

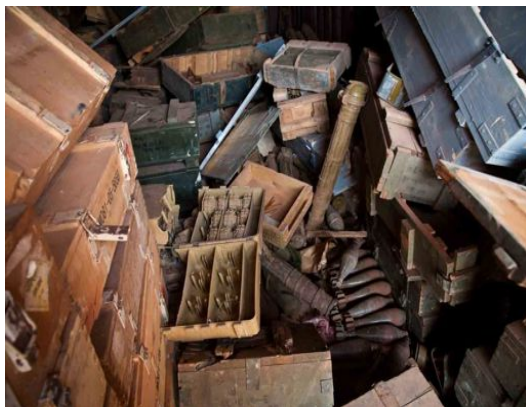
Weapons identified in Hejlij/Panthou and Bentiu, April 2012

At the end of March 2012 the frontline of fighting between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) advanced northward into the oil field town of Hejlij (known as Panthou in South Sudan). Clashes continued with the SPLA taking control of the area on 10 April until the SPLA withdrew its forces on 20 April, after widespread condemnation from the international community. There are no reliable casualty figures, but the Hejlij conflict is widely considered the most lethal exchange between the two sides since 2005.

The Small Arms Survey has obtained photographic documentation of a cache of SAF weapons that was reportedly seized by the SPLA and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) during their joint takeover of Hejlij/Panthou. The cache was photographed on 15 April. By 17 April it had been nearly emptied. The stockpile contained 60 mm and 82 mm mortar bombs, 107 mm rockets, anti-tank mines, and anti-personnel (AP) mines, among other unidentifiable items.

Prior to the SPLA's withdraw from Hejlij, SAF stepped up its bombing campaign with attacks in and around Bentiu, the capital of Unity state, on 12, 14, 15, and 23 April. The Small Arms Survey has been able to identify a rocket used in an attack on Bentiu on 15 April that struck near the World Food Programme compound there.

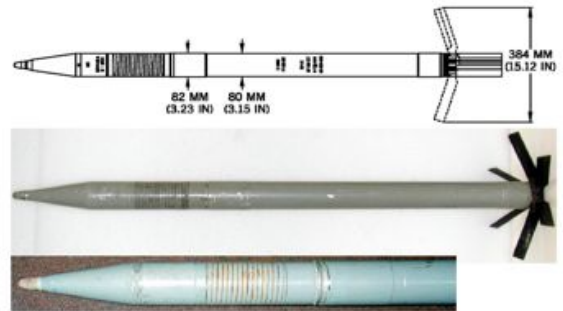
SAF weapons seized in Hejlij/Panthou



A box of AP mines resembling the Italian manufactured TS-50 and VS-50 varieties. The VS-50 is also manufactured under license as the SPM-1 in Singapore. Other variants include the Egyptian-produced T-79 and the Iranian YM-1/1B. It is unclear whether the SPLA or JEM confiscated these mines.



Series 0-821 60 mm mortar bombs from an unidentified manufacturer (top left and top right photos). The bottom image represents a 60 mm mortar from Sudan's weapons manufacturing website, Military Industrial Corporation (MIC). The green paint on the crate in the top left photo resembles the colour Sudan applies to its munitions boxes. Without further information, however, the origin cannot be confirmed. Similar mortars were seized in 2011 from the South Sudan Liberation Army in Unity state and from SAF by the Sudan People's Liberation Army-North (SPLA-N) in Blue Nile state. JEM reportedly seized 120 mm mortars with a similar configuration of markings and construction from SAF in 2009.



Fragments of an 80 mm air-to-ground rocket that was fired on Bentiu on 15 April (photo on left). The rocket is believed to be a Chinese copy of the Russian S-8 KOM (sample images on right). SAF fired S-8 rockets in attacks on an SPLA base in Firga, Western Bahr al Ghazal and in Shangal Tobaya, North Darfur, in February and May 2011, respectively.

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Sudan Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA) for Sudan and South Sudan

Small Arms Survey

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