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Arms and ammunition captured from SAF in Blue Nile

Fighting broke out in Blue Nile between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Sudan People's Liberation Movement North (SPLM-N) fighters on 1 September 2011. Ground clashes and SAF bombardments have resulted in hundreds of civilian casualties as well as the displacement of tens of thousands of civilians. In early October a handful of journalists visited Kurmuk—the SPLM-N headquarters in Blue Nile before SAF captured it on 3 November—where they had the opportunity to view dozens of weapons that the SPLM-N said it had seized from SAF during several battles since early September. The following items are a sample of the dozens of weapons displayed. They are significant because they suggest a possible relationship with weapons seized by the SPLA from forces loyal to Southern insurgents Peter Gadet and George Athor.

Samples of recovered arms and ammunition



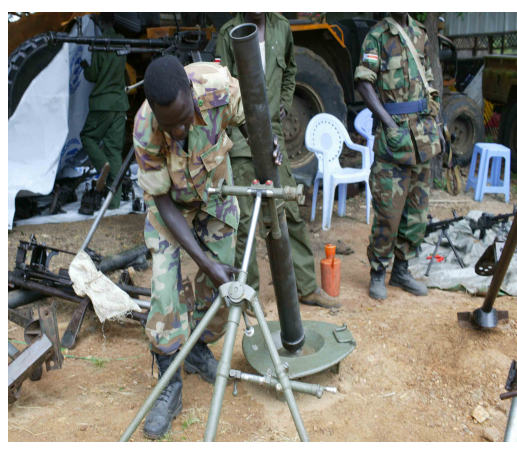
Newly packaged Chinese manufactured Type 69 RPG rounds (Lot 8-91-93) reportedly seized from SAF in Blue Nile in September 2011 (left). The SPLA captured similar rounds from George Athor's forces in Jonglei in early 2011 (right). According to the 2011 Final Report of the UN Somalia and Eritrea Monitoring Group, the same rounds bearing identical lot numbers were seized from Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF) forces in Somalia in September 2010. Eritrea reportedly supplied these rounds to the ONLF.

Note: The '40 HEAT H 94' marking configuration and font indicate Chinese production for export.



Seemingly new Russian manufactured 82 mm mortar rounds reportedly seized from SAF in Blue Nile in September 2011 (left), bearing lot numbers 01-06 and 01-07. The SPLA reportedly captured the same make of 82 mm mortars with lot number 01-10 from Peter Gadet's forces in May 2011 in Unity state (right). The similarity in lot numbers from the two samples reveals that the mortars were most likely supplied from a common source.

Note: The Roman lettering on the 82 mm 0-832 series High-Explosive (HE) fragment bombs indicate Russian production for export.



Relatively new 82 mm mortar tube with tripod reportedly seized from SAF in Blue Nile in September 2011 (left). The SPLA reportedly captured a brand new 82 mm mortar tube and identical tripod from Gadet's forces in May 2011 in Unity state (right). Neither item bears discernable marks or serial numbers, making tracing difficult.

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