

Arms and Ammunition Tracing Desk Report

Human Security Baseline Assessment (HSBA)
for Sudan and South Sudan
with Conflict Armament Research



Weapons destroyed by UNMISS in Malakal, Upper Nile, December 2014

The current conflict in South Sudan has displaced at least 1.5 million people since it began in December 2013.¹ Many displaced persons have sought temporary protection and refuge in Protection of Civilian (PoC) sites run by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) across the country. As a prerequisite to enter the PoCs, civilians are required to leave any weapons and ammunition outside the sites, and they remain in UNMISS custody.

In December 2014, UNMISS and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), in cooperation with the Government of South Sudan, destroyed weapons and ammunition recovered from civilians seeking refuge in the PoCs.² UNMISS collected approximately 270 firearms and 19,000 rounds of ammunition from civilians that they stored in various PoCs across the country (mainly Bentiu and Pariang in Unity state, Malakal and Nasir in Upper Nile state, Wau in Western Bahr el Ghazal state and Bor in Jonglei state) and in UNMISS headquarters in Juba.

Since the start of the conflict in December 2013, several battles between the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the SPLA-in-Opposition (SPLA-IO) forces have taken place in the town of Malakal, capital of the principal oil producing state of Upper Nile, and in the neighbouring areas in Upper Nile, Unity, and Jonglei states. Military control of the city of Malakal changed repeatedly during the first three months of the crisis, until the SPLA recaptured the city on 19 March 2014, and it has held it since then. Fighting between SPLA and SPLA-IO in Upper Nile and the border areas of Jonglei continued until December 2014. At that point, the SPLA-IO maintained its presence in several localities of Upper Nile, in particular in the counties of Longochuk, Maiwut, and Manyo, and was still active in the northern counties of Jonglei bordering Upper Nile, with the exception of Peji county, where none of the forces could establish control.

This Tracing Desk Report describes and assesses weapons destroyed by UNMISS and UNMAS in Malakal, Upper Nile. Malakal was one of several PoCs that participated in the countrywide destruction. UNMISS and UNMAS destroyed some 134 weapons and 10,500 rounds of ammunition (including those collected in Malakal and Nasir) in Malakal, which yielded the greatest number of weapons and ammunition for destruction in the country. The UNMISS Indian battalion destroyed all the weapons on the afternoon of 12 December 2014.

Destruction ceremony

UNMISS destroyed weapons and ammunition that were left in their custody by civilians seeking protection in the PoC site while fighting was taking place in Malakal and its surrounding areas. UNMISS State Coordinator Deborah Schein, Upper Nile Governor Simon Kun Pouch, South Sudan National Police Service Commissioner Major General Chol Thuc Chol, SPLA Sector 2 Chief of Operations Colonel Paul Madeng, UNMISS Sector North Commander Brig. Gen. Bayarsaikhan Dashdondog, Indian battalion commanding officers, UNMAS representatives, Rwandan and Ethiopian soldiers, representatives of the Inter-governmental Authority on Development, the Internally Displaced Persons Peace and Security Council, and UNMISS uniformed as well as civilian personnel attended the ceremony on 12 December 2014 in Malakal.³ Conflict Armament Research (CAR) investigators also attended the ceremony in Malakal, Upper Nile, documenting the weapons and prior to their destruction.⁴

The sample of documented weapons was quite heterogeneous, and ranged from knives, machetes, and pistols to shotguns, rifles, assault rifles, machine guns, and one mortar. Due to the diversity of the sample and the advanced age of most of the weapons, it is not possible at this time to establish the full chain of custody of the destroyed weapons. Nevertheless, it is likely that the sample encompassed weapons that previously belonged to at least three different user groups. The first includes personnel currently or previously affiliated with the SPLA or to governmental forces who sought refuge in the PoC following the attacks by the SPLA-IO. The second group of users includes former SPLA-affiliated individuals who had defected to the SPLA-IO, and who sought refuge in the PoC once government forces re-established control of the town. Weapons derived from both of these groups had, most likely, originated in SPLA stockpiles. The third group of users were armed civilians who possess illicit weapons for self-protection.

Owing to a lack of contextual information, it is impossible to determine whether particular destroyed weapons belonged to the first, second, or third user groups. It is probable, however, that the majority of the destroyed weapons were already in South Sudan before the eruption of the crisis in December 2013. The following analysis of weapons destroyed by UNMISS and UNMAS in Malakal is indicative of the different types of weapons in circulation in Upper Nile State prior to the eruption of the current crisis.

AK-pattern assault rifles

The majority (108 of 134) of the destroyed weapons were AK-pattern assault rifles. Most were AKM- type assault rifles that originated from the former Soviet Union and were produced in Izhmash or Tula in the 1960s and 1970s.





AK-pattern assault rifles prior to destruction

Some AK pattern assault rifles were produced in other countries such as Bulgaria, Poland, and China.



Markings consistent with AKs manufactured in Bulgaria (top left), Poland (top right), and with Type 56 assault rifles produced in China (bottom)

At least three of the AK-type rifles bore markings consistent with those used to mark the stockpile of the Upper Nile State's Wild Life Protection Services, during the marking program supported by the Regional Centre on Small Arms in 2011. Due to the lack of information, it is impossible to determine whether the rifles were collected from defectors who joined the opposition with their arms or from Wild Life Protection personnel who sought protection during the opposition's attack on Malakal.



Markings consistent with those in use in the South Sudan Wild Life Protection Services, bearing a star, the letters WL (for Wild Life) and UNS (for Upper Nile State) and a dot matrix code.

Heckler & Koch G3-type assault rifles



Heckler & Koch G3-type assault rifles prior to destruction

The destroyed sample also contained a number of Heckler & Koch G3-type assault rifles. Several countries produce G3-type assault rifles under licence agreements. In particular, one of the destroyed G3-type assault rifles was reassembled from two different models, originating in Iran and Portugal. As shown in the pictures below, the rifle had Farsi markings and a marking bearing three crossed weapons in a cogwheel on each side of the trigger assembly. These markings are consistent with Iranian-manufactured weapons. The serial number visible on the left side of the magazine catch (G3FMP025040), however, reveals the Portuguese origin of the barrel and receiver block of the weapon, with the marking FMP standing for Fábrica Militar Potuguesa, which is characteristic of G3-type rifles produced by Fábrica de Braço de Prata.



G3-type assault rifle produced in Iran and Portugal

Pistols

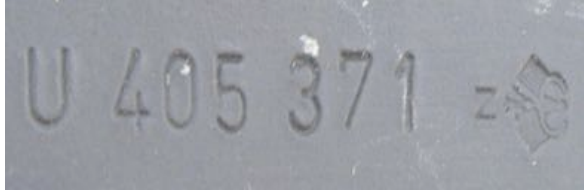
The destroyed sample also contained 14 pistols of different models, ranging from a starter automatic pistol to modern semi-automatic pistols produced in China, Germany, and Israel. Conflict Armament Research has sent tracing requests to the governments of Germany and Israel to establish the chain of custody of the following destroyed pistols: a German Walther P22 semi-automatic pistol (serial number GO29301); a West German Sig Sauer P226 semi-automatic pistol (serial number U405371); and an Israeli Jericho 941 PSL semi-automatic pistol (serial number 41307617).



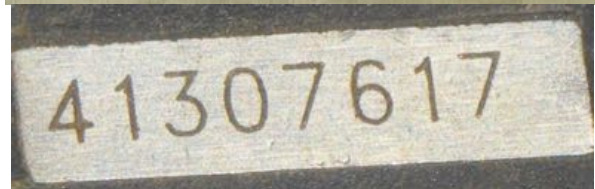
Pistols prior to destruction



German Walther P22 semi-automatic pistol



West German Sig Sauer P226 semi-automatic pistol



Israeli Jericho 941 PSL semi-automatic pistol

Machine guns

The confiscated weapons to be destroyed included a few machine guns. UNMISS and UNMAS destroyed a PKM-pattern general-purpose machine gun and a Heckler & Koch HK 11A1 light machine gun (serial number 11A1 ENDL503378). The marking code suggests that the United Kingdom (UK)'s Royal Small Arms Factory of Enfield manufactured the weapon under Heckler & Koch's licence of over-sea production. The presence of the German Beschussamt Ulm (symbol right of the 'HL' marking) and of the German definitive nitro proof mark (left of the 'HL' marking) suggests that, as per the terms of the licence agreement, Germany produced some of the weapon's parts before being sent for assembly in the UK.



PKM-pattern general-purpose machine gun



Heckler & Koch HK 11A1 light machine gun

Mortar tube

Among the weapons UNMISS and UNMAS sample of confiscated weapons was an old 81 mm or 82 mm mortar tube of unknown origin. The mortar had the number 0343 on its bottom part, and the number 0369 on the tube itself.



Unknown mortar tube

Photo credits: Conflict Armament Research

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

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¹ Data from United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *South Sudan Crisis: Situation Report No. 77*, 5 March 2015, <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/South_Sudan_Situation_Report_No_77.pdf>.

² See <<http://www.sudantribune.com/spip.php?article53290>>.

³ The list of people who attended the destruction ceremony is derived from UNMISS News Stories, *UNMISS Destroys Ammunition and Weapons in Malakal*, 12 December 2014, <<http://unmiss.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3481&ctl=Details&mid=6047&ItemID=6306897&language=en-US>>

⁴ Ammunition was destroyed the same day in a separate ceremony. CAR investigators did not attend the ammunition destruction ceremony.