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Article 4 on South Sudan: Part A

South Sudan: “Who is Who” Analysis for (lot A) personalities and tribes.

Our Article 1 of December 23rd, 2013 gave quick analysis of the situation in South Sudan. Our article 2 of January 9th 2014 detailed snapshots relating to the US, Uganda, Sudan, UN and IGAD. Our article 3 of January 10th 2014 dealt with snapshots relating to US, Donors, Sudan, China, IGAD, Salva Kiir, and South Sudan and the SPLA.

This article 4 “Part A” shall deal exclusively with “Who is Who”. More lists shall follow. No offence is meant in drawing the facts about actors in the public domain to be noted or tribes to be identified. This article is meant to be part of the analysis of the Conflict’s Landscape. The conflict draws a big segment from the personalities, their historical prejudices and their clash.

This list stands to be improved with your generous inputs. If you see that we need to make corrections please let us know. Other lists of Who is Who will follow staggered between the articles.

The names of those who are deceased or not “Usual Suspects” shall come back later in our articles and we are sure you will see their finger prints in the current conflict.

(Look at the list of names and see how many generals are there. Money, power and arms have created monsters).

| Serial | A-Name | B-Tribe | C- Village/Town/ Payam | D-Remarks in snap shots |
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| 1 | John Garang De Mabior. Commander-in-Chief SPLM, Ex-Colonel in SAF | Dinka. Twic. | Born in Wagkulei Upper Nile Origin in Twic East County of Jonglei State, village of Kongor. | Born June 23 rd 1945. Father died when he was 9 and mother when he was 11. He was raised by uncle in West Equatoria? Attended secondary school in Tanzania. Class mate was Museveni. After graduating from Grinnell USA, he became General Lagu’s adjutant. When in Bussari, near Wau, he had frequent clashes with the SAF Division in Grinti in Wau. It was Gen Lagu who worked to send him to the US mainly to keep him away from trouble. He got his Ph.D. from Iowa University in 1981. Led the SPLA/M all the 21 years of the war. Died in a chopper accident on July 30 th 2005. |

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| | | | | <p>Most famous quote: “I and those who joined me in the bush and fought more than twenty years, have brought to you the CPA in a golden plate. Our mission is accomplished. It is now your turn, especially those who did not have a chance to experience bush-life. When the time comes to vote at the referendum, it is your golden choice to determine your fate. Would you like to vote to be second class citizens in your own country? It is absolutely your choice” Dr. JG de Mabior Rumbek South Sudan 15 05 2005</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Was he a Unionist?</i></u></p> <p>It was confirmed to me by Dr. Garang in Ghion Hotel in Addis in a one-to-one meeting organised by the late Martin Manyiel that he was not. Garang told me that “ Mengistu was supplying the SPLA with the pin and the tank and developed Gambella airport to land large transporters for the SPLA. He is fighting a separatist war, how can I say I want separation of South Sudan”</p> <p>I know that he said something similar to Lagu</p> <p>We need to differentiate between the “Strategic” and the “Tactical”</p> |
| 2 | Salva Kiir Mayardit General | Dinka Wau (BG). From a very small tribe and not the Twic Mayardit proper. | Akon, West Gogrial, Northern Bahr El Ghazal | <p>His original name was different from his current name. It is claimed that he is not really Twic Mayardit. We are ascertaining the details and shall furnish them in a future Who is Who article. His father changed the name. He did not attend high school and is not well travelled. When he was VP in Khartoum, he signed a document for \$4 million when he did not know what he was signing on. It was rumored in 2004 that Garang wanted to eliminate him. The confrontation in Rumbek Nov 29th to Dec 1st 2004 averted the clash. Kiir insisted to have the national capital in Juba rather than Garang’s wiser and more strategic selection of Ramciel in Lakes State, a heart land of Dinkas. More to come</p> |

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| 3 | Kuol Manyang Jok General | Dinka, Twic | Twic East, Jonglei State | <p>Engineer by training. Notorious for brutality and total obedience to his superiors during the 21 years war. He believes in law and order and anti-corruption but may not have controlled it in Jonglei. Was instrumental in putting Kiir as leader after Garang's death. Ex Governor of Jonglei State. Current Minister of Defence. His building complex (best in Bor) and homes in Bor were looted and burned down in December 2013. His son is married to the daughter of Peter Gatkouth (A Luo Nuer).</p> |
| 4 | Riek Machar Teny General | Nuer | Unity State | <p>He was born in 1953 in Leer town, Leer County in Unity State. He is the 26th son of the Chief of Ayod and Leer before the creation of Unity State. Leer is close to Adok on the western borders of Jonglei State. He used to be called "Tuut Dhoali" which meant "Adult Boy" as he was not "Initiated" according to Nuer tradition. Holds PH.D from Bradford University UK. His family (Mme Angelina and his young children then lived there for a long time before moving to London. I visited them in 1993 at the hard times for Mme Angelina when he married Emma McCune the British Aid Worker). Wife Angelina contested Taban Deng in Governorship of Unity in last elections.</p> <p>Split from mainstream SPLA in 1991 with Tilar Deng, Lam Akol, John Luk and others. Signed 1997 Agreement with Khartoum. Armed the first "Nuer White Army" in 1991 that attacked Bor and killed 2000 Dinkas in Bor on November 15th 1991 and displaced another 50,000 in West Equatoria. He used the large cache of arms bought by the SPLA and paid for by Tiny Roland and Jerry Rawlings from SWAPO of Namibia and stored in Maban. He was a separatist from Sudan since he joined the SPLA.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u><i>Was he ever a unionist?</i></u></p> <p>In Khartoum and with the 1997 agreement, I identified about 20 mishaps in the agreement and Abel Alier identified about 11 legal ones. There was a tea gathering for Riek and team in Abel's home in Arkewet and Abel raised the issues with Riek.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>Riek flipped through the agreement and went to the page in which was inserted “self determination” and put his finger on it and said “For me, this is the agreement”.</p> <p>When he abrogated the 1997 agreement and went back to the Bush in 2000. Shortly after that when I saw Dr. Garang in Nairobi he told me that Machar’s biggest mistake was to sign the 1997 agreement. But a bigger mistake was to leave Khartoum and come to the bush. He never explained further. But I guess he was aware of his efforts to stop Khartoum from forcibly evicting citizens from the oil fields, he knew his intellectual and military capabilities and that people Like Paulino Matip and Tito Biel were no match to Riek.</p> |
| 5 | Mme Rebecca Nyandeng | Dinka Twic East | | <p>“Mama Rebecca”. High School equivalent from the US. Wife of late Garang. Respected. Ended a small mutiny of SPLA soldiers near Garang’s memorial single handed a few years back. Refused to leave the President’s residence in Juba after Garang’s death and Kiir allowed her to stay for a long time. She has her own commercial businesses in South Sudan. As Minister of Transport, it is claimed that she (GOSS) was conned by Nigerian Crooks of \$12 million. Seems to be supporting Machar and co but is playing her cards carefully.</p> |
| 6 | Deng Alor Kuol General | Dinka Ngok | Abyei | <p>His mother was killed in a raid by the Misseriya. Was the director of Garang’s office for a very long time. Married to an Ethiopian woman. Spearheading Abyei issue with Luka Biong and Edward Lino. Accused of embezzling \$8 million that was later returned. Currently in detention by Kiir.</p> |
| 7 | James Wani Iga General | Bari | Krillo, Juba County | <p>Born in 1949 in. Graduate of Cairo University-Cairo and studied economics. Division Commander course in Cuba. Rebelled in 1991 with the Nasir faction. Replaced Riek as VP.</p> |
| 8 | Akuot Atem Brigadier | Dinka Bor-Twic East | | <p>Anyanya II. Murdered by William Abdalla Chuol in revenge to Gai Tut’s murder. With Gai Tut and both retired in 1883, they were willing to intervene with Kerubino to end the June 1983 mutiny, but Gen Siddig Al Banna (Then commander of the first division-Juba) refused and insisted on a military annihilation of Kerubino.</p> |

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| 9 | Samuel Gai Tut Brigadier | Luo Nuer, Ghon area in Waat but hails originally from Dinka | | Dinka by residence and naturalization. Killed by SPLA in April 1984 after he and his army of Bukteng Camp massacred new recruits from BG and massacred 24 SPLA officers including Francis Ngor. This happened when they over ran Adura Camp (Ethiopia) where Garang and Francis's forces were camping. Kerubino Kuanyin ambushed him and fatally wounded him. Gai Tut was then humiliated when his decomposed body was lashed with a whip by Kerubino. |
| 10 | Daniel Awet Akot General | Dinka Twic East | Lakes State? | Professional soldier and graduate of the Sudan Military College (Sandhurst of Sudan). Got additional training in the US. Became Governor of BG. He was not a happy man lately. ?? |
| 11 | Dr. Barnaba Marial Benjamin | Luo Nuer father, Dinka mother? | Lakes State but originally from Yuai, Uror County. | Studied in Sudan (North) in Rufaa. Studied medicine in Egypt which accounts to his near perfect Arabic. Live in the UK and is married to Mme Yolanda Gordon Mortat. Religious and family man. Open and honest. Currently the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation. Although he lived all his life in Lakes State, he was only able to contest elections in Uror-his father's home land. Open and friendly. Well accepted by Northerners? |
| 12 | Edward Lino Wuor Abyei General | Dinka Ngok? Claimed to have Misseriya blood | | Graduate of the University of Khartoum in law (LLB). Worked as attorney for the Ministry of Justice in South Sudan during the Addis Ababa Agreement era. Was Garang's Chief of intelligence for a long time. Accused to be part of the Nasir Group and their plot but no evidence was found and he was released. He remained without a clear portfolio since 2005. Living in Juba most of the time after the death of his wife a few years back. Open and transparent man. Has a lot of friends from Sudan (North) |
| 13 | John Luk Jok | Luo Nuer | Akobo West | Born in Akobo West. Law degree from the University of Khartoum. Was the spokesman for the SPLA office of UK and Ireland under Commander Steven Madut Baak until the slit in 1991. One of the few SPLA commanders who toured all of South Sudan on foot. Had his ups and downs with Garang and at one time he was only a "private" member in the SPLM. During the CPA negotiations Garang had to bring him back as legal advisor as he was one of the few brilliant lawyers in the leadership and the only one who researched Federal Systems, fiscal |

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| | | | | <p>equalization systems and Oil revenues sharing. Appointed State Minister for The Ministry of Energy (Oil) under Dr. Awad Al Jazz in Khartoum. Refused to go and Angelina Tiny, wife of Dr. Riek took the position. He told me in 2005 that he was willing to serve as an MP for Akobo West and serve his people than go to Khartoum. Die-hard separatist. Honest, straightforward and does not mince his words. Remarried with the first family still in the UK. He failed to win the elections in Akobo West and as such he was an appointed minister without seat in parliament.</p> |
| 14 | Clement Wani Konga Gwollo General | Mundari | Terekeka County | <p>Governor of Central Equatoria. Head of the Equatoria Defence Forces (EDF). Had leg injury during the war. Needed long treatment in Germany.</p> <p>Said to have arranged the escape of Machar through Juba Airport, into Terekeka in Mundari land and across the Nile. He did not do that for the kinky hair of Machar. He was worried if Machar is killed in Mundari Land, the Nuers will kill his people. But there may be other reasons.</p> |
| 15 | Arok Thon Arok Commander | Dinka, Twic East | | <p>Intelligence Officer in SAF. Maternal uncle of John Garang. Killed in a crash accident. Shot down 3 of the 4 F-4 Northrop Jet fighters before the 4th was exchanged with Jordan for ammunition. All 4 were for in country training.</p> <p>When, single handed I organized and facilitated the London meeting between the SPLA (not SPLM) and SAF (Not Sadig's Government) in November 1987. Arok Thon headed the SPLA's delegation and Burma Nasir headed SAF's team. 11 days of talk in North London. That was the first time security arrangements were discussed and I was working on them with the IISS of London. When Arok went to take his kids to Bior Ajang (The Engineer in Hull UK) after the death of his wife, Colonel Mathiang (SAF Military Intelligence) followed him there and that was one of the things taken by Garang against Arok for meeting Mathiang and the nasty rumors that followed. But there are other reasons for his arrest. He was always dissatisfied by being under Kiir in the SPMA hierarchy while he was senior to Kiir in SAF.</p> |

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| 16 | Kerubino Kuanyin General | Dinka, Twic Bahr El Ghazal | North BG | <p>Kerubino, as a lieutenant-colonel in the army, sent several of his wives and children to safety in Nairobi, Kenya, and started the spark of mutiny in Bor Pibor and Puchalla and joined the SPLA as a field commander. In 1986 Kerubino was deputy commander-in-chief of the SPLA and deputy chairman of the SPLM provisional executive committee. In 1987 he led a successful attack on several towns in Blue Nile province to the north of South Sudan (Which Lam Akol later lost when he replaced Kerubino).</p> <p>Growing over-ambitious, he was accused of plotting a coup against Garang and was jailed for the next six years. After his escape he joined Machar's Forces in 1993. He was killed in BG in September 10th 1999. He is a ruthless fellow and could be very cruel. Kerubino Kuanyin, went on the revenge spree when Gai-Akwot killed Ngor and the recruits of BG killing Gai in an ambush. We should not detach these past massacres from the current Juba, Bor, Malakal, Bentiu massacres still running now.</p> |
| Serial | Tribe | | Locations in South Sudan | Remarks |
| 1 | Dinka Tribe | | Share Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Jonglei, Upper Nile and Warrap. | <p>The Dinka tribe (or Jieng) has twenty three subdivisions: Gok, Akaar, Pakam, Nyang, Aliab, Ciec, Bor, Nyarweng, Hol, Twi/Twic, Twi/Twic Mayardit, Rek, Luac, Malual, Apuk, Aguok, Awan, Panaruau, Ruweng, Alor, Ager, Rut, Abialeng, and Ngok</p> <p>More to follow</p> |
| 2 | Nuer Tribe | | Share Jonglei, Upper Nile and Unity | <p>Nuer have the following sub-divisions: Eastern Nuer: Thing, Lou, Lak, Gaawar, Jekany, Thiang. Western Nuer: Dok, Jagei, Nuong, Bul, Lek, Kiwal, Jekany. Like the Dinka, they practice "Ghost Marriages"</p> <p>More to follow</p> |

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