

Arms and Ammunition Tracing Desk Report

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



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Weapons captured from David Yau Yau's militia, Jonglei, July 2013

During the first half of 2013, Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) forces operating in Jonglei seized a variety of weapons and ammunition from rebel forces under the command of David Yau Yau. The Small Arms Survey previously documented weapons with a group of Yau Yau's men who defected under the leadership of James Kubrin in December 2012.¹ This report expands on the findings of the initial fieldwork.

The Small Arms Survey and the independent research group Conflict Armament Research visited SPLA divisional headquarters in Paryak, Bor County, on 5 July 2013 to view a range of weapons that the SPLA had captured subsequent to the February site visit. These weapons, which are described below, are identical in type to those documented earlier in the year. They also include many of the same weapon and ammunition types that have been documented in the hands of Khartoum-backed rebel forces elsewhere in South Sudan, including the South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA), the South Sudan Democratic Movement/Army (SSDM/A) under the leadership of George Athor, and Johnson Olony's Shilluk militia.

Among the most striking findings of the July fieldwork in Jonglei was the significant increase in the number of weapons seen with removed serial numbers and factory marks. The most logical explanation for the increase is that actor(s) in the supply chain wish to obscure their sourcing.

¹ See HSBA Tracing Desk Report 'Weapons in service with David Yau Yau's militia, February 2013' Available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/arms-ammunition-tracing-desk.html>.

RPG-7-pattern rocket launchers



These designs are consistent with types observed in the Survey's February 2013 site visit of weapons. They are also of the same type observed with returning South Sudan Liberation Army (SSLA) forces in Mayom (May 2013), Johnson Olony's forces in Lul, Upper Nile (July 2013), those collected from George Athor's forces (February 2012), and seized from the SSLA in April 2011. In all cases, respective rebel forces report that the weapons have been supplied through Khartoum, though this cannot be independently corroborated. The weapons are similar in design to Iranian RPG-7-pattern models.² The trigger assemblies feature no viable identifying marks although a serial number (formerly positioned on the launch tube above the sight bracket) appears to have been removed by grinding and later painted (see images below).



² See HSBA Tracing Desk Report 'Weapons seized from the forces of George Athor and John Duit,' December 2012. Available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/facts-figures/arms-and-ammunition-tracing-desk.html>.

Chinese CQ 5.56 x 45 mm assault rifles



One example of many Chinese CQ assault rifles viewed, with associated 5.56 x 45 mm magazine and ammunition (addressed below). The rear sight housing/carry handle of the weapon has been deformed by a bullet impact. In all cases observed, identifying factory marks—which typically appear on the left-hand side of the magazine housing—have been removed by milling, indicated by the bright metal observable in the images above and below. In the left-hand image below, black paint was evidently applied after milling, although the paint has abraded with use. The weapons, and mode of milling, are identical to examples documented with Yau Yau's forces (February 2013), returning SSLA forces in Mayom (May 2013), and Johnson Olony's forces in Lul (July 2013). A number of these rifles were also observed with Lou Nuer fighters during their attack on Pibor county in July 2013.



PKM-pattern general-purpose machine gun



This weapon is identical to PKM-pattern weapons documented in service with a range of Khartoum-backed rebel forces in South Sudan. Weapons of this kind have been identified bearing the model designation 'M80' (see HSBA Tracing Desk Report 'Weapons seized from the forces of George Athor and John Duit,' December 2012) although this particular weapon's model designation and additional marks have been removed by grinding (see images below).



Chinese Type 56 and Type 56-1 assault rifles



These weapons are clearly old and well used. Factory marks and serial numbers (right-hand images) are heavily weathered through use and abrasion rather than intentional removal.

5.56 x 45 mm small-calibre ammunition



This 5.56 x 45 mm small-calibre ammunition is identical to types documented with Yau Yau's forces (February 2013), returning SSLA forces in Mayom (May 2013), and Johnson Olony's forces in Lul (July 2013). The same ammunition was also documented with Murle militia following their attack on Walgak, Jonglei in July 2013.

Unmarked 7.62 x 39 mm small-calibre ammunition



This ammunition is identical to cartridges documented by the Small Arms Survey in Paryak in December 2012³ as well as with the SPLM-N in South Kordofan and Blue Nile. The provenance of the ammunition is unknown.

Unmarked 7.62 x 54R mm small-calibre ammunition



This ammunition closely resembles the previous entry, but is 7.62 x 54R mm in calibre. The cartridge also features a brass case, steel-jacketed lead core bullet, and red primer annulus. The provenance of the ammunition is unknown.

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³ See HSBA Tracing Desk Report 'Weapons seized from the forces of George Athor and John Duit,' December 2012, available at <http://www.smallarmssurveysudan.org/fileadmin/docs/facts-figures/arms-ammunition-tracing-desk.html>.