

Arms and ammunition seized from George Athor's forces

Between February and March 2011 the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) engaged militarily with George Athor's forces on multiple occasions. In clashes along the border of Upper Nile and Jonglei states in March 2011 the army seized anti-tank mines, assault rifles, light and heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, and their requisite ammunition. The Small Arms Survey viewed and documented a portion of the seized materiel in April 2011.

While the presence of a number of mint-condition Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifles and machine guns among arms seized from both Athor's and Peter Gadet's forces are consistent with claims of external and foreign sourcing, the Small Arms Survey continues to analyze this materiel to fully clarify its origin and full chain of custody.

Samples of recovered arms and ammunition



A cache of more than 250 anti-tank mines in possession of forces loyal to Athor, seized in March 2011 in Jonglei.



Chinese-produced Type 80 machine gun (copy of the PKM) seized in Jonglei. Identical guns were seized from Peter Gadet's forces during the same period in Unity.



Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifle (copy of the AKS-47) seized in Jonglei. The same make of rifles were seized from Gadet's forces during the same period in Unity.



Chinese Type 85 heavy machine gun seized in Jonglei. The SPLA claimed to have seized several of these, but had redistributed all but one to its own forces.



Chinese-manufactured Type 69 RPG round seized from Athor's forces in Phome Zeraf, Jonglei in early 2011. According to the UN Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group, identical rounds bearing the same lot number were seized from Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) forces in Somalia in September 2010. Eritrea reportedly supplied these rounds to the ONLF.



7.62 x 39 ammunition, believed to have been produced in Sudan. This variety was seized in large numbers from Athor's forces in Phom Zeraf, Jonglei and from Gadet's forces in Riyak Payam, Mayom county, Unity. According to the 2011 report of the UN Panel of Experts on the Sudan, Sudanese government forces in Darfur have used similar varieties bearing different headstamps.¹

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Chinese factory 945 7.62 x 54R ammunition (for a general-purpose machine gun), manufactured in 2009, seized in Jonglei. According to the 2011 report of the UN Panel of Experts on the Sudan, the Sudan Armed Forces used identical ammunition in Darfur in July 2010.²

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¹ See <http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2011/111>.

² See <http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2011/111>.