vice President Riak Machar flew to Khartoum on a mission to ease tensions over Abyei.

Sudan decided to officially terminate the presence of the United Nations peacekeeping operation, known as United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), in its territory by 9 July 2011.

June

The United Nations Security Council demanded that Sudan withdraw its troops from Abyei.

Khartoum and Juba signed a deal to demilitarise Abyei and allow Ethiopian-led peacekeepers.

The United Nations Security Council established a 4,200 strong, Ethiopian-led United Nations Interim Security Force in Abyei (UNISFA).

The rebel leader David Yau Yau accepted amnesty and was pardoned by President Salva Kiir.

The UN Security Council passed a resolution establishing the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

North and South agreed to continue negotiating outstanding issues between the two sides after Southern independence on 9 July.

July

9 July: South Sudan formally declared its independence from Sudan.

Sudan's Parliament passed a law cancelling the Sudanese nationality of Southerners.

South Sudan became the 193rd member of the United Nations.

The Satellite Sentinel project released images showing freshly dug sites in Southern Kordofan in which reportedly 100 bodies were buried.

President Salva Kiir officially launched the new currency for South Sudan.

The rebel leader Galtuak Gai signed a peace agreement in which he accepted to rejoin the government and reintegrate his army into the national army. However, he was killed three days later by his deputy allegedly over disagreement on the terms of the peace agreement.

South Sudan became the 54th Member of the African Union (AU).

August

President Salva Kiir issued a decree establishing the 50 Member Council of States in the South Sudan Legislative Assembly. The council consists of 20 South Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) representatives drawn from the ten states of South Sudan and 30 from other political parties.

Renegade rebel leader Peter Gadet flew to Juba after accepting to rejoin the government and reintegrate his forces into the national army. However, some of his forces based in Unity State refused the deal.

Sudan blocked a shipment of oil from South Sudan after Juba reportedly refused to pay customs fees – the South accused Khartoum of sabotaging its economy.

Rebels loyal to George Athor crossed from Sudan to attack a town in Upper Nile leaving 60 people dead, including 7 soldiers and 53 militia members.

The United Nations called for a thorough probe into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in South Kordofan.

A Murle attack against the Lou Nuer in Jonglei killed at least 600 and injured 750 people with

about 25,000 cattle stolen. This was in response to a Lou Nuer attack that killed an estimated 400 Murle in June this year.

The President announced his cabinet. The cabinet consisted of 29 ministers and 27 deputy ministers. His cabinet was considered fairly well-balanced as it included representation from the ten states and ethnic groups.

UNMISS dispatched peacekeepers to Jonglei to support government efforts to restore security between Lou Nuer and Murle.

September

The Government announced its intention to relocate its capital from Juba to Ramciel in Lakes.

South Sudan and Sudan signed their first agreement since their split in July setting out ten crossing points between the two nations for people and goods.

Sudan failed to meet the agreed troop withdrawal deadline in Abyei region despite the presence of UNISFA.

October

In Unity an anti-tank mine reportedly blew up a civilian bus killing 20 people, including four children.

About 80 people, including 15 civilians and 60 rebels, were killed when government forces in Unity repelled an attack by rebel militia.

November

The South Sudan Minister of Public Service, Ms Awut Deng Achuil resigned from her post.

Sudan bombed Yida refugee camp situated inside South Sudan. Local authorities reported that at least 12 people were killed, but this has not been confirmed by other agencies on the ground.

The first South Sudan Governors Forum was organised in Juba with attendance of all the governors of the ten states.

George Athor vowed more violence after his secret negotiation with the Government failed in Nairobi.

The Chairperson of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki, demanded the resumption of negotiations between Sudan and South Sudan on post-independence issues. 