

White Army arms and ammunition

In the final days of 2011, 6,000-8,000 mostly Lou Nuer youth, calling themselves the White Army, carried out a large-scale attack against Murle villages throughout Pibor county as part of an ongoing inter-ethnic feud. Estimates vary regarding the number of people killed, cattle stolen, and women and children abducted. What is clear is that the inter-communal attack demonstrated an unprecedented level of organisation and scale of violence in South Sudan.

In 2011, the Small Arms Survey reported that then rebel leader George Athor armed scores of Nuer youth as a way of recruiting additional soldiers to strengthen his assault on installations belonging to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in Jonglei state. Evidence gathered by the Small Arms Survey after the White Army attack seems to confirm this. A variety of sources in Jonglei also said that members of the SPLA and the Southern Sudan Police Service (SSPS) supported both the Murle and the Nuer with arms and ammunition.

Arms





Nuer youths returning to Akobo in January 2012, brandishing new Type 56-1 assault rifles (copies of Russian AKS-47) and one RPG-7, apparently loaded with new RPG ammunition. Identical rifles were seized from the forces of both Peter Gadet and the late Athor in early 2011, which seems to confirm previous allegations that Athor had armed thousands of Nuer youth in Jonglei state.

Ammunition



Czech-manufactured 7.62x39 round of ammunition with factory code 'bxn', produced in 1982. Several cartridges of this variety were collected at the end of December in Likuongo, 35 km north of Pibor town, at the site of shooting by the White Army as its forces advanced on Pibor. Six additional cartridges of this variety were recovered south of Pibor, along the Kengen River, where most of the killing occurred. Identical cartridges were seized from Athor's forces in Jonglei in March 2011, again suggesting that Athor had likely been a source of weapons for the White Army.



Chinese-manufactured 7.62x54R round of ammunition (for PKM machine gun) with factory code '945', produced in 2008. This cartridge was recovered south of Pibor town, along the Kengen River, where the majority of Murle were killed.



Chinese-manufactured 7.62x39 round of ammunition (for AK-47) with factory code '31', produced in 1974. This variety of ammunition is held in vast quantities by the SPLA, supporting allegations that Nuer members of the SPLA supported the White Army's attack on Pibor.

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