

Arms and ammunition seized from Peter Gadet’s forces

On 21 April 2011 the Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) captured hundreds of weapons during fighting with Peter Gadet’s forces in Riyak Payam, Mayom county, in western Unity state. Among the confiscated materiel were Type-56-1 assault rifles, general-purpose machine guns, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers, and thousands of rounds of ammunition. The Small Arms Survey viewed the seized material at SPLA Division 4 Headquarters in Bentiu, Unity state in April 2011.

The presence of a large number of newly manufactured Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifles and machine guns among arms seized from both the forces of both Gadet and George Athor appear consistent with claims of external and foreign sourcing. A series of videos¹ posted on the Internet by Gadet’s spokesman, Bol Gatkuoth, show hundreds of Gadet’s fighters at an undisclosed location—likely in Mayom county, Unity state—wielding what appear to be mint-condition Chinese Type 56-1 assault rifles (see below). The quantities of new weapons in the hands of these men are in stark contrast to most non-state groups in the South and the region, who typically rely on older weapons. 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



125 newly manufactured Chinese Type-56-1 assault rifles (copy of the Russian AKS-47) seized by the SPLA during fighting in Riyak payam, Mayom county, Unity. Gadet’s soldiers possessed identical rifles were in videos posted on the Internet. The SPLA also seized identical rifles from Athor’s forces in Jonglei in the same month.



Four relatively new Chinese-manufactured Type 80 general-purpose machine guns (copy of the Russian PKM), seized by SPLA forces during fighting in Riyak payam, Mayom county, Unity state. Identical models were seized from Athor's forces in Jonglei state in the same month.



Eight RPG-7 launchers, bearing no markings, seized in Unity. Their construction is similar to launchers manufactured in Iran.



7.62 x 39 ammunition, believed to have been produced in Sudan. The Type 56-1 rifles referred to above were fully loaded with more than 1,000 rounds of this type of ammunition and were seized by the SPLA during fighting with Gadet's forces in Riyak payam, Mayom county, Unity. This variety was also seized in large numbers from Athor's forces. 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.²

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¹ See <<http://www.youtube.com/user/BolKol1000>>
² See <http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2011/111>